

THE SECULAR CITIZEN

(Total pages 24)

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Battle Against Drugs



Battle Against Drugs

June 26, is designated as the 'International Day Against Drug Abuse and its Illicit Trafficking'. Established by the UN General Assembly in 1987, this Day serves as a reminder of the goals agreed by Member States of creating a global society free from Drug Abuse. Thus was constituted the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). It assists the UN in addressing and coordinating comprehensive responses to the above, as well as crime prevention, criminal justice, prison reforms, terrorist activities and political corruption. These goals are pursued through research, guidance and monetary support.

Definition and Classification:

- In Pharmacology, a drug is a chemical substance – (a) 'Medicinal', used in the treatment, cure, prevention and diagnosis of a disease, eg antibiotics; and (b) Recreational: These are dangerous substances, cause addictions and have withdrawal syndromes. These are further grouped into six categories according to their actions on the Central Nervous System.
- 1. Stimulants: (amphetamines, caffeine, nicotine and cocaine). 2. Depressants: (opiates, barbiturates, tranquilizers and sedatives). 3. Anti-Psychotics; 4. Anti-depressants;
- 5. Cannabis; 6. Inhalants.

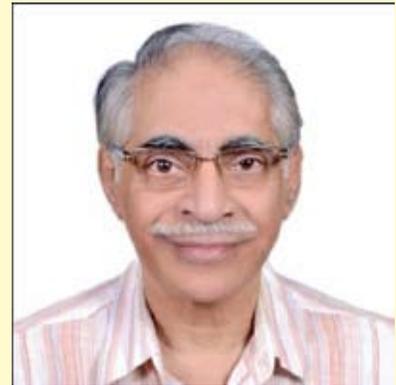
- A Global Threat and Problems:

- In 2010 fatal overdose in Norway (248) exceeded the road traffic mortalities (168). Globally between 102,000 and 247,000 addicts succumbed to drug overdose in 2011.
- Global users in millions – M; and its cost in dollars billion - \$B are as follows: Cannabis: 160M - \$88B; Opiates: 17M - \$65B; Cocaine: 28B - \$41B; Meth; 33M - \$15B; Ecstasy: 18B - \$41B. Afghanistan, Columbia, and Peru manufacture a majority of cocaine and opiates (impure heroin or brown sugar). According to UNODC, nearly 200 million persons are hooked on to



illicit drugs

- Drug abuse is a threat to the well-being of humanity. It undermines socio-economic progress, political stability and sustainable development.
- **Themes and Slogans:**
- The UNODC launches campaigns to raise awareness about the global drug problems, especially among teenagers and young adults. The theme in 2014 : "Message of Hope; Drug use disorders are Preventable and Treatable." This year 2015: "Corruption and Drugs; your 'No' Counts".
- I have formulated ten Anti-Drug Slogans to Oil your Life's Wagons: Don't huff and puff. Keep away from that stuff # Drugs you use , always you loose # Drug free; way to be ; the best in me # do hugs, not drugs # You will never succeed with speed # There is no excuse to drug abuse # If you aren't drug free; do not keep me company # Make health your high; not drugs to die # Don't do pot; your brain will rot # Say no to drugs; and no to cops.
- **Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB):**
- Mr. Vijay Kumar IPS Deputy General, NCB, Mumbai explains: The main objective of NCB is to "Say No to Drugs"! To reach every corner of the world with publicity campaigns through mass media and government contacts. Generally, the poor consume ganja, hashish, and brown sugar. But now Designer Drugs like Ecstasy and Meth are employed at rave parties by the affluent. These consumers are either unaware of the legal provisions and punishments, or ignore them deliberately. It is only when action is initiated against them by the law



by Dr Trevor Colaso

- enforcement authorities, they understand the consequences.
- Drug traffickers are always coming up with innovative and ingenious methods. The most recent distribution of drugs is "Online or Internet Pharmacies". These also can be tracked because they leave "electronic traces".
- **Role of Parents and Teachers:**
- They have a vital role in eradicating drug abuse, since the activities and behavior of teenagers and young adults are most visible to them. They can look for signs of addiction beyond the visual range of police and courts. Drug addiction is a chronic illness with high relapse rates similar to hypertension, diabetes and asthma. Confrontation should be avoided, as it is a sensitive issue, Counsel them, seek professional help, and even the utility of de-addiction centres like Kripa etc.
- At the individual level, be a good role model and empower youngsters to deal with life's challenges. Promote the arts, crafts and music. Get them employed. Partner with NGOs and support rehabilitation programmes.
- **Final Word:**
- Jesus Christ has liberated us from all bondages: "For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery ... You were called to freedom, brothers (and sisters); only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another " (Galatians, 5:1; 13).

'Thought for the week'

The difference between what we do and what we are capable of doing would suffice to solve most of the world's problems .

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(Read p.2)

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Is recognizing same-sex marriage Catholic?

Voters in Ireland have made that country the first to recognize same-sex marriage by a national referendum. Various other countries have granted the same recognition through legislation.

A New York Times column by Frank Bruni titled "On same-sex marriage, Catholics are leading the way" pointed out, "In fact, countries with a Catholic majority or plurality make up half of those where two men or two women can now wed or will soon be able to."



by Fr William Grimm

In other countries like the United States where Catholics are a large part of the population, polls show that Catholics as a group are more open to same-sex marriage than their non-Catholic neighbors.

And yet, in all these countries, the Catholic hierarchy has strongly opposed moves to recognize such partnerships, while the laity have declined to follow their bishops.

Are we seeing the collapse of the Catholic Church?

If the bishops are the Church, then perhaps we are. But, if the Church is, in fact, the People of God, then we may be seeing the Church affirming something its leaders need to re-examine.

It would not be the first time. Blessed Cardinal John Henry Newman pointed out that historically, when many bishops of the fourth century were in heresy over Arianism, it was the laity that kept the faith. The moral of that story for him was that it is essential to recognize that the laity are, along with Scripture, liturgy, the hierarchy and theologians, a valid authority in the Church.

Rather than the collapse of the Catholic Church, might we be living through a period when the hierarchy must defer to the experience, insight and faith of the mass of Catholics? After all, they, more than celibate clerics, have a clear idea of what might or might not threaten marriage.

The Catholic bishops of Japan may be attuned to this.

The mayor of Tokyo's Shibuya Ward has announced that around the end of October the ward will begin issuing certificates recognizing same-sex partnerships. This follows the ward assembly's passage last March of an ordinance that recognizes such partnerships as "equivalent to marriage". Other jurisdictions throughout Japan are expected to enact similar ordinances.

(Contd.. on p. 4)

(Contd.. from p. 3)

The Japanese bishops' report for the next session of the Synod for the Family in October refers to the Shibuya ordinance and says, "Even though the Church cannot recognize same-sex marriages, there is no way that we can assume that a sexual orientation not chosen by someone is cause for their rejection by God."

In Ireland and elsewhere Catholics speak much as the Japanese do. They favor legalizing same-sex unions precisely because of what they have learned from the Church about the dignity of all people and caring for the marginalized. The starting point is the love of God that does not punish people for being who they are.

At the first session of the Synod last October, Ron and Mavis Pirola, a Catholic couple from Australia, addressed the meeting:

"Friends of ours were planning their Christmas family gathering when their gay son said he wanted to bring his partner home too. They fully believed in the Church's teachings and they knew their grandchildren would see

them welcome the son and his partner into the family. Their response could be summed up in three [sic] words, 'He is our son.'"

"What a model of evangelization for parishes as they respond to similar situations in their neighborhood! It is a practical example of what the Instrumentum laboris [working paper for the Synod] says concerning the Church's teaching role and its main mission to let the world know of God's love."

The laity are challenging the leaders of the Church to find ways to affirm the sacramentality of matrimony while recognizing that marriage is a broader and more varied reality with legal, social, cultural and anthropological aspects that may differ from the practice of the Church.

Sacramentality is not threatened by same-sex marriages. The sacrament of matrimony remains something for the Church to administer according to its understanding of that type of marriage called sacramental.

And after all, homosexuals are only about five percent of the population. It is ridiculous to claim, as the Vatican

secretary of state Cardinal Pietro Parolin did, that because some of that five percent can have legally recognized relationships it is "a defeat for humanity".

The Japanese bishops are calmer, kinder and more correct in saying, "At the least, the Church should convey the message that households that have been set up by men and women with a homosexual orientation are also blessed by God."

Maryknoll Fr William Grimm is publisher of ucanews.com, based in Tokyo. Source: ucanews.com

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"Hindutwa Hotheads Will be Dealt With"

So says Amit Shah, the BJP President on the eve of the first anniversary of the Narendra Modi government. A gratifying statement!!

Have we, the minorities, to believe Amit Shah? It's a million dollar question in minds of Christians and Muslims all over India. Attacks on Christian Churches, Clashes with Muslims and glaring discrimination by Hindu hotheads have been many. Under the name of 'ghar vaapsi', Vishwa Hindu Parishad and many Hindu hotheads left no stone unturned to blame missionary services, schools, and charitable organizations, selfless services by Christian missionaries are termed as "tactics and tricks against innocent adivasis".

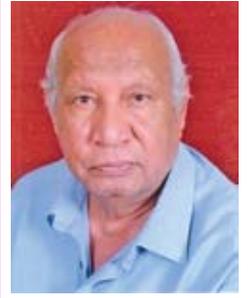
Reacting to such attacks, a Jesuit missionary who buried himself for Adivasis in south Gujarat, says: "Hindu organizations have discriminated these adivasis for centuries. Rich Hindu land-lords kept these Adivasis and jungle tribals as bonded labourers. When 80 years ago Christian missionaries started schools and technical institutions, a big opposition came from these Hindu land-lords. These 'jagirdars' did not want the adivasis to study and acquire any education. They knew very well that educated adivasis could not remain under their thumb... says Father Mathew.

"Scores of nuns opened 'primary health-care centres for adivasis. The only motive was service...' Service to suffering Jesus..." he says.

On the provocative acts of Hindutva hotheads, he agreed that such statements were unnecessary and errant MPs have to be dealt with. Amit Shah emphasised that a government needs to be judged on the basis of its actions..."

Reacting against the ban

Ever since Advani had become the deputy PM, hundreds of hot-head Hindus were placed in high positions in government. Gujarat could be in the first rank here. Today, Gujarat is full of such hotheads. Power-drunk and pampered as they are, Muslims and poor Christians are the worst-hit in such a Hindu raj. Under the name of democracy, a crude majority reigns. It's mobocracy!



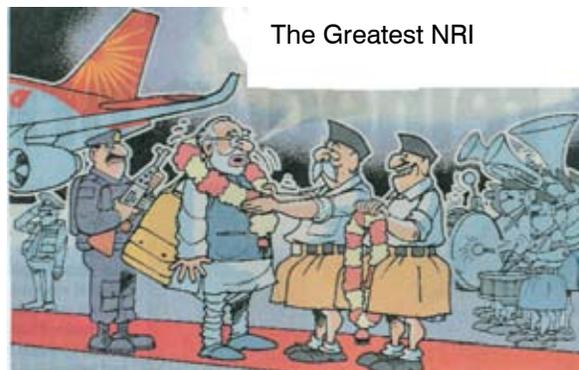
by Ignatius Dabhi
Sr. Journalist



"We will ride on n on ..."

on NGOs receiving foreign funds, a Delhi-based NGO (keeping anonymity) says: Foreign funds were never used to convert Hindus to Christianity and the Home Ministry is very strict, such a ban was not necessary, Secondly, millions of dollars came from Hindus from the rich west. Hindu organizations have been receiving crores of rupees from abroad. They are worse-hit than Christians....

Modi, Shah, Bhagwat and hundreds like them are unaware that Roman Emperors were the deadly enemies of Christianity. And what happened? Christianity took deep roots in Europe and extended wings all over the world. The Hindu hotheads should read the history of Christianity....



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free hand to run their institutions, we cannot expect our Catholic institutions to improve and be competitive. It is a matter of give and take---Not a game of one-upmanship.

—A. F. Nazareth,
Alto Porvorim

Miracles at St Jude's Shrine, Jhansi

I am a pilgrim from Mumbai has been visiting the St Jude Thaddeus Shrine in Jhansi since the last 15 years.

Known as the patron saint for desperate cases, St Jude Thaddeus is credited for working miracles among his innumerable devotees, who keep coming there throughout the year.

The shrine, which contains the saint's relics, was built with the help from government authorities and contributions from devotees.

When I come here, I experience peace and joy.

— Jubel D'Cruz,
Dombivili

Quality of education in Catholic institutions

This is with reference to the article 'Quality of education in Catholic institutions by A.D. Mascarenhas (Secular Citizen, June 1)'. Ex-principal A. D. Mascaraenhas has given us a good insight into the present state of affairs in our Catholic-managed schools and colleges in Mumbai and reasons for the declining quality of education. The two problem areas as far as I can see are 1) Teaching staff and 2) Management and administration. In the first case, we do not get experienced teachers with a good academic record because of the poor salaries offered in these govt-aided schools compared to private schools. Teachers these days are also employed on contract basis and are not paid their salaries regularly. There is therefore hardly any incentives for well qualified and experienced teachers to teach in

these schools. We are therefore left with no alternative than to employ teachers of a lower category such as those who have had their entire education in Vernacular schools with Marathi as the medium of instruction. Even after graduating with B.Ed degree, it is unfortunate that they are unable to speak correct English, much less teach correctly. In the second case, unless the management of ABE-run institutions change their autocratic way of functioning, and learn to extend full co-operation with the lay principal in decision-making, and a

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Consecrated To The Word-Made-Flesh!

The Daughters of St Paul : 1915-2015

It is not without significance that the 100th year of the **Daughters of St Paul** [DSP] coincides with the Church's ongoing Year of Consecrated Life! For it was of the Word and of its sacred flesh that this first ever religious congregation for women in the media apostolate was born!

Centenary of a Mission

Fr James Alberione, the initiator of the Pauline apostolate of the media of social communication, was a man far ahead of his time, his reading of the signs of the times like that of no other. He staunchly believed that Divine Providence would send the personnel needed and look after their needs as they were on His mission. It was thus with keen foresight that he founded in quick succession, the **Society of St Paul** in 1914 and the **Daughters of St Paul** in 1915, each to commence in right earnest the use of all and any means of the media available at any given point of time to proclaim and spread the Good News of Salvation by living and giving to the world Jesus-Master, the Way, the Truth and the Life. And this at a time when the use of the media for matters sacred was frowned upon!

India ahoy!

India's association with the DSP congregation which has taken firm root in its soil since the arrival of Srs Gesualda, Pierluisa, Maria Elena and Paola Cordeiro on 18 August 1951, dates back to 1937 when Maestra Edvige Soldano along with Srs Elena Ramondetti and Cleofe Zanoni first set foot in Delhi, having arrived via China where they had landed on 11 February that year. Amazingly, for no known reason the then Archbishop of Delhi refused to accept their presence in his diocese. Equally amusingly, the Sisters, disappointed, were already on

their way to the Philippines via Bombay when a "Welcome to Delhi" letter from the same Ordinary arrived at the flat they had rented!

A 'Gracias' start

The Sisters owe their presence in India largely to the First Indian Cardinal, Valerian Gracias.

In 1953, His Eminence, the First Indian Archbishop of Bombay, called upon the Fathers of the Society of St Paul to take up the running of the 'Examiner Bookshop' on one of South Bombay's busiest streets, Dalal Street. Fr Alfonso Ferrero instantly accepted on the condition that the Cardinal invites the DSP Sisters to the diocese! Gracias, on his subsequent visit to Rome, met the Co-Founder, Maestra Thecla Merlo and set the ball rolling. The rest is history - today the Sisters have their presence in India in no less than 14 dioceses, and at no easy cost! For, there is no gainsaying the fact that the sisters, the mortal remains of some of whom lie buried in the soil of the country of their

adoption, obviously moved by the plight of the millions of pagan unbelievers, left behind a civilized world to share their unhappy situation, often at the expense of being misunderstood, and sacrificing the best years of their life so that the Word to whom they had consecrated themselves might be proclaimed in a myriad of deeply penetrating ways through the media.

Co-founder: Maestra Thecla Marlo

Behind every successful man, they say, is a woman! It was no different in the case of James Alberione whom Paul VI acclaimed as "a marvel of our times" (28 June 1969)



Founder Fr James Alberione & Co-Founder, Maestra Thecla Merlo

and whom John Paul II proclaimed 'Blessed' (27 April 2003). Significantly, to Thecla Merlo [20 February 1894 - 05 February 1964], a seamstress and parish catechist, fell the lot to support Alberione in all his ventures, so drawn was he to her charisma! Thus, though officially known as the co-founder of the Daughters of St Paul, she was essentially responsible for co-founding with her mentor all of the ten institutes that go to make the Pauline Family. For her part, fired with zeal for exploring the vistas the new apostolate was beginning to open up and, imbued with the spirit of the Founder, advised her sisters thus: "Let us seek out good vocations. Let us seed for good vocations by means of prayer, zeal and sacrifice."

Steadily Onwards.....!

Addressing the newly consecrated bishops from across the 5 continents during the 38th International Eucharistic Congress at the Oval in Bombay on 3 December 1964, Paul VI, the first Pope in history to set foot on Indian soil, said: "You are bearers of peace: how humble and how human is your mission! It is not arms, nor riches, nor pride of conquest and glory that are your strength, but the Word of God, the Gospel!" These words could well apply to the Daughters of St Paul and with good reason, too, for, so good have been the vocations that have come the way of the



by Ladislaus L D'Souza



congregation that, in the decades that have rolled by, the apostolate has taken deep root in India. Notably, with 60+ diamond studded years of their presence in India behind them, pay-back time for the Sisters set in a while ago with several of our Sisters embarking on mission to lands as diverse as Africa, Australia, Italy, Spain, the Czech Republic and Peru to name a few, giving flesh to Thecla's assertion that "our boundaries are the boundaries of the world."

From learning due reverence from the co-Founder for the word of God as printed on every sheet of paper, to disseminating the fruits of the Good News across every continent on earth, DSP has come a long way! Indeed, in keeping with the changing face of our Pauline mission, and the admonition of the Founder, our Sisters have risen to occasion, keeping pace with the progress of new tech-

nology in communications, pressing all means in the service of evangelization.

Lay collaboration in the Pauline Mission

Soon after founding the two congregations for men and women religious, Alberione turned his gaze on the prospects of lay collaboration in the Pauline apostolate. Conscious that the media is part of the life of the laity in general, he established the **Union of Pauline Cooperators** in 1917 [now known as the **Association of Pauline Cooperators (APC)**] to enable lay people to participate in the mission by going where priests and nuns could not go and do what priests and nuns could not possibly do. The idea caught on and soon there were chapters of the APC opening in various parts of the world, especially in the USA and the Philippines. In the initiation of several of these ventures it is the DSP Sisters that have taken the initiative to plant the seed and nurture its growth. And so it was in the case of the Sisters in India. From a group of some 60-plus who attended a Mass celebrated by Bishop Agnelo Gracias in 2001, 10 went on to avail of

the training offered in understanding the Pauline mission and the role of the lay cooperator in the apostolate. This preparation for a formal commitment lasted a little over a year, with talks given by stalwarts of the Society of St Paul, Bandra, viz. Fr (Dr) Joseph Thenasseril, Fr (Dr) George Kaitholil and Fr Alfonso Elengikal, and Sr Clare Uken (now DSP Provincial) and, most importantly, an in-depth study of the Pauline Letters led by the quintessential Sr (Dr) Pauline Chakalakkal, a Pauline to the core!

The Gospel says, "Many are called, but few are chosen" (Mt 22:14). The final phase of the preparation included prayerful hours spent before the Eucharistic Lord for the seven who felt chosen. Of these however, on 25 January 2003, in the Chapel of the Daughters of St Paul, Bandra, and in the presence of Sr Ann Plathara, then DSP Provincial, four made bold to PLEDGE their commitment to the Pauline apostolate of the media under the direction of the Daughters of St Paul, viz.: Sera Braganza (R.I.P.), Margaret D'Souza (R.I.P) and Livia D'Sa (all of Bandra) and Ladislaus L D'Souza of Malad. Ever since, APC Chapters have come to be established at Borivili, Vasai, Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Mangalore, Nagpur, Hyderabad, Trivandrum and Calcutta. This collaboration gives lay folk a peep into the joy of the consecrated life lived by women young and old who've given up families, homes et al, some leaving the security of the land of their birth, just so that the Word-become-flesh might be incarnated in every human person in India!



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A Memorable Event

(Reflections On The Caritas Internationalis 20th General Assembly

MAY 12th – 17th 2015, ROME)

The Caritas Internationalis (CI) 20th General Assembly was held in Rome, Italy from May 12th to 17th 2015. The Assembly (held once every four years) was a significant moment in the life of this global Catholic humanitarian relief and development confederation. The Assembly focussed on the theme 'One Human Family Caring for Creation'. It brought together more than four hundred participants from nearly one hundred and fifty countries from across the globe. It was a veritable United Nations representing reality and experience in many profound ways.

The Assembly began with an inaugural Mass celebrated by Pope Francis in St. Peter's Basilica. In his homily, Pope Francis complimented the global Caritas family for the work they do all over but did not mince words when he said "we must do what we can so that everyone has something to eat but we must also remind the powerful of the earth that God will call them to judgement one day and there it will be revealed if they really tried to provide food for him in every person (Mtw. 25:35) and if they did what they could do to preserve the environment so that it could produce this food."

The formal inauguration of the Assembly took place on May 13th with an address by Cardinal Oscar Maradiaga, the President of Caritas Internationalis and with messages coming in from other personalities including the Secretary General of the United Nations Ban-Ki Moon.

Three plenary sessions with eminent speakers helped set the tone, deliberations and the decisions of this Assembly; these were: (i) 'A Poor Church for the Poor' (speakers: Dominican Fr. Gustavo Gutierrez, the founder of Liberation Theology and Dr. Beverley Haddad, an Anglican priest from South Africa), (ii) 'Growing



BY FR. CEDRIC PRAKASH
SJ

Inequalities, a challenge for the one human family' (speakers: well-known economist Dr. Jeffrey Sachs, Director of the Earth Institute, Columbia University and Indian Jesuit Human Rights Activist Fr. Cedric Prakash (iii) 'Climate Change and its effects on human development' (speakers: Cardinal Peter Turkson, the President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and Sylvia Ribeiro from Mexico, Director of the etc Group for Latin America)

The keynote speakers and particularly Gutierrez challenged the august assembly to address more substantially the pressing problems that plague our world today. At each of these Plenary Sessions, there were also valuable interventions from Caritas grassroot representatives.

The assembly was marked by an emotional farewell speech by the outgoing President Cardinal Maradiaga and the election of the new President Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle of Manila. The assembly also reconfirmed its Secretary General Michel Roy. Mr. Roy as the Secretary General has been at the helm of the activities of the Confederation since the last four years.

In its path-breaking final message at the conclusion of the assembly, Caritas Internationalis provided for the Church and the world at large a bold vision for the care of creation; with regard to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) the message states that "no target should be considered as met unless achieved for all income and social groups; this

fundamental, person-centred strategy must be central." The message also urged Governments to look beyond their own borders and to recognise the moral imperative that is inherent in care for creation.

The CI Assembly was indeed a memorable event on several counts; among them: focussing on the immediate need and importance to mainstream the dimensions of justice, liberty, equity and solidarity in every activity of "caritas"; urging all to have the courage to first address and change what is endemic if one is truly serious about "caring for creation" (the theme of the Assembly); the words and actions of Pope Francis were referred to all the time. "Evangelii Gaudium" was the fulcrum of several of the talks and deliberations; the forthcoming encyclical on the "environment" is eagerly awaited and is expected to be blueprint for a more definitive course of action.

There was plenty of sharing by the participants on the tremendous good being done at the local, national and regional levels by Caritas Organisations; meaningful interventions are taking place in its 'Food for all' campaign and its endeavours to build a civilisation of love. The participants also felt hopeful that despite the reluctance of several Bishops / Priests / Dioceses / Organisations there would be a paradigm-shift in the works of 'National Caritas' with greater emphasis on advocacy and accompanying the poor, the marginalised, the displaced, the exploited and the refugees. All also experienced a deep sense of bonding and belonging to "the one human family" (part of the theme). It is hoped that networking and collaboration would be enhanced in more tangible ways. Finally, the Strategic Framework (2015 – 2019)

(Contd.. on p. 15)

Shaadi ki Viddhi!!!

The Hindu Marriage Act 1955 is the law that governs the marriage between two persons who are Hindus.

According to the law i.e. the Hindu Marriage Act (HMA), a marriage between any two Hindus can be solemnized if the conditions laid in Section 5 of the act are fulfilled. These conditions are:

1. None of the spouses intending marriage should have a spouse living at the time of marriage.
2. At the time of marriage, the parties to marriage must:
 - (i) be capable of giving a valid consent;
 - (ii) not be of unsound mind;
 - (iii) not suffer from mental disorder or be unfit for marriage and procreation of children;
 - (iv) not have recurring attacks of insanity or epilepsy.
3. The bride should have completed the age of 18 years and the groom should have completed the age of 21 years.
4. Not be within the degrees of prohibited relationship unless the custom or usage permits.
5. Not be sapindas of each other unless the custom or usage permits.

Now the question that may come to our mind is who is a Hindu. A Hindu is a person who is Hindu by religion in any of its form including Virashaiva, a Lingayat or a follower of the Brahmo, Prathana or Arya Samaj. It includes a person who is a Buddhist, Jain or Sikh by religion. It is pertinent to note that any person who is not a Muslim, Christian, Parsi or a Jew by religion is deemed to be a Hindu unless proved otherwise by him.

This definition clearly states that a Christian or a Parsi or a Muslim cannot marry a Hindu under the HMA. In the same way two persons who are Christians cannot marry under the HMA, similarly two persons who are Muslims or Parsis

cannot marry under the HMA.

In a case I dealt with a Hindu girl was married to a Muslim man under the HMA. The wedding ceremony was conducted by a Hindu priest. When this couple wanted to file for a divorce, a scrutiny of the marriage certificate revealed that this marriage was void i.e. this marriage is invalid in the eyes of law which means no marriage took place and so the children if any will be termed illegitimate.



When a boy and a girl intend to marry each other it is generally safe to marry under the Special Marriage Act i.e. to have a Court Marriage. Please read the forms you sign when you are signing the notice for marriage and other documents. Be alert otherwise you will be shocked to know later in life that your marriage is void by law.

Another interesting case was where a Christian boy was married to a Muslim girl under the HMA. Such marriages are void.

The ceremonies of Hindu Marriage are undertaken in accordance to the customary rites and ceremonies of either of the parties. A Buddhist marriage has customs that are different from a Arya Samaj Marriage. If sapta-padi (saath pheras) are part of the rites and ceremonies then the marriage becomes complete and binding when the 7th step is taken jointly by the bride and the groom before the

Law on inter-religious Marriage



by Adv. Aileen Marques

sacred fire.

Hindu marriages are required to be registered. Once the Hindu marriage is performed as per the ceremonies and customary rites, the priest performing the marriage gives the couple a slip of paper that mentions the details of the marriage. The HMA prescribes for registration of marriages in the interest of the parties to a marriage. The certificate got after the registration of marriage is now a valid certificate and is a document that proves marriage.

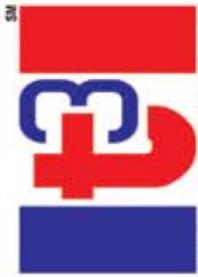
In conclusion, if a couple intends to be married under the Hindu law, the non-Hindu partner must convert to Hinduism. Otherwise the couple can choose to be married under the Special Marriage Act. If you remember my post on VoW WoW!!!, it specifically mentions that if a Hindu intends to marry a Christian, then the marriage can happen under the Christian Marriage Act, where by the Hindu continues to be a Hindu and a Christian continues to be a Christian.

All marriages under the HMA must be registered. Valid consent is an important aspect of Hindu marriage and marriage between certain relationships is prohibited.

Hindu marriage rituals are very elaborate and the role of the priest, the bride, the groom and their parents is essential. However these ceremonies differ depending on the region and other aspects of faith.

Ensure that your marriages will be a valid marriage according to the law. Stay alert and be informed... marriage is a life changing decision.

To be continued...



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The Unique Moses Bridge, Netherlands



Building a permanent bridge over the defensive moat of a 17th century fortress might send the wrong message to an invading army. So modern-day Dutch engineers have come up with a clever way of disguising the pathway – by building it under the moat’s waterline. The West Brabant Water Line is a series of defensive fortresses, cities and waterways in Halsteren, the Netherlands.

After falling into disrepair it had been recently restored, but designers thought it would be inappropriate to go against the original design and build bridges over the trenches. Instead, they came up with an 'invisible' bridge that sits within the moat and would allow people to cross virtually undetected from water level. The award-winning Moses Bridge – so named as it invokes the biblical image of Moses parting the Red Sea – is now a landmark feature of Fort de Roovere. Ad Kil, a spokesman for architects said: “It is highly improper to build bridges across defensive moats, especially on the side of the fortress the enemy was expected to appear on.” “That’s why we designed an invisible bridge. Its construction is entirely made of wood, waterproofed with foil.”

“The bridge lies like a trench in the fortress of the moat, which is shaped to blend in with the outlines of the landscape.”

“The bridge can’t be seen from a distance because the ground and the water come all the way up to its edge.”

“When you get closer, the fortress opens up to you through a narrow trench. You can then walk up to its gates like Moses on the water.”

Thanksgiving



Thanks for the favours and blessing upon our family
—Vaz family, Andheri

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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.

—Mrs C. M. D'Souza, Nalasopara

Thanksgiving

Thanks to St. Francis Xavier for the favours granted. Praying for more favours.



— Mrs. Lynette F. Dias, Goa

Thanksgiving

Oh, most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven. Blessed Mother of the Son of God; Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity.



Oh, Star of the Sea, help me and show me you are my Mother. Oh, Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succour me in my necessity

(Mention your request here)

There are none that can withstand your power. Oh, Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3 times)

Holy Mary, I place this prayer in your hands (3 times)

Amen.

This prayer is never known to fail and is to be said for 3 consecutive days. Publication on granting of the favour must be promised and done.

Thank you Mothers for favours granted

—Valerie, Thane

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

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



—Mrs. S. M. Rego, Thane

Bombay archdiocese to curb priest's land deal powers

Lightning strikes Goa's Bom Jesu Basilica

Mumbai: The Archdiocese of Bombay has decided to transfer parish priest's sweeping power to make land deals to a group of priests.

The move comes in the wake of demands made by a group of lay people to the archdiocese.

The Archdiocese has categorically denied that the move is the result of the group's demands, reports dnaindia.com.

The archdiocese is among the top ten land owners in Mumbai, India's commercial capital. Each of its parishes has its own trust and its priest

as a sole trustee. Any land deal done by him is final. Because of this, allegations of mishandling of church properties have been leveled by some in the laity.

"The archdiocese has been working toward multiple trusteeships. All new trusts are governed by multiple trustees," archdiocesan spokesperson Father Nigel Barrett said while confirming the news.

The priest said the archbishop, Cardinal Oswald Gracias, has asked that all sole trusts work towards conversion to multiple trusteeship. "This call was initiated from 2010 onward, in the interests of better governance," Fr Nigel said. He added, "No decision was taken because of (the citizens' group) because we do not recognize them."

Ending sole trusteeship was among the six major demands of the Association of Concerned Catholics (AOCC), a group that has been seeking suspension of priests, besides making complaints with various authorities. AOCC has also sought revamp of finance committees at the parish level.

Arcanjo Sodder, a member of the AOCC, said, "That is what they have told us for the last two years. They have not done anything as of now with respect to converting sole trusteeships. Let them show how many sole trusteeships they have changed."

Anil Joseph, a concerned member of the community, said there were demands from a large section of Catholics that joint trusteeship be introduced. Multiple trustees should be made co-signatories with respect to any dealing pertaining to property or land owned by the parish.

"It would bring about a sea change in transparency and would be welcome as a very progressive step by the archdiocese. The church should understand that if one one of them commits a mistake, the loss is to the entire community," he added.

Old Goa: Lightning struck the Basilica of Bom Jesus in Old Goa during a storm and damaged a pillar and tiles on the roof.

However, no one was hurt in the incident on Thursday evening.

The basilica holds the relics of Saint Francis Xavier.

Heavy rains lashed the former capital of Portuguese enclave. The lightning struck a pillar, which broke and a shower of stones came down from the facade of the 17th century heritage monument, The Times of India reported.

"A few stones fell down, but nobody was hurt," Fr Savio Barreto, rector of the Basilica said. After the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) officials were informed, they started carrying out an assessment of the damage.

The front door of the basilica was shut for tourists on Friday due to the precarious condition of the pillar above and entry was allowed from the northern side. "A few meters of the area below the damaged portion were also cordoned off," a source said.

A small patch of tiles on the roof near the pinnacle was also damaged, but rain water did not leak into the church.

"Some tiles broke and a little plaster portion was damaged, but overall the damage is minor," an ASI official said.

ASI will erect scaffolding from the facade to access the area near the pillar. "It will take a couple of days to erect the scaffolding and reset the dislocated stone above the pinnacle," the ASI official said. The work has already started at the site.

The lightning conductor in the church was functioning, the ASI official said.

Lightning had also struck another heritage monument in the world heritage church complex, Se Cathedral on October 10, 2014, and damaged one of its gables and roof in some parts. The false ceiling of one of the halls near the priests' residence had been partly damaged.

(Contd.. from p. 10)

which was adopted on the last day will again hopefully see the beginning of rejuvenated efforts towards justice, peace and the integrity of creation.

The assembly also named Archbishop Oscar Romero who was murdered for standing with the poor and exploited of El Salvador (and who was beatified on May 23rd 2015) as one of its patrons together with their previously proclaimed patrons St. Martin de Porres of Peru and Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

The highlight of the Assembly was its visible courage to respond to the signs of the times! It is hoped that the immediate future will see some marked changes in the way the works of Caritas will unfold in one hundred and sixty four countries across the globe.

(* Fr. Cedric Prakash SJ is the Director of PRASHANT, the Ahmedabad-based Jesuit Centre for Human Rights, Justice and Peace. He was one of the keynote speakers at the Caritas Internationalis 20th General Assembly)

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Daughters of KHUDA



BY MELVYN BROWN

(Contd.. from last issue)

“Meet the enemy on the open frontline of battle,” she would say, “do not go into their nest.”

Nasiba was the silent one. She hardly spoke, but also wanted to join Zilan’s private mission, whatever that would turn out to be. The grenades Nasiba wore around her waist remained firmly clutched to the leather belt.

Zilan refused to be emotional in front of the girls. She told them to return to their camp, while she silently melted into the darkness. Her secret plans would not be shared this once.

Yes. It was a risk she had to take, as she navigated through the parked trucks and broken jeeps, pinewood boxes, barbed-wire fences and open craters made by exploding bombs.

She remembered the words of her simple mother, “There are two types of risks in life, my child: The foolish risk and the calculated risk.” Those words swooned in her head. But Zilan was not afraid. She trusted her good looks and her firm young body, having shape to weigh heavily on the lustful eyes of men.

Suddenly, a gruff voice barked at her.

“You there, where are you going in such haste?”

Zilan stopped. She froze. Slowly turning towards the man she smiled. The beast was stinking of fresh human blood after a kill, bad breath and the odour of not having had a bath for many days. It was disgusting to find this man targeting her heaving body with his satanic eyes.

“I’m going to where you would want me,” and carefully covered her smile with a soft black scarf.

This was a welcome invitation for the human-beast. He smacked his thick lips and showed a row of broken, black teeth along red spongy gums. With razor eyes he instinctively unbuckled his belt, threw down the sharp broad-blade knife and his automatic weapon. His blood-shot eyes drilled into her as he lunged at her cold heaving body, throwing her on

the battle scarred earth.

Zilan was swift. In the flash of a moment she grabbed the broad-blade knife and with precision speed slit open his thick animal throat. Not a sound followed above the squirt of his blood. His fingers and feet twitched for a few seconds before he died: eyes open, till fixed in surprise at her. It was the last thing he saw on earth – and then, perhaps, the virgins at heavens’ gate.

She moved with the padded feet of a cat, washed the warm blood from her face and with nerves of steel she groped her way to the ammo-dump. In her mind she knew exactly where it would be – she had been here at other times. She moved past embracing couples, brushing against a few of them in her haste. Brazen, unashamed, they caressed and fed the lust of each other. None of them cared to notice Zilan.

Outside the blazing inferno in the distance lit up the sky in anger. The heavy sound of exploding bombs and the crack of rifle fire broke the night’s curtain of silence. The sound of grenades bursting amid human screams and the agony of pain ripped the hot air. Eerie flashes of light and the deafening sounds plastered the heavens for future generations to recapture by the advancement of the science of electronics; the visuals and sounds of a generation that went insane, and were not able to control violence.

The long winter month had helped Zilan to research into the world of the enemy. She came across many startling facts: they had an ultimate aim, to subdue the civilized world and to convert it. This, she had decided could never be.

From that day on Zilan had initiated her plan. She would be responsible for its outcome. She had realized that it was only a drop in the ocean – all the same, she told herself, every drop makes a sea. Her daring might inspire others, she felt, and that would be worth the sacrifice.

As it stood today, she mused, the YPJ guerrilla forces were growing stronger. A David against Goliath

battle, David had won.

It was past midnight and the howl of wild dogs rent the air as moonlight spread across the hostile countryside bathed in hate, violence and blood; where brother killed brother because he stood on the other side of the fence, or the faith.

In her village people spoke of how one group of men had destroyed the mosque of the other group. The lust for blood was multiplying in the genes of children being procreated for tomorrow’s never ending war.

Zilan prayed to Khuda that her friends might live to see the day supporting gender-equality, as it would be a landmark victory in the Middle East and the Muslim world. The faces of Torin, Saria, Nasiba and Rojin flashed in her mind. After all, she believed they were Daughters of Khuda and He would take care of them at this difficult hour. There was not much time for her mission.

The hidden places were known to Zilan. Places where the arsenal of weapons, explosives, grenades, guns and bombs of mass destruction were hidden.

The ISIS combat forces were vibrant, dangerous and blind to reason. They followed their leaders on trust without question. Zilan knew how reckless her mission was, to do the most damage. With her smart phone she had counted on sending videos to all the media in all nations, possibly videos of her own death.

She heard a sound behind her. Zilan stood stock-still. Maybe it was her mind, she imagined. Maybe her senses were lulled by the brutal measure she had taken in ripping out the enemy’s throat. The stirring sound got closer. The charismatic leader of the Kurdish women’s unit spun around to confront the moments threat.

It was her friends, and fully armed.

(Contd.. on p. 22)

Diabetics and Leg Swelling

If you are diabetic, you need to worry about a lot more things like heart diseases and leg swelling. This causes peripheral edema in some cases and can be painful.

Most patients suffering from diabetes complain of swelling in the feet and legs. The main reason for this problem is improper blood circulation due to damaged blood capillaries as a result of increased pressure. Damaged capillaries cause peripheral oedema, leakage of fluids into surrounding tissues, which causes swelling. But, there can be several other reasons that could cause swelling in the feet. Therefore proper diagnosis is important.

What Could Be Causing Leg Swelling?

If you are diabetic and have noticed some leg swelling recently, the following could be a few reasons for it.

The main reason for leg swelling in diabetes is peripheral edema. Fluids collect in the feet, ankles and leg and this condition can become quite severe if left untreated. A consultation with a doctor is a must.

Sometimes, a diabetic may suffer from diabetic neuropathy. This is a condition that leads to numbness in legs and feet. As a result, the diabetic may not be able to feel an injury, maybe something even as severe as a sprain or a fracture and continue to use the limb. But the swelling caused by the injury is what will raise concern, which is why a consultation with the doctor becomes very important.

Ways to reduce leg swelling

Though your doctor may give you a prescription to reduce swelling, it is best to adopt more holistic methods as medicines may have certain side effects. And as a diabetic, you are already ingesting enough medicines to take care of normal insulin functioning

of your body and should refrain from taking any more.

Self-help measures to reduce leg swelling in diabetics:

- Twice a day, lie down with pillows under your legs to bring them above your heart levels.
- Make sure you get regular exercise to reduce risks of fluid build-up in legs.
- Wear compression stockings if you are prone to leg swellings.
- Eating a low-sodium diet will help symptoms of leg swellings.
- For diabetic women, wearing low-heeled or flat shoes is the best way to avoid leg swelling.
- Don't stand in one spot for too long. Take breaks to sit down.
- Get regular leg massages to improve blood circulation in the entire leg. Start with the lower legs.
- Wear well-fitted shoes that are never tight, even when your feet feel slightly swollen. If you must, buy shoes one size bigger.
- Never sit cross-legged because it stops circulation of blood to the lower leg.
- If you smoke, consider quitting because a diabetic who smokes is at increased risk of leg swelling.
- However, if you have slightest hint of leg swelling, visit a doctor because, as a diabetic, it always helps to be safe rather than sorry.



Diabetic foot care symptoms

Persistent pain can be a symptom of sprain, strain, bruise, overuse, improperly fitting shoes, or underlying infection.

Redness can be a sign of infection, especially when surrounding a wound, or of abnormal rubbing of shoes or socks

Swelling of the feet or legs can be a sign of underlying inflammation or infection, improperly fitting shoes, or poor venous circulation.

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East Indians: The Original Mumbaikars

India is a land of many religions, cultures and communities and one of the most colourful communities is the East Indian community. The East Indians are a community of Catholics who are the original inhabitants of Mumbai.

The East Indian community of Mumbai comprises of Kunbis, Agris, Kolis, Bhandaris, Samvedis, Vadvals and Salsette Christians.

Some of the well-known personalities belonging to the East Indian Catholic community of Mumbai are --- former billiards champion Michael Ferreira, Bollywood actress Genevieve D'Souza, model Carol Gracias, TV hostess Maria Goretti, India's freedom fighter Kaka Joseph Baptista, Roman Catholic saint from Vasai Gonsalo Garcia, former Cardinal and Archbishop of Mumbai Simon Pimenta and veteran journalist Marcellus Baptista.

The word 'East Indian' has been derived from the East India Company of the British that converted a large section of the local Marathi-speaking people to Christianity.

Since the East Indians did not want the British Colonial government to confuse them with the Goans, the Mangaloreans and other Christian settlers in the region, they decided to adopt a name for themselves that would make them stand out as a separate Christian identity.

Like the Goans of Goa and the Mangaloreans of Mangalore, the East Indians of Mumbai are a jolly lot too.

East Indians speak Marathi, but their Marathi is quite different from that of the Maharashtrian community. It is very similar to Dynaneshwari. In short, East Indian Marathi is a mixture of pure Marathi and Portuguese.

The cuisine of the East Indian community is rich. A day before the wedding during the 'Umbracha Pani' ceremony, all those attending it go about in a procession around their neighbourhood singing East Indian Marathi songs and dancing in pure East Indian Marathi style with a handkerchief swung in the air in order to draw water from the well, which is used by the bride-to-be or groom-to-be to bathe. Since there are no wells

in Mumbai, people go to one of their relative or friend's house to bring water. The water is then poured on the bride-to-be or the groom-to-be in his or her respective home.

On the day of the wedding, the groom-to-be sends a car to pick up the bride-to-be and waits for her outside the church. After she arrives, the best man of the groom-to-be welcomes her with a bouquet of flowers. Then the couple walks down the aisle along with the bridesmaids, flower girls, best man, page boy and other family members to reach the altar where they are given a special place to sit. There, the priest shakes hands with them and offers them his best wishes. The Mass is then celebrated and the priest reads passages from the Holy Bible, which is followed by a sermon called the 'homily' on the sacredness of their wedding.

The couple then make promises to stay with each other in good times and in bad and in sickness and in health all through their married life. Rings are then exchanged which are blessed by the priest.

The East Indian Marathi word for Mumbai is 'Mobai'.

The traditional dress for East Indian women is the nav vari lugra (nine-yard saree). These sarees are worn in colours of navy blue, red and green.

Currently, East Indian Marathi is the fastest dwindling language in the metropolis of Mumbai. Though it is the mother tongue of the East Indian community, it is only spoken in a few East Indian villages like Uttan, Bhayandar, Dongri, Juhu, Marol, Culvem, Manori, Kharodi (Malad), Gorai and in some parts of Vasai.

Here are some East Indian Marathi words so that you may be familiar with the language: Vartee (Above), Hisaab (Account), Parat (Again), Ambat (Curry), Ambotic (Sour), Kader (Chair), Taap (Fever), Varaad (Wedding), Kolbi (Prawns), Mavra (Fish), Kumjao (Communion), Navra (Bridegroom), Navri (Bride), Kumari (Godmother), Kupari (Godmother), Mahitee (Know), Pora (Boy), Pori (Girl), Dokra (Old man), Dokri (Old lady).



BY JUBEL D'CRUZ

Some of the well-known East Indian Marathi songs are 'Galyan Sankli Sonaychi' 'Sakalche Para, Sutlai Vara', 'Nakwa Doli, Bazara Geli', 'Ambache Dangliwar Basli Mor', 'Mary Tuzhe Kes Lam Lam Lam', 'Khandalacha Ghatat' and 'Gara Varti'.

Goans have a special bangle-wearing ceremony during their weddings for girls called the 'chuddo', which consists of a set of fifteen bangles of green, brown and yellow colours on each wrist. The boy or the girl getting married is also drenched in milk. Coconut juice and a paste of turmeric (haldi) are also applied on the boy's or the girl's hands and face. Goans and Mangaloreans call this ceremony, 'roce'. This signifies the last bath that the bride-to-be or the groom-to-be will be taking in their bachelorhood/spinsterhood. With the ceremony of 'roce', the wedding celebrations begin. Both, the bride-to-be and the groom-to-be have to undergo this ritual in their respective homes. This ceremony also signifies the mother's love towards her son or daughter.

The Goan Konkani word for Jesus is 'Jezu', for Godmother is 'Madrin' and for Godfather is 'Padrin'. Mangalorean Konkani is quite different from that of the Konkani spoken by the Goans. The script for Goan Konkani is English and for Mangalorean Konkani is Kannada; while East-Indian Marathi can be written down in both Marathi and English.

The East Indians have also produced a movie titled 'Tu Maza Jeev' (meaning, 'You are my life') in East-Indian Marathi dialect and also several East-Indian Marathi audio and video cassettes and CDs. East Indians have their favourite saints too. They are Saint Anthony and Our Lady of Vailankanni.

Inspiration!

Bring out the kid in you

Sometimes you have to let go of the grown-up persona and engage in activities that will bring out the kid in you. Whether it's playing outdoors or staying in and playing your favorite video game, there are ways to remind yourself just how much fun it is to revive that childish nature. Life's struggles and trials can often cause us to forget how amazing it is to just be free of adult duties and responsibilities. Here are several activities that will bring out the kid in you.

Playgrounds

Out of the seven activities that will bring out the kid in you, playgrounds are on top of our list. Slides, monkey bars, and swings were probably everyone's favorite features at any playground. Now that times have changed, modern parks are being built with even more innovative features. There's no doubt that you will find something that will keep you busy and entertained. Children parks will surely take you back down memory lane to the days when you used to stay out playing with your friends until sun down.

Game night

When was the last time you actually sat down and played a game with a group of friends? Game nights were always the best nights to me while growing up - especially when we played board games. From Monopoly to Twister, game nights were definitely designed to keep you active while indoors. The thing about board games or others alike is that they bring peo-

ple together. It's also a great social activity that contributes to the creative and strategic thinking skills of both children and adults. I think it's time to bring board games back!

Colouring

Okay, if you've totally just thrown away this idea completely, PLEASE re-incorporate it to be one of your daily activities. Coloring can be a therapeutic activity to help rid anxiety and stress. It also helps with precision and accuracy. Coloring books are intended to be a motivational and creative tool for

children - something that all of us can still use even as adults. If you're just not into child-like coloring books, then there are adult versions available too.

Kite flying

Some of you may have never had the chance to enjoy the pleasure of flying a kite, but now is the time to finally experience this thrilling activity. Children tend to be attracted to this hobby the most because there's just something about watching a kite blow in the wind on your command. I do believe this will bring out the kid in you because it will get you outdoors in nature. If you're not a sky-watcher, you'll finally be forced to look up for once and enjoy all the clouds and sunshine up above.

What do we mean by the GDP?

Measuring GDP (gross domestic product) is complicated but at its most basic, the calculation can be done in one of two ways: either by adding up what everyone earned in a year (income approach), or by adding up what everyone spent (expenditure method). Logically, both measures should arrive at roughly the same total.

Income approach:

The income approach, which is sometimes referred to as GDP(I), is calculated by adding up total compensation to employees, gross profits for incorporated and non incorporated firms, and taxes less any subsidies. The expenditure method is the more common approach and is calculated by adding total consumption, investment, government spending and net exports.

Impact of GDP:

Economic production and growth, what GDP represents, has a large impact on nearly everyone within that economy. For example, when the economy is healthy, you will typically see low unemployment and wage increases as businesses demand labor to meet the growing economy.

A significant change in GDP, whether up or down, usually has a significant effect on the stock market.

Negative GDP Growth:

A bad economy usually means lower profits for companies, which in turn means lower stock prices. Investors really worry about negative GDP growth, which is one of the factors economists use to determine whether an economy is in a recession. GDP estimates are commonly used to measure the economic performance of a whole country or region, but can also measure the relative contribution of an industry sector. This is possible because GDP is a measure of 'value added' rather than sales; it adds each firm's value added (the value of its output minus the value of goods that are used up in producing it). GDP is a neutral measure which merely shows an economy's general ability to pay for externalities such as social and environmental concerns. It is intended to be a measure of total national economic activity. GDP not does include several factors that influence the standard of living. It is a neutral measure which shows an economy's general ability to pay for externalities.

Thanksgiving

For favour granted from St. Lawrence, St. Anthony of Padua, Our Lady of Perpetual Soccur, Sacred Heart of Jesus, St. Cajetan of Unemployed and Infant Jesus.

— J. Menezes, Mulund W.

Grooms



MATRIMONIALS

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 37 years, Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 80 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. HSC + Dip. in Catering, working on cruise line in store department. Handsome, sober, having own house, seeks a simple, god-fearing, working Mangalorean girl. Contact email : lewisroyston@yahoo.com OR 7208759704 (Regd. No. 6353)

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 45 years, Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 77 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. Graduate + Civil Engineering, having own consultancy business and own accommodation. Contact email : info@richardproperty.net OR 9820324492 (Regd. No. 6352)

MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 28 years, Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 78 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.E. I.T., Principal Consultant in South Africa. Contact email: ronaldsouza.pm@gmail.com OR 9702970004 / 9820842154 (Regd. No. 6276)

MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic, aged 67 years, looks much younger to his age, Pensioner from Australia, intend to settled in Mumbai or Goa. Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 83 kgs, Wheatish complexion, Edn. SSC., seeks a girl from decend family background. Contact : 7506932009. (Regd. No. 6274)

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 31 years, Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 65 kgs, Fair Complexion, Handsome, Edn. B.A., PG-HR, working as a HR-Manager, Seeks a suitable match. Contact email : frank_4_f@yahoo.co.in OR 9820470506 (Regd. No. 6270)

MUMBAI : Goan Christian Bachelor, aged 31 years, Ht. 6' 3", Wt. 85 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. MBA., working as HR Professional. Contact email : valsafonso@gmail.com OR 9819295981 / 9867036662 / 9920733493 (Regd. No. 6267)

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 31 years,

Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 78 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. SSC, working on Cruz Ship. in Europe. Contact email : francis.dsouza@gmail.com OR 9769259694 / 9892873474 (Regd. No. 6264)

MUMBAI : East Indian / Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 37 years, Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 80 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., LL.B., & French Courses, working as Lawyer in a Law Firm in Fountain. Attending the High Court and City Civil. Seeks a presentable and sincere match. Contact email : lawfully yours@hotmail.com / delaney_s@hotmail.com / sybil_sylvester@yahoo.com OR 8108648725 (Regd. No. 6260)

MUMBAI : Tamilian Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 41 years, Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 70 kgs, Tan Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as an Executive in Abroad. Currently in Mumbai contact immediately. Contact email : margaretdass26@yahoo.com OR 9167001399 (Regd. No. 6254)

MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 34 years, Ht. 5' 4", Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Bank Officer. Contact email : savioanthony.dias@sc.com OR 9820379835 (Regd. No. 6231)

MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 35 years, Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. HSC., employed as an Auto Mobile in Abu Dhabi. Contact 9619617174 (Regd. No. 6230)

MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor aged 32 years. Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 57 kgs., Wheatish Complexion, Edn. HSC, working as Food Production. Contact email : vaz.dominic@yahoo.com (Regd. No. 6229)

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor aged 41 years.

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

Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 69 kgs., Wheatish Complexion, Edn. S.S.C. A/C Tech. Course, working as a A/C. Technician in U.A.E. Contact Email : lawrencedias321@gmail.com OR 9594678829 / 7208825574 (Regd. No. 6228)

MUMBAI : Tamilian Roman Catholic bachelor, aged 32 years, Ht. 165 cms, Wt. 67 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.E. (Civil), working as a Structural Engineer (Associate). Contact email : winall2891@gmail.com OR 9920045798 / 9167710057 (Regd. No. 6222)

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 34 years, Ht. 6' 2", Fair Complexion, Handsome, Edn. B.Com., & HTL Management, Working on Cruise Line as Supervisor, Seeks an educated, simple, Mangalorean girl above 5'5", Email : marprop111@gmail.com (Regd. No. 6045)

MUMBAI : RC Bachelor 39/5'8", B.E., working in Senior position reputed IT firm. Seeks alliance from R.C. spinster educated good family background Pl. reply with photograph and details to keithcardozo@hotmail.com or contact 9820338755 (Regd. No. 5996)

RAJKOT : Anglican Protestant Bachelor, aged 31 yeas, Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 63 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., MBA working as a Manager. Contact email : evie100984@gmail.com OR 9662671103 (Regd. No. 6211)

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MATRIMONIALS

MUMBAI : RC Goan Spinster, 37 yrs, 5' 2", slim, Wheatish Complexion, looks young and good looking, holding USA Citizenship. Completed Associate Degree from USA. Presently residing in Mumbai for a short while. Seeking alliance from a well-educated, well-settled, good family background bachelor from USA or someone from UK, Canada, Australia upto 42 yrs. Reply with details and latest photo to senorita_gomes@rediffmail.com or 9769825928. **(Regd. No. 6031)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 34 years, Ht. 5'2", Wt. 49 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., ALAM (US), working as a Sanctions - Manager in Bank. Contact email : renita.coutinho@gmail.com OR 9820841317 **(Regd. No. 6351)**

MUMBAI : Roman Catholic Spinster, 29 years, Ht. 5', Wt. 47 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. F.Y. B.A., working for HR Firm. Contact email : janeqothery@gmail.com OR 9867447645 **(Regd No. 6335)**

MUMBAI : Tamilian Roman Catholic Spinster, 26 years, Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 45 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBA (Marketing), working for Pvt. Ltd. Company. Contact email : joseph.catherine17@gmail.com OR 9869024018 **(Regd. No. 6332)**

MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, 26 years, Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBBS, Doctor by profession. Contact email : crickslick@gmail.com OR 9892629974 **(Regd. No. 6331)**

MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, 30 years, Ht. 5' 1", Wt. 56 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., MBA (Finance) working as an Asst. Manager in Bank. Seeks a suitable match. Contact Email : oldgoa2012@gmail.com

gmail.com OR 9869765169 **(Regd. No. 6330)**

MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 32 years, Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 60 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., Teacher by profession. Contact email : nel2012@rediffmail.com OR 9870332639 **(Regd. No. 6329)**

NASIK : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 26 years, Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 50kgs, Wheatish Complexion, good looking and decent, Edn. B. Com., P.G. Diploma, studied in Mumbai, working as a Co-ordinator. Contact email : ruby.rego@gmail.com OR 9168165005 **(Regd. No. 6326)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 28 years, Ht. 163 cms, Wt. 62kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.D. (Ophthalmology) Doctor by profession. Seeks a Mangalorean bachelor from Mumbai or Mangalore below 32 years, preferably Medical profession. Contact email : rufa0107@gmail.com OR 9969642490 **(Regd. No. 6325)**

MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 29 years, Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 58kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.com., MBA, Diploma, working as a Manager - HR. Contact email : diaana_5@yahoo.co.in OR 9967189785 / 9967064555 **(Regd. No. 6324)**

MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 28 years, Ht. 5', Wt. 50 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. HSC (Beautician Course), Beautician by profession. Contact email : manuel.moreira555@gmail.com OR 9967217676 **(Regd. No. 6323)**

MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 36 years, Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 50 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Sc. (Chemistry) working as an Executive. Contact email : piress90@yahoo.com OR 9867736474 **(Regd. No. 6320)**

MUMBAI : Goan RC Spinster, aged 29 years, Ht. 5' 4', Wt. 52 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.B.A. in Finance, working as an Executive. Contact email : md279197@gmail.com OR 9619374254 **(Regd. No. 6318)**

MUMBAI : Goan RC Spinster, aged 34 years, Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 69 kgs, Fair and good looking, Edn. B.A., well settled, seeks a qualified, sober, well settled bachelor from good family background. Contact email : feelingblessed2015@gmail.com **(Regd. No. 6317)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC Spinster, aged 26 years, Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 50 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.A., Teacher by profession. Contact email : aranha.priya22@gmail.com OR 9920320332 **(Regd. No. 6316)**

MUMBAI : Tamilian Protestant Spinster, aged 28 years, Ht. 5' 1", Wt. 48 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Post Graduate, working as a Manager in Bank. Contact email : ratnam.rachel@gmail.com OR 9833425894 / 9869308405 **(Regd. No. 6315)**

BAHRAIN : Born and brought up in Bahrain Keralite Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 24 years, Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 56 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. Holding Master Degree Seeks a professionals like Engineer, C.A., etc or Professionals NRI Indians. Contact email : rajanvs1234@gmail.com / maryrajan66@gmail.com OR 973-3960881 **(Regd. No. 6311)**

U.K. : Holding a British Citizenship Maharashtrian Protestant Spinster, aged 35 years, fair and beautiful, Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 64 kgs, working for Bank in London. Seeks a well settled and educated bachelor from U.K. or Bombay. Contact email : shrupm@gmail.com OR 9819813730 **(Regd. No. 6309)**

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(Contd.. from p. 1)

"We could not let you come alone, blurted Torin with a smile, placing her hand on Zilan's shoulder.

"Hurry," put in Saria. "we have an armed car on the north side. "We have placed plastic in many corners as we came in the darkness and the rain. My remote can trigger them off. Move. Move."

The loud clap of thunder was followed by a flash of lightning. Someone might spot them, Zilan thought out loud. Her priority was to save the girls.

Strangely enough, Nasiba was known as the soft-spoken one. She went on ahead towards the armed YPJ vehicle. The rain kept lashing the open camp and the strong winds lifted empty cans, boxes and crates, smashing them against the surrounding area. The noise was most welcome for the Khurdish girls as it hid the sound of their getaway. As they ran out of the place the ammo dump blew up and with it the rest of the stockpile. The remote device which they carried was a big success.

The rain was now coming down in torrents. Unafraid the girls ran to the parked YPJ truck. This was a small victory for them – they would have much to talk about with the others.

The female Kurdish soldiers had caused havoc and confusion with blown human bodies and flying shrapnel scattered over the radius of half-a-mile, might have been less, who cares. The mission was over.

The armed car shot across no-man's land, into the rugged path which led to their qandil training camp, a base near the border between Syria and Iraq. For once, Zilan was grateful the girls had followed her. They were truly loyal friends, sisters, daughters of Khuda. Without them she might have died a martyr.

Courtesy: mattersindia.com

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A nice story

The Bad Ego

A man and his son were walking on a mountain road. Suddenly, he trips and feeling a sharp pain he screams, "Ahhhhhh!" Surprised, he hears a voice coming from the mountain, "Ahhhhhh!" Filled with curiosity, he screams, "Who are you?" but the only answer he receives is, "Who are you?" This makes him angry, so he screams, "You are a coward!" and the voice answers, "You are a coward!" He looks at his father, asking, "Dad, what is going on?" "Son," the man replies, "pay attention!" Then he screams, "I admire you!" The voice answers, "I admire you!"

The father shouts, "You are wonderful!" and the voice answers, "You are wonderful!"

The boy is surprised, but still can't understand what is going on.

Then the father explains, "People call this an 'ECHO' but truly it is 'LIFE!' Life always gives you back what you give out. Life is a mirror of your actions. If you want more love, give more love. If you want more kindness, give more kindness. If you want understanding and respect, give understanding and respect. If you want people to be patient and respectful to you, give patience and respect. This rule of nature applies to every aspect of our lives."

LIFE ALWAYS GIVES YOU BACK
WHAT YOU GIVE OUT.

Your life is not a coincidence, but a mirror of your own doings."

So are you going to stop or will you continue giving without ceasing.

Praise the Lord our GOD and Saviour.

—Agnelo Rodrigues
Auxilium House

Once upon a time there was an island, where all the feelings lived. One day there was a storm in the sea and the island was about to get drowned. Every feeling was scared but Love made a boat to escape. Every feeling boarded the boat. Only 1 feeling was left. Love got down to see who it was..

It was EGO.

Love tried and tried but ego wasn't moving, the water was rising.. Every one asked love to leave him and come in the boat, but love was made to love. At last all the feelings escaped and Love died with ego on the island..

Love Died because of EGO ! So, Kill Ego And Save Love.....

—Agnelo Rodrigues
Auxilium House

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Follow Up in Business

You have to create the kind of rapport that will produce new business opportunities. For a strong network you must know the art of follow up with customers which will strengthen the relations.

Networking events provide an introduction to new professional connections. They plant the seeds of a professional relationship, but it's up to you to show your commitment, trustworthiness and competence as you patiently cultivate the relationship. Eventually, your commitment and credibility will lead to a growth in your popularity.

After a networking event, use these tips to stay in touch with new connections.

Follow up immediately:

Don't wait a week or longer to make the first contact. Your new connection may vaguely remember you, but the impact of your meeting will have dramatically diminished. Instead, reach out the next day with a short email.

Take notes:

Immediately following a networking event or cocktail party, write notes about the people you spoke to and what you talked about. Include superficial details that may help jog your memory, such as what they were wearing or what they looked like. Use the business cards you collected to connect names to faces.

Connect on LinkedIn:

No other social media platform has the same professional reputation as LinkedIn. When you send your request to connect, remind the person who you are and how you met. If possible, mention something you talked about.

Use your calendar:

After your initial follow up, set a re-



minder in your calendar to follow up again in a few weeks. Reconnect with clients, colleagues and customers on a monthly, quarterly or annual basis. Call, send an email, send links of interest, or mail a handwritten note. Holiday cards are also a personal way to create a lasting impression.

Keep it short:

Your communications don't need to be lengthy. Keep your messages short and to the point.

Host an event:

A casual happy hour or dinner party can be a great way to entertain and build rapport. Invite clients and colleagues you think will get along or be able to do business together. When you generously help others connect,

you'll create new business opportunities for yourself as well as your clients.

Send congratulatory notes:

If you read an article about someone you know who has received an award or promotion, send a note to congratulate him. Include a clipping of the article and say something good.

Remember

If staying in touch with people is a priority, then set aside 15 minutes a day to do it. The good news is that once this is a regular part of your life, you'll automatically start looking for reasons to contact people. People will start responding, too. Reaching out feels like less of a chore when there are 'Great to hear from you!' emails in your inbox every morning.

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