

THE SECULAR CITIZEN

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Right wing groups

given free reign

in India



Pope Calls Family Of Slain US Journalist



Vatican City: Pope Francis has called the family of U.S. journalist James Foley, who was beheaded by ISIS militants earlier this week, a Vatican spokesman has confirmed.

Fr. Federico Lombardi, director of the Holy See press office, confirmed to CNA in an Aug. 21 email that Pope called the Foley family about the death of James.

On Aug. 19, the Islamic State (ISIS), a militant group that controls territory in Syria and Iraq, released a graphic video titled “A Message to America” which shows the beheading of Foley, who had gone missing in Syria in 2012. U.S. officials have now confirmed the authenticity of the video.

The insurgents said that Foley’s execution was in retaliation for U.S. airstrikes against Islamic State targets in Iraq. They warned that they have another missing American journalist, Steven Joel Sotloff, in captivity, saying that his life depends on U.S. President Barack Obama’s actions.

Foley’s parents, John and Diane, had said Aug. 20 that the Pope was due to call them soon, according to The Daily Mail.

They have voiced gratitude for the prayers offered for their son and the entire family.

“We thank God for the gift of Jim. We are so, so proud of him,” said Diane. She added that they prayed to God for strength and were grateful that “God has given us so many prayers” throughout James’ captivity.

“Jim would never want us to hate or be bitter. We’re praying for the strength to love like he did,” she said.

“It’s not difficult to find solace in this point in time,” John stated. “We know he is in God’s hands, and we know he’s done God’s work.”

“We need the courage and prayers now to continue without him.”

Pope’s Personal Envoy Briefs Francis After Visit To Iraq



Cardinal Fernando Filoni said Pope Francis “was really taken” by the cardinal’s description of Christians and other minorities forced from their homes in north-western Iraq by militias belonging to the Islamic State terrorist group.

The Pope met Cardinal Filoni early on Thursday, the morning after the cardinal returned to the Vatican following a visit to Iraq on August 13-20 as Francis’s envoy to besieged minorities there.

“He was very attentive,” the cardinal said of the Pope, “and he let me speak at length. He took to heart all the situations I spoke about: the expectations of our Christians and their worries, as well as the approach taken by the local churches.”

Cardinal Filoni, a former Vatican nuncio to Iraq and current prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelisation of Peoples, spoke to Vatican Radio after his meeting with Pope Francis.

The cardinal was able to meet with the displaced on the lawns of churches, inside church buildings and schools, and in the camps where they have received initial assistance. He said: “You have to realise that this is the warmest period of the year”, when temperatures regularly exceed 110 degrees Fahrenheit, so shade and water are extremely important.

Once the immediate needs are met, he said, “everyone asks: How long will this go on? What awaits them?”

“The most vivid images that will stay with me are of those people who have lost everything” yet count themselves lucky if no one in their immediate family was killed by the Islamic State forces, he said.

Most of the members of the minority Yazidi religious community were not so fortunate, he said. “This was agonising. Their faces were blank.” They had seen many of the men in their villages murdered and many of the women “kidnapped, raped and sold.”

Cardinal Filoni told Vatican Radio his hope “is the hope of these people” – that they can return home with some form of internationally guaranteed “security cordon” around their villages.

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Thought for the week

Once your mind goes from if to when, your resolve will immediately start removing the worries.

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Right wing groups given free reign in India

Numerous political columnists have in recent weeks noted how elements of the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS), and its right wing Hindu ultra-nationalist ideology, has moved from the fringes to center stage of Indian discourse after Narendra Modi's election win in May.

His Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is unabashed about its links with the RSS and the expanding group of organizations it has spawned, collectively known as the Sangh Parivar. Modi is himself a former RSS leader, as are several of his cabinet colleagues. Some ranking RSS officials have in recent weeks been inducted as general secretaries of the BJP, leaving no one in any doubt of the seamless fusion of the political party and the Sangh which styles itself as a social and cultural organization.

This again points to the major problems religious minorities can be expected to face under Modi's leadership. RSS chief Vishnu Bhagwat has repeatedly asserted that everyone in India is Hindu – including Muslims and Christians – because this is the land of the Hindu people and civilization. The Sangh ideologue MG Vaidya said on May 19, three days after the election result, that they can now tackle issues such as the building of the Ram temple on the site of the Babri mosque they demolished in 1992. Ashok Singhal, leader of Vishwa Hindu Parishad which is a member of the Sangh, said: "If [Muslims] keep opposing Hindus, how long can they survive?"

Hindus have always been a majority in India, but the manifestation of a majority attitude had only been reflected in the cultural and social field, said Seshadri Char,i a sober commentator of Outlook Magazine and former editor of RSS mouthpiece Organiser.

"Now it is reflected in the politics of the country. A large number of foot soldiers in the RSS-BJP do believe that the political Hindu has arrived," he wrote.

This was apparent in the absolutely poisonous and acrid discussion that took place in the lower house of parliament two days before Independence Day on August 15 when the BJP's lead speaker Yogi Adityanath, founder of the rightist group Hindu Yuva Vahini, got away with demonizing the Muslim community and others. The opposition Congress Party did nothing to rebut him

(Contd.. on p. 4)



BY JOHN DAYAL

(Contd.. from p. 3)

and his colleagues.

The debate, the fielding of Adityanath as the key speaker for his party, and the applause he received from leaders and other members on the BJP benches, made a mockery of talk that Modi's political high command distances itself from the lunacy of the Sangh Parivar, the family of Hindu nationalist groups.

The potential for crisis comes – as it has this time – when rogue elements choose to challenge the law and indulge in targeted mass violence assuming the current political climate will no react against them. They seem to be right.

The rash of violence against Muslims in north India, and increasing incidents of coercion and assault against Christians in central and north India, has alarmed religious minorities in the country.

The figures of communal violence, and actions that fell just sort of violence, are not officially declared, but estimates of cases since the BJP victory announcement on May 16 range upwards of 1,000, most incidents taking place in Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra which face elections later this year for state legislatures.

The violence against Muslims has been well recorded. The anti-Christian violence has gone under the radar. Taken together, it indicates a massive drive to turn Hindu the countryside, small towns and tribal areas, and not the big towns that were the focus of violence in past years. Bastar in eastern Chhattisgarh state is the new flashpoint.

The Christian leadership has expressed alarm at the sharp rise in hate campaigns by the Sangh's political and cultural organizations. The threat of purging Christians from villages extends from Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh now to Uttar Pradesh, the borders of the national capital of New Delhi.

There has been no response from the state and federal governments yet to the June diktat by local village leaders, panchayats, in the Bastar region of Chhattisgarh banning entry of Christian. They decided that only Hindus will

Excel Seniors Programme in Mangalore

Excel Seniors was a programme organized by UXCEL--- An Institute for Excellence in association with Milagres Seniors, Rotary Club South and Vishwas Trust on 22nd August 22, 2014 at the Milagres Jubilee Hall, Mangalore with the sole objective of reviving seniors and exploring their potential so that find fulfillment and joy.

For UXCEL it is its second programme, the first being the RAMP WALK for the seniors held early this year.

The programme had nearly 400 seniors and superseniors take the stage for the dance, singing, narration of jokes and fancy dress contest. There were fifteen organizations whose inmates joined the programme and were thoroughly entertained and energized during the monsoon season. The oldest participant was ninety two years old.

The participants were awarded



cash prizes. Juliet was the star dancer of the morning. The Judges for the contest were Prof. Lawrence Costa, Mrs Vijayalakshmi and Mrs. Greta Dsouza .

UXCEL with Prof. Maria Phyllis D'Costa organized show. The Milagres Parish provided the hall, the Rotary Club South under the leadership of Rtn. Nandini Raghuchandra donated the meal.

be allowed into villages in this tribal belt, and only Hindu places of worship can be built in future. This decision is entirely illegal and violates constitutional articles that protect freedom of expression and movement.

The coercive methodology of branding every tribal as a Hindu has led to much violence in several central Indian states, including a pogrom in Kandhamal in Orissa in August 2008. Such threats by right wing Hindu groups gained significant traction during the early years of the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance government of Atal Behari Vajpayee, especially in the tribal areas of Gujarat and Rajasthan.

In the Dangs, a district of Gujarat, more than 25 village churches were burned down on Christmas Eve of 1998 followed by the gruesome burning alive of Australian medical missionary Graham Stuart Staines and his two young sons in Manouharpur in Orissa in January 2009. Many other murders followed, including that of a Catholic priest, Father Arun Doss, in the same region.

Modi and his Minister for Home Affairs, Rajnath Singh, have failed to

send out strong signals that the rule of law will be fully protected. Modi's announcement in his Independence Day speech asking for a "10-year moratorium" on all forms of sectorial violence has muddled the civil discourse.

Human rights and religious minority groups have questioned him on why he did not appeal for a complete end to violence against religious and caste groups. One cynical explanation is that the BJP seeks peace for the 10 years when it hopes to rule the country in increasing strength, but may face a difficult election a decade from now.

Modi has an opportunity to restore faith in harmony and secularism in the country. But there is little of hope that filters through his current strategy of silence on most issues of concern to the country, other than in a few public speeches where rhetoric and slogans substitute for substance.

John Dayal is the general secretary of the All India Christian Council and a member of the Indian government's National Integration Council. (Source: ucanews)

Independence Day Musings

I am a victim of enforced idleness brought about by unemployment, old age and ailments. Not quite. I get up in the middle of the night with a mind full of dreams and a full bladder and then cannot get back to sleep again. Despite my arthritis, I got up and cheered when NaMo advocated that MPs should use the money allotted to them under MPLAD and other schemes for building toilets. I have been advocating this for a long time and it has become more necessary as I advance in years. I sat down when I realized that NaMo did not have me in mind when he announced his policy from the Red Fort. He was more interested in the women from the rural areas

Again I hailed NaMo when he announced that there should be no communal violence for 10 years. I have lived in a setting where everyone has different beliefs and hence communal harmony would be welcome — how money is to be used, how the house is to be arranged, how week-ends are to be spent, etc. Unfortunately 10 years is too short — I plan to live for another 30 years.

Unlike the jet set crowd I didn't rush to put my comments on Twitter — I am not a bird. Nor did I go to Facebook. I don't intend to change my status where I have been "Faceless" for 78 years. I prefer the old fashioned way of writing an essay from the safety of the other side of the eyeballs from what you are observing.

NaMo passing the onus on development on to the common man reminded me of how I was inspired when John F. Kennedy told the American people "Don't ask what the country can do for you. Ask rather what you can do for the country". I have been telling people what I can do for over half a century now but nobody is listening.

I saw the Retreat done jointly by the Indian and Pakistan forces at the Wagah Border prior to their retiring to rest for the night. It was choreographed to bring out the preparedness of each side for conflict — don't mess around with me ! The body language, facial



expressions, actions, shouting and movements showed what was in store in case the neighbors became too neighborly. I am wondering if such rituals should be adopted in the cooperative societies in which we live! I have never followed the advice, "Never

Francis Lobo

go to bed angry". I have found sleep the best cure for anger.

The danger of writing is that nobody may read. Technology has made life easy — Just press the "Delete" button. But one in a hundred who do, send me a comment like, "Hi Bozo [my name is Lobo] did you write that in humor?" This forces me to write again to make my views clear even if they are only to myself.

As I see the debates on TV, one comment leads to another — There are unintended consequences and there is a hidden side to everything. Having made a comment on one subject, people ask me "What do you think of ——— [Something on which I have not a clue. This sends me rushing to Wikipedia to find out what they are talking about]"

The Internet has made communication easy for the reader with the "Delete" button. It has also made it cheap for the writer — no paper, no postage, no rejection slips.

I have fond memories of my first

Independence Day. In another 30 years I shall probably be one of the few who can say that I witnessed it in person. At the age of 10, I suddenly realized that life had changed, that India was moving ahead. Everything took on a unique meaning. The sign on the road, "Men at Work". The whistle of the train engine carried the message that people and goods were on the move, There was the hysteria of the elections, the Republic Day parades. I am fortunate to say that with each Independence and Republic Day this boyhood belief in my country has not dimmed.

I am not one who subscribes to the view that nothing has happened in 67 years. In fact I find that I cannot even imagine that I am alive today surviving an open by-pass surgery, prostate operations, innumerable ailments. My parents never travelled by air, they didn't have a telephone [now I have one in each pocket], there was no TV [may have been a blessing] no car, no micro-wave, etc. The toilets emptying into the open drains have since disappeared. There is no queuing up to buy rations, access to any part of the world is possible at any time, I can determine my bank balances from anywhere at any moment and transfer money from Pune to Chennai as fast as the electronic system will permit. My maid servant's children can get a professional degrees and well-paying jobs.

It is blasphemous to say that nothing was done in 60 years. Nobody is expecting wonders to be achieved in 70 days which the seniors have taken 60 years to build. But remember the seniors have built a solid foundation, a remarkable constitution, an incredible system of governance of diverse people and cultures and a sound economy. As a Catholic for me it is significant that Independence Day coincides with the Catholic Church Feast of the Assumption of Mary, Mother of God, into Heaven. From the foundations that have been laid on this 68 Independence Day India can take a quantum leap forward. Cheers on this great day to all Indians

Pope Francis And Destiny

Pope Francis recently sounded a pessimistic note by stating that he is destined to live for only 2-3 years more before embarking on the final journey to meet his maker. Whether this is a prophetic utterance arising out of a revelation, or one driven by failing health and fatigue, may never be known. Nevertheless, there is good reason to believe that the Holy Father is feeling the strain of the papacy due to old age, after he hinted that he would not hesitate to step down like his predecessor pope Benedict XVI, if he felt that he was incapable of delivering the goods. Another plausible reason is that Pope Francis is feeling the heat and pressure by dissidents in the Curia and a section of disgruntled bishops in the church who are not happy with the Holy Father's liberal approach to some controversial and pressing doctrinal issues plaguing the church today. Whatever be the reason, it is better if a retirement age is fixed for every incumbent pope, just as it is mandatory for every bishop to submit his resignation at the age of 75. This will ensure better functioning and governance of church affairs.

—A. F. Nazareth,
Alto Porvorim

Communion for the Divorced

Reference, article with the above caption by Chotebhai in the Secular Citizen of 11th August.

Questions such as "Is an alcoholic husband who bashes his wife every other day holier than a divorced and remarried couple, just because he has divorced his wife?" and "If the Sacraments are a means of sanctification for those in need, rather than a reward for being good, then do not the divorced and remarried stand in need of such spiritual sustenance?" do not seem to be relevant or helpful. How can we expect such questions and thoughts from a person who has a



good amount of knowledge about the Church and who profess faith in the Church?

All agree there are difficulties in certain issues like divorce, contraception, marital chastity etc etc., but thinking of solutions in purely secular ways is not the right step. Catholic Church, for that matter Jesus Christ is not democracy. Once Jesus said that looking at a woman with lust is sin, we are nobody to change the concept. We do not say that our Popes and bishops are perfect, but we have the faith that the Church is protected and guided by the Holy Spirit. Those who believe in this, have to abide by the rules of the Church and cannot say that "Celibate old males sitting in boardrooms, should not decide the fate of young couples in bedrooms"

Apart from all these, man has God's gift, his conscience. The conscience is the most secret core and there he is alone with God. Faced with a moral choice, he must always seek what is right and good and discern the will of God through prayers. I humbly feel, Church rules in sexual ethics though hard, are for the good of individuals and humanityif we look at them from the spiritual angle.

There is no point in asking the Church to change rules to suit our thoughts and demands.

—K.C. Thomas

Iyengar and Catholic Yoga

The famed yogic maestro BKS

Iyengar has passed away, but his modern yogic philosophy will remain immortal as are Patanjali's ancient 'Asthanga yoga', or the eight-fold path to God-realization.

Iyengar maintained that you can bring about health and harmony to those around you and to the world when your body, mind and soul are in sync. His book *Light on Yoga* is a classic. He revealed that yoga teaches us to move from Kurukshetra to Dharmakshetra, and God knows we need fewer Kurukshetras today—in Jesus parlance, "love your enemies" (*Matthew 5:44*).

Briefly, I will evaluate six limbs of Patanjali's *Asthanga yoga* in the brilliance of our rich Catholic Tradition. Niyama (2) which embodies cleanliness, austerity, study and worship would evolve into the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Bible reading and Holy Mass. In the twin disciplines of *Asana*—body posturing (3) and *Pranayama*—breath control (4) one should practice slow, deep inhalation with 'JE', and prolonged exhalation of 'SUS'. This 'JE-SUS' along with *Dharana*—contemplation (6) or a verse of Jesus from NT would enable one to progress to *Dhyana*—meditation (7), more fruitfully in front of an image of the Sacred Heart or Divine Mercy ultimately elevating oneself to *Samadhi*—salvation (8) in an ecstatic 'Christ-Consciousness'—"Be still, and know that I AM God" (*Psalms 46:10*).

PS. The other two limbs are

- 1) *Yama* or the five vows—*ahimsa* (non-violence), *satya* (truthful living), *asteya* (non-covetousness), *brahmacharya* (sexual continence), *aparigraha* (non-possessiveness).
- 2) *Pratyahara* (5)—withdrawal of senses from the external objects.

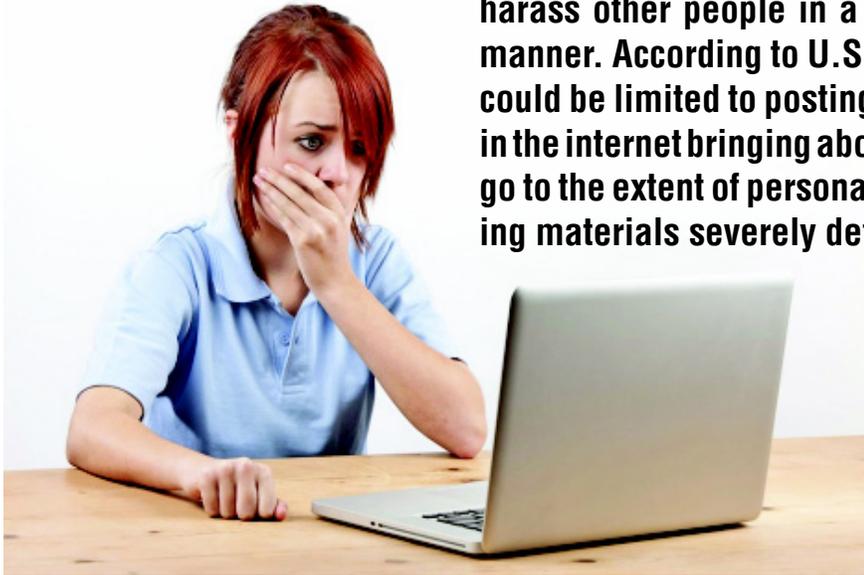
—Dr Trevor Colaso, *Bandra*

The Challenge of the ISIS

The horrifying atrocities committed by the ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq

(Contd.. on p. 17)

Online Bullying A Growing Worry



Cyberbullying is the use of information technology to harm or harass other people in a deliberate, repeated, and hostile manner. According to U.S. Legal Definitions, Cyber-bullying could be limited to posting rumors or gossips about a person in the internet bringing about hatred in other's minds; or it may go to the extent of personally identifying victims and publishing materials severely defaming and humiliating them.

According to a recent study by the industry body, ASSOCHAM, despite the government's strict norms to prohibit children under 13 from joining social networking site, nearly 73 percent of children, aged 8-13, in Tier-I and II cities are using Facebook and other social networking sites,

According to McAfee's Tweens & Technology Report 2013 Indian tweens (kids aged between 8 to 12 years) are using between three to four devices that can be internet enabled.

Around 53 percent of online tweens are online daily between one to three hours.

Exposure to the cyber world may have helped children expand their mental horizons but it has many downsides, the latest being cyber bullying.

Child bullying is becoming bigger with every passing day. Earlier such bullying was restricted to the classrooms and playgrounds only, but things have changed and the whole digital world is a playground now. Those small instances of 'making fun' in schools take a bigger proportion in the digital form and thus have a lot of negative impact on the child's psychology, says Ritesh Chopra, country manager – sales, India, Norton by Symantec.

The government has also swung into action. Telecommunications and IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad recently told parliament that the government has implemented the Information Security Education Awareness (ISEA) programme including those conducted by Confederation of Indian Industry, Internet & Mobile Association of India and Data Security Council of India for security awareness and training in the area of information security.

"Specific workshops have been conducted for school children on making them aware about risks on Internet and adopting safe Internet browsing practices. In these programmes, around 710 workshops have been organised across the country covering large number of organisations, schools, students and teachers," he said.

"A website (secureyourpc.in) for children, home users and elderly is available for safeguarding their computer systems and learning the risks on Internet," Prasad told the parliamentarians in reply to a question.

Chopra said that these problems arise more often "when people cannot distinguish between the virtual and real worlds". "They tend to spend more time on devices. Children often tend to share personal information on social network sites that may invite bigger troubles.

"We have gone to various schools to spread this awareness and also attended parents-teachers meetings to make them aware of the behavioural changes of the kids. 84 percent of parents in India did not feel that their child was being bullied online," he said.

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Gujarat Government Violates The Rights Of Children



BY FR. CEDRIC PRAKASH SJ

The Gujarat Government has done it again! That it does so, is on expected lines; but that it is doing so, by throwing all caution and Constitutional propriety to the wind, should be a cause of great concern to every citizen who values the principles of democracy and pluralism, which are the heart and soul of India. The topic in question is the approval and introduction of nine books (eight of which are written and edited by Dina Nath Batra) in more than 42000 Government-run primary and secondary schools all over Gujarat.

In a circular dated June 30th, 2014, the Gujarat State School Textbook Board (GSSTB) states, "These books on supplementary literature are aimed at imparting quality education. They will be provided free of cost to all government primary and secondary schools, public libraries and will be also available at GSSTB, Gandhinagar, for individuals interested in these books. These are to be incorporated from this academic session."

Dina Nath Batra has earned his "fame" as the founder of the Shiksha Bachao Andolan Samiti and who thinks that he and his organization will "save" the Hindu religion and culture. Some time ago, he succeeded in getting 'Penguin' to pulp the famed historian Wendy Doniger's book on 'The Hindus: An alternative History' and later because of his threats, 'Orient Black Swan' undertook 'a comprehensive assessment'

of Megha Kumar's book, 'Communalism and Sexual Violence: Ahmedabad since 1969'.

Batra, at 85 years - has become the rallying point for the right-wing forces in the country; today they leave no stone unturned to seize every opportunity they get to mainstream the Hindutva ideology; manipulating the educational system is an easy first step for them.

It is interesting to note that these books were officially published (in Gujarati) in January 2014 with laudatory messages from the then Chief Minister of Gujarat Narendra Modi (today the Prime Minister of India) and also from the Gujarat Education Minister Bhupendrasinh Chudasama and his ministerial colleagues Prof. Vasuben Trivedi and Mr. Nanubhai Vanani. After a formal launching in March 2014, they were kept in cold storage till after the General Elections and very surreptitiously introduced in the schools only early in July 2014!

The set of nine books are 'Shikshan nu Bhartiyaakaran' (Indianisation of Education), 'Tejomay Bharat' (Shining India), 'Prenadeep' 1, 2, 3 and 4 (Inspirational Light), 'Vidyalaya: Pravrutiyon nu Ghar' (School: House of Activities), 'Shikshan ma Triveni' (Trinitarian Education) and 'Vedic Ganit' (Vedic Maths). The titles in themselves are seemingly innocuous but a careful analysis of these books indicate that their contents are capable (according to a well-known intellectual) of taking India "back into the dark ages". The books are replete with myths and falsehoods, with superstitions and prejudices, with gross distortions and manipulations - propagating an ideology which is fascist and totally against the grain of all that Indian culture represents: inclusiveness, pluralism and the rights of all.

The books are clearly violative of Articles 28 and 29 of the 'UN Convention of the Rights of the Child' since their contents are not only sub-standard but are also not a source of qualitative,

accurate and objective knowledge to a growing child. Unfortunately, the children who are targeted by these books are those who go to Government schools (and most of them are surely from the poor and marginalized sections of society); the major objective of those who propagate such pervert knowledge seems to keep these sections of society 'in the dark ages'.

The contents of these books will surely shock any right-thinking citizen!

'Racism' seems to be high on the agenda. An anecdote entitled 'Courageous Gurudevsih' in Prenadeep - 2 (pg. 3) reads thus "An aeroplane was flying at a height of thousands of feet. A strong and well-built Negro reached the back door of the plane and attempted to open it. The air hostess stopped him. The strong Negro knocked down the delicate-bodied air hostess. "Beware, if any one dares to move forward towards me". An Indian jawan (soldier) came forward and hit him such a sweeping blow that the Negro's firm feet were shaken. The Negro tried all kinds of boxing stunts but the grip of the Indian youth was so firm that the Negro could not free himself. In the meanwhile, the pilot also joined the jawan and both of them gave him a good thrashing and tied him up with a rope. The murderous terrorist struggled like a

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tied up buffalo. The plane landed at Chicago. All the passengers alighted safely and expressed their gratitude to the Indian jawan. The Negro turned out to be notorious criminal in the Chicago police records. The one who had the Negro arrested was an Air-India employee Gurudevsinh.”

In Prernadeep – 3 (pg. 8) there is an obnoxious passage citing our former President Dr. S. Radhakrishnan “Once Dr Radhakrishnan went for a dinner. There was a Briton at the event who said, “We are very dear to God.” Radhakrishnan laughed and told the gathering, “Friends, one day God felt like making rotis. When he was cooking the rotis, the first one was cooked less and the English were born. The second one stayed longer on the fire and the Negroes were born. Alert after His first two mistakes, when God went on to cook the third roti, it came out just right and as a result Indians were born!””

There are several stories / examples that advocate shunning of anything that is ‘western’; so an Indian according to Batra’s philosophy should not blow candles on one’s birthday but instead feed cows and listen to songs produced by Vidya Bharati (the RSS mouthpiece); he cites the example of Swami Vivekanand who apparently told an Englishwoman that he wore foreign shoes because that was where foreigners were meant to be – on his feet! While trying to propagate a disdain for anything ‘western’, Batra’s fantasies include that the motor car was invented first by the Indians during the Vedic period; research on stem cell began in India thousands of years ago, because in the Mahabharata, it is said that a holy man was able to convert a mass of flesh into hundred babies or Kauravas; that India has been using television, centuries before the rest of the world invented it because again in the Mahabharata it is written that Sanjaya sitting in the Hastinapur palace would give a live telecast of the Mahabharata battle to Dhristarashtra (who was blind) by using his ‘divya shakti’ (divine powers).

In keeping with the general trend of these books, it is natural that the English language should come under attack. Sanskrit shlokas are freely used throughout. He takes a categorical stand against the domination of the

English language which he feels has sidelined the learning of Sanskrit. When the children do not know Sanskrit, he believes they will not be able to imbibe the pure ‘Indian culture’ and the vast knowledge that comes from the great epics. Added to Batra’s philosophy is the manner in which the Gujarat Government is also trying to promote Vedic Maths among the students.

The books are very communal in nature. Muslims and Christians are sometimes blatantly and other times subtly denigrated. Prernadeep – 2 narrates how Swami Vivekanand systematically exposed the selfishness and evil deeds of Christian missionaries (pg. 45). Tejomay Bharat emphatically states “it is better to die for one’s religion; a foreign religion is a source of sorrow” (pg. 118). The caste system gets legitimized in several ways; though the British are to be blamed for giving the lowly name ‘Shudra’.

The books also suggest the re-drawing of geographical boundaries. Batra suggests that the students should now think of ‘Akhand Bharat’. In Tejomay Bharat, he says “Students, how would you go about drawing a map of India? Do you know that countries like Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Tibet, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Burma are part of undivided India? These countries are part of Akhand Bharat.” (pg.49). In another chapter, the students are told that “a divided India is a lie, whereas undivided India is the truth; the division of India is unnatural and India can easily be united again.”

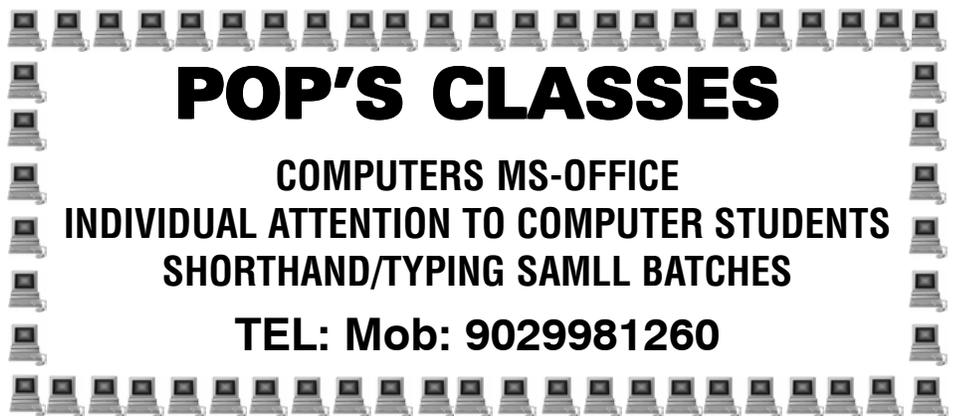
In spite of his unabashed attack on “western” culture, language, inventions, people and even on what he calls “non-Indian” religions, Batra seems to ignore the fact that all his books are being

printed in printing presses invented by the West. He does not call for a ban on the railways or on industries, he does not speak against cricket or tennis or for that matter against the computers, mobile phones and thousands of other things which India has happily adopted from the West. While PM Modi has blessed Batra and his books, it would be interesting now to see what is Batra’s take on Modi’s invitation to the rest of world “to come and make in India” from the ramparts of the Red Fort on Independence Day. Very significantly, ‘Manogat’ (August 2014), the BJP mouth-piece, openly endorses Batra’s books and its contents; highlighting their two-pronged strategy, ‘to simultaneously run with the hare and hunt with the hound’.

Much of the content of Batra’s books are laughable and could even pass off as third-rate joke books; but the attacks both direct and subtle on several sections of society are certainly no laughing matter. Given the fact that they target formative minds should be serious enough for civil society to voice their protests strongly on this matter. Mitali Saran in a very telling article entitled ‘Back to School’ (Business Standard, Ahmedabad August 2/3, 2014) sums it up “A poor education teaches children disdain, excessive pride, exclusionary or majoritarian thinking, outright fiction in place of facts, and an inability to tolerate dissent or to think for themselves.”

Can we continue to remain silent when, the Gujarat Government violates the ‘Rights of a Child’ – in such a blatant manner?

(* Fr. Cedric Prakash SJ is the Director of PRASHANT, the Ahmedabad-based Jesuit Centre for Human Rights, Justice and Peace)



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The Eucharistic Meal

Ninette D'Souza

“**B**ecause the loaf of bread is one, we, though many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf”. 1 Corinthians 10:17. In this year dedicated to ‘The Eucharist’, much has been spoken and written. The Eucharist itself is known by many names and every deep reflection will reveal an unknown facet of it. Through the following I wish to dwell on the importance of the Eucharist as ‘A Meal’. The Eucharist could be well split up as YOU + CHRIST = You are the Christ. At the Mass, we celebrate Jesus and therefore become another Christ. Jesus instituted the Eucharist as a meal on Holy Thursday (referred to as Maundy Thursday which in Latin means: commandment). Why meal? One might well ask.

Being a Jew, Jesus gives us the meal as a memorial celebration. Meals for the Jews in ancient times were more than an occasion for eating and drinking. Meals were a sacred time, a time for thanksgiving to God. Table fellowship was more than a mere social gathering. It was evident that peace, trust, brotherhood and forgiveness prevailed among those who fellow worshiped around the table. Those who participated in the meal shared a certain bond, closeness and communion (an intimate sharing of thoughts and feelings) with each other. It pointed to a new relationship between them. The Jews revered the formal meal as an important family and social ritual. They believed that sharers of a meal are bonded in solidarity and one could not in any way turn against the one with whom he had eaten. If one did, that would be considered as a great act of treachery. (Now we understand why Judas’s act of betrayal was so shameful). Before every meal the Jews prayed the Berakah – the prayer of peace and thanks for all that the Lord had blessed them with. The meal in general is the symbol of sharing of festive joy, good cheer, friendship, pleasure, hospitality, oneness, love and life. For the Jews who had only two main meals a day, the evening meal was a sacred event to bless God for what He is and for what

He has done in their history. For the Jews, food was also a symbol of blessing, judgment, acceptance and rejection, the Word of God and Covenant. Hence by sharing meals with the people, Jesus developed a rapport and gained their confidence and they ended up sharing their lives with Him. Through the meal Jesus established a fellowship and friendship that went beyond the obvious and found the need. He not only ate with them when invited to do so, but often invited Himself over when He knew that salvation needed to come to a home (Zaccheus).

In the gospel of Luke, we find 10 stories of Eucharistic meals, each with its own message. Of these, 3 meals Jesus shared with the Pharisees, 2 with the tax collectors, 3 with the apostles, 1 with the women of Bethany and 1 with the people at Bethsaida (multiplication of the loaves and fish). In the Gospel of Mathew 11:19 we find Jesus is called a glutton and a drunkard because he was eating with a tax collector. Jesus didn’t go around eating because he was physically hungry or thirsty. He wanted to delve into peoples’ lives, touch them and thus bring about the desired healing. When Jesus sent the 12 apostles with his missionary mandate, it was with a 2 point agenda (1) Preach the kingdom of God (2) Heal the people. At Bethsaida, he gave them a 3rd (3) “Feed them” (not physical food but spiritual nourishment). So many followed Jesus not because they wanted to be his disciples but because He fed their empty stomachs. Even the apostles chosen by him and who spent all their time with him were unable to understand his actions. They displayed what the gospel calls ‘hardness of heart’ because they ‘did not understand about the loaves’. They saw the miracle of the bread as an act of a magician or a social worker. Whereas what Jesus wanted to do was to reveal the Father’s power, concern and compassion so that they could entrust their lives to God, trusting Him at all times, stormy or



otherwise.

The Last Supper was the moment when Jesus instituted the new covenant and commissioned the 12 apostles to be the principal bearers and ministers of that covenant. He probably could have instituted the new covenant in the ways other covenants with Abraham, Noah, Moses and David had been instituted but as a sign of the social dimension of the Church, he opted for the form of a meal. The Last Supper is not just one more of the several of suppers that Jesus had been sharing in the 3 years of his ministry. It is a unique farewell meal in which He bestowed his parting gift, his very self. When Jesus said, “This is my body given up for you..... This is my blood shed for you” He was actually showing US to the world- His body the 1 bread made up of many grains of wheat and the 1 wine comprised of many grapes. He was telling the world that WE are His body given for the nourishment of the world and WE are the wine offered to be life-givers to the world. That is why our AMEN – response to the body of Christ is a reminder to us to be willing to break ourselves and become bread for others.

At the Last Supper Jesus performed 4 functions and a closer look at the presence of Christ in the person of the priest will allow us to see the same at every Eucharistic Celebration. (1) Jesus took the bread (2) He said the Blessing (3) He broke the bread (4) He

(Contd.. on p. 17)

Bangalore Is Host To The First Ever "Blind Walk"

The world's first ever Blind Walk took place in Bangalore on 24 August 2014 from the Metro station on M.G.Road to Bal Bhavan in Cubbon Park. The unique walk was flagged off by Chief Disability Commissioner of India, ShriPrasanna Kumar Pinchaand the guest at the concluding program featuring Samarthanam was Shri. M.N.Reddy, Commissioner of Police, Bangalore. The walk had over 600 people from different walks of life participate with the primary goal of giving the visually impaired an opportunity to see. The walk has been organized by "Project Vision" with the primary objective of spreading awareness on blindness and to educate the public on avenues of pledging one's eyes.

The startling figures of blindness in India prompted Fr.GeorgeKannanthanam, Director - Project Vision to initiate an innovative way of reaching out to the public to draw their attention to the blind in India and inform them of avenues to pledge their eyes. Speaking at the commencement of the walk, Fr.George said, "One



of the things that should make us think as a nation is the fact that more than one third of the world's blind persons are in our country. The number is quite shocking: 15 million out of the 39 million. This shocking figure touched a few of us very deeply. We started **The Project Vision** with the vision, "let everyone see". Fifty of us committed ourselves to two objectives: to make eye donation a norm in the society and to create opportunities

for the permanently blind to live a decent life". "While eye donation can bring light to over three million blind persons, the other 80% can live better through various facilities that could be created for them. We have committed ourselves to make Bangalore the Eye Donation Capital of the World." he added.

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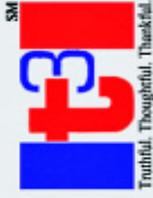
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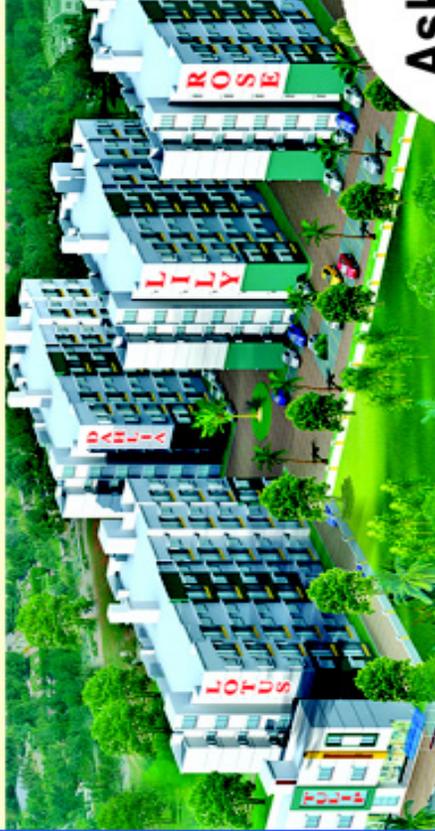


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Catholics Can Now Choose Cremation As Last Rite

The Syro-Malabar Church based in Kerala has decided to permit its members spread across India and in many foreign countries to cremate their dead in what is seen as a major deviation from its traditional stance.

The decision was taken at the Synod of the bishops held at the church headquarters at Kakkanad in Cochin.

Church's spokesman Fr. Paul Thelakkattu said the decision was taken due to space crunch in the existing graveyards and non-availability of land for building new ones. Fr. Paul said that the bodies would be cremated only in accordance with the Christian practice of offering prayers for the deceased.

The church used to permit cremation of dead bodies until now under extra-ordinary circumstances.

The power in this regard was vested with the Major Archbishop, who heads the Church. The synod has now delegated it to the bishops.

The synod has vested the bishops with powers to sanction cremation if relatives of the deceased requested for it. Fr. Paul said if a person wants cremation, he or his family members can approach their local

diocese bishop for permission.

He said the decision was not meant to popularize cremation but to simplify the procedure.

Both cremation and burial present problems. While burial requires space, consigning bodies into flames can cause environmental problems if carried out in private places. Only public crematoriums have facilities to conduct

such last rites without environmental consequences.

The synod, however, has reminded Church followers to ensure that last rites should not anyway affect the Christian faith in after life.

"The esteemed Christian practice of offering prayers for the deceased should be preserved," the synod said in a communication.



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Scapegoating

 Don Aguiar

Historians have a term they call the scapegoating concept of history. This is the idea that people tend to look for others to blame — scapegoats — for their condition. They then attack that group even if it had little or nothing to do with their situation. Scapegoats are usually weaker or marginalized members of society easily made to look suspicious.

The Americans did this to Saddam Hussein and ruined not only a whole country – Iraq - but gave the merciless Islamists an opportunity to spread their views and want to take control of this country. They did not find any nuclear weapons or chemical weapons or for that matter anything that they accused Saddam Hussein of harboring. Then why did they make Saddam Hussein a scrap goat and got him executed or for that matter why did the Americans repeat the same in Libya with Muammar Gaddafi???? And continue to repeat the same in most of the Middle East countries like Syria, Egypt, etc. and give a free hand to the merciless Islamists or Muslim fanatics and extremists to destroy Christianity – places of worship and its people - at its very BIRTH PLACE????????

This attitude of theirs of looking to others to blame – scapegoats – especially the Middle Eastern countries is for their own benefit of commercial gains of selling arms & ammunition and to get the control of the oil and gas reserves in these countries.

What is happening today in Mosul brings horror, fear and bad memories to the Christians of Iraq and leads us to question; is this happening in 21st century and in front of the civilized world where innocent Christian civilians are forced to convert, be treated as Dhimmi*, or slaughtered?"

"Dhimma" is the status given to Christians and Jews in an Islamic state. It affords them a degree of protection and allows them to keep their own faith, provided they adhere to various demeaning regulations intended to mark them out as inferior to Muslims, and

pay the jizya, a humiliating tax or tribute that the Quran commands is paid "with willing submission and while feeling themselves subdued.

The last few days have been among the very worst in the long history of Iraq's Christians. The impossible ultimatum from the merciless Islamists has forced those who had tried to stay in Mosul after it was taken over last month to flee. And as if that was not bad enough, the militants took everything from them, leaving them destitute.

It is ironic that while the Christians and other minority religions places and houses are being destroyed and they being chased out of the area by the merciless Islamists the Americans have done nothing to help or defend these people but as these merciless Islamists are now moving closer to the American controlled oil and gas reserves the Americans thought it best that they now need to mount an offensive to protect their controlled reserves and interest.

Does America stand for protecting the minorities who are peaceful people and who do not have the arms to protect themselves and are outnumbered by these merciless Islamists? Or does America stands for capitalism, aggression and consumerism and all connected with it where in such circumstances greed, opportunity and bullying takes precedence.

Humility is perhaps the most difficult virtues to cultivate or acquire at a time when everything in America is so focused on satiation of the individual wants or wishes. And hence the aggressive attitude we see all around us coming from this country. If America thinks it is aggression at work, relationships and markets, that makes things work, it is a skewed view. One could be soft spoken and open and yet achieve results without getting trodden all over. If only one would allow the spirit of service to stay topmost in whatever

one does.

The younger American generations who do not support this skewed American view are feeling the heat in this system and are asking themselves - "What am I doing wrong?"

This is how their system is making them get it wrong - I am tired of beating around the bush. I'm a beautiful (spectacularly beautiful) 25 year old girl I'm articulate and classy. I'm not from New York. I'm looking to get married to a guy who makes at least half a million a year. I know how that sounds, but keep in mind that a million a year is middle class in New York city, so I don't think I'm over reaching at all. Are there guys who make 500K or more on this board? Any wives? Can you send me some tips?

I dated a businessman who made 200 – 250K. But that's where I seem to hit a road block.

\$250,000 will not get me to Central Park West. I know a woman in my yoga class who was married to an investment banker and lives in Tribeca. She's not as pretty as I am, nor is she a great genius.

So what is she doing right? Here are my questions specifically:

Where do you single rich men hang out? Give me specifics – Bars, restaurants, Gyms

What are you looking for in a mate? Is there an age range I should be targeting?

Why are some of the women living lavish lifestyles on the Upper East Side so plain?

What's the story there?

Lawyers, Investment Bankers, Doctors. How much do these guys really make? And where do the Hedge Fund guys hang out?

How do you rich guys decide on marriage vs. just a girlfriend?

I AM LOOKING FOR MARRIAGE ONLY."

AN INVESTMENT BANKERS RESPONSE

(Contd.. on p. 15)

(Contd.. from p. 15)

"I qualify as a guy who fits your bill – I make more than 500K per year. Here's how I see it

Your offer is a plain and simple crappy business deal. What you suggest is a simple trade.

You bring your looks to the party and I bring the money. Fine, simple. But here's the rub,

Your looks will fade but my money will likely continue into perpetuity – in fact it is very likely that my income may increase, but it is an absolute certainty that you won't be getting any more beautiful!

So in economic terms you are a depreciating asset. In Wall Street terms we'd call you a trading position – not a buy and hold. It doesn't make good business sense to buy you (which is what you are asking) – so I'd rather lease. The deal that makes sense to me is dating not marriage."

Capitalism, aggression, greed, bullying and consumerism and all connected with it leads to Humankind being treated as a commodity in their own country and then they impose the same

on other nations that have valuable reserves and resources that will be useful to them by making them scape goats.

Scapegoats ease our anxiety especially when ethnic minorities or immigrants come into view. Bigotry, however, while burning intensely, has a short memory. Listen to this

Bill Donohue comments on American President Obama's remarks at the White House honoring Eid-al-Fitr, marking the end of Ramadan:

The president said that Eid "reminds us of the many achievements and contributions of Muslim Americans to building the very fabric of our nation and strengthening the core of our democracy." He would have done us all a service had he enumerated them. "That is why we stand with people of all faiths," he continued, "here at home and around the world, to protect and advance their rights to prosper, and we welcome their commitment to giving back to their communities."

No one wants President Obama to insult Muslim Americans in the White House, but President Obama had an

opportunity to at least call on them to speak out about what their people are doing in the Middle East, and President Obama blew it. Instead, President Obama decided to patronize them for all their contributions to human rights.

While President Obama patronizes the Muslim - Americans and other nationalities - and does nothing to protect the Christians, their Churches, Holy Places, etc in the Middle East which he could easily do, we could do our bit and offer our prayers for them at this distressing time to bring these violent conflicts to an end.

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(Contd.. from p. 6)

and Syria) against helpless Yazidi and Christian minorities have stunned the whole world. Some time ago, the Vatican made an earnest plea to Muslim leaders to unequivocally condemn these crimes against humanity in the name of religion. As if in response to this request, the leaders of several Muslim organizations and some activists organized a public meeting at Islam Gymkhana, in Mumbai, denouncing the ISIS as a 'monster'. One of the Muslim scholars present told the gathering that Islam is a religion of peace, that violence is unislamic and that the concept of 'jihad' is meant to be a struggle against oneself and not to be used for warmongering. The example of the Prophet's benevolent treatment of minorities after a military defeat was also cited. The organizers of the gathering were lauded for their initiative by representatives of the other communi-

(Contd.. from p. 10)

gave it. Jesus's words that it was "His Body" he used only after breaking the bread. Every Eucharist thus asks of us – What meaning does this hold for you today? How will you become 'bread' for others and be broken in the process? Answers to questions such as these, each one should seek in the depth of their hearts, seated at the foot of the Lord, in His awesome presence, gazing at Him in wonder while trying to comprehend his unfathomable love. Where would such an opportunity present itself? In the Blessed Sacrament Chapel of your Parish! Instead of running home after mass to attend to the numerous chores, that will always be there, could we spend a few moments before or after Mass in His presence and take away his peace, his joy, his love. As Jesus told Martha and Mary, the sisters of Lazarus, only 1 thing is necessary. We all have to find what is truly central in our lives and let it dictate our priorities.

Why not make it a point to ask Him who is the Son of God to be the head of your family, to be the unseen host at every meal, to be the silent listener to every conversation?

ties who spoke on the occasion.

It is indeed shocking that even in our enlightened, post-modern age, barbaric crimes against innocent women, children and even monks from an ancient monastery are being perpetrated daily in the name of God by the ISIS. While the world has made phenomenal progress in so many fields, the era of globalization is here, and basic human rights have been accepted by most nations, there are still a growing number of extremist religious groups like the ISIS, in several parts of the world, who seem to be regressing to the dark ages of violence, ignorance and bigotry in the name of religion. Yet, these same militants have among them highly educated people who cleverly use the latest advances in military and information technology to advance their petty goals, while preaching a return to primitive times! It is clear that these groups are not really interested in their religion, but are only using religious sentiments to further their narrow political, social and economic agendas.

What is very disturbing, however, is that in the highly developed West, more and more educated young people are turning to religious extremists, like ISIS, and even taking up arms to support them. There must be some explanation for this. It could be that many of the youth in these countries feel disillusioned by the sterile philosophy of Godless secularism, the hypocrisy of religious and political leaders, the spread of crass materialism and hedonism, the breakdown of moral values and family-life, and the loss of a sense of direction and purpose in life. In the fundamentalist religious movements they are probably seeking to discover meaning in life, a feeling of individual importance and a sense of belonging to a human community. Surely, this is a big challenge to all religious and political leaders and educators to examine the causes of alienation of their own youth, if they are to avoid their entire populations being infiltrated by violent extremists. Combating and denouncing religious fanatics alone are not enough.

—Joseph M. Dias, S.J.
Andheri (E), Mumbai.

Thanksgiving



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—Ms Annie Maria
Fernandes, Mahim

Misunderstandings of Confessions by Catholics

Some of us among Catholics often fail to appreciate the true meaning of the sacraments of the Catholic Church. The sacrament of confession is one of the most important sacraments of the Catholic Church.

Reconciliation with God is a powerful tool to receive grace from God and we Catholics have this opportunity given to us by Jesus in Luke 5:14 "Don't tell anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them."

Confession Is a Sacrament:

The sacrament of penance, commonly called Confession, is one of the seven sacraments recognized by the Catholic Church. Catholics believe that all of the 7 sacraments were instituted by Jesus Christ Himself. In the case of confession, that institution occurred on Easter Sunday when Jesus Christ first appeared to the apostles after His resurrection. Breathing on them, He said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained." (John 20:22-23).



The Marks of the Sacrament:

Catholics also believe that the sacraments are an outward sign of an inward grace. In this case, the outward sign is the absolution, or forgiveness of sins, that the priest grants to the penitent (the person

confessing his sins); the inward grace is the reconciliation of the penitent to God (which is why the sacrament is also sometimes called the 'Sacrament of Reconciliation')

The Purpose of Confession:

That reconciling of man to God is the purpose of Confession. When we sin, we deprive ourselves of God's grace. And by doing so, we make it even easier to sin some more. The only way out of this downward cycle is to acknowledge our sins, to repent of them, and to ask God's forgiveness. Then, in the Sacrament of Confession, grace can be restored to our souls, and we can once again resist sin.

What is required?

Three things are required of a penitent in order to receive the sacra-



BY JUBEL D'CRUZ

ment worthily:

1. He must be contrite — or, in other words, sorry for his sins.
2. He must confess those sins fully, in kind and in number.
3. He must be willing to do penance and make amends for his sins.

How often should you go to Confession?

While Catholics are only required to go to Confession when they are aware that they have committed a mortal sin, the Church urges the faithful to take advantage of the sacrament often. A good rule of thumb is to go once a month. (The Church strongly recommends that in preparation for fulfilling our Easter obligation to receive communion, we go to Confession even if we are aware of venial sins only).

The Church especially urges the faithful to receive the Sacrament of Confession frequently during Lent, to help them in their spiritual preparation for Easter.

Why is Confession Necessary?

Non-Catholics, and even many Catholics, often ask whether they can confess their sins directly to God, and whether God can forgive them without going to a priest. On the most basic level, of course, the answer is 'yes', and Catholics should make frequent acts of contrition, which are prayers in which we tell God that we are sorry for our sins and ask for His forgiveness.

Here some people raise questions on the priest anointing power, their worthiness to absolve sins and my answer to such questions are that a priest is someone whom God has appointed from the many whom He has called. Lay people cannot question their sacredness in any fashion. They are anointed by Christ on the day they are ordained and every ordained priest has the similar power and authority given by Christ to forgive sins in the holy name of Jesus.

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Inspiration!

Motivation And Humility

Gratitude, Motivation and Humility are some of the ingredients of success.

To accomplish what we want, we need to know what we need to know and be the person we need to be; we are where we need to be, where we have aimed our thoughts. Open your mind, be humble, otherwise you take the risk of staying where you are. Until we become humble, in our stubborn mind, we cannot profit by the wisdom, experiences and thoughts of others; there is always room for improvement.

Motivation is needed all the time we breathe and even more when we don't trust in who we are and in what we do. Believe in yourself! Unless you have confidence in yourself, you will not be able to accomplish anything but more unaccomplished dreams and frustrations.

Blindly believe in you and in what you do and in what you can accomplish and act, regardless, even if you have the highest obstacle in front of you. The only thing that stops you from crossing, climbing or going through that huge obstacle is what you think about yourself.

The size of your self-esteem, your essence and your confidence has to do directly with the image you have about you and who you really are. Your essence energizes the movie, which plays in your mind, every time you have to cope with a task or face a challenge. It is the voice that is telling you that you will, only can do, accomplish or reach very little, or even worse --- nothing.

Thoughts create or magnetize our personality and attitude. Dominating thoughts will eventually reproduce themselves in outward physical actions



and gradually transform into physical realities. The thoughts we have, from the time we wake up, will definitively determine our attitude, our day. We bring to our lives what we think about most of the time and where we guide or focus our mind, is where we end up.

Starting in the morning, we make choices. We either decide to accept negative thoughts and therefore spoil our moments and even our day, weeks or years, or we decide to plant positive images in our mind and have days full of satisfaction, happiness, prosperity, peace and all the beauties that life has for all of us.

Influence your thoughts so you will stimulate your action and you will gradually become a self-reliant, confident and successful person. Until we die, we all need motivation. Keep yourself motivated, create the habit of been motivated every day; focus, breathe, smell, laugh, dream, do, touch and hold motivation.

There are so many things for which we should be appreciative, for which we should have hope, be grateful for and therefore motivated. Talk to yourself as much you can. Imagine and feel yourself accomplishing all you want. Think about the things you already have accomplished and also the accomplish-

ments that have brought you confidence, satisfaction and happiness to your life.

Yes, you can. There is nothing impossible to the person who has a definite and clear purpose. You are a person, so you only need a definite purpose. Every morning, every day, when you are in front of the mirror, talk to that special person in front of you and tell him/her how good, smart, valuable, capable, intelligent and loved he/she is.

Take action, If now you cannot do great things, try to do small things great. Now you may not see any door open but once you believe totally and blindly in yourself and believe that you can do whatever you decide, many doors will open for you. It doesn't matter your background, it doesn't matter where you are coming from, but they will not open until you get ready and it is entirely up to you. You are not defeated unless you defeat yourself.

Gratitude, responsibility, honesty and self-respect are things you must make sacrifices for because without them, you are nothing. So be respectful, responsible and honest. Be confident, have trust and blindly believe in you. Stay motivated and enthusiastic, with a burning desire to succeed. Be clear in life. Create a plan, focus only on that plan and take uninterrupted action with passion, discipline and patience. And above all, don't worry about the results; definitively you will succeed when all the pieces of the puzzle get in their place.

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MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 30 years, Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 63 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.E. (Mech) MBA, Position : Business Analyst. Seeks a simple, graduate girl, preferable teacher. Contact email : rohan.hatakar@gmail.com OR 9619010888 **(Regd. No. 6163)**

MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 36 years, Ht. 5' 8", Fair Complexion, Handsome, Edn. HSC pursuing S.Y.Com., working as an Emigration Supervisors. Seeks a simple, understanding, good look, smart girl. Contact email : mariyo.80@gmail.com OR 9619019991 / 982095412 **(Regd. No. 6138)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 29 years, Ht. 5' 9", Fair Complexion, Handsome, Edn. B.Com., working as CEO in Family Business. Seeks a good looking, smart, stylish girl. Contact email : mail2marg@gmail.com OR 9821556409 **(Regd. No. 6135)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 30 years, Ht.

5' 9", Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as an Executive. Seeks a suitable match. Contact email : lewis.prashant@gmail.com OR 9833272796 **(Regd. No. 6133)**

MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 54 years, Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 58 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Bachelor in Hotel Management, working as a Food & Beverage Manager in Australia. Seeks a fair, should be willing to relocate overseas, single/divorced or Widow below 46 years. Contact Email : jjabanches@hotmail.com OR 9769494588 OR +61 433072951. **(Regd. No. 6126)**

MUMBAI : Roman Catholic Mangalorean Australian Citizen employed in Govt, 45 yrs, Ht 5'11, BCom, Wheatish, Tetotaler, Separated awaiting divorce seeks suitable alliance. Reply with photo to sharlet1968@gmail.com **(Regd. No. 6125)**

MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Divorcee, aged 33 years, Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 62 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Undergraduate, working as a Admin. job in U.K. Seeks a graduate, simple, fair, understanding willing to work and live in U.K. below 33 years. Contact email : mariaferns5553@gmail.com **(Regd. No. 6123)**

MUMBAI : Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 44 years, Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 50 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. SSC., working as a Jewellery setter. Seeks a suitable match. Contact Mob : 9833046266. **(Regd. No. 6121)**

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MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 28 years, Ht. 5' 3", Edn. B.Com., working as a Fashion Designer. Seeks a suitable match. Contact email : rodriguesemma@rediffmail.com OR 9821471904 **(Regd. No. 6092)**

DUBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, age 28 years, Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBA - Finance, working as an Accountant in MNC Syvau - UAE, Seeks alliance RC from well educated and good family background. Working preferably in UAE. Contact email : saldanha.leena7@gmail.com OR 9967816258 / 00971-526649919 **(Regd. No. 6090)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 25 years, Ht. 5' 3", Fair Complexion, Edn. M.com, (Accounting) GNIIT, Working as an Accounts Executive. Seeks a Mangalorean educate and well settled boy below 30 years. Contact email : nishalobo88@gmail.com OR 26324478. **(Regd. No. 6089)**

MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 38 years, Ht. 5' 2", Fair Complexion, Edn. B.A., (Economics), working as a Purchase Manager. Contact email : lynette_d03@yahoo.com OR 9967501128 **(Regd. No. 6088)**

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Gift Of Salvation Is For All



BY MELVYN BROWN

Everyone wants to be a better person. To be a good Christian with unalienable right to faith, hope, redemption and salvation. This, in effect draws upon the summons to be a follower with implicit trust in Jesus and his promise to forgive those who believe in his mercy. In the Acts of the Apostle we are told, "There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved." (Act.4:12).

God opened a new front in His divine design to confront sin and wickedness by sending His Son, Jesus Christ, to show His creatures the true way; to redeem them and offer sinners the gift of salvation. The prophet Isaiah cried out: "With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation." (Is.12:3).

But that message of salvation did matter, given the ample evidence of the Messiah's coming. In the gospel of Luke we get to learn that, "all flesh shall see the salvation of God." (Lk.3:6). The message had become abundantly clear: believe in God and enjoy the gift of salvation; the wells shall never dry up.

What Christians want most in life is strong faith to surmount the trials in

everyday performance, and to rest assured of the end days – to die in the Lord with the comfort of heaven and everlasting happiness in eternity.

Like most staunch believers, I have met with Catholic people who bind their lives to the cross of Christ. As for the rest, the pastoral mission of priests, religious and the pious have much work in the Lord's vineyard to reassure the community on the gift of salvation. It is absolutely clear that salvation is open to all. St. Paul, in his letter to Romans said: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith..." (Rom.1:16).

Truly, I have been moved to realize the awesome truth of what the Jewish Messiah had accomplished: performing the will of God, surrendering his life to essentially gift salvation and leaving behind the Holy Spirit to be our guide, teacher and inspiration for Holy Mother the Church, her leaders and for us the children of God. Sometimes I wonder how some people in adulthood regardless of traumatic events in their personal lives are always attuned to faith, worship and the hope of salvation. Stay focused when things go wrong is a gentle signal radiating trust in him, Jesus, the Messiah.

The Lord Jesus had told his apostles, "I have set you to be a light for the Gentiles, so that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth".

In reality, the things which do matter to many Christians are based on mundane values in keeping with the philosophy of learn to earn. Prayers and worship become a means to the hope of having and wanting more. The encounter with God and salvation comes at moments when the breath-of-life begins to waver. The oddest episode however, is when the person clings to his possessions and passes on.

I repeat, the gift of salvation is for all. The spiritual life of the faithful should be completely Christocentric. The unceasing presence of the Lord is in the words of St. Paul, "The life I now live is not my own life, but the life which Christ is living in me." (Gal.2:20). Therefore, live in the spirit of the Holy Mass, in prayers and worship. Your salvation is assured. Become an Eucharistic soul and make others feel your dedication to Christ.

The task of faith formation, and to canvass the gift of salvation is a mission to be managed by every follower, believer in the name of Jesus. Preachers and teachers must use the discretion to arbitrate anywhere, any time. St. Paul, in his letter to the Ephesians, stated, "Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." (Eph.6:17). Make note that Paul was also a humble person, appointed by God to spread the word, yet, asking for prayers, "Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak." (Eph.6:19-20).

It is obvious that salvation is given to those who believe in Jesus Christ. Catholicism is full of paradoxes: be poor to receive true wealth. Do not desire money, but think about having money. Although we might not give or receive or possess – yet, we must use what we have. When we help others we enrich our treasure in heaven. When we preach the word in his name we are certain of salvation. In the Old Testament the prophet Isaiah proclaimed, "he will be the stability of your times, abundance of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge; the fear of the Lord is Zion's treasure." (Is.33:6). And salvation is our gift.

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