

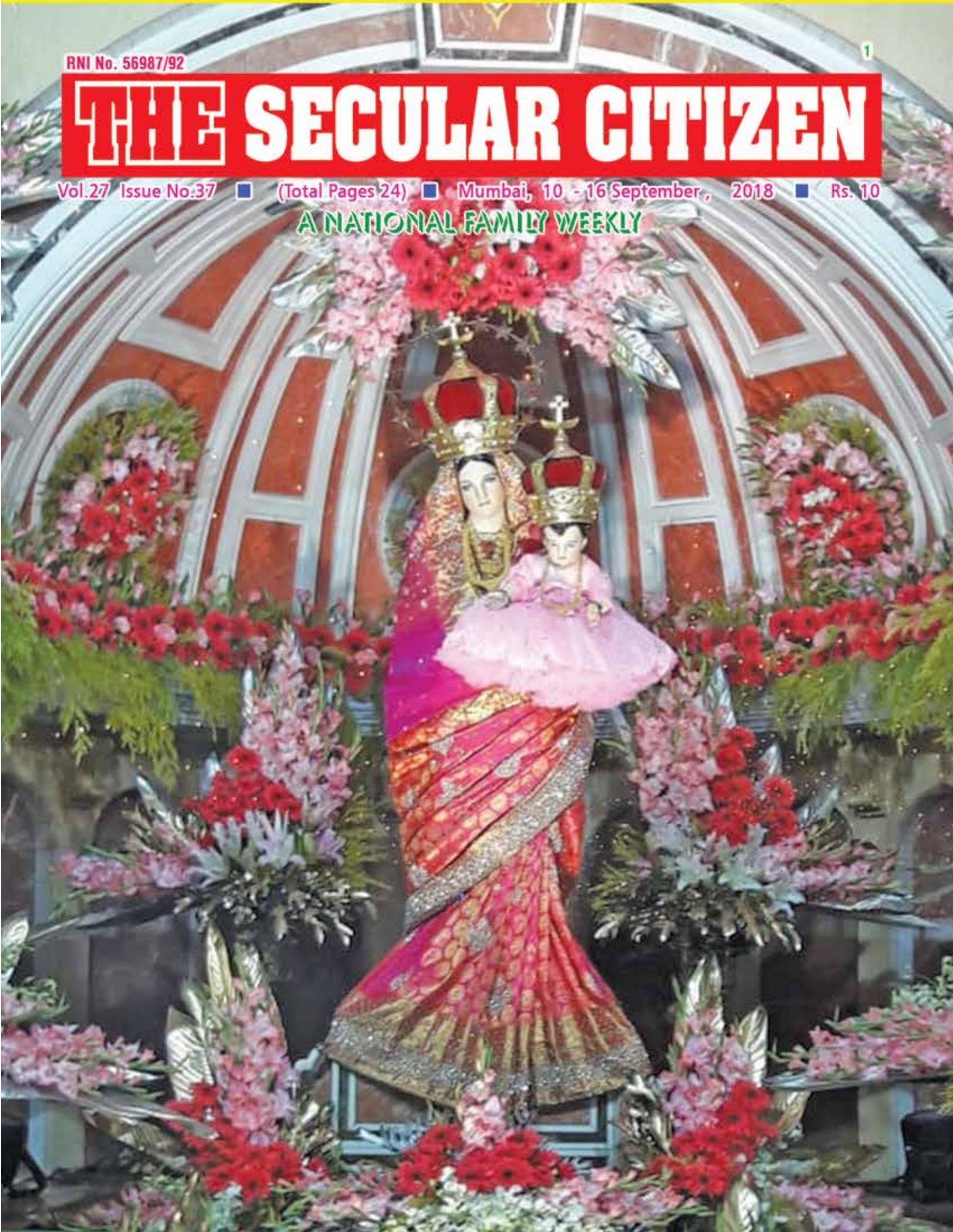
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THE SECULAR CITIZEN

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A NATIONAL FAMILY WEEKLY



Madam Grace Pinto receives Lifetime Achievement in Education



Madam Grace Pinto, MD, Ryan International Group of Institutions was once again recognized for her sterling service to the education sector in India. Her tireless efforts to provide quality affordable education to the farthest reaches of the country were lauded at the 12th World Education Summit by Digital Learning held in New Delhi recently. The summit was organized by Digital Learning magazine to recognize outstanding individuals and institutions in the education

sector in India.

Madam Pinto was awarded the Lifetime Achievement in Education at the Summit and the trophy was presented to her by Mr. Rajesh Aggarwal, Director General, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Gov. of India. Also present on the occasion was Ms. Anju Sharma, Principal Secretary, Higher and Technical Education, Govt. Of Gujarat.

Speaking about this latest recognition of her work, Madam Pinto, said, "I'm extremely pleased and humbled to receive this prestigious honour. I thank our Lord Jesus Christ who has empowered and enabled us to provide value based education. I am grateful to the entire team of Digital Learning for recognizing the contribution made by Ryan Group in the segment of education. These awards reflect continual effort and dedication of our staff and support of our parents and well-wishers in providing quality education to the children of our country".

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Maharashtra State AICU President Honoured



All India Catholic Union (AICU,) is the largest Laity body in India, recognized by CBCI and is on the verge of completing a century. It's Founder is late Francis Anthony Charles Rebello (fondly called as FAC Rebello) and few others, in 1919 the AICU will hold its Centenary celebrations through the year. An AicU flag rally on the theme of National Integration, has taken off at Chennai on 22.8.2018 to traverse the whole of India and culminate at Delhi to mark AGM of AICU in August, 2019.

AICU bestows recognitions for the outstanding work done by the working committee members and Affiliated institutional members. One of the award is 'late George Menzes award'. This award is given to a Working Committee member for outstanding performance during the term of office.

The award was bestowed on Adv. Raphael D'Souza, the State President of AICU, Maharashtra State at the recently concluded AGM at Velankani. The award included a plaque, citation and a shawl. The picture shows Raphael receiving the Award from Rt. Rev. Anthony Samy, Bishop of Kumbakonam.

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'Thought for the week'

Everything that irritates us about others can lead us to a greater understanding of ourselves.

Contents

pg. 3 - Minorities must not be in ...

pg. 5 - Voice of the People

pg. 6 - Worse than emergency!

pg. 8 - You the citizens decide

pg. 10 - Life choices to make a difference

pg. 11 - Views on News

pg. 12 - Humans, nature under pressure and conflict

pg. 13 - Mary Ward: Great servant ...

pg. 14 - The positive powers of ...

pg. 15 - Whither Pope Francis?
Please don't dither now

pg. 16 - To please and to appease -

pg. 17 - Inspiration!

pg. 19 - Matrimonials

pg. 23 - Make your partner smile every morning

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Minorities must not be in Awe of Majority

By Don Aguiar

This week, the Indian state seemed to be bending the liberal principles of Ambedkar's constitution to lock up Dalits and their allies. We should all fear the consequences of seeding deeper divisions into an already turbulent society.

Instead of prosecuting those who perpetrated violence against Dalits, they are going after activists who have stood up for their rights. This is nothing but a direct assault on democratic rights and fundamental freedoms, especially given the draconian Unlawful Activities Prevention Act. The true authoritarian character of the Modi government is almost like stepping back into the Emergency era. This government will not broach any criticism or dissent from any quarter.

Indian liberals are reeling from a shocking set of arrests this week: Synchronized police raids targeted some of the country's best-known civil-liberties activists. Authorities have been vague about why they were arrested; many are being held under a draconian national security law that permits detention for six months without formal charges. But, judging by what police officials have leaked to the media — and what members of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party have told news channels — the accused are all supposedly "Naxalites."

Now, accusations — few of them official, most through leaks to conservative, government-friendly TV channels — suggest that the arrested activists were part of a giant Maoist terrorist conspiracy. Many Indians understandably find that hard to believe — not only because the Naxalites have never shown any such capability, or because no real evidence has been provided, but also because apparently these plugged-in lawyers, professors, poets and writers were communicating their deep, complicated and nefarious plans through old-fashioned letters. This is ludicrous: these are not stupid people. Nor does the background of those arrested suggest they were likely to conspire against India.

So far it was activists, journalist, researchers and others who were being framed in this process while lawyers came to their rescue. Then the midnight knock began sounding for the lawyers too. By targeting lawyers the police are

(Contd.. on p. 4)

(Contd.. from p. 3)

effectively saying that they do not recognise those who fight against them as professionals but as fair game. The aim is to intimidate other lawyers so that they will be reluctant to take up sensitive or controversial cases. The law we are being told, will be available only to those who defend sympathisers of the ruling party, whether they are accused of rape, lynching or communal violence.

These arrest and raids are an attempt to brand all dissenting voices as 'anti national' and intimidate them as the Parliamentary polls draw nearer.

The current spectre being created by the present government is of a vast and ever expanding 'urban Maoist' network, through an active collaboration between police and some television channels, feels like a 'fast forward' to fascism. 'Explosive' letters speaking of a 'plot' to kill the prime minister appeared mysteriously. The illiteracy and improbability of such letters..... The purpose is to defame, to intimidate, to polarise and to create hatred against democrats, as well as to assail the very concept of human rights.

The minorities and the liberal forces in India, who oppose the divisive politics of the present day, need to be more vocal and assertive.

Studying the present scenario in India, it is noticed that those ruling the country do not constitute a majority, but they are in power by virtue of their ability to skilfully use the tools of the

political system.

In modern days, the majority and minority cannot be decided based on who is a Hindu or who is a Muslim or who is a Christian, as it is not really clear who is a Hindu.

Definitely, the number of Dalits and other minorities are very less. But the fact is that those who are ruling the nation they are not the majority in terms of number, but the reason of their power is that they are aptly using the tools of our political system.

If the census is considered then the number of Hindu population is quite high. The result of 2014 only reflects that the victorious party was successful in that particular system.

The fear factor among Muslims, Christians, human right activists and other minorities residing in India, is their very state of mind that if they are minority they will be deprived and will have to suffer, is very weakening in itself.

The result will not depend on numbers, but on the reach of electoral procedure and the political system. The important fact for victory would be the ability to strongly raise the issues that need immediate attention and deserve thorough discussion and action.

Question are raised of the relevance of leftist ideologies and the presence of human rights activists, writers and other dissenting voices who are branded as Leftist forces in the current scenario by the present government.

One must remember all political questions don't centre around Left and Right-wing ideologies. We have issues like Minority treatment and Secularism, fulfilling the needs of all different religions, but it is not just an issue addressed by leftists or rightists.

There are many reasons to join hands with other people who are not really leftists. This is a striking question even before the 2019 election. But one thing must be made clear that joining hands doesn't mean that two parties

forming an alliance must give consent to all views of each other. One needs to fight against the divisive politics and the minority treatment.

All people who have liberal thinking must raise their voice together so that it can be loud enough to stand against the ruling majority. OTHERWISE History will have to record that the greatest tragedy of this period of social transition was not the strident clamour of bad people, but the appalling silence of the good people.

Try as the government might, they will be unable to suppress their voices or use these arrest to suppress others. Democracy and the rule of law will eventually prevail.

There is concern about the prevalent gender discrimination that as per the report of the Thomson Reuters Foundation, India is the world's most dangerous country for women.

It is very sad and shameful that little girls are kidnapped and treated as trade materials for which India holds a very bad record internationally. On one hand, we have to do away with the discrimination between girls and boys, on the other the prevailing caste system in the rich-poor divide.

I don't give a damn who becomes the next Prime Minister of India – Rahul Gandhi or Narendra Modi.

But I do care that India gets its groove back. A groove based on basic humanity, plain decency, and essential levels of tolerance. I vastly prefer a genuine dil ki dhadkan over a fake mann ki baat which will also be the preference of the common man reeling under tremendous stress over the increase of essential commodities, transport, school fees, etc. many fold while his take home money remains the same. We the people need to raise to this occasion and make the necessary correction before it is too late.

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BURIAL OPTIONS

This is with reference to the Letter of Mr Jubel D'Cruz in the 2 September 2018 issue of your periodical on the subject.

Mr D'Cruz suggests a "natural burial" whereby "a shrouded body can be placed directly into the ground or perhaps buried in a simple pine coffin or a biodegradable willow casket." Considering that a COFFIN and a SHROUD don't go together, the writer would be doing readers a huge favour by clarifying the following:

a) If a body is buried in a PINE COFFIN or a WILLOW CASKET, why does it needed to be 'shrouded' at all?

b) Where in Mumbai (or India) are PINE COFFINS available and the approximate prices thereof;

c) Where in Mumbai (or India) are WILLOW CASKETS (sounds so delightful!) available and the approximate prices thereof.

—LADISLAUS LOUIS D'SOUZA

Royal enclosure at Arthur Road jail

Two cells in Barrack No 12 of Arthur Road jail get a major face-lift - the flooring tiles replaced, walls painted white to reflect light, commode, jet spray fitted. Hah ! The Royal enclosure at Arthur Road jail is ready for the King of Good Times, fugitive, Vijay Mallya. Is the Arthur Road Jail being turned into a resort ? This is the question one tends to ask !

The government is going all out to get back Vijay Mallya to face trial in the courts of Law in India. **That's good, but it is said, you need two hands to clap!** So, where are the others who abetted Vijay Mallya in that massive bank scam of Rs.9000 crore ? Are they also being hauled before the courts of Law ? **On the contrary, what does State bank do to recover the lost money ? They collect a big sum by pe-**

nalizing the honest, Tax-paying Savings Account holders (even the pension account holders) for not maintaining what is called the "minimum balance" in their accounts. What sort of justice is this ?

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

Pope: Parents First Example of faith for Children

Pope Francis spoke on 25 August 2018 at the World Meeting of Families, in Dublin's St. Mary's Pro-Cathedral. He recalled a time when he was a young child, and he saw his father kiss his mother after he returned from work: "What a beautiful thing! May your children see you like that, kissing and embracing each other. This is how they learn!"

A recently married couple asked him for advice on how to teach the faith to children. (Some excerpts):

"The first place children learn the faith is in 'the home'; through the quite daily example of parents who love our Lord and trust in His Word. The family is the 'domestic church'! It is where children learn integrity and sacrifice, and how to love God and the Church."

"So I urge Catholics to pray together as a family. Speak of good and holy things. Let our mother Mary into your family life! Live in deep solidarity with those who suffer and are at the edges of society."

"Thus, your children will learn from you how to live a fruitful Christian life. You will be the first teachers in the 'faith', which should be passed around the family table in ordinary conversation, especially persevering love."

"This is the wisdom that young people and couples need to listen to – the advice of grandparents and other married couples. Why, even mother-in-laws have wisdom, the Pope teased."

—Dr. Hazel Colaso,
Ashburn, Virginia, USA.

Authentic Christianity Changes Culture, says US Nuncio

The Apostolic Nuncio to the US, Archbishop Christophe Pierre, addressed on Sunday 19 August 2018, a cultural event, the 'Rimini Meeting' organized by the lay movement, Communion and Liberation! (some excerpts):

"Many have forgotten that 'authentic Christianity' has a positive influence on culture and history, and brings about a greater human fulfillment! When faced with change, conflict, relativism, and bleak prospects, people are beginning to despair under the burden of daily life; and have overlooked how to be protagonists in history."

"Take the encounter between the Samaritan women with Christ – a fruitful discussion at the well of life (John 4:7-42) – Meeting Christ and being changed by Him – the true revolution of the heart! This is what turns the wheel of history!"

"The woman experienced an event which offered her hope, and this caused her to evangelize her community. This Samaritan woman who had eased her unsatisfactory desires, is similar to many people in this present culture; who attempt to cope with pain and weaknesses, with substance abuse, drugs, pornography, wealth or power. Ultimately, they end up unsatisfied and unhappy."

"Jesus is asking the woman to identify her real thirst! Jesus offers the woman 'life-giving water'! Only this will lead her to discover her own humanity, and promises for her future; which her previous idolatry had lacked the ability to achieve."

"A reawakened humanity has the ability to see with the heart; and thus verify the truth of faith, and propose it as an epochal change!" (cf. James 2:22).

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

Worse Than Emergency!

August 28, 2018- will easily go down as one of the most infamous days in the country's history. In a pre-dawn swoop, the Pune police raided the homes of several human rights activists across the country; these included Vernon Gonsalves in Mumbai, Arun Ferreira in Thane; Gautam Navlakha in Delhi; Sudha Bharadwaj in Faridabad; Jesuit Fr. Stan Swamy in Ranchi; Varavara Rao and his family members, Kranti Tekula and Naseem in Hyderabad; Anand Teltumbde in Goa. By late evening, five of them Gonsalves, Ferreira, Navlakha, Rao and Bharadwaj were later arrested or kept under detention. During the raids, the police seized whatever they could lay their hands upon, including laptops, mobile phones, passwords, pendrives, CDs, documents, books. It is common knowledge that the police are also know to plant 'evidence'.



BY FR. CEDRIC PRAKASH SJ

Ever since the raids and arrests, the Pune police and others 'responsible' have gone overboard in levelling a whole lot of 'reasons' to justify their actions; these include that the activists were fomenting violence, were associated with banned Maoist groups, were plotting to kill the Prime Minister, were 'urban Naxals', were intolerant to the present political present system, criticizing the Government and so on. They also claim that the activists were linked to a bigger conspiracy and planning to recruit members from 35 universities and colleges and launch attacks. Were the might of the State not involved, then all the flimsy charges would have found a place in some third-rate joke book! The activists have been charged under the controversial and draconian 'Unlawful Activities Prevention Act', which authorizes raids and arrest without warrant if a person, is suspected to support terrorist acts or

unlawful activities.

All the five arrested are eminent human rights activists who have for several years have worked within the Constitution of India and taken up cudgels on behalf of the poor, marginalized and excluded of the country. They are all intellectuals by their own right, who have contributed significantly to the country. They have fought battles in courts; helped organise people (particularly the adivasis and the dalits) to fight for their legitimate rights; consistently exposed the nexus between the politicians and their powerfully rich friends and above

all been working for a society which is more just, equitable and humane. In doing so they have also raised the hackles of the BJP, RSS and their ilk, who obviously have not taken things lightly.

These raids and arrests apparently have their 'roots' in a mass rally of Dalits, who assemble every year on 1 January in Bhima Koregaon, a small village about 30 km north-east of Pune; the massive rally, which brings together lakhs of Dalits from all over the country, commemorates the historic victory of lower-caste Mahar soldiers in the British army over the Brahmin Peshwa-led Maratha Empire in 1818. This year marked the 200th anniversary of the Bhima Koregaon battle.

In the run-up to the rally, a coalition of 260 non-profit organisations held on 31 December 2017, an event called 'Elgar Parishad' at Pune's Shaniwar Wada. This was the seat of the Peshwai, the Brahmin rulers of the Maratha Empire who rigidly enforced caste discrimination. The Elgar Parishad featured several well-known personalities like politicians Prakash Ambedkar and Jignesh Mewani and Dalit rights activist Radhika Vemula.

The Marathas and some of the upper castes resented the Dalit gathering and apparently Hindutva leaders like Milind Ekbote, head of the Hindu Ekta Manch, and Sambhaji Bhide, chief of the Shiv Pratishtan Hindustan made provocative, anti-Dalit speeches a few days before the event. Large-scale violence broke out in some parts of Maharashtra on 1 and 2 January. On 3 January, police filed cases against Ekbote and Bhide, for allegedly instigating the violence on Dalits. However, while Ekbote was released on bail soon after being arrested in March; Bhide has not yet been arrested, despite a Supreme Court order demanding his arrest. Bhide, a hardcore hindutva follower is close to several of the RSS leaders including PM Modi.

Strangely the tables soon turned very obviously with pressure from the 'higher-ups': the victims became the perpetrators. Last June, five other activists, mainly organisers of the Elgar Parishad were arrested for apparently 'inciting the violence' and on 28 August these latest arrests. There is universal outrage and condemnation at this dastardly deed by the police. Civil society from across the board (intellectuals, academics, activists, politicians) have written statements, signed petitions, held press conferences and protest rallies in different parts of the country and these will continue in the days to come. They ask for the immediate and unconditional release of all those arrested and to book those responsible for the raids and arrests. Of course, the RSS, BJP and their cronies have expectedly maintained a silence on the issue; besides a good section of the paid and corporate-controlled media are going to great lengths to prove that those arrested are 'Maoists' or were in possession of radical literature; as though any of these constitute a crime

(Contd.. on p. 7)

in a democracy. Fortunately, there are still some courageous journalists who have written some excellent articles in the mainstream print media and on-line portals. Social media, which the Government is desperately trying to control, has also been buzzing with messages against the raids and arrests.

A group of intellectuals and activists state, *"we, the undersigned, are shocked by the serial raids across the country on the homes of activists and public intellectuals who are critical of the government and the ruling party at the Centre. The arrests of prominent activists and intellectuals Sudha Bharadwaj, Vernon Gonsalves, Gautam Navlakha, Varavara Rao, Arun Ferreira and others, are nothing but an attempt by the government to strike terror among those who are fighting for justice for the marginalised. This is also an attempt by the BJP to invent a false enemy and engage in scaremongering in order to polarise the 2019 elections in its favour. Already, the government and the media houses close to the BJP have been trying to spin a false narrative of a Maoist conspiracy since June, 2018. Terms like "urban naxals" are invented in order to stifle any criticism of the government. We have learnt that the Delhi Police, after having arrested Sudha Bharadwaj, waited for Republic TV to arrive before taking her to the court. This simply shows that the arrests are incomplete without the accompanying sensationalist media propaganda to demonise activists, human rights defenders and intellectuals"*.

Celebrated writer and activist Arundhati Roy said, *"The simultaneous state-wide arrests are a dangerous sign of a government that fears it is losing its mandate and is falling into panic. That lawyers, poets, writers, Dalit rights activists and intellectuals are being arrested on ludicrous charges while those who make up lynch mobs and threaten and murder people in broad daylight roam free, tells us very clearly where India is headed. Murderers*

are being honoured and protected. Anybody who speaks up for justice or against Hindu majoritarianism is being made into a criminal. What is happening is perilous. In the run up to elections, this is an attempted coup against the Indian Constitution and all the freedoms that we cherish;" adding *"it is as close to a declaration of an Emergency as we will ever get."* Anand Teltumbde, one of those targeted, in an elaborate signed statement has referred to what is happening as *'undeclared emergency'*.

Noted historian Ramachandra Guha also lashed out at the government over the countrywide raids and arrest of activists, calling it a *"brutal, authoritarian, oppressive, arbitrary. Illegal act by the Maharashtra police"*. Mr. Guha categorically stated, *"corporate cronies of the ruling government were bent on grabbing tribal land, forest and mineral resources. This is absolutely chilling. This is being done to not only intimidate and silence those detained but also those who could potentially come to their legal rescue. The courts must intervene to stop this persecution and harassment of independent voices. Sudha Bharadwaj is as far from violence and illegality as Amit Shah is close to those things. As a biographer of Gandhi, I have no doubt that if the Mahatma was alive today, he would don his lawyer's robes and defend Bharadwaj in court; that is assuming the Modi Sarkar hadn't yet detained and arrested him too."* Going further he said, *(those arrested) "are people who represent the country's disenfranchised and the dispossessed. What is happening in the adivasi heartland of India... it is murder, rape, physical, natural, social... and these were the lawyers representing the tribals... and their arrest leaves those dispossessed unrepresented in court."*

On 29 August, a five-judge Bench of the Supreme Court issued notice to the Maharashtra Government, in a petition challenging the arrests of the activists. Romila Thapar, Devaki Jain, Prabhat Patnaik, Satish Deshpande have filed the petition and Maja Daru-

wala. The Court also ordered that the activists had to be placed only under house arrest at their own homes till the next date of hearing on 6 September. The Bench headed by the Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra said, *"Dissent is the safety valve of democracy. If you don't allow the safety valve pressure cooker will burst."*

There is no doubt that India today is in a period, which is worse than that of the emergency. A fascist regime, which is made up of murderers and is in nexus with the corrupt, crony capitalists and other vested interests gets away with impunity, even as they systematically erode all that is sacred in the Constitution :they have no qualms of conscience in trampling on the human rights of millions of citizens of the country; those who lynch others are felicitated by Ministers of the ruling party; those who demonise and denigrate minorities through their hate-speeches are jettisoned into positions of power! The law and order mechanisms seem perfectly comfortable with these crimes. On the other hand, as we witness with painful regularity, those who take a stand for the poor, the excluded and the exploited are penalized and have fabricated cases foisted on them.

Some months ago, Nayantara Sahgal, well-known intellectual and a fierce critic of her cousin Indira Gandhi and the then emergency rule, says in a recent interview, *"well, we have an undeclared Emergency, there is no doubt about that. We have seen a huge, massive attack on the freedom of expression. We have seen innocent, helpless Indians killed because they did not fit into the RSS's view of India. We have seen known and unknown Indians murdered. Writers like Gauri Lankesh have been killed. And there has been no justice for the families of the wage earners who have lost their lives in this fashion. In fact, they are now being called the accused. So we have a horrendous situation, a nightmare which is worse than the Emergency. During the Emergency we knew what the situation was. The*

WHETHER PATIENTS THAT ARE TERMINALLY SICK, SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO ASSISTED DYING WITH DIGNITY?

by Eric D'Sa

We used to leave it up to God. Someone fell seriously ill, we lit candles or deepas and prayed for him or her not to die. Somebody was dying, we lit candles or deepas and prayed for him or her to die painlessly. Most still do so around the world. As a matter of fact many anthropologist claim, that the concept of a God was created in every human society, mainly due to this requirement and a scare of sickness, suffering and death.

Then modern medicine came with its fabulous drugs and life support machines. And we could leave it up to medical doctors, part of this burden that we had put on our God. They administered the right drugs and saved people from sickness and prolonged their lives. Even death could be left up to them. Someone was beyond saving and suffered too much, they quietly administered a bit more of the pain relief drug and yet a bit more and a bit more. And the patient gracefully died. When I was a teen ager, I drove down one late evening with my doctor uncle, while he

visited an aged patient of his. I stayed in the car. When he reached home, he routinely told my aunty that the patient concerned would die by next morning, but she was comfortable. To my surprise she did so.

But sometimes the doctors didn't do that due to their own moral ethics or religious beliefs or the tightening local laws. The family members then sat by the patient's bed for days and weeks and saw him being kept alive by machines and drugs and suffer in circumstances no one finds es-

nasia in India, the court stated that its decision becomes the law of the land, until the Indian parliament enacted a suitable law. Active euthanasia, including the administration of lethal compounds by a physician for the purpose of ending life at the request of a terminally ill patient, is still illegal in India.

There are several Hindu points of view on physician aid in dying. Most Hindus would say that a doctor should not accept a patient's request for death, since this will cause the soul and body to be separated at an unnatural time. The result will damage the karma of both doctor and patient. Other Hindus believe that physician-hastened dying cannot be allowed because it breaches the teaching of ahimsa (doing no harm). However, some Hindus say that by helping to end a painful life, a person is performing a good deed and fulfilling their moral obligations. Many Hindus who are strongly against physician aid in dying, have no hesitation in putting their loved aged suffering dogs to assisted death, as long as the Vet says their sickness can not be cured.

YOU THE CITIZENS DECIDE:

pecially dignified. As a matter of fact machines could keep even patients in coma alive for months and years. It was a new situation faced by a human being. This led to a change of attitudes in some of the Western world. As a patient, they don't just leave it up to the medical staff, they tell them when they have had enough. If they are not in a state to tell, they have a 'Living Will' and their loved ones who will, based on that Will, tell the doctors what to do with the life supporting machines.



In 2018, the Supreme Court of India declared through a five-judge Constitution bench that, if strict guidelines are followed, the government would honor 'Living Wills' allowing consenting patient to passive euthanasia, if the patient suffers from a terminal illness or is in a vegetative state.

However, a high court has rejected active euthanasia by means of lethal injection. In the absence of a law regulating active eutha-

Jains believe that the soul has always been here and cannot be destroyed and that through the process of death, one transitions to a new body. The Jain tradition shows how we can move without attachment into death rather than clinging to life. In their acceptance of the inevitable, Jains set an example that death is not an evil but an opportunity to reflect on a life well-lived and look forward to what lies ahead. Fasting to death is a key religious observance for Janists; those at the end of life can choose to embrace a final fast transition from one body

(Contd.. on p. 9)

(Contd.. from p. 8)

to another. So instead of starving for days or months, why not the quicker physician assisted dying with dignity.

Muslims are against physician-assisted dying. They believe that all human life is sacred because it is given by Allah, and that Allah chooses how long each person will live. Human beings should not interfere in this. This end-of-life option is, therefore, forbidden. Physicians must not take active measures to terminate a patient's life. The Qur'an states: "Take not life which Allah made sacred otherwise than in the course of justice"

The official position of the Roman Catholic Church is strict: the killing of a human being, even by an act of omission to eliminate suffering, violates divine law and offends the dignity of the human person. However, many Catholics—particularly in the United States—cite various quotations by Pope Benedict XVI as a source for continued disagreement and controversy regarding these controversial issues. There may be a legitimate diversity of opinion even among Catholics about waging war and applying the death penalty, but not however with regard to abortion and euthanasia. Pope Francis, despite being considered more liberal than past recent popes, has continued statements against physician-hastened death, stating that the practice is "false compassion" and a result of our "throwaway culture" that devalues and dehumanizes the sick. Catholic organizations are often in the lead in organizing against Death with Dignity laws or ballot initiatives.

Hence, as of now, as soon as you officially tell the medical staff to hasten death, it gets complicated. Things need to be done according to the law. And the law does not allow, not even in most liberal Western countries, for a patient to get his doctor to help him end his life, even if he can prove he is mentally sound. There are

a few exceptions such as Switzerland (a stubbornly self-determined direct democracy), the Benelux (irritatingly liberal parliamentary monarchies), seven American states (taking "the land of the free" seriously) and Canada. In the end it comes down to this: every country has the assisted-dying law it deserves. Or, rather, the assisted-dying law which fits its culture and tradition.

Right-to-die with dignity organisations have sprung up across the world to make the case for it. Assisted dying is supported by a majority of citizens in today's rapidly ageing societies. Campaigners have been ceaselessly fighting for it for decades in Australia, Japan, South Africa, France, Britain, Scandinavia and a few Latin American countries. But instead of liberalising these laws, some democracies such as Germany have toughened up the laws, or even punish the promotion of assisted dying. Deciding on one's own way and day of dying simply does not fit the culture of these countries, even if many citizens are not against it or outright in favour of it.

Going to Switzerland might still be the only choice for several more years for non religious. Or going back to praying—this time for lawmakers to finally think beyond cultural and religious traditions and to take patients seriously, even if they won't be tomorrow's voters. The Secular states like India may gradually opt through its Supreme Court, to give human beings who are suffering with painful terminal sickness, with a the right to die with dignity. After getting a Judicial magistrates permission, assisted dying with the help of a physician, may become lawful. You the Citizens may have to then decide, whether you will opt for improved palliative medical care, which will reduce severe pain in a terminally sick patient or by a physician assisted dying with dignity?

(Contd.. from p. 7)

Opposition was in jail, there was no freedom of speech, etc. Now we are living in a battered, bleeding democracy. And though no Emergency has been declared, people are being killed, people are being jailed; people are being hauled up for sedition and for being anti-national. It is a nightmarish situation, which has no equal. This government is pretending to be democratic but we see what is happening all around. Moreover, nothing has come out of the government's mouth to condemn all these goings on. So I rate it as a situation which has no equal in India".

Targeting an 'outside' enemy or 'another country' is a clever, though manipulative ploy used by authoritarians when their own leadership is in disarray or when they fail in governance. Some super-powers go and bombard other countries. India has fared miserably on all fronts under the present regime; so what better way can there be, but in 'discovering' that this a small bunch of human rights activists who are 'anti-nationals' and hold them responsible for all the ills of the country? Certainly a poor strategy – which any thinking citizen is able to see through!

One cannot but help, in these times, recollecting the words of the anti-Nazi poet, Bertolt Brecht, who in 1939 wrote,

*"In the dark times
will there also be singing?
Yes, there will also be singing
about the dark times."*

Pretending that these are not 'dark times' and that the situation is not serious, will only mean an encouragement to the fascist, fundamentalist and fanatic forces. Silence is complicity and consent! The people of India need to awake now resist strongly and act unitedly, to ensure that all Indians enjoy the rights and freedoms enshrined in the Constitution. Satyamev Jayate!

**(Fr. Cedric Prakash SJ is a human rights activist. Contact: cedricprakash@gmail.com)*

Life Choices To Make A Difference

Dialogue of Choices

This is funny dialogue between two Christians about choosing their God and their denominations: Once I saw this guy on a bridge about to jump.

I said, "Don't do it!" He said, "Nobody loves me."

I said, "God loves you. Do you believe in God?" He said, "Yes."

I said, "Are you a Christian or a Jew?" He said, "A Christian."

I said, "Me, too! Protestant or Catholic?" He said, "Catholic."

I said, "Me, too! Latin rite Catholic or Oriental rite Catholic?" He said, "Oriental rite Catholic."

I said, "Me, too! Syrian or Armenian or Maronite Catholic?" He said, "Syrian."

I said, "Me, too! Syro-Malabar or Syro-Malankara rite?" He said, "Syro-Malankara."

I said: "Me, too! Practising or non-practising? He said Non-practising! I said, "Die, former heretic!" And I pushed him over the bridge. This is Adapted from Emo Philips story.

Life is all about commitment. Life without commitment is not worthwhile. Rick Warren writes about commitment thus: You don't have to understand all the implications of your decision when you choose to follow Jesus. You simply need to respond to his invitation, to make a commitment to follow Christ. Your commitments shape you life more than anything else. Your commitments can develop you or they can destroy you, but either way, they will define you. Tell me what you're committed to and I'll tell you what you'll be in twenty years. We become whatever we're committed to.

COMMITMENT means: Giving all that you have, not more than you have. Being committed does not mean giving

what you don't have. Love as you can, not as you can't. Commitment requires that you give 100% - not more, certainly not less. Commitment means: Working with determination, not waiting on destiny. Committed people don't rely on luck, fate or destiny for their success. They know that trying times are no time to quit trying! Commitment means: Remembering that true success is first measured by faithfulness even in anonymity.



Fr. George Olivera
OFM Cap, Mysore

THE COMMITMENT TO AFFIRM

We probably are not used to it. I am not very used to it myself. Conversing with people, with friends, with colleagues - sometimes, I realize it after the quick chat. No affirmations ever transpired.

Affirmation is lived and learned; not necessarily spoken. A smile. An embrace. A pat on the shoulder. A touch of the hand. When kids ask your hand to bless them, that is an opportunity to affirm! You can at least utter, "May God bless you!" Even the deaf affirm by signing "Thank You!" That is the Christian norm I suppose. Where is its source? The Eucharist! Jesus!

THE COMMITMENT TO FORGIVE

Master Jesus forgave the enemy while dying on the Cross; the disciple Saint Stephen forgave while breathing his last; it is so since the beginning of Christianity and it is not irrelevant even till the end of our times. Forgive yourself; forgive others, forgive all and make forgiveness your life style; make forgiveness your mother tongue; make forgiveness as the foundation of your daily life.

Let us pray that God may continue to touch hearts to avail of God's mercy through the sacrament of confession and that priests may be truly approachable and available to dispense

of this great grace of Divine Mercy.

THE COMMITMENT TO LOVE

The true test of commitment to love is to love in even in anonymity. According to Rick Warren, we become whatever we're committed to. You are committed only to work and earning a living? You become functional. Or your commitment is to the Person of God. Then, you become a fully human and fully alive human person! That's our Omega!

May we be more committed to the Person of Love than just to the idea or concept of love. That we may not end up being epitaphs of greatness through our projects and activities alone, but real human sacraments of a Loving Embracing God. That we may genuinely be committed to love even in anonymity.

Story of Broken People:

As the story goes, there once lived a woman whose happiness was shattered by the loss of her brother, a good man she dearly loved. Torn by anguish and asking God "Why?" but hearing only silence, she set out in search of an answer. She had not gone far when she came upon an old man sitting on a bench, weeping. He said, "I have suffered a great loss. I am a painter, and I have lost my eyesight." He too was asking "Why?" So the woman invited him to join her and, taking him by the arm, they trudged down the road together. Soon they encountered a young man wandering aimlessly. He had lost his wife, the source of his joy, to another man. He joined them in their search for an answer to the question "Why?" Soon they met a young woman weeping on her front doorstep. She had lost her child. She too joined them.

Nowhere could they find the answer. Suddenly, the four came upon Christ. He appeared to them in the twilight

(Contd.. on p. 18)

Confessional defiled – penitent let down

In the second half of this year, the Christian Church in India came into limelight for all the wrong reasons. There were elaborate reports in the print media and numerous television debates night after night – some civilized while some were very hostile and accusatory. There was this allegation of child trafficking by the Missionaries of Charity [MOC] founded by none other than Mother Teresa, an international figure, who earned accolades and Bharat Ratna from the Government. This Charity has universal presence and its work in the service of the abandoned and new born babies has received global acclaim. Their selfless service under trying conditions is without any fanfare seeking no adulation or applause. With some 4000 nuns in numerous stations in over 130 countries in the world, it is just possible that a couple of them could have erred. Let the investigations come out with the findings.

Then we had this huge scandal of a priest in Kerala violating the strict code of secrecy that is attached to the confession by the faithful. Strict secrecy is the fulcrum on which the Sacrament of Reconciliation rests. What followed is publicized so much that it does not warrant repetition. If true, it is one of the biggest challenges which may affect the Catholic Church and the Holy Sacrament itself. Call for banning confessions is preposterous, either here or Australia. But it may happen on its own. Honestly, not too many Catholics go for confession, for that matter how many people even go to Church regularly. Wonder if any statistics are available on this. If not, it is time the Church carried out this exercise.

Disgusting as it may sound, we had a Bishop involved with a religious who has made startling allegations. While it may be only natural for an alleged accused to deny any wrong doing, some elements within the Church went out of the way to malign the victim with all sorts of allegations which showed some sinister motive. Why did the Church leaders not meet all the victims? There has been no strong condemnation from the highest quarters in the Church in India while Pope Francis declared that 700 odd priests, whom he called predators, will not be shown any mercy. He even met the victims in Ireland though he should not have refused to comment

VIEWS on NEWS

on the statement of another Cardinal [not an ordinary man] about the Pontiff not acting despite having knowledge of some transgressions by an American Cardinal – again, not an ordinary man. Every priest is a guardian of morality representing Christ and is expected to uphold it just as a Police Officer is a guardian of the law and he cannot misuse his position to murder or rob someone. To say that priests are also human does not impress anyone. A Priest, after years of consideration and preparation, takes that all important decision. He knows well what is expected of him especially the celibacy part of it. By the way, should the priests be allowed to go in public without their cassocks which perforce could have some role to play in some of them going astray?

When it comes to our own, so to say, we suffer from sore throat. We want to brush things under the carpet because we are as ashamed. People of other faith view a Catholic Priest as an embodiment of morality - a cut above the rest and therefore any aberration on his part shocks them a great deal. Let the world know we do not tolerate any Holy man of God, no matter what his status in the hierarchy of the Church. The accused have let down all the dedicated priests, bishops and even the Pope and shamed the faithful. Incidentally, the lady who confessed her sins to the rogue priest was 'known' to him well and that is why he could take undue advantage. There is a lesson to be learnt here. Should we not arrange priests from other parishes for confessions so that there are no inhibitions and fear of being recognized? Today, people go to other parishes for confession for the same reason. And finally, if a priest is not able to live up to his vow of celibacy, he should simply quit. The Priest who blessed our wedding some decades ago, himself quit and got married some years later. Fair enough!

Beti ko 'chupao' beti bachao

Ever since the Government came out with the slogan 'beti bachao, beti padhav' things have taken a turn for the worse. The assaults on the female gender, irrespective of the age or social status, has increased manifold in the last few years. No that it was not there earlier but today



by Marshall Sequeira

every newspaper in India carries different stories of inhuman sexual assaults on young girls and what is more horrifying, many of them are killed and killed brutally. All political parties are vociferous when it comes to crime against women, but when it comes to their own, their condemnation is diluted. There is that 'conditions apply' sort of a thing. It is only an accusation and let the law take its own course is the standard tag line.

Let us not get into statistics – your State v/s my State. Tu-tu, mein-mein goes on in every T.V. debate on the issue of child abuse. There is no real intention of getting to the bottom of things. A State government is seen going easy on such cases if their 'own' is involved. Then how do you get justice? It is sad that every now and then the courts have to order investigations by a SIT under their own supervision – that much for the integrity of the governments. The focus of the government has shifted from governance as enshrined in our Holy Book – the Constitution of India. It is only a reference book now. Agendas of political parties have taken precedence - a paradigm shift from "Raj-Dharma" of Vajpayeeji. Things can become worse if we the citizens do not take the initiative and save our families.

Actually, a time has come for all parents to beti chupao and beti bachao. The authorities are not capable of protecting our girls and women. They have many better things to do like cow protection rather than women and children protection; mandirs and other issues like what you should eat, what you should drink, what you should wear and many such issues. By the way, did we get the Government message or advisory right? Was it beti bachao or beti ko bachao and if so by whom? They want us to fend for ourselves. The parents should keep their girls and women indoors perhaps if they want them to be saved from the marauding predators whose number is on the increase all the time.

Humans, nature under pressure & conflict

—Ivan Saldanha-Shet.M'luru.

Monthi festh is near, the 'Novena' gathering and offering of flowers to 'Bambina Mary' in preparation for the traditional feast of the Konkani culture "Monthi Festh" is on. In Mumbai and many pockets of the world this family feast to mark the blessings of the harvest times is now a universal celebration. In Bandra to the famous Mother Mary of the Mount is in celebration mode. The famous Vellankanni shrine in Tamil Nadu sees thousands of pilgrims too. However, the ravages of nature and the environment revolt is a worrying matter for all everywhere. The monsoon rains on the west coast are slowly reducing, where as 90 % of the rain should have ceased around September 1.

There are many concerns in many places right now. Apart from floods, land slides and devastation in Kerala, Kodagu and so many other places. In Mangalore, among other concerns, there is a sense of wonder, the preparations in a big way for the Episcopal Ordination on September 15, of the newly appointed Bishop of Mangalore, Rev Dr. Pter Paul Saldanha; arrangements are in final stages. Many around the world are very positive and pray fervently for all success. The celebration is being lead by the present Bishop Rev Dr. Aloysius D'Souza who has served well for 22 years. It is a matter to rejoice that the local Karnataka minister in charge of the district Mr.U T Khader, the local MP Mr. Nalin Kumar Kateel, MLAs and all the government officials, communities and political leaders and so on are extending their best co-operation for the success and have declared it to be a vital general celebration of the



entire region and the people here.

Generally all faiths, to a large extent accept the reality that 'Nothing is a chance happening, all is a supreme design'. Catholics attribute all to "The will of the Lord", hence we are tuned to accept and even thank God for good and bad too. The media and social

media is packed with news, analysis, speculation true and fake on the calamity in Kerala, Kodagu and beyond; it is without doubt a confusing conflict episode, between humans and nature.

Yet, all levels of people around us have come out with a clear feeling that the great tragedy unfolding before our eyes and ears, has a Divine message. It is a norm to behold that Nature, of all kinds, is recognised as power and force of God. Many are convinced that when man is in a faulty relation with God, a cleansing and lesson comes to convert back to a good life. In calamities such as we are witnessing, God does not discriminate....rich/poor, great/humble, big/small, or Christian/Muslim/Hindu...or any other. Natural calamities like the ones we are witnessing in Kodagu and Kerala and also in many parts of India and the world, are definite warnings and a gentle slap from HIM that is above, to turn our bad to good.

It is a duty that each and all, specially the young, in all walks of life, to carefully take stock and change negatives life.....there are many simple and good things that we can cultivate; a better understanding and practice of our faith, a due respect for all things around us, consideration and care of nature in small ways. If small things are taken care of, the big things will right them selves. The Lord no doubt is good and is good always.



MARY WARD: GREAT SERVANT OF GOD

You could call the mission of Loreto the precious child of faith and vision. The journey of a religious, pioneer in education, labeled a heretic by the Catholic Church has left a legacy which prospers over four hundred years later, because of being a visionary Mary Ward founded religious groups of women across Europe in her lifetime and in England her homeland.

The companions of Mary Ward were known as “the English Ladies” who went about establishing religious communities and schools. She was a living saint, a pilgrim who was put into prison by the Inquisition, called a heretic by the Church for her actions of showing the world what women could and would do in the service of the Church.

Mary Ward was born in 1585 near Ripon in Yorkshire. She was the eldest child of Marmaduke and Ursula Ward. It was time of despair, upheaval and utter turmoil in England. The playwright William Shakespeare was a young man, ambitious and determined to rise in the theatre of stage and poetry.

Queen Elizabeth I ruled over England with a firm hand. Many Catholic martyrs were hanged at Tyburn. In the midst of this tragic conflict with Church and Politics, Mary Ward was sent to the world. It is said that within the first few months of her birth Mary uttered the name of “Jesus”.

Taught by her grandmother at Ploughland, Mary learnt Latin at the age of seven. The young Mary loved to ask questions, to read and to write, not forgetting to learn sewing.

Perhaps, the first blow in Mary’s life came when her father’s manservant, the valet rode up to the house on a black stallion and said that her father did not wish her to make her First Holy Communion. He had a letter from her

father, he said, but did not let her read it. He mysteriously rode away.

Mary decided to go ahead and make her First Communion. She wrote to her father informing him of her decision. The father was upset. In the first place he had not written any letter at all. Secondly, his manservant had been present at the manor never having left the grounds. Who could it have been ? Was it possible that the Lord had put Mary to a test of faith?

Mary Ward grew up in a life of prayer, penance and sacrifice. She and her cousin Barbara Babthorpe who would be her companion played a dynamic part in the private mission of Mary, to gather Catholic women in the work of the Church.

At this stage Mary was asked to marry Edmund Neville, the hope of Catholic England and heir of the Earldom of Westmoreland. The young and beautiful Mary rejected his proposal. She had her heart set on a religious life.

Father Holtby, a Jesuit priest became Mary Ward’s confessor. He failed to convince her not to be a religious.

Suddenly, things changed with Father Holtby’s thinking. One bleak morning while celebrating Mass at the altar, the priest spilt the Precious Blood after the Consecration. Holtby took it as a sign that God was offended by his insistence that Mary Ward should get married.

Mary was free to follow her vision. Her friends joined her to be a teaching order for women in the world. Providence brought Mistress Catherine Bentley who took Mary overseas as one of her daughters.

The Netherlands found her working with the Jesuits, but she could not comply to giving fidelity to the Poor Clare rule. She made a vow of chastity and left the convent.

Three years later, Mary was back in England bravely doing her work among the people. The Carmelite order was brought to her notice but she was not won over.

Her vision of an active apostolate mingled with a sort of monastic life was her dream. Her brave apostolic work among the persecuted Catholics of England took root. She once said that “women were not incapable of doing great things for God.”

From one heroic chapter of dedication and determination Mary Ward went to another; in 1626 she founded a house in Germany. Her pious works tempted her enemies to begin a campaign of lies and false messages.

On 7 February 1630 she was arrested on false charges and put into a cell of the Poor Clares. Her work came to a dramatic halt. At that dark hour Mary Ward told her jailor, “Suffering without sin is no burden”. Her friends outside the walls appealed to Pope Urban VIII to allow Mary to defend her own cause.

The pope listened to her and finally decided she was innocent. The Holy Father said to her enemies: “ she shall go whither she will and as she will.”

The rest of the story will be found in the book, Woman Beyond Compare. The pope said in a document “...she is a great servant of God...”

On the 19th January 1645 Mary Ward said that Barbara Babthorpe should take her place. The following day on her dying bed she kissed the crucifix saying “Jesus, Jesus, Jesus.” Mary Ward was sixty years old.

Pope Pius XII on October 1951 paid a warm and glowing tribute to Mary Ward at the World Congress of Catholic Action. The pontiff said, “Mary Ward, that woman beyond compare, given to the Church by England in its most somber and blood-stained hours.”



BY MELVYN BROWN

The positive powers of being ambitious

A man's worth is no greater than the worth of his ambitions".

Marcus Aurelius,
Roman Emperor

AMBITION IS DEFINED as, 'an ardent desire for rank, fame or power or a desire to achieve a particular end.' When it comes to ambition, most of us wish we had a little more. We may look at our colleagues, our peers or maybe random men and women on the street who just look like they have it all put together. But what makes up ambition? Sometimes ambition gets a bad rap - seen as a negative attribute rather than a positive one. However, we feel that, it's ambition that drives people to accomplish great things - without it, nothing great would ever get done. Today let's learn how ambition is the most important tool to achieving success, overriding both talent and resources by far.

Ambitious people take charge of their destiny and don't expect others to bow down to their needs. They have willpower and determination. They know where they are going and what they have to do to get there. They are capable of changing and measuring up to their dreams, always watchful of the opportunities that are out there for those who are willing to see them and seize them. To have the will, the dream and the courage to be on top of the world will get you a lot farther in life than any skill you can possibly possess. On the other hand, people without ambition ask very little of life and that is what they get, little or nothing. They have no dreams, no vision, no direction or clear intent and, therefore, they get nowhere. Some are conformists, others passive or perhaps unmotivated.

In reality, becoming more ambitious is a process that entails very small, very achievable steps. All it takes is focus, dedication, patience and hard work. And once you master these six habits, you'll be that ambitious person other people envy, here's how being ambitious helps you:

Greater goals:

By being ambitious and being hungry for more you challenge yourself every time you achieve something and reach greater

milestones scripting many success tales.

Instill confidence within you:

By working hard and managing yourself and your time well you become confident.

Enhance your domain of pursuits:

Being ambitious in a way enhances your limit of achievement. If you are ambitious you have greater goals in life that are difficult to achieve and are often the key to a successful life.

Make you a hard worker :

When you dream big you work longer and harder so that they get fulfilled.

Meaning full life:

By leading a challenging life you understand life well and you are prepared for any circumstances that comes your way.

Many ambitious people didn't necessarily start out that way. If you're wondering how to be more ambitious in your personal life or career - or you're just trying to find a semblance of ambition to get you going, use these habits of ambitious people to motivate yourself:

Set goals:

The first thing (and probably one of the most vital things) you need to do is set some smart goals for yourself. Otherwise, how will you know when you've achieved something to be proud of? Maybe you want to get a book published. Set an ambitious goal for yourself to get there. Give yourself targets to hit - writing X amount of words a day or sitting down for an hour just to get the creative juices flowing. They just have to motivate you to keep moving forward, which is exactly what ambition is all about.

Take risks

An ambitious person isn't afraid to take risks and make mistake. At the end of the day, they might really pay off. Being ambitious means pursuing your desires and reaching and doing what you weren't doing before. Being ambitious isn't necessarily easy and neither is taking risks - and that's the point. But the more you push yourself, the happier you will be and the closer you will be to achieving your ambi-

tious goals.

Invest in yourself:

An ambitious You are your most valuable investment and it's important that you know that you are, in fact, worth it. Buy yourself that new video editing software. Give yourself a wardrobe makeover. Pay for those photography courses. And investing in yourself isn't just about spending money. Take time for yourself. Get eight hours of sleep. Work out five times a week. Make yourself a priority and others will see you as one.

Don't keep waiting

If you keep waiting, you'll never accomplish your goals. If you keep saying tomorrow, the day will never really come. You can't expect great things to happen when you've done nothing to work for them. Being ambitious means pushing yourself, fighting for what you want and not taking no for an answer. You have your whole life ahead of you and there's no use waiting for it to happen. You have to make things happen. You can't climb that corporate ladder if you never get in the game.

Reward yourself

Rewarding yourself is different than basking in your success. Giving rewards is a form of reinforcement and will make you more likely to continue pursuing your goals. You aren't stopping to admire your success, but rather acknowledging your hard work and giving yourself motivation to keep on going. Try and make a goal to say yes more, this may seem simple but it can boost your confidence and inspire you to be more motivated.

In life, few things are either good or bad. Rather, theirs being good or bad depend on what we can or cannot make of them. People with a high degree of healthy ambition are those with insight and strength that is often born of insight) to control the blind forces of ambition, that is, to shape their ambition so that it matches their interests and ideals and to harness it so that it fires them without burning them or those around them.

Whither Pope Francis? Please Don't Dither Now

It is with a heavy heart that I am writing this piece. God chose St Francis of Assisi in the 13th Century, saying to him, "Go and repair my church". Those were the Dark Ages of the Catholic Church, where power, corruption and hedonism were rampant; right up to the highest echelons, the popes themselves.

When the present pope, a Jesuit, took the name of Francis, my favourite saint, in 2013, I was exuberant. His subsequent actions on several fronts confirmed my hope for a purging and renewal of the Catholic Church. However, from this 26th August, Pope Francis has been subjected to a vicious attack by one Archbishop Vignano, a former Nuncio to the USA. Those who follow Christian web portals may be aware of the developments, or possibly be wondering who is right or wrong? For those not in the know, let me shed some light on what is transpiring.

For years church personnel, priests and bishops, have been accused of grave sexual misconduct including paedophilia. The most rampant cases were in the USA, Chile, Ireland and Australia. In comparison, we Indians are as innocent as doves! What accentuated the malaise was a concerted cover up of these abuses by the concerned bishops themselves. They were either buying the silence of the victims through confidentiality agreements a la Trump, by paying damages from church (community) funds, or by subverting the victims through threats.

Here in India the recent cases that have come to light are the charges against the Catholic bishops of Jalandhar in Punjab and Kadapa in Andhra. I wrote an Open Letter to the Papal Nuncio in India as also the Secretary General of the CBCI, hoping for

some action. So far their silence has been deafening.

However, as I said, what is happening in India pales into insignificance before other countries. Very recently, over 30 bishops of Chile submitted their resignations to the Pope, accepting responsibility in the cover up operations. In Australia at least one bishop has been found guilty of complicity and abetment of sexual crimes by a civil court. The latest scandal is a Grand Jury in the USA indicting over 300 priests, including Cardinal McCarrick, for sexual predations, even of minor seminarians. This resulted in Pope Francis removing the cardinal from his post. On his recent trip to Ireland too, Pope Francis had to publicly apologise for the many cases of clerical sexual abuse there.



by chhotebhai *

What has now assumed dangerous proportions is the 11 page letter of Abp Vignano, accusing Pope Francis himself of shielding McCarrick, even though he allegedly knew of his sex crimes from the time he became Pope in 2013. I am in no position to comment on the culpability of Pope Francis in this matter; more so since he has come out strongly against all forms of clerical abuse, and even clericalism per se. He has been advocating zero tolerance of any form of clerical sex abuse.

However, within the Catholic Church, there is an ultra-conservative lobby, that is rich in both resources and media contacts; that opposes the reforms of Vatican II, and more recently what they call the "mercy over morals" approach of Francis. This lobby would have us revert to the Latin Mass. It mistakes everything Roman or European for Christian. Not unlike the Evangelical churches, it sees Satan's diabolical designs in anything

and everything that is not in consonance with their thinking. Abp Vignano belongs to this ultra-conservative lobby.

His letter, translated into several languages, was prepared in collusion with senior Italian journalists, and made public on August 26th, when Francis was on the return flight from Ireland, accompanied by a battery of media people, and so susceptible to attack.

This "disclosure" has been described as a "bombshell" by its protagonists who are now baying for Francis' resignation. Secular journals in America and Europe are delighted with this sensational cannon fodder. Added to that, Vignano, the accuser, has apparently switched off his cell phone and gone into hiding, alleging a threat to his life. I find this a cowardly act. If he has the guts to level serious allegations against Francis, then he should also have the guts to stand up and give hard evidence, not conjecture, in support of his allegations. His going into hiding, highlighted by the conservative media, comes across as a well planned ploy to garner sympathy.

When Dan Brown's infamous "Da Vinci Code" was published about 20 years ago it was also described as a "bombshell" that would destroy Christianity, by striking at its very roots. It is important to here note that his is a work of fiction. Hence it has no scholarly references to bolster his claims. When the movie was to be released in India many hyper-sensitive Christians came out strongly against its release. It was subsequently done with a small one-line disclaimer at the beginning, that it was a work of fiction. At the time my article "Who's Afraid of da Vinci" was published in the Hindustan Times, besides Christian journals.

Brown wrote several other novels based on palace intrigues of the Vatican, in a further attempt to defame the papacy. We do know that the Freemasons and the Knights Templar have always had this on their agenda. They

(Contd.. on p. 19)

To please and to appease – To what purpose?

By Ladislaus Louis D'Souza

What is it with us, Catholics, that makes us go bonkers in our effort to please or to appease the majority community to the point of bending ever so awkwardly in every direction imaginable, I wonder! Why is it that we behave like fools, knitting ourselves up in knots from which we find it so painfully difficult to disentangle ourselves? And what on earth makes us think that the tomfoolery we indulge in periodically is going to earn us some brownie points that make for any semblance of acceptance from the diehards among the majority community?

Uneasy compromise

It would be an understatement to aver that, no matter what, our educational institutions continue to be in great demand. But we have a tough time running those entities on account of the frivolity of governmental rules and regulations that are often unpalatable on the one hand, and political interference on the other. Yet, our folly lies in imagining that issues can be peacefully resolved by elevating a person of the majority community to the topmost rung in one of our highly reputed institutions. Just what makes us think that appointing a Catholic or a Non-Catholic at the helm of affairs is no big deal, naively believing that the Catholic ethos of our institutions can be maintained with unwavering zeal, regardless of the faith persuasion of the incumbent? Who are we fooling?

Badly needed: an Emmaus Experience

Going to the root of the issue, how many of us, believers, are familiar with the beauty and significance of our own Faith? How much do we know of our own Christian Scriptures in general and Catholic theology in particular to risk dabbling in an exploration of the scriptures of other Faiths and this during the celebration of the very “source and summit of all Christian worship” [Vat II], viz the Eucharistic

Sacrifice of the Mass on the occasion of a Solemnity of great significance, without giving cause for scandal to those weaned essentially on the rudiments of the Catholic Faith or even hurting their sentiments? By the time an apology is in place, irreparable damage has already taken place. Instead, have we really cared to afford ourselves a true Emmaus experience that has our hearts burn within us as we listen to the opening up of the Christian Scriptures, making possible for us and for those we both minister to and encounter in our daily lives an in-depth encounter with the Risen Lord, the one true God, whose name, JESUS, has no rival? [cf Acts 4:12]

There is talk going around about a certain convent having nuns wearing saffron clothing and worshipping an idol of the goddess Kali in the chapel on the grounds that it is merely to appease the locals while they themselves are clear in their minds and hearts that what they are worshipping is but a representation of Jesus Christ. If this is true, those concerned have got to realize that the act borders on hypocrisy that can at best be described as apostasy and that they've either got to abandon such duality and return to an authentic practice of the Faith or summarily convert to the faith of the people they are trying to appease. Conscious that double standards lead to nowhere, we've got to be willing to either stand by the Faith of our Fathers and practise it without reservation, dilution and adulteration, regardless of the consequences or give up the Faith in its entirety. Put differently. Have we really found Jesus in Christian scripture and tradition before we pretend to look for him in the scriptures and traditions of other religions?

Trans-substantiation, Inculturation, or what?

Incidentally, such faithless experimentation is nothing new in today's Church. I recall how in the mid-1980s, a fellow catechist in the parish, on a

vacation from the religious order he was eventually to leave, in time going on to become the first lay principal of a top-notch educational institution run by the same order, gleefully and proudly shared with (me and with) the Confirmation Class under our care something very sinister. In the mission area where the said religious seminarian was posted, the host and wine at Mass were generally substituted with Idli and Sambhar. What next – vadapav & chai? Dhokla-Lassi? Besan laddoo-doodh? Indeed, can any folly ever match such sacrilege!

Frankly, if one may ask, where are we baptized-&-confirmed believers—cradle Catholics to boot—headed? Is it really worth losing our soul in order to ensure that our bodies are safe by means of pandering to the whims of the majority community?

On we go to Jerusalem...

In the year 2012, at the Mission Congress of the CRI titled “New Evangelization in the Indian Context,” Cardinal Cleemis, the then President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India, citing Yves Congar, a noted ecclesiologist, reportedly said, “The outside world initiates its relationship with the Church through the external expressions of her existence. We need to express ourselves in a manner that attracts people to the Church. It is by the outward signs of the Church, by what she is seen to be, that men know her and through her, should be, brought to the Gospel, led to God; or else they are estranged from her, repelled or even turned towards some sort of religion of material things, a system where sociological conduct predominates, rather than towards a personal religion with its inherent spiritual demands.” A far cry from what is going on around us, readers will agree. Indeed, with the kind of the practice of the Faith in evidence, it would be too farfetched to even imagine anyone ever being “brought to the Gospel” and “led to God” at all! In the final analysis, whither goest we?

Inspiration!

Achieve big goals using micro habits

MANY OF US have big, grand goals for our lives. These goals can be tied to our work or maybe starting a family or ideas for a new home with that family or travel to an exotic location we've long dreamed about or pretty much anything else. Oftentimes these goals can seem a very long way from where we are consequence, too many of us give up even trying to make these things happen. Part of the reason we give up is that we put ourselves under pressure to make things happen quickly. What we don't realise is that; it is often the small steps and habits that underpin big goals. In fact, it is these seemingly micro and tiny habits that support even the largest of goals.

Do you have a big goal you'd love to achieve? If so, commit to small daily habits or activities and consistently apply them. Creating daily habits or activities leverages time in your favour. Achieve big goals using the power of small daily habits. Time and daily habits work just like compounding interest. It is those small steps that get us to faraway places. The key is to consistently take those small steps in the same direction: Building a big, life-changing habit is difficult: it's hard to keep the willpower going long enough to see change. So, what habits, specifically, are we talking about here?

Wake up when you say you're going to wake up:

Setting the alarm is only half the battle. The real purpose of setting an alarm and then getting out of bed when it goes off is to keep that first

promise of the day. When you set that alarm the night before, you are making a promise that you will get up at that time. If you then wake up and ignore it, you are starting your day on the wrong foot. You've broken the first promise to yourself. This isn't about getting up on time. This is about practicing the habit of doing what you say you're going to do. And what better way to practice than first thing every morning?

Set daily goals:

There's a lot that goes into actually achieving our goals. It requires concentrated effort over time, with an unrelenting spirit of persistence and determination. So, first and foremost, you need to set long-term goals and create a plan for their attainment. Once you have that, the focus should be on daily goals. Daily goals allow us to execute our plans. What do we need to accomplish and achieve today? By understanding and knowing that, we can better manage our time and resources. As long as we're doing the little things we know are important every day, ultimately, we can achieve our goals if we don't give up.

Read for 30 minutes every day:

People vastly underestimate how quickly you can get through a book. Twenty to 30 minutes of reading per day can get you through an average-length book in about two weeks. That's two books per month, 24 books in a year. Imagine how much more you would know if you read 24 more books in a year. Thirty minutes is not a lot of time. You could do that on the train. You could do that while waiting in line at the grocery store. After all,

if you're ever stuck on a project, creative or not, the first question people would ask is, 'what are you reading?' So, always be studying. Make time to read.

Take care of your body:

Physical health is crucial to maintaining a clear head and an open mind. Especially if your work involves staring at a screen for eight to 10 hours per day, it is essential that you take at least 30 minutes to an hour to get back in your body—whether that's through yoga, the gym, boxing, running, a long walk and so on. This goes back to the idea that doing a little bit each day to prevent any health concerns from arising is a far more effective strategy than having to fix everything once you're already off the deep end.

Ponder over before bed:

Each night before bed, take five minutes to reflect. Jot down in a journal (writing here is important) a few things that went particularly well and then write down a few things you'd like to do differently tomorrow. The reason why this is so effective is it really keeps you honest with yourself. It allows you to take a moment and pat yourself on the back for the most immediate accomplishment and it also keeps you on a growth edge, always looking for the next way to improve. Without reflection, you have no real direction as to where to head next.

CREATING DAILY RITUALS

- In creating rituals, you are going to have to accept a certain level of discomfort.
- Rituals are easy to start and maintain. Starting small is key to overcoming the discomfort of something.
- Daily rituals will expand your idea of 'normal.' After two months of doing a ritual every day, it will begin to feel normal to you and you will begin to identify as someone who does that ritual.
- When we fail, it's easy to lose faith in ourselves but creating rituals can help us regain that confidence.

(Contd.. from p. 10)

of the evening. Each confronted Him with the question yet He gave no answer. Instead, Christ began to cry, as He said, "I feel the burden of a woman who has lost her brother, another whose baby has died, a painter who has lost his eyesight, and I weep for the love match which is now torn apart." As He spoke, the four moved closer, and they embraced each other. And they grasped Christ's hands. Then He said, "My dominion is the dominion of the heart. I cannot prevent pain, I can only heal it." "How?" they asked. "By sharing it," He said. And then He was gone. And the four were left standing, holding each other.

This is the story of a man who fell in a pit and what happens next is the beginning of a new story. The author is unknown.

A man fell into a pit and couldn't get himself out.

A subjective person came along and said, "I feel for you down there."

An objective person came along and said, "Well, it's logical that someone would fall down there."

A Christian scientist came along and said, "You only THINK that you're in that pit."

A Pharisee said, "Only bad people fall into pits."

A mathematician calculated how he fell into the pit.
A news reporter wanted an exclusive story on his pit.
A fundamentalist said, "You deserve your pit."
A Calvinist said, "If you had been saved, you would have never fallen into that pit."
A Wesleyan said, "You were saved and still fell into that pit."
A charismatic said, "Just confess that you are not in that pit."
A realist said, "Now THAT'S A PIT."
A geologist told him to appreciate the rock strata in the pit.

An IRS man asked if he was paying taxes on his pit.
The county inspector asked if he had a permit to dig the pit.
An evasive person came along and avoided the subject altogether.
A self pitying person said, "You haven't seen anything until you've seen MY pit."
An optimist said, "Things could be worse."
A pessimist said, "Things will get worse."

Jesus seeing the man reached down and took him by the hand and lifted him out of the pit.

—Fr. George Olivera OFM Cap, Kripalaya, Bogadi, Mysore

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Pope Francis on the Unity and Fidelity of Marriage!

Pope Francis reflected on his recent trip to Ireland on 25-26 August 2018, for the World Meeting of Families. He spoke at his weekly general audience at St. Peter's Square. (Some excerpts):

"Divorce and separation may seem common, but model families should strive after 'unity'! People should not forget those husbands and wives, who even amid difficulties, continue to be faithful – who lead their families and children with 'fidelity'; and asking for forgiveness when there are problems."

"We often forget, because it has become fashionable in social media, to talk about who is divorced from whom, and so on. This is a bad thing. The ideal is the 'united family' – a prophetic and comforting experience of many families engaged in the Gospel way of marriage and family life – disciples and missionary families, fermenting of goodness, holiness, justice and peace!"

"In fact, the true points of light were the testimonies I heard from different families which were very touching! Their stories remind us that the love in marriage is a special gift from God, to be cultivated on a daily basis in the 'domestic church' which is the family!"

"I entrust all families to the maternal protection of Our Lady of Knock, built on the site of an apparition of the Virgin Mary so very dear to the Irish people. May she accompany and guide families in harmony and concord, the fruit of fidelity, forgiveness and reconciliation in Christ!" (cf. John 2:5 & Matthew 6:12).

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

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(Contd.. from p. 15)

seem to follow the logic that my enemy's enemy is my friend. So there can be strange bedfellows in Vatican intrigue, just as we see in Indian politics.

This was most evident when V.P. Singh became Prime Minister with the support of the ultra-right BJP and the ultra-left Marxists. Unfortunately for those who read novelists like Brown, masquerading as historians, they could find his writings disconcerting. This is not because of his pseudo scholarship, but because of the widespread ignorance of those euphemistically referred to as the "faithful".

So I will not be surprised if both anti-papacy and anti-reform forces have joined hands to defame Francis. The anti-papists agenda has been known for centuries, but the anti-reformists change colour like a chameleon. Some could want the return of retired Pope Benedict. They want the Tridentine Mass with the celebrant mumbling away at the altar, with his back to the "faithful". They are incensed by Francis' "merciful" approach to homosexuals and divorced remarried Catholics. The word "mercy" may sound nice in Latin or Italian, but it has a distinctly condescending tone in English. I would rather use words like "non-judgmental, empathetic, humane or compassionate" to describe Pope Francis' frame of mind.

Having said all this, the Vatican cannot be given a clean chit for its acts of omission, more than commission. It is often alleged that the Catholic Church arrives huffing and puffing on the scene to do too little too late. It took 400 years to apologise for its actions against Galileo, and years to reconcile the Big Bang theory of evolution with that of creation in the Bible. From our experience of how the Indian hierarchy responds (or doesn't) this allegation sticks.

The Congress Party introduced the

RTI Act to tackle corruption. It was its own downfall; because its opponents used it to the hilt (ably assisted by pliant bureaucrats) to publicly wash all the dirty linen. We need transparency in the church's functioning, regardless.

However, in the Church it must be emphasised that the hierarchy and the community (faithful) are not protagonists. We are members of one body, and we cannot cut our nose to spite our own face. But we must also accept that if the body has a viral infection, it affects all, laity included. As a recent article in the National Catholic Reporter, the most highly respected Catholic journal in America states, "The Catholic community has arrived at a point in its history so seared with raw reality that we are all left with nothing to lean against or hide behind". If the accumulated pus is not purged there is the danger of a limb getting gangrenous necessitating amputation.

Hence the Catholic Church, be it the Vatican, Pope Francis or the CBCI, must humbly acknowledge the just demands and critiques of those of its members who, like me, love the Church; but strongly disagree with much of its orthopraxis, as distinct from its orthodoxy. One needs to hear recall that though St Francis of Assisi is romantically alluded to as the "Il Poverello", he was no pushover. He himself never became a priest, and often challenged the cardinals and even the popes of his time.

Hence I make a special appeal to the Franciscans, Jesuits and enlightened lay leadership to please speak up for the good of the Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church that we love. Pope Francis should not now dither in his response to the crisis situation, lest we too be constrained to ask "Quo Vadis Pope Francis"? Whither goest thou?

* The writer is the National President Emeritus of the All India Catholic Union

Demonetisation black magic

Now that 99.3% of the demonetized 500 and 1000-rupee notes have returned to the RBI, can there be any further doubt that Mr Modi's diabolical demonetisation plan of November 2016 has flopped miserably? Notwithstanding Mr Modi's pre-election promises of Rs 15 lakh into the account of every individual, crores of rupees of black money turned white after demonetisation, and made their way into the fictitious accounts of black money hoarders with the blessings of middlemen and corrupt officials. And now that the Non Performing Assets (NPAs) of public sector banks have crossed the threshold of reckoning and run into lakhs of crores of rupees due to corporate loan defaulters, does Mr Modi expect us to believe his recent statement that "every single paisa stuck in NPAs will be recovered from defaulters."

— A. F. Nazareth
Alto porvorum

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

(Say this prayer nine times a day for nine days. By the eighth day your prayer will be answered. It has never known to fail. Promise to publish this or distribute this as soon as your favour has been granted.)

—Carmeline Sanctis

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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

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

6872. MUMBAI : Affluent Family Mangalorean R.C. Bachelor, (Born in September 1982), Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 86 kgs, Fair Complexion, Handsome, MBA, M.Com., B.Com., (Rank Holder) Banker by experience, (Director - Managing very profitable Business). Contact email : rajiv_alvares@yahoo.com

6783 MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in June 1983), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Edn. H.S.C. working as a Dept. Manager. Contact email: faugustine992@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 : saviatorres56@gmail.com

6949. MUMBAI : Proposals are invited from parents of a Roman Catholic

God fearing educated homely girl for a Mangalorean Roman Catholic boy, finance professional, (Born in March 1983), Ht. 5' 10", Church marriage annulled, no issues presently working overseas on PR. Please email the profile and photo to benedict83319@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

6838. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in October 1974), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 55 kgs, Wheatish Complexion Edn. VII std, working as a Electrician in BEST. Having House. Seeks a simple, understanding and good natured girl. Contact email : belindacardoza777@gmail.com

6784 MUMBAI : Roman Catholic Divorcee, (Born in April 1982), Ht. 6', Wt. 75 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBA working as a Accountant. Contact email : getaustin@gmail.com

6948. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic bachelor, (Born in July 1987), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 70 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., working a HR. Contact email : adleyds@gmail.com

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

5996. MUMBAI : RC Bachelor (Born in November 1974) / 5'8", B.E., working in Senior position reputed IT firm. Seeks

alliance from R.C. spinster educated good family background PI. reply with photograph and details to keithcardozo@hotmail.com OR 9820338755

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

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

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

6707 MUMBAI : Goan RC bachelor, (Born in June 1975), Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 70 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., having own business. Seeks a Family oriented girl. Contact email : maxabreo@yahoo.com / maxabreo@vsnl.net

6664 MUMBAI : Mangalorean R.C. Bachelor (Born in December 1982) Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 68 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., A.C.A., LLB., C.A. by Profession. Contact email: saldanha_ryan@yahoo.com OR 9820670158.

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6950. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in July 1990), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 68 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. Post Graduate, working as a Relationship Manager in Private Bank. Contact email : mendoncas2307@gmail.com

6935. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Divorcee (1st marriage annulled by the church), (Born in February 1983), Ht. 5', Wt. 61 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.A., working as a HR in MNC. Contact email : maryann.murzello@yahoo.com

6933. USA : Mangalorean RC parents invite proposal for their daughter, (Born in October 1990), Ht. 5' 3", MS from USA, working in Minneapolis USA, holding H1b visa, born and brought up in Mumbai, from Mangalorean RC bachelors, working in USA, age below 31 years, masters or higher preferred, with good familybackground. Contact : Wilfred D'Souza : 09869165412 OR email : wilfred1954@gmail.com

6932. MANGALORE : Mangalorean Roman Catholic spinster, (Born in September 1990), Ht. 5' 4", Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Com., working as an Asst. Manager. Contact email : francisjerome.barrocas@gmail.com

6931. MUMBAI : Parents of Goan R.C spinster, (Born in August 1986), Post-Grad, writer in a reputed publication, 5' 6", Fair and of medium build, seek for their only daughter a well-qualified and settled groom. The boy should be 32-35 years of age, 5' 7", or taller.

Preferably of Goan origin and residing in Mumbai. Interested families / boys may please write, with a photograph, to couri60@gmail.com or call 99202 70637

6929. MANGALORE : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Divorcee, (Born in January 1986), Ht. 152 cms, Wt. 54 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.B.A., working as a H.R. Senior Manager. Contact email : jasmine.melonie@gmail.com

6928. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic spinster, (Born in July 1991), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 67 kgs, Dusky Complexion, Edn. MBA Operations, working as an Executive. Contact email : judith.dalgado2307@gmail.com

6927. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic spinster, (Born in January 1977), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 60 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. Post graduate, working as an Admin., in MNC. Contact email : mrf.ma77@gmail.com

6925. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Divorcee, having one 8 years old son. (Born in April 1987), Ht. 4' 11", Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Ed., Teacher by profession. Working in **DOHA QATAR**. Contact email : precstillamarsh201@gmail.com

6903. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic spinster, (Born in June 1987), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 78 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.E., M.S. Marketing, working as a Consulting Manager. Contact email : mendonca_luke@yahoo.co.in

6900. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic spinster, (Born in May 1989), Ht. 4' 10", Wt. 51 kgs,

Wheatish Complexion, Edn. BMS., Marketing specialization, working as a Customer Support. Contact email : pereira1189@yahoo.com

6855. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in September 1990), Ht. 5', Wt. 58 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. CA by profession working for private company. Contact email : mithalimenezes@gmail.com

6853. DUBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in February 1989), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 79 kgs, Fair Complexion, good looking, Edn. M.Com., PGDM -HR, working as a HR Assistant in Real Estate Firm in Dubai. Contact email : sav_cm@yahoo.com.

6850. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in October 1989), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 56 kgs, Fair Complexion, Smart looking, Edn. BBA, working as an Asst. Marketing Manager. Contact email : alisha.v.fernandes@gmail.com

6849. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in November 1990), Ht. 5', Wt. 51 kgs, Fair Complexion, good looking, Edn. MBA in Marketing, working as a Assistant Manager in Oil Company. Contact email : darlet_vaz27@yahoo.co.in

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6492. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Born Again Spinster, (Born in May 1987), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 53 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBA in Finance, PGDM., working for a co-op. Bank in Mumbai. Contact email : brinlia-fernandes@yahoo.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

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 : savinajmascarenhas@gmail.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

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

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

6482 K.S.A. : Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in July 1983), Ht. 160 cms, Wt. Normal, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc. in Chem/PGDMLT, Pathology Lab Technician (Instructor) in **KSA** since 10 years, well settled, seeks a suitable match. Contact email : mathew_680@yahoo.com

6770. MANGALORE : Mangalorean Roman Catholic spinster, (Born in October 1987), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 52 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBBS, Senior Residential Doctor. Contact email: myname2487@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: dianafrnds62@gmail.com

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

6728. MUMBAI : Maharastrian Protestant Spinster, (Born in June 1989), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 53 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. 10th + Nursing Diploma, Nurse by profession. Contact Mob: 9892562906

6703. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in November 1990), 5' 3", Wt. 56 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B. Tech., MBA, Working for MNC. Contact email : proposal2k16@gmail.com

6702. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in April 1989), 5' 7", Wt. 70 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBA Finance, working in a Finance Co., Ready to settle abroad. Seeks a groom

above Ht. 5' 8". Settled in Mumbai / Abroad. Contact - 9867152211 Email: whiterosegarden@gmail.com

6701. MYSORE : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Divorcee, (Born in May 1983), 5' 2", Wt. 70 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBA, Ph.D., Assistant Prof., by profession. Contact email : rosecynthia1962@gmail.com

6748 MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic spinster, (Born in March 1987), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 65 kg0s, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., with Dip. in Software Testing, working as a Test Engineering Specialist at a MNC. Contact email : thomasdsouza18@gmail.com

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

6185 MUMBAI : Goan (Bardez) Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in January 1982) Ht. 5' 4", Fair Complexion., Edn. B.A., Dip. in Financial Management, Banking Exams, Working as Senior Manager for a reputed Private Sector Bank Seeks educated and well settled Roman Catholic Goan (Bardez) Bachelor between 36-40 years. Ht. 5' 7" and above. Contact email : andy.franky@hotmail.com

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

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—Peadar Rebello

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

— Rebecca Gomes

Thanksgiving

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

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

—George Kannan, Pune



Make your partner smile every morning



In every relationship, the most important aspect is keeping your partner happy and finding out ways to smile at each other as a genuine gesture of involvement between you both. Waking up to a smile sets the tone for the rest of the day. Let's see the ideas by which you can bring a smile on to your partner's face every morning:

A happy meal:

The way to a human's heart is through the stomach. Breakfast in bed is the right way to set your partner's mood and would definitely put a smile on to his or her face. Put together the things your partner likes for breakfast and serve it.

Don't keep jokes away:

Never keep a joke away. Share a joke every morning with your partner and see how the day unfolds to be. They will smile and laugh and these will give you immense pleasure. It is a creative way to make your partner smile.

Give a kiss every morning:

Another beautiful way to wake your partner up with a smile is by a kiss on the cheeks by saying, 'good morning'. A most genuine form of a good morning with a kiss does wonders to our mind. So, kiss your partner every morning to wake them up with a smile.

Message on the way:

If you are far away from your partner when they wake up, leave them a happy message every morning. It comes in handy for long distance relationship. If you are away and still want to make your partner smile, remember a morning text never fails to cease a smile.

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