

THE SECULAR CITIZEN

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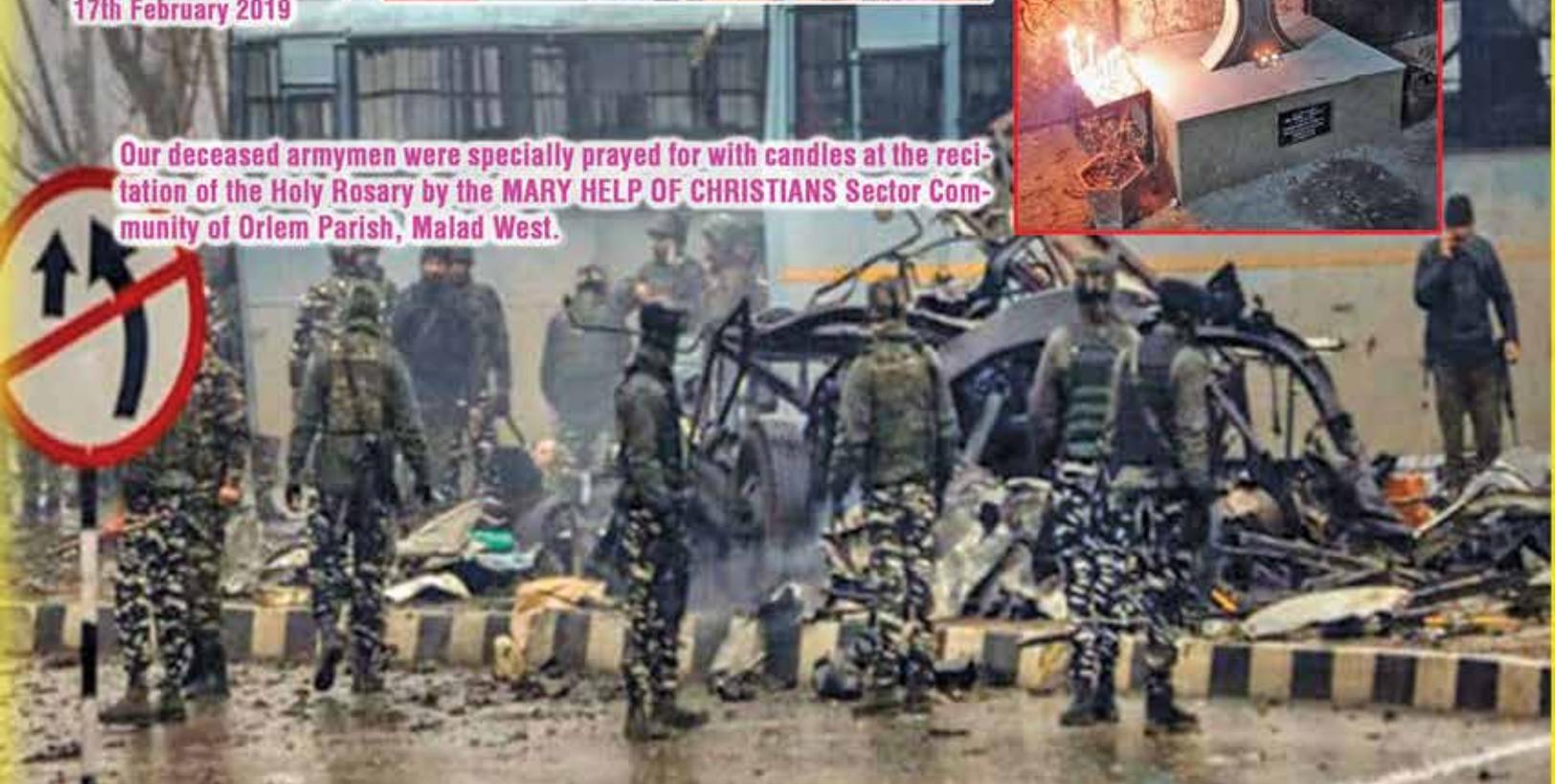
A NATIONAL FAMILY WEEKLY

Indian Christians Condemn Pulwama Attack

Members of Joseph Sneha Abhiruddi Sangha (Joseph Friendships Association) paid tribute by lighting candle for the soldiers martyred in Pulwama in Jammu and Kashmir, the program was held at Joseph Church, Chamarajpet, in Bengaluru on Sunday 17th February 2019



Our deceased army men were specially prayed for with candles at the recitation of the Holy Rosary by the MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS Sector Community of Orlem Parish, Malad West.



Mangaluru's 36-year-old private library closes.

— Ivan Saldanha-Shet. M'luru.

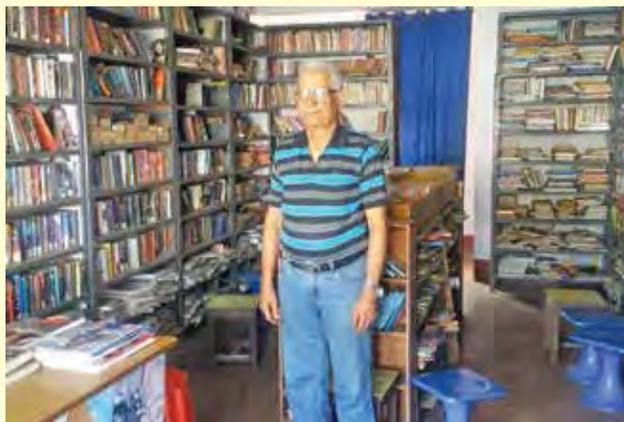
'The Standard Library', very popular for more than 36 years now, in the center of Balmatta, was a nest for avid readers and students with over 17,000 books, it is in the process of winding up - there are no prizes for guessing, with the electronic age of the internet, e-books, smart phones and so on and real hard core book lovers are disappearing, reading has assumed new forms compatible with 21st Century technology.

Victor Alvares, its 70-year old owner and husbandman, has been its developer for near 4 decades. For him a dream venture to have his own library seems to have been fulfilled. He worked at an auto-shop back in the early 1970s, his first love then was to read anything that he could lay hands on. A member of city's first library, Popular Library (now closed), run by Late Lawrence Mascarenhas since 1970 at Hampankatta in the city; he spend hours reading. At the same time he had a yearning and an idea, could he make a living by lending books and such riddles.

Strangely around this time I chanced to talk with Abraham Soans, then in his mid 60s the owner of Hamsons library, Victor seemed to sense that Uncle Abraham had ideas to sell his 10-year old business, along with the books and memberships. "I felt a deep call from destiny, an opportunity that tugged my heart strings. After some thought I put forward my offer to purchase this 'business'. It got a serious and positive outcome and before i knew it, I became the new owner of the library, which then I renamed 'Standard Library,'" Victor said.

At this point i was all excited, I realised that Abraham Soans was someone I knew in a totally different setting. He was a seasoned Lighthouse Keeper,

a sea dog, with around 35 years service and on the verge of retiring. After that we met a couple of times and then life took me to other shores. In Y2K when fate brought me to settle in Mangalore, I always recalled Uncle Abraham and wanted to meet him..... but, it never happened. One fine day



in perhaps 2001, I chanced to see in the obituaries his name and picture and I only made it to his burial at Nandigudda - such is human life.

Standard Library :

Before young Victor took over there were about 200 books and few hundred members, over time, Victor says he increased the collection to over 17,000 books, including fiction, non-fiction and comics and close to 1,200 readers -- but those figures only accounted for the registered numbers, he notes. "We actually have more books and people than the registered numbers, we don't take account of newspapers and magazines. Membership is transferable, so based on one card the family and friends can procure books. When a member leaves his number is given to the new member, so we don't have an exact count of how many readers have been with us over the years," he says. Initially a borrower was charged 10% of the actual cost of the book, as the price of the book rose, the renting charge was standardised to Rs. 25 for 1 week, alongside refundable deposit of Rs. 400 for newer and costlier books.

Even a decade ago, people came to the lending counter and book shelves at the Standard Library, so much so that there was hardly any room to sit. Despite the existence of government libraries that were offering books for free, the private libraries stayed relevant because they regularly updated their collections with new popular book releases, but soon the down turn became visible, barely a few people each day.

Overcome by technology, both young and old readers are less enthused by books nowadays. People have television, computer, smart phones, tabs which have taken over people's interest. There are no longer serious readers, only

to pass their time, people sometimes pick up a book by chance perhaps, he says. Standard is not the only one to face such a situation, other libraries have shut down in Mangaluru over time for economic reasons.

Since year 2000, private libraries like Popular (Hampankatta), Nandan, New Era Library have succumbed to the online and Kindle readership era one after the other. One like Accolades Library, say that they have adopted alternative options. Supplementing business by conducting classes on public speaking, encouraging people to read books to improve their vocabulary and command over the languages. Today, only government libraries and those attached to organisations may survive given the steady flow of funds for books and support.

Meanwhile, Victor set on closing its doors, is in the throes of selling secondhand books to buyers or souvenir collectors. Soon the entire collection will be liquidated and Victor Alvares plans to do what he has wanted for a long time - travel and tour places he has fancied for ages.

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Audio and Visual Propaganda

By Don Aguiar.

The Modi administration is plainly upset with the behaviour of certain reporters. But how far is it willing to go to make its case that these reporters act improperly during news conference with his government or report about his government?

Knowingly sharing manipulated images or news bytes are equally problematic, particularly when the person sharing them is a representative of our country's highest office with vast influence over public opinion.

Obviously releasing misleading or doctored information is problematic, particularly when done by representative of our country's highest office. But as the technology advances, the question of what's real and what's not may be up for debate. As the technology that allows us to manipulate images gets more sophisticated and easier to use, then the claim that a video or news byte is fake becomes more credible.

Journalists, know that manipulating images is manipulating truth. It's deceptive, dangerous and unethical.

News organizations disapprove of altering photos and videos, on the premise that doing so deceives readers and viewers. News photos are cropped to better frame the action in them, and videos are edited to enhance clarity and storytelling — all considered legitimate practices. But some images are unethically altered. Judges in the annual World Press Photo competition have regularly disqualified entries because of "excessive" post-processing, such as toning that removes or hides objects in a photo.

Among the most infamous examples of news-photo manipulation were National Geographic's shot of the Egyptian pyramids, "squeezed" together to fit on the magazine's cover in 1982, and Time magazine's cover image of O.J Simpson in 1994. Time darkened Simpson's image, making him look more sinister and menacing.

Totalitarian governments have long recognized the value of altering pho-

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tos and videos to manipulate public opinion and perception. Such governments regularly censor images or release them selectively to maintain popular order and morale.

Modern-day regimes vigorously employ digital techniques to fool viewers; North Korea's propaganda ministry routinely alters images emanating from the isolated nation, from photos of leader Kim Jong Un's ears to state-issued pictures of the country's military prowess.

Such tactics are now been irregularly employed in democracies like India, too. Political campaigns are rife with fake images.

As a work of art, I quite like, as some people are calling it, the 'Statue of Unity'. I like the way the metal has been tricked into soft folds of cloth and crinkly skin. Well done.

The statue of Sardar Vallabhai Patel is made entirely out of iron. The man was a dyed-in-the-wool Congressman who worked with M K Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru, and who banned the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) for spreading 'poison'. The man who commissioned the statue is a dyed-in-the-wool RSS product who obediently reports to the RSS, and who wants a 'Congress-mukt Bharat'. The man now made 182 metres tall will be remembered for stitching India together. The man with the 56-inch chest who commissioned the effigy will be remembered for loudly talking about unity to drown out the sounds of a social fabric being ripped apart. Sardar Patel was part of a team of great contemporary leaders. Mr Modi assiduously curates his own image as the country's single outsize icon.

Mr Modi has not delivered many things that he said he would—he has not fixed the economy or the banking system, nor rooted out corruption; he has failed to build institutions and transparency. But there's one thing he said he would do and, by golly, he's done it—he has built a statue that

nobody demanded, at an exorbitant cost, to honour a man whose place in history is already cemented.

Most governments are less likely than ever to knowingly pass off a fake. The reason: It is simply too easy for the manipulation to be spotted now. It generates too much adverse publicity in the media and social media precisely because audio and video are such common medium of communication.

Then again, technology has created a kind of "arms race" between tools that permit video and photo manipulation and those designed to sniff out the fakes.

Ever since the BJP came to power, it has spent its time telling us how small and oppressed and humiliated Indians have been, and how great and powerful and proud we are now that the BJP is in power. This is the only real vision that the BJP has: Our collective low self-esteem is someone else's fault, and we pledge to smack that someone down to make us feel better about ourselves. Here's an overcompensating statue. Give us your vote.

The party has spent mind-boggling amounts of money advertising the fiction that India was a scattered nothing before the advent of Prime Minister Modi, and that since his arrival, people fall about in wonder when they spot an Indian passport; that the economy has magically been healed; that corruption has vanished (as in a way it has, to London and Antigua); that Pakistan lies awake all night shivering with fear; that the world is anxiously waiting for us to lead it; that there is hope for the critically endangered Hindu population; and that we now have a strong and stable leader, which means that everything should be better.

But everything is not better—it is worse.

What? Can't hear you. Here, have a statue.

The most useful thing about the Statue of Unity is that it provides a striking visual comparison to the small-minded divisiveness of the current dispensation. After all, if building a statue could magically make something true, Mr Modi has only to build statues of a giant toilet, a giant happy farmer, a giant empowered woman, a giant growth graph, and a giant, giant mandate.

Everyone knows what's going on here. Hindutva has no national heroes of its own since the RSS declined to participate in the struggle for independence, and few elsewhere since it is trying to shove Gandhi and Nehru into the shadows of history. Its efforts to manufacture a heroic aura around V D Savarkar have failed. It has decided to just do the efficient thing and adopt Sardar Vallabhai Patel, who comes pre-loaded with greatness and Shudra status, which as Knacha Ilaiah Shepherd points out, means that his legacy, relatively less written about, is more easily manipulable.

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Mumbai's Goa festival- 2019

I was happy to read about the 'Goa Festival -2019' held on February 9-10 at the Khar Gymkhana grounds, which showcased some of Goa's mouth-watering delicacies and a few other Goan items. This is an excellent way of promoting and keeping alive Goan tradition and culture in Mumbai which has always been home to the thousands of Goan settlers. The sad part of it however was the ban on beef and pork items which form an important part of Goan cuisine, and enjoyed by most Goans. Ask any Goan and he will tell you that, apart from the traditional 'xit'- kodi and fish, no meal or feast is complete without the mouth-watering 'Chouris'-pao, succulent pork chops and ribs, lip-smacking beef cutlet-pao, xacuti, and a number of Portugese- name dishes, which have been associated with Goan lifestyle and culture and acclaimed world- wide, besides earning for Goans the distinction of being among the best cooks and chefs of the world. In Goa, we have several of such food festivals all the year round , patronized by tourists (domestic and foreign) who relish Goan cuisine to the fullest and take home fond memories. It is a pity that Goans in Mumbai have to forego most of these delicacies at their food festivals due to food restrictions.

—A. F. Nazareth
Alto Porvorim

The Holy Mass... explained

What really happens during the Holy Mass..... ? There is a video going viral on social media, which tries to explain with the help of special effects, what really happens during the

Holy Mass, The glow both inside and outside the Church is such a beautiful sight. The sparkling glow at the time of consecration of the host & wine puts one in a different world. And the glow of light which sparkles from the behind the communicant as he moves out after having consumed the Body of Jesus, portrays that he is now 'one with Christ' and it is Christ glowing in him.

Everything is so beautifully portrayed in the video, but there is one thing that stands out, and that is, **the reverence with which the sacred hosts was shown to be distributed. One could see the reverence with which the minister holds up the host as the communicant approaches, saying "the Body of Christ" and it is only after the communicant says, "Amen", that the host is placed on the tongue or on the hand as the case may be.** Do we see this happening during distribution of Holy Communion at our Eucharistic celebrations, in our Churches ? That's something we need to think about

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

Terror attack in Pulwama

India is in mourning. We will not forget Valentine's Day Feb 14th 2019 when a terrorist vehicle laden with explosives was rammed into a bus carrying CRPF Jawans returning to duty. It was part of a convoy of 2500 men . All the details are in newspapers of 15th, 16th ,17th Feb 2019 and will be talked about in the ensuing days. There is a feeling of numbness when we dwell on the subject of the slaughter of the 40 men .They were sitting ducks for the terrorist manning the deadly vehicle carrying an arsenal of

explosives. They had not a chance of survival. They had no opportunity to display their prowess in battle.

It was sad to see the ceremonies on T.V. which were aired. I don't think there were any dry eyes among the people present at the venues where our martyrs were honoured. Our hearts go out to the families of the slain soldiers. They must be in terrible shock. Yet the father of one of the martyrs said he was ready to send out a second son to defend the country. Such spirit and bravery was never seen before.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has vowed to avenge the massacre. If he can do this before polling takes place he would be swept into power again. No question about that. However that is no easy task and must be well planned and carried out at an appropriate occasion and time. Failure is not an option. Our hearts must not get the better of our heads. The massacre at Pulwama has brought the people of India together solidly behind the Prime Minister. In this hour of grief political parties of whatever hue stand shoulder to shoulder with him.

In the ultimate analysis we must remember our brave soldiers who guard our frontiers. So many have given their lives so that we may sleep in peace. For our tomorrows they have ceded their lives. Their families must be looked after. This is our debt to them. JAI HIND.

—Albert C deSouza
(Bandra W)

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HIT & RUN

chhotebhai



by chhotebhai *

On the 14th February a fi-dayeen (suicide) bomber attacked a CRPF convoy of 78 vehicles transporting 2547 troopers. It was a hit that ran up a casualty figure of 45 at last count.

On the 15th February Prime Minister Modi flagged off Train 18, renamed Vande Bharat Express from New Delhi station. Its official number is 22435/22436. Railway Minister Piyush Goel, who travelled on it to Varanasi, described it as not just a hit, but a super hit. 130 more such rakes would be purchased, with neighbouring Bangladesh also expressing interest. In the meanwhile the Prime Minister ran off to Jhansi for a political rally.

On the 16th February at 5.30 a.m. came the next hit, 200 kms before New Delhi, near Tundla station. The superhit train hit a major roadblock, or rather a rail block, making the politicians and railway engineers run for cover. The superhit, superfast train's brakes jammed, the air-conditioning failed, the water finished and the speed was reduced to a 10 kmph crawl. The blame was quickly laid squarely on the sacred cow, which allegedly collided with the train. However, eyewitnesses did not see any evidence of a collision or damage to the front of the engine. Perhaps the cow was running faster than the 130 kmph of the train and so collided somewhere in the middle! What fervent imagination our spin doctors have! Would that their scientific innovation was as good.

The hit and run evoked sympathetic sighs of teething problems from party hacks, and derisive comments from the rest. Vande Bharat was described as a One Day Wonder. Vande Matararam was twisted into Vande Mattam (joy and sorrow). The majority of commentators felt that this was just one more election gimmick of a jumle-baj feku PM (one prone to boasts and rhetoric). It reminded me of the saying "Marry in haste and repent at leisure", as also the Hindi adage "Jaldi ka kaam shaitan ka kaam" (Hasty acts are the work of Satan).

The first stop of the super train on its inaugural run on the 15th was at my hometown Kanpur. I happened to be at Kanpur Central station at 7.00 a.m. that morning to see off my son. The steel benches on a major portion of platform No 1 had been uprooted and replaced with green (not red) carpets, luxury sofas and a huge stage was being bedecked with both artificial and fresh flowers. Later in the day when Goel hopped off the train for a 40 minute reception he delivered his superhit message, received with thunderous applause by dotting partymen. Fortunately some good sense prevailed and the ostentatious floral decorations were not put up, in deference to the dastardly attack at Pulwama the previous day.

The newly erected electronic display board was already malfunctioning. But I did manage to read that several trains had been cancelled that morning and "the inconvenience caused was deeply regretted". Why were so many long distance trains cancelled, when there was no fog to disrupt them? Had they also collided with sa-

cred cows? Were these cancellations needed to "convenience" the superhit train at the cost of inconveniencing the travelling public? If that were indeed the case then I for one am not convinced of such a need.

Is the nation paying a heavy price for Modi's inordinate haste from Pulwama to Tundla? Is all this part of the Doval Doctrine, originating from his supernova National Security Advisor, Ajit Doval? Political analysts have attributed several hasty strikes to this source. The first strike was on a terrorist camp of tribals near Manipur border in neighbouring Myanmar. Attack helicopters armed to the teeth with sophisticated weaponry made an early morning swoop on the tribals unsuspectingly sleeping in their tents. Govt votaries boasted that this was proof of the PM's 56 inch chest, with more in the offing.

Then we had the surgical strike after which the movie "Uri" was made, boasting of the josh (fervour) that taught a lesson to the enemy. But Pulwama is the latest proof that it is we who have not learnt our lessons. Now we have lost our 'hosh' (knocked senseless). These strikes bear a striking resemblance to the late night demonetisation move followed by an equally hastily promulgated GST move, and then the midnight swoop on the CBI offices. The country is now paying a heavy price for this misplaced ardour and adventurism.

I wonder if the Father of the Nation is keeping a watchful eye from above. The day that Modi hoped to steal the thunder with his unveiling of the Sar-

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(Contd.. from p. 6)

dar Patel statue, another Patel, Urjit, resigned as the RBI Governor, grabbing the headlines. This time the much vaunted super train got derailed by Pulwama and Tundla. Is the old man up there having the last laugh at his fellow Gujarati Bhai?

Years ago when there was a rail accident, then Railway Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri had resigned; as did then U.P. Chief Minister V.P. Singh when his brother was shot dead. Both lost nothing but went on to become Prime Ministers of the country. Now why aren't the Home, Defence and Railway Ministers resigning? Will they pass the buck and put the blame on some non descript clerk or lowly bureaucrat?

And why all this Paki bashing? Mayawati has rightly called these candle light marches and maintaining of two minutes silence an eyewash. I endorse her appeal to Modi, "Forget your electoral self-interest and divisive politics. Get together with like minded and peace loving countries" to find a lasting solution to Kashmir and terrorism.

My son, whom I was seeing off that morning, had recently cycled for three months in Kashmir, including Kargil, the Pakistan and China borders. He found the people in remote villages warm and friendly. There was no animosity towards India. Why then can we not live in peace and harmony, without antagonising one another?

It is time for Modi to jettison the Doval Doctrine. He cannot ride roughshod over people, just because he enjoys a brute majority in parliament. He still has a couple of months to mend his ways. The country doesn't want more of Pulwama or Tundla. We don't want hit and run leaders. Nor do we want tall statues, but tall leaders, who can stand up and be counted.

**The writer is a social activist and political analyst*

Archbishop Dr Peter Machado Condoles Bereaved Families of Pulwama Martyrs

Bengaluru: "The world stood still in a state of great shock as the horrific attack that killed over 40 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel and many others injured when terrorists targeted a convoy with a car bomb at Awantipora in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama District on February 14, in what is considered as the worst attack ever on security personnel in the state", stated the Metropolitan Archbishop of Bengaluru Dr Peter Machado in a press release on February 16.

Archbishop Dr Peter Machado further stated, "Needless to say, the attack on CRPF personnel in Pulwama is despicable. We strongly condemn this dastardly attack. The sacrifices of our brave security personnel should not go in vain. The need of the hour is to remain in unity, and exercise resilience against all the provocations

of the enemy".

Our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families of the brave soldiers. Saddened and shocked of the cowardly attack on our CRPF Jawan's, the Bishops, the Priests, Religious Sisters and the lay faithful of the entire Christian community of Karnataka join the nation and the families of the brave martyrs in this hour of pain and sorrow.

We also wish and pray that the injured soldiers may quickly recover, gain good health and join their dear families at the earliest.

May the souls of the departed brave hearts, Rest in Peace.

Most Rev. Dr. Peter Machado
Metropolitan Archbishop of
Bangaluru

'St Anthony's Marg' at Amboli, Andheri West

On Tuesday, January 15, 2019, the road, off Jai Bhavani Mata Road to Yagnik Nagar at Amboli, Andheri West, was named as 'St Anthony's Marg' in the presence of church, civic and political representatives and a large number of people who had come to witness the event. Mr. Titus D'Souza, an ALM member, was instrumental in getting the nod for the same from the civic and political authorities. The chief guests were warmly welcomed with a huge procession and the commemorative road signboards with the name were unveiled to great applause. People

of all faiths had gathered to witness this event. The chief guest, Mr. Gajanan Kirtikar (MP) addressed the gathering, mentioning that during his tenure of being invited to inaugurate road naming ceremonies as a MP, he has never witnessed any ceremony as magnanimous, celebratory and participative as this one and assured those present of their availability for any redressal of grievances in the future through the local Municipal Councillor, Mrs, Shaheda Haroon Khan

—Merwyn DSouza

WHETHER THE UNITY OF INDIA WOULD BE THREATENED BY GRANTING MORE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC POWER TO THE STATES?

by Eric D'Sa

Whether granting more power to the States and limiting those of the Centre could threaten the unity of India? This is being debated at a time when more and more power appears to be vested in just one, two or at most a handful of people at the centre. As Gujarat Chief Minister, Narendra Modi often complained that the Central government was sitting too heavily on the States. Recently, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee alleged that "India's federal structure is being bulldozed by the unilateral, arbitrary action of the Centre." Mamta Banerjee has often espoused the idea that the powers of the Central government should be limited to a few areas like external affairs and defence. This may be the reason why the special status that has been given under the constitution to J & K state, has created so much unsolvable problems since Independence.

Muhammad Ali Jinnah too had wanted it that way to safeguard the political rights of the Moslem community. It and the communal electorates that was being demanded by a few other political leaders belonging to the Sikhs, Dalits etc at that time, was something which the Congress had quite rightly rejected,

paving the way unfortunately for Partition in 1947. Promoting the federal idea now, merely to counter Narendra Modi, will be disastrous for the Nation. Any more power to the States would mean making Central authority weaker. At the same time care has to be taken that the limited autonomy that has been given to the states is not further abrogated by the centre. It is delicate balance of power between centre and states as enshrined in the Constitution of India, that is holding the country together. The constituent parts have the most to gain from this — a big common mar-

ket with the free movement of labour, for instance. Realising this, even large regional parties like the DMK and the RJD, while not ready to cede power on home ground, have shown a strong preference for a Congress-led coalition like the UPA in the past to replace the Modi-led NDA.

Constitutionally, India is a Union, not a federation of States, with a Central government empowered to intervene in State affairs in several ways and even split them if demanded by a large section of its people in the state, which they

have done from time to time in the past. As a matter of fact as there is a need for better governance, that some of the larger states are in need to be bifurcated. There is an unstated bias in the Constitution for national-level parties to run the Central government. Non-Congress, non-BJP parties have held power at the Centre for less than five of the 71 years since Independence. The first of these in 1977 lasted a mere two years and 126 days; the others did not last even a year. It is obvious that the country could see off threats and achieve significant all-round progress only under firm Central control with parties having a pan-India appeal in power, by themselves, or as the strongest constituents of coalitions at the Centre. The most dismal periods were when squabbling coalitions ran the Central government.

**YOU THE CITIZENS
DECIDE:**

Although India is not a federation, the country's Constitution has, in the Rajya Sabha, ensured a strong forum for the States. It is a tribute to this institution that the NDA, despite having an overwhelming majority in the Lok Sabha, has not been allowed to have its way all the time. May be as the number of states keep increasing to meet the diversity that makes large sections in big states to demand a bifurcation, as happened with Andhra Pradesh splitting into two states, the role of the Rajya Sabha would be strengthened. More representation of non political organisations would be given in it. There may be a change in the law which will make the political party whip be used only when a non confidence motion against the government has to be voted and for passing the Finance Bill of the yearly budget. Rest of the times the MPs may have means of asserting the views of their constituency before voting.

Added to this, the Constitution also created a powerful Supreme Court that

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checks the Central government from arbitrary exercise of its authority. The people would have to guard the selection process of Judges to the Supreme Court is not meddled by the either the Executives or the Legislature wing. As a matter of fact if at all any changes have to be done, it is to ensure the hold by the Legislature over the Executive through the Cabinet will be gradually reduced by providing the Executive the required safeguards. The selection of heads of Institutions such as the CBI, the armed forces, the RBI etc will not be left to the sole discretion of the Legislature. This is about as far as India can go and yet expect to stay together as a nation..

As Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru most feared the “fissiparous tendencies” that could break India. It was to safeguard against such a possibility that he ensured the Constitution stopped well short of casting India as a federation. Time has shown how right he was. BJP has been constantly criticising the first PM of India. They need to thank him for ensuring the centre is sufficiently strong to keep the unity of the country intact and at the same time there are number checks and balances to ensure the PM that rules it, does not become a dictator, which Nehru could have easily become. Hence while for democracy to function well a two party system may be ideal, You the Citizens should at least ensure that strong political groups such as the UPA or NDA which has a party with a pan India appeal in it is elected to ensure good governance of the nation.

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' Curb clerical abuse '

With reference to A F Nazareth's letter titled : Church guidelines to check clerical abuse in THE SECULAR CITIZEN dated MONDAY , 18 FEBRUARY , 2019 -SUNDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2019 priests and bishops who indulge in sexual abuse and remain unpunished are wolves in sheep clothing and fake priests and bishops who lead double lives and those priests and bishops who cover up their sexual abuse or physically destroy any evidence of it to avoid punishment lack a conscience and cannot be trusted.

Suppression of any protests by nuns by priests and bishops that highlight sexual abuse committed on them when it is proved by clear cut evidence can only make the situation worse and will encourage even more priests and bishops to indulge in even more sexual abuse.

Thus these priests and bishops by their very nature cannot be good moral models to inspire other priests and bishops and the laity to lead good and holy lives and will give the church a bad name and instead of saving souls by gaining more converts will certainly result in disillusioned Roman Catholics leaving the Roman Catholic Church and joining other Christian sects where they find true and lasting spiritual tranquillity bliss ,holiness and satisfaction to lead good and meaningful lives .

So one must curb clerical abuse and permanently and immediately without fail fearlessly dismiss and drive out phedophiles ,homosexuals and lesbians etc who must have absolutely no place in a church which needs to be rejuvenated .

—Peter Castellino

' Do not derecognize the Vatican '

With reference to the article-cum-report titled : Magazine asks India to derecognize the Vatican in THE SECULAR CITIZEN dated MONDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2019 - SUNDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2019 if unfortunately the Vatican is derecognised by India then an indefinite boycott of parliament and all the elected state bodies and municipalities is necessary to bring the government to its senses and remove the derecognition.

A move to derecognise the Vatican is undemocratic and autocratic and also foolish and idiotic and thus cannot be tolerated under any circumstances.

A close watch must be kept on the other heinous activities of this magazine which had the audacity to make this suggestion so that the secular forces can isolate it and track down its supporters and ultimately snuff it out and deal it a quick ,effective and harsh death blow because magazines of this type only serve to promote propoganda communalism and a theocracy at any cost and do not entertain inform and educate the people.

It is thus important that we do not derecognize the Vatican.

—Peter Castellino

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#IWD2019 #BalanceforBetter

by DR. HAZEL COLASO

“Where there is respect for women, there will be the presence of the Divine” – Vedas. Women’s empowerment was at its peak in ancient India. Women could discuss topics that were considered taboo in today’s society. They even had the right to choose their prospective spouse among a group of men – *Swayamvaram*, meaning, “One’s Own Choice”!

International Woman’s Day (IWD)

Theme: It is celebrated on 08 March annually as *Woman’s Day!* And especially observed also as the *‘United Nations Day for Woman’s Rights and International Peace’!* It is a global Day which remembers the social, economic, cultural and political contributions and achievements of women. The Day also marks a call for action to accelerate gender parity!

The Theme for this year 2019 is: *#BalanceforBetter!* The first IWD was observed over a century ago in 1911. This year, more than ever, I ask every woman to express her, *‘Balance for Better’!* Yes, more than an equality that is grudgingly doled out! So pose confidently for the better; especially in the areas of every human dignity, status, activity, pay, life, etc.; chiefly in the fields of *STEM* – Sport, Technology, Economy, Medicine! – so that you may become in every avenue a *FAME* – in Family, Art, Merchandise, Education!

Jesus’ Unique Approach Towards Women:

Based on the Gospel accounts, Biblical scholars have acknowledged Jesus’ views on women as nothing short of revolutionary; “so much so that many women disciples provided for Him out of their own resources” (*Luke 8:3*). Jesus raised the status of women, by putting the husband under the same obligation as the wife, by rejecting the prevailing Rabbinical tradition that allowed men the sole right to divorce their wives; “and by rejecting the concept of divorce by labeling it as adultery”(cf. *Mark 10:11; Luke 16:18*).

Jesus also took His personal time to teach women; in contrast to the Jewish custom which kept women in ignorance – “By refusing to deprive Mary the joy of being instructed by Him; in fact the better part which shall not be taken from her” (*Luke 10:38-42*), than being solely in the kitchen. Mary’s sister Martha also benefited from Jesus’ coaching, as shown by her intelligent answer to Jesus after Lazarus’ death; prompting Jesus to declare *“I AM the Resurrection and the Life”!* And through this affirmation Martha announced, “Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God” (*John 11:17-27*)!

Also at the time of Jesus, most Jewish women believed that the key to happiness was to have a son. But Jesus demonstrated that a little girl’s life is equally vital and decisive as a boy’s, by resurrecting Jairus’ daughter, and healing a woman of chronic hemorrhages (*Mark 5:21-43*) So, when a woman cried out: “Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts that nursed you! Jesus replied, Blessed rather are those who hear the Word of God and obey it” (*Luke 11:27-28*). Mary, Jesus’ mother, was the first who pondered them in her heart” (*Luke 2:19, 51*).

Jesus also conversed with outcasts, like the Samaritan woman at the well. She became the first non-Jewish woman evangelist! “Many Samaritans believed in Jesus because of her testimony; and came to believe truly that Jesus is the Savior of the world” (*John 4:39-42*)!

Peter and Paul Proclaim Dignity for Women:

St. Paul exhorts: “husbands love your wives, just as Christ loved the Church and gave Himself up for her” (*Ephesians 5:25*). “Speak to older women as mothers, to younger women as sisters – with absolute purity; and honor also true widows” (*1 Timothy 5:1-3*). St. Paul also acknowledges women as talented individuals who have received the gift of tongues and prophecy (*refer 1 Corinthians Chapter 14*).

St. Peter also admonishes: “Husbands show consideration for your wives in your mutual married life, paying her honor as the weaker sex, since they too are heirs to the precious gift of life” (*1 Peter 3:7*).

CNN’s Top 6 Females for 2018! *Cable news network (CNN) had named ‘Top 10 Individuals For 2018’, four males and six females. Allow me to randomly portray the six females:*

1. Abisoye Ajayi-Akinfolarin: This computer programmer started a free non-profit computer project in Lagos. It is run by *Pearls Africa Foundation*, which helps girls to escape poverty by teaching computer coding skills.

2. Amanda Boxel: Her nonprofit, *Bridging Bionics*, near Aspen, Colorado, provides free or low-cost physical therapy which enables some patients to do something Doctors never believed possible – to walk again!

3. Susan Munsey: Her San Diego, California based nonprofit, *Generate-Hope*, offers a safe place where survivors of ‘sex-trafficking’ heal themselves, in order to build new lives – through long-term housing, education and healthcare.

4. Florence Phillips: This ‘Peace Corps’ veteran’s nonprofit, *ESL In-Home* program of Northern Nevada, equips immigrants with free classes on citizenship, computer skills, and English as a second language.

5. Maria Rose Belding: She helped develop a free online platform called *MEANS*, which connects businesses that have extra food, to channel them to charities that feed the hungry. Run largely by students, this food agency has redistributed more than 1.8 million pounds of food!

6. Ellen Stackable: This teacher’s nonprofit, *PoeticJustice*, undertakes classes for woman at Oklahoma prison; where inmates meditate and learn how to find healing through poetry, creative writing and art.

Conclusion: As God’s Word encourages: “Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all. / Give women a share in the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the city gates” (*Proverbs – Ode to a Capable Wife, 31:29/31*).

How often should you change your toothbrush?

It's easy to know when to replace worn out shoes or faded clothes. But how often should you change your toothbrush? It all depends on your usage, health and preferences. Before you brush again, ask yourself whether it's time for a new toothbrush.

It's not a great sin if you don't remember the last time you replaced your toothbrush. Replace toothbrushes every 3 to 4 months. Consider getting a new toothbrush sooner if you have been sick, especially if the toothbrush is stored close to other toothbrushes. When in doubt, look at the bristles. If they are frayed, they won't clean teeth as thoroughly. Because children often brush more rigorously than adults, they may need their toothbrushes replaced more often.

Why do I have to replace my toothbrush?

Your toothbrush is a nest for more than 10 million germs and bacteria. It is a breeding ground for various microorganisms. However, before you ditch your toothbrush, you should know that these tiny microorganisms aren't damaging to your health, as long as you give your toothbrush some time to dry after each usage.

What are the types of toothbrushes?

There are two styles of toothbrushes to consider: manual and electric. Choose what feels comfortable for you, and makes you want to brush your teeth regularly. A manual toothbrush is portable and ready to use every time you need it. It makes no noise, and you will have complete control over the pressure it puts on your teeth and gums.

An electric toothbrush requires charging and is a bit more cumbersome to



take along when traveling. However, the rotating movement of the bristles makes it easier to clean between teeth and at the gum line. Many electric toothbrushes have built-in sensors to make sure you brush long enough and don't press too hard.



What is the best way to maintain a toothbrush?

No matter which type of toothbrush you use, keep it clean. The American Dental Association recommends rinsing the toothbrush under tap water after you brush to wash away lingering toothpaste and saliva. Then, store the toothbrush in an upright position, with the bristles positioned so they can air dry. Storing a toothbrush in a closed container can cause bacteria to build up, so it's best to let the bristles of the toothbrush fully dry between each usage. If you're traveling, consider using disposable toothbrushes during the trip.

How do I remember to make the change?

Some toothbrushes have bristles that change colors to indicate they've worn out -- a glaring reminder it's time to buy a new brush. Often there is a blue section that you'll see disappear as you continue to use the brush. The lower the blue gets, the closer you are to replacing the brush.

It may seem exaggerate and unnatural to you, but the toothpastes could be piled up with around 10 million bacteria including Escherichia coli and staphylococcus. Normally, besides changing it, it is also important where you keep it.

Even if you do a regular changing of toothbrushes, bear in mind that you need to be cautious when you choose a toothpaste i.e. the best choice are the ones which contain trilocsan/copolymer, because these substances are efficient in killing bacteria.

From time to time, clean your toothbrush with an antibacterial liquid for mouth rinsing, or even wash it in the dishwasher in order to sterilize it. Never keep it in a plastic toothbrush case, since the moisture after using maintains for a longer period and bacteria development rises.

Sting operation by BCS Vikhroli Unit

The Bombay Catholic Sabha, Vikhroli Unit under the leadership of Mr. Robert D'souza Vice President and Mr. Mario Rodrigues Chairperson of the Vikhroli Unit carried out a sting operation at LTT Kurla Terminus on 7th Feb. early chilly morning at 5.45 am .

Total 12 vikhroli Unit members including four female members took the initiative to expose the corrupt auto/taxi mafia. The media was also informed and Mid-day reporters along-with cameramen were a part of the operation.

It was not a easy job to carry out this sting operation since we received many complaints from people and recently one of our parishioner a retired teacher Mrs. Cecilia Dcosta was harassed and forced to shell out extra money . She was returning from Mangalore by Matsyaganda Express and when she alighted at LTT platform No. 4 she was stopped by some auto/taxi drivers right side the platform no.4 and harassed and

forced to hand over her baggage and accompany them out of the station. She was charged a bomb of Rs. 300/-



to reach her destination to Vikhroli Our team of 12 members including 4 ladies carrying baggage were approached by these unauthorized and

illegal taxi/auto-walas right inside the platform and were harassing them to sit in their vehicle. These people do not have any permission to enter the platform nor do they wear uniform or badge with them. There is no GRP or RPF to handle the situation This is a very scary situation and we dont know when another ESTHER like situation might take place.

On 5th Jan. 2014, Esther, a 23 year old software engineer with Tata Consultancy Services, was offered a lift by Sanap on his motorcycle from Lokmanya Tilak Terminus to her hostel in Andheri west. Sanap raped and murdered Esther, and later burnt and disposed of her body in a desolate spot on the Eastern Express Highway near Bhandup, before driving away. At that time The Bombay Catholic Sabha had taken out a massive protest rally from Vikhroli to the spot of crime and demanded immediate justice and the guilty to be punished with a memorandum to the Railway Police at Kurla.

—Mario Rodrigues
Chairperson
BCS Vikhroli Unit

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Say this prayer nine times for nine days and Your prayers will be answered by the eight day.

—Gerald J. D'Souza & Family, Vasai

Scholarship every engineering student should know about

ENGINEERING IS ONE of the most preferred professional courses but as education is becoming expensive, many are unable to afford to pursue engineering. Here are a few scholarships for engineering students

There are many scholarships awarded to engineering students by the government and private institutes, which ensure that financial issues and other obstacles do not affect their studies and promote quality technical education. Take a look.

Siemens Scholarship Program by Siemens India :

Siemens India's Siemens Scholarship Program' also provides financial support to meritorious engineering students of government engineering colleges; 50 percent of scholarships are reserved for girls. Applicant's family income must not exceed Rs 2

lakh pa. First-year students with minimum 60 percent marks in Class-10 and 50 percent aggregate in Class- 12 (60 percent PCM aggregate) can apply. The scholarship comprises tuition fee reimbursement and allowances for books, stationery and hostel.

Pragati Scholarship Scheme' for girl students :

The Ministry of HRD offers the Pragati Scholarship Scheme for meritorious girl students wishing to take admission in AICTE-approved technical institutes for graduation. The Center annually awards 4,000 Pragati scholarship. An amount of up to Rs.30000 for tuition fee and Rs. 20000 per academic year as incidental charges is provided. The student's family income shouldn't exceed Rs 8 lakh pa.

The FAEA-BHEL Scholarship scheme for socially and economi-

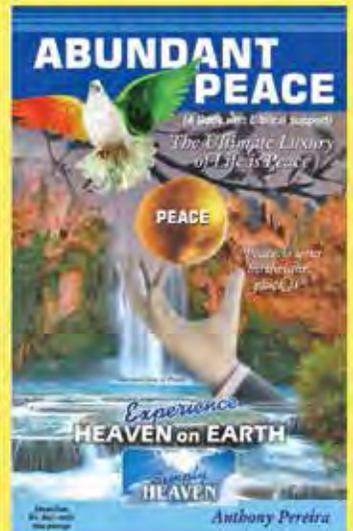
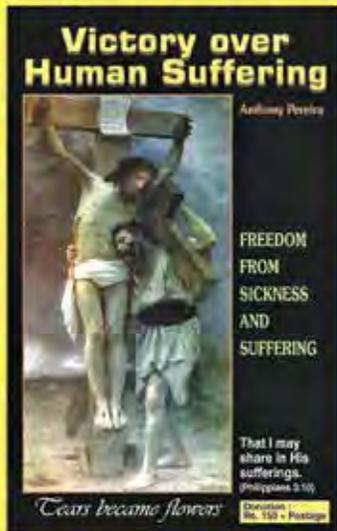
cally weaker sections :

The state run Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) and Foundation for Academic Excellence and Access (FAEA) award scholarships for students from socially, economically weaker backgrounds. Those wishing to pursue undergraduate technical or professional courses (maximum 5 years' duration), including engineering, from any college or institute or university are eligible. Shortlisted students are selected after interviews. Full cost of study plans might be covered, including tuition, hostel or mess charges.

A merit based scholarship awarded by HRD Ministry :

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Kolkata celebrates The XXVII World Day of the Sick with great fervour

by Dominic And Sybil Azavedo

THE INAUGURATION

9 February, 2019: The celebrations of the XXVII World Day of the Sick (WDS) began with the inauguration ceremony. In a royal entrance in the crowded yet reverential silence of the Fr. Depelchin Auditorium of St. Xavier's College, by two Princes of the Church: Patrick Cardinal D'Rozario, Archbishop of Dhaka and Papal Envoy for WDS and Peter Cardinal Kodwo Appiah Turkson of Ghana, Prefect of the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, accompanied by Dr. Shashi Panja, Minister of State for Women & Child Development and Social Welfare; Archbishop Prakash Mallavarapu of Vishakhapatnam, Chairman, CBCI Office for Healthcare; Archbishop Thomas D'Souza of Calcutta; Msgr. Javier D. Fernández G., Counsellor, Apostolic Nunciature, India; Sr. Mary Prema Pierick, Superior General of the Missionaries of Charity and Dr. (Fr.) Dominic Savio SJ, Principal and Rector of St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata. Once the dignitaries were seated, Dr. Charlotte Simpson Veigas, Vice-Principal (Educa-



tion), St. Xavier's College, mentioned the prime reason of the Day of Sick being celebrated in Kolkata, with Pope Francis words that St. Teresa of Kolkata exemplified in a sublime manner – the love and care for the poorest of the poor and downtrodden, the homeless, the lepers, the crippled, the sick and the dying and all those who are crucified – without distinction of language, cul-

ture, ethnicity or religion.

The girls of St. Xavier's College then performed a prayer dance on the "Shanti Mantra" and a bhajan "Vaishnavachana To" which put the audience in a mood fitting the solemn occasion. Thereafter, during the welcome address of Archbishop Thomas D'souza, the dignitaries were invited onstage and felicitated with utteros, bouquets and mementos.

Patrick Cardinal D'Rozario in his Presidential Address thanked the Holy Father for appointing him his Envoy to the 27th World Day of the Sick and said that they were trying to mainstream the poor, sick and the downtrodden and the celebration should touch everybody because the Church is open to everybody. He reminded the audience about the theme of the celebration, namely: "Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give" (Mt 10, 8).

Quoting Pope Francis, the Cardinal said, "Mother Teresa, in all aspects of her life, was a generous dispenser of divine mercy, making herself available for everyone through her welcome and defence of human life, of those unborn and those abandoned and discarded..."

Peter Cardinal Turkson, spoke on the Pope's Francis' Theology of Accom-

paniment and the call to witness God. He said that the Church had a mission to see and follow human beings in their weakness, fragileness, sickness; and visit them, bringing the healing touch of the Lord. The Cardinal recalled that at the recent World Economic Forum at Davos, the church made its presence felt on the concept of love and care and drew the attention of



those attending the Forum about the poor and marginalized. "We should not make the less fortunate feel abandoned", he said.

Dr. Shashi Panja, Minister of State, Government of West Bengal, thanked the Pope for choosing Kolkata to celebrate the World Day of the Sick. She said that Mother Teresa is the Mother of our City. She was touched by the work done by the Church for the poor and neglected, expressed her happiness in two Cardinals coming for the occasion in the city and extended her best wishes for the success of the celebration.

Archbishop Prakash Mallavarapu of Vishakhapatnam, Chairman, CBCI Office for Health Care, proposed the Vote of Thanks, and the inaugural session ended with the fluttering of the National Flag in the background and with all singing the National Anthem.

After a tea break, where the dignitaries were hosted by the Jesuit community of St. Xavier's; the rest of those who had come to witness the inauguration were given snacks and a soft drink, too.

THE SEMINAR

The WDS Seminar, an invitation-only programme for delegates, was conducted in three distinct sessions. The Plenary Session which followed was on the Theological Foundations of the Healing Ministry. Rev. (Dr) Joy Kakkanattu, CMI, who spe-

(Contd.. on p. 15)

(Contd.. from p. 14)

cializes in Biblical Theology in Dharmaram College, Bangalore, enlightened us on the historical perspective of the healing ministry of the Church. He drew parallels emphasizing that Jesus commanded his followers to heal the sick and alluded that Salvation and Healing were integrally related and must be considered as a whole. Jesus not only cured physical ailments but restored dignity too, he stressed. Peter Cardinal Turkson spoke on Pope Francis's Theology of Accompaniment and the call to witness of God. He said that God, the healer, speaks to us in scriptures so that we understand the actions as God's agents to eliminate pain and suffering. He also alluded that true power is service to the sick and needy. Archbishop Prakash Mallavarapu spoke on the response of the Church to Cardinal Turkson's Call in today's context. He said that despite the severe challenges that they face, the healing ministry ploughs on and strives to meet expectations. Today, the Church is more sacramental and supportive all over the world.

The next session was on the New Charter for Health Care Workers. Fr. Christopher M. Mahar in his introductory talk said that integral human development is necessary in health care. The Church is today more open to those who work with Health Care Services, emphasizing human life and human dignity. People who take care should know what they care for. He spoke on (1) Procreating. Science and technology in the lives of the unborn. 1 in 5 couples are unable to have children. Fertility goes along with health care and human dignity. (2) Unity of Marriage – where the couple can ask a 3rd person to donate an ovum. There is fear to have a child. We have to assist a marital act and regularize it. We have to show the Christian meaning of human suffering saying that Jesus is drawing close and offering the salvation for the soul.

The last afternoon session "Ministry to the Marginalized Sick" was very enlightening because the speakers showed through their talk how in a practical way, they were showing kindness, empathy and dedication towards those suffering. Sr Mary Prema Pierick, Superior General of the Missionaries of Charity, spoke of Mother Teresa's unconditional and deep love for the poorest of the poor, the sick, the unwanted and the marginalized. Sr. Prema

emphasized how Mother Teresa tended to the wounded, bowed down before those who were spent and left to die on the road - seeing in them their God-given dignity. Mother through her works, made her voice heard before the powers of this world. For Mother Teresa, mercy was the 'salt' which gave flavour to her work; it was the 'light' that shone in the darkness of the many who no longer had tears to shed for their poverty and suffering. Her mission to the urban and existential peripheries remains for us today an eloquent witness to God's closeness to the poorest of the poor".

Mr. Jacob Chacko, a practicing architect who has given more than 1000 building projects is the founder and Secretary of "Sanman Society" which helps cancer patient in their emotional and financial support. He is also the founder of "Save lives", a social awareness NGO which gives awareness to society and brings in volunteers for selfless work to help the needy and marginalized. He is also the Founder of "Jesus Holistic Healing Ministry" which reaches to villages and slums to share the message of Christ to uplift them. His ZCKK (Zonal Coordination Committee) helps in organ transplantation in Karnataka and helps in getting blood for patients in times of emergency. He is a member of the Indian Cancer Society which has awareness programmes; and is a member of "Ash-wasan" which takes care of the elderly.

Fr. Mathew Thudathil spoke about "Friends and Birds of the Air" (FBA), a lay people group, driven to look after the destitute, beggars and mentally retarded, sharing with them their property, and loving the homeless and wounded. They lead an ascetic life of the laity and daily depend on Divine Providence by being sons and daughters of the Eucharist. There were members of this group in the audience. Fr. Mathew called Mr Anto Varghese and his wife Rani on the stage and they shared their experiences.

Brother Madhu spoke about his connection with Mother Teresa and the MC Brothers. In 2004, he started Sneha Daan in Bangalore. They now got 300 centres for HIV patients especially children.

Dr. Sandip Mitra spoke about KRIPA which rehabilitates alcohol and drug addicts. He said that there are seven and half core drug addicts in India.

The day ended with the celebration of the Eucharist in Mother House chapel. Archbishop Thomas D'Souza of Kolkata who was the main celebrant with the two Cardinals at his side, in his homily said: that we have to build a counter-culture. The counter culture must be of tenderness and love as shown in the pictures where our Holy Father Francis went and held the sick and those with repulsion. It reminded the congregation that the reading of the day said that we all have to be sensitive to others following Jesus' example who wept at the tomb of Lazarus, touched the lepers and cured them when the world at that time, detested them. The museum, the rooms, etc., in Mother House show us how Mother Teresa saw the relationship to reach those who are suffering remembering Jesus' words: "whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Archbishop Thomas concluded by telling that we should pray that Jesus gives us a generous heart to walk generously and walk humbly.

IMPORTANT DELEGATES

The delegates from the Vatican were: Cardinal Peter K. Appiah Turkson, Prefect; Sr. Mariola Stawasz SSpS, Ex. Sec. Com, PHC; Fr. Nicola Riccardi, Undersecretary; Officials: Fr. Joshtrom Kureethadam, Msgr. Charles Namugera, Msgr. Dariusz Giers, Msgr. Bernard Munono, Fr. Christopher Mahar, Dr. Claudia di Lorenzi, Sr. Juliana Gomes Resende, Fr. Arnaldo Pangrazzi, MI, Dr. Piero Uroda (FIPC), Dr. Geraldine McSweeney and Dr. Bernard Ars (FIAMC), Fr. Guido Trezzani, Caritas Kazakhstan.

The Bishops who came were: Abp. Joshua Mar Ignathios, Vice President, CBCI; Abp. Prakash Mallavarapu, MI Bangalore; Mons. Javier D Fernandez, New Delhi; Bp. Thomas Thuruthimattam CST, Gorakhpur; Bp. Clement Turkey, Jalpaiguri; Bp Emmanuel Kerketta, Jashpur; Bp Simon Kaipuram CM, Balasore; Abp Felix Toppo, Ranchi; Bp John Vadakel, Syro-malab, Bp. Alex Vaddakkumthala, Kannur; Bp Stephen Lepcha, Darjeeling; Bp Joseph Arumachadath; Bp Lumen Monteiro, Agartala; Bp Cyprian Monis, Asansol; Bp Vincent Aind, Bagdogra; Bp Fulgence A. Tigga, Raiganj; Bp Salvatore Lobo, Baruipur. There were Sisters and lay delegates from Korea 2; Taiwan 1; Bangladesh 12; Myanmar 2.

The Scourge And Fabrication About Abortion

Human beings are of immense value to each other, the planet and all the good it provides. Life is the obligation women bear to bring new life into the world. When a child is aborted women suffer more than men and loved ones. A miscarriage is never her fault and her mind, body and spirit accepts the fact, it was beyond her control.

India's Roman Catholics are over 13 million or approximately 1.8% of the country's 1 billion and more people. Abortion takes a heavy toll when centered on traditions, false-belief, religion, cults and politics. To abort a child in the womb is to kill a human being.

Abortion is a crime against humanity. There is no such thing as a woman's right to destroy a living child in her womb. Yes, freedom, clean water, clean air and the right of expression is advocated across the globe, and is a birthright for all. Aborting a living fetus from the womb is guilt-ridden and disturbing. Abortion is a scourge and some women suffer convulsions somewhat like epilepsy.

Fabrications used as anti-abortion was first drawn to my attention when I read the article from Amnesty International "The Gender Trap" by Peter Benenson. It was an abortion presentation with a few wrong notions, contrived suggestions, and the idea that decriminalizing abortion was to preserve the precepts of mortality.

In the body of his article Benenson talks of girls from 10-14 years of age in Nicaragua are raped and made pregnant even in incest-relationships. He tried to prove it by statistics.

It is said that the word "abortion" is not in the Holy Bible. That is true, but it is also true that there are many lessons to teach against abortion. For that matter the word "Trinity" is not to be found in the Bible. Yet, we know that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit form the Trinity; three persons in one God. "Truly children are a gift from the Lord; the fruit of the womb is a reward" (Psalm127:3).

The scourge of abortion began with the ritual of blood sacrifice demanded by the pagan God Moloch for child victims at worship. We find the beast in the Old Covenant (Lev 18:21, 20:2-5. Again in 1 Kings 11:5-33; 2 Kings 23:13 and in Zephaniah 1:5). The devil appears in many cultures (Carthaginian, Phoenician, Celt, Aztec, Indian and is found in many forms).



BY MELVYN BROWN

In our modern times he is worshipped in abortion.

Let us try to understand the sickness and plague of abortion which will help in putting an end to this terrible holocaust of murder and destruction to innocent unborn lives. Through prayers and penance may we cover this evil demon with the precious Blood of Christ. Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" (Jn.10:10).

Abortion is not a simple thing and the theories advocating abortion, not to feel guilty is absolutely wrong. Expecting women should never be brainwashed with incorrect ideas and with the strong words used in debates struggling to win support for their evil dreams of 'control and rule'.

Clinically speaking, when a woman who is carrying thinks of abortion it harms her child in the womb. The mental trauma and the feelings

of doubt and guilt can bring about psycho-somatic problems. Her very thoughts affect the growing fetus. The unborn child feels the rejection and those who are saved from being aborted grow up with deviant behavior and a sick mental outlook on reality in life.

In one true life experience, 26 years of age mother in London was advised by her doctor to have an abortion so her cancer could be treated. A few days later a miracle took place when the fetus kicked the tumor in his mother's womb and saved her life. 27 weeks later both mother and her new-born child were discharged on the same day.

When things look their worst there is always a silver-lining somewhere. It is recorded that 1.21 million abortions take place each year in America. Millions more suffer the trauma of abortion across the world, especially in Third World countries. The silver-lining is always there when God puts us to the test – to abort or not to.

Those brave women who refuse to abort the child in their womb have given us celebrities, heroes, leaders, men and women of inspiration and admiration.

Pope John Paul 11 had a narrow escape from being aborted. His mother had been advised to have an abortion after the recent death of her daughter after birth. The courageous woman defied her doctor's order and brought into the world a Pope and a Saint.

Abraham Lincoln became the first President of the United States of America. Celine Dion's mother gives credit to the good advice of her parish priest. The singer Cher is another gift from God with many more celebrities, because of someone who would not let an innocent child be aborted.

Inspiration!

Attitude improvement tool kit for you

BUILDING A POSITIVE energy from within is very essential to have a positive attitude towards life. This article provides you with such a tool kit essential for improving your attitude.

If you truly want to be successful, your number one task should be to create and maintain a positive attitude. When you've got an attitude of optimism, expectancy and enthusiasm, opportunities grow and problems shrink. Add this improvement kit to your life and live well

Self-motivation through discovering your motives :

Discover what motivates you, incites you to take action to change your life. Basic motives include love, self-preservation, anger, financial gain and fear. Self-motivation requires enthusiasm, a positive outlook, a positive physiology and a belief in yourself.

Self-coaching through affirmations :

Affirmations repeated several times each day, every day, serve to reprogram your subconscious with positive thinking. An affirmation is made up of words charged with power, conviction and faith. You send a positive physiology and a belief in yourself.

Self-coaching through affirmations :

Affirmations repeated several times each day, every day, serve to reprogram your subconscious with positive thinking. An affirmation is made up of words charged with power, conviction and faith. You send a positive response to your subconscious, which accepts whatever you tell it. When done properly, this triggers positive feelings that, in turn, drives action.

Attitude talk for positive internal dialogue :

Attitude talk is a way to override your past negative programming by erasing or replacing it with a conscious, positive internal voice that helps you face new directions. Your internal conversation acts like a seed in that it programs your brain and affects your behaviour. Take a closer look at what you are saying to yourself.

The power of words, WOW :

Once released to the what you say.

The power in a positive greeting :

Most people enjoy working and living with others who try to live life for what it is a beautiful gift.

Enthusiasm, vital tool for staying motivated :

Enthusiasm enables you to ap-

ply your gifts more effectively. It's the burning desire that communicates commitment, determination and spirit. Enthu-

siasm means putting yourself in motion. It's an internal spirit that speaks through your actions from your commitment and your belief in what you are doing. It is one of the most empowering and attractive characteristics you can have.

Connecting to your spiritual empowerment :

The ultimate level of human need extends into the spiritual realm. Just as we feed our bodies in response to our primary need to survive physically, we need to feed our spiritual beings. Many people find powerful and positive motivation in their faith.

Lighten up your life with humour :

Humour is a powerful motivator. The more humour and laughter in your life, the less stress you'll have, which means more positive energy to help you put your attitude into action. There are also health benefits to lightening up.

Exercising will help keep you motivated :

One of the best ways to move to a more positive and motivated frame of mind is to exercise. A regular exercise routine can provide relatively quick positive feedback in the form of weight loss, muscle development and a sense of doing something positive for yourself.

Catholic Forum Calls For Vatican III



The house agreed with him that except for cosmetic changes in the liturgy and clerical dress, the deeper attitudinal changes envisaged by Vatican II had not really happened. We cannot allow this drift; else we may end up with empty churches as in Europe. It is already happening in the metros, and our adult offspring no longer feel drawn to the church. The speaker drew special attention to the Dogmatic Constitution of the Church (LG), more particularly Chapter IV, that deals with the role of the laity. It is called to speak out and fulfil its prophetic office. Unfortunately a clerically dominated church has stifled that voice.

He said that in the 54 years since Vatican II one may have heard $54 \times 52 = 2808$ Sunday sermons. How often was Vatican II mentioned, he asked? If the scales are tipped in one direction, parity should be restored by either reducing the weight in one scale, or increasing it on the other. He advocated the second approach through formation and empowerment of the laity.

Swami Sachidananda, in his presentation, focussed on the mission of the church in India. He opined that men had made a mess of the world and it was now the hour of women to sort things out. A committee of women, however, cannot deliver a baby, so

there is a need for strong leadership to bring about change. Quoting Albert Einstein he said that "the solution for a problem cannot be found at the same level of thinking that had created the problem". So there was a need to think out of the box, as expressed by this consultation. His organization, Disciples of Christ for Peace, was committed to the establishment of a true Bhartiya Dharam Rajya (Kingdom

The National Consultation "We Too Are Church" has appealed for the convening of Vatican III. In an era of breaking news, and shifting goal posts, it is not enough to hark back to Vatican II that concluded 54 years ago. It is now time for Vatican III to address the rapidly mutating issues faced by the church in the modern world.

This was expressed by the 60 participants from 15 States of India at the consultation held from 9th to 11th February at Proggaloy Pastoral Centre, Kolkata. This gathering of lay leaders, clergy and religious was a collective response to the various political and moral crises that the church finds itself embroiled in, without an adequate or credible response. Various "Pastoral Letters" issued by three archbishops, referring to elections, and the frightening Franco Mulakkal fiasco have been attracting a hostile press. To rub salt into the wound, the bishops of Kerala in a recent statement have labelled those raising their voices as "enemies of the church"!

Such a situation cannot be perpetuated, nor can such a grievous accusation be left unchallenged. This consultation had chosen the title "We Too Are Church" to gel with the "Me Too Movement", the voice of the voiceless. However, the participants now chose to affirm that "We Are the Church", an integral part of it, not just an appendix. This consultation was the brainchild of Swami Sachidan-

da Bharathi, also known as Air Force Baba, chhotebhai, the former National President of the All India Catholic Union, and Isaac Gomes, Associate Editor of Church Citizens' Voice.

It was inaugurated by Prof Maria Fernandes, former Chairperson, West Bengal Minorities Commission, and now a member of its Women's Commission. She said that she had learnt the art of politics from the politicking within the Catholic community! She recalled how she had once received gunshot injuries on a political stage from adversaries; but that did not deter her. She appreciated the title "We Too Are Church" and said that the time had come to assert ourselves, and also to insert ourselves in mainstream politics. Today all national institutions are being targeted by the Central Govt and the country is heading for a dictatorship.

The community cannot be a silent spectator. Here in West Bengal the Chief Minister, Mamta Banerjee, prepares a roster of Ministers who are directed to attend Christmas midnight Mass at various churches. That is why all religions feel safe here.

chhotebhai gave the keynote address on "Vatican II – Renewal or Betrayal?"



of God). Challenging the established order he said that India was the only country where Christians enjoyed Minority Rights. When he told some bishops that such rights should be abolished they hit back at him saying "That is because you have nothing to lose"! Could this then mean that the Catholic Church in India suffers from the problem of plenty? Gandhiji, the naked fakir, was a truly Indian Christ, who used the principles of the Sermon on the Mount to defeat the greatest "Christian" empire, and win us freedom. We should learn true discipleship from him.

Dr Salam Irene, former Head of the Department of History, Manipur University, spoke on the status of women in the church. She said that rape was a heinous crime, and rape victims relive the trauma every night. She felt that Franco Mulakkal, if found guilty, should be incarcerated in a high security prison, and a resolution to that effect should be sent to the Nuncio. Coincidentally, the news of the stalling of the transfer of the five nun witnesses in the case, by Bp Agnelo Gracias of Jalandhar, had just broken, and was joyously acclaimed by the gathering. Dr Irene said that in many places women who marry outside the community are forced to accept the religion of their husbands. Mixed marriages are not addressed with empathy. There is a crying need for competent women counsellors to help women in distress, crisis or abuse situations.

Referring to Manipur she said that back in 1998 the Kuki Baptist Church had ordained its first woman pastor, but now there is a growing resurgence of patriarchy. The house came out in strong support of women's ordination, as it was only the priests that wielded power and decision making. On a lighter note a religious sister said that at Vatican III priests would come with their wives, at Vatican IV priests would come with their husbands, and at Vatican V they would address Her

Holiness!

High Court Advocate Kirit Macwan of Ahmedabad addressed the issue of "Participatory Structures in the Church". This again was an area where the hierarchical church had almost completely stonewalled the provisions of Canon Law, based on Vatican II teachings, as expressed in Canons 208-231. The provisions for Catholic Associations are covered by Canons 321-329. Diocesan Pastoral Councils are provided for in Canons 511-514 and for Parish Councils in 536. Finance Committees are covered by 492-494. Unfortunately, when these participatory structures are packed with sycophantic nominees then their very purpose is defeated. As with Vatican II here too the people



feel betrayed.

Percival Holt from Faridabad, the National President of the Indian Catholic Youth Movement, and a delegate to the recent World Youth Synod in Rome, spoke on "Youth Aspirations & Expectations". He also shared his experiences of Pope Francis, a man who carried his own briefcase and umbrella, something our Indian bishops don't. His video of the Synod was expressive of the joy and intensity of the event. Even there, of 270 delegates there were 18 bishops that were opposing the Pope.

Percival said that "Youth are like fire. We flame, we bring light, give warmth, but are also under the threat of getting extinguished. Today we are flickering; we may either blow off into the darkness or blow up into wildfire to burn down everything. The church needs

to kindle these sparks into flames". He said that youth are not lost, they want to belong, and a greater effort must be made to win them over. They want to be heard and not marginalized. They also seek a coherent church that has cogent answers, and a credible church devoid of hypocrisy. He rued the decreasing educational goals of Catholic youth. This is ironical, given the church's huge investment of money, personnel and infrastructure in education. As per a survey conducted by the CCBI, 44.5% of the youth are unemployed, an alarming statistic.

Rev Dr Subhash Anand, professor emeritus of the Papal Seminary, Pune, spoke on the burning issue of "Conversions" the perennial bugbear of our fellow Indians. He quoted Gandhiji saying that a rose could spread its fragrance without the need to shout. He gave an in depth analysis of how sacred scripture has evolved, and how the command in Mathew 28 to baptize all nations was an addition made in the 2nd century, and not something that Jesus himself said. Most liturgical texts are more metaphorical than literal.

Referring to his 35 years of experience in seminary formation he rued that the level of spiritual, emotional and intellectual maturity of those aspiring for the priesthood was going down by the day. Priesthood is now seen as a job, that too a very secure one, with all its attendant perks and status. He said that a celibate clergy did not understand the problems of married people. He was categorical in saying that the laity is ignorant of Vatican II because nobody talks about it, especially the priests who are afraid of losing power, prestige and funds.

David Lobo, agro-industrialist, philanthropist and management guru from Bangalore spoke on "Crisis Management and Damage Control" in the church. It assumed greater urgency today because of the deafening si-

(To be contd...)

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7011. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in September 1983), Ht. 6', Wt. 75 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBA Electronics and Finance, working as Research Electronics. Contact email : canute.serrao@gmail.com

7010. BAHRAIN : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Divorcee, (Born in June 1985), Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 76 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. HSC Diploma in food & beverage, working in 4 Star Hotel Bahrain. Contact email : tenthmay@yahoo.com

6997. MUMBAI : Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in October 1991), Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 80 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. CA, M.Com., B.Com., working as Associate Vice President in Bank. Contact email : wrferns21@gmail.com

6895. HONAVAR : Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in August 1981), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. 5th Std., having own property business. Contact email : rosiehorta77@gmail.com Mob: 7977361995

6893. MANGALORE : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Widower, (Born in January 1967), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 70 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Graduate, working in Automotive Sector. Contact email : dan_3627@yahoo.ce

6889. USA : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in July 1987), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.E. (EXTC), Masters in Engineering, working as a Process Engineer. Contact email: ophelia657@gmail.com

6888. AMRITSAR : Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in March 1990), Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 77 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Hotel Management

(Diploma) in Singapore, working as a Captain. Contact email : shephalivancet0@gmail.com

6879. U.S. : Parents of RC Mangalorean Bachelor, (Born in October 1989), 5' 10", born-bought up in Mumbai has done his Masters in Computer Science in US and is presently working there, seek alliance from RC preferably Mangalorean qualified spinsters working in US, pleasant personality and good family values. Please reply with details and photographs to amy.rigues@gmail.com

6874. MANGALORE : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in May 1984), Ht. 5' 11", Wheatish Complexion, Edn. PGDMA., working as an Account Manager. Contact email : eltonjds@gmail.com

6857. AUSTRALIA : Mumbai born and broughtup Tamilian Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in July 1988), Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A., IHM., Working as a Store Associate in **Australia** and is a permanent resident. Contact email : simonsigo31@gmail.com

6854. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in October 1985), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 78 kgs, Tan Complexion, Edn. F.Y. B.Com., working as a Sales Executive. Contact email : rquadres85@yahoo.co.in

6713 MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC Bachelor, (Born in September 1989), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 67 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.E. (Extc) working as a Sales Engineer. Contact email : coelho.helen@yahoo.co.in

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

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 RC 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

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

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 Pl. reply with photograph and details to keithcardozo@hotmail.com OR **9820338755**

6975. CANADA : Goan RC Bachelor, Canada Citizen, (Born in May 1973), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 70 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. C.A., Working as a C P Account. Contact Email : seqjerome@gmail.com OR Mob.: 9619819553

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MUMBAI : East Indian Roman Catholic Divocee (legally separated after 3 days of marriage), Born March 1984, Height 5' 10", B.Com., MBA, working in Dubai as HR Executive. Email faye1rodrigues@gmail.com

6998. CANADA : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in May 1998), Ht. 5' 3", Wt.65 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. MBA Marketing & Advertising Professional. Contact email : richard.dsouza17@gmail.com

7012. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in April 1970), Ht. 5' 4", Wt.68 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Officer. Contact email : menezesvivet2014@gmail.com

6500 MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in May 1975), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 60 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. S.Y.B.A., Pursuing TYBA., / ECCED (Teacher' Training Course), Teacher in a reputed Catholic School. Contact email : dmljanet@gmail.com or jdmello@rediffmail.com

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

6653 MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in July 1990), Ht. 5' 2", Fair Complexion, Edn. M.B.B.S., Doctor & pursuing M.D. Seeks M.D. / M.S., Doctors. Contact email : selwynhenriques13@gmail.com

6974. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in March

1992), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 51 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.E. working as a Technical Manager. Contact email : steffie.xavier@gmail.com

6972. M.P. : Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in April 1986), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 58 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.A., working as a Manager. Contact email : anitabilung@gmail.com

6970. MUMBAI : Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in September 1987), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 48 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. CS & LLB., working as a Company Secretary. Contact email : mendonsajacinta@gmail.com

6959. MUMBAI : Alliance invited from well settled RC Goan bachelors upto 30 years. for RC Goan Spinster (Born in November 1990), a B.A. graduate, done IATA, presently working in **DUBAI** in a travel company as a corporate travel officer, Ht. 5' 3", (preferable working overseas) Contact email : sabjf1963@gmail.com OR Cell No.: 8828998414

6897. UAE : Mangalorean Roman Catholic spinster, (Born in October 1989), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 55 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. MBA, working as a HR Executive. Contact email : edwarddcosta56@gmail.com

6868. CANADA : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in January 1992), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. Medium, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.A., HR Toronto and International Business Management Toronto. Only U.S. and Candian Citizens from good family background apply. Contact email : sugarlog2009@hotmail.com

6866. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in May 1991), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 50 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Graduate, Service. Contact email : bidisharocking@gmail.com

6861. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in

December 1991), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 80 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., PG Banking & Finance, working as a Clerk in Bank. Contact email : michaelfernandes59@gmail.com

6859. KUWAIT : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in August 1986), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 55 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Sc., in Physiotherapy (Orthopedics), U.K. working in Kuwait. Contact email : nisha_sequeira@hotmail.com

6858. BHOPAL : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in March 1993), Ht. 5' 1", Wt. 55 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.E. Computer Science and MBA in HRM working in Bangalore. Contact email : godwinsvd@gmail.com

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

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6903. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic spinster, (Born in June 1987), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 75 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.E. (EXTC.), M.S. (International Business Management), working as a Client Consulting Manager. Contact email : mendonca_luke@yahoo.co.in l2018anselm@yahoo.com

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Commandments Ten for Good News But Seven for Fake News

(Contd from last issue...)

by Fr. George Olivera

Heavenly Humour:

God decided to visit the people of different nationalities with a new offer on the Commandments.

God came down and first he went to the Germans and said, "I have Commandments for you that will make your lives better."

And the Germans asked, "what are Commandments?"

And the Lord said, "Rules for living."
"Can you give us an example?"
"Thou shalt not kill."

"Not kill? We're not interested."

So He went to the Italians and said, "I have Commandments." And the Italians wanted an example, and the Lord said, "Thou shalt not steal."

"Not steal? We're not interested."

He went to the French and said, "I have Commandments."

The French wanted an example and the Lord said, "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife."

"Not covet my neighbor's wife? We're not interested."

He went to the Jews and said, "I have Commandments."

"Commandments? How much are they?"

"They're free."

"Good then, we'll take 10!"

World Press Freedom Index

India slipped three places in the 2017 world press freedom rankings to 136th among 180 countries.

Norway ranks first in the World with

limited coercion on press freedom.

India slipped three places in the 2017 world press freedom rankings to 136th among 180 countries, the dismal performance blamed on "Modi's nationalism" and growing "self-censorship" in the mainstream media.

In the index released, India was ranked just three places above Pakistan and was one notch below violence-torn Palestine. India's neighbours Bhutan and Nepal were placed at 84th and 100th rank, respectively.

As per the BBC infographica data as per the percentage of messages shared on WhatsApp by topic on India: The Most popular Current Affairs topics in the recent months are as follows: 30 percent of the topics on news relating to the Prime Minister Modi; 10% each on Adhar, Demonetisation, Army terrorism and Anti BJP matters respectively, 40% is on Business and Economy.

Filter of Truth in the School of Socrates:

In ancient Greece, Socrates (the famous philosopher) was visited by an acquaintance of his. Eager to share some juicy gossip, the man asked if Socrates would like to know the story he'd just heard about a friend of theirs. Socrates replied that before the man spoke, he needed to pass the "Triple-Filter" test.

The first filter, he explained, is Truth. "Have you made absolutely sure that what you are about to say is true?" The man shook his head. "No, I actually just heard about it, and ..."

Socrates cut him off. "You don't know for certain that it is true, then. Is what you want to say something good or kind?" Again, the man shook his head. "No! Actually, just the opposite. You see ..."

Socrates lifted his hand to stop the man speaking. "So you are not certain that what you want to say is true, and it isn't good or kind. One filter still remains, though, so you may yet still tell me. That is Usefulness or Necessity. Is this information useful or necessary to me?" A little defeated, the man replied, "No, not really."

"Well, then," Socrates said, turning on his heel. "If what you want to say is neither true, nor good or kind, nor useful or necessary, please don't say anything at all."

Good News is Always Welcome God's top Ten:

All time God's top ten as follows: 1. Put God First; 2. Worship Him Only; 3. No Bad Words; 4. Work 6 Rest 1; 5. Obey your Parents; 6. Harm No One; 7. Do not Cheat, 8. If it's not yours, Don't take it; 9. Tell the Truth, Don't be Jealous of Other People's stuff.

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6679. USA : US Based RC Spinster, 28, 5' 3", B. Tech., MBA from premier institutions, talented, caring, slim, attractive personality, senior manager in renowned MNC invites alliance from well-educated, professionally qualified, well-placed RC bachelors with good family background and strong Christian values. Kindly e-mail profile with picture to mSP241289@gmail.com

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Youth and aggression

AGGRESSION IS ANY behaviour that hurts other people. Everyone gets angry sometimes. But some teens have so much trouble controlling their anger that they shove, hit or make fun of other people. Both boys and girls can be physically or socially aggressive. This causes them trouble at home and at college or high school. They often hard time making friends

The youngsters these days are aggressive over very small things. We notice a sea change in the behaviour of youth a decade back and in the present days. This doesn't mean that the earlier generation was better or could do anything different to what the present day youths do. Every generation see their share of progress and limitation. But behavioural aspect is something that needs a check. The potential power if diverted towards a deserving spot can work magic whereas if left unguided can go astray.

We probably have the world's largest and vigorous workforce including women who stand by the same token with men in most of the fields if not all. And this itself , speaks for us. We the Indians are not only good with muscle power but also have left remarkable impressions in the field of literature, science and technology; sports and services, our young brains are in a great demand abroad. With the recent examples of top management being headed by our people in diversified sectors we see a great potential for our future generation to lead the rest

The youngsters these days are aggressive and get irritated over very small things. We notice a sea change in the behavior of youth a decade back and in the present days. This doesn't mean that the earlier generation was better or could do anything different to what the present day youths do. Every generation see their share of progress and limitation. But behavioral aspect is something that needs a check. The potential power if diverted towards a deserving spot can work magic whereas if left unguided can go astray.

of the world. All we need is to try.

The reasons and yearnings witness conflicts most-ly between par-



ents and adolescent children and due to the generation gap it results into communication gap, loneliness and finally depression. Mostly for the children in the teenage, the world turns upside down when parents want them to focus on their studies and career options they are busy with an imaginary world where they feel isolated and left out being unheard.

Being rude, arrogant, unresponsive, introvert or extrovert suddenly is not natural casually but it had a lot of things associated and who knows better than the young adults who have recently come out of this emotional phase of life. So the youth power can actually accelerate the



country's growth in a positive direction.

The youth today is more capable and capacitated. They are literate, well brought up, provided with better opportunities and options as well as equipment. Respect is mutual and we reap what we sow so a matured outlook towards life is needed and the youth today is certainly matured and intelligent enough to decide what is good and what is not.

BRIDGE THE GENERATION GAP

- The youth can guide the generation next in a friendly way and understand older generation in respectful ways.
- Youth can and should learn from their mistakes and set positive examples rather than the other way round.
- The youth icons should set positive examples. Positive news should be read and spread.

What can be the role of youngsters to bridge the gap between the two generations so that the behavioral issues can be addressed in a better way?

The youth can counsel.

The youth can guide the generation next in a friendly way.

Youth can and should learn from their mistakes and set positive examples rather than the other way round.

The youth icons should set positive examples. Positive news should be read and spread.

A psychotic public figure should be boycotted and condemned and should be reported to regulating bodies rather than being praised and supported. There by setting better examples for the future generations.

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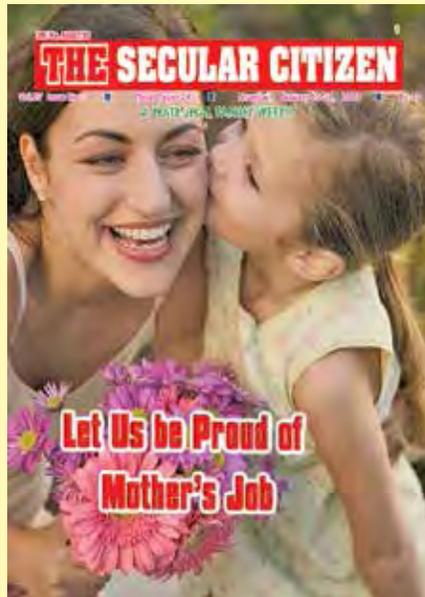
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