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A NATIONAL FAMILY WEEKLY



Cardinal Sin & Capital Loss

Woman Achievers -

CitizenCredit Cooperative Bank Celebrates Woman's Day



In honour of International Women's Day, CitizenCredit Cooperative Bank hosted a program for all its women employees and members at KCA Hall, Bandra. 'Women Achievers', the theme of the program, neatly captured the various successes of the guests of honour of the evening: Mrs Priya Dutt, Ms Jemima Rodrigues, Mrs Merlin D'sa, Mrs Tanuja Gomes and CitizenCredit's very own Mrs Geeta Andrades and Mrs Priscilla Buthello.

The guests were welcomed into the hall and the program began with an overview of how far women have advanced today. Everyone joined in a prayer led by Ms Suman Fernandes. Each of the guests of honour were felicitated with a bouquet of flowers and a token of appreciation. The talks were interspersed with spot prizes for the audience and highlighted just how much these women had achieved in their chosen fields.

Mrs Priya Dutt, the multi-talented Chief Guest, began by stressing on the importance of equality in today's world. She spoke about how women are born with a set of conditions forced on them by society, and don't realize that they can do anything they set their minds to. Emphasizing that every woman had the confidence and courage to break through these conditions, Mrs Dutt encouraged everyone present to believe in themselves and strive for what they wanted. She congratulated all the women seated, stressing that every woman is an achiever in her own right.

The next guest of honour, Jemima Rodrigues, at just 17, is the youngest member of the Indian women's cricket team. Jemima's inspiring anecdote about following her father's advice to not give up, but work harder, showcased the inner strength and resilience that led to her success. While talking about her mother's role in her life, Jemima imparted an important reminder to her audience; that even the smallest of actions that no one seems to notice make a huge difference, that every woman is invaluable.

Mrs Geeta Andrades, the Managing Director and CEO of CitizenCredit Cooperative Bank, began her address with the many examples of Indian women who have broken boundaries in their chosen fields. She thanked all the women who were an influence in her life, describing the evening's program as a celebration to honour and respect all the members of the bank. Mrs Andrades proudly spoke of CitizenCredit's employees, of whom 70% are women, while 80% of the bank's branches are headed by women branch managers. Mrs Andrades also felicitated those employees who had gone above and beyond to serve CitizenCredit's members.

The next guest, Mrs Merlin D'sa, a multitasker who manages being a Principal, Municipal Corporator and plays an active role in Church activities, highlighted the qualities of spirituality, leadership, strength and perseverance through stories of her experiences. Mrs D'sa's gripping account of the

obstacles she faced brought out her courage and humility and, above all, her willingness to serve God.

Mrs Tanuja Gomes, entrepreneur and Co-Founder of Furtados School of Music, began her address by bringing attention to a skill all women are familiar with- multitasking. Comparing managing a house to running a business, Mrs Gomes emphasized that managing money was an area where women could be much more than what they currently are. She encouraged her audience to build their own support systems and rewrite the popular story where the princess needs a prince to rescue her, stressing that every princess could rescue herself.

The final speaker of the evening, Mrs Priscilla Buthello, the only other woman on CitizenCredit's Board of Directors, focused on the fact that every woman present was an achiever, a superwoman. Emphasizing that no woman is 'just' a housewife, Mrs Buthello underlined her belief that every woman has at least one good quality with which she could change the world.

The program concluded with a rousing game of housie and the vote of thanks by Ms Leonarda Fernandes, who reminded her audience that Woman's Day is not just about achievement, but also empowerment, that women needed to support each other and move forward, together.

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'Thought for the week'

Happiness is not something you postpone for the future; it is something you design for the present.

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The Power of Compassion Will Triumph

By Don Aguiar

A great blessing came into the world over 2,000 years ago. Jesus was born in Bethlehem and grew up in Nazareth. He was a humble leader, prophetic, articulate and a prodigy with a profound compassionate understanding of the sick, poor and oppressed.

He sought equality and a society, and the world, with no super rich, no dire poor and with fairness, social justice, love and compassion for all. That is what he taught, lived for and was killed for. He was a friend to all.

He was loved greatly by the poor, the fisher folks, the farmers and craftspeople, women and children. But the rich, the elite rulers, religious and civil leaders were not pleased with him or his message as He was not silent about the injustice and hypocrisy that surrounded him. They planned to silence Him by condemning Him to die.

In Jerusalem that day the soldiers tried to clear a narrow street but the crowd pressed in to see the man condemned to die on Calvary. He was bleeding from a beating, there were stripes on his back and he wore a crown of thorns upon his head. And he bore at every step the scorn on those who cried out for his death. The blood that was cleansed the souls of all men made it through the heart of Jerusalem. But he chose to walk the road out of his love for you and me.

He spoke out against the oppressors with sharp words of rebuke. He was challenged, spied upon, reported to the authorities, threatened, criticized, wrongly accused and then tortured and executed. He forgave them all. He left behind a Meal of Friendship for us to remember him by.

What an extraordinary life he lived. He lifted up the spirits of the poor with encouragement and hope and gave them their true value and dignity as people of all races and religions and those without and for us in the whole world.

He taught that we have inalienable rights, deserving of profound respect and equality. He stood in solidarity with the poor, and with us, a poor man himself, rejected by the innkeepers and then born in an outhouse with the burden of

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poverty, stale food, the smell of animals and unwashed clothes.

His parents were threatened by the tyrant and became refugees, fled Bethlehem, became migrants and travelled on foot to Egypt, a feat that is impossible today.

When he became a man, he had an exhilarating message of Good News, that the poor had rights to a better, more just life where there was fairness and equality for all, where women were honored and respected and would overcome evil, where children were the most important of all, where the poor would, with justice, inherit what was rightfully theirs.

In a society where justice prevailed, the people would have their voice and vote and rule themselves through just leaders. That is the Good News that everyone has a right to dignity, justice, equality, the truth, a happy life and a right to work and struggle for it without discrimination, racism or exclusion.

This is the message of Jesus of Nazareth, His vision. His mission of 2,000 years ago is still a message calling us to friendship and inviting us to live the values that have the power to change each of us and society if accepted and practiced.

This is the Good News that is to be proclaimed from the housetops and still stands today, calling all to embrace and live life in the spirit that He brought into the world.

That powerful message of love, justice, compassion, non-violence and freedom in community is mostly unheeded, ignored and forgotten.

Most times, the Church's ministers / Clergy and religious forget this vital message that is lost in a maze of unexplained rites and rituals and secular interests. The true believers are ready to die living and implementing them. Without them, there is dire poverty, chaos, violence, crimes against humanity, war crimes and hundreds of thousands killed.

In the challenging world of today, that same strong hope and belief encourage many people to believe that goodness will overcome evil, that justice will prevail and freedom from oppression will come to be.

It is hope that He brought that burns bright and the struggle for justice goes on all fronts. Human rights workers suffer the vindictive brutality of the tyrants as they suffer injustice and struggle against oppression. They stand up and speak out when they are told to kneel down and remain silent. They are strong when they are insulted and diminished. They risk all for others. They serve the poor without seeking a reward. They live lives of integrity and wisdom. The power of compassion and caring will triumph. A Happy Easter to ONE and ALL

EASTER Eminence & Excellence

Jesus' Resurrection celebrated on Easter Sunday, is the foundation of Christian theology and faith! St. Paul confirmed: "Jesus was declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Holy Spirit, by His Resurrection from the dead ... so that just as Christ was 'raised' by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in the newness of life" (Romans 1:4 ... 6:4). St. Peter verifies: "Through God the Father's mercy, the Resurrection has given us a new birth into a living hope" (1 Pet 1:3).

St. Paul further emphasizes: "If Christ has not been 'raised', then our preaching is in vain, our faith is futile, and we are still in our sins ... But Christ has been 'raised' as the first fruits of all those who have died in Adam; and they will be made alive in Christ through His Resurrection" (cf. 1 Corinthians 15:14,17; 20-22).

Researchers have authenticated, that the body wrapped around the 'Shroud of Turin', had produced a miraculous imprint of a tortured man, which could only be generated through an extraordinary phenomenon like a burst of radiation! Pope Paul VI stated: The Shroud is a wonderful document of Jesus' Passion, Death and Resurrection, written in letters of blood!"

The 'Eucharist' is also intimately connected with our resurrection, for Christ said: "I AM the Resurrection and the Life! Those who eat My Flesh and drink My Blood will have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day" (John 11:25! 6:54).

—Dr. Trevor Colaso,
Bandra (W), Mumbai.

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"Hs"

Stephen Hawking was a giant of theoretical physics who bridged the divide between science and popular culture. We have indeed lost a genius whose science was matched with humanity and humour. Hawking was a remarkable man who never let his disability define him but managed to rise above physical disabilities to become one the world's intellectual geniuses of the twentieth century. He helped change the way we all perceive disabled people. He will perhaps be remembered best as the man with the brilliant mind trapped in a broken body.

— Jubel D'Cruz, Mumbai

On Passive Euthanasia

This is with reference to the letter 'On right to die with dignity' by Prof Robert Castellino, (Secular Citizen, 19-25 March)'. The Supreme Court's judgment legalizing passive euthanasia should come as a relief to the common man for the autonomy to decide through a 'living will' what he/she would want at the end of life, so as to die with dignity and without suffering. But, as expected, the judgment has not found favour with the Catholic church, as it goes against its teachings that Euthanasia in any form, 'Active' or 'Passive', is morally culpable, since it involves the taking away of precious human life, which alone is God's prerogative. Church-run hospices are undoubtedly doing an excellent service to the terminally-ill cancer patients, who are being looked after with love and care by a team of dedicated sisters. However, the question which naturally arises is whether the

existing practice of providing only palliative treatment to the terminally ill cancer patients, but without life-saving medicines and essentials like oxygen, respirators, IV drips, etc, which form the basic needs of terminally-ill patients, constitutes an act of passive euthanasia through acts of omission which, according to the church is morally culpable. .

—A. F. Nazareth
Alto Porvorim

Brilliant mind in a broken body

The death of Stephen Hawking – the man who defied the ALS disease for several decades – has created a vacuum that can never be

filled. The remarkable physicist work shaped modern cosmology. His work was popular among millions of people around the world. Although the wheelchair-bound scientist lost his ability to speak a few years after he was diagnosed with ALS, he kept giving lectures to a large number of audiences by using speech synthesizer. His books that are written on complex and difficult concepts of space and time are often called layman's guide to cosmology.

Stephen Hawking was a giant of theoretical physics who bridged the divide between science and popular culture. We have indeed lost a genius whose science was matched with humanity and humour. Hawking was a remarkable man who never let his disability define him but managed to rise above physical disabilities to become one the world's intellectual geniuses of the twentieth century. He helped change the way we all perceive disabled people.

He will perhaps be remembered best as the man with the brilliant mind trapped in a broken body.

— Jubel D'Cruz, Mumbai



Stephen Hokins did not believe in God yet he sought the blessing from Pope Benedict?

—Fr. Michael G., Vianney Ashram,, Vasai

Cardinal Sin & Capital Loss

This is about a cardinal, and his alleged capital sins. It is not about Cardinal Jaime Sin, the 30th archbishop of Manila (31/8/1928 – 21/6/2005) of Chinese Filipino descent, who courageously fought against the Filipino dictators of his time. This is about Cardinal George Alencherry, the archbishop of the Syro-Malabar archdiocese of Ernakulam-Angamaly in Kerala.

Though the Syro-Malabar Church rightly traces its roots to apostolic times, Ernakulam was made a diocese only in 1896, and Mar Augustine Kandathil was appointed as its first archbishop in 1923. Since then the others who have headed the archdiocese have all been cardinals – Joseph Parecattil, Antony Padiyara and Varkey Vithayathil. Ernakulam then is probably the numero uno diocese of India. According to the Catholic Directory of India 2013 it ministers to over 6 lakh Catholics, through 335 parishes with about 400 active clergymen. If about 200 clergymen organized an open protest march against the incumbent archbishop/ cardinal it is 50% of the active strength of the clergy. Had it been a democratically elected body it would have amounted to a no-confidence motion, necessitating immediate resignation.

What is all the hullabaloo about? The matter is already in the public domain, both in the secular and Christian media (despite one church official desperately trying to prevent the story from breaking in a leading Catholic weekly). Several “pious” Catholics will tell us not to wash dirty linen in public. This linen originally referred to menstrual linen being discreetly kept out of public view. After Padman and the “Stain is no shame” campaign, the women themselves are taking the stigma out of the closet (pun intended). Hence the argument about not washing dirty linen in public holds no water (another

pun)! Our pious Catholics will again tell us that we must forgive seventy times seven. This is not an absolute criterion. Else crime would go unchecked.

For those who would like to throw the book at the whistle blowers they need to heed what Jesus says. “If your brother does something wrong go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have

won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you: whatever the misdemeanour, the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain the charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report him to the community; and if he refuses to listen to his community,

treat him like a Gentile or a tax collector” (Mat 18:15-17). Jesus, who himself was familiar with Scripture, was actually quoting from the Book of Deuteronomy. “A single witness will not suffice to convict anyone of a crime or offence of any kind; whatever the misdemeanour, the evidence of two witnesses or three is required to sustain the charge” (Deut 19:15).

Christians, besides being pious, are also called upon to be prophetic, both as whistle-blowers and watchmen (“chowkidar” is in vogue now). It is a duty incumbent on us. This is what God says to the Prophet Ezekiel, “Son of man I have appointed you as a watchman for the house of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them from me. If I say to someone wicked, Evildoer you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked person to renounce such ways, the wicked person will die for his guilt, but I shall hold you responsible for the death. If, however, you do warn someone wicked to renounce such ways and repent, and that person does not repent, then the culprit will die for his guilt, but you yourself will have saved

your life” (Ez 33:76-9).

When it comes to persons holding high office, the culpability/ accountability increases. Speaking of stewardship Jesus says, “When someone is given a great deal, a great deal will be demanded of that person; when someone is entrusted with a great deal, of that person even more will be expected” (Lk 12:48). So, far from being passive spectators Jesus expects us to fulfil our prophetic office and hold those holding high office to account. That includes cardinals and their sins of omission or commission.

As per media reports and persons in the know of the case in Kerala, this pertains to the sale of no less than 36 properties of the archdiocese by the cardinal, assisted by two priests, Joshy Puthuva and Sebastian Vadakkumpadam, and a broker Saju Varghese Kunnel. It is alleged that these properties were sold cheaply, causing a pecuniary loss to the archdiocese, and thereby its people (tax payers’ money). The immediate cause of action was because of a loan taken to build a medical college. The properties had to be sold to pay off that loan and interest accrued thereon.

The Syro-Malabar Christians are probably the richest in the country. The church is always collecting donations, and “passing around the envelope”. Who wanted a medical college – the people or the cardinal? If it was indeed the people’s desire, surely they would have raised the funds for it. The Catholic Church in India is believed to be flush with funds, and constantly buying up more and more properties. It is therefore hard to believe that in Kerala, of all places, the Catholic Church has become so impoverished that it had to indulge in the distress sale of its immoveable properties to pay off a loan. Who approved of taking a loan in the first place? Why should the community suffer for the financial mismanagement

(Contd.. on p. 7)



by chhotebhai *

(Contd.. from p. 6)

(I won't call it misappropriation just yet) of its stewards?

Besides the morality, or otherwise, of these acts, let us also study the legalities. The cardinal has taken the plea that he is answerable only to the Pope, and that the matter of church properties is governed by Canon Law, and not the country's civil laws. A whistleblower watchman Shine Varghese of Charthala made a police complaint that was not entertained. He then filed an application in the Kerala High Court asking for a First Information Report (FIR) to be filed. Justice B Kemal Pasha, after hearing both sides, rejected the cardinal's contention that the diocesan property was a private property, hence a third party like the complainant had no locus standi in the case. The judge held that the cardinal was not the owner, but a caretaker (steward in biblical parlance). An FIR has now been registered under sections 420 (cheating), 120B (criminal conspiracy) and 406 (breach of trust) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

The cardinal's contention that he was governed by Canon Law and therefore the laws of the land did not apply to him is absurd. How different is he from Hindu or Muslim fundamentalists that claim that their personal laws are supreme and cannot be encroached upon by the State? Any criminal act, be it cheating, fraud or heinous crimes like murder and rape are covered by the IPC, notwithstanding anything written in any religious scripture or personal law.

It is reported that a similar case arose in Kerala in 2012, pertaining to the property rights of Mukkad Thirukudumba Church, Sakthikulangara, Kollam. In that dispute Justice K.V. Chandra had ruled that parishioners, independently or collectively, were competent to represent the parish and claim rights over the property of the church. It held that even "Canon Law, as it exists now, realises the fences (sic) erected by civil law and cautiously veers away from any transgression thereof". The judge was quoting from a full bench decision

of the High Court that was later upheld by the Supreme Court. So obviously the cardinal is skating on thin ice when he seeks to use the fig leaf of Canon Law to cover his alleged "sin".

What does Canon Law itself say? The Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches was promulgated by Pope John Paul II on 18/10/1990, seven years after the Code that applies to what is euphemistically called "Latin" churches. Provisions for a Finance Officer and Finance Council are in Nos 262 -263. Title XXIII is "The Temporal Goods of the Church", covered by Canons No 1007-1054. Reparation for damages is covered by Nos 1483-85. Let us scan some of them.

The bishop "is to appoint an experienced finance officer who is a member of the Christian faithful expert in economic matters and distinguished for honesty" (No 262:1). The bishop is to form a finance council with experts in civil law (No 263:1). Relatives of the bishop, up to the fourth degree of consanguinity or affinity are barred from being members of the Finance Council (No 263:3). In grave economic matters the bishop must listen to the Finance Council (No 263:4).

The chapter on Temporal Goods has this to say. "All temporal goods which belong to juridic persons are ecclesiastical goods" (No 1009:2). Such goods should have "due regard to the prescriptions of civil law which safeguard the rights of the church" (No 1020:1). Administrators "must especially be on guard lest the church be harmed through the non-observance of civil laws" (No 1028:2).

Besides respect for civil law, there are also safeguards against alienation (sale) of church property. A sale should be only if there is an urgent necessity and evident advantage (No 1035:1), and there should be safeguards to prevent any loss to the church (No 1035:2). "The consent of all interested parties is required for any kind of alienation" (No 1039). "Ecclesiastical goods are not to be sold or leased out to their own administrators or to their relatives" (No 1041).

From the above it is abundantly clear that the cardinal is not a sole proprietor. He is only a steward of ecclesiastical goods (community assets), and he cannot deal with them in an arbitrary manner, with scant regard for the provisions of civil law. There have been similar instances of the Catholic laity challenging the hegemony of the clergy over money in Mumbai, Ranchi and Ahmedabad dioceses, of which I have personal knowledge. But I will leave that for now.

When we "studied" catechism several moons ago we were told about the seven Capital Sins – gluttony, lust, covetousness, anger, envy, pride and sloth. In the instant case it seems to be the Capital Sin of Pride that has caused the Capital Loss. It makes one blind to the feelings/ aspirations of others.

I would not like to prejudge the cardinal or his alleged "sin". But if a High Court judge has found enough prima facie evidence against him to order a criminal investigation, and half the priests of the diocese have come out in open protest, then it is in the interests of justice that the cardinal step down till the probe is over. He can stoop to conquer, lest he be thrown off his high horse by the law of the land and live a nightmarish existence thereafter. Humility is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit. May it envelope the cardinal. There is still time for exoneration or reparation, as the courts and investigations will decide.

** The writer is a former National President of the All India Catholic Union, and conversant with the state of the church across the country.*

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WHETHER THE LOWER CASTE INDIANS ARE BETTER OFF THESE DAYS?

by Eric D'Sa

A few weeks ago at a small dinner party at a friend's home, there were only a few Catholic couples. I was surprised that one of the couples came up with the usual grouse of the upper caste Hindus that the Dalits were being provided for two long, privileges of reservation in colleges and government jobs. I told them that what they were saying was not true and it may take hundreds of years for the Dalits, Tribals and lower caste Shudras to overcome centuries of discrimination they have suffered. This is reason I am totally against the caste system being brought into Christianity by demanding that the Dalits who have converted to Christianity partly to escape the stigma being called Dalits, be renamed as Dalit Christians. So let us see where Dalits stand today.

For Dalits, these are the best of times. Once known as untouchables and reviled as ritually unclean, this sixth of India's population has never been more integrated. Since the constitution banned discrimination against untouchables 70 years ago, and with quotas in state schools, jobs and elected offices giving Dalits a leg up, gaps in education, income and health have steadily shrunk. Dalits, who in the past feared crossing certain streets, now have their own millionaire-filled chamber of commerce, scores of energetic NGOs to promote their rights and some 84 of the 545 MPs in the Lok Sabha, the lower house of Indian parliament. Last October a board that manages hundreds of Hindu temples in the southern state of Kerala, for the first time broke one of the last ancient taboos, by inducting six Dalits to serve as priests. Ram Nath Kovind, who was elected India's president last July, was born into a weaver caste, making him the second Dalit to serve

as head of state. But Indian presidents hold little real power, and there has never been a Dalit prime minister. Even then the President has sufficient power to push the cause of Dalits.

That this is the best of times for Dalits, does not necessarily mean that times are very good. Reservations, as the government's quotas are known, have indeed given once-unimagined opportunity to many Dalits. Without them they would all be mainly cleaning shit in toilets. Yet Dalits remain markedly poorer, worse educated

YOU THE CITIZENS DECIDE:

and less healthy than average. They are 30% more likely than other Indians to end up in prison. Out of the 642 faculty members in the country's top management schools, which are state-run, only four are Dalits. Out of 496 vice-chancellors—in effect presidents—of state universities, just six are from “scheduled” castes, as the lowest ranks of the Hindu caste hierarchy are officially known. Scheduled tribes or adivasis—tribal communities traditionally excluded from the caste system altogether—constitute a further 9% of India's 1.3bn people.

The headlines in news papers reveal unthinkable horrors. Dalit woman raped and murdered, a high caste man poisons a well used by Dalits, Dalits attacked for allegedly slaughtering a cow, Dalit youth killed for just watching an Upper-Caste Ceremony, Dalit forced to shave moustache. Protests and riots by members of higher castes typically end with politicians and officials acceding to their demands; similar actions by Dalits tend to be met with repression. Chandrashekar Azad, a prominent Dalit

activist arrested in May, was ordered to be released by a high court in November, with the judge reprimanding police for their “politically motivated” handling of his case. A day later he was rearrested under the draconian National Security Act, intended for terrorist cases, under which he may spend a year in detention without charge.

Many Dalits have broken professional barriers, but many more are stuck doing jobs no one else will take, such as disposing of dead animals and cleaning sewers. In 2017 alone some 90 sewer-cleaners, all Dalits, were fished out dead from India's drains, an activist group reports. So much are Dalits associated with tidying up other peoples' mess, that anthropologists have identified caste attitudes as the main reason for rural India's uniquely high rate of open defecation. It was found that many upper-caste villagers, see toilets as “polluting” to their homes. Dalit parents regularly protest that schools have singled out their children to clean toilets. They also complain that state schools assign numbers to plates when handing out free lunches, lest a child whose family insists on ritual separation from Dalits be served on “polluted” crockery.

In eastern and southern parts of India the proportion of respondents who say they consider Dalits polluting can be as low as 1%. When asked more specific questions about interacting with Dalits, however, these numbers tend to rise, dramatically so in less enlightened parts of India. In the central state of Madhya Pradesh some 53% of respondents to one survey said that their family tried to avoid certain forms of contact with Dalits; surveys of rural areas in nearby states found rates of 65% or more. Although 55% of Indians

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(Contd.. from p. 8)

say they do not mind people of different castes marrying one another's, only 4% say they have married someone from outside their caste. A study in 2010 of some 1,589 villages in the western state of Gujarat identified 98 practices, from preventing access to public wells to obliging Dalits to play drums at weddings, and ranked them in order of prevalence. It found, for example, that in 91% of villages Dalits were not allowed in non-Dalit temples, and in 98% of them non-Dalits would not serve tea to Dalits in their homes. The survey also found a high prevalence of similar practices among different sub-castes of Dalits.

Yet such practices, although still widespread, are declining. Recent surveys suggest that barely a quarter of families still follow them in some form, compared with virtually all Hindus before independence. The kind of language that was used and the whole emphasis on purity and pollution in the early 1960s, is gradually disappearing. Even among families who admit to prejudices such as refusing to let Dalits into their homes, or to use the same utensils, it is likely that the number of such taboos has diminished over time. Accelerating urbanisation, bringing with it a much wider degree of anonymity, is an important factor. Take the fast-food industry. We don't know who has touched our food anymore, and pretty soon we will stop caring. However Indians will not turn liberal overnight. It will happen in stages. The first is when people stop noticing who is a Dalit; the second when they stop caring. The third is when they actively want to do away with untouchability. I think Indians are now somewhere between the first and second steps. We Christians at least who firmly believe that all humans are children of God and as such equal, should wipe out the word Dalits from our vocabulary. You the Citizens will have to decide how we can do so? For a start let us not crib about Dalits being given a few privileges of reservations in schools, colleges and government jobs.

Church Should Foster Mercy and Compassion: Cardinal Oswald Gracias

Mumbai 15 March, 2018: The Catholic Church in India should foster mercy and compassion urged His Eminence Oswald Cardinal Gracias, the President of the Conference of Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI) and the Archbishop of Bombay. The Cardinal was inaugurating the Bishops' Joint Reflection Programme in Sarvodaya, Mumbai on 13 March, 2018 and addressing 31 Bishops from different dioceses of India who are participating in the programme.

Observing the fifth anniversary of the Pontificate of His Holiness Pope Francis on 13 March, Cardinal Oswald remarked that "Pope Francis is a Pope of mercy, who draws people to the sacrament of reconciliation. Pope Francis is a Pope of the peripheries, who has a compassionate heart for the poor, and love and concern for the neglected and suffering."

A thanksgiving Holy Mass was celebrated to mark the Papal anniversary. His Eminence Oswald Cardinal Gracias, the main celebrant, the Apostolic Nuncio Giambattista Diquattro, the Bishops, and the other concelebrants, prayed for the Universal Church and the Pope. The Bishops also held a half-hour Eucharistic adoration to mark the day.

The Bishops' Joint Reflection programme is organised by the CCBI for the Bishops in two batches. First batch from 12 to 17 March and the second batch from 2 to 7 July, 2018 at Sarvodaya, Mumbai.

His Eminence Oswald Cardinal Gracias, His Excellency Giambattista Diquattro, Archbishop George Antonysamy, Archbishop Anil Joseph Thomas Couto, Archbishop Felix Machado, Bishop John Rodrigues, Fr. Thomas Reddy SJ, Fr. Paul Moonjely, Fr. Anthony Charanghat, Fr. Nigel Barret, Mr. Roger Pereira, Mr. Conrad Saldanha and Dr. M. Kandasami animated the reflection programme conducted for the Bishops.

The Bishops received inputs on the following topics: Role of Papal Representa-



tive in our Country, Bishop's Relationship with Priests, Religious and Laity, Formation of Seminarians, Priests and Lay People, Office Management: Archives and Documentation, Caritas India and Preparing Project for Funding Agencies, Conflict Management and Problem Solving Skills, Media Management; Public Relations and Press Conference, Ecumenism, Relations with Other Religions and Episcopal Ministry According to Pope Francis.

The Bishops also went on a pilgrimage to Mount Mary Basilica, Bandra and recited the holy rosary and dedicated the dioceses in India to the patronage of the Blessed Virgin Mary of the Mount.

The prelates also participated in the novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour at St. Michael's Church, Mahim. The Rector and parish community in Mahim accorded the Bishops a traditional welcome. The Apostolic Nuncio blessed the thousands of the devotees gathered at the Mahim shrine with the Eucharistic Benediction.

The Bishops celebrated the Holy Mass at the Holy Name Cathedral, Mumbai and prayed for the Church in India and for the Archdiocese of Bombay. His Excellency Giambattista Diquattro was the main celebrant at the Eucharist. His Eminence Oswald Cardinal Gracias welcomed the Apostolic Nuncio and prelates to the Archdiocese of Bombay.

The Bishops Joint Reflection programme was organised by the CCBI at the suggestion of the 29 Plenary Assembly of the Conference of Catholic Bishops of India, held in 2017 at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

Rev. Dr. Stephen Alathara
Deputy Secretary General, CCBI

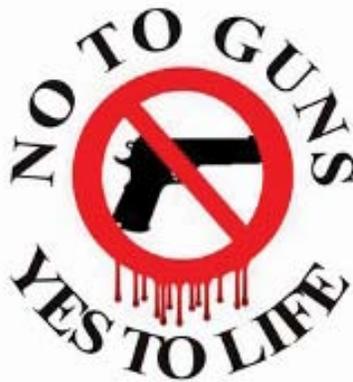
Saying “NO” To Guns!

by Fr. Cedric Prakash SJ*

On 14 February, seventeen students and teachers were gunned down in their school in Parkland, Florida; however according to the non-profit organization, ‘Everytown for Gun Safety’, “as of 2 March almost two dozen school shootings have already occurred on school campuses across the United States.” This does not take into account the scores of others that are gunned down regularly in a country regarded as the world’s oldest democracy.

The Florida school shooting was certainly the trigger; because on 14 March, exactly a month after that terrible tragedy, hundreds of thousands of students across America walked out of more than three thousand schools, to protest gun violence. In memory of the seventeen killed in Florida they stayed out for seventeen minutes with a strong message to all to ‘say “NO” to guns’. A week from now, on 24 March a massive rally ‘**March For Our Lives**’ (#MarchForOurLives) is being organized to Washington DC, in other major cities of the US and in several countries across the world. This ‘March’ is intended to tell decision and policy makers to not only curb the use of guns but to ensure a total halt to their production. America and the world perhaps needs the school students to show the way!

Whether the decision/policy makers will actually pay attention to and act on this universal outrage is a matter



of conjecture. ‘Guns’ today is in fact a euphemism for the deadly ‘military-industrial complex (MIC)’, which has a stranglehold not only on the US but on several countries of the world. The term ‘military-industrial complex’ was first coined by President Dwight Eisenhower (a five –star General during World War II) in his farewell address to the nation on 17 January 1961. That powerful speech apparently still reverberates among those who are concerned about what is happening in the world today. Eisenhower has also famously said, *“Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. The world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children.”*

In the US, pro-gun groups like the National Rifle Association (NRA) however, are not taking matters lightly. They have gone on a propaganda blitz justifying the keeping and use of guns and consistently referring to the ‘Second Amendment’ to the US Constitution, which ‘protects the right of people to keep and bear arms’. With a claimed membership of over five million, the NRA is a powerful lobbying organization with influential politicians in their pockets. It is no secret about the money they pump into political campaigns. They have been flaunting slogans like *“Guns don’t kill, but people do!”* and *“the only thing that*

stops a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun!” The response to the NRA sloganeering from the students was an emphatic *“we call B.S.”*

Besides the US gun violence, the first three months of the year 2018 have been bad on several fronts. Violence seemed to be in charge across the globe. As the war in Syria entered its eight year on 15 March, the people there, particularly those in and around Damascus, were subject to the worst phase of violence since 2011, with several fatalities and many more casualties. Violence continued in several other trouble spots including, Yemen and Afghanistan, Sudan and DR of Congo, Myanmar and Israel, Venezuela and El Salvador, the Philippines and India. At the core of the escalation of this violence is the negative and insidious role, which guns and militarization play in the lives of nations and people today.

The **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute** (www.sipri.org), established in 1966, is a global and highly respected independent think tank ‘dedicated to research into conflict, armaments, arms control and disarmament.’ SIPRI’s annual ‘Yearbook’ and the slew of well-researched documents produced by it, provide one with the naked truth of the why of today’s wars and how certain nations and companies profit immensely from war. The lead country in this profiteering is obviously the United States (strangely enough, all the five permanent members of the UN Security Council profit immensely from the manufacture and sale of arms). One of SIPRI’s latest fact-sheets entitled *‘How US arms manufacturers reap the profit of war’* highlights how the earnings of the world’s top arms sellers are higher than the GDP of 140 countries! Lockheed Martin (USA) tops the list; in 2016, its arms sales amounted to US\$ 40.8 billion, which is higher than the total defense budget of all,

(Contd.. on p. 23)

Konkani Natak Sabha inaugurates 75 years in Mangaluru

by Ivan Saldanha-Shet

Konkani Natak Sabha (KNS) whose base is Don Bosco Hall, Hampankatta in the heart of Mangaluru, inaugurated its Platinum Jubilee (75th year - 1943-2018) on March 15, 2018. Many older Mumbaikars and their families with roots in Canara are sure to be admirers of this great Konkani institution whose reputation has spread world wide. The KNS with its watch words, "Natak Dwarin Dharmik Sadan"

for decades has been organising dramas, plays, competitions and music programmes and Konkani people are very sentimental and emotional about these. The hall is also used for weddings, meets, ceremonies and more. As part of the celebrations of its 75th Jubilee year which will continue to March 2019, it plans to hold various programmes and projects. The hall which has served well and has aged with grace, is God willing set to give way to a worthy complex with a modern auditorium in the next two years.

March 15, 2018 was a memorable day here, office bearers, members, admirers and well wishers (past and present) gathered to reminisce on the hoary past of its 75 years. It was observed that the gathering was virtually a who-s-who of the local Konkani glitterati. The meaningful logo of the jubilee year was unveiled with Rev Alwin Serrao (Principal Padua College-Nanthur), he is a modern promoter of new concepts in Dramatics today, he was a hit as chief guest, senior actor Mable Kent, KNS President Rev Paul Melwyn D'Souza OfM Cap, Dolphy Saldanha, VP Sunil Menezes, Floyd D'Mello and others graced the platform and spoke in moving terms.

The chief guest, Rev Alwin Serrao, well known dramatists of the region spoke on various aspects of Konkani Drama. Rev Serrao's enlightening talk was titled, "Konkani drama – yesterday, today and tomorrow," His talk was exhilarating and brought out the true multi colours of Drama in Canara, appreciated by one and all present.



Rev Alwin Serrao said, "Drama, is defined as 'a copy of real daily life', show cased on stage / a platform," it served to entertain and educate people, in times when no other media existed - with culture, literature, music, knowledge and all good aspects built in. Yet, to an extent it still holds people spell bound even today, and will continue to. The dilemma of the dramatist today was whether to provide a fare to satiate the appetite of the audience or should it serve to convey the mind and thinking of the author/dramatist? The august speaker went on to point out that Konkani drama in Mangaluru is perhaps about 130 years old, it all may have started with religious teachings being depicted as an entertainment, mostly held at night in the open air, Tuluvas and Saraswat konkanis contributed to the first dramas here. Konkani Catholics adapted from Marathi and European plays and introduced Biblical episodes. Rev Serrao, also traced the many plays and dramas, enacted by KNS and the well remembered dramatists, writers, musicians, artistes and so on that have moved through this historic venue in a touching emotional journey. In deed all the speakers took the enraptured audience through an emotional and enlightening memory journey that brought joy and inspirations back to one and all. In spite of all the many advanced entertainment systems that

proliferate today.....drama continues with a section of people always coming on stage to keep drama alive and developing progressively, into the modern era.

Historic Recap :

'Konkani Natak Sabah' (KNS) could be taken back to Rev



George

A F Pai (Albuquerque) SJ, a great Konkani mind and spirit that took the first steps for a grand success in the early 1940s; he handed over the care of this pioneer cultural organisation to the Capuchin Friars; St. Ann's Friary superiors were from earliest times the Presidents who directed this colourful 'Sabha'. The early leaders of KNS some of whom are Rev. Cyril Andrade, Rev Philip Neri, and many a historical figure of the region who are also the architects of Don Bosco Hall and Assisi Complex, with many art loving people of Kudla in the lead. KNS was formally established Sept 19, 1943. Don Bosco Hall (DBH), was opened on Aug 19, 1951.

KNS slogan "Natak Dwarin Dharmik Sadan"; the word 'Dharmik' from the Sanskrit root "dharma" transmitting to virtue, righteousness, justice.....it has deep connections to good and roughly translates - 'Through drama achieve the good'. The values of Konkani indigenous communities (there are 42 of them) is a celebration that has been on going. The KNS chose St. Don Bosco as its heavenly patron and on Jan 31, 1949. The promise of KNS sails on with silver wings towards a glorious centenary.

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—Ronald Rodrigues, Hiranandani, Thane

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.

—Thomas T, Navi Mumbai

Thanksgiving



Thanks to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour for the favours granted

—D'Souza family, IC Colony

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Blood donation and Health Camp by BCS Vikhroli unit



The Vikhroli unit of The Bombay Catholic Sabha organised blood donation drive in association with Sarvodaya Hospital Samarpan Blood Bank Ghatkopar westn health camp on 4th March 2018 for people of all Faith's. Total 52 sachets of blood mainly meant for children diagnosed with 'Thalassemia' was collected from the donors Health camp included eye checkup, dental, Acupuncture, blood pressure, General physician n Random Diabetes test along with advanced diabetes (HbA1C) test . More than 300 people of all faith took advantage of this camp. Our gratitude to our well wishers who had passed on the message in their respective Social groups and thru word of mouth.

We thank all those who volunteered for the camp including the specialist doctors with their team, health cell team nurses, and qualified team for advanced diabetes (HbA1C) test. God bless.

Also a big thank you to Michael & team and our comm members for their efforts in the arrangements and co-ordination.

God bless to Father Hubert of St. Francis Xavier parish, vikhroli Parksite, Mrs Janet D'souza General Secretary of All India Mahila Congress and Mr. Lawrence D'souza Ex. BCS Vice President for their encouragement vide their presence during the event. Also present was Ms. Manisha Rahate NCP Corporator ward 119.

And a big thank you to all those who took advantage of the camp and to the blood donors, God bless.



The Bombay Catholic Sabha Vikhroli unit members along with Mr. Robert Dsouza VP , Father Simon Lopes Ex. Spiritual Director of BCS Vikhroli Unit n now Principal of St. Xavier school bhandup, volunteers and youth of our parish helped in distributing biscuits n water for 25000 farmers who r on protest walk from Nasik onwards at Vikhroli Eastern Express highway junction .

The Bombay Catholic Sabha Vikhroli unit supports the farmers agitation to get their demands and request the state government to solve their long standing demands



Mario Rodrigues
Chairman, BCS Vikhroli Unit

Jesuits : Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow

12 March is a significant day in the annals of the Society of Jesus. On this day in 1622, Pope Gregory XV canonized **Ignatius Loyola** and **Francis Xavier**. Loyola the founder of the Society was truly a visionary, who was convinced that the Church and world needed a group of men who would transcend the ordinary, go to the peripheries and do all things for 'the greater glory of God'. Xavier, in many ways, as a missionary par excellence,



actualized this vision traversing India and other countries in Asia bringing the "good news" to all.

The day also marks the conclusion of the 'Novena of Grace', in honour of St Francis Xavier. This novena, which traditionally begins on 4 March, has become very popular all over the world. Significantly, we began today here at St. Joseph's Community in Beirut the annual canonical visitation to the community by the Provincial **Dany Younes**. This evening, he presided over the Community Eucharist, in which he stressed the need for 'accompaniment'. At the community get-together, which followed, we felicitated Scholastic **Amir Adel** who has successfully completed his studies in the University.

It was also an absorbing day visiting some of the educational initiatives run by the Jesuit Refugee Service (MENA) in Bar Elias, in the Bekaa Valley. **Michael Smith** is a Jesuit from New Zealand who now works with the JRS at the International Office in Rome, as the person responsible for education. He was impressed by the resilience of the children in the schools and the dedication of the staff. Douglas Jones (a second year Jesuit novice of the Maryland Province, US), is in the Bekaa valley for a four-month stint with JRS there. For Doug, "*being in the midst of refugees is a very enriching experience. Here I have the opportunity to experience a very different type of life; in a way breaking out of my confines. I am actually doing the 'accompaniment' which I have been formed to do so!*"



BY FR. CEDRIC PRAKASH SJ

From 4-9 March, the St Joseph's University (USJ) organized a special 'Jesuit Week' for their students, staff and others. The events of the week- focused on four extraordinary Jesuits. Nicolas Kluiters, a Dutch Jesuit who was murdered in the Bekaa valley sometime in March 1985. **Frans Van Der Lugt**, also from the Netherlands was killed in Homs Syria in April 2014. Both Nicolas and Frans are still warmly remembered for being in the midst of people, caring for them, and ultimately being called to the supreme sacrifice. **Alberto Hurtado**, was a Chilean Jesuit, who spent a lifetime communicating Catholic Social Teaching and providing shelter and food to thousands through his 'Hogar in Christo'. **Pedro Arrupe** was the Superior General of the Society of Jesus when he founded in 1980, the Jesuit Refugee Service to serve, to accompany and to advocate for the refugees and the displaced in South East Asia. JRS continues living his vision today in fifty countries across the globe.

We have also begun a Jubilee Year. On 9 March, we celebrated the 450th birth anniversary of **Aloysius Gonzaga** a great Jesuit Saint. In a letter addressed to the 'Whole Society' the Superior General of the Jesuits **Arturo Sosa** writes, "*the Holy See, mindful of the anniversary of the birth of Aloysius Gonzaga, has announced the celebration of a Jubilee Year of St. Aloysius, from March 9, 2018, until the same date in the year 2019*". We are also reminded that in a few months from now

(15 August) we will also observe the 450th death anniversary of another wonderful Jesuit Saint **Stanislaus Kostka**.

Fr. Arturo goes on to say, "*It is time, therefore, for us to listen to them and ask ourselves how we can help young people grow so deeply in their faith and love for Christ that they may, with a courage similar to that of Aloysius Gonzaga, confront the idols of the dominant culture. Bearing in mind that he died serving people who were not only sick of the plague but also abandoned without hope in the streets of the city and regarded with fear, it is time for us to examine how we, as ministers of the reconciliation that Christ offers humanity, can help young people today to overcome all kinds of fear*"

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and anger, often stirred up for political reasons against those who are "different" or "other," expressing instead welcome, trust, and compassion. Finally, knowing that Aloysius Gonzaga saw religious life as an inspiring personal way of offering one's own life for others, we must ask how we can present the Society of Jesus and religious life to young people today as a joyful life choice, aimed at serving and giving life to others".

Ramiro Erviti, was another great Jesuit. 11 March was his birth anniversary; he died in 1986, at the age of fifty-six, very unexpectedly in rather tragic circumstances. He reached out to the poor of Gujarat in a way few others have done. He cared very much for the displaced and the migrants, the slum dwellers and the tribals – doing all he can to give them a more dignified live. He gave and did not count the cost.

On 13 March, we celebrate **Jorge Bergoglio**, our Jesuit brother on the fifth anniversary of his election as Pope. In amazing ways, Pope Francis has touched the hearts and lives of millions of people everywhere. He is today the undisputed world leader. We thank God for him.

So much keeps happening all the time. But the fact is that Jesuits: yesterday, today and tomorrow – continue to be inspired by Ignatius Loyola and live the mission of the 'magis', wherever we are; above all, trying to internalize and live his prayer:

"Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, and my entire will, All I have and call my own. You have given all to me. To you, Lord, I return it. Everything is yours; do with it what you will. Give me only your love and your grace, that is enough for me".

* (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).

Balancing act of Life

Recently I came across with one of my Wife's schoolmate, she was a topper till her college days. Got married, her husband was well placed in a international company based in the middle east. Unfortunately they are separated since 4 years now.

A year back I met my High school mate who was also a topper in our class and he excelled in college as well. He Opted for Science, while I chose commerce. He is married and blessed with two children, well placed abroad unfortunately he is addicted to liquor. I could clearly read the challenging situation which the family is going through now...

I don't mean to say only educated and toppers have challenging life. These two cases made me to think and prompted me to express my feelings.

If education with grades was the parameter for a successful life why the present educated class is suffering more than the poor class?

Every day we hear cases of crime and offense, unfortunately rich and high class people are also trapped in such situations. Yesterdays TOI carried news of a death case from Bangalore. Both husband and wife are highly qualified and well placed in a IT company based in Bangalore. Yesterday evening wife hanged herself after a tough argument with her husband. Their 3 year old daughter lost her mother and her parents lost their daughter permanently. Her husband may have to live rest of his life with a heavy heart. There are countless such incidents which happen around us and we read in the history as well. My question is where is the solution?

Its very hard to give a formula for a successful life. Many a times I feel we are not training our children to face life, rather we are producing machines to work and earn!

Beautiful lines of greatest scientist of our times late Stephen Hawking may inspire us -

One, remember to look up at the stars and not down at your feet.

Two, never give up work. Work gives

you meaning and purpose and life is empty without it.

Three, if you are lucky enough to find love, remember it is there and don't throw it away."

Have you seen people whom we call as workaholics? They are true assets to the company which they work for. For them Entertainment is like space walk and their family end up living a life in misery.

Have you seen people with 24x7 spirituality? They believe by praying (and not working) god will bless them. They are extremely happy and enjoy the company of prayerful people around them. Rest of the pack becomes aliens to them.

Being an artist I have seen and experienced the mentality of many artists as well. We think the entire world admires us and we are the greatest talents of all times. Many of the artists exit from the stage of life with pain, not with joy.

There are people who are attached to the family so much they don't recognize their own relatives. There are people who work for the cause of Art, Language, Society, Politics or join a movement and they think theirs is the true life. They think by working in that fashion we can find true meaning for life. They believe rest of the world is not bothered about the welfare of human being!!!

We can make so many categories in the modern era...

My question is do we know the art of balancing life?

Dear friends and family, I am not a scholar or psychologist but definitely a reader. I use to take up training programs to the youth of our diocese. During the course of time I understood one strong element for a successful, peaceful and fruitful life – four pillars of life.

Balanced life is always built on these 4 pillars. If we don't understand the importance at the right time we are lost, we regret and many a times we suffer.

Those four pillars are - FAMILY LIFE – SPIRITUAL LIFE– MONETARY – SOCIAL LIFE

Passion Sunday Starts Holy Week With Palms

Palm Sunday, known also as Passion Sunday, begins the celebration which opens the Church's liturgy for Holy Week.

The Christian faith is comfortably unchanging. The nature of salvation and the history of Christ's Passion to the Resurrection is the basic tenet of the faith. Jesus is the atoning Lamb of God. The reading this Sunday is from the Book of Isaiah (50:4-7). The servant of the Lord is suffering and yet, he chooses to trust in God.

Palm Sunday is a time for us to prepare, to trust: a prelude to his Passion, Death and Resurrection. Passion Sunday is also a time to commemorate the Entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem. The Lord prepares his messianic entrance into the city of Jerusalem, the city of "his father David".



BY MELVYN BROWN

The crowd followed him through the heat and dust of the noon day sun, and when they reached Bethphage close to the Mount of Olives, the Lord Jesus stopped.

"It was two days before the Passover and the feast of Unleavened Bread." (Mk.14:1). On the first day of Unleavened Bread when the Passover lamb is sacrificed the disciples of Jesus asked him. "Where will you have us go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?" (Mk.14:12).

Jesus took aside two of his disciples and instructed them: "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him, and wherever he enters, say to the householder, "The Teacher says, where is my guest room where I am to eat the Passover with my disciples?" (MK.14:13-15) This was done and completed according to the wish of the Master.

Two other disciples were sent to a vil-

lage opposite the Mount of Olives. "You will find an ass tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord has need of them,' and he will send them immediately." (Mat.21:1-3).

Jesus was calmly preparing his entry into Jerusalem. He was going to manifest the coming of the kingdom "by the Passover of his Death and Resurrection" (CCC.60). At this point it would be a welcome insight to recall the words of the late Pope Saint John Paul II:

"The whole of Christ's life was a continual teaching: his silences, his miracles, his gestures, his prayers, his love for people, his special affection for the little and the poor, his acceptance of the total sacrifice on the Cross for the redemption of the world, and his Resurrection are the actualization of his word and the fulfillment of Revelation." (John Paul II).

Jesus sat in deep thought in the house of Simon at Bethany. The Christ of faith, from Jewish prophet to Christian savior, was now at the peak of his mission



to inaugurate the kingdom of God on earth. Jesus of Nazareth would have to endure all the pain and suffering that he was able to bear. A woman stepped into the room where Jesus sat at the table. In her hand she brought "a jar of ointment of pure nard, very costly, and she broke the jar and poured it over his head." (Mk.14:3).

Many of those present in the room were not too pleased at the woman's action. "Why was the ointment thus wasted? For this ointment might have been sold for more than three hundred denari, and given to the poor." (Mk.14:4).

On hearing this Jesus turned to them and said, "...she has done a beautiful thing to me....For you always have the poor with you....but you will not always have me." (Mk.14:70).

This woman was special to the prelude of Christ's Passion. And Jesus added, "She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for burying." (Mk.14:8). Then Jesus went on to say, "And truly, I say to you, wherever the Gospel is preached in the whole world, what she had done will be told in memory of her." (Mk. 14:9).

In the meantime the crowds outside waited to witness and join in the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. They brought fresh green palms, and their voices were loud in praise of the Lord our God". They took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord." (Jn.13:12-13).

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Inspiration!

The Secret to meaningful relationship

Every different role that we play in our lives has a divine golden thread of consciousness that allows us to learn from each type of relationship. At times we have to transform with the ever-changing emotional landscape of the people and love around us. We learn to acclimatise to the variations of flow and pace that is mutually set within the parameters of friendship or partnership. Here are some secrets to meaningful relationship that, if you believe, can curate an outstanding foundation for love to flourish in any situation

Relationship unfortunately don't come equipped with instruction manuals and lifetime warranties - we just have to learn from experience and take our chances with the people that come into our lives. Even so, you can ensure more successful, deeper relationship by keeping these things in mind.

Understand that relationships are powerful teachers:

We all learn and grow at a different pace. Life ebbs and flows during different times for us too expand our consciousness and be fully pres-



ent in the beauty of whatever shows up in our reality. This can sometimes be in the form of conflict, family drama, old relationship wounds, feelings of unworthiness or whatever happens within us that another has the ones ability to trigger. Our families are usually the ones that know how to push our buttons because they're the ones that installed them and put them there. However, it's up to us as to whether we allow the detonation to take place. So whatever the fallout, just know that growth is happening. The yucky feelings, resentment, sadness or anger are a beautiful opportunity to grow and rise above it in order to move forward.

A mutual exchange of energy must be balanced:

The people that take, take, take without giving ensure that the relationship won't feel harmonious. You need to make sure that you offer the same level of support as the people that are willing to support you. This can be in various forms but please be aware if you're making the relationship more about you than taking an interest in nurturing the other person. Otherwise you run the risk of being seen as an emotional vampire.

There is no shame in seeking professional help:

If you feel that things need to get out of your head and you need to

More secrets revealed

- Self-insight: In a relationship the one with the deeper self-insight is usually the more prized. He tends to be calmer and more grounded.
- Avoid constant resistance from things: It is mature to free yourself from maintaining an angry guard constantly. Resistance disturbs your own peace of mind.
- Learn how to deal with heartaches: Do not rush away from heartaches from losing a friend. Deal with it and overcome it before finding a replacement.
- Avoid seeking social validation: Do not fear from being a 'nobody' in the social world. The truth is much deeper than what meets the eye.

be heard by someone that can offer objective and non-judgemental advice or feedback, then find someone to talk to. There is no shame in seeking help. In fact, it's so liberating. It is a true act of self love to make sure you seek help when you need it, just to allow yourself the space to see beyond the situation and diffuse the drama.

Life is too short to not be committed to authentic relationship:

Our lives can change in the blink of an eye. It's imperative to make sure your loved ones know you love them and that you are committed to having real and authentic relationships with people. Allow yourself to step away and create space from the people that hurt you (even if they are your family) and be committed to sending them love, offering forgiveness, compassion (energetically) and then handing over situations beyond your control to the Universe to sort it out. Miracles will happen.

Transform your inner life into one of goodness:

Transforming your inner self into a good and genuine human being is the best gift you'll ever be able to give anyone. Work on your strengths and make yourself worthy of the love and appreciation. This is a reflection of the greatest love for people.

To Mother Delicia With Love

by **Ninette DSouza**

A Sunday School teacher read Mt. 11:30 “My yoke is easy “ to the children in her class and then asked , “Who can tell me what a yoke is ?” One of the boys replied, “A yoke is something they put on the neck of animals so they can help each other.” Then the teacher asked, “What is the yoke Jesus puts on us?” A quiet little girl answered, “It is God putting his arm around us.” For 88 long years that is the way Mother Delicia walked this earth, never forgetting the mercies God poured into her life. Each day as she heard and read His Word, she had the knowledge of God’s saving grace, the comfort of His Spirit and the joyful assurance of Life Everlasting with Jesus. In Ps. 37 David exhorts us to have both, patience and trust. “Commit your way to the Lord, trust Him and He will act.” These two exemplary virtues shone through the life of Mother Delicia, who sincerely followed and served the Lord joyfully for 66 years, as a Canossian Daughter of Charity. She essayed the different roles of Teacher, Principal, Superior, Catechist as and when it was asked of her, trusting in God implicitly and surrendering every area of her life to

His wise control.

Incidentally I got to know M. Delicia around 30 years ago through my Sister in law who taught in the K.G section at Canossa, while M. Delicia was Principal of the K.G. What started out as a Hi- Bye affair, soon metamorphosed into a meaningful sustaining relationship of which I was the greater beneficiary. In her God given wisdom she was able to look beyond the said and the did in my life and find the real need. Her words of grace became for me rays of hope. Indeed she was one of God’s precious gifts to me.

When at a point in time, the journey of my life seemed difficult, she took upon her the onerous task of convincing me to forgive persons, (which took me a long time to do) and to let go, assuring me that I would never be alone because I would be accompanied by her prayers. Mother always believed that Prayer is the bridge between panic and peace. She taught me that anger and darkness are cut from the same cloth, from which beauty and harmony are woven. Through the time we spent together (from precious brief moments in the lift or at the reception desk to longer ones over a cup of coffee) many are the insights I gained and lessons I learned, the best being--- to look back in forgiveness, forward in hope, down in compassion and up in gratitude.

As pilgrim journeying through the world, from time to time, seemingly fierce obstacles of illness, accidents, personal conflicts amidst others appear before us, striking fear in our lives. At first they may bewilder us and life itself may seem to arrive at a dead end, but then like M. Delicia, with faith we can make our way to the Saviour, realizing we dare not go forward without His reassuring Presence. He makes us a wonderful promise in Is

41:10 “Have no fear, for I am with you... hand of justice“ and in a flash we realize – God is the only ally we can always count on when all seems lost.

I will miss Mother’s soft voice congratulating me for every article or script I penned, praising me for programmes I orchestrated, her unending gratitude when I reached out to persons she brought to me who were indeed, her empathy when I was in trouble , her guidance when I was lost because I believed I was being targeted without reason, her patience and understanding when I was looking for a shoulder to cry on. God is in the small things. For some He could be in the smile of a new born baby. I found him in the gaze, touch and voice of M. Delicia. I will forever be grateful for the support and strength I gained from this gentle, assertive deeply spiritual, totally committed servant of God.

The written word is all I have to dedicate to her. Words and only words are all I have to say Thanks and Goodbye.

*God knows every winding way you took Mother Delicia;
And every sorrow, pain and ache.
You are His child and He will not forsake you-
For He knows and loves His own
Rest in peace Mother Delicia ...*

An Ode of Love from your Miracle Baby. (The story behind this nickname stays buried with Mother Delicia)

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.: bellwether77@yahoo.com OR Mob.: 9892700617

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6803 MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in November 1980), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 82 kgs, Wheatish Complexion

Edn. B.Com., Advertising Professional. Contact email : barretto.john@gmail.com

6796 MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in August 1985), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 68 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. BE- IT & PGDM - Operations, working as a IT Audit. Contact email : shawndsai185@gmail.com

6794 MANGALORE : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Divorcee, (Born in May 1976), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 74 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Sc., MS Counselling & psychotherapist, Working as a Associate Professor in Psychology & Counseling at Managalore. Contact email : naveensrasquinha@gmail.com

6793 MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in November 1987), Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 85 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBA., PG in taxation law, well employed. Contact email : linet.noronha06@gmail.com

6832. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in August 1970), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 59 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Captain in Hotel. Contact email : ignatius.matel@gmail.com

6830. BAHRAIN : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in February 1988), Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 97 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBA, Marketing Professional in Public Sector. Contact email : rolsonvaz@gmail.com

6829. AUSTRALIA : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Divorcee, (Born in March 1978), Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 80 kgs, Wheatish

Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Customer Support. Contact email : arthur.fernandes@live.com

6823. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in September 1990), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 76 kgs, Wheatish

Complexion, Edn. Mechanical Engineer, serving as 4th Engineer in Anglo Eastern Ship Management. Contcat email : varun.w220@gmail.com

6818. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in January 1986), Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 72 kgs, Wheatish

Complexion, Edn. Computer Engineering, working for a reputed IT firm. Contact email : celinedsz55@gmail.com

6817. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in January 1989), Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 75 kgs, Tan Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., B.I.S., working as a Sr. Software Engineer. Contact email : fernandesmelwyn08@gmail.com

6815 MANGALORE : Mangalorean RC Bachelor, (Born in January 1971), Ht. 5' 7", Wheatish Complexion, Edn. PUC Diploma in Civil Engg., having own business, Contact email : wilmanenz@hotmail.com

6813 USA : Mangalorean Protestant Divorcee, (Born in March 1951), Ht. 5' 10", Wt. Medium, Fair Complexion, Edn. MBBS., MD., Doctor by profession. Contact email : fh2@mail.com

6789 MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in December 1989), Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 81 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBA in Human Resources, working as a Deputy Manager in Bank. Contact email : rego909@gmail.com

6788 MUMBAI : East Indian Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in May 1987), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 75 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Diploma in Industrial Electronics, BAMAC., Having own business. Contact email : info@icmtraining.in

6787 MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in August 1986), Ht. 6' 1", Wt. 80 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. 12th Std., born, broughtup, worked in Bahrain, currently settled and working in

Mumbai. Contact email : schinderfernandes1986@gmail.com

6786 MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in May 1981), Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 65 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. BA working as a Sales Associate. Contact email : saviotorres56@gmail.com

6756 MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in December 1977), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 78 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. 12th std. (HSC), working as an Admin. Assistnat in DUBAI. Contact email : charlotteirani@yahoo.com

6751 MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in December 1990), Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 70 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc. (Hospitality), working in UK Cruise Line. Contact email : asharcfernandes@gmail.com

6750 AUSTRALIA : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in October 1985), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 70 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Bachelor in Communication, working as a Media Analyst. Contact email artemiamaria@gmail.com

6424. MUMBAI : East Indian Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in October 1991), Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 65 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., well employed, working as Sr. Customer Care Executive. Contact email : gerardd754@gmail.com, Mob:9594766322 / 9930620943

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

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 : suaresroshan@gmail.com

Grooms



MATRIMONIALS

6846. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in July 1985), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 70 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Office Administrator. Contact email : kevinbr85@gmail.com

6845. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in November 1982), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 67 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., working as a Internet Manager. Contact email : mariadsilva999@gmail.com

6844. MUMBAI : Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in November 1988), Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 55 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. Bachelor of Engineering in Information Technology, working as a Project Lead. Currently in New Jersey, USA on a Project. Contact email : andy_999in@yahoo.com

6841. MUMBAI : Anglo Indian / Keralaite Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in May 1991), Ht. 170 cms, Wt. 78 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.Com., working as a Sales Executive. Contact email : mrsannieroy@yahoo.co.in

6773 MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in April 1989), Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 76 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc. (I.T.), working as a Information Security Analyst, Contact email : conyderic.andrade@gmail.com

6771 CANADA : Bombay born, broughtup and educated Keralaite Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in October 1987), Ht. 180 cms, Wt. 75 kgs, Fair Complexion, Handsome, Edn. B. Tech Computer Engineering, working as a Software Engineer. Permanent Resident Canada. Seeks a well educated girl from Canada, U.S. Or Mumbai. Good looking, ready to settle in Canada. Keralaite / Mangalorean / South Indian. Contact email : anthony99ignatius@gmail.com.

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Telephone no. of candidate will be printed only with the consent of members.

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

6768 MANGALORE : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Divorce, (Born in August 1975), Ht. 174 cms, Wt. 70 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. HSC + 2 years Mechanical, working on Cruise Line. Contact email : roshanpilar@gmail.com

6766 MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in August 1973), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 68 kgs, Tan Complexion, Edn. SSC, working as a Mech. Fitter in Private Limited Company. Having own accommodation. Contact email : maxielobo1973@gmail.com

6764 MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in November 1977), Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 76 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. MBA PGDM, working as an Asst. Vice President. Contact email : shamlcoutinho@gmail.com

6763 MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in May 1978), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 60 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. HSC, working as a Captain. Contact email : harrydsilva3@gmail.com

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

6228. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor (Born in December 1972). Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 65 kgs., Wheatish Complexion, Edn. S.S.C. A/C Tech. Course, working as a A/C. Technician in Voltas. Contact email : lawrencedias321@gmail.com / Mob: 8291056939

6172. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in February 1978), Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 86 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Com.,

Check your email at least once a week for proposals from Royal Christian Family and other members

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

Position : Financial Consultant. Seeks a alliance from RC graduate/pst graduate spinster. Contact email: raceangelreb@yahoo.in

6507. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor (Hearing Impaired) (Born in September 1989), Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 62 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. HSC., Dip. in Computer Hardware. Working as a Cashier. Contact email : clifford9948@gmail.com OR 9920331773

6800 MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in February 1985), Ht. 6', Wt. 90 kgs, Wheatish Complexion Edn. S.Y. B.Com., working as a Customer Service. Contact email : mariacardoz@indokem.co.in OR Mob: 9819563066

6799 MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in November 1989), Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 95 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., Nautical, working as a 2nd Officer in Merchant Navy. Contact email : dsouzaal.89@gmail.com

6798 MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in November 1987), Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 74 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. BE, working as a 2nd Engineer in Foreign Ship. Well settled, handsome, simple and humble. Contact email : marialewis198@gmail.com

6797 MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in December 1987), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 72 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working for Five Star Hotel in Mumbai. Contact email : johnserrao14@yahoo.com

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6843. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in October 1990), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 59 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.Com., Accounts and Finance, working as a Sales Mis., Contact email : ncleret@yahoo.in

6842. USA : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in October 1989), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 57 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Pharma, Masters in Pharmaceutical Sciences - USA, working as a Formulation Scientist in Laboratories in USA. Contact email : jgonsalves@wockhardt.com

6780 GOA : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in March 1987), Ht. 5' 4", Wt.50 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.B.B.S., M.D. (Armenia), Doctor by profession. Working in **DELHI**. Contact email : samantha.saldanha07@gmail.com

6779 MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in September 1988), Ht. 5' 3", Wt.50 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.A. in Literature, Teacher by profession. Contact email : angelagurjao1@gmail.com

6776. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic spinster, (Born in September 1992), Ht. 5' 1", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBA, working as an Executive. Contact email : neilcarvalho1234@gmail.com

6775 AUSTRALIA: Australian citizens of Indian Christian origin residing in Sydney seek matrimonial alliance for their daughter: Age: 43yrs Ht.: 5'4", Wheatish complexion, Beautiful with black hair Understanding, trust worthy, physically active, having a pleasant & affable disposition with strong family values and social networking skills. Marital Status: Divorcee/Female living in New South Wales Australia (has no children) Annulment in progress. Well

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educated employed in the Australian Financial Sector in a responsible position. Expressions of interest are solicited from eligible male suitors meeting the following criteria: Must be Christian settled either in Australia, UAE, Kuwait, Bahrain, North America, Canada Age: under 47yrs Marital Status: Bachelor or Divorce (with no children) Personality traits: Suitor must be healthy with a pleasing personality & strong family values. Height :minimum5'8" Suitors with strong financial resources pursuing either a Professional/Corporate/ Business career will be highly favoured. Interested suitors are requested to send profiles to the following email: sme94427@bigpond.net.au

6774. U.S.A. : Mangalorean Roman Catholic spinster, (Born in June 1979), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 58 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.E. (Civil), M.S., working as a I.T. Engineer (Team Leader) . Contact email : alicedsouza722@gmail.com

6772. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic spinster, (Born in August 1984), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 59 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Accountant. Contact email : josephpedadepereira@yahoo.in

6665. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in October 1986), Ht. 4' 9", Wheatish Complexion, Edn. 12th (HSC), Hair Dresser by profession. Seeks Mangalorean / Goan / East Indian Bacheor. Contact email: alcheckmate@gmail.com OR 9867292764

6502. MUMBAI : Mangalorean R.C. Spinster, Date of Birth 14-5-1983, Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion,

Edn. M.Sc. Nursing, working as a ICU Head in Abudhabi - UAE. Military Hospital, Shortly visiting Mumbai. Seeks a well educated having a good job. Contact immediately email : janydz_1484@yahoo.com OR Tel.: 0971 557463484 / 9930076741.

6795. ALLAHABAD : Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in March 1978), Ht. 5', Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Com., Working for MNC. Contact email : sujata.josephine@gmail.com

6792. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in September 1990), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBBS., pursuing MBA., Doctot by profession. Contact email : dr.criss25@gmail.com

6791. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in September 1987), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 67 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. C.A., Working as a Senior Specialist, Seeks a suitable match. Contact Email : jolie_rosetta@yahoo.co.in

6790. MUMBAI : Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in October 1987), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 58 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.A., LL.B., (M.A - I), working as a Legal Executive. Contact email : robertalbuquerque10@gmail.com

6785 MUMBAI : Alliance invited for 1985 born RC East Indian Spinster, 5' 6", B.Com., LLB., LL.M., Manager in an MNC, from Mumbai, Maharashtra for suitably educated RC bachelor, 32-35 years from Mumbai/abroad preferably Engineers/Doctors/Lawyers/CA/MBA. Kindly reply with details to : faith_forever_2017@yahoo.com

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6804. COIMBATORE : Anglo Indian Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in October 1983), Ht. 5', Wt. 68 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc IT, MIB, MBA., working as an Export backend operations and customer support operations. Contact email : patricia_melisa@yahoo.co.in

6802. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Widow, (Born in September 1986), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 50 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.A., working as an Auditor. Contact email : lemosmarina0@gmail.com

6801. MUMBAI : East Indian Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in July 1991), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 48 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Sc., Working. Contact email : monicathrt@gmail.com

6448. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic 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

6782 MANGALORE : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in April 1992), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 50 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. BHM, working as a Receptionist. Contact email : savinaj-mascarenhas@gmail.com

6761. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic spinster, (Born in April 1990), Ht. 5' 1", Wt. 54 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., Teacher by profession. Contact Mob: 9892316638

6760. KUWAIT : Mangalorean Roman Catholic spinster, (Born in November 1987), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 70 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., MBA Finance, working as an Administration in IT firm. Contact email : astridmathias@gmail.com

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

6769. MUMBAI : East Indian Roman Catholic spinster, (Born in December 1986), Ht. 5' 1", Wt. 70 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBA in Finance, Deputy Manager in Bank. Contact email: dianafnds62@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. She is vegetarian. Contact email : rosemaybharda@yahoo.com OR 9224780162

6765. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic spinster, (Born in March 1986), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 42 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. C.A., working as a Chartered Accountant. Contact email : marilyn.dcosta22@gmail.com

6811. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in October 1991), Ht. 5' 3", Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Freelance Content Creator. Contact email : dcostavalentina@gmail.com

6810. MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC Spinster, (Born in February 1990), Ht. 5' 4", Wheatish Complexion, M.P.T. (Master in Physiotherapy) working in Mumbai, planning to settle down in Canada, seeks alliance from well settled, qualified Mangalorean RC bachelor with good family background and Christian values. Contact No. 9967119891

6032. DUBAI : Goan Roman Catholic 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

5997. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in October 1974), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 70 kgs, Fair Com-

plexion, Edn. B.D.S. Dentist by profession. Email : drcleona@yahoo.com

6129. MUMBAI : TAMILIAN Roman Catholic 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

6462. MUMBAI : East Indian Roman Catholic 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 settled abroad, preferably dubai. Girl willing to relocate any city in the world. Contact email : melwyn_dsilva@hotmail.com

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

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

6330. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic 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

6754. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic spinster, (Born in July 1991), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 48 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.E. Mechanical, working as an Officer in PSU. Contact email : mel.6513@yahoo.com

(Contd.. from p. 10)

but nine countries of the world.

On 12 March, SIPRI released its latest report, 'The SIPRI Arms Transfers Database'. The Report highlights that India continued to be the largest weapons importer in the world over the last five years and arms exports from the United States to the country jumped 557% in 2013-17, as compared to 2008-12. India's overall imports climbed 24% in the five-year period, accounting for nearly 12% of all global imports making the country the largest weapons importer for over a decade despite the thrust since 2014 under the fictitious 'Make in India' mission to build indignously. India spent more than \$100 billion on buying new weapons and systems during 2008-17, with imports accounting for around 60-65% of the country's military requirements. India has inked a raft of contracts during the last decade for fighter jets, special operations aircraft, submarine hunter planes, lightweight howitzers, artillery guns and other weapons and systems. Significantly during this period the arms imports by Pakistan dropped by a phenomenal 36%. (India could certainly learn from this) When French President Emmanuel Macron of France visited India a few days ago, he signed defense and nuclear deals with India. Meanwhile the corrupt Indian Government has maintained total silence on the earlier sale of the controversial Rafale jets.

That India is spending so much of money on 'defense' is disgraceful and a scandal of the highest proportion for a country, where millions go to bed without a square meal, have no access to primary health care or elementary education. Today billions are allocated in the production of weapons – particularly weapons of mass destruction and their application. Spending patterns in India and in most countries need to change in order to eradicate poverty and address other pressing issues, which

are major threats to world peace and human life!

The fact is when 'war' is a highly profitable business; no one would like to take on leave alone close down the military-industrial complex. It is common knowledge that those in power look forward to the 'kickbacks' from the arms deals. Corruption is mainstreamed in this industry. It is not a state 'secret' that the arms trade has been bank-rolling powerful politicians, businesspersons and other



vested interests everywhere.

Mercenaries play an important role in the trade. These men who are anointed and protected by their Governments, have no qualms in selling the most sophisticated weaponry to the devil. No one raises the sensitive issue that the deadly weapons used by the ISIS and other 'terrorists' have actually been manufactured by western nations. Saudi Arabia is on a massive spending spree buying the most sophisticated weapons from the US, UK, Canada, France and elsewhere- does anyone care to ask who are the ones who would finally use these weapons and against whom? It is common knowledge that the military-industrial complex wants wars to continue and it is they who are largely responsible for the refugee crisis which exists in several parts of the world today.

The lucrative global toy industry also reaps a windfall in the production of guns, violent video games and other imitations of war weaponry. Parents and elders do not bat an eyelid and

happily gift such toys to their child for an occasion be it birthday, First Communion or Christmas. The long-term impact that such toys can have on a child is never considered. So naturally, everybody is 'shocked' when a teenager takes a real gun and mows down his fellow-students and teachers.

On 19 March, Pope Francis completes five years of his Pontificate. He has been the one world leader who has courageously and consistently

taken on the arms trade (and challenged the others to do so) referring to it as the 'industry of death'. In June 2017 his intention, for Church's worldwide prayer was 'the elimination of the arms trade'. Earlier on 23 September 2015, addressing the US Congress, he spoke plainly saying, "Why are deadly weapons being sold to those who plan to inflict

untold suffering on individuals and society? Sadly, the answer, as we all know, is simply for money: money that is drenched in blood, often innocent blood. In the face of this shameful and culpable silence, it is our duty to confront the problem and to stop the arms trade."

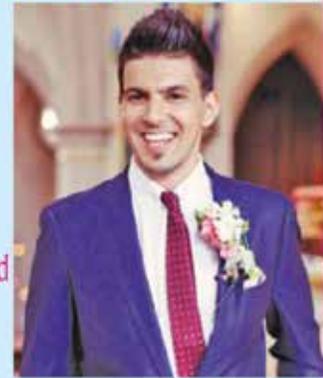
It is highly unlikely that there will be any dramatic change, especially after the 'March for our Lives' on 24 March. Several so-called 'world leaders' are peddlers of arms or are just warmongers spoiling to find an "enemy" elsewhere – because of their own incompetency. Even their close friends do not trust some who are 'itching' to press the nuclear button. However, the plain truth is that children are showing the way, demanding that we all say "no" to guns. In this one prophetic act, lies a hope for the future of humankind.

**(Fr. Cedric Prakash SJ, works with the Jesuit Refugee Service on Advocacy and Communications, in the Middle East. He is based in Beirut, Lebanon. Contact: cedricprakash@gmail.com)*

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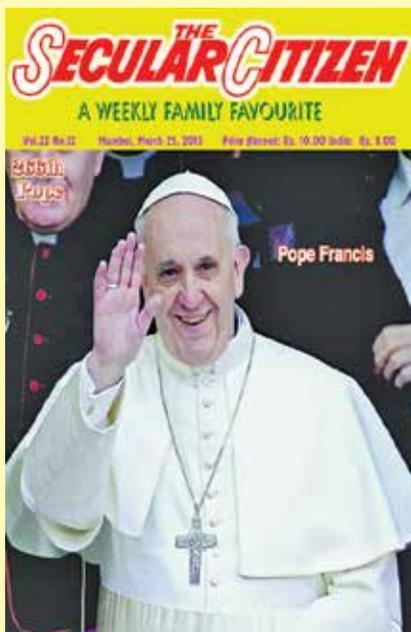
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