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Thought for the week

The only person you should try to be better than, is the person you were yesterday.

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Is Christ Divided?

The Kerala Catholics living in Delhi see a threat to their unity. The bone of contention is a Joint Pastoral Letter issued by two Archbishops over their membership in the newly-created Faridabad eparchy. Jose Kalathil, a veteran journalist in Delhi, explains why.

A group of Catholics belonging to the Syro-Malabar (SM) Rite of Kerala, who have made Delhi their home, are agitated over the 1 November, 2013 Joint Pastoral Letter (JPL) issued by the Delhi Archbishop Anil J Couto and Archbishop Kuriakose Bharanikulangara of the newly-created Syro-Malabar Catholic Eparchy of Faridabad.

It declared that "from the day the Eparchy of Faridabad was created in 2012 all the SM faithful once pastorally cared for by the Archdiocese of Delhi have automatically become part of the Eparchy, which has been exclusively created for them. Basically, there is no choice in this matter. Consequently, the faithful of the Syro-Malabar Church cease to be members of the parishes of the Archdiocese of Delhi."

The faithful say this decision was taken arbitrarily without consulting them.

"Does it mean that I have to leave the parish that I belonged to and the choir that we built up?" asked George Pulinkala, 70, composer-director of musicals. "How can you expect my wife, Jannette, who is an Anglo-Indian, to go to one parish and me to another?"

Janette also cautioned about the differences existing in Bangalore Archdiocese over language.

Interrupted Rajan George, executive vice-president of a company, "Look, both me and Rose Mary were born outside Kerala, in Chennai and Kolkata, respectively, and after marriage, we moved here. We are part of the community."

"Then what about the Sacraments that our children received in the churches here. Will they become invalid?" asked an angry Mariamma Sebastian, a government official.

According to Francis Kuruvilla, an exporter, his two children, who grew up in the Capital, want to be in the present parish. He asked: "If so, will all the SM Rite priests, who are serving in the Archdiocese join the Faridabad Eparchy?"

Immediately after the JPL was read out in the churches, within three days 6,000 SM faithful of the first, second and third generation migrants, in a signed letter petitioned to Archbishop Anil that they have been thrown out of the church that nurtured them during all these years and overlooked the immense contri-

(Contd.. on p. 4)

Politicians Discuss Mass Wine



Mar Thoma Bishop wants re-think about wine in Mass

Thiruvananthapuram: Bishop Mar Chrysostom of Mar Thoma Syrian Church on Monday asked the Churches to rethink about using wine during Mass. A Catholic Church official dismissed the suggestion as unacceptable.

The use of wine at churches for Mass has come to the liquor controversy after prominent backward Hindu leader Vellappally Nateshan questioned the logic of allowing Mass wine when Indian made foreign liquor is banned in a phased manner.

In Kerala, Mass wine is brewed by various dioceses and Christian congregations with the license from the Excise Department.

Chrysostom said it was not necessary for wine to be used for Mass. "Churches should rethink about using grape water, as had been the practice in the past, instead of wine. At the same, I would not agree with those who had raised the issue on both sides," said the bishop according to a report in the New Indian Express.

Reacting to the non-Catholic prelate's suggestion, Catholic Church spokesman Fr Paul Thelakkattu said Chrysostom's opinion was not acceptable. Using wine at Mass is a global practice. Not even an ounce is used for a mass, he said.

Meanwhile, raising the bar on the licence given to various dioceses to make wine, Nateshan said the Church in Kerala is running 24 distilleries. "Jesus turned water into wine.

Today, nobody has the power to convert water into wine. Then, why don't the churches use water considering it was wine," asked Nateshan, who said his community would be hit by revoking liquor license of hotels.

Source: Indian Express

The use of wine in Mass has become part of a political discussion in Kerala after some groups wanted a ban on wine in the backdrop of the state's move to implement total alcohol prohibition.

V M Sudheeran, the head of the Congress party in the state, said the demand to ban wine in churches is not correct, reminding that it is part of a ritual and a tradition, which is in vogue for centuries.

"It is for the Christian church to think over whether liquor should be banned. The interference of external forces is not proper," Sudheeran told media persons here on Monday.

He was responding to a demand put forward by SINDP Yogam general

secretary Vellappally Natesan for banning wine in churches also, if curbs are imposed on the sale of liquor in the state.

His reaction comes amid continuing political row over the new liquor policy and community organizations also joining issue with it.

Also the remarks are significant as he has drawn flak over allegations that he had hobnobbed with Church leaders to facilitate an atmosphere to promote his stand against renewal of licenses of closed liquor vends in the state.

Admitting what the Excise Minister K Babu had stated on the possibility of a hooch tragedy was true, Sudheeran said that he had informed the CM and Ministers of Home, Excise and Revenue as and when he got information on it.

"It was after that the government and various departments maintained vigil," Sudheeran claimed.

"I congratulate the government for taking steps to prevent a hooch tragedy," he added.

"I don't know as to why Minister Babu had criticized me," Sudheeran said, making an apparent climb down from his reported stand that the Excise Minister had vitiated the bar license renewal issue through his "provocative" statements.

—new indian express

Is Christ Divided?

(Contd.. from p. 3)

bution, both material and otherwise, they had made in building this diocese into what it is today.

Respecting their sentiments, Archbishop Anil immediately kept the JPL in abeyance for two months and again till further notice.

(This item appeared in The Statesman on August 27, 2014)

New Think Tank to replace Planning Commission

...“We need a new body with a new soul.... We will have to think about giving a new shape to the Planning Commission.... Very soon this new institute will start working in place of Planning Commission,”...



A small, handpicked, five-member thinktank, which will draw its power and prestige from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's clear backing, is likely to replace the Planning Commission. The new panel will most likely be led in an executive capacity by former union minister Suresh Prabhu, with free market economists Arvind Panagariya and Bibek Debroy as two more likely members.

It will be formally chaired by the Prime Minister and the announcement can come as early as Monday or a day or two after that, officials familiar with discussions said. An academic with wide science and technology expertise, perhaps from IITs, and a social science expert familiar with wider Sangh Parivar thinking are likely to be two other members of the as-yet-unnamed advisory body. Economists Debroy and Panagariya have both been involved in advisory capacities with Narendra Modi's core team before the Modi-led BJP won the general election in a landslide in May this year. Officials who spoke for this report, on the condition they not be identified, said the names of science and social science experts are in the process of being finalised.

One senior official said while most thinking on the new panel's formation is over, two questions being addressed now are: first, the name of the think tank and, second, whether to accommodate at least partially a counterview on the size of the panel. This official said a

name distinct from China's Development and Reforms Commission is being sought but hasn't been decided as yet.

On the size of the panel, the official said there has been a view that a larger think tank may be able to accommodate representational political issues such as caste and states. However, a smaller, nimbler panel is the more likely option, he added, because it will be distinct from the now-abolished eight-member Planning Commission. However, the think tank will have the mandate to co-opt experts from other domains, another official said. He also said while terms of reference of the new body haven't been fixed yet, broad guidelines have been decided. One immediate focus is likely to be the size of government budget, given the Kelkar committee's recommendation that the fiscal deficit-to-GDP ratio be brought down to 3% by 2017.

The finance minister's deficit target for this fiscal year is 4.1%. Advice on government spending by keeping the Kelkar target in mind and devising economic and social sector strategies within that constraint is likely to be the think tank's first priority, said the official quoted earlier. Another official said the PM has a very clear role for the new body as "he has always been a Planning Commission sceptic". "Back in early 2013, as the chief minister of Gujarat, Modi had made a presentation to the Planning Commission pointing out its shortcomings and the role it should play," this official said.

Meanwhile, taking a step further

towards scrapping the Planning Commission, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday invited ideas from the people on the new institution to replace the plan body. The government also announced creation of a special open forum on the website mygov.nic.in for suggestions on the new institution.

"We envision the proposed institution as one that caters to the aspirations of 21st century India and strengthens participation of the States.... Let the ideas flow," the Prime Minister said in a statement. It said, "The Prime Minister has invited ideas from people on what shape the new institution to replace the Planning Commission can take." Addressing the nation from the Red Fort on Independence Day,

Modi had said that the 64-year old Planning Commission, a vestige of socialist era, would be soon replaced with a new institution to address the current economic challenges and strengthen the federal structure. "We need a new body with a new soul.... We will have to think about giving a new shape to the Planning Commission.... Very soon this new institute will start working in place of Planning Commission," Modi had said. He had said that it was set up to cater to the needs of earlier times and has participated in its own way in the development of the country.

"The internal situation of the country has changed, global environment has changed. Government is no longer the centre of economic development. Economy is much more broadbased now.

Choose Correct 'C's for Country!

The Secular 'Citizen', Aug 25, 2014, Vol 23, No 24 "How can India progress?" has conferred on us crucial and critical aspects through 3 angles or



'corners' viz. 1) Editor's 19 'Characteristics', convictions by Bill Gates, and opinions by four experts, pages 8 & 9. And which is also embellished with a captivating and a charming 'Colour Cover'. These are indeed blue prints and projects which when exhibited on a 'civil' scale and when convincingly carried out, can certainly 'catapult' India into a contemporary, consolidating and commanding economy!

May I also 'contribute' and chip in my own 'Concepts' through 19 credible and creative 'C's (secular); the following 'C's of which could confidently change, convert and cement our common man, community and county into a choice and commendable Celebration and Commonwealth! In complement to the editor's 19 'C's, here is my 'catalogue' of '19' cognizant and conscious 'Claps'!

- 1) Cultivation 2) Craftsmanship
- 3) Charity 4) Character 5) Consensus 6) Compromise
- 7) Conservation 8) Construction 9) Collaboration 10) Cooperation 11) Compensation
- 12) Communication 13) Cleanliness 14) Comradeship 15) Companionship 16) Chastity 17) Culture 18) Capitalism 19) Conference.

'Cultivation' could not only constitute farming of the land, but also to 'cultivate' competent, congenial, customs (habits), cherish justice and peace (concord), court love and mercy



(compassion), so continue with this idea. And so with the next image of 'craftsmanship' to further compose, colour and clarify!

May we 'cap and crown' both the 19 'C's through contemplation and compassion with the 6 Christian 'C's— Christ, Cross, Church, Confession, Communion & Catholicism! "Christ is all, Christ in all" (*Colossians* 3:11).

—Dr Trevor Colaso

PS. Out of these 250 words hundred start with 'C' or 40% of this Letter or Communication!

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Adolf Tragler - A Star amongst us, is now in the Sky

Tuesday, 26th August, 2014 will forever be etched in the minds of scores of people, who had met and worked with Adolf Tragler, a European by birth but an Indian at heart.

Tragler who began Slum Rehabilitation Society (SRS) to give the under-privileged of Mumbai, particularly of Bandra Suburb, a home of their own, passed away. He kept on working every day inspite of his age and health, as his presence kept SRS on the go. His team looked at him for guidance and were always upbeat with his optimism.

Tragler's work of four decades is built with stone and motor, rehabilitating 1000+ families into SRS initiated Buildings and 7000+ families by the Public Authorities. Every rehabilitation was never complete without putting a heart into the society by way of a Creche (Balwadi), an Early Learning Centre or a Women's Self Help Group (Mahila Mandal). Slum Dwellers became stakeholders in this City of Dreams, Mumbai through the transformation brought about by the hard work of Tragler and his team. The Medical team led by his wife, Dr. (Mrs.) Ancilla Tragler, practicing in Holy Family Hospital, brought timely attention and care to scores of children in the slums of Bandra in particular.

Tragler ventured into the remoteness of Talasari, a region bordering Gujarat and sought to bring a transformation of the Warli Tribal People through his Reach Out Trust. He visited Talasari every month travelling by road, a good 3 hours journey from Mumbai to be personally involved in transforming the Warli People into stakeholders of a Modern India, who would otherwise have been consigned to being mere spectators of the Bullet Train that is to speed through their land, leaving only dust in its wake.

— Austin Nazareth

Happy Birthday, Dearest Mother



✍ Bernie Tellis

September 8 is Mary's birthday. We celebrate it in great style here in Bandra, Bombay and our expats continue the tradition in the countries of their adoption.

The Basilica of the Mount, more popularly called Mount Mary Basilica (Mount Mouli-in the vernacular) with its long history of favours granted, is the focal point of our festivities that have undergone a sea change over the years.

To kick start the event, there are the Novenas for D-day and the day of actual celebration which is the Sunday following the 8th. This is Marian devotion at its best although anti-Mary fundamentalists term it mariolatory, thereby seeming to imply that her devotees worship Mary-as one would false gods-when all that one should do, if anything, is to revere her as the mother of Jesus and not the mother of God. An ugly controversy, propagated undoubtedly by the 'father of lies' who vainly seeks to rule by dividing followers of the Faith.

All through my childhood, teen years and after, I have visited the Shrine raised by Pope St. John Paul II, who visited it in 1986, to the status of a Basilica, just once or twice a year-despite living a glance away-and never during the feast. Two things had kept me away: the crowds and the more alluring Bandra Fair (an off-shoot of the feast) opposite! But of late I have taken to visiting the Church on the Mount during the octave, not so much to exercise my own devotion as to observe and marvel at the devotion of others the overwhelming majority of whom are non-Christians. I am a keen observer and a poor participant here. Is it because I am lacking in Marian devotion or sorely afraid of being called a 'mariolater'? Neither. Devotion assumes varied forms and mine is of an altogether different kind.

This faith of the aam admi in the Madonna and Child has to be seen to be believed. Year after year the crowds grow larger and the queues to enter the shrine, longer. Bombay weather is

hardly ever 'fair' at this time of the year. It's either too hot or too wet to go out and too foolishly adventurous to spend a good part of the day making one's way up to the Mount for a fleeting glimpse of the bedecked statue of Mother and Child, present the offering of candles/flowers and then make one's tortuous way home. Home could be anywhere -Thane, Bhandup, Borivili, Vasai, Vashi and beyond. Would I do it, would you, I wonder, already knowing the answer. Why do all these people do it? Not all of them seek favours nor do all receive any. Most come for a 'darshan', as though the picture of happy Mother and Child could somehow be replicated in their own careworn lives. Mary has drawn more people to her Son, Jesus than any pontiff, saint, preacher or teacher. That is the *raison d'être* of Marian devotion. True, there are some who are guilty of devotion to Her bordering on worship. While this must be corrected, the devotion itself cannot be condemned.

Over the years, services at the Shrine have become more organized and stream-lined, benefitting all concerned. Critics say that the money wasted on candles and flowers could be more profitably spent on the needy. But aren't the flower/candle-sellers also needy? And which girl wouldn't welcome flowers on her birthday?!

So there they go, Mary's devotees, old and young, rich-poor, healthy-sick, of all castes, communities and creeds, individuals and families from near and far. Decked in their finery, I have encountered vendors, beggars, long-lost friends, people from all walks of life, there to wish Mary on her birthday, such an important day for all humanity. At whose birthday celebration do you see such a motley crowd, gathered as equals, making obeisance to their common Mother?

There are always some who will make a business of other people's devotion and before long the peddlers of knick-knacks, dispensers of bounty, and providers of fun- n -frollic entered the

scene. As the years rolled by, this tribe of traders flourished and the streets where they displayed their wares, fanning out from the Mount, grew in proportion and number making it the largest fair of its kind in the city. Along the way came additions and deletions so that it is no longer the same and not half as good as it was in our youth.

The Goa sweet shops now sell adulterated versions of the original; the German gold trinkets are replaced by Chinese metal; the ice-creams have more variety minus the flavour of old; the ferris wheels are too often wheels of danger and the games of skill have become games of chance. Moreover, sundry environmentalists and the ever-present moral police put paid to the cafeterias with their live music, the whist drives and jam-sessions, sounding the death-knell of the iconic September Garden (the erstwhile Chinese Garden circa 1962 and before) then proudly patronized by the expat Chinese population of the city.

Another time, another scene of simple joys, great value for small change - and class. Happily, the declining standards of the fair have not affected the Feast and its celebration in the concrete jungle that is present day Bandra. Nothing it seems, can quite vanquish the faith or diminish the fervour and gaiety of what is for us, Bandraites, Christmas in September! A family feast celebrated in the company of family and friends who come over after participating in Mass at the Shrine, to share the traditional meal of sorpotel and sannas, supplemented by other typical community fare.

So that as we come together each year in September to celebrate the birthday of our blessed Mother Mary, in much the same way we do each year in December when we celebrate the birthday of her Son Jesus who gave her to us for our own, we recognize with gratitude that we belong to the one family of God, and we can say with great joy: dearest Mother, Happy Birthday!

Why The TV Media Needs To Change

 Francis Lobo

I have discovered that one way to punish humans is loneliness. Science has found a remedy for this ailment — TELEVISION. However, like the death of many other great inventions, which I have seen in my life time — the gramophone, the stenciling machine, the typewriter, the adding-listing machine — the end of TV is near — unless it heeds my advice.

No doubt TV earns its income from ads. But there is a tolerance limit. As a child repetition was necessary to make you remember and apply. But, hearing the same exhortation several times during a program is not going to make me invest in “Beer Shampoo” to make my silver hair a glamorous golden or whatever. A friend of mine, who obviously had nothing better to do, has worked out how many years of his life he has lost by watching repetitive ads.

The same applies to “News”. It is news when you hear it for the first time. It is no longer NEW when you hear the same thing again and again. The need of Modern Man is for “INFORMATION” — news, data which is analyzed, interpreted and tells you how to act and react. Statistics, comparisons, events are not Information, unless they tell how and why and what can be done about what is being reported. There is no point in comparing the frequency of railway accidents, air crashes, rapes, riots under one government v/s an-

other. The fact is they should never have happened in the first place. To get to the cause and the solutions requires much more work and investment by the media than what they are prepared to do. After all the owners want to see a healthy bottom line not a well - informed public.. This role is fast being taken over by activists who put their views and findings on the Internet. That these blogs on the Internet are not effectively evaluated and edited are new dangers facing modern society.

The media has a great opportunity to solve problems both before and after they occur. There are billions of bits of data floating around which the electronic media today has the power to capture, join together and make sense out of. Imagine if the media could predict with reliable information a flood, an epidemic, a terrorist attack, a rail accident!! There is a strong cause and effect relationship of whatever goes on in this universe. Nothing happens on its own. Everything is connected. Most of modern day calamities are caused by Man or can be predicted by Man.

We are bringing into Law conditions for sanctioning projects to protect the environment, to control the use of drugs or the consumption of food and other resources, etc. Those who want to show that they can do things fast override and silence those who advocate caution. Unfortunately the media often sides with those in power, the rich and the influential disregarding the concerns of the weak and the marginalized. Here again we see the activists taking over the role of the media through the power of the Internet.

The 21st Century has been termed the Age of Enlightenment, the Knowledge Era. We have the power, the capability, the technology to gather bits of data from around the universe to answer any question — provided we know what questions to ask. The

need for the media is no longer to have local correspondents who can capture and report live what is going on but access to the sources of information that can analyze why things are happening and what can be done about it. That children are being killed in Gazais no longer News — it is happening every day. What we need to know are what is the Truth in the claims and counter-claims, what can be done about it, who can put a stop to all this.

Because of our reluctance to go after the real culprits, who are often invisible, faceless and too powerful to be confronted, we pick on the weakest in the episode. We go after the official who takes the bribe not the businessman or industrialist who gives it. We catch and imprison the hooligans who vandalize during a riot but do nothing to the ideologue who instigates the riots in the first place. We are shocked when there is a financial scam but do nothing to condemn those who propounded economic theory and made policies which permitted and encouraged such scams to take place. Why should an incident lead to a riot? Why was the criminal just not arrested and let the law take its course? Why did a whole village have to get involved

The news media doesn't shape people's minds. People hear what they want to hear. People don't always think and act rationally. They are not intrinsically 'Good' or 'Bad' People are people and believe what suits them. They can nearly always be manipulated — for good or ill — if we know which buttons to press. TV has a profound impact on Society. Studies have been conducted to determine whether it has led to increase in crime, reduction in human interaction and rational thinking and ailments resulting from a sedentary life style. But coming to the TV as a media for keeping us informed about what's going on around the world, a greater degree of integrity, more knowledge and a sound information base is called for so that people get the Truth and are not manipulated.

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Why Are So Many Priests Alcoholics?

by Fr. Alexander Lucie-Smith

The story about the continuing misfortunes of Paul Gascoigne [former international footballer] are more than the usual article about a “troubled” celebrity, or a star fallen on hard times, with which our culture is so obsessed. Rather it is a reminder of the grief caused by alcoholism. Mr Gascoigne is an alcoholic, and his addiction is clearly ruining him, just as it once ruined George Best. Moreover, Mr Gascoigne’s alcoholism must cause distress to his family and his friends, many of whom, no doubt, have tried repeatedly to help him.

Everyone who has lived inside the institutional church, in a presbytery or a religious house, or a convent, will know about alcoholism, for alcoholism is, historically speaking, often regarded as the curse of the Catholic clergy. I doubt that figures are published or much serious research done into the problem any more, but Catholic priests are more likely to be alcoholic than other men, or so it seem to me.

Any attempt to provide scientific backing to such a claim would be bedevilled by the question of just how you measure the incidence of alcoholism. But consider the facts: there are special drying out facilities just for the clergy, or there used to be; the figure of the alcoholic priest is a staple in literature—consider the “whiskey priest” in Graham Green’s *The Power and the Glory*,



or even Father Jack in the television series *Father Ted*; and think of all the priests you may have known who drank too much. And count up the times you heard someone, somewhere, utter the line: “Father X is not an alcoholic, he just likes a drink” or one of the variants thereof.

Why are so many priests alcoholic? That is a fairly easy question to answer. There are the pressures of the job, being on call, sometimes for 24 hours a day. There is the simple difficulty of finding it hard to relax without a drink in your hand. There is the culture of drinking that is so common in Catholic milieu: the world of the Catholic social club, or the people always offering you a drink. There is the challenge of loneliness, and the challenge of boredom. And there is the possible genetic predisposition to alcoholism that some of us bear.

Alcoholic priests do enormous damage to the Church. I think that goes without saying. But what does even worse damage is the way the phalanx of people who surround, protect and enable each alcoholic priest (and these people are never absent), who all deny there is a problem. One can see that Fr X is an alcoholic, but he is surrounded by people who refuse to admit that his is true, which introduces into ecclesial discourse the dangerous disconnect with reality which is the source of so many of our problems. If we cannot face the truth of Fr X’s alcoholism, what truths can we face? If we cannot tackle this problem, how will we ever tackle anything?

To tell someone they are an alcoholic is cruel, for it shames them profoundly: it is always shameful to have to acknowledge that you are not free, but rather a slave to your lower impulses. But to leave someone in a state of slavery is much more cruel, and, in the end, will greatly increase the sum of human misery. When a priest drinks too much, that has to be confronted, and the sooner the better. There can be no solution to this or to anything else without acknowledgement of the truth.

Why am I writing this, and why now? Partly it is touched off by the pictures of Paul Gascoigne, but it is also because of a concern which we should all have for the welfare of the clergy. The spotlight on the safeguarding of minors and vulnerable adults, which has taken up much attention in the last two decades, should not deflect us from keeping ourselves alert to other areas of concern as well.

As with child welfare, burying our heads in the sand is never a useful way forward. Alcoholism among the clergy was always a problem in the past; and it has not gone away. Denying we have a problem has not helped us in the past, and will only compound this, and other difficulties, we face.

Fr. Alexander Lucie-Smith is a Catholic priest, doctor of moral theology and consulting editor of *The Catholic Herald*.

Source: *Catholic Herald*

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National Consultation On The Catholic Family

“If the laity in India is mature, the Church in India will be mature,” said Bishop Thomas Dabre of Poona at the NATIONAL CONSULTATION ON THE FAMILY organized by one of the most committed Church activists in India, Chhotebhai, at the Poona Diocesan Pastoral Centre, 23-24 August 2014. And indeed a sense of maturity was evident among the motley group of around 40 individuals from across the country who deliberated on a gamut of issues concerning the Catholic Family as a precursor to the Papal Synod called for in October in Rome this year.

The topics, broadly sub-headed as Pastoral, Sociological, Psychological and Physiological, touched on matters related to preparation for marriage and baptism and the lack of it, the proposed uniform civil code, inter-faith marriage, domestic violence and abortion, widowhood, single parenthood and responsible parenthood, wealth and poverty, alcohol and drug abuse, youth and children, the internet and its effects and a lot more!

Bishop Dabre, who opened the proceedings the first day with the celebration of the Eucharist, and Bishop Lawrence Pius Dorairaj of Dharmapuri – yes, both with the smell of sheep! – were present not merely physically but in every respect, encouraging the debates, taking active part in the group discussions, assuring the gathering that our voices counted. It was sincerely hoped that Father Arulraj of Bangalore, who was equally supportive and is a delegate to the synod in Rome, would carry the views and sentiments of the participants to the Episcopal deliberations with the Pope and thus have a bearing on the outcome of the synod.

Bishop Dorairaj, Chairman of the CCBI Family Commission, affirmed, “Indian civil law does not recognize the civil unions of people of the same sex and the Catholic Church will always oppose such unions.” Simple folk, from accomplished speakers to

retirees and housewives, each coming from a different background, fired by the zeal of a large-hearted man who calls himself ‘little-brother’, couldn’t have agreed less, even as they prayed and argued their way into the hearts and consciences of each other, virtually challenging ourselves to not only express our views openly but to rise above the same to have our voices heard and counted in Church and society alike. This despite the fact that neither was there any kind of official sanction or ecclesiastical mandate as such nor was the press represented!

Input given by Virginia Saldanha and Lorna D’Souza of Bombay, Alan Doulton of Poona, Louis Menezes of Chennai and David & Aloma Lobo of Bangalore, apart from that of the chief coordinator, Chhotebhai himself, was both informative and incisive. The hardcore data that emerged, along with the sharing of the participants in general, was an eye-opener of sorts. While Virginia felt that men in general don’t quite want the empowerment of women, Lorna sought to know where the Church’s support is when a Catholic family or individual most needs it. As for Chhotebhai, he opined that it was time for Vatican III.

Pity that this event had not taken place earlier and with direct ecclesiastical involvement at the CBCI level! One had to just listen, both with the ear and the heart, to learn how fickle our Christianness is as Catholics and how abysmally human the Church herself is. Would the Church Universal ever know of how our Christian values vanish when it comes to dealing with our own kind – mother-in-law harassing daughter-in-law, father-in-law demanding money from his just widowed daughter-in-law with a 9-year old child for a dwelling-place that had been the young family’s home for over a decade, sexual discrimination and mo-



by Ladislaus L D'Souza

lestation alike in the family and outside, the blunt refusal on the part of a parish school manager to act in the instance of a lay woman principal being threatened for denial of school admissions and a plethora of evils one would hardly associate with the Church and her adherents.

On the point of “*the role of the laity in determining laws that directly affect them*” discussed at the Consultation, I personally feel that given the fact that it is our bishops who constitute the ‘Magisterium’, the teaching authority of the Church, it would be of much significance to have the laity involved in the selection of candidates to the bishopric by way of an electoral vote. **This is not to imply a rebuff to the present lot of bishops, all of whom we lay folk hold in immense esteem and with many of whom we do interact pretty well.** The point to be noted here is that if, in keeping with the sentiments expressed by Pope Francis, bishops are to truly have the smell of sheep, they must needs emerge from those pasturing the flock at the grassroots level as parish pastors, thus being in a position to feel the heartbeat of every sheep in the pasture and accordingly represent before the Vatican their needs when deliberating and passing laws that directly or indirectly affect them.

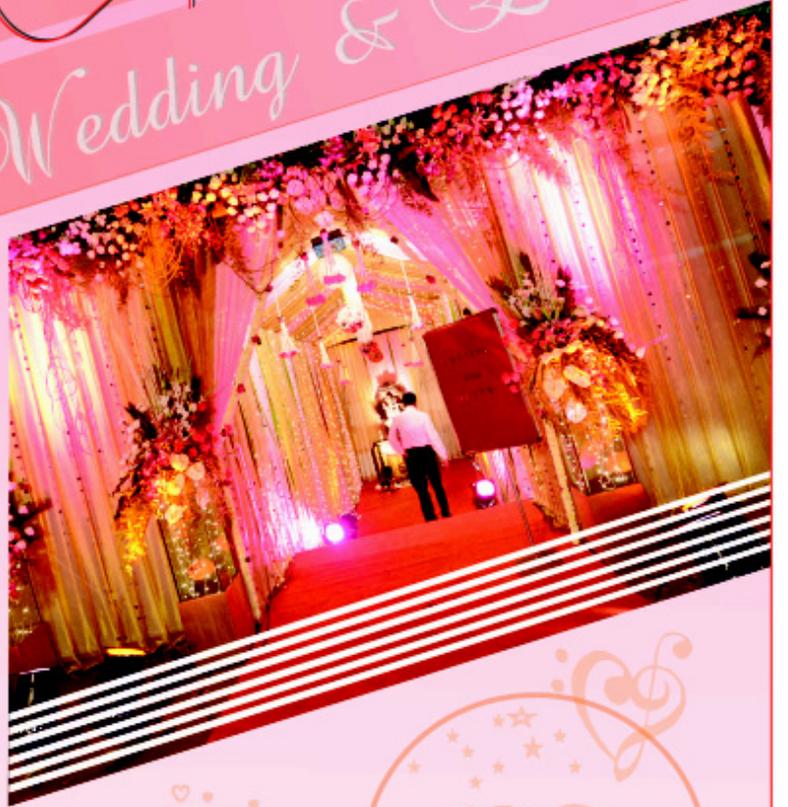
The NATIONAL CONSULTATION ON THE CATHOLIC FAMILY has concluded but not without hope as spelt out in the formation of a special forum to follow up on its deliberations that will not cease to enthuse those who participated. As the chief coordinator himself said, “We shall shout from the rooftops what we’ve discussed here!” Indeed, God willing, the efforts put in by Chhotebhai, Virginia, Louis, Diago and a host of others, supported by the participation of the delegates, shall not go in vain!

**Ladislaus L D'Souza, is a Pauline Cooperator, a member of the Indian Catholic Press Association and Copy-editor at St Paul's | Better Yourself Books, Bandra, Mumbai*



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'Soft Coup' By The RSS?

During the past few months and particularly after the BJP scored a massive electoral victory [thanks to the active support of the RSS and its offshoots] the Sangh Parivar has been feeling like a bird set free from its cage. They have been using intemperate language and making such bold statements that suddenly the minority communities have been feeling insecure. The Parivar feels emboldened with the total silence from the Government which is ruled by its own political arm – the BJP.

After the Gujarat riots, Narendra Modi had emerged as a strong figure and he knew that he could do without the RSS. He did not even allow them to canvass for him and won handsomely by keeping them at bay. There was nothing the RSS could do but watch with awe the victories of Narendra Modi in Gujarat elections. When Modi 'saw himself' as the next PM, he knew it was a pan India exercise and could not achieve his goal without the all-out RSS support. They too knew that Modi was the only leader who could win and form a BJP government at the centre. He allowed them to take the centre stage in the run up to the elections and this cultural organization galvanized the Hindu vote bank to ensure that the BJP won a majority on its own. Having taken the help of the Parivar in the elections, Modi is beholden to the Parivar and therefore cannot now control them. It gives a feeling that there was a tacit understanding between the BJP and the RSS that the latter will have a free run – a quid pro quo.

The BJP is the only political party in India which has a two tier set up – the parent organization [the RSS, VHP, Bajarang Dal & AVBP] to consolidate the Hindu forces and the BJP to run the government. When it suits them they say they are all one family but when situation becomes uncomfortable, they say they are separate entities. A very clever ploy to ultimately achieve the goal set by the founder of the Parivar – Keshav Hedgewar in 1925 whose activities were always viewed with suspicion. Their hidden agenda was a matter of concern because it did not have any written constitution of its own till they were forced to have one. The RSS is not supposed to indulge in political

IEWS on NEWS

activities according to the undertaking given to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel as a precondition to lifting the ban imposed in 1948. So they first formed the Jana Sangh in 1950 and remote controlled it - the BJP is the latest avatar of that formation.

Since the RSS cannot directly involve in politics, they cleverly made a provision in its constitution allowing members to join 'any' political party. With this provision the RSS can send their cadre [brain-washed] to join the BJP to carry forward its own agenda in the party and the government. Most of the BJP men are active hard core RSS members who are carrying forward the RSS agenda. Those in government are quietly doing their bit in the process. Those in the affiliated outfits are going whole hog – like the Togadias, Singals etc supported by certain BJP MPs and CMs of BJP ruled states. This sure but soft coup will not take Modi far. If he has a vision of real development, he will do well to be guided by the results of the by-elections in Bihar, Punjab, Karnataka etc – some work for the 'Margadarshan Mandal'.

Our Members Of Parliament

The Sachin Tendulkar issue [and Rekha to some extent] brought to the fore the utter callousness of some of the MPs when it comes to attending the Parliament to which they are either elected or selected [nominated]. The celebrities in particular possibly view their nomination as some sort of 'decoration' or reward for their contribution to society. It is a debatable point whether the contribution has been to the society or to their personal wealth. Nobody played or acted free and donated the huge fee for national cause. We have seen celebrities coming on television shows and bring some old cricket ball or an old tee shirt to be auctioned. Surely they own better things.

When they are nominated, obviously they are briefed on their privileges as well their duties. When it comes to duties, most celebrities take things for granted – they think they are a special class [don't forget they want all the



by Marshall Sequeira

possible privileges] so they need not attend parliament. The celebrities must be ashamed of themselves because they have lowered the dignity of the august House. Possibly having attended a couple of times, they must be feeling suffocated sitting like school children in those cramped benches. They are used to 'special seating' where they are prominently seen, applauded and noticed all the time. This student like atmosphere is not to their liking and comfort. They may be feeling bored in a place where there is no glamour and constant camera focusing.

It is worth knowing if without attending the parliament, one can claim all those benefits, cash payments etc. If they can actually claim, it is very unfair. The number of air tickets, allowances etc should be commensurate with their attendance. Actually, these people should voluntarily surrender these freebies. If their commercial and professional commitments [which earn them in lakhs] are more important and paying, they should gracefully give up their nominated seats so that somebody else can do a better job.

This applies to elected members as well in both the Houses. There are people like L.K.Advani, who have had one of the best records in attendance. In the lower House as well there are those celebrities who just adorn the benches with little or no contribution in parliamentary debates. Their attendance record is not flattering.

There should be some stipulation of minimum attendance for every MP – say 60% unless there are compelling reasons not to attend. The Presiding Officers should have the discretionary power to condone absence for genuine reasons – not to sit on dharna outside the parliament. Their benefits should have a bearing on their attendance – actually it should be on the basis of their 'contribution' in parliament.

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MUMBAI based **Goan R. C.** bachelor 30 years, 5'9" tall, Wheatish Complexion Edn. B.E. (Mech) MBA, Position : Business Analyst. Seeks a good natured homely bride. *(Approach the groom and the family through Royal Christian Family, -Ref.:SF48)*

BANGALORE based **Roman Catholic** bachelor 30 years, 5'5" Handsome, Edn. B.Tech., MBA, PGDM., working as a IT Sofwere - Business Analyst. Seeks a good looking bride. *(Approach the groom and the family through Royal Christian Family, -Ref.:SF49)*

USA based **Mangalorean** Divorcee (with 2 children) aged 4 years, 5'11" Wt. 73 kgs. tall, Fair, Handsome, Edn. Masters of Engg. MCA., working as an Electronics / Telecom Engineer, working in USA. Seeks a suitable bride. *(Approach the groom and the family through Royal Christian Family, -Ref.:SF50)*



BOISAR : **CNI Protestant Spinster**, aged 33 years, Ht. 5', Wt. 58 kgs, Wheatish Comlexion. Edn. BE Com, PGD in Textile Designing, working as a Textile Designer. parents invite proposals from well settled, boys. *(Approach the bride and family through Royal Christian Family - Ref.:SF51)*

MUMBAI : **Goan Roman Catholic Spinster**, aged 31 years, Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 55 kgs, smart, Edn. B.Com., working as a Team Leader. parents invite proposals from educated boys. *(Approach the bride and family through Royal Christian Family - Ref.:SF52)*

MUMBAI : **Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster**, aged 27 years, Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 55 kgs, Wheatish. Edn. LLB., Lawyer by profession. parents invite proposals from well settled, decent family boys. *(Approach the bride and family through Royal Christian Family - Ref.:SF53)*

MUMBAI : **Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster**, aged 27 years, Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 43 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.S. in Human Resources, working for an international school, parents invite proposals from Mangalorean boys. *(Approach the bride and family through Royal Christian Family - Ref.:SF54)*



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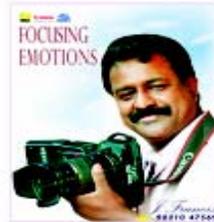
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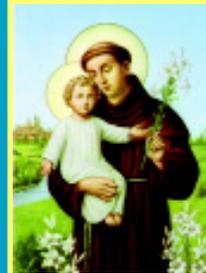


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O holy St. Anthony, gentlest of Saints, your love for God and Charity for his creatures, made you worthy, when on earth, to possess miraculous

powers. Miracles waited on your word, which you were ever ready to speak for those in trouble or anxiety. Encouraged by this thought, I implore of you to obtain for me (request). The answer to my prayer may require a miracle, even so, you are the Saint of Miracles. O gentle and loving St. Anthony, whose heart was ever full of human sympathy, whisper my petition into the ears of the Sweet Infant Jesus, who loved to be folded in your arms; and the gratitude of my heart will ever be yours.

*—Vincent Crasta,
Santacruz (W)*



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Tellicherry Gets New Archbishop



New Delhi: Pope Francis has transferred Bishop George Njaralakatt to Tellicherry archdiocese as its new archbishop.

The 68-year-old prelate replaces Archbishop George Valiamattam who has since retired.

The appointment was announced simultaneously at Rome, the Syro-Malabar Church headquarters of Kochi, Kerala, and the Tellicherry Archbishop's residence on Friday.

Bishop Njaralakatt is the first bishop of Mandya diocese in Karnataka state, which was carved out of Manantavady in Kerala. Ordained on December 20, 1971 for Tellicherry, he had earlier worked in Manathavady and Bhadravathi dioceses.

He was born on June 23, 1946 at Kalayanthani near Thodupuzha in Idukki district. He entered the seminary for Tellicherry diocese in 1963.

He served Tellicherry as assistant parish priest, parish priest, director of catechism and Mission League, eparchial finance officer, syncellus, eparchial administrator sede vacante, and later as protosyncellus of Bishop Jose Porunnedom. Since 2006 he served Bhadravathi diocese as its Protosyncellus until his appointment as the Bishop of Mandya.

Tellicherry archdiocese covers the territory of Kannur and Kasargode districts of Kerala.

Thalassery (Tellicherry) is a city on the Malabar Coast of Kerala, India. It is the 8th largest city of Kerala in terms of population. Once it was a European colony. Thalassery was a major commercial centre during the British rule of India. The name Tellicherry is the anglicized form of Thalassery.

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Bandra Fair



BY JUBEL D'CRUZ



which add to the activities. There are also stalls selling East-Indian Marathi and Konkani music CDs and VCDs. East-Indian Marathi songs are enjoyed not only by the East-Indian (Marathi Christian) Catholic community of Mumbai, but by other communities like the Goans and Mangaloreans too. The Bandra Fair is estimated to be around 450 years old.

In the year, 1700, according to historians, the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary was disfigured by the Arab pirates and the right hand was broken in order to get hold of a gold lined object in her hand, after which it was tossed into the sea. According to a legend, a Hindu fisherman dreamt that he would find a statue in the sea. And his dream came true a few years later. In the year, 1760, the damaged chapel of Mount Mary's Basilica was rebuilt and the statue which the fisherman had found in the sea was substituted with a statue of 'Our Lady of Navigators' from the nearby St. Andrew's Church in Bandra (West). It was in the year, 1761 that the original statue of 'Our Lady of the Mount' was returned to the Church after being remodeled with a child in her arms.

The Basilica of Our Lady of the Mount in Bandra (West), Mumbai, stands on a hillock about 80 metres above sea level, overlooking the Arabian Sea. It draws over ten lakh devotees annually. During the Bandra Fair week, which is celebrated every year on the Sunday following September 8, over six lakhs people visit the shrine. The shrine attracts people of all faiths and walks of life who pray for thanksgiving or requesting of favours. This year the weeklong celebrations will commence from September 14 and will conclude on September 21.

During the entire Bandra Fair week, all roads in Bandra (West) are decorated with colourful bunting. Many people put up stalls selling religious items, black roasted grams and various kinds of sweets.

Stalls selling bottles of soapy water that create bubbles are very popular among children. Clowns, mimicry shows, circus stunts and other entertainment programmes add to the festive feel. You can have your photograph taken too with backgrounds of your choice.

Snacks and complete meals made at the homes of the locals residing in the fair area are famous for their taste, variety and economical rates. There are such food outlets at almost every corner of the fair.

Music makes one's mood merry. Daily programmes are announced

Mount Mary-Bandra Fest

The Feast of Mount Mary and the Bandra Fair (from 8th September Onwards) in Mumbai commemorates the birth of Jesus' mother on September 8. During this week, thousands -- Catholics, Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs -- flock to the Mount Mary Basilica to venerate Mother Mary.

The Portuguese built the Nossa Senhora de Monte chapel at the site in 1640.

The chapel crowned the hill till 1738 when it was razed in a raid by Maratha warriors. According to legend, six months later a fisherman recovered the life-sized statue of the Virgin from the sea. The statue was installed in the Mount Mary Church, built in 1761 with funds from parishioners.

The foundation for a new chapel designed by architect Shapoorjee Chandabhoy was laid on May 11, 1902. Built in Khandki and Porbunder stone, the church is 110 feet long, 38 feet wide, and features an inner gallery running on three sides and new towers, each 80 feet long. On December 5, 1954, the Vatican granted the church the status of "basilica"



All That's Holy And Jolly!



Being a Mumbaikar, religion doesn't come into consideration during any festival. Each

Bandra Fair

and every festival is celebrated with the same kind of enthusiasm and love. Bandra Fair, sounds more like a fun filled fest; but don't go by the name. It's not all fun! Bandra fair is more about Mother Mary, mother of Jesus. It's been said that Bandra fair started 300 years back after the idol of Mother Mary was found floating in the Arabian Sea between 1700 to 1760, just as it was seen in a dream of a Koli (fisherman) a few years before the statue was found!

Bandra Fair is an 8 days festival celebrated on a huge scale for all the devotees from across the world at the Mount Mary Church, Mumbai. People in thousands come from all over the world to visit the Mount Mary Church because of their faith and devotion. One of the beliefs is that ailing people can recover if they pray here and with regards to the same you will find stalls full of candles shaped like hands, foot, eyes and various other body parts. People buy the candle that represents their ailment and keep it in the church. During these 8 days, you will find the entire street full with people and stalls selling different things such as candles, food, clothes, etc.

In addition to the religious sentiments, Bandra Fair also provides entertainment to the people coming there. You will see various rides which includes the Ferris Wheel. Along with rides, there are jamming sessions and games of skills. You will also find stalls with creative ideas that will make you stop and purchase a few things such as getting your name written on a grain of rice.

You will find the church decorated in the most beautiful manner and is a sight which shouldn't be missed. It's all about 'Pray, Eat And Love'! Starting from Sunday after the 8th September till the next Sunday (8 days), the entire stretch from Carmel Church to Mount Mary Steps will be full of people, colors, spirituality, love & laughter. So what are you waiting for? Make sure to be a part of this festive celebration!

A Freigner's View

Bandra Fair is actually more properly known as Mount Mary Fair - which unbeknown to me is an eight day Christian 'pilgrimage' from the bottom of Mount Mary Road up to the top where Mount Mary Church is situated. Apparently this annual festival is visited by up to a million people during the eight days from 8th September - which bearing in mind the narrow streets and the already over-burdened and badly managed traffic, makes it hell for people living in the vicinity of Bandra. And 'Pilgrimage' is probably overdoing it a bit - I would describe it more as a light 30 minute upward stroll. Proper pilgrimages surely involve wearing cloth sacks and very little on your feet whilst traipsing across land and sea for months, maybe years, just to say 'hello' to a representation of Jesus or Mary?

I saw Mount Mary Church (otherwise known as 'Basilica of Our Lady of the Mount') for the first time. It was impressive looking and beautifully lit up and actually looked very Christmassy. In fact I didn't really feel like I was in India at all - I was almost transported to Hamburg! Directly opposite is the 'Oratory of Our Lady of Fatima' - a slightly novel looking monument - with 38 symmetrical steps leading up to a 6 foot statue of Fatima. Again beautifully lit up with many people at the top praying and offering their wax candles to the statue.

We entered the church which was filled with thousands of visitors (sorry, 'pilgrims'). Everyone was staring up at the statue of Mary and praying whilst I clicked away on my camera. I was impressed by the multicoloured light show they had going on in there....so Indian!

On the way back from our pilgrimage, I had been spiritually affected by what I saw. For I took four street urchins and bought them fresh coconut drinks. See how they smile! Blessed are us!!!

How to resolve fights with spouse?



Arguments are inevitable in any marriage, but you can resolve them better with these tips.

Watch Out For Triggers

Married couples tend to argue about kids, in-laws and money matters. Fights with in-laws happen over ways to discipline the kids or childcare issues.

It Can Help Your Relationship

If you put in effort to accept your differences or come to a compromise, he says. A relationship is often tested in a conflict situation. However, in the process of resolving it, a couple's connection grows stronger because both parties experience a deeper sense of trust and confidence.

Learn To Fight Well

Women tend to be more emotional and men tend to be less tactful during arguments. So to fight right, you should confront each other at the right time

and place. Speak slowly, maintain eye contact, and be conscious of not raising your voice.

"A little humour may help but couples need to focus on the main issue at hand, instead of the symptoms.

Before Argument:

It escalates to blows, because that doesn't help the situation at all. "You're the owner of your emotions, which means no one can make you angry. When you become emotional, you can tell your spouse that you feel angry, frustrated or sad, and ask for a time-out to calm down, if it helps." If this happens often, seek help from a counselor.

Take It Up Again

Let your spouse know if you think the matter isn't settled. It's perfectly all right to revisit the issue. When you can laugh at the matter, it means you have put it behind you.

Monti Fest

Monti Fest is a major Mangalorean Catholic festival on September 8 every year. This festival celebrates the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary and in the Mangalorean Catholic community involves blessing of Novem (new crops).

Monte Mariano Church at Farangipet in Mangalore, is a church where the Roman Catholic festival Monti Fest was initiated by Joachim Miranda, a Goan Catholic priest at Farangipet in 1763. Though Tippu Sultan destroyed the churches of Canara, he spared Monte Mariano Church in deference to the friendship of his father Hyder Ali with Father Miranda. This Church is situated on the banks of river Nethravathi.

Monthi Fest is one of the three designated major feasts of Mangalore and Udupi Dioceses - the others being the feasts of St. Lawrence at Karkala and Lady of Pompei at Urva. Until a few decades ago, Monti Fest was celebrated on a grand scale at Monte Mariano, with surrounding parishes too participating. A large number of devotees from Mangalore, including tile manufacturers and coffee planters, footed it out to Farangipet for the feast.

The Konkani community of Kudal and Ratnagirieven today call this feast as "Monthi Saibinnichem Feshth" and they too like in other places celebrate by showering flowers, having Novem and also follow the tradition of remembering the ancestors and having a family meal together with Novem or new corn. However, the way Novem is consumed by various Christian communities vary depending on regions. The new corn is consumed through various means such as in Milk, coconut milk, Payasam (Vorn) or even in beaten-sweet-rice. However, there a little difference in celebration of feast among the Konkani community in various regions. The statue used for this feast is the famous Infant Mary's "Maria Bambina" and by mistake we call it "Monthi Saibinnichi Imaz" whereas they use the real "Monti Saibinichi Imaz", that is the replica of "Mount Mary" from Bandra (Mumbai).

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What is The Big Deal?

 Don Aguiar

Our present government was given 'an opportunity' and voted to power on their plank of development and reducing corruption which in turn as they have assured will lead to "Acha Din" for all. They started in all earnest in reducing corruption first in their cabinet formation by reducing the number of ministers in their cabinet and continued in-house with their bureaucrats ensuring that they come on time, clubbing responsibilities of all respects of respective area to one department/ministry so that the files get moving in a fixed time period as the lesser the layers in the government the citizens have to interact with the lesser the corruption and that will facilitate quick development.

Their next is to constitute a committee to identify all obsolete and archaic laws and acts with a view of weeding them out systematically as well as all commissions and ministries formed during the British era as well as just after our independence that do not serve any purpose presently as they say that we are now independent for 68 years which is long enough to frame laws, acts and regulations for ourselves and appoint commissions and ministries as required and relevant to present times

Rather than promise the nation on Independence Day a host of development projects and freebies as done by the previous government the present government call this time was for inviting other nations to start manufacturing their products in India, doing away with the planning commission which has outlived its purpose and straightening out domestic issues as the present government leaders perceives these defects as part of their own social milieu and are impatient to eliminate them. This is in complete contrast to the previous government leaders belonging to city based or feudal elite or with colonial hangovers.

The present government is known to not pander to rank populism. This government has the confidence to demand people's participation in

India's economic and social advancement as their Prime Minister being the first PM to be born after independence is burdened neither by colonial hangovers nor by the accompanying inferiority complex. It seems the present government would rather win their accolades domestically and this gives them the courage to talk of issues that are critical to India's progress without being concerned about the impression they make abroad. The present government holds out the hope of making India's economic development and progress a social movement and brings the gulf between 'rulers' and 'ruled'

While the present government is keeping the nation's attention on reducing financial and economic corruption and into the act of weeding out archaic laws and acts and framing new laws, acts and regulations to facilitate quick development they are on the other hand facilitating another kind of corruption and that is of the mind – education or CORRUPTION OF THE MIND -They are slowly but surely saffronising the education and dividing the nation on religious lines. It is clear now that this government don't even pretend to be neutral in their history in search of the truth.

What does need to be said is that this government's Prime Minister ought not to appoint people who want to stifle discussion to the chairmanship of the Indian Council of Historical Research. It is the sort of appointment that demonstrates that India is not ready for the modern world and not the best contributor to the efforts of universal scholarship.

The project that this government promotes is that of instituting a new nationalism, fair enough that this can entail research into the caste system imposed by Hindu social structure and its merits and the cruelty of Muslim or Mughal and British era in India, pointing to the testimony of historians who have chronicled the acts of persecu-

tion.

It goes without saying that this government should be free to be a missionary for whatever cause they choose, short of stuff that violates the law and attacks the rights of other citizens.

So while the nation has given their thumbs up for reducing financial and economic corruption leading to economic and social advancement and for quick development 'an opportunity' and voted this government to power with an absolute majority, this government is now on the job of making their plank of economic and social advancement a social movement. To achieve this they require the cooperation of the nation and what better way of getting this cooperation than to get them by spreading their nationalist ideology and corrupt the minds by changing history, geography, science, etc in line with their ideology which appeals to the majority in our country.

The nation has made their choice and given this government an absolute majority. However this government will do well to constantly remind themselves of the necessity to strengthen the democratic institutions that have been nurtured over the last 67 years rather than promote their own ideology

While the corruption of the previous government was in the financial & economic sector because it was a collation government, the present government which has been given 'An OPORTUNITY' with an absolute majority is working on reducing this financial and economic corruption that will lead to 'Acha Din' as they promised BUT at the same time promoting another dangerous form of corruption – CORUPTION OF THE MIND - which can be very dangerous and lead the nation divided on communal lines leading to chaos and medieval times.

No ifs & buts and no excuses. But then who on this earth can have it all? This question brings to my mind

(Contd.. on p. 23)

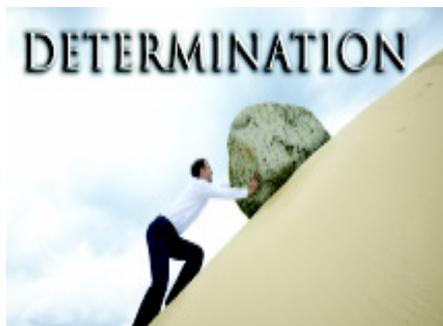
Inspiration!

Determination

I will tell you a story of my friend Monty Roberts.

As he was a kid, his father as a horse trainer was moving from stable to stable, from ranch to ranch, training horses. Thus, the boy's school career was constantly interrupted. One day, when he was a senior, teacher asked him to write about what he wanted to be when he grew up. He did not hesitate a minute and wrote seven-page paper about his aim to be an owner of a horse ranch, he wrote many details and drew a location of buildings and stables and even a detailed house plan.

Two days later he received his paper back with letter „F“ on the front page.



After class he came to teacher and asked: „Why did I receive an F?“. The teacher responded: „This dreams is so unrealistic for a boy like you, who has no money, no resources and who comes from itinerant family. There is no

possibility that you will reach your great goals one day.“ Then the teacher offered to rewrite the paper with more realistic attitude.

The boy went home and asked his father, how should he act. The father answered: „This decision is very important for you. So you have to make your own mind on this“.

After several days the boy brought the same paper to his teacher. No changes were made. He said: „Keep the F and I will keep my dream“.

Now Monty Roberts owns 4,000-square-foot house in the middle of 200-acre horse ranch and he still has that school paper, which now is framed over the fireplace.

Remember, you have to follow your heart and never let anyone to steal your dreams.

(Contd.. from p. 22)

the famous term in economics coined in 1914 by Austrian economist Friedrich von Wieser – ‘opportunity costs’ – The new oxford American dictionary defines is as ‘the loss of potential gain from other alternatives when one alternative is chosen.’ It is a simple but key concept of economics, which expresses the relationship between scarcity and choice and is extremely relevant in making day to day decisions about spending scarce resources like time and money. If we apply the same concept to our lives, all the moral souls have to forgo something or the other in pursuit of their choices. What is the big deal?

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—Mrs. Prithi Rodrigues

Know How To File A Life Insurance Claim

The death of a near one can leave the family facing a tough situation. While nothing can assuage the feeling of bereavement, financial security can help the family, to a small extent, cope with the situation. So, don't stop at buying a life policy. Be informed about the policy fine print and tell your family how to claim the insurance money. Here is a step-by-step guide to filing a life insurance claim.

Step 1. Inform the insurer. This can be done by calling up its call centre or walking into the nearest branch. One can also get in touch with the agent the policy was bought from. Keep the policy details handy.

Step 2. The nominee will be required to give a claimant's statement (a form provided by the insurer for giving details about the deceased and the claimant), original policy papers, death certificate and police first information re-

port (FIR) & post-mortem report if the death is due to an accident. For medical-related claims, you will have to arrange for medical reports such as discharge summary and hospital records. The insurer can ask for additional documents based on the cause of death, policy duration and risk cover (See Documents To Be Submitted).

Step 3. The insurer starts the evaluation process. If it feels the need for a further examination, it conducts an external investigation to check the veracity of the claim.

Step 4. The claim is settled after all documents are received.

Step 5. Norms require that insurers settle all claims within 30 days of completion of all requirements. If there is need for a further investigation, according to norms, the insurer should complete the procedure within six months



MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 27 years, Ht. 6', Wt. 75 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.E. Electronics, working as a Sr. system Engg in Mysore. Seeks a graduate, Mangalorean girl below 25 years. Contact email : dsz.roshan@gmail.com **(Regd. No. 6168)**

MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 33 years, Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 69 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.E. (Mech.) working as a Mechanical Engineer. Contact email.: avalon.inbox@yahoo.co.in OR 9890892847 **(Regd. No. 5985)**

MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 32 years, Ht. 5' 11", Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., I.T., & Dip. in Elect. Engg., working as an Assistant Manager (Technical) Only Child. Contact email : noel.pereira83@gmail.com OR 9820561856 **(Regd. No. 5983)**

U.S.A. : Universtiy Professor, USA, Fair Complexion, 5' 7", age 46 years, Protestant Bachelor, Seeks a well educated, fair complexioned girl below 40 years, Contact email mddav2009@yahoo.com OR 9769061597. **(Regd. No. 5978)**

MUMBAI : Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 43 years, Ht. 5' 7", Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., M.A., (Diploma in Journalism from UK); working as a Freelance Journalist. Seeks a suitable & compatible match from India/Abroad, He might travel abroad for work. Contact email : basitfaith2013@rediffmail.com / faithbasit8@rediffmail.com OR 9221394374 **(Regd. No. 5968)**

MUMBAI : Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 28 years, Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.E. (I.T.), working as a Net Work Engineer abroad. Seeks a slim, fair, beautiful, educated girl below 26 years. Contact email :

pjswamy@gmail.com OR 9324312605 **(Regd. No. 5963)**

MUMBAI : Karware Goan Roman

Catholic Bachelor, age 38 years, Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 54 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn.10th Std., working on Rigs as a Cruise Member. Contact Mob. 8879137735 **(Regd. No. 5952)**

MUMBAI : Parents of Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, DOB 1974, 5' 9", P.hD (U.S.A.), working in US, seeks alliance from R.C. spinster. Send details and recent full size photograph to : dfr472121@gmail.com

(Regd. No. 5950)

MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, age 39 years, Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 75 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. XII Std., Working as a Gen. Steward in Ship. Seeks a Goan girl below 32 years. Contact email : fatima16jones@gmail.com OR 26671289 / 9969488673 **(Regd. No. 5949)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 33 years, Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 70 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Microsoft Engineer in Bangalore. Well settled, having own house in Bangalore. Seeks a educated Mangalorean girl from good family background. Contact Email : lorettag58@gmail.com OR 9323949129 / 9867848489

(Regd. No. 5880)

MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 31 years, Ht. 5', 4", Wt.65kgs, Wheatish Complexion,Edn. PGDBM working as a Sr. Manager in MNC in Mumbai. Well settled, having own accommodation, looking for a suitable match. Contact email : lewellyndias@gmail.com OR 9820467452 **(Regd. No. 5759)**

AUCKLAND-NEWZEALAND : Goan R.C. Bachelor, aged 31/5'8", working in Auckland Newzealand in a Newzealand Band as a Personal Banker. Contact : Email :

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

lester_s@windowlive.com OR 9167880847 **(Regd. No. 5745)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 41 years, Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. 10th std., working abroad as a Technican. Contact : 25945356 **(Regd. No. 5708)**

DUBAI : Mangalorean RC Divorcee, aged 42 years Ht. 5'11", Wt. 82 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.E. (Mech.), Working as an Engineer. Seeks a suitable match. Contact email : proposal0313@gmail.com OR 7259846735 **(Regd. No. 5482)**

BANGALORE : Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 30 years, Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 78 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Tech., MBA, PGDM., working as a IT Sofwere - Business Analyst. Seeks a suitable match. Contact email : osbon_prusty@yahoo.co.in OR 8123090908. **(Regd. No. 6158)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic 1st marriage annuled by the church, aged 37 years, Ht. 5.' 7", Wt. 80 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. HSC., Diploma in Hotel and Restaurants Management, Working in Front office Department, well settled. Seeks a simple, humble, godfearing girl. Contact email : menezes_kenneth@rediffmail.com OR 9619089645 **(Regd. No. 6154)**

MUMBAI : Telugu Protestant Bachelor, aged 26 years, Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 86 kgs, Fair Complexion, Handsome, Well qualified and good family background. Seeks a suitable match **(Regd. No. 6153)**

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MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 30 years, Ht. 5' 1", Wt. 56 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. SYBA, Dip. in Avition, working CO in TCS, Seeks a Goan, loving, understanding, social and should have family values. Preferred from Gulf/ Mumbai. **(Regd. No. 6170)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 29 years, Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 50 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBA (Finance), working as a Finance Manager in Dubai Seeks a well settled boy in Dubai or Mumbai. Contact email : lobocindrella@gmail.com OR 971501663159 / 9867375554 **(Regd. No. 6169)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic spinster 1973 born, 5' 5" tall, fair complexion with qualifications, B.Com. (Mumbai), M.B.A. Finance (Canada), M.B.A., (H.R.) and Diplomas in I.T. (NIIT), Comp. (APTEC), and Cert.Ind Acct. (I.C.A.), working in good position. Graduate / Post Graduate unmarried R.C. Bachelors upto 45 years, employed in good position and well settled in Mumbai or abroad. Contact email : bellwether77@yahoo.com or Mobile No. 9892700617. **(Regd. No. 6166)**

NEW DELHI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 28 years, Ht. 5' 3", Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A., working as a Travel Executive. Seeks a suitable match. Contact email : elaine.j.gomes@gmail.com OR 9818729963 **(Regd. No. 6143)**

MUMBAI : Anglo Indian Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 28 years, Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 68 kgs, wheatish Complexion, Edn. T.Y.B.A., working for CSR, Seeks a well settled, sober habits, presentable, understanding nature, Contact email : foreverbeck@yahoo.com OR 9049766964 **(Regd. No. 6142)**

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MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 28 years, Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 75 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. HSC + ECCED Course, Teacher by profession Only Child. Contact email : graciaas@rediffmail.com OR 9869088728 / 9869088736 **(Regd. No. 6137)**

NASHIK : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 25 years, Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 64 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. C.A., working as a Chartered Accountant. Seeks highly qualified match, Contact email : lonadsouza71@gmail.com OR 9960620677 **(Regd. No. 6134)**

PUNE : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 26 years, Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 82 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.A. working with MNC as HR. Seeks a suitable match. Contact email : minin1958@hotmail.com OR 9860097450 **(Regd. No. 6132)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 25 years, Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 72 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., Diploma in Fin. App. working as a Sr. Executive in Finance Company. Seeks a educated and well settled bachelor Ht. above 5' 8". Contact email : jovy.rodriques@gmail.com OR 9769440351 **(Regd. No. 6131)**

MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Divorcee, aged 41 years, Ht. 5' 3", Fair Complexion, Good looking and simple, Edn. B.Com., working as a administrator. Seeks a suitable match. Contact email : dalai_mary@rediffmail.com OR 9967289345 / 9987638099 **(Regd. No. 6130)**

MUMBAI : Tamilian Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 30 years, Ht. 4' 10", Wt. 50 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a CRE, Contact email daisy.dec1@gmail.com OR 7507899111 **(Regd. No. 6129)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman

Catholic Spinster, aged 26, Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 58 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., employed as an Administrator. Seeks a suitable match. Contact email : dsouzareena10@gmail.com OR 9920623791 / 7738745831 **(Regd. No. 6127)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 43 years, Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 59 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. 9th Std., good looking and smart, working as a Hair Dresser. Seeks a suitable match. Contact 9619957198 **(Regd. No. 6124)**

MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 31 years. Ht. 5' 2", Wheatish Complexion, Edn. HSC, working as a Chef in Qatar. Contact email : venitadsouza1986@yahoo.co.in / jddsouza007@gmail.com OR 9892071067 **(Regd. No. 6115)**

INDORE : Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 39 years, Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 53 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.Com., well settled. Seeks a suitable match. Contact email : seema_francis@rediffmail.com OR 09827011122 **(Regd. No. 6114)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Syrian Orthodox Christian Spinster, 33 years, Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 62 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. MBA, B.Com., working as a Programmer in IT Software. Contact email : rrdrgues@gmail.com / rfrancis_55@yahoo.com OR 9167135860 **(Regd. No. 6111)**

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Children And The Catholic Divorce Syndrome

“Parents in turmoil are bound to have children in turmoil,” said Msgr. Patrick Armshaw. Children, he went on to say, “need to be protected from the residue of their parents’ one-time marriage.” Children of divorce need to be guided properly, to be taught and shown ways to make good decisions in their own future lives.

Each year thousands of Roman Catholic children in India experience the trauma of parental divorce. Children suffer many losses during the act when parents go through divorce proceedings. These losses harbor the anger and sadness of parents as well, unable to share their love and attention.

The action of children moving to a new home and school. Adapting to a new life environment. Fear that if parents stop loving each other they may stop loving them.

Emeritus Pope Benedict XVI said divorced people “are not excluded from the love of the Church or from the love of Christ... we love these people who are suffering.” The Holy Father expressed solicitude for divorced Catholics remarried outside the Church, with concern that their children must not suffer the deprivation of their Catholic faith.

Divorce is a troublesome time when misunderstandings open up. Parents have their own disputes to solve and children often feel they should bring their parents back together.

In the Catholic Digest writer Lynn Casella made a statement that “children grieve about divorce differently than their parents do. She adds, “If your children refuse to talk about the separation or the divorce, honor their wishes. They may be defending them-

The effect of divorce on children has been a sharp topic of debate in surveys and research across the nation.

selves against emotions that seem overwhelming.

The annulment process aids divorced Catholics with assistance from psychologists and others by explaining what the annulment is all about. For this effort many Catholic dioceses have Marriage Tribunals. Catholics divorced, or thinking of divorce should meet their diocesan Tribunal. Parents should talk to their children. Tell them you have decided to appeal for a divorce.



BY MELVYN BROWN

Make children feel they are still loved. Be straightforward with your young ones. Make them understand it is not their fault. Let them know that many people will be upset. Do not argue each other’s mistakes or predicaments with the youngsters. Always keep things easy for them to comprehend.

Dr. Constance Ahrons, researcher and author of the book, “We Are Still Family”, says that divorce does not have to be devastating. She found that many parents’ divorces had a positive outcome on youngsters and parents alike.

Family break ups could come about in several ways: For example, by way of mental, physical or sexual abuse. It is always best in these events to get proper medical, legal or criminal help. Keep

elbow room with the children.

Fr. John Catoir, in his book, The Dilemma of Divorced Catholics, mentioned, “Children bear the brunt of a failed marriage. But it is also true that children suffer when they are being raised in a dysfunctional family... Sometimes a divorce is necessary to protect the children. Nevertheless, divorce is such a serious step, both parents must try to weigh the consequences.”

The effect of divorce on children has been a sharp topic of debate in surveys and research across the nation.

Read the Gospel of Mark. 10:14-16. Jesus said to them, “Let the little children come to Me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the Kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.”

In many ways, divorce is a glimpse into the frailty of human nature. Divorce is emotional suffocation. It must not take precedence over domestic struggle and the major issues of a Catholic marriage agenda which is to comfort, support and thrive in a fast changing world – especially, for the growth and advancement of the children in the faith.

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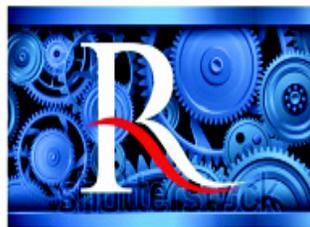
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