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# THE SECULAR CITIZEN

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A NATIONAL FAMILY WEEKLY

## 'DIVO' Completes 25 Years in Active Journalism



# International Women's Day

**March 8**, draws the attention of the whole world on the International Women's Day – a Celebration of Womanhood. On this day, we celebrate the very essence of women and their commendable contribution towards society. It is the day to rejoice with women achievers for their accomplishments in diverse fields across the globe. The focus is on propagating unity and equality to create a gender equal world where women continue to face atrocities and discrimination around the world. In spite of facing tremendous amount of pressure and hurdles on the pathway, women have broken the glass ceiling and emerged victorious. It is fascinating to note that women entrepreneurs all over are starting businesses at unprecedented rates. Women's wing of the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) that encourages and facilitates women to showcase their talents, skills, experiences and energies across sectors, itself represents over 6800 women entrepreneurs and professionals. We see a positive trend not only in entrepreneurship but also in almost all spheres of life where women are making a mark. However, there is still a



Eleanor Roosevelt had beautifully said about the tremendous potential that a woman possesses, "A woman is like a tea bag - you can't tell how strong she is until you put her in hot water." Indeed, women are capable of achieving great things in life because they are blessed with unique traits such as intuition, courage, persistence and listening skills. Women are constantly fulfilling multiple roles and have incredible multi-tasking and networking abilities. They can connect more easily with people and tend to be more empathetic. With these gifts at

impact on the socio-economic atmosphere in the society. Woman can bring about a change not only in her family but also in her community and society at large.

Remember that to be born as a woman is a blessing. God has bestowed upon women strength and dignity, wisdom and knowledge to do great and mighty things. The true essence of womanhood and her positive influence impacts generations to come. In this context, Helen Keller had wonderfully said, "When we do the best we can, we never know what miracle is wrought in our life, or in the life of another." In order to realize her true self, I urge every woman firstly to shed off her low self-esteem and mediocrity and aspire for excellence with the gifts you are blessed with. You have all the potential with which you can be at the steering wheel in every segment of our society and bring about a positive change. This woman's day, let us focus on women contribution in order to make the world a better place with endless benefits for everyone to cherish. Wish you all a very Happy Women's Day!



huge scope for women empowerment and their upliftment.

hand and education that has opened up several new avenues for them, women can definitely make a positive

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**Cover** : 'Divo' Completes 25 years in active journalism:

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## Mr Modi's Right Wing Populism

By Don Aguiar

It is no surprise that Donald Trump, visiting India for the first time as the violence flared should embrace an authoritarian and nationalist leader. But plenty of others have essentially accepted Mr Modi's dangerous right-wing populism too.

Mr Modi has accelerated his agenda since his re-election by a landslide last year. The political opposition is enfeebled. He continues efforts to muzzle civil society. Yet it is fighting back. Indian citizens have expressed their revulsion at the country's direction.

Two dozen people have died and hundreds have been injured recently during the visit of the American President Donald Trump in Delhi, India's capital. Donald Trump says that it is India's internal matter while Prime Minister Modi talks of peace and brotherhood, but he has led his country here.

The CAA, which offers a fast-track route to citizenship for non-Muslim minorities, is blatantly unconstitutional and blatantly anti-Muslim. Coupled with the National Population Register and the National Register of Citizens, it is meant to delegitimise, destabilise and criminalise not just Muslims but hundreds of millions of Indians who do not have the requisite documents – including those who are chanting "Goli Maaro Saalon Ko" today.

Once citizenship comes into question, everything comes into question – your children's rights, your voting rights, your land rights. As Hannah Arendt said, "citizenship gives you the right to have rights." Anybody who thinks this is not the case, please turn your attention to Assam and see what has happened to twenty lakh people – Hindus, Muslims, Dalits, Adivasis. Now trouble has started between local tribes and the non-tribal population in the state of Meghalaya. There is curfew in Shillong. The state borders are closed to non-locals.

A democracy that is not governed by a Constitution and one whose institutions have all been hollowed out can only ever become a majoritarian state.

(Contd.. on p. 4)

(Contd.. from p. 3)

You can agree or disagree with a Constitution as a whole or in part – but to act as though it does not exist as this government is doing is to completely dismantle democracy. Perhaps this is the aim.

There are people from the ruling party together with the government sponsored media houses directly responsible for the current state in India. Shrill voices of fanaticism in public platforms and media in India is going to harm national interest. The inevitable is happening. The anchor is supposed to be neutral but mostly fanatically biased.

When a relentless propaganda machine with the aid of some media, caters to the worst prejudices of the majority community, then a deepening religious divide on the ground is almost inevitable. However much the hate... It doesn't turn to violence with impunity without the consent of police and state. No extended violence takes place without the incompetence or complicity or both of the state.

The cherry picking selective reporting (more of propaganda) by propagandists is more to blame for the riots. Ever since 2014 this barrage of divisiveness has been fed to the minority by these 'journalist.' Might serve the purpose of some, but the nation stands to lose.

The latest round of sectarian violence in Delhi began when a local Hindu nationalist politician insisted that police remove a group of Muslims protesters or his thugs would. PM Modi's selective impunity encourages such Hindu nationalist assaults. More than 30 people are dead so far, just because Minorities were peacefully protesting the CAA law passed by Modi. What has happened in Delhi were not riots but a pogrom by the communal fascist rulers & their lumpen army of dehumanised foot soldiers.

His Home Minister Mr Amit Shah says - If common man speaks against government "Charge them with sedition"

If opposition speaks against government "Attack them with CBI" If any party defeats BJP in elections "Buy them" If any officer acts against government "Suspend them" If any Judge orders against government "Transfer them" If any community disobeys Government law "Start a Genocide"

The BJP's Hindu nationalism is a politics that rose to power by fomenting violence against vulnerable religious minorities. According to their belief you will not be a Hindu anymore. You will be Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas, Shudras, Dalits and Untouchables.

Though many have been disappointed by the Supreme Court's insipid response to the citizenship act, which many believe is unconstitutional, and its judges' admiration of Mr Modi, it was scathing this week about police inaction in response to the violence.

Delhi's high court attacked the police commissioner for saying he had not watched the videos of inflammatory speeches, and ordered authorities to take action to protect and help riot victims. On that very night, the judge was immediately given midnight orders to take up his new assignment in the Punjab High Court. Kapil Mishra is back on the streets chanting the same slogan. It can now be used until further notice.

Fun and games with judges isn't new. We know the story about Justice Loya. We may have forgotten the story of Babu Bajrangi, convicted of participating in the killing 96 Muslims in Naroda Patiya, in Gujarat in 2002. Listen to him on You Tube: He'll tell you how "Narendra bhai" got him out of jail because of "setting" the judges. There is nothing inevitable about India's current trajectory. But the individual and the institutions who are resisting cannot turn its course without support.

We now seem to be moving inexorably towards an authoritarian state that criminalises dissent and replaces dialogue with 'danda'

No one killed these people, no one burnt Delhi, no one destroyed Delhi's love & brotherhood, and neither Amit Shah nor Arvind Kejriwal be asked for accountability, Congrats for Modi-Kejriwal bonhomie & partnership, And 'Goli Maro' is business as usual!

We are now reduced to pleading for our rights as citizens from people who have had nothing to do with building this country. And as we plead, we watch the state withdraw its protection, we watch the police get communalised, we watch the judiciary gradually abdicate its duty, we watch the media that is meant to afflict the comfortable and comfort the afflicted do the very opposite.

The casualties and destruction to people and property has taken a very high toll. Many unidentified bodies are in the chilly air of the morgue where the sharp smell of formaldehyde cuts through the odour of blood and the buzz of an overworked air conditioner drowns out the howls from without they are finally equal. On cold concrete slab they lie, men of similar age, who prayed to dissimilar Gods in life, lie equal in death. Shot, stabbed, bludgeoned, it doesn't matter now. Sliced and sewn up after death, they lie in perfect harmony, unseeing eyes behind lifeless lids stare at the futility of it all, amidst the walls of the living. Has resentment and radicalism achieved any good, prosperity, economic progress, harmony.....

India's demographics suggest that we just cannot even attempt to re-engineer India's pluralistic democracy. You cannot wish away 20 crore minorities or turn them into second rate citizens. The rise in resentment and therefore radicalism alone will make India a living hell. We also have a very young population, most of which needs good jobs. Hindu Rashtra attempts will destroy investment, business sentiment and harmony. Let us put our heads down and focus on growth and harmony – the rest will follow. -



## Woman's Day

International Woman's Day is a global event and is celebrated by women on the 8th of March every year. The main focus of the celebrations of Woman's Day ranges from general celebration of respect, appreciation and love towards women to a celebration for women's economic, political and social achievement. The day is an occasion to honour and praise women for the accomplishments. Indian women today have made a mark in every aspect of life, be it academically, professionally or politically. They have achieved financial independence with education and have developed a life of dignity and self-respect. They are breaking barriers and charting new paths across a diverse range of disciplines. Today, there are ample numbers of opportunities in front of women to succeed and stand as equals with their male counterparts. There is now an active participation of women in all fields of society and in the coming years, women will have a greater role in Indian society. Indian women have been making constant progress in their lives and playing a vital role in the economic and social development of the country.

—*Jubel D'Cruz,*  
*Mumbai*

## Need for guidelines against Caronavirus in church

With Caronavirus threatening to blow into a full-scale global pandemic, we need to take all possible precautions. People are advised to wear masks, wash their hands regularly

and refrain from shaking hands as a general rule.

The Catholic Church can take the lead in this matter by propagating good practices across all churches in the country by issuing a set of guidelines.

Catholics may be advised to self-regulate their actions in and outside the church, depending on the circumstances. Parishioners having a fever should avoid coming to church, and pray at home instead. If one sneezes or coughs in church, a handkerchief must be used to cover the mouth. Should the sneezing or coughing persist the parishioner may discretely get up and leave the church. Co-parishioners will understand and appreciate their concern for others. During the pendency of the Caronavirus use of holy water from the font to sign oneself before entering the church, must be suspended.

The Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHCs) generally dip their fingers in the ablution bowl before distributing Holy Communion. Arrangements may be made either in the sacristy or outside for the EMHC to wash and sanitise their hands with soap from a dispenser. Holy Communion should preferably be given in the palm of the hand or between the index finger and thumb. Parishioners must be told to refrain from kissing statues and holy pictures in the church.

The same guidelines may be adhered to in the Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament which is usually a closed sound proof room and hence even more vulnerable to contagion.

—*Prof Robert Castellino,*  
*Mumbai*

## Unholy men of God

Pope Francis needs to be commended for the speedy removal of rape-convicted Kerala vicar from the priesthood. However, it is imperative to state that the increase in the number of sexual abuse and rape cases involving priests, bishops and higher-order clergy has brought about feelings of revulsion and disrespect in the minds of the faithful for the anointed and ordained ministers of God. The abuses besides being criminal and morally reprehensible are also a betrayal of the trust the faithful reposed in these 'men of God'. Had the Church acted promptly in the earlier years, it would have saved the establishment from the embarrassment and severe blow it received after the publication of the Pennsylvania report, made public last year, identifying 300 priests for sexually abusing over 1000 minors over a period of seven decades while in active priestly ministry. The report is a serious indictment of secrecy and cover-up of predatory priests by the bishops and church officials to protect the honour of the church, while denying justice and compensation to the victims of abuse. The disease has now become viral, rampant in churches in the West, and spreading to several parishes in India as well. So Help us Lord.

—*A. F. Nazareth*  
*Alto Porvorim*

## Thalitha Kaum

I write to express my appreciation of the above titled article by Vera Alvares in your magazine issue of 9th -15th March 2020. Both the style of writing and content are commendable.

While there is a lot to ponder about I am happy about the stand taken by the writer on women's dress and gender violence. Most women insist it is their right to dress as they please when appearing in public. Of course it is their right but they have the responsibility to be decently and not provocatively attired. Nobody but nobody has any right to harass women sexually or otherwise giving

(Contd.. on p. 6)

# WHETHER LIBERAL NATIONALISM IS LOOSING OUT TO THE AGGRESSIVE KIND?

by Eric D'Sa

Worldwide politics is a game of scale that calls for the creation of alliances, and alliances made up of diverse constituents need powerful stories to hold them together. One such narrative is of nationalism, that our nation is in danger from another nation. It is a narrative whose binding properties operate at a much higher scale, to clear the field of competing narratives with less pull on hearts and mindset of its citizens. The rise of hard right populist nationalisms in various parts of the world, including India, sets the progressive liberals of the world a tough challenge. What is their counter narrative?

Progressives tend to eschew nationalism which they consider as toxic, in favour of human liberalism or ideas further to the left, all of which have substantial internationalist credentials. Progressives both left and liberal take nationalism to be essentially exclusionary, a modern rendition of ancient tribal loyalties, that we ought to shed, if we are to provide respect for individuals and grant them space to flourish. History is full of nationalism based on religion which enabled dynasty's of kings to subjugate its people and rule them with an iron fist.

Arguably, the rise of right-wing nationalism has been aided by the dismissiveness with which progressives treat nationalism. The right has basically had the powerful nationalist narrative all to itself. This is not just political folly, but historical irony.

All nationalisms are not right-wing in orientation. Our own anti-imperial nationalism shared with most postcolonial nationalisms were a progressive agenda for social change. Batting for the nation against the large foreign empire could and did mean a tactical and temporary suppression of internal hierarchies, such as those of religion, caste, language and culture, but the broad orientation was clearly progressive.

Nations come in two types: ethnic nations of the blood-and-soil type with generally a natural boundary, and civic nations based on republican ideas of a social contract. The substantial overlap between the two gave berth to the modern nationalism of 18th century Europe. We often forget the republican essence of modern nation states. This version of nationalism sees people come together not merely because of an often-invented shared history or culture, but because of a shared belief in the future. This is why our Constitution is so much more than a set of rules. In an empire sized nation, all we have in common is our principles set down in the common rulebook. The Indian Constitution defines the nation and

is driving the national protests against the new citizenship law is precisely this question. What kind of nationalism do we want to define India? An inclusive one or not. If a progressive nationalism doesn't show up, the right will win without as it is said - a ball being bowled. Hence it is for us the Citizens to decide whether we as a nation continue with our pluralistic nationalism on which our constitution is based or not.

## YOU THE CITIZENS DECIDE:

clearly makes us a civic rather than an ethnic nation.

All nations carry the conceit that they are special and in many cases the best. But Indian nationalism is a trial of amalgamation of different nationalisms. We do not have a standard nationalism because we do not have a standard nation: India is not a France, Germany, Italy or similar European nation with one local language and one main religion. "Unity in diversity" outlines a vision of nationalism that is entirely different from the 18th/19th century European model. This is the reason Brexit has occurred. We chose to make a nation out of a sprawling continental empire, so we had to think out of the European box. The sheer novelty of that vision is something for us to celebrate.

There are good political reasons for progressives to worry. Invoking nationalism leaves them open to attack from the right. However, that political risk simply means being mindful of and guarding that flank, rather than abandoning nationalism altogether. A large part of what

(Contd.. from p. 5)

their dress as an excuse but it is also their need to reciprocate by not giving ungentlemanly males an excuse to behave irresponsibly. At private parties women can dress a little more liberally but within the laws of decency. After all women both young and old wish to be recognised as good dressers observing "Haute Couture" Vera Alvares has rightly pointed out that with immodest display passions are unnecessarily kindled perhaps on the female giving least offence. Women should give a thought to this.

The other issue is gender based violence against women in India. This is no country for the female. Vera Alvares has rightly pointed out "India ranks as one of the most dangerous countries for women" The law is agonisingly slow in taking action against offenders and perpetrators of crimes against women. When will we be meting out justice to women?

All this needs serious thinking about and some action by our legislators

—Albert C deSouza  
Bandra (W)

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# Gospel- Like Values In The Indian Preamble

**W**hen the Indian Constitution was drafted the founding fathers along with Dr. B.R. Ambedkar had the vision of a democratic and republic nation, in which a state is governed by representatives of the citizen to confirm the concept of a democracy. India is the second largest in the world of this system.

After 71 years India has become an example of progress in public efforts of reform introduced over the years. Much has been done to enrich our democracy till today. Being a republic has also helped us to move in many parameters with steady success.

The Indian Constitution is the longest hand-written document in Italics among world constitutions: it took two years, eleven months and 17 days to draft. The Preamble (in English) has 448 Articles in 22 parts, 12 schedules, 5 appendices and 115 amendments. The remarkable fact is its wordage 1, 17, 369 words. The calligraphy was done by Prem Behari Narain Raizada.

I quote Mudar Patherya, communications professional on his personal opinion with regard to the Constitution and the Preamble. "We had learned the Constitution in civics and knew the Preamble by heart as students..."

The Preamble of the Constitution is so well put together it is a masterpiece of clarity in composition. We are told what Indian society is, how we should live, the rights of the individual, our duties and obligations.

It is interesting to discover that the Constitution came into force three years after India became independent from British rule. The Constitution was signed by 284 members of the Constituent Assembly on 24 January 1950, and came into effect two days

later on the 26th January.

Archbishop Thomas D'Souza, Archbishop of Calcutta Archdiocese expressed his opinion on the Preamble: "I feel that the Preamble is a very Christian concept because it upholds all that is said in the Bible. The Preamble is the gist of what the Bible says – liberty or freedom, equality and brotherhood are the pillars of Christianity. So I have been saying that the Preamble has Gospel like qualities." (reported by The Times of India).

Looking up The Christian Community Bible, Catholic

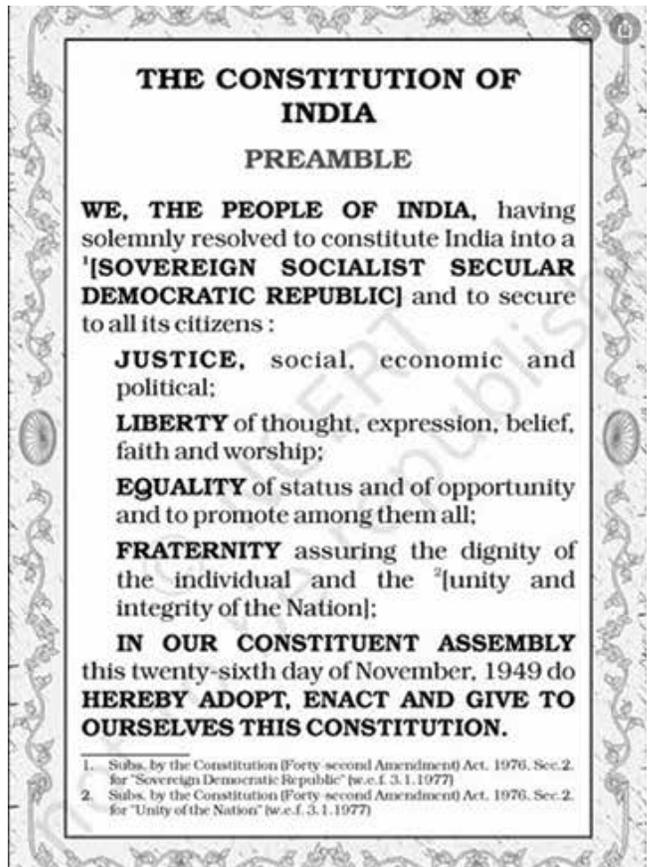


BY MELVYN BROWN

Pastoral Edition, I discovered Nine Gospel values as benchmarks of the Faith, I admit that there are many more faith values, especially when you consult a theologian or Doctor of the Church.

The Nine Gospel values, show us the basic structure which can be found in The Indian Constitution and the Preamble.

1. Community.....(Rom.12:4-5).
2. Humble leadership..... (Mk.10:45).
3. Respect.....(1Peter. 2:17).
4. Gratitude.....(Ps.107:1).
5. Humility and Understanding..... (James.3:13).



6. Wellness.....(1Cor.3:16).
7. Patience, Perseverance..... (Rom.5:3-4).
8. Courage and Integrity..... (Lk.6:31).
9. Diligence.....(Prov.21:5).

Over the past six years a movement was started by Eve Ensler focusing on women's safety and how to tackle sexual harassment and rape. A direction from the Delhi headquarters working on NRC and CAA had considered investigating the issue as OBR (One Billion Rising). This was mentioned in the Times of India, January 15, 2020.

"We will discuss inequality challenges faced by people across the country, instead of keeping it limited to the issues pertaining to women." Said Sister Monica, IBVM who is the Head of the Centre.

# Something Up There

**A**part from my interest in writing, reading and music, travelling is another activity I enjoy a lot. From my childhood I have always fancied exploring new places, understand the lifestyle of the people living there and getting to know the culture of those places.

Having parents who worked, getting leaves had always been a concern, so my desire to visit new places was not fulfilled. The only place that I got to travel every year was to my native, Mangalore – a beautiful city in the state of Karnataka, India. This was always the trip I looked forward to and enjoyed. Once in college, there were no trips that were arranged for us. Though on several occasions, my friends and I made plans, but nothing materialized. As the saying goes, the best is yet to arrive, when I thought my dreams of travelling to different places will remain unfulfilled, I married a man who also enjoyed travelling and exploring new places. With this pretext, within 4 months of our marriage we travelled to two places and were planning for our third visit. The responsibility of deciding the place lay solely on me but things like budget, travelling dates etc were decided by both of us. Having waited for this opportunity from long, the only place I could think of was God's Own country – Kerala.

Though my husband was not keen to go there since he had visited the place several times before, for my sake he agreed for the trip. My happiness knew no bounds. I wanted this trip to be the best trip of my life. After all, my dream of many years was getting fulfilled (prior to this I had made plans of visiting Kerala twice, but they hadn't worked out). I started surfing the net, explored places to visit, hotels to stay, restaurants to try and the like. I had dedicated most of my free time deciding what we would do in Kerala.

After a lot of scrutiny, I booked a resort, a tent and a tree house for a day each, finally visit to the backwaters and then return home.

Amongst everything else, the tree house was something I was looking forward to the most. Everyday I checked the pictures on the internet, shared them with my friends and boasted about it to my husband who was but a little bit sceptical about my choice. Yet, he did not muster the courage to quash my hopes.

After all the wait, the day to pack our bags and get going had arrived; we boarded a bus and reached Kerala. Our ride to the resort was quite bumpy and scary. We crossed rivulets, hilly terrain and sharp stones. Feeling a little scared and unsure we entered the resort, but we were pleasantly surprised by the beauty of the resort. It was far from human habitation and I realized the only people in the resort were the housekeeping staff, cooks and visitors like us. Feeling proud of my choice we strode into the tents which were all well-maintained. I was happy but not satisfied as I was eagerly waiting for the tree house.

After a day's stay in the tent, we went about to explore the town and returned in the evening. We were happy that we were shifted to the tree house. There were five tree houses in total. Out of which, four tree houses were together facing each other and the last one was a little further apart. We were allotted the fifth tree house quite far from the others.

Our tree house was beautiful. It was neatly constructed with wood, in the middle of the room there was a huge bed. There were tables and chairs, and everything looked perfect to me. It was a regal feeling to be residing on top of the tree. I loved the view. As the sun retired and the stars began to appear in the sky, I felt the pinch.

I realized it was unusually quiet and could not hear any noise of vehicles, nor of people. The only voice I could hear was the rustling of the trees and my husband's voice. Having stayed in a city like Bangalore which is always bustling with honks of vehicles and chatter of people, I felt a little strange. But my ego stopped me from sharing my views with my husband. I guess he felt the same as well but didn't voice any concern.

After dinner, we sat in the balcony staring at the dark surroundings after which we decided to sleep. Alas! Both of us couldn't sleep a wink. The silence around was killing us. There was a feeling of loneliness around which was making us sick. We tried listening to music, we tried to strike a conversation again, we went through all our wedding photos on our mobile, but nothing worked. Finally, we decided to gulp some scotch so that we could sleep but the scotch also seemed to have lost its effect. After a long tussle with the sleep goddess, at almost 2 o'clock, we began to feel sleepy and that is when I heard a noise like footsteps on the ceiling. I was taken aback! I crawled close to my husband who was still awake. He enquired what had happened to me. I refused to reveal anything, and I just looked away. I refused to look at the door or the windows. Weird thoughts began to flow in my mind as I was wondering if it was a ghost or some robbers. After a little retrospection I realized there would not be any robbers since the property was isolated and also there were good security guards around, but I had heard my friends say that the abode of ghosts was on the trees. I felt sick in my stomach; I knew not what to do. I recalled all the ghost movies I had watched and began to wonder what kind of ghost was sitting on top of our tree house. I wanted to scream, cry and finally I thought God was the only one who could save us and immediately woke my husband

(Contd.. on p. 9)



by Sonal Lobo

(Contd.. from p. 8)

and asked him to start reciting the rosary hoping the ghost would run away. Prayers had failed to shoo away the ghost, I played the music. Yet the noise became louder. I was surprised as to why my husband wasn't reacting. I was on the verge of crying, falling into the arms of my husband finally at the crack of dawn I slept.

Finally, we got up in the morning, quickly dressed up and waited to go to our next destination. Both of us did not want to talk about the experience of the previous night.

After a while, when we settled in the car and were driving to our next destination, I slowly asked my husband if he was not afraid of ghosts to which he answered in the negative. I was happy and I said that was the reason he did not react to the noises the previous night. He was curious and asked me the reason for my uneasiness to which I replied that there was a ghost on the tree in which we were staying and that throughout the night, it was walking about.

My husband burst out laughing! He asked me why I had not informed him earlier. I told him that I did not want to scare him. My husband who was still not able to control his laughter, patiently he told me that it was not the ghost but the birds on the trees that were moving about. Hearing this I was embarrassed. The whole night I had stayed awake thinking that there was a ghost on the tree. I laughed at my stupidity and looked away unable to look at my husband.

The incident at the tree house is something I can never forget. Even today when I hear about the tree house, I laugh at my stupidity. My husband still teases me; all my friends still make fun of me.

This trip may not have turned out the way I wished yet it gave me a memory which I can never forget. I also realized that staying amidst people is better than staying alone because you never know, there could be something up there!

# Godavari Statement

JCSA - Feb 2020

*Major Superiors of Jesuits of South Asia, who met in Nepal from 23rd to 29th February 2020 have come out with a statement on recent communal violence in Delhi. They have deplored the complicity of the police and inexplicable postponement of legal procedures. They have called upon the concerned citizens, especially Indian Jesuits and their institutions to initiate the process of reconciliation among peoples and religions.*

We, the Jesuit Major Superiors of South Asia, gathered for our Annual Conference in Godavari, Nepal (23-29 Feb, 2020), are appalled to learn of the recent communal violence in the capital city of Delhi where at least 47 people lost their lives, hundreds have been wounded and many more are made homeless with huge property losses. The various accounts of the apparent complicity of the police forces in the violence, and the inexplicable postponement of legal procedures for four weeks are deplorable.

The concerned citizens know that the hate speeches and divisive politics of the recent elections in Delhi, the all-pervasive hate-politics and mob lynching of the last one decade and the attempts to appropriate 'nationhood and religion for majoritarianism would all lead to inconceivable consequences for the body politic. We urge the Central Govt to immediately withdraw the hastily enacted discriminatory Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), National Population Register (NPR) and the proposed National Register of Citizens (NRC), and initiate a process of dialogue with all concerned.

Meanwhile we invite all concerned citizens, especially the Indian Jesuits and our Institutions i) to initiate processes of reconciliation among peoples and religions, ii) to continue serious study and research on the ramifications of CAA and NRC for the conceptions of nation, citizenship and the Constitution, iii) to join peaceful protest movements opposing CAA, NPR and NRC whenever and wherever possible, iv) to support rescue works in the areas affected by communal violence.

We pledge to protect the integrity of the Constitution and to preserve the ethos of our nation that was shaped by the founding fathers and mothers of our motherland after prolonged struggles and sacrifices for independence, and has been nourished by sages and saints of many religions from time immemorial. Now is the moment of reckoning for India to reassert its soul of diversity, variety and the eternal quest for the Ultimate.

We believe that anti-CAA Movement will sustain itself as long as it remains non-violent yet courageous, resistant yet listening, audacious yet non-divisive, fearless yet compassionate.

Fr George Pattery, SJ  
President, Jesuit Conference of South Asia  
5th Mar, 2020

# Scripture Tribute to BCS!

Congratulations to the **Bombay Catholic Sabha (BCS)** on its 31st anniversary which was celebrated on Sunday 23 February 2020 at St. Paul's Dadar East. It was chiefly reported in *The Secular Citizen*, 24 Feb - 01 Mar. pg. 19. I was connected to the St. Andrew's Parish unit, Bandra (W) during the early 90s. So here's a "Biblical Tribute to the BCS from the NT, on its 'Central Emblem' and Crowning 'Motto'!

**Central Emblem:** The 'emblem' portrays 'Jesus Christ's Cross' in the center, which is embraced within a 'loving heart' that is tenderly grasped within the 'palms of two hands'!

(a)**Central Cross:** "If anyone wants to be My followers, let them deny themselves, take up their 'crosses' and follow Me.// I (Paul) proclaim the Gospel of Christ not with eloquent wisdom, but such that the 'Cross of Christ' might not be emptied of its power! ... May I (Paul) never boast of anything except the 'Cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ', by which the world has been crucified to me and I to the world" (*Mark 8:34 // 1 Corinthians 1:17 ... Galatians 6:14*).

(b)**Loving Heart:** "Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her 'heart'. // Blessed are the 'pure in heart' for they shall see God. // As Scripture has said, 'Out of the 'believer's heart' shall flow rivers of living water" (*Luke 2:19 // Matthew 5:8. // John 7:38*).

(c)**Tender palms of both hands:** "I (Paul), write this greeting with my own 'hand'; which is a mark of every letter of mine. // All things have been 'handed over to Me by My Father'. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son, and to whom the Son chooses to reveal Him. (2 Thess. 3:17 // Matthew 11:27).

**Fruitful Motto:** By practicing these 'triple productive precepts' of LOVE \* SERVICE \* FRATERNITY, members could bear good fruits for the community and nation.

(a)**LOVE:** "No one has 'greater love than this; to lay down one's life for one's friend'. You are My friends if you do what I command you. // God's 'Love' has been poured out into our hearts by the Holy Spirit ... God proves His 'Love' for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us" (*John 15:13 // Romans 5:5;8*).

(b)**SERVICE:** "In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who proclaim the Gospel in the 'Lord's Service' should get their living by the Gospel. // You know how the members of the household of Stephanas who were the first converts in Achaia, devoted themselves to the 'service of the saints'. So I urge you to put yourselves at the 'service of such people', and everyone who works and toils with them" (*1 Corinthians 9:14 // 1 Corinthians 16: 15-16*).

(c)**FRATERNITY:** "Do not be deceived; bad company ruins good morals. So come to a sober and right mind and sin no more. // The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the 'communion' (fraternity) of the Holy Spirit be with all of you" (*1 Corinthians 15: 33-34 // 2 Corinthians 13:13*).

**Conclusion:** May the BCS's 'Catholic – Universality' permeate to every member to spread its majestic 'Emblem' and dynamic 'Motto'! May the 'Charkha – Spinning Wheel' weave their threads to bind 'The Secular Citizen' of India into a global energetic entity; which President Donald Trump when he had visited Mahatma Gandhi's *Sabarmati Ashram* in Gujarat on 24 February 2020 trusted: "I believe that the 'Charkha' would ease the economic distress of India!"

May the *Bombay Catholic Sabha (BCS)* continue its glorious march towards its half century (50 years); making Bombay a prominent City: "You are the light of the world. A 'City' built in a hill cannot be hid" (*Matthew 5:14*).

—Drs. Trevor & Hazel Colaso, *Bandra (W), Mumbai.*

## Delhi riots welcome Potus

It is a matter of shame for the whole country that when the President of the most powerful country, the USA Donald Trump, visited the Indian capital, the city was literally burning fairly close to the Rashtrapati Bhavan where a lavish banquet for the dignitary and his entourage was being held. Surely the mood at the gala event must have been somber especially for the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi who shares a very close equation with the most powerful man. Without going into the matter as to who is responsible for the unpleasant developments in which some 50 plus people lost their precious lives, it is only natural to ask if the highly hyped intelligence network failed to sense the impending disaster, if at all, the protestors were involved. Even assuming that it was engineered by vested interests, the government should have stepped in much earlier and ensured that nothing untoward took place.

It was the dismal failure of the security establishment that it did not take precautions, sufficiently in advance, to nip any trouble in the bud. For this, adequate forces should have been deployed in all sensitive areas coupled with monitoring the movements of unwanted people from 'entering' the capital. Nothing of this was done nor even contemplated, as subsequent events unfolded. Trouble started in some pockets and despite frantic calls for help from residents, no reinforcements were sent to tackle the riots which spread to other localities with arson and looting and senseless killings of the innocent people including a young intelligence officer. With the CP on the verge of superannuation, he was thoroughly ineffective – even during the Delhi Police revolt he did not crown himself with glory.

The very fact that the Home Ministry had to appoint a Special Commissioner was a tacit acknowledgement of the fact that the incumbent CP's incompetence to handle the deteriorating situation. Even this did not see any change on the ground with reports of some policemen remaining mute spectators. Only when the situation worsened that the NSA was given the charge to bring things under control which he did by 'walking' the talk. Whether the lapses on all fronts were deliberate or just in-

## IEWS on NEWS

difference, only an inquiry by a sitting or retired Supreme Court Judge will unfold. There are veiled suggestions that the deployment of adequate forces was deliberately procrastinated – a Gujarat model of 2002 vintage. If this is even remotely true, it does not augur well for the future of this country.

Leaders from all parties too failed in their duty to do their bit to bring about normalcy in the troubled areas. Everybody was busy blaming one another. The Opposition blamed the Centre and vice versa. Obviously, either of them was responsible for inflaming passions some of them doing so even when the American President was in the midst of his 36 hour visit to India. Many people mostly poor, lost their houses, their belongings and even their near and dear ones. Bodies of murdered people were found in drains and nallahs and this must be the most painful sight for the relatives of the deceased.

To what extent hate speeches contributed to the vitiation of the atmosphere is a moot point! Failure to rein in erring leaders only encouraged others to indulge in more vicious verbal attacks hoping to ingratiate themselves to the most powerful leaders who run the country. When you do not control those who are over-stepping the Laxman rekha, you are actually encouraging them. The Home Minister must accept that he failed on all fronts. Arvind Kejriwal condemned those who indulged in hate mongering and even said all leaders including those from his party should be severely dealt with. Why did the BJP not say the same thing? Why were the Police slow to act? Was the trouble engineered by the BJP to show to the American President and the world that the so called peaceful Shaheen Baug protests were not so peaceful after all? The protestors remained peaceful for 70 days which earned them kudos and goodwill as well as support. Why would they tarnish their image?

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### The government 'by night'.

Who says the government is not working hard. In fact it is more active at night rather than during day. Many important decisions are taken at odd hours



by Marshall Sequeira

obviously in the interest of the people who unfortunately elected them to run the affairs of the country. The test of any government is to know what the citizens think about it and not what foreign countries and their Heads of governments do. The American President had to wriggle out of a tight situation when he was asked to comment on the CAA.

Among others, the disastrous decision of demonetizing the big notes was taken at night but the citizens were forced to stand in the hot sun during the day to face the consequences where a few people even lost their lives. But who cares? More currency is now in circulation than before. Then we had that coup at the CBI headquarters when its boss was thrown out of office at midnight. Scores of policemen encircled the headquarters and it is a mystery even today why exactly such huge security cordon was necessary. The rest of the drama went on for months and showed the government in poor light.

Now we have the case of Justice Muralidhar of the Delhi High Court being given marching orders at midnight. The judge had earlier in the day asked a legitimate question of the Delhi Police as why they had not filed FIRs against the four BJP leaders for their hate speeches only to be told that the Police had 'no time' to go through those speeches. The learned judge wanted reply the following day but instead got the marching orders thereby sending a clear 'message' to other judges. While legal luminaries are cautious in their comments, they are upset about the developments. The motive behind this midnight coup is suspect and it will not be a feather in the cap of the Prime Minister that such things are happening in his government unless of course, the move had his blessings. By the way, post the riots, some half a dozen people had raised the 'goli maro' slogan and within a day F.I.R was filed almost immediately. Who says the government has no time?

# Bangalore parish observes “Differently Abled Day”

Bengaluru, March 10, 2020: A Catholic parish in Bengaluru has organized a program for the disabled persons the southern Indian city, capital of Karnataka state.

Don Bosco Church at Lingarajapuram named the program ‘Differently Abled Day’ and chose ‘We care so we share’ as the theme.

The program focused on the empowerment of persons with disabilities for inclusive, equitable and sustainable development. They also made a pledge to ‘leave no one behind.’

The aim of the program was to promote the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities in all spheres of

society and areas of development. The planners of the project had done it with a view to increase awareness of the situation of persons with disabilities in every aspect of spiritual, political, social, economic and cultural life.

One of the organizers said they want to tell the differently abled society cares for them. “We want to share the little we have with them in the form of education, growth and employment,” he explained.

Their agenda included supplying wheel chairs, artificial limbs, providing them with pension available with the government, job placement for the blind, providing hearing aid to the deaf and telling them that they are part of their family.

Archbishop Peter Machado of Bangalore provided the concluding message.

—Matters India



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# Is the Chapel 'Your Inner room?'

**But when you pray, go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you.**

**Matthew 6:1-6**

**T**he Gospel on Ash Wednesday truly led us into the period of Lent, a season for fasting, praying and almsgiving which are the three cornerstones of all Lenten devotions. . Lent is here bringing with it another opportunity for us to repent and reconcile with our loving father in heaven! A personal communication with the Lord connects us to 'Abba Father', and what better place for this intimate conversation than the chapels of the Blessed Sacrament attached to our churches?

But our inner room could very well be the innermost space within us, where there are no visitors and no entertainment, only peace and serenity!

"Pray to your Father in secret"! It was for this purpose that chapels were constructed adjacent to parish churches, as 'inner rooms', to help us pray to our Father 'in secret'. There is no public declaration of love and Faith, but a soft silent whisper only the Lord can hear. Open up our lives and the Lord touches the areas that need healing, soothing, strengthening, trimming....Can we make the time, those few moments we need to go and whisper our 'sweet nothings' to him?

In our prayers we proclaim that we believe Jesus is present in the Blessed Sacrament in all our places of worship. This belief should draw us to him, to praise and glorify our creator and redeemer, the only source of our strength and courage! ".....pray to your father in secret....." God has blessed each one of us differently and placed us in life where we can be his messengers of love and peace. The hurdles we face are not the same and

our levels of tolerance vary. We feel the need for some private space and time to meditate, recall and articulate our relationship with Jesus. In secret we place before the Father our innermost fears and needs, in this inner room..

'And your Father who sees in secret will repay you.' The Lord assures us that he sees in secret, without our knowledge. He sees our piety, rejoices in our praise and worship, feels our pain and wipes our tears. He can hear our innermost thoughts and our silent cries for help. By granting our petitions now or later, he will repay us for the time, effort, trust and love we display for him.

Do we shut the door on the world? Is the Lord appalled and shocked to see us engrossed in communicating with mortals captured in our mobile phones, far away from his loving presence? Does he watch with silent agony as we ignore him to count the beads, while our minds are lost in tackling our earthly problems? I think his Heavenly Mother will rejoice more if we glorify her Divine Son. Our mere physical presence in the chapel is meaningless and futile, if we carry the clutter of the world with us, in our minds and our bags! The Lord waits.....the giver of all good gifts and the fountain of mercy is waiting to be a part of our problematic lives!

God is present everywhere, we can pray in our homes, while we work, travel.....  
But to 'pray in secret' in a public place is not without distractions and intrusions! Besides, our efforts to take the time off and the trouble to go to a chapel will surely be blessed doubly. Experiencing the peace in that quiet solitude, fills us with a contentment so rare that I believe it heals one physically too!

Much has been said about the set

prayers, used in community gatherings and other devotions. "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I shall be there.." says Lord Jesus. Practicing traditional devotions as a parish or as a community of believers makes Christian life beautiful. But personal prayer is considered an open line that connects us directly to the Father! "Come to me all you who are burdened and I will give you rest!" Can we deny that we are all burdened and need that rest Jesus promises us?

So what is prayer and why do we pray to our Father in secret? Theologians have many definitions of prayer. **Prayer is the pipeline of communication between God and His people, between God and those who love Him.** Prayer is an untapped resource, an unexplored continent where untold treasure remains to be unearthed. Prayer is a loving communication with God. Prayer is the expression of our inner spiritual needs. Prayer is talked about more than anything else, and practiced less than anything else. And yet, for the believer it remains one of the greatest gifts our Lord has given us outside of salvation. Pope Francis in his morning homily says, - **"When God sees a person who continually prays for something, He is moved.....May the Lord give us this grace: The grace to pray before God in freedom, like children; to pray with insistence; to pray with patience; but, above all, to pray in the knowledge that I am speaking with my Father, who will listen to me."**

**Come to speak in secret with 'our Father' and he will repay you!**

## **THE SECULAR CITIZEN**

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## Rasam

### For the Rasam Powder

#### Ingredients :

250 gms. red chillis; 250 gms. coriander seeds; 2 tbsps. tur dal; 50 gms. jeera; 25 gms. pepper; 1 small piece hing; 1 small bunch curry leaves (dried); tsp. turmeric powder.

#### Method :

Dry roast all the ingredients lightly (without oil). Grind to a fine powder and store in an air tight container.

### Paruppu (Dal) Rasam

#### Ingredients :

½ cup tur dal; 1 heaped tsp. rasam powder; 1 lemon size tamarind; 1 bunch coriander leaves; 1 spring curry leaves; 1 pinch hing (asafoetida); ½ tsp. sugar (optional); salt to taste.

#### For seasoning :

1 tsp oil or ghee; ¼ tsp. mustard, ¼ tsp. jeera (cummin).

#### Method :

Cook dal with a little turmeric and keep aside. Extract about 2 cups of juice from tamarind. Add a little more water, salt, rasam powder, hing, sugar and curry leaves to this tamarind water and boil for 5-10 minutes. Add cooked dal and about 1-1 ½ cups more of water, and bring to boil and remove from fire. Heat oil. Add mustard seed and jeera and pour over rasam. Add chopped coriander leaves.

### Tomato Rasam

Prepare to same way, as paruppu rasam. Add chopped tomatoes (2 or 3 tomatoes) to tamarind water and prepare as above.

### Bitter Gourd Chutney

**Required :** 1½ cup chopped bitter gourd; (Kerala); 1 ½ tsp. chilli powder; 1 tsp. Mustard; 1 tsp. black gram dal; 4 red chillies; a few curry leaves; tamarind; a pinch, asafoetida; jaggery to taste; 1 tbsp. coconut gratings; salt to taste; gingerly oil,

#### Method :

Chop the bitter gourd and mix with a little salt. After an hour, squeeze out the juice from this and keep aside.

Heat the gingerly oil in a pan, and fry mustard seeds till they splutter. Add black gram dal, asafoetida, chopped red chillies, chilli powder and fry on a slow flame. Add more oil if required. When brown, add tamarind juice, salt, jaggery and roasted coconut gratings. Cook till tender and till mixture turns thick.



## Chutney

### Date Chutney

**Ingredients :** 50 gms, dates; 20 gms, sugar; 2 red chillis; 5 gms ginger; 5 gms. garlic; 60 ml. vinegar; salt to taste.

#### Method :

Remove seeds from chillis and soak in vinegar. Stone dates and grind. Grind chillis, garlic and ginger using a little vinegar. Make a syrup of remaining vinegar and sugar. Add the ground spices and salt. Boil till syrup is thick. Cool and add ground dates. Serve with fried rice or rice pulao

### Chutney powder

#### Required :

1 cup grated copra; 2 cups boiled channa dal; 5 red chillies; 25 garlic flakes; salt to taste.

#### Method :

Roast and boil channa dal slightly. Roast the copra, red chillies and peeled garlic flakes without oil till crisp. Powder the copra, chillies and garlic, coarsely. Powder the channa dal finely and mix both the powders. Add salt to taste. This goes well with idli, dosa or as a spread for chutney sandwiches.

### Brinjal Chutney

#### Required :

¾ cup coconut gratings; ¼ cup chopped brinjal; 2 tsp. black gram dal; a pinch of asafoetida; 4 red chillies; 1 small piece tamarind; 4 tsp. oil; salt to taste.

#### Method :

Add a little salt to the cubed brinjal and keep for 10 or 15 minutes. Then squeeze out water, and keep aside.

Keep a kadai over the fire and pour in the oil. Fry the brinjal pieces in this over a gentle fire, until they are cooked and turn brown in colour. Drain and keep aside. Put in the asafoetida and then the black gram dal and red chillies and fry till the mixture turns brown. Put in the coconut gratings and fry for another two minutes. Add tamarind and remove from fire. Allow to cool. Grind the coconut gratings, tamarind, chillies, asafoetida and dal first and when half done, add the fried brinjal pieces and salt and again grind to a smooth paste. Serve with rice or chapatis.

# 'DIVO' Completes 25 Years in Active Journalism

DIVO Konkani Weekly of The Secular Citizen, group celebrated its silver jubilee at Don Bosco Hall, Mangaluru on Sunday, March 8, 2020.

Long time Konkani activist, novelist, dramatist and journalist Dolphy Cascia, Konkani activist writer Paul Moras, writer and social worker Grace D'Cruz, film producer Janet Noronha and Dr. Gerry Niddodi were present as guests for the day.

Francis Fernandes Cascia, Divo board adviser, Lawrence Coelho, editor Divo, Susan Coelho, publisher Divo, and Naveen Kulshekar, manager Divo, Mangaluru were present on the dais.

In his introductory speech, Lawrence Coelho said, "Over 25 years ago the inauguration of Divo Konkani weekly was held at St Pius Church Hall, Mulund, Mumbai on April 2, 1995. It was attended by a large number of Konkani lovers. The birth of this Konkani weekly gave a new life to Konkani related activities in Mumbai. Social-cultural activities got an encouragement all over the city which brought together Konkanis, to display their talents on the stage. The special issues like Nativity fest, Women's Day of Divo weekly became treasures of Konkani literature.

"Divo Konkani weekly gave a new dimension to Konkani journalism. Senior writers once again began writing, this encouraged new young writers to come up and the weekly welcomed them all. After 25 years now, many of the senior writers are no more, but even today, their writings are loved by all. Today, the emerging electronic media is a real threat and is a challenge to the print media which is showing signs of weakness. However, with the support of Konkani lovers, Divo is continuing its mission," he said.

Congratulating the Divo team Dolphy Cascia said, "Completing 25 years

Divo weekly has installed a milestone in the Konkani world. I was a regular reader of Divo since its inception. Publishing a weekly is not an easy job. But Lawrence and Suzan took this as a challenge and got success. The 25 years reflects their hard work, dedication and commitment towards the Weekly. Now we have to strengthen their hands. They need support from writers and well-wishers as they have to continue their mission. It is the only Konkani weekly which is run by lay people. The Konkani world and its generation also need its existence."

In his speech, Francis Fernandes said, "Divo has received tremendous support in the past 25 years. It gave a stage to many budding writers and today they flourished as known writers in Konkani. We are generous on all our advertisers who supported us financially. As a media, we did our job

without any compromise. We faced many challenges but we got success over that. Today, we are happy to say that we have completed our silver jubilee. We thank all who have been with us on our journey of 25 years."

The writers and Konkani activist felicitated during the event. Lawrence Coelho and Francis Fernandes distributed the cash prizes to the winners of Divo literary competition.

Naveen Kulshekar welcomed the gathering. Roshan Crasta compared the event.

After the stage programme, Remona Evette Periera enthralled the audience with her classical and semi-classical dance. As a part of the entertainment, Konkani movie 'Kantaar' was screened for the audience.

## COVID-19 & Culture of Life!

Our beloved Cardinal Oswald Gracias has given us prolife guidelines on how to tackle the deadly COVID-19 corona virus, especially for the Good Friday services. Now Italy has become the European epicenter of this 'modern-day 'plague'! As of 09 March 2020, there have been 9,172 confirmed cases, and 463 deaths. Italy is under lockdown, and has declared a state of emergency!

Polish Cardinal Konrad Krajewski, who runs the Rome -based charitable office and is close to Pope Francis has revealed, "COVID-19 has all of a sudden changed the way we care for life. We have become lovers of life; and ceased to represent the culture of death that Pope John Paul II spoke of."

"No one is having discussions about the living right of Down Syndrome patients; or whether it is up to the expectant mother to abort her live fe-

tus. Neither are Italians talking about euthanizing the elderly. Rather today, we are looking for vaccines, and taking precautions to save lives through quarantine. Everybody is choosing life today, beginning with the media!"

"God loves the 'culture of life'! He does not want the death of the sinner, but desires the sinner to convert and accept eternal life! This 40-days of Lent is also about choosing life over death; through three medicines that allow us to choose the freedom of the resurrection of life!"

The first medicine are 'silent deeds of mercy' always focused on the other person. The second are 'prayers' for the salvation of sinners. The third is 'fasting', like giving up a desert of a cappuccino, and donating the money to charity!"

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

## A question asked to a student for 5 marks

**Question:** Why fire engine is red in colour?

**Answer :** Because fire engine has ladder. It has steps. Steps are a foot long and is measured by a ruler. A ruler can be king or a queen. Elizabeth was the Queen of England. Elizabeth was also the name of a ship. Ship floats on water. Water has fish. Fishes have fins. Fins are people from Finland. The national flag of Finland is red. So fire engine is red in colour.

**Note :** The examiner has been admitted to the hospital.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Argument between a couple

A small argument between a couple turns violent.

**Husband :** Don't let the animal in me come out.

**Wife :** Who's afraid of a mouse!

\*\*\*\*\*

Being married is like having the freedom to do whatever your wife tells you.

\*\*\*\*\*

A man meets his friend who had started wearing earrings. He asks "Since when did you start wearing earrings?" Friend, "Ever since my wife found them in my car!"

\*\*\*\*\*

### The thief and the old woman

An elderly woman was walking her dog when a young man grabbed her purse and ran away. The man turned and the old lady was smiling. Confused he came back and asked if she was okay. She smiled and said that its really no big deal because she carries her old purse to put her dog's poop in it until she gets home to dispose of it.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Is tea the solution to everything?

Happy? Have a cup of tea.

Sad? Have a cup of tea.

Headache? Have a cup of tea.

Depressed " Have a cup of tea.

Confused? Have a cup of tea.

In love? Have a cup of tea.



\*\*\*\*\*

### Lost in translation

Jackie Chan was on a business call when he realised he was late for a class at the gym. He must have sounded rushed because the woman on the phone said, "Am I keeping you from something?" Jackie replied, "I have to leave for tai chi." "Oh," she said, sounding intrigued "What country is that in?"

\*\*\*\*\*

### The signboard

Saw a signboard on the expressway that said: "Your wife is waiting at home." Speed came down from 140kms per hour to 60 kms per hour instantly!

\*\*\*\*\*

### An elderly couple were relaxing on their front porch

**Wife :** You told me you would spend your whole life trying to make me happy.

**Husband :** I didn't expect to live this long.

\*\*\*\*\*

One day, a physician father treated himself to a plate of raw oysters and offered to share them with his son. Just as the son was about to dig in, he picked up an oyster, examined it and commented. "They remind me of infected tonsils." And that's the story of how he ended up eating the entire plate of oysters himself.

\*\*\*\*\*

A frightened man goes to the secret police and says, "My talking parrot disappeared." "Why did you come here? Go to the regular police." "I will. I'm just here to tell you that I disagree with whatever that parrot is going to

say."

\*\*\*\*\*

### The universal truth

Women don't dress to impress men, they dress to irritate other women.

\*\*\*\*\*

**A famous cartoonist once said :** I stopped making cartoons of politicians after politicians became cartoons.

\*\*\*\*\*

### The fork, knife and straw

Seeing my friend eat *dosa* with a fork and knife, I passed him a straw.

**He asked me:** For what?

**I answered :** For the *sambhar* my dear.

\*\*\*\*\*

An Uber is cruising down a street when it runs a red light "Hey!" the passenger shouts. "Be careful!" "Don't worry," says the driver. "My brother does it all the time". He barrels through the next red light and the passenger screams, "Stop doing that!" "I'm telling you, my brother does this all the time." They approach the next light. Just when it turns green, the driver slams on the brakes. The confused passenger asks, "You just ran two red lights; why'd you stop at a green?" "I had to," says the driver. "My brother might have been coming."

\*\*\*\*\*

### The ultimate secret

The wife maintaining her beauty secrets and the husband maintaining his secret beauties.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Electrician and the great shock!

She fell in love with an electrician and all her friends were shocked.

\*\*\*\*\*

My wife asked me Why I spoke so softly in the house. I said I was afraid Mark Zuckerberg was listening! She laughed, I laughed, Alexa laughed and Siri joined us too in the laughter.

# Inspiration!

## Reduce ego, develop humility

**HUMILITY IS SAID** to be the highest virtue yet society celebrates over-confidence, entitlement and a perpetual focus on the self. People are increasingly competitive, attention - seeking, narcissistic, obsessed with their appearance and entitled. Humility or 'a quiet ego' as you may say - can be surprisingly powerful ways. Humility is not something we finally achieve. It is something that we seek daily and strive to demonstrate every single day. We bring you a list of things that you can do to explore and develop humility and the benefits of the same

Humility is a quality of being content in the current situation of life and still continues to give love and respect to all irrespective of getting it back. It's a state of calmness of the mind where you may have achieved a lot in life but you acknowledge that it's God given and you have to give back to society in some way. Humility is also when you can take on a role where others would see it as ridiculous regarding your status. A humble person will be one with great achievements but who never brags about them. In fact, most of the time, it is other people who speak on their behalf. Let us now dive into the top reasons why humility is of utmost importance.

### **Humility to serve others :**

Humility puts us in a good position to serve others. By default, we are people who want to be served by others. However, the more humble we become, the more the desire to serve others. Still, humility is even more important when it comes to serving people who are less advantaged than us. Serving people with a higher status seems easier than serving people with a lower status than you. Humility solves such issues.

### **It leads to greatness :**

Being great comes through doing the right karma which benefits yourself and others in long term. Great people look at the world with a different perspective. They feel that it's their responsibility to contribute to the world. They are self-empowered souls and that happens through being humble irrespective of what others think of them.

### **Avoid embarrassments :**

It will keep you safe from embarrassments that arise after you think highly of yourself, then just after some moments, another person better than you arises. For example, bragging about having a great singing voice and only some moments later, another person is recognised who is far better than you!

### **Humility attracts blessings :**

When you give something you automatically get. We know that thoughts have the power to heal, We come across many people who maybe unknown to us but they are sent by God to us so that he can use to improve our good karmas. If we can do something for them physically then we can at least have good thoughts and pray for their wellbeing. This in turn attracts secret blessings of the heart.

### **Makes you an usher of happiness :**

A humble person is not only connected to humans but also to animals and nature as a whole. He feels that everyone is mine and everyone needs love and respect. He understands that as a soul we all belong to one God and so it is our duty to spread happiness to all and vibrate good wishes in the world.

### **Makes you ego less :**

When a person achieves a lot in life, Ego sometimes steps in. However a

humble person understands that giving is the way to live in life. There are many things apart from wealth which can be given and a humble person always aims to give some part of his time, knowledge or anything acquired to the needy from time to time to feel grounded.

### **Humility keeps us teachable :**

When we are humble, we remain teachable. Of course, no one knows all things but this is far from the truth with people not having humility. When we are not humble, we think we know all things and are not willing so much to learn from others or listen to what they have to say.

### **Humility keeps us away from comparisons with others :**

What causes us to compare ourselves with others is when we want to be better or greater than others. We are always sensitive to others who may seem to be better than us. Our alarm rings when someone seems to be arising who may be greater than us. With humility, however, you consider others more important than yourself. Even when you seem to be at a higher status than them, still you don't see yourself above them. This avoids the stress, worries, anxiety, among other effects that come with comparing ourselves with others.

Developing sincere humility is a process, not something that is created overnight but through diligence and faith it can be done. It is worth it!

### **A FEW INDICATORS OF HUMBLENESS IN ACTION**

- Asking for help, when needed, without hesitation.
- Listening to understand the other viewpoint
- Graciously accepting help, compliments, or correction.
- Embracing our differences because they make for a better team
- Being right without pointing it out
- Working with what we have, with a thankful heart

# Lenten Reflections 2020

LENTEN  
REFLECTIONS  
2020



Lenten times are reflective times of our Christian life. Lenten times are times of Kairos – God’s moments that adds full of meaning for our lives. Lenten times are the God’s time that leads us to timeless Eternity.

## Three Faces

The Japanese say you have three faces. The first face, you show to the world. The second face, you show to your close friends, and your family. The third face, you never show anyone. It is the truest reflection of who you are. Lent time is to focus on third face of you the real You and to stand God in fear and trembling to use the phrase of Soren Kierkegaard the Dane Thinker.

## Lenten Theology:

The Best theology one can articulate by being at the feet of the Lord: Knee-o-logy. At the Feet of the Lord in Knee-position in fear and trembling during the Lenten times is really meaningful and penitential. The spirit of the Lord’s prayer is a good indicator which expresses the essence of Lenten Theology: Lord it’s not my name be praised but thy name be praised; Lord’s it’s not my will be done but thy will be done; Lord’s it’s not my kingdom come but thy kingdom come. Hans Urs von Balthazar says: World is an interplay of Ego-drama and theo-drama. Ego-drama is I-drama: my name be praised; my will be done and my kingdom come. Whereas Theo-drama is God-drama: wherein Thy name be praised; thy will be done; thy kingdom come. Lenten times are times to celebrate the Theo-drama in our local and global context.

## Lenten Ecology:

The Creative act of Theo-drama was

creating ecology – habitat for our living. First week of creation was ecosystem was its best. Everything gratis and the gifts of nature: Water was hundred percent pure; Air was hundred percent pure and food was hundred percent pure without hidden and branded taxes of the Present times. In the Lenten times Lenten ecology means to clean our mother earth. As per Pope Francis observes world has been reduced to Waste land and a big dust bin. Lenten times are healing grace for the mother earth. Each one has the precious duty to perform to bring green pastures for our surrounding. And this is the great heritage we hand-over to the next generation. Renew Energy, recycle the things that can be made use of reuse the materials that is not yet worn out. Lenten Ecology is the new mission of the Lenten people.



Fr. George  
Olivera OFM  
Cap, Mysore

We are Lenten People and following Jesus on the Way of the Cross is our Life-Style. And Lenten ecology is an creative impetus for Lenten praxis.

## Lenten Psychology:

Zoroastrian life principle is summarized by the following motto: Good Thoughts, Good Words and Good Deeds. In Simple Words it is Good Psychology. Buddhist Thinkers say there are 50, 000 thoughts, perceptions, feelings crisscross our minds around the clock for 24X7 every day without fail. Sacred mind is thoughtless mind; sick mind is with too many thoughts, healthy mind is mind with well-balanced thoughts.

Lenten mind is a mind is fixed on Words and the Deeds of the Lord of the Lent: Jesus Christ. Metanoia in

Christian Tradition means Change the contents of the Mind. The Contents of mind ought to be Christ-Centered with habitual praxis of Lectio Divina or the Spiritual Reading the Word of God. Praying the Word, reflecting on the Word of God, Contemplating of the Face of Jesus the Crucified Lord is the Kernel of Lenten Psychology.

## Lenten Technology

The Science of the Day is Technology and many of the followers of Lent are high-tech people. They are online disciples of technology. God is always off-line and World is always on-line. Lenten time is time of paradigm shift. Make God on-line and high-tech apparatus off-line for some time.

Lent concerns the persons and Technology concerns things. God created persons to be loved and things to be used and not other way round. Technology too much emphasizes on things to be loved and persons to be used. Lenten time gives an opportunity to focus on first principle of God and neighbor: Love your God and love your neighbor and then use things that matter in our life.

## Three Lenten Facebook Monkeys:

In Ancient China and Japan three monkey were localized in the sanctuaries of Taoism and Shintoism. But they became mobile visiting the Sabar-mati Ashram of Gandhi. Now these monkeys are global brand to highlight see no evil, speak no evil and hear no evil. To my surprise they appeared in Facebook account with a Hindi warning: bura mat type karo; bura mat like karo; bura mat share karo that means

(Contd.. on p. 19)

(Contd.. from p. 18)

type no evil; like no evil; share no evil. These monkeys are still relevant in our technological world.

**2020 Temptations of our times:**

Our Times are more tempting than Jesus' times. Jesus was tempted by the devil not one time but three times. The message is loud and clear – if the Lord of the Lent is tempted, we the disciples would surely be tempted umpteen times. Present day temptations of our life is three-fold: do not pray at all; do not fast at all; do not give alms at all. In the narcissistic and hedonistic culture of our life these are tendencies hinder our Lenten practices for authentic living.

**WHAT TO GIVE UP in Lent**

- Give up complaining  
..... focus on gratitude.
- Give up pessimism  
..... become an optimist.
- Give up harsh judgments  
... think kindly thoughts.
- Give up worry  
..... trust Divine Providence.
- Give up discouragement  
... be full of hope.
- Give up bitterness  
..... turn to forgiveness.
- Give up hatred  
..... return good for evil.
- Give up negativism  
..... be positive.
- Give up anger  
..... be more patient.
- Give up pettiness  
..... become mature.
- Give up gloom.  
..... enjoy the beauty that is all around you.
- Give up jealousy  
..... pray for trust.
- Give up gossiping  
..... control your tongue.
- Give up sin  
..... turn to virtue.
- Give up giving up  
..... hang in there!

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## Rome Call for AI Ethics!

*The Pontifical Academy for Life, along with IBM and Microsoft, signed on Friday 28 February 2020, an urgent call, "Ethical and Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)"!*

The Sponsors expressed their desire to work together to promote, "Algo-Ethics", the ethical use of AI, according to the principles of transparency, inclusion, responsibility, impartiality, reliability, security and privacy! Pope Francis who could not attend because of indisposition, read his comments through an Archbishop. (Briefly):

"The aim of ethical developments of these 'algorithms' is to ensure a review of the processes by which we integrate relationships between human beings and today's AI technology. The Church's social teaching on the dignity of the person, justice, subsidiary and solidarity, is a critical contribution to the pursuit of these noble goals."

"There are three requirements for the technological advancement of AI, in order to align with true progress: - It must be inclusive; it should have the good of humanity at its core; and care for the planet with a highly sustainable approach!"

Sandra Alexander, a Catholic and an Ethics professor at the American University at Dubai, UAE, proposed, that in the age of AI, we need to prioritize the values of human dignity, the bonds of community, and the role of truth!

"A common moral vocabulary among many faith traditions, is however, to approach AI with caution, but also with hope! I advise Catholics to be research-based, but always thoughtful and prayerful about these new AI technologies!"

**—Dr. Hazel Colaso, Bandra (W), Mumbai.**

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**7100. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in March 1987), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 52 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. H.S.C., working as a Event Coordinator. Contact email : celeseinepereira@gmail.com

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**6906. ABUDHABI :** Tamilian Ro-

man Catholic Bachelor, (Born in July 1988), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 67 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Bachelor in Business Admin., working as a Customer Support. Contact email : dvdleena@yahoo.co.in

**7049. CANADA :** Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in June 1986), Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 85 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. BE (Computer), working in CANADA in a Non IT Field Seeks a working girl in Canada and holding a PR Visa. Contact email : anniedrz@gmail.com

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**7068. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in June 1983), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 58 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. HSC, working as a Customer Service. Contact email : cynthiadalmeida83@gmail.com

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**7052. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in June 1977), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 72 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A., Retail Management, working as a General Manager. Contact email : albert.pinto2006@gmail.com

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**7050. LONAVLA :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in November 1985), Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 75 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. MBA., working. Contact email : dsouza\_adrian@yahoo.co.in

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**7093. MUMBAI :** Gujarati Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in July 1982), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 50 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working for Private Bank. Contact email : annie.waghela@gmail.com

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man Catholic Spinster, (Born in September 1983), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 54 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.A., Working as an Educational Consultant. Contact email : elviraaranha@rediffmail.com

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**6954. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in October 1987), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 47 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., CA., working as a Finance Executive. Contact email : merissa5@yahoo.com

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# 120th anniversary of ordination of first Mangalorean 'Servant of God'



**By-Ivan Saldanha-Shet.**

On March 4, 1900, Fr Raymond F C Mascarenhas was ordained at Mangalore's Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, well known as 'Rosario'. The Congregation of the Sisters of the Little Flower of Bethany (BS), the well known Mangalore's indigenous community of nuns, marked the 120th anniversary (1900-2020) of the ordination of their Founder, 'Servant of God' Raymond F C Mascarenhas, this saintly priest who was the pioneer of Bendur which he established from 1914 is the first priest of the Konkani catholic community of Mangalore to be on the path to saint hood in the church since 2009. This 'Servant of God's' cause which was initiated in 2009, has now progressed. The Roman Phase of the Cause of Beatification and Canonization of the Servant of God Raymond Francis Camillus Mascarenhas was opened on February 19, 2020 at the Sacred Congregation for the Causes of Saints, Vatican in Rome.

This occasion of the 120th anniversary was celebrated in the city with a special mass attended by a large number of priests, nuns, and laity at the Rosario Cathedral under the patronage of the Bishop of Mangalore, Most Rev Dr. Peter Paul Saldanha, the Superior General Rev Sr.Rose Celine BS

and counselors, the Provincial team and key members of the congregation were present. The solemn occasion was a memorable one. The Bishop extolled the virtue of the 'Servant Of God' Raymond F C Mascarenhas and the work he has done to uplift the people of Mangalore by starting the Bendur Parish in 1914 and later in 1921 founding the Bethany Congregation of Mangalore who have now spread all over India, even the NE and over seas. Their recognized services in the field of education and social services like hospitals, vocational training for women and their special attention to welfare of women and down trodden is note worthy. This worthy priest has served the region and community in many many ways until he died in 1960, he was born in 1875 and was conferred several recognitions during his life and is considered a holy man.

Msgr Raymond F C Mascarenhas was the Vicar General (1931-41) of the Diocese of Mangalore, he did his priestly studies and preparation at the local St.Joseph Seminary Jeppu, then run by the pioneer Jesuits. He became a very revered priest of Mangalore diocese. It is understood the many historical stalwarts of the Church and society would have participated at this well recalled ordination in 1900...E.G : Mother Nympha Fernandez (1850-

1909) the co-founder of another famous indigenous order of nuns the Ursulines (UFS) of Mangalore; Mother Mary Aloysia,(1855-1939) the Second Superior General of the Apostolic Carmel Congregation was a leading light in early Mangalore; Rev Fr Augustus Muller SJ, (1841-1910) with his companion pioneer Jesuits of Mangalore, Founder of Fr.Muller's Institutions. Several who became Bishops and prelates and great personalities of Mangalore of that era. Indeed it is a great privilege for the people of this city to recall the personalities of old with honour and affection. The prayers of the people reflected fervently that Msgr RFC Mascarenhas be declared a saint of the church sooner and the region be blessed abundantly.

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# Manage Your Time

by C. K. Subramaniam



**T**ime management is the process of planning and organizing tasks or events. It is the exercise of conscious control over the amount of time spent on specific activities, especially with a view to increasing effectiveness, efficiency or productivity. One has to work for Greater productivity and efficiency, A better professional reputation, Less stress, Increased opportunities for advancement, Greater opportunities to achieve important life and career goals.

Time is elastic. It can stretch and sag like a hammock, and it can shrink and snap like a rubber band. When you have a lot to do, it seems like you're running after time and it is time to work overtime. One of the most basic and urgent problems of

21st century is to understand about time management and how to utilize one's valuable time properly and purposefully. How it can be utilized effectively, constructively and productively. Time management is the process of organizing and planning how to divide your time between specific activities. Good time management enables you to work smarter – not harder – so that you get more done in less time, even when time is tight and pressures are high. Failing to manage your time damages your effectiveness and causes stress.

Plan your day well in advance. Prepare a to do List or a task plan. Have check list of things to do on a particular day. Jot down the important activities that need to be done in a single day against the time that should be allocated to each activity. High Prior-

ity work should come on top followed by those which do not need much of your importance at the moment. Complete pending tasks one by one. Do not begin fresh work unless you have finished your previous task. Tick the ones you have already completed. Ensure you finish the tasks within the stipulated time frame.

## WORK ON A TIME SCHEDULE AND REAP MAXIMUM BENEFITS

Develop the habit of doing the right thing at the right time. Work done at the wrong time is not of much use. Don't waste a complete day on something which can be done in an hour or so. Also keep some time separate for your personal calls or checking updates on Facebook or Twitter. After all human being is not a machine. In a large campus, free time can lead to complacency. Make the most of the opportunities. To crack any competitive test, especially the mother of all competitive tests in India, the CAT, managing time is essential. Even an excellent student who has extraordinary abilities but cannot manage time will not be able to crack it, whereas an average student with proper time management and selection of questions can crack the CAT.

Time management is the coordination

of tasks and activities to maximize the effectiveness of an individuals efforts. Essentially, the purpose of time management is enabling people to get more and better work done in less time. Elements include organization, planning and scheduling to best take advantage of the time available to the individual, while also taking into account that individuals particular situation and relevant characteristics.

The benefits of effective time management apply equally to both the business and its employees. When employees' working hours are managed to best effect, they tend to be happier, more creative and less prone to burnout. For the business, that translates to lower absenteeism and turnover rates and more productivity, innovation and employee advocacy -- which in turn provide more benefits, such as an enhanced corporate reputation and employee recruitment. Keep a journal of activities for a week to identify the times of day when you are likely to be most productive. Use that information to guide scheduling tasks. There lies the real success of time management. It is ideal to work on a time schedule and reap maximum benefits.

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