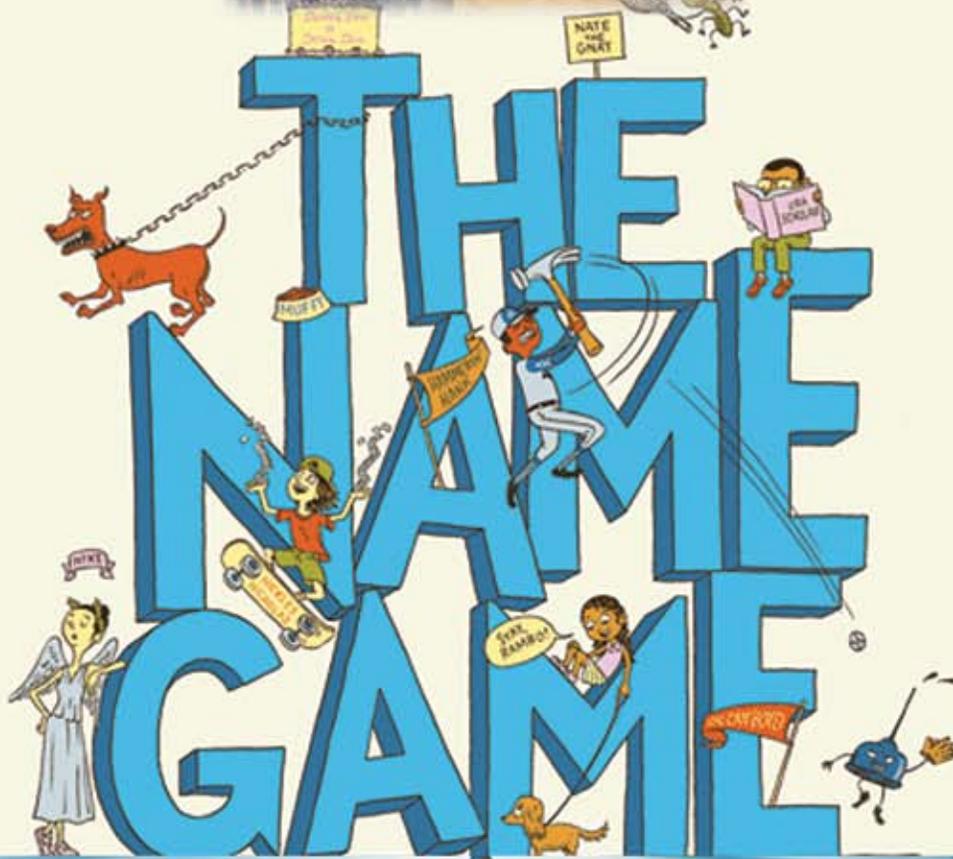


# THE SECULAR CITIZEN

(Total pages 24)

A NATIONAL FAMILY WEEKLY

Vol.24 No.39 ■ Mumbai, September 28, 2015 ■ Rs. 5



... So the next time somebody takes a child for baptism,  
do give a thought to both religion and culture...

# Give Peace A Chance!

*Fr Cedric Prakash sj\**

It's September 21st once again, a day which is observed the world over as the International Day of Peace. Since September 1982, on this day, the United Nations has been calling upon world leaders to remember that the UN as an organisation was created in 1945, with a primary aim: to end all wars and to ensure enduring peace.

The day once again will be full of activities and programmes perhaps high profile commemorations. These activities are perhaps needed. We need however to go beyond tokenism and cosmeticization. The grim and painful reality however remains: several parts of the world are still caught up in war and hostilities; in hate and violence; in division and discrimination. Everything in fact, which is the antithesis of peace! So much so, the UN Secretary General Ban-ki Moon, in a message for the day, makes a passionate plea, "I call upon all warring parties to lay down their weapons and observe a global ceasefire. To them I say: Stop the killings and the destruction, and create space for lasting peace."

It is unlikely that the warmongers of this world will actually pay heed to his word. The forces of ISIS are still on their inhuman and brutal rampage in Syria and other parts of the Middle East forcing millions of innocent people to flee to other countries at great risk; Burkina Faso which is one of the poorest coun-

tries of West Africa has been subject to much violence after an attempted military coup; in South America and in several parts of Asia, the average citizen continues to be insecure and peace is still elusive for many.

It is therefore symbolic that the theme of this year's International Day of Peace is 'Partnerships for Peace – Dignity for All' which aims to highlight the importance of all segments of society to work together for peace. It is amply evident that beginning with the UN, the world leaders need to get their act together to help realise the 'never again' of post World War II. The UN needs to have more powers to deal with member states who have

scant regard for the minimum requisites of peace.

Governments and national leaders need to demonstrate the political will to contain every kind of violence in their countries. Civil society organisations and in fact every citizen needs to forge partnerships which are inclusive, respecting diversity, promoting the dignity of every citizen which in the long run will contribute to making the world a more peaceful place for all. There has to be a concerted effort to negate the role of the arms and ammunition industry; the powerful mining lobby; the big corporations who destroy our natural resources for profiteering and also other vested interests who leave no stone unturned to keep the ordinary person in a stage of siege, conflict and violence.

It is also significant that Pope Francis has just begun his 9-day trip to Cuba and the United States, during which he will not only address the UN but also a joint sitting of the U.S. Congress. He is certainly expected to make a strong case for peace, as he takes on the powerful and the rich of this world. His appeal to world leaders will surely be, 'Stop war! Give Peace a chance!'

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



*Pope Francis Warns Cubans of Dangers of Ideology, Meets with Fidel Castro*

Havana: Pope Francis has celebrated Mass in front of tens of thousands of people in the Cuban capital Havana, on his first visit to the Communist-ruled island.

President Raul Castro, who is not a Catholic, attended the event in city's iconic Revolution Square.

The Pope also met the leader's brother and predecessor, Fidel Castro.

Pope Francis, who is at the start of his Cuba and US trip, has been credited with helping the recent thaw in diplomatic ties between both countries.

After his arrival on Saturday, he hailed improving ties between the two countries as "an example of reconciliation for the whole world".

But he also urged both Cuba and the US to "persevere on the path" of detente.

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## 'Thought for the week'

*There are plenty of difficult obstacles in your path. Don't allow yourself to become one of them.*

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## Christians are being martyred for their faith every five minutes

Believers are often singled out, tortured and faced with the brutal choice of converting to Islam or being slaughtered, according to Christian Freedom International.

Those who refuse to comply have reportedly had their limbs cut off or have been crucified.

Research by CFI found that more than 200 million followers are facing persecution in 105 countries making Christianity the most at-risk faith group in the world.

More Christians have been martyred in the 20th and 21st centuries than during the previous 19 combined, the organisation has claimed.

The human rights group's president Jim Jacobson said: "Islamic State Militants in Iraq are using Christian churches as torture chambers where they force Christians to either convert to Islam or die.

"Islamic State militants are also stripping the former places of Christian worship of ancient relics which in turn are smuggled to Western collectors to help fund their terrorist activities."

In August the terrorist group raided a Syrian church and abducted more than 230 Christians.

Days later they returned and bulldozed the 1,600-year-old monastery.

A video showed the twisted terror group razing the ancient Mar Elian church to the ground.

They also dug up and desecrated the bones of Saint Elian, who the monastery was named after.

Thousands of Christians have been displaced by years of fighting in the con-

(Contd.. on p. 4)

(Contd.. from p. 3)

flict zone.

The strategic city of Qaryatain has seen its pre-war Christian population of 2,000 drop to just 300 in recent months, according to one Christian force.

The extremists have abducted hundreds of Assyrian Christians from the war-torn country this year alone, many of whom were children and women.

In February, the hardline jihadists kidnapped at least 250 Assyrian Christians during a raid across ten villages in north-east Syria.

The militants released 19 of the hostages but the fate of the rest of those from the ancient Christian minority remains unknown.

According to Breitbart London, Mr Jacobson added: "I encourage you to pray for persecuted believers. They are your Christian family throughout the world.

"Pray for their safety; that they would be emboldened to continue sharing the Gospel even in the face of persecution; that their persecutors would also come to know Christ as they observe the courageous witness of these believers."

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## The Seven Deadly Sins - Part VIII

# Sloth

by Francis Lobo

When I was diagnosed with Stage 4 Pancreatic Cancer my 2 sons Viren and Roy came down to Bangalore to see me. One evening, while I was at the computer, Viren came and said that Roy had gone for a walk and it was now more than 2 hours and he has not returned. My grandson, who is in Canada, was on Skype at that time told us not to worry. Roy cannot walk more than 20 minutes. He is probably sleeping in his room - He was right.

Sloth is a lack of desire to do anything worthwhile. It encourages us to do just enough to get by. We don't accept the gift of each day that God sends us. We don't use and develop the talents that we have. We don't look for and seize opportunities. We don't accept challenges.

Sloth reflects itself in many ways

1. There is no desire to learn and read
2. We do slipshod work, we don't take the trouble to do a quality job in whatever we do
3. We look for shortcuts and don't follow the specified proven system
4. We attend meetings but with no desire to do anything, hence we don't participate or listen to what is going on. We sit on the side and are not committed to any actions that are to be taken or any deadlines that are to be met.
5. We avoid going into details. We rather go by hearsay and gossip than trying to obtain the evidence by hard work
6. We set targets that are easily met
7. We can't be bothered taking a stand and are tolerant even in times when it is necessary and vital to stand up for what is right.

Why is sloth bad? Is not the need to relax, to rest, a part of the human

system? After all we are not expected and created to be awake and working for 24 hours a day. However, when we don't fulfill the roles we are placed in and instead succumb to laziness, it is wrong and goes against the plans of God. The command of God is to be perfect as your Heavenly Father is perfect - Nothing short of perfection should be our goal. Hence, not caring enough to act or the attitude of "couldn't care less" to what is happening go against the Will of God. The antidotes to sloth are Desire, Passion, Vision.

To come back to the story of Roy sleeping in his room. It may not be wrong if it was to overcome tiredness. But, we don't sleep as a "Time Pass", when we can use the time more productively.

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## Pope's Address to Cooperative Banks

On 12th Sept. 2015, Pope Francis addressed directors and personnel from the Cooperative Credit Bank of Rome on its 60th anniversary. The keynote message was: "Cooperative Banks – (CB) 'Movement' should seek to humanize the economy, and to join efficiency with solidarity." He revealed: "At the origin of many CB are priests and committed lay faithful and communities; and in my Encyclical, 'Laudato Si', I had stressed their value in the field of renewable energies and in agriculture (cf. no. 179-180)."

Here in Mumbai, the cradle of CB cater to numerous associations and to minorities. The notable Catholic CB are: Citizen Credit CB, Bassein Catholic CB, and Model CB. All CB should note the following seven points the Pope expressed to make CB more efficient and people friendly:

1. Be an engine that energizes the weakest of classes, especially the unemployed youth.
2. Be leaders in carrying out new welfare and health schemes.
3. Be concerned with the economic and social justice, chiefly the dignity of the person.
4. Facilitate the life of families for the common good of society.
5. Promote a harmonious type and social use of money.
6. Animate the growth of a honest economy in its fight against corruption.
7. Finally, participate actively in the globalization of solidarity!

And so I conclude with the Lord's directive to cheer everyone: "Bring the whole tithe into the 'storehouse', that there may be food in my house to dis-

tribute" (Malachi 3: 10).

—Dr Trevor Colaso,

## Christian Workers Movement Celebration

'Christian Workers Movement' invites You, your family & friends to 'A Celebration of World Day for Decent Work' on Sunday, 11th October 2015 at Joseph Cardijn Tech. Inst. Parel E. Mumbai 400 014. Mass at 9.30 AM, followed by breakfast & a talk on "Lets build a just, fraternal & Just Society'.

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# Meat Ban – What, When, Where, How?

When an incident takes place, there are Four questions usually asked – What ? When ? Where ? How ? Something similar is happening in the state of Maharashtra. When the government announced the ban on the slaughter, sale, consumption of bulls & bullocks in the state, people asked in disbelief, "What ?" – yes, What have they banned ? Meat ?

Several months later, the government & a couple of civic bodies (BMC & Mira-Bhyandar), announced a ban for Four / Seven days whatever on sale, consumption of All type of meat products. And again people asked, "When ?" – yes, When we should NOT eat meat !

### Forthcoming .....

"Where ?" – after the "ban" days are over, the next would be "where" we should eat meat. Whether we should have meat in restaurants, or pubs, or whether we can have it at our parties, etc., etc. Or whether we should have it only in our homes.

And finally, "How ?" – yes, then the authorities would tell how we should have the meat. Whether it should be roasted, or deep fried, boiled, etc., etc.

So now, your life is NOT Your Life – the government will govern your life, least forgetting that they have been elected to govern the state, NOT our lives !

—Melville X. D'Souza  
- Orlem,  
Malad (W)

# In defence of John Dayal facing threats from Hindutva groups

by N Jayaram



**John Dayal**

as currently used in India, is of foreign conception.

Second, terms such as “sickular”, “pseudo-secular”, “libtards” – no doubt a response to “Hindutva retards” and “Moditards” – and “presstitutes” have begun to gain currency to describe those among the “majority” community protesting or writing against the increasing attacks on Muslims and Christians and against the rising “saffronisation” of the polity. And so the work of John Dayal and several other activists gains importance as they seek to defend and protect not only the rights of their own denominations but of other minorities and all of us who wish to see India remain secular, plural, inclusive and peaceful.

Happily, I was able to meet him again in person early last year when the Indian Social Institute in Bangalore (a research, publication and training body run by Catholics) had organised a day-long interaction session with the United Nations special rapporteur on religious freedom or belief, Heiner Bielefeldt. Dayal presided over the session which featured not only Christians of various denominations but also Muslims and Hindus who spoke about the rising menace of Hindutva fascism, albeit in a state currently ruled by a non-BJP regime.

Karnataka’s current Congress party regime of chief minister Siddaramaiah has shown itself incapable of stemming the rising tide of attacks on  
*(Contd.. on p. 10)*

John Dayal, a well-known New Delhi-based journalist and human rights activist, has often been subjected to hostile attention from Hindutva forces but there has been a sharp spurt in the attacks via Twitter with the #Shame-OnJohnDayal hashtag trending wildly of late.

In a timely response, Kavita Krishnan, secretary of the All India Progressive Women’s Association, and herself constantly targeted by Hindutva outfits whose members hurl racist and sexist abuse at her, has launched a petition addressed to the commissioner of police, Delhi, urging him to “provide adequate and prompt protection to Dayal, and take immediate measures to identify and arrest all those making threats or indulging in hate speech against him”.

Krishnan’s petition notes that, “Dayal, known for his committed struggle against communalism and bigotry and his defence of democracy and peace, is being subjected to an unremitting hate campaign on social media. The trolls, all supporters of the Indian prime minister, the BJP and RSS, have even gone to the extent of making public his personal contact details – thereby creating a clear and present danger for him”.

Dayal is secretary-general of the All India Christian Council and is a former president of the All India Catholic Union. When I first learned of the latter role of his, perhaps while I was living and working in Hong Kong, my reaction was one of surprise that a person I knew to be a noted mainstream journalist had taken on a role representing a religious community. I’d have written him a note, saying, “Hey John, what’s with this activism on behalf of a religious denomination?” Or words to that effect: But I had lost touch with him.

The first I’d met John Dayal was in 1977 when he was chief reporter with the Patriot newspaper, one of numerous broadsheets edited and printed along the once glorious Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg. Patriot was generally seen as pro-Soviet Union and pro-Communist Party of India (CPI). It was, however, a well-edited paper and John’s position was not to be sniffed at. He and a colleague of his, Ajoy Bose, had by the autumn of 1977 written a book entitled *For Reasons of State: Delhi Under Emergency*. It narrated the atrocities meted out to people living in many impoverished parts of Delhi during Indira Gandhi’s regime. I was interning at the Press Institute of India then and had been asked to interview Dayal and Bose and write for its quarterly publication, *Vidura*. There was a certain air of Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein about the duo’s book venture. The next I met John Dayal was in 1984 when we were contesting elections for the Delhi Union of Journalists, but on opposite sides, he with a centrist grouping and I with a broadly pro-left slate.

I reconnected with him via social media several years ago, while still living in Hong Kong and eventually came round to the view that his work defending the rights of Christians and other minorities in India was vital for two reasons: first, the rights of those of us born in the so-called majority community in India and who regard ourselves to be irreligious or, to use what I deem to be synonymous terms (in a non-academic sense), sceptics, unbelievers, agnostics, atheists, rationalists, humanists and so forth, can only be protected if the right of all believers is. Moreover, a predominant majority of those deemed “Hindus” wish to live in peace with their neighbours in their slums, villages and tribal communities. Incidentally, atheism has been an integral part of ancient systems of Indian philosophy and the word Hindu,



by **chhotebhai** \*

# The Name Game



Sahib, again leading to a very small name base, so many sardars have nick names like Lucky or Honey!

When the British came to India they had a problem classifying people for municipal or other records, so they adopted the western model of Christian name, Middle name and Surname. Hindus used Kumar/ Kumari as their middle names, and their caste, like Gupta or Pande, as their surnames. In Kerala the order is reversed – first the house name, then the father’s name and then one’s own name. P.T. Usha had a problem explaining this at the Olympics. Parsees chose their profession like Engineer, Doctor or Merchant, or their village like Barucha, Billimoria as their surnames. Those who follow Arabic or Persian scripts, that are written from right to left, actually have their first name written last, by “normal” standards. Then again some Hindus have given “Christian” names like Tommy and Jimmy to their dogs! It is therefore more than apparent that giving names is a complex business.

In the recent Sheena Bora murder case there were two names that kept appearing – that of top cop Rakesh Maria, and one of the suspects, Peter Mukherjea. Maria and Peter are both traditionally “Christian names. But here Maria (pronounced Maariya) is a surname, and Mukherjea earlier lived in England, from where he may have

(Contd.. on p. 8)

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**B**ack in 2011 the then Pope Benedict, while baptising some children, had advocated that they be given “Christian” names. He frowned upon naming children after celebrities. Recently the Syro-Malabar bishops of Kerala issued a similar edict. This has me flummoxed. What exactly is a “Christian” name? Also, what is in a name?

No doubt I will be reminded of the saying that a rose by any other name would still smell as sweet. Is there any connection between a name and the person or thing named after it? Do names have any significance at all? And what qualifies as a Christian name? Going by the literal meaning of their names I must ask if Sridevi is a goddess, Kishore Kumar ever young, or Meena Kumari ever virgin? If Benedict is considered a Christian name, then what of its Hindi translation – Aashirvad? Would Pope Benedict XVI, with his strongly Euro centric vision, have declined to baptise a child named Aashirvad? If during a Litany in Hindi would the Pope object to “Haathi Dant ka Garh”, the equivalent of “Tower of Ivory”, one of the paeans sung to Mother Mary?

Would they still want adivasis from remote villages of Jharkhand to be called Hilarius, Fulgentius or Polycarpus; as deemed appropriate by Belgian missionaries of yesteryear? How would Hilarius be in Hindi, a funny word called majak? What about ethnically Malayali names derived from Christian saints like Verghese (George), Kurian (Cyril), Chinnamma (Ann) or Aleykutty (Elizabeth)? Jyoti (Lucy) and Pushpa (Teresa of the Little Flower) are among the list of hundreds of Hindi names prepared by Padmavib-

hushan Fr Camille Bulcke SJ. Many of these names have Sanskrit roots, and can be adapted to other Indian languages. Would the bishops find these names un-Christian because they are not European or anglicised?

Supposing a child was being named Michael, what guarantee that it was Michael the Archangel and not Michael Jackson? If it were Elizabeth, it could be after Queen Elizabeth, and not the cousin of Mary!

Is Mary a Christian name? Most biblical names have been heavily anglicised in India. The actual Hebrew word is Miriam, which means “beloved of God” – in Hindi Ishpriya. Jesus again is an anglicisation. In Greek it is spelt Iesus, in the actual person’s native Aramaic it is Yesua, and in Hebrew Yehosua, which means Yahweh is salvation, or Yahweh helps. In Hindi it is spelt as Yesu or Yishu and in Urdu as Isa. Joseph is actually Yosep in Hebrew, a tribal name that means, “let him gather”.

Would a priest in Mumbai baptise a child as Dawood Ibrahim, named after an absconding terrorist, or after the heroes of the Old Testament – David and Abraham? Are Yusuf (Joseph), Moosa (Moses), Suleman (Solomon), Ayub (Job) or Yunus (Jonah) Muslim or Christian names? Who decides?

How have names evolved? In China there are so many Lis that it is a demographic problem. When I called out to my friend Jose at a crossing in Kochi the traffic stopped, because every second guy was called Jose! For Sikhs all names have to be based on an alphabet from the Guru Granth

**(Contd.. from p. 7)**

picked up the Peter part of his name. I doubt if either of these dramatis personae are Christian.

There are also many communities that have started adapting names for sociological or demographical reasons. Many Parsees called Jamshed got anglicised to Jimmy. Goans like Pereira became Perry, or Fernandes became Ferns, in order to pass off as Anglo-Indians and obtain benefits from the British. Fed up with Jose and Kutty Malayalis have now started calling their offspring Princy and Bincy. In Punjab Shergill has become Sherry and Parminder has become Pammy. As part of "Christianisation" Makwanas in Gujarat became Macwan. In the north Lal became Lyall, while Pal became Paul.

I too changed my name, and for good reason. My baptismal name (I am letting the cat out of the bag) with its addition at Confirmation is (hold your breath) – Allan Peter Ralph Francis of Assisi de Noronha! Quite a mouthful. More than a line-full too! I couldn't squeeze it into my exercise book when the teacher told me to write it twenty times. Exasperating. Legally I still have that name. But even in its short form, when entered onto my voter's identity card, and transliterated back to English, it got distorted to L.N.D. Naron. It doesn't serve as proof of my identity.

Names can sometimes have an adverse or prejudicial impact, as Shahrukh Khan tried to portray in the movie "My Name is Khan". Many Hindus wonder why Indian Muslims retain Arabic or Persian names, instead of adapting to Indian culture? (Teesta Setalwad's husband Javed Anand is an exception). In that sense Hindus definitely feel comfortable with Christians adopting Indian names, rooted in the local culture.

Here is a last salvo before I get real serious. What would you call cattle excreta – cow dung or bullshit? They mean the same but their connotations and applications are different.

So we see that besides religion, there is a lot more that goes into a name – language, culture, convenience, circumstances, connotations and identity. The bishops therefore should not try to impose their views on parents seeking to name their children.

There is also a flip side. Do parents have an unfettered right to name their children as they please? Dalits earlier gave their children derogatory names like Gobaru and Dukhi. Remember Kachra from the movie Lagaan? In France there is an official list of names formulated by the State. France jealously guards its separation of State and Religion. This list was therefore not based on religion, but to protect the interests of the child.

Jesus, being born in a Jewish family, was given a common Jewish name. This is what scripture says about God assuming human form in Jesus. "He emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, becoming as human beings are" (Phi 2:7). He was "sending his own Son in the same human nature as any sinner" (Rom 8:3). "It was essential that he should in this way be made completely like his brothers" (Heb 2:17). This is called the Incarnational approach; as distinct from the transplantation approach where you take a coconut sapling from Kerala to Kashmir, and expect coconuts to grow there.

The Second Vatican Council is even more explicit when it talks of the interface between religion, culture and language. The "Decree on the Bishops' Pastoral Office in the Church" (Christus Dominus) exhorts bishops to provide for different languages (CD 23). The "Decree on the Missionary Activity of the Church" (Ad Genetes) says that missionaries are expected to "gain a more thorough knowledge of the history, social structure and customs of the people ... to learn languages to the extent of being able to use them in a fluent and polished manner" (AG 26). It further states, "from the customs and traditions of their people, from their wisdom and their learning ... these churches borrow all those things which can con-

tribute to ... the proper arrangement of Christian life" (AG 22).

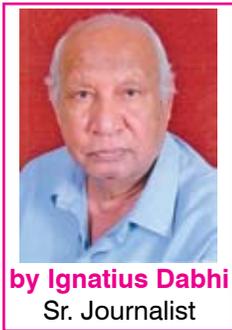
The "Pastoral Constitution of the Church in the Modern World" (Gaudium et Spes) has an entire chapter on "The Proper Development of Culture". It states, "there are many links between the message of salvation and human culture. For God ... has spoken according to the culture proper to different ages" (GS 58). And again, "The church is not bound exclusively and indissolubly to any race or nation, nor to any particular way of life or any customary pattern of living ancient or recent" (GS 58). There needs to be a balance between faith and culture, based on mutual respect.

This does not mean that I advocate anonymity. We should feel a legitimate pride in being Indian Christians, fully Indian and fully Christian. Whenever the Republic Day or Gallantry Awards are announced, or elections are held, I look to see how many Christians figure in the list. The names do give some indication of who they are. I know that Margaret Alva, Eduardo Falleiro and Oscar Fernandes are Christians. I also know that former Defence Ministers George Fernandes and A.K. Antony are of Christian origin, though professedly agnostic. We know that Sonia Gandhi is also of Christian origin, though she declined to receive Holy Communion when the world was watching at Mother Teresa's funeral! From their names we would not know that Purno Sangma or Vijay Amritraj are Christians. But D. Napoleon, an M.P. from Tamilnadu is not a Christian. Names have both their relevance and their limitations too.

So the next time somebody takes a child for baptism, do give a thought to both religion and culture. I hope that the Syro-Malabar bishops and parish priests will also read this. If you are left wondering as to why I am now known as chhotebhai, you'll have to wait for an opportune moment; for it's a long story. Till then let the name game continue.

*\* The writer is a former National President of the All India Catholic Union.*

# Rakesh Maria, Every Inch A Gentleman



by Ignatius Dabhi  
Sr. Journalist



**T**he top brass cop - Police Commissioner of Mumbai - is eased out by the BJP ruled Maharashtra government. In their deplomatic language, the Maharashtra Home Department says : "Mr. Rakesh is promoted". So was the case of Julius Reberiro - the director General of Police, appointed and sent by no less than the P. M. Rajiv Gandhi. This was in Gujrat when the Home Minister was Amarsingh Chaudhary, The Home Minister did not approve certain ways

of Rebeiro. Ultimately Rebeiro was sent back to New Delhi. Every journalist in Gujarat and every Police officer in the state knew that Julius Reberiro was a very honest, straight-forward police officer. Good people in Gujarat could hardly approve his sudden Delhi transfer. So are the sentiments of all decent men in Mumbai about Mr. Rakesh Maria.

When the Commissioner of Police was 'promoted', he was busy solving the high-profile Shina murder case. According to the police records, the case was getting clear and the mystery was being solved. And just there comes the 'promotion'! The Shina case got the maximum coverage in all media. The untimely 'promotion' can neither be appreciated nor liked by a sincere person like Rakesh Maria. The conclusion is very simple : Honesty is not a promoting vertue in the government. You have to be a 'yesman'. There were reports in media that the Maharashtra CM was not very happy with Mr. Rakesh. It is interesting to know that Mr. Rakesh Maria was in good books of NCP-Congress government in Maharashtra. It is obvious then, the Bhatiya Janata

Party run-government in Mumbai was not that very happy with Mr. Rakesh Maria. In the present workbook of a politician, the person who is loyal to the unscrupulous politician is wanted. The person who is unright, honest, sincere and straightforward is sooner or later, 'promoted' and eased out.

A time has come when the party is put before the people. The silent majority of India is accustomed to suffer in silence. Good sense of people knows that a person like Mr. Rakesh and Rebeiro are out heros.

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(Contd.. from p. 6)

Christians, Muslims and secular Hindus. A former vice-chancellor of Hampi University and rationalist scholar named MM Kalburgi was shot dead in his home in Dharwad, in northern Karnataka on August 30. Narendra Dabholkar and Govind Pansare in Maharashtra had earlier met the same fates for the sin of being rationalists. A Mysore-based writer named KS Bhagwan has received a similar threat. In southern coastal Karnataka – a hotbed of Hindutva attacks – it is open season against Muslims and Christians with concocted allegations of “love jihad” being hurled at young couples.

And so, it behoves on me, and on all of us who want this land to be peaceful and tolerant, to speak up for those who are attacked by Hindutva fascist forces.

A 20th century German Protestant pastor named Martin Niemoeller is widely credited with having penned a poem which generally goes as follows, although there are myriad versions thereof:

*“First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out  
Because I was not a Socialist.  
Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out  
Because I was not a Trade Unionist.  
Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out  
Because I was not a Jew.  
...”*

Let it not be said that we did not speak up when they came for John Dayal, for Irom Sharmila, Soni Sori, Dayamani Barla, Teesta Setalvad, Javed Anand, Perumal Murugan, Shabnam Hashmi, Kavita Krishnan, Priya Pillai and others too many to name.

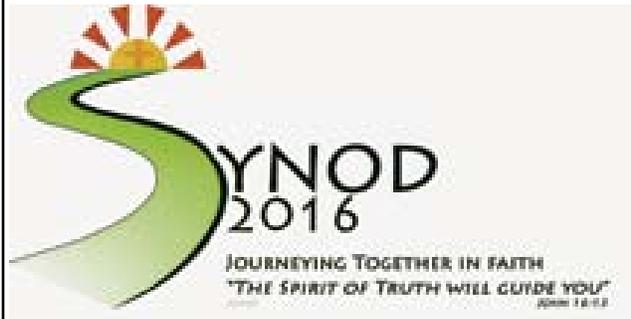
(This appeared in dailyo.in on Sept. 14, 2015)

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# Indians among 18 couples selected for family synod



The synod will have 166 members elected by national bishops' conferences, 22 heads of Eastern Catholic churches, 25 heads of Vatican congregations and councils and 10 heads of men's religious orders. The pope has appointed

Vatican City: A Catholic-Hindu couple from India is among 18 married couples Pope Francis has selected from around the world to attend the Synod of Bishops on the family scheduled for next month.

They are among more than 360 participants of the October Oct. 4-25 gathering.

The Vatican released the list of synod participants and papal appointees on Sept. 15.

Penny and Ishwar Bajaj from Mumbai are the Indians representing married couples at the historic meeting.

Other Indian participants are Cardinal Oswald Gracias, Archbishops Filipe Neri of Goa and Daman and Dominic Jala of Shillong and Bishop Selvister Ponnunmuthan of Punalur. They would represent the Latin rite in the country.

The Syro-Malabar Church representatives are Cardinal George Alencherry, Archbishop Andrews Thazhath of Trichur and Bishop Joseph Kallarangatt of Palai. The Syro-Malankara Church would be represented by its Major Archbishop, Cardinal Baselios Cleemis, who is also the president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India. Prof Jacob M Abraham, who was the president of the Malankara Catholic Association, will also attend the Synod, Church spokesperson Father Bovas Mathew told Matters India.

an additional 45 synod fathers to attend the meet, report agencies.

This ordinary synod will have more participants than the extraordinary synod that met for 15 days last year. The synod will have nine additional leaders of Eastern Catholic churches and six more “fraternal delegates” from the Orthodox, Anglican and Protestant communities.

The pope also named 45 voting members of the synod, 26 more than last year's. He also appointed 51 observers and 23 experts, including the 18 married couples. Last year, 38 observers and 16 experts, including 14 couples, attended.

Only one Asian is among the voting members appointed by the Pope. Nearly half of them are from Europe, 15 from the Americas, three from Africa and two from Oceania.

The papal appointees include Monsignor Pio Pinto, dean of the Roman Rota, a Vatican-based tribunal that deals mainly with marriage cases.

Among 51 observers and 23 experts appointed by the pope, the majority are laymen and laywomen, including 18 married couples. The 42 men and 32 women, who will not have voting rights, represent a more geographically diverse mix with fairly equal representation for Asia, Africa, the Americas and the Middle East, and a slightly higher number from Europe.

## Your Christ and My Christ

Pope Francis showed magnanimity when he announced at the World Retreat for Priests in June 2015 that the Catholic Church is open to the suggestion made by Coptic Orthodox Pope of having a common Easter date. Of course this gesture stems from the universal desire that all denominations unite to reestablish the glory of the Catholic Church as it existed before the 16th century when there was clamour for reform in the Roman Catholic Church. Half a millennium later we are still trying to find a common ground. During the interim, more and more denominations have mushroomed making Christianity the most fragmented religion in the world with thousands of sub-denominations and the number is increasing. Of course, the Catholic Church is the most dominant with 1.2 billion believers followed by the Protestants accounting for 800 million. Other important ones, being Eastern / Oriental Orthodoxy and Anglicans together account for 160-170 million. I am not sure if the uncompromising attitude of the Church in the middle of the second millennium was responsible for its fragmentation. The Church then was so very powerful that it could even decide who should be crowned kings in the European countries. In doing so, the Church succeeded in creating a lot of enemies who felt that it was digressing into areas which should be outside the domain of the Church.

There are many areas of differences on Scriptures, Authority, Creeds, Trinity, Jesus, Mary, Heaven, Purgatory, Hell etc. Some of these are very serious which may be hard to compromise on, especially for the Catholic Church. Yet, it is good that efforts are being made to first tackle the easier ones relating to dates rather than more substantive issues. Apart from Easter, Christmas also is celebrated on different dates. It hardly matters when Christ was born or resurrected. These are symbolic celebrations to remind the faithful of these important events in the life of Christ. The differences are far too many which may take decades for any meaningful discussion. A calibrated approach is called for with all sides keeping open minds. All the differences are man-made and not God-made and therefore it is really a matter of interpretation of

## VIEWS on NEWS

the Bible and other holy books.

There is a radical shift in the attitude of the Church especially with the present Pope Francis at the helm. He is keen to reach out to all segments and possibly with that in view, he has shown that he is not averse to changes so long as the basic issues of the Church remain unchanged. His call for tolerance on critical issues like divorce, abortion, and sexual orientation of the LGBT community, is a positive development which could pave the way for the unification of the Church. The Pope has his hand on the pulse of his people. He is a true realist. A few years back such liberal pronouncements could have invited widespread condemnation from the orthodox segment of the Catholic Church. The next decade or so will witness drastic changes which may include among others, dilution on the concept of celibacy.

\*\*\*\*\*

### One for the Road?

The Maharashtra Excise Minister deserves credit for his bold initiative in streamlining the 'Permit Raj' prevailing in the State in general and the City of Mumbai in particular. Generation of revenue should never be the sole aim of the government when it decides to enact a law except when it comes to a financial bill. It can be incidental while the primary objective should be deterrent for social good. The existing law, particularly requiring one day permit to have a small drink in a restaurant, is one such example.

The Minister has rightly decided to do away with this requirement. Imagine, you have a friend or a business associate whom you have invited and the restaurant staff approach you to complete the formalities for one day permit may be for you as well as your valuable guest. How embarrassing it would be! This was preposterous which showed the flawed thinking of the previous regime. The Minister has also decided that you can stock up to 12 bottles. This stipulation is unnecessary. One should be allowed to hold a reasonable quantity. It implies that every adult over 25 years with a permit can hold 12 bottles each. It is not clear if the permit is required to purchase, drink or to possess. What about liquor brought from duty free shops by those below 25 or non-permit holders?



by Marshall Sequeira

Is it liable for confiscation outside the airport?

That said, how many wine shops ever ask a buyer to produce the permit before they sell the required quantity. You can see people buying alcohol as freely as they buy mineral water or soft drinks. But you see one of the guys meticulously keeping a record of what is sold, perhaps to fulfill the scriptures [rules]. This is a farce. Today, as a part of marketing strategy, most vendors offer free home delivery. Does the delivery boy who carries all those bottles [exceeding 12] possess a permit? When he goes to deliver, does he ever ask the buyer if he or she is above the permissible age or collect the details of the permit? How ridiculous can we be?

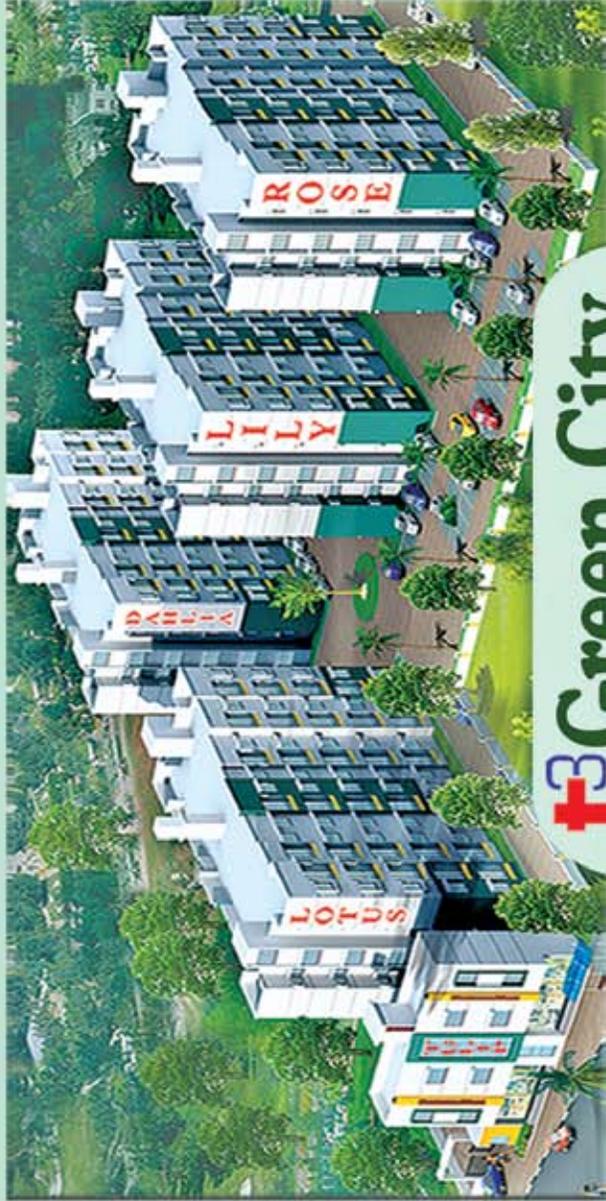
It is sad that the Minister did not factor the nexus between the vendors and the Excise department. How come the inspectors who visit such shops do not find any anomaly? Do they see vendors selling liquor without permits? No? The vendor is supposed to keep a record even if it is fabricated. Each vendor obviously holds a stock of some 'liquor permits' [hopefully genuine] and at the end of the day he simply quotes such permits against the 'cash memos' that he prepares at leisure. For the quantum that each vendor sells in a month, a dozen or two permit holders must be making the bulk of the purchases.

If the present government wants [hopefully] a corruption free administration, such archaic laws like the 'permit for buying' liquor should go. So long as you have fixed the minimum age for purchase of liquor, the requirement of a permit should be dispensed with. In fact, there was a proposal some years ago to sell wine over the counter [OTC] as a boost to local wineries. In fact even mild beers should be sold in super markets etc. Of course the liquor vendors will not take it kindly and there are enough bureaucrats to support them for obvious reasons. Will the Excise Minister have a second look at the entire gamut of the licensing system?



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## Teachers have to be visionaries...



**O**ur former President, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam has beautifully said, “If you are a teacher in whatever capacity, you have a very special role to play because more than anybody else it is you who are shaping the future generation”. Indeed, these words aptly highlight the significant role bestowed upon a teacher to play in students’ life. Today, we see the world changing day by day and our society is not the same. There are paradigm changes in the segment of education worldwide and these changes have also drastically influenced changes in the role of a teacher. Teaching and learning process is also evolving and therefore teachers cannot afford to remain attached to their old-fashioned methods. Today, the teacher is called to be a facilitator and a guide in the entire teaching-learning process.

With technology pervading the present education system, teachers today are left with no other options other than to equip themselves adequately. Teachers have to be visionaries, information and technology savvy to cope up with high expectations of the students, with multiple tasks of teaching, researching and being the resource persons in consonance with the changing times. However, in this context, it is relevant to remember what Bill Gates has beautifully stated, “Technology is just a tool. In terms of getting the kids working together and motivating them, the

teacher is the most important.” It is a teacher who can prepare our youth to face the future with confidence, purpose and responsibility. I strongly believe that while technology does its bit, teachers as facilitators add the desired human touch and instill values for holistic development and uplift the essence of education.

September 5th, the birth anniversary of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, is a special day that is dedicated to all our beloved teachers to remember and thank them for their sacrifice for the humanity. On this day, one can look back, admire and get inspired by the lives of teachers that have influenced thousands of minds. In the present globalized world, the youngsters are faced with lots of challenges. They need to be instructed and inspired in order to reach their potential growth and development. Today’s teacher has a tremendous responsibility to reinvent her/himself to be able to assist carefully every child helping them integrate their social, emotional, and intellectual growth arousing their natural curiosity to develop a love for learning. On this teachers’ day, I would like to leave you with what Dalai Lama has wonderfully said, “When educating the minds of our youth, we must not forget to educate their hearts.” Wishing you a very Happy Teachers’ Day!

—**Grace Pinto**, Managing Director  
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## Thanksgiving



Thanks to Divine Mercy, Our Lady of Vailankani, Our Lady of perpetual Succor and St. Anthony

—**Rita Gomes, Pune**

# Pornography or Fantasy

by Don Aguiar

Respect for life gets viewed through a religious and cultural filter, and the categorization or arrangement of human preferences has more to do with what religion or cultures choose to privilege from time to time. It is always possible to find ways to justify what we need, sometimes by constructing arguments that are designed to win and at other times, by simply ignoring inconvenient truths. In this case, does pornography do well for humanity or does religious repression of pornography do well for humanity, whose viewings are curtailed, and whose is systematically planned, what gets viewed and what doesn't — all these questions get religious or culturally convenient answers.

The religious / Catholic clergy are in a league of their own. Their sense of timing is as impeccable as their commitment to humanitarian causes. They go about their spiritual and charity work, with equal efficiency and zeal, shunning cheap publicity, like so many others, and who never fail to cash in on their so called "good deeds" like by presently showing concern in the Mumbai newspaper and other community forms about pornography which they quote -

The Catechism defines pornography as "removing real or simulated sexual acts from the intimacy of the partners, in order to display them deliberately to third parties"

The Catechism gives three reasons why pornography is wrong and sinful: **First**, pornography offends against the virtue of chastity. Called to lead a chaste life, each Christian must respect the sanctity of his own human sexuality, which involves the integration of his physical and spiritual being.

**Second**, pornography offends the dignity of the participants (actors, vendors, the public). Each one is exploited himself or exploits others in some way for personal pleasure or gain. In all, the dignity of the human being— whether the person posing, the person producing, the person distributing, or the person enjoying— is debased.

Finally, those who engage in pornography immerse themselves in a fantasy world, withdrawing from reality. While genuine love always involves a self-giving of oneself for the good of others, pornography entices a person to withdraw into a selfish world of perverted fantasy which may later be acted out to the detriment of oneself and others. This problem has increased dramatically, since the internet offers "virtual reality" sexual interaction.

Four progressive effects of pornography:

(1) Addiction, where the need to view pornographic materials leads to a loss of free control over behavior;

(2) Escalation, where the person delves into progressively harder pornography, usually to attain the same level of sensation and arousal;

(3) Desensitization, whereby the user is no longer morally sensitive to the shocking, illegal, repulsive, perverted, or immoral quality of the material, but instead views it as acceptable and begins to look upon others as objects; and

(4) Acting out, where the fantasizing becomes overt behavior.

If dominant wisdom holds true then all men look at pornography – irreligious and religious. The world is made up of two different kinds of guys – those who are turned on by porn and those who are really, really turned on by porn. If a guy tells you he's impervious to smut, the truth is, for reason moral, religious or masochistic he has chosen never to look at it, he is afraid of his own sexuality or he's lying. But is it true that all men look at pornography, at least occasionally, throughout their lives?

Most men clearly remember the first time they saw pornography. For boys on the cusp of puberty, porn is a right to passage, an entrée into adulthood, and a peep into the world of woman. In the pre-internet days, at least, boys often passed around pornography at summer camp and circulated it in the

**Kiss a woman and she closes her eyes, because .... the kiss in her interiority, she wants to absorb it. And man wants to see what is .....; his interest is other-directed. Hence man has always remained interested in ..... But pornography is not a natural phenomenon – you have to be reminded of that again and again – it is a religious phenomenon.**

locker room during junior high. Whether the first glimpse delights or disgusts, most men are quickly socialized to look at pornography as teenagers. An undergraduate student remembers first encountering pornography when fifteen and says porn gave him a sense of what's out there and exposed him to the kind of stuff enjoyed in real life. It was eye opening and a real education.

Men who like pornography don't seem to understand men who don't and vice versa. Each group suspects the other, in its own way, of being somehow sexually subversive.

In a primitive natural state man is not pornographic. When human beings are naked, man knows the woman's body and woman knows the man's body, and you cannot sell Playboy. It is impossible.

(Contd.. on p. 16)

(Contd.. from p.15)

Who will purchase Playboy?

The whole credit goes to the religious establishment. They have repressed so much that man's mind is boiling. The man wants to see the woman's body. Nothing wrong in it, a simple desire, a human desire. And the woman wants to know the man's body. A simple desire, nothing wrong about it.

It is said that – Pornography is a by-product of your so-called religions. It is a religious phenomenon – because of our religious people that pornography exists. And it is not a new thing; it is as ancient as man. Khajuraho, Konarak, Puri, what are they?

Pornography in sculpture and you can go to the ancient most caves and you will always find pornography of some kind or other. You can look into folk literature, folk songs, folk stories, and you will always find them pornographic.

Pornography itself has changed radically over the last twenty years In Christian corners and enclaves of the social Right; outcry occasionally emerges and is ignored by the mainstream as so many Puritans in search of the next Salem. Else when talking about pornography today, one hears complacencies and certainties such as –

- Porn is harmless; it's just looking at pictures. What's wrong with fantasy?
- If we women want to be naked and be proud of our bodies, what's the problem? We are in control and it's our choice.

- All men look at porn. It's human nature – men are biologically programmed to be visually stimulated.

- If you believe in civil liberties and freedom of press, you've got to be in favor of porn.

We see women being objectified everywhere – advertisements, movies, fashion magazines. Pornography is no different – and there's nothing that can be done about it anyway. We hear these arguments all the time. After all pornography has been around in one form or another for as long as "the oldest profession" has been in working order

The problem today is that the porn that is on display is not cast in ideals of humanity that shape the thought of the very human that it purports to support. It teaches people to use others as "objects"--in this case, a means of selfish, lustful gratification as some relationships look wobbly from the start, blighted by ego clashes, trust deficit and turf wars. It is an aggressive display that takes a refined moral ideal and converts into a blunt device to mark for selfish gratification. It legitimizes a particularly virulent form of self-righteousness, and represents a weaponised form of discrimination.

Woman frequently ask - What is it man and some women like so much about porn? It is a complex question, without any absolute answers. Humans have viewed porn since the beginning of time, so there is little historical basis for thinking of not viewing porn as an absolute moral imperative." I know lots of guys into porn", some men say, "but I don't understand the appeal". Only those who look at pornography understand their reasons for doing so. Most have never had the chance to freely discuss what lies behind their pornography preferences, and it's only while talking about it that many begin to learn the answers themselves.

Although much has been learned about how social forces such as pornography can shape or direct men's sexual violence against women, few empirical data exist on how these forces impinge on women's attitudes and behavior. On the other hand, the religious quote the Catechism saying that pornography is an act of spiritual adultery, which leads

to the spiritual disintegration of the person and may lead to physical adultery or other illicit sexual acts

Pornography is as old as the oldest profession has been in working order. Once the religious people come in, pornography comes as a shadow; it is bound to happen. And when you are taught to be life-negative you become afraid of talking about things frankly, authentically. You do not like to talk about sex, because what will people think about you?

You want to hide it. You try to create a facade – as if sex is nonexistent in your life. But deep down you are boiling. Deep down, you are thinking of sex twenty-four hours a day. Modern psychological surveys say that each man thinks about sex at least once every three minutes. And this is about the irreligious, remember, so what to say about the religious?

They must think about sex every three seconds! Women think about sex once every seven minutes – that is a gap between man and woman. That's why women can pretend more that they are far higher, that they are not concerned, that this whole ugliness of sex is man's creation. They are superior beings. But the difference is only of four minutes. The man has to go on persuading them"Four minutes more," that's all.

Hence the man has to go into a kind of foreplay. Before he can persuade a woman to be normal, to be healthy, at least four minutes' foreplay is needed. And because man is the aggressive sex, because man's energies are aggressive energies and the woman is the receptive sex that too makes a great difference.

Man has to take the initiative. The woman can pretend:"I am not running after you."

Bill Thorsten and his wife were arguing, and Bill said, "It must have been the most unfortunate moment in my life when I married you."

The woman said,"But I was not running after you."

Bill said, "That is true. No mousetrap ever runs after the mouse. The mousetrap simply waits; the mouse comes itself."

(Contd.. on p. 17)



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**(Contd.. from p.16)**

That is true: mouse or Bill Thorsten – it makes no difference. Because women are receptive, they are a little cold. Man is hot. And because women are the receptive sex they are not much interested in pornography – because the most aggressive part in man's or woman's body is the eye.

There is a difference between men and woman's eye – not a physiological difference of course but something very deep and psychological. Man's eye is aggressive, woman's eye is receptive. Hence the woman is not very interested in pornography.

Moreover, man's sex has something of extroversion in it and woman's sex has something of introversion. Whenever you are making love to a woman she will close her eyes, because when you are making love to a woman she is not so interested in you; she is much more interested in what is happening inside her. She closes her eyes. She enjoys the feeling that you trigger in her innermost being.

But man is more interested in looking at what is happening to the woman. He wants to keep the lights on. Not only that: there are a few really religious people who keep automatic cameras in their bedrooms to take pictures so that later on also they can enjoy what was happening. Man is more interested in seeing what is happening to the woman and less interested in his own inner feelings.

Kiss a woman and she closes her eyes, because she wants to taste the kiss in her interiority, she wants to absorb it. And man wants to see what is happening to the woman; his interest is other-directed. Hence man has always remained interested in pornography. But pornography is not a natural phenomenon – you have to be reminded of that again and again – it is a religious phenomenon.

Because religious people have been so much against sex, man has been repressing it. And when you repress anything too much it is bound to assert itself in subtle ways, in hidden ways, in such ways that you will not even be

consciously aware of what you are doing. It will start moving in your unconscious mind.

Hence the tremendous interest in the woman's body. Pictures, statues, movies – basically, they are all either directly or indirectly pornographic. Unless there is something of sex in it you are not interested. Sex and murder are essential for a film to succeed, for a story to be read, for a fiction to be enjoyed. Strange! Sex and murder – why are they connected? They are connected: if you repress too much you become murderous.

In fact, murdering somebody is a perverted act of sex. Man wants to enter the body of the woman. If he is not allowed to, he will start finding any possible way to enter the other's body. He will become homosexual; if he cannot find a woman then he will find a man. If he cannot find a man, he will find animals.

If that too becomes difficult then he will start creating rubber women, plastic women which you can keep in your bag so that whenever you need the woman, you just pump her up a little. And if there is no possibility at all, he becomes enraged. Sex energy repressed becomes anger, it becomes murderous.

In fact, psychologists say that all our weapons are nothing but symbols, metaphors, for the genital male organ – they are a thrust into the other's body. Our bayonets, our bullets, our swords – they are nothing but another offshoot of life-negative religions. Now, politicians were also interested in repressing sex for this reason, for this very purpose: if people's sex is repressed they can easily be made to kill others and be killed by others.

So does the virtue of chastity be in a position to uphold itself among the irreligious and religious. We are living in such cynical and confusing times. Token disregard for humanity and their freedom of conscience and expression, by the religious, for the repression of pornography, by ignoring the fact that this is an obviously flawed view, of keeping with the virtue of chastity or the idea of maintaining purity in the face of religious contaminants - these are all markers of religious identity rather than universal humanity which have similarly little to do with the respect for human-

ity and everything to do with issues of religion and power. Pornography is the by-product of religious repression. The whole credit goes to the religious people. This whole foolishness is out of religious repression.

To make pornography a religious or cultural fault line is dangerous, given its nature. To disallow pornography in the name of religion, culture or sentiment has unlike the case of other freedoms like the right to expression and freedom of conscience no other intention but to draw repression. To use porn as a sign of disdain is to distort everything that it stands for and turn what is potentially a complex moral dilemma into social interactions which will go through a gigantic churn, seriously damaging long term relationships and endangering future ones. Negotiating shark infested waters these days is a huge challenge for people who merely want to get on with their lives without constantly looking over their shoulders or watching their tracts.

Is the only possible solution then to this concern of the religious/Catholic clergy to "live like a hermit?" The unadulterated joy of meeting likeminded people and exchanging news and views has been vitiated by religious distortion and power. This is such a sad reflection of rapidly shifting dynamics for religious repression and power. It is time to turn to a beautiful and inspiring Jain tradition that marks the end of "Patyushan". This is what I received from a young and wonderful gentleman: "As human beings it is practically impossible not to make mistakes, but to realize the mistakes, and ask for forgiveness is the least one can do".

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# Coconut Milk Chutney



## Ingredients

Coconut milk - 1 cup  
Curry leaves - 2 strands  
Garlic - 1 clove  
Ginger - Pea sized piece  
Green Chili - 2  
Cilantro - handful  
Turmeric Powder - a pinch  
Salt - to taste  
Mustard Seeds - 1/4 tsp  
Cumin seeds - 1/4 tsp

## Method

- Prepare the coconut milk to the desired consistency. If you are using store bought coconut milk, dilute it with water.
- Crush one strand of curry leaves, cilantro, cumin seeds green chilies, garlic and ginger using a mortar and pestle. You can also finely chop everything and use it as such without crushing.
- Heat oil in a pan, splutter the mustard seeds and the remaining curry leaves.
- Add the ground mixture and fry for a minute.
- Add the coconut milk along with the required salt and turmeric powder.
- Simmer it for 2-3 minutes and switch off. Do not boil it.

This chutney goes excellent with apam and idiappam.

# Best Currency Conversions

**M**any of us can only afford a vacation annually hence it's even more important to ensure you get the best price possible when you're changing your hard-earned cash into foreign currency

May it be a family vacation trip or a business trip abroad., it is advisable to plan about currency conversion. Between commissions, credit card surcharges, ATM fees and goodness knows what else, you'll almost always have to pay a little extra for the privilege of exchanging one currency for another. But how can you minimise these expenses and get the best exchange rate when travelling in a foreign country. Let's take a look at some of the options available for currency conversion.

## Local Banks

The rates given at local banks are usually decent, although keep in mind that one of two things can happen. If the exchange rate given is determined purely by supply and demand, then you will end up with a price that is close to what is being quoted in the foreign exchange market globally ("market price"). The other alternative is that the government of the country you are in sets the currency exchange rate, which must be offered by anyone who is changing money. Regardless, local banks are often a convenient and relatively low-cost option for changing money. It is advisable to carry a copy of passport and visa while visiting a bank for currency exchange.

## ATMs

If you would rather not carry large sums of cash, ATMs are a convenient way to obtain local currency at a reasonable exchange rate. Keep in mind that your withdrawal may be subject to a fee, so check with your bank before leaving

## Credit Cards

Generally credit cards offer the most favorable exchange rates for changing money, since credit card companies have access to better rates than individuals. Be careful when using the credit card if your home currency is falling-

since the transactions are not converted instantly, there is a possibility that you will end up with a less favorable conversion rate a few days later. Normally, charges made using credit cards in foreign currency can take two to three working days to get posted on the card, this creates confusion about the available credit on the card and user might end up spending more money than his card limit.

## Hotels and Airports

There are some hotels around the world which offer currency exchange service to their customers. Similar service is also offered by some airports and airline counters inside several airports around the world. While hotel and airport exchange may seem convenient, beware of high transaction charges. Generally experts advise avoiding exchanging money at a hotel unless you have no other choice. Currency conversion counters at airports offer currency conversion at affordable rates compared to hotels. However it is advisable to clearly ask about charges involved before processing the transaction in order to avoid any lurking expenses.

## CURRENCY

As a traveler, your main concern will be getting the most favorable rate possible. A commonly asked question is: should I convert now, or will my money be worth more when I go abroad? Unless your trip is months away, the answer is that it probably will not make much of a difference.

Understand the process so that you get the best deal. If you've never exchanged currency before, it's a good idea for you to understand a bit about the process so that you don't get any expensive surprises. The general idea is that you'll find a business that exchanges currency, and they'll give you the currency that you want in exchange for a small fee (plus, obviously, the amount of money you want changed). Now, in addition to this, it's important to understand that some currencies are worth more than others.

# Inspiration!

## Respecting others faith

*Your religion is a big part of your life. It influences your attitude. By making new friends, learning about other religions and living what you are taught are ways to confirm your own beliefs.*

**J**ust because you are religious doesn't mean you have to be constantly serious. There are ways to still be a good member of your congregation, while being a good-natured member of your community. Here are some examples.

### 1. Live your religion

The number one thing you can do to be faithful in your religion is to live it. I am not aware of any religion that tells us to think of ourselves as better than others not of our faith, to be disrespectful or mean, or to judge and attack others. On the contrary; we are told to love one another, to be kind to our neighbors and to serve our friends. Living what you are taught in church is the best way to honor your religion. It helps us be the best type of person that others can appreciate without even knowing what church you belong to. It is not necessary to precede every action by first explaining what religion you are.

### 2. Respect others

Some people feel that people who are super religious only respect those of the same religion. Prove these people wrong. Respect everyone. Be open to talking about what you believe, but don't close up as soon as someone else shares their ideals. Be respectful and treat them as you would hope they treat you as you share your beliefs.

### 3. Be open to new ideas, cul-

### tures and people

Again most, if not all religions, preach that whatever Deity they believe in is color blind. They do not care if you are black, white, brown, male, female, old, young, rich, poor, American, Chinese, Latino or European; they just love you for who you are. Be open to learning about new ideas, people and cultures. Love people for their good parts and try and see how your own life can change for the better by observing others. Just because someone believes something different from what you do does not mean they have nothing to teach you.

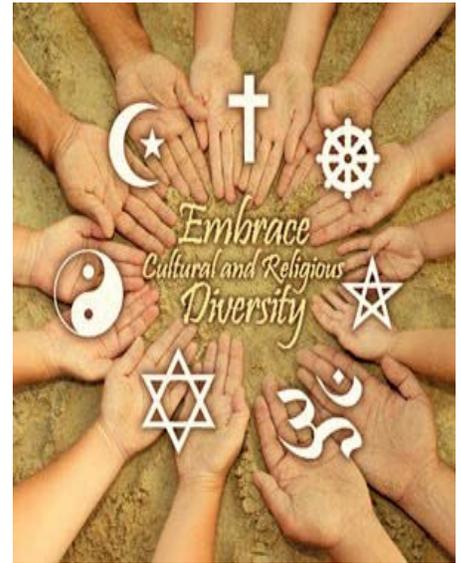
### 4. Be happy

One way to be serious about your religion, yet light about life, is to be happy. You may have trials and tribulations, but a positive outlook can change how you view your situation. Just because something negative is happening to you does not give you the right to blame your unhappiness on your religion or even the actions of others. Take responsibility for your own happiness. Find the good in every situation and remember even when you are at your lowest point, there is still hope and someone there who loves you and will never leave you.

### 5. Don't preach all the time

At times it is tempting to turn every situation into a sermon. This can get annoying to your friends who do not share your beliefs. Sometimes a friend just needs you to be a friend and not a spiritual adviser. This does not mean you have to check your religion at the door and never let it influence the advice you give, but rather it means that you can be friends with someone without the need to convert them to your religion.

### 6. Don't isolate yourself from others



It is easy to only socialize with people of your same religion. Lots of congregations have their own activities, celebrations and groups that get together on a regular bases. It is simple to stay within this circle and not make friends with others, but that is only limiting yourself. You could be missing out on some great friendships if you do not venture outside of your religion. Don't think that those who do not share your religion cannot be friends with you, even if you tend to disagree about religion. It can be a topic you do not bring up, or something you can agree to disagree about. If you cherish the person, focus on what you do have in common rather than what you don't.

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# Grooms



# MATRIMONIALS

**MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 30 years, Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 62 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.Sc. B.Ed., Teacher by profession. Only Child. Seeks preferably Goan teacher with B.Ed., qualification. Contact email : agnesmeneze107@gmail.com OR 9821315887 **(Regd. No. 6419)**

**6418. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 32 years, Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 90 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., (Chemistry), working as a Deputy Manager. Contact email : pradeep.bashyal@gmail.com OR 9819733872 **Regd. No. 6418)**

**MUMBAI :** Mumbai born, Mangalorean RC Bachelor 40, handsome, Post Graduate, good family background. Financially well established, very practical, having own business and flat in Mulund. Fair Complexion, Height 5' 9", Built on heavy side. Looking for a spinster who is willing to be his Life Partner. Send full details and latest photograph by email : amithanand@theoremsol.in **(Regd. No. 6416)**

**MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 33 years, Ht. 5' 5", Wheatish Complexion, Edn. HSC / Diploma in Optometry, working as a Sales Professional. Contact email : picardosimon@gmail.com OR 9819403252 **(Regd. No. 6404)**

**MUMBAI:** Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 37 years, Ht. 5' 6", good looking XII Pass, presently working as Share Broker having own bungalow accommodation at Bandra Mumbai also getting good regular monthly rent seeks a good looking RC Spinster. Call 9167372840 Contact email : pintolazarus2012@gmail.com **(Regd. No. 6393)**

**MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 35 years, Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 75 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Graduate, working as a Manager in Cruise Line. Contact email : oszy\_2001@yahoo.com OR

9833944206 **(Regd. No. 6385)**

**MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 34 years, Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 64 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. HSC, working as a Script Writer. Seeks a suitable match. Contact email : roydandsilva@gmail.com OR 28815914 **(Regd. No. 6384)**

**MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 32 years, Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 65 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as an Asst. Retail Manager in Cruise Lines. Contact email : denzil.l.pinto@yahoo.co.in OR 9167613412 **(Regd. No. 6376)**

**MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 29 years, Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 85 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MCS, working for IT Company in U.S.. Seeks a suitable match. Contact email : marconacruz58@gmail.com OR 9930630927 **(Regd. No. 6373)**

**MUMBAI :** TAMILIAN RC Bachelor, aged 27 years, Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 72 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., LLB., Advocate by profession. Seeks a educated, working girl from good family background. Contact email : robint9@gmail.com OR 9869020707 **(Regd. No. 6372)**

**MUMBAI :** Mangalorean RC Bachelor aged 41 years. 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)**

**PUNE :** TAMILIAN RC Bachelor aged 42 years, Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 62 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Diploma Mech, Engg., Working for Govt. Concern. Well settled. Seeks a simple, qualified girl. Contact email : berland@rediffmail.com OR 9822397126 / 8097191727 **(Regd. No. 6191)**

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

**MUMBAI :** Christian Bachelor aged 37 years, Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 85 kgs, Fair Complexion, handsome, Edn. B.Tech, Director in Software based MNC. Seeks a beautiful, cultured, well qualified girl. Contact email : adelsib2@yahoo.com OR 9324511174 **(Regd. No. 6187)**

**MUMBAI :** East Indian RC Bachelor aged 30 years, Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 78 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. BMM, MBA, working as a Manager. Seeks a simple, intelligent, qualified, family oriented girl. Contact email : bombayite84@gmail.com OR 9224444833 **(Regd. No. 6186)**

**PUNE :** Goan RC Bachelor aged 29 years, Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 65 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., MBA Finance, Pursing LLB., working as a Purchase Accountant. Sober, understanding, Seeks a homely, loving girl. Contact email : v\_dsouza00777@yahoo.com OR 9049912489 **(Regd. No. 6183)**

**MUMBAI :** Goan RC Bachelor, aged 32 years, Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 70 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBA in Banking, working as a Auditor. Seeks a good natured, family oriented, smart, ambitious girl. Contact email : conrad\_rodrigues@rediffmail.com OR 26454896 / 65178959 **(Regd. No. 6178)**

**MUMBAI :** Goan RC Bachelor, aged 36 years, Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 86 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Com., Position : Financial Consultant. Seeks a alliance from RC graduate/pst graduate spinster. Contact email : raceangelreb@yahoo.in OR 9821173681 **(Regd. No. 6172)**

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# MATRIMONIALS

**MUMBAI** : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 24 years, Ht. 5' 6", Well built, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Graduate, working as an Accounts Executive. Contact email: taureangirl1991@gmail.com Mob : 97690228336 **(Regd. No. 6420)**

**MUMBAI** : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 27 years, Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. C.A., working as a C.A. Seeks a Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor. Contact email : rosefina.20@gmail.com OR 9022026602 **(Regd. No. 6417)**

**MUMBAI** : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 28 years, Ht. 5', Wt. 46 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., MBA working as a HR. Contact email : picardo.princijaj@gmail.com OR 9833077789 **(Regd. No. 6406)**

**MUMBAI** : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 32 years, Ht. 5'5", Wt. 75 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. TYBA., working as a Receptionist. Contact email : mascarenhasprescilla@gmail.com OR 9930953353 **(Regd. No. 6405)**

**MUMBAI** : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 26 years, Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 54 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. MBA in Pharma Management, working as a Senior Process Associate at TCS. Seeks a well educated and well settled bachelor. Contact email : zenalobo89@yahoo.co.in OR 9833858842 **(Regd. No. 6392)**

**CANADA** : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 27 years, Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 67 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Sc. Microbiologist in Canada, working as a Microbiologist. Looking for a professionally qualified, well educated bachelor preferably working in Canada. Contact email : pintocrystina@gmail.com OR 9769818773 **(Regd. No. 6391)**

**AUSTRALIA** : Mangalorean RC parents seek alliance for their daughter 28 years, 5' 1", fair, BE in IT and working as software developer in Australia from professionally qualified RC bachelors, preferably working in Australia, kindly reply with detailed profile and photograph to email gracyfred84@gmail.com Mob : 9833149882 / 9819219544. **(Regd. No. 6390)**

**MUMBAI** : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 33 years, only child, Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 78 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Post Graduate, Hotel Management, studing. Contact email : p5659c@gmail.com OR 9930019677 **(Regd. No. 6389)**

**DUBAI** : Anglo Indian Roman Catholic Spinster, Only Child, aged 28 years, Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 62 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBA in Finance, working as a Finance Asst., Contact email : arwengretel24@gmail.com / hildafernandez11@gmail.com OR 9768401209 **(Regd. No. 6388)**

**POONA** : Mangalorean RC Divorcee having one son 7 years old, aged 36 years, Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 62 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., B.Ed., M.Ed., CIDTT, working for International School as a Teacher. Contact email : sheilashere@rediffmail.com OR 9527884542. **(Regd. No. 6387)**

**NAGPUR** : CNI Protestant Spinster, aged 31 years, Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 57 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Sc., Biotechnology. Contact email : shikhanath@yahoo.com OR 9422300753 **(Regd. No. 6383)**

**MUMBAI** : Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 27 years, Ht. 5' 4", Fair Complexion, Edn. SSC from iCSE board, B.A., working as a Sr. Accounts Manager - Public Relations with a private firm. Seeks a suitable match. Contact email : sfwedding88@gmail.com OR 9869361783. **(Regd. No. 6280)**

**MUMBAI** : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 29 years, Ht. 5' 7", Tan Complexion, Edn. H.S.C., working as a Sales Executive. Contact email : strawberry.angel1@gmail.com OR 7709216631 **(Regd. No. 6275)**

**MUMBAI** : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster aged 29 years, Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 51 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., coms, B.Ed., Teacher by profession. Contact email : violet\_361@yahoo.com OR 9969663045 **(Regd. No. 6273)**

**MUMBAI** : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 27 years, Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 58 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., I.T. working as a Software Engineer. Contact email : marialns123@gmail.com OR 9833659905 **(Regd. No. 6272)**

**MUMBAI** : Mangalorean Born again Christian Spinster, aged 28 years, Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M. Com., working in Dubai. Contact email : elle\_2k7@yahoo.co.on OR 00971-555404182 / 9833747558 **(Regd. No. 6271)**

**NEW PANVEL** : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, 32 years, Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., Working as a Sr. Accountant. Contact email : slobo2283@yahoo.co.in OR 9819643183 **(Regd. No. 6109)**

**MUMBAI** : Goan RC Divorcee, aged 42 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** : Mangalorean RC Spinster, aged 44 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)**

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**MUMBAI** : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 29 years, Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B. Pharma & MBA, working as an Asst. Manager. Seeks a Engineer or well settled and educated. Contact email : nisha.ferns@yahoo.com OR 9870399755 **(Regd. No. 6192)**

**MUMBAI** : Telugu Protestant Christian Spinster, aged 30 years, Ht. 5' 2", Fair Complexion, Edn. B.H. T.M.S., working as a F.O. Manager. Contact email : asmatrix82@gmail.com OR 8454083778 / 7506242266 **(Regd. No. 6182)**

**MUMBAI** : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 40 years, Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 44 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A., working as a Manager in Bank. Seeks a suitable match. Contact email : musikin@yahoo.com OR 9820023114 **(Regd. No. 6165)**

**MUMBAI** : Roman Catholic Divorcee, 1st marriage is annulled by the church, having one grownup son, well settled, Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 60 kgs, fair complexion, pretty, aged 55 years, looks much younger to her age, Edn. SSC., Hair Styling and BeautyCare by profession. Seeks a suitable match having a good personality and good health. Contact email : psvaz23@hotmail.com OR 9821970719 **(Regd. No. 6162)**

**MUMBAI** : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 32 years, Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 55 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Team Leader. Well settled. Contact email : goldielocks.2183@gmail.com OR 9820861212 / 66995774 **(Regd. No. 6157)**

**MUMBAI** : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 25 years, Ht. 5', Wt. 46 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, smart, Edn. LLB., Lawyer by profession. Seeks a educated, well settled bachelor from decent family background. Contact email : asm2983@gmail.com / vid\_suaris@yahoo.co.in OR 9820838128 **(Regd. No. 6156)**

**MUMBAI** : Maharashtrian Protestant

Spinster, aged 30 years, Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 56 kgs, Fair Complexion, Good looking, Edn. B.A., LLB., CS, Legal Advisor by profession. Seeks a suitable match. Contact email : dilipphan-salkar@gmail.com OR 9820434141 / 9930056602. **(Regd. No. 6155)**

**MUMBAI** : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 35 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** : RC Mangalorean Spinster, 27/5'2", Wt. 54 kgs, wheatish, B.Com., C.S., L.L.B., working as a teaching faculty for Law. invite alliance from well qualified and well settled bachelor with good family values upto 30 years Kindly reply with details and full length photograph to r.dsouza.co@gmail.com OR 9323925995 / 9699788876 **(Regd. No. 6350)**

**MUMBAI** : Anglo Indian Roman Catholic Spinster, 34 years, Ht. 5' Wt. 48 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, B.A., MBA/PG (HRM), working as Secretary, Seeks a suitable match. Contact email: smithjenny0407@gmail.com or 9819791693 / 9819610348 **(Regd. No. 6346)**

**MUMBAI** : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 28 years, Ht. 5'3", Wt. 58 kgs, Chocolate Complexion, Edn. B.A., Animation (Dip.). Contact email : profileb9@gmail.com **(Regd. No. 6342)**

**MUMBAI** : Protestant Christian spinster, aged 30 years, Ht. 5' 1", Wt. 58 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A., B.Ed., Teacher by profession Seeks a groom from well settled, educated and good family background. Contact email : georgethomas1353@yahoo.com OR 9819133154 / 9930310549 **(Regd. No. 6341)**

**MUMBAI** : East Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 27 years, Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 52 kgs, Fair Complexion, good looking, Edn. B.E.,(IT), working as a IT Engineer in MNC. Contact

email : cynthia.h@rediffmail.com OR 9969379432 **(Regd. No. 6261)**

**NAVI MUMBAI** : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 35 years, Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., presently working in U.K. Contact email : criscyalphonso@gmail.com OR 9594749903 **(Regd. No. 6258)**

**MUMBAI** : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 32 years, Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 63 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Sc. Nursing, working as a ICU Nurse in Abudhabi - UAE. Seeks a well educated Mangalorean Bachelor with good family values. Contact email: janydz\_1484@yahoo.com OR 9930076741 / 28918871. **(Regd. No. 6257)**

**DUBAI** : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 26 years, Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. BMS, MBA Finance, working as a Bank Officer in Dubai, Contact email : pdsouza.acb@gmail.com OR 08970986766 **(Regd. No. 6256)**

**KUWAIT** : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster aged 35 years, Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 58 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., Computer, Finance, Banking Marketing Course & Airlines Course completed, employed as a Travel Co-ordinator in Kuwait. Seeks a groom preferable working in Kuwait. Contact Email : lucy777p@gmail.com OR 00965-65686358 / 9867308911 **(Regd. No. 6255)**

**MUMBAI** : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 32 years, Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 70 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working for a Bank as a Team Leader. Contact email : diana\_lobo10@hotmail.com OR 9870111964 **(Regd. No. 6252)**

**MUMBAI** : Goan RC Spinster, 31 years, Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 56 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. MBA (Finance) working as a Payroll Administrator. Seeks a suitable match. Contact Email: audzze@hotmail.com / maggie\_maggue@hotmail.com OR 9869771255 **(Regd. No. 6097)**

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—A Devotee



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—N. M. T., Andheri (E)

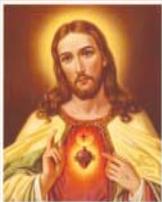


Thanks to  
**Infant Jesus**

for the favours granted

—A Devotee

## Thanksgiving



Thanks to Sacred Heart of Jesus & St. Jude for the favours granted



May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, loved, glorified & praised throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us. Sacred Heart of Jesus, Thy kingdom come. St. Jude worker of miracles pray for us. St. Jude helper of the hopeless pray for us. Amen, Say this prayer nine times a day for nine days.

— Ms. Felcy R. Noronha, Andheri

## Police find 'vital leads' in Kerala nun's murder

**Kottayam:** Two days after a Kerala nun was found lying in a pool of blood in her room on Thursday, police claimed to have unearthed vital leads about her murder.



Speaking to reporters after visiting the convent where Sister Amala was murdered,

Additional Director General of Police

K.Padmakumar, following a meeting of the probe team, said they have made a breakthrough in the case.

"We have managed to go forward and since it would hamper further probe we are unable to reveal more on the vital leads that we have gathered," said Padmakumar.

Police claim they have been able to identify that this has been done by someone who had the knowledge of the convent.

Meanwhile, Sister Amala's last rites were conducted near here by the church authorities led by bishops, priests, nuns and attended by the civil society besides leading politicians on Saturday morning.

Sister Amala, a retired nurse, was suffering from fever and was confined to her room. On Thursday morning, she was found lying in a pool of blood.

The post-mortem revealed that she was hit with a strong object on her head that led to her death.

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