

THE *SECULAR CITIZEN*

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The silent ethnic cleansing of Catholics in Goa



A peek into bureaucracy

Have you ever been to a government office to get something done? Here are some things that happen when you go to a government office to get something done.

Be it the passport office or just getting a license renewed, government offices are just UGH! Here are the stages you go through, starting from the time you get out of your home.

The false hope

You have this hope that your day is going to be good in the morning. You think you are going to the government office to get the work done in an hour. You also think that maybe you can get the work done early and go to the mall and spend that next half of the day chilling. But sadly, the hope gets crumpled soon.

Wastage of paper

You walk into the government office and the first thing you notice is huge piles of paper everywhere. Piles as high as the

Dubai Burj Khalifa towers. You wonder why. Didn't India go digital? Shouldn't everything be done on the internet?

Circle of counters

You ask for directions to the department you have to report to. You get an answer: "It's on the 3rd floor then take a right and then the first left and then look for the water cooler and hidden behind that is the door that you want." And then, you are thrown from one counter to another in an attempt



to get your work done.

Unending queues

When you finally manage to find where you have to be you see these queues everywhere. When you get to the counter the man says, it's the same line but because it is so long, it feels like there are multiple lines. Now for the task of finding the end of that line, the time you take to find it, the line already grows to at least three kilometres.

Multiple forms

You somehow stood in that line and walked the 3 kilometers to the end that is the counter. Behind that counter is the guy who will bombard you with stupid questions and name a number of forms you haven't filled. You stand right on the counter and fill that form right there while people grumble and curse at you for taking their time up.

Today you are going to the government office to get the work done. You took a special leave after bargaining with your boss, but it's gonna be totally worth it. Maybe you can get the work done early and go to the mall and spend the next half of the day chilling. But when you reach there your day turns into a day of disappointments.

Even after you fill that out and give it to the man at counter, the man will still find out faults and take up even more time. You are finally shoved out of the line and you go to a bench to sit and fill out the form.

Lunch break!

You fill everything that is there, more than you filled your answer sheets back in school and some-

how make it again to the counter.

And, just when you reach it, the clerk behind the counter puts an old wooden sign that says "LUNCH".

Last attempt!

After the lunch you hurry back to the counter but see that they have stopped accepting the forms for the day and shut the windows. You call your parents, try to talk to the officials to take your form and many more. But everything fails. Finally you are left with no other choice than to come the next day.

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The frustrating experience at the government office:

At the government office, hours crawled by and nothing happened. No one would accept my application... Finally, in utter desperation, I called a friend, a senior official in the ministry, and asked for his help. His intervention immediately changed things, and within minutes I heard my name being called. I sailed through the sea of red tape and my application was lodged within 15 minutes.

As I left the building I pitied those waiting in the queue. They had nobody to help. I saw people from rural areas sweating it out; young women, intimidated by the sheer suffocating weight of the bureaucracy.

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'Thought for the week'

Holding onto anger is like drinking poison and expecting the other person die.

Contents

- pg. 2 - A peek into bureaucracy
- pg. 3 - Synod: The indissolubility of marriage ...
- pg. 4 - Know everything about Gmail app
- pg. 5 - Voice of the People
- pg. 6 - Community Sea Saw ...
- pg. 8 - The Silent ethnic cleansing of Catholics in Goa
- pg. 10 - In the Name of God!
- pg. 11 - This Land Is My Land
- pg. 14 - Before Starting A Relation
- pg 15 - Our Lady of the Rosary
- pg. 17 - The New Evangelization in Mark's Gospel
- pg. 18 - "Not As I Will, But As You Will"
- pg 19 - Inspiration!
- pg 20 - Matrimonials
- pg. 23 - Why has India Become so Expensive?

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(Article on pg. 8)

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Synod: the indissolubility of marriage, which "must be presented positively and not as a yoke"

Vatican City : Father Federico Lombardi, director of the Holy See Press Office, spoke at the end of the Synod's first week of work. He noted that the main topics were the family and mission, welcoming families that hurt, the indissolubility of marriage, which "must be presented positively and not as a yoke," and the family as a concrete path for the Church's presence in history, a path of the church, a school of humanity, sociality, and evangelisation.

In today's briefing, Fr Lombardi noted that 75 participants spoke yesterday and this morning, the largest contingent coming from Europe, 15 from Africa, another 15 from the Middle East, and slightly less from Latin America. He stated that the discussions touched upon "the family's missionary vocation – which is responsible, within the Church as well, of preparing [people] for marriage, and for the support of other families – as well as on its contribution to the pastoral ministry of the family."

Participants looked at the vocation to marriage and family life, "seen as a response to God's call, no less than that of the priesthood or religious life," and noted the importance of movements and groups of family life.

"A lot of attention was given to the topic of mercy – which manifests itself in closeness and tenderness, as well as in relation to the difficult situations couples and families can experience – and to the relationship between mercy and truth, mercy and justice, and mercy and welcoming people. [This is] a real invitation not oppose mercy to truth."

"Mercy manifests itself in closeness and tenderness, in relation to different situations, even difficult ones, in which families or couples find themselves. However, we also have to keep in mind the matter of mercy and truth, mercy and justice, and not oppose mercy to truth. The Church must always insist on the way it welcomes everyone, every family, including those who may be in distress. It must proclaim the Gospel and embrace people. Hence, this leads to a synthesis between evangelisation and welcoming people, which must be the point of reference for the pastoral ministry."

Some participants centred their interventions on "families with spouses from

(Contd.. on p. 4)

(Contd.. from p. 3)

different religions, and on migrations". A married couple, Catholic wife and a Hindu husband, relayed their own story to illustrate the reality of mixed marriages.

Speaking at the briefing, Card Basilio Cleemis Thottunkal brought up the experience of the Indian Church. India, he said, encourages family ties; one more person is not a burden but a blessing. But "How do families survive?" he asked. Families, he answered, "do not survive because they are social entities but because they are a spiritual force."

Card Thottunkal also noted that it would be appropriate to provide a stronger voice to local Churches. Hence, he mentioned a proposal of organising continental synods in preparation for the next universal synods, through regional meetings.

"The discussion should always start at the local level in order to take root at the universal level," he explained. "The outcome of the conference could thus be more understandable and concrete."

"The simplest solution," said Fr Javier Alvarez-Ossorio, superior general of the Congregations of the Sacred Hearts, who was present at the briefing, "would be to start discussing at the level of bishops' conferences or even at that of the diocese and then talk about it at the synod level."

Noting that the former "is a proposal, not an item on the agenda," Father Lombardi went on to say that many participants asked to speak on the third and final part of the Instrumentum laboris, which is the longest and most articulated, for it addresses long-awaited issues.

Finally, in response to journalists' questions, he said that it is not yet clear if the Synod's final document will be published. "On the conclusion, there is still no complete clarity in the Synod," he explained. "We shall see if the Pope gives precise indications." (FP) (AsiaNews) –

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Know everything about Gmail app

After adding support for IMAP, POP, and Exchange, plus a ton of features to manage and control your email, we recommend Gmail to manage all your email accounts—even non-Google-y ones—on Android. Gmail

Platform: Android

Features:

- Supports IMAP, POP, Exchange/Outlook, Yahoo Mail
- Unified inbox
- Archive, star, and label messages
- Block and unsubscribe from email addresses
- Mute threads
- Archive, delete, or reply to emails from notifications
- Sort messages by importance
- Set vacation responder
- Only allow attachment downloads over Wi-Fi to save mobile data

Where It Excels:

Gmail app also comes with a few handy bonus tools. You can block a sender if you're getting harassed by a person or unsubscribe from a mailing list if you're getting harassed by a company. Both are available as regular menu buttons, so they're easier to access than creating a filter or digging for an unsubscribe button in tiny text at the bottom of the email.

You can also mute threads so you'll still receive emails, but you won't have to get notified every time. Gmail also allows you to reply or archive/delete (you can choose which in the app's settings) from the notification.

Where It Falls Short:

Gmail became popular for a reason, but it's still not perfect. You still can't remind yourself about an email later like you can with Boomerang (which unfortunately doesn't support POP or IMAP). There's also a lack of integration with calendar or to-do list apps.



While Gmail can do some intelligent things like add events to your calendar when you receive hotel or travel info, this seems limited to Gmail accounts.

The Competition:

Boomerang is a top alternative choice, if you can live with just Gmail and Exchange accounts. It allows you to quickly set reminders to check an email again at a certain time or place. You can also customize swipe gestures to get through your inbox more quickly.

Boxer was a close contender for the top spot. It has a built-in to-do list, support for most common email types, plus more notification actions than Google has.

Mailbox from Dropbox is another attractive option. You can snooze emails until later, mute conversations, and a built-in to-do list.

Microsoft has also entered the arena with Outlook. The app supports most Outlook, Exchange, Yahoo, iCloud, Gmail, and IMAP, plus you can integrate storage from OneDrive, Dropbox, and Box, which is pretty impressive.

Microsoft Office 2016 launched, may eventually replace email

Redmond-based technology major Microsoft globally launched its new suite of office applications – Office 2016 – which may just sound the death knell for email. It also throws down the gauntlet at Google's collaborative apps that run inside a browser.



Pope Francis on sanctity of marriage

The recent sacking of a gay priest from his post in Vatican's prestigious 'Congregation of the doctrine of the faith' and Pope Francis' homily on the opening day of the Synod defending the union between man and woman, and the family as "God's dream for his beloved creation, as in Genesis", makes it more than clear that the Catholic church is in no mood to recognize same-sex unions as marriage and to budge from its traditional doctrine that only marriage between man and woman can fulfill the requirements of a sacrament. This may come as a disappointment for the millions of Catholics (even in Catholic countries) who have been on the warpath, agitating for recognition of X-Spam-Subject: YES X-Spam-Subject: YES same-sex marriages by the Catholic church, buoyed by Pope Francis' sympathetic attitude towards homosexuals and his "who am I to judge" earlier sound bite on the issue. The final decision however will be known only after the conclusion of the Synod, but as of now the mood appears to be non-confrontational.

—A. F. Nazareth, Alto Porvorim

It hurts our religious sentiments

'Agnes of God', is an adaptation of the American playwright John Pielmeier's play about a nun giving birth to a child. The nun claims of an Immaculate Conception which is a wrong portrayal to the whole Catholic/Christian community worldwide.

The play questions the pure sacrifice of nuns who became saints. It is also a shameful mocking to the Blessed Virgin Mary who is the mother of Jesus Christ. It is not a big deal here for many authorities to understand the pure outcomes of the Catholic/Christian Church and its priests. The play hurts the religious sentiments of the Catholic/Christian community and God Himself. Every religion aims God and so there should be a mutual understanding between the people which brings peace and love to all.

—Jubel D'Cruz, Dombivili

On naming our children

Regarding giving Christian names to children at Baptism, Pope Benedict XVI had suggested that parents give Christian names, since he was speaking to Catholics in Rome, in the context of European culture (Secular Citizen, 30 Sept., '15). He was not making this suggestion to Catholics living in other cultures. Actually, in his homily, he was expressing his concern over Catholics in the West giving names which do not respect the human dignity of the child as a 'person' created in the image and likeness of God. Many names, nowadays, tend to treat a child as an object, a commodity or a pet. Such names would change the attitude of people to the child and would also give the child a very poor self-image. The Pope felt that the name given should provide the child with a worthy role-model or with an ideal for the child to pursue in order to better attain its eternal destiny and live a meaningful human life. He would surely not have objected to meaningful names in various languages, like so many Sanskritized names

being used in India, which respect the child as a person and do not reduce him/her to an object or commodity. In other religions too we find that children are mostly given very meaningful names or names of their gods, saints and heroes. On the other hand, we do find that today many Christian parents are giving their children ridiculous or meaningless names, which often embarrass the helpless children. For example, in Meghalaya where I was teaching Garo college students for 3 years, I found a large number of Christian students having names like: PemPem, Phomphydow, Maythirdborn, Greatbirth, Happibirth, Eightbirth, Hammer, Screwdriver, Shainingstar, Wind, Chelsea, Barcelona, Ellora, Brilliant, Tengpot, etc., etc. These parents could surely have been given some guidance by their respective Church authorities while giving names to their children. Unfortunately, most of these names were to be found among Catholics. What kind of pre-baptismal catechesis do they receive? Pope Benedict showed prophetic courage in addressing this and many other sensitive and vital issues regarding worship, morality and violence, which he knew was sure to make him unpopular, but which was desperately needed to bring some clarity in our highly confused world, where, in the name freedom, subjectivism and total relativism are fast becoming the order of the day.

—Joseph M. Dias, S.J., Mumbai.

Infants go to SC asking for ban on crackers

Three infants created history by becoming the youngest petitioners ever to file a petition in the Supreme Court through their fathers demanding ban on firecrackers during Diwali and Dusshera. The young litigants, barely aged between six and 14 months, claimed that the air in Delhi was difficult to breathe and to make a bid for a cleaner air, it was necessary

(Contd.. on p. 6)

Community Sea Saw

by Don Aguiar

Perhaps this title/headline should be reworded “What’s Next....?” Whichever way one wants to look at it, the signs are pretty ominous. Having stated the obvious, I am consciously highlighting the distressing developments of the week (Agnes of God) and forcing myself to refocus on events that have made the members of our community confused at the sea saw going on at the highest level among our clergy.

There is a proper channel that certifies all plays. That channel has certified this play “Agnes of God”. This play has been seen in Mumbai and the world earlier. A Christian NGO wanted the play banned and also got the president of the Catholic Bishop Conference of India (CBCI), a Cardinal, to agree to their reason for wanting to



ban the play although neither of them had even seen the play before.

The producer did not imagine he would be faced with the possibility of a ban, life threats and sleepless nights for staging this play. The play is an important expression of a piece of art that has been in public domain for over five decades.

In a democracy everyone has a right to express dissent as long as you do it without violence, without breaking law and in fact there is nothing wrong with picketing outside the theatre, but you cannot override anyone’s right to watch the play. It is increasingly felt that what is happening in our society is not a healthy trend at all. We must respect the intellect of the theatre goers that is educated and can discern what is good or bad.

The write-ups / advertisements of this play are misleading as they cleverly use the word “Christian”, while we are dealing essentially with Catholic beliefs. The other denominations or non-denominational Christians do not have nuns and priests, who are celibate. What about Catholic hurt sentiments, which the Catholic Bishops Conference of India (CBCI) President, a Cardinal, so eloquently com-

plained about? One thing in which all religions are united is the right to get offended.

Everybody has the right to express dissent but first the requirement is that you should read the book or see the film or watch the play or read the write-ups/advertisements or whatever it is before you make up your mind. That is critical because anything that is pulled out of context can have a different meaning.

It is surprising and a cause of concern that WHILE the president of the CBCI, a Cardinal, addressed a letter to the Home Minister and others complaining about the Catholic hurt sentiments and wanting the play banned. On the other hand the Cardinal of Mumbai did not see it necessary for the play to be banned although he did not like the manner the play was advertised and portrayed and made it known to the concerned people.

The controversy over “Agnes of God” has exposed the sea saw going on in the community much to the amusement of the other communities, our government and our country at large which makes our community an easy

(Contd.. from p. 5)

to ban use of firecrackers that produce smoke during festivals” (TOI, 30/9/15)

What is true about Delhi is also true about Mumbai and other parts of India.

Can PM Modi give TV and newspapers advertisements asking people to abstain from bursting crackers during all religious festivals, especially Diwali. When PM has given huge ads on JAN DHAN YOJANA and GIVE UP GAS SUBSIDY, lacs of Indians responded. They will surely respond even to this appeal (abstain bursting crackers) and save not only crores of rupees but also environment.

See a touching letter to mummy and daddy on the harm of bursting crackers and an educational PPT -HAPPY GREEN DIWALI (ppt no.11) in the website – www.stfrancisxavierpanvel.in, GEM section.

—Fr Felix Rebello

(Contd.. on p. 7)

(Contd.. from p. 6)

target to exploit. It is because of a lack of unity, leadership and political clout that, Christian activists are struggling and the need for a second-rung leadership.

However it is felt that there is a concerted attempt to weaken Christian activists who are stepping on powerful vested interests - communal, political, business, satanic, etc.? How do we react? Passively? Or like Jesus did. He spoke out against injustice, against the structures of His time. The Church in temporal matters must encourage the laity with potential.

It is becoming anybody's case to pick up a handful of people and speak on behalf of the entire community or country or region. They are self appointed spokesmen of the community, country or region. This trend is unhealthy and does not auger well with our society. And it is happening by design and not in a benign kind of way. When you get a sanction of such behavior, a lot of fringe groups, NGO's can come up and use that as a way of getting into the limelight.

A Story goes thus. An ambitious person, was very much in need of popularity or in need of getting into the limelight; But since he was good for nothing, no one noticed him. By hook or crook he wanted to attract attention. He asked his friend, how he could be popular? How will people pay attention to him? Knowing his caliber, his friend advised him to go to a gathering where prominent people would be present and would be delivering intelligent speeches etc. while in the middle of the program, do what donkey does. Honk like a donkey, and everyone will forget about what is happening on the dais and turn to-

wards you. You will enjoy everyone's attention. This in a nutshell is what is happening in our community, country and region.

This controversy or debate over the play has been reduced to freedom of expression, as personal ego has got in the way of rational solutions and just a few in the community have sat back and thought how Christ would react in a given situation. The pigeons appear more down to earth than we humans and show us the way...

In an ancient temple, a number of pigeons lived happily on roof top. When the renovation of the temple began for the annual temple feast the pigeons relocated themselves to a Church nearby. The existing pigeons in the Church accommodated the new ones as well. Christmas was nearing and the Church was given a facelift. All the pigeons had to move out and look for another place.

They were fortunate to find a place in a Mosque nearby. The pigeons in the Mosque welcomed them happily. It was Ramadan time and the Mosque was repainted. All the pigeons came to the same ancient temple.

One day the pigeon on top found some communal clashes below in a market square. The baby pigeon asked the mother pigeon, 'who are these people'. The mother replied they are 'human beings'. The baby asked 'but why are they fighting with each other' the mother said 'these human beings going to temple are called 'Hindus' and the people going to Church are called 'Christians' and the people going to Mosque are called 'Muslim' .the baby pigeon asked 'why is it so?' look when we were in the temple we were called pigeons when we were in the Church we were called pigeons and when we were in the Mosque we were called pigeons. Similarly they should be called just 'human beings' wherever they go'.

The mother pigeon said 'you and me and our pigeon friends have experienced God and that's why we are

living here in a highly elevated place peacefully. These people are yet to experience God. Hence they are living below us and fighting and killing each other. ... They keep making allegations, often seeking the limelight. Personal ego has got in the way of rational solutions.Their statements do not reflect the views of the Church or the teachings of Christ Even when it comes to the higher rung in the hierarchy of the clergy..... Reflect.....

This is exactly the doings from those who are missing the woods for the trees. They won't take constructive criticism or let good sense prevail because they feel they are always right and start blaming others saying they worked hard to bring up the community and we are not pointing fingers at others. Why don't they discipline themselves? Genuine mistakes can be condoned. Also hope the leadership addresses this issue and creates a system or a miscellaneous platform where all other matters are put up. In this Context - May we know who the leader of our clergy is and what is the official clergy stand on this play?

Or are we trying to say that progressively we have become a confused, leaderless community? Have we accepted that?

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The silent ethnic cleansing of Catholics in Goa

by **Bosco de Sousa Eremita**

Goa, the former Portuguese colony and a Catholic stronghold in western India, has for the first time this century shown a marginal increase in the Christian population. Religion-based data for the 2012 census released last month shows an increase of 6,560 Christians within the past decade.

Actually, this hides a negative Christian growth as the state's population has grown by eight percent in the past decade from 1.34 million to 1.45 million. The proportional growth should have produced at least 28,000 Christians, which is eight percent of the 359,000 Christians counted in 2001. But that has not happened.

The decline of Goa's Christian population, almost all of them Catholics, should not come as a surprise because even during the Portuguese colonial days (1510-1961) the slide was evident. Worrisome however, is the quantum of decline: Catholics, who were 64 percent against 35 percent Hindus in the 1851 census, have been reduced to 25 percent compared to Hindus, who now make up 67 percent of Goa's population today.

The quantum jump backwards began immediately after India annexed Goa in 1961, ending 450 years of Portuguese rule in this tiny coastal enclave. From 1961-63, around 50,000 Catholics emigrated. The trend continued since the community could not progress beyond a certain limit. During this emigration, thousands of immigrants, mainly Hindus from neighboring states, entered the newly declared federally ruled territory that only became a fully fledged Indian state in 1987. The continued migration over the years ballooned the Hindu population to a level higher than what was the Catholic percentage in 1851.

Muslims, who were less than 1 percent in 1961, made the biggest inroads in Goa to become close to 9 percent of the population today.

A quest for jobs abroad, aided by Goan Catholics' different mindset, better adjustment to communities overseas, and the Portuguese government considering them as "brown Europeans," boosted emigration. Under the Portuguese constitution, every Goan born in Goa before Dec 19, 1961 or his progeny is entitled to Portuguese citizenship, empowering them to settle in any part of the European Union under the Schengen Agreement.

In recent years, following the rise to power of the pro-Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party in Goa, the emigration has shown a dramatic spike. Every family can boast of at least one member

either employed or settled overseas and those who had vowed some years ago to ensure that their kids do not emigrate are now motivating their children to leave because they see no future for Catholics in the state.

Silent genocide

This exodus stems largely from efforts to destroy Goan culture, as a result of the large-scale influx from other states in violation of the Geneva Convention, which prohibits population displacement from in or out of an invaded region. Some see this demographic shift as amounting to a silent genocide of the Catholic community.

Though subtle persecution of the community has always been a reality following the annexation, lately it has become more blatant, compelling many Catholics to sell off their assets and emigrate.

The first glaring instance to wipe away the "Christian" and Goan identity was to merge Goa with neighboring Maharashtra. The idea resulted in a 1967 referendum that voted against the merger — often seen by historians as a mandate against the conquest. But anti-merger champion Jack de Sequeira, who worked to save Goa from being obliterated, was never given his due.

Paradoxically, the man who espoused the merger, Goa's first chief minister Dayanand Bhandarkar, has life-size statues installed. Over the years, efforts to install a statue in honor of Sequeira have repeatedly been stonewalled by successive governments, simply because Catholic bashers believe that Christians should be subjugated.

An exception to the rule however was during the last parliamentary elections when India's Home Minister Rajnath Singh at an election rally said that the first banner of revolt against the Portuguese (in fact against any colonial regime in India) was raised by Catholic priests in Goa — in what is historically known as the Pinto Conspiracy. But, then, it was an election rally looking to

(Contd.. on p. 9)

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garner Catholic votes.

After India "liberated" Goa, Catholics were heckled and branded as "Portuguese agents" despite hundreds of Catholics involved in Goa's freedom struggle. The Bandodkar government introduced "agricultural reforms," which made tillers virtual landowners. In one stroke, the predominantly Catholic landlords — who mostly had small land holdings — were reduced to being landless and rendered many who were solely dependent on agricultural produce, to penury.

The tenants, who were subjugated by Catholic landlords during the colonial regime, now began flexing their muscles, even dragging many erstwhile landlords to court. Illegal encroachments, threats and assaults goaded by the delay in the justice delivery system embolden the tenants. Threats of acquisition from greedy

political proxies demanding sale of the land according to a price spelt out by them compounded the problem. Many Catholic landlords died in pursuit of justice for over 30 years. Disgusted, their heirs felt that the best option was to dispose of the property and migrate.

Moves to isolate Catholics

Even the naming of Konkani as the official state language was fraught with anti-Christian legislation. The official status came after a protracted state-wide battle, where seven were killed in 1986 — all Catholics and no Hindus. The mother tongue was made the official language, but it was with a rider: The official gazette defined Konkani as Konkani in Devnagiri script — a shrewd move by Hindus to isolate the vast majority of the Christian community who used the Roman script, not the Devnagiri. The notification simply meant that government jobs would go to Hindus who had mastered the Devnagiri script.

After Goa became a state, no Catholic chief minister lasted a full term because of an unwritten law that no Catholic deserves to be chief minister. Early this year, after Goa's Bharatiya Janata Party chief minister Manohar Parrikar was made India's defense minister, Francis D'Souza, a Catholic and his deputy in Goa was denied the position of chief minister. Catholics have lost their sociopolitical clout in

the state.

The large-scale influx has had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of the local populace. It has brought about a regressive lifestyle, which in return has triggered "adjustment problems" with many opting to emigrate. An effort is on to wipe out the concept of Goa as a Catholic hub.

What is evidently going on in Goa is silent, bloodless ethnic cleansing. Political watchers explain it as the doctrine of "legitimacy through defiance." With the government showing no interest at granting special status to protect against this cultural onslaught, the Catholic community prefers to leave because the truth is that a systematic effort is on to attack the Catholic community so that it eventually disappears.

Bosco de Sousa Eremita is a journalist who researches the issues of immigration and changing demographics in Goa, his homeland. Source: UCAN

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. G. Sequeira & fly
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In the Name of God!



by Ignatius Dabhi
Sr. Journalist

It is indeed highly interesting to study that India can be the only country where 'god' can be turned and twisted as per your personal convenience and need. Silenced Advani's Rathayatra will go down in history when in the name of Ram temple an unaccountable money was collected 'safely' deposited and the over-glorified idea of Ram temple was put in the cold storage. What makes one wonder is no one openly comes out to ask about the money and the purpose of the yatra. All this is in the name of God!

Great Asaram and his son, Narain Sai went on for years to fool people in a grand style. In the state like Gujarat, Asaram enjoyed the political patronage. Very many Congress and Bhartiya Janata Party netajis were under the 'devine' spell of the 'godman'. Poor, simple, innocent girls and women were lured and trapped. And the devil had his day! All this under the name of God! Our cases may drag on and on. Justice is always delayed. And by the time when justice is done, it is always far too late. Recently a Mumbai-blast culprit was declared 'innocent' after 23 endless years of jail! This is 'mera bharat mahan'! Justice is massacred. The biggest crime is forgiven, all in he name of God.

According to a police record, practically every year children are kidnapped and led to criminal way of life by 'sadhus' in divine saffron!

Hundreds of girls are kidnapped and forced to flesh-trade by women

In our democratic country, you can do anything in the name of God, you have a licence to kill, you have a licence to rule, you have a licence to have a free sex, you have a licence to goof simple, innocent, uneducated, poor masses. In the name of God you can ask votes and in the name of God you explain why given promises are not kept...

who are wrapped in saffron. All cities of pilgrimage have red-light areas - either under the nose of police or under the police patronage. Places of worship shelter crime dens! All this under the name of God!

An Interpol record says: There were several unpardonable crimes of sexual harassment by so called Yoga gurus from India who indulged in crimes....'

We in this country are capable to misuse the holy name of God for our own selfish purpose. My personal contacts with jewish community in Cairo reminds me that Jews in general are religious-minded people and they respect the name of God (Yahweh) so much that they literally feel afraid to take His name. By misusing His name, we in this country try to belittle Him. Jean Poul Sarte in one of his books says: "For many god is that commodity which can be used as and when one desires..."

It is very interesting to note that in many so called Christian countries in the West, the parties carrying their name with a word 'Christian' are often defeated! There, people are not like ours. They think. We never do!

It is an undeniable fact that God is interwoven in all human activities, Yet, we should not misuse His name. We, in India, live and act illogically. These

days we hear, read and see on TV about Radhe Ma. A report from Borivali police station seem to say that Radhe Ma has mant followers but her life-style, her actions, words and behaviour are ungodly, a religious and scandalous. Her 'trishul' in her hand say that everything is in the name of God! One can do anything - yes, anything, in the name of God in India. We in India turn and twist God as per our personal needs. Lacs of people are daily fooled in God's name in India.

One of the great theologians, Fr. Karl Rhana, somewhere says: "It is we who should turn to Him. who are we to force Him to follow our dictum?" Let us always remember His command "Thou shall not take my name in vain."

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This Land Is My Land

Many decades ago, the song, "This land is your land," written and set to music by Woody Guthrie had captured all hearts, young and old. Thanking him for this wonderful thought and acknowledging his contribution, I seek to change the lyrics to suit my time, my land!

This land is your land; this land is my land
From Kanyakumari to the Kashmir valleys
From sonar Bangla to splendid Saurashtra
Across the rolling fields and flowing rivers
The Himalayan snowfields to Munnar waters
This land was made for you and me.



Born on sage Parasurama's coast, I grew amidst nature,
Watching the sun drench the beauty of my land,
Rain watering it to verdant green, brimming wells, wetlands,
I was a princess of all that I surveyed.....of my land!
Cavorting on quiet country lanes, beneath boughs bent with fruit
There were no fences, barbed wire blocks to trip me
I was free to follow my creed and culture, and yet pledge myself
To the service of the nation, my Motherland India
For this land was made for you and me!!

When the sun came rising, the night sky lightening
Palms rustling, paddy fields swaying, reeds on the river waving
As the mist was lifting, from the steeples of temples,
Spires of churches, domes of mosques and all of God's houses
Voices were chanting: This land was made for you and me.

As I went walking I saw a sign there- "No Trespassing!"
Trespassing on my own land, the legacy of my forefathers?
This land redeemed from oppression and saved from suppression
By selfless souls, sacrificing spirits, stately stalwarts,
Was anointed with the blood of martyrs and soldiers brave
Because, this land was made for you and me.

As I was walking that ribbon of highway, above me that endless skyway:
Around me, the once lush hills were now bare and dry
The valleys golden no more, the waterways gone into oblivion
Parched fields, smoking chimneys, flowing effluents of poison
And I ask myself, "Is this man's greed or his need that desecrates
This land which was made for you and me?"

I've roamed and rambled walking my own paths,
through the silvery sands of vast deserts; but now I hear
Voices filled with hate, barriers new, unseen before
Blocking me, choking my voice, shackling me with bigotry
and all around me echoes the cry of my people:
This land was made for you and me.

In the shadow of the temple steeple, bells were ringing for peace,
Bowed before the Mosque, heads covered pleaded for harmony,
In the church were faces familiar, calling for blessings on all
But squatting on pavements and street corners, were my countrymen
With hunger in their bellies, disease in bones and despair in eyes
And I asked them -Is this land made for you and me?

Nobody living can stop me, as I walk along the freedom expressway,
Head held high, my heart fearless and serene
To profess, practice, to live and to laugh
And maybe to lay my life down
For was this land not made for you and ME?



BY VERA ALVARES



Fr. Gussi Frederick Sopena SJ

He lived in India for over six decades serving the poor and needy, the 90-year-old Spanish Catholic priest Frederick Sopena sj is now an Indian citizen which was his long-cherished wish.

Sopena came to India in 1947 at the age of 22 from Spain.



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Before Starting A Relation



Independent women make their own decision hence while entering a relationship you must take care about certain things.

An independent woman is independent in every possible way, whether it is financially or emotionally, which might make a man feel left out sometimes. They are also very tolerant and considerate of the feelings and if they have agreed to get into a relationship, then they are ready to share their lives, which is a huge deal for them but they need to know that certain sacrifices and compromises need to be made in a relationship.

Prevent individuality:

Women who cannot imagine being alone or single tend to adopt all the habits and opinions of their partner, which results only in having an unfulfilled relationship, as you lose yourself in it. Neglecting friends, family and most importantly, themselves, to put your partner first can result haz- ardously in the long term.

Understand priorities:

An independent woman won't let her relationship become an obstacle to having a life, but will have to learn that it is a huge part of their life. As time goes by and you get attached to your partner, he will become one of your priorities, and you'll learn when it is appropriate that he comes first, and when he needs to be second on the priority list.

Compromise:

Getting fully know one person is a beautiful experience. which you will understand and know to appreciate. you won't get bored by the things he likes, as you'll make compromises reasonably and enjoy exploring your partner Also, your partner will feel re- spected,

Keep less expectations:

Try not to set the bar too high for your partner, because there is no need to invest deeply in small details or petty matters. The only expectations you should have are regarding the way he behaves around you, and how he treats you.

Together, as team:

Even through you want to be inde- pendent, you have to remember that

you're part of a team. You can't make all of your decisions without consult- ing lhim. If you want to living togeth- er.

Spend quality time:

When single, you explore many things and work on improving some of your skills. Moreover, you know how to have fun, and you don't just wander aimlessly around your apart- ment and waste your time. So, when you start a relationship, you'll know how to spend some quality time with your partner. The best time you can have with someone is a fun conversa- tion over some nice wine, just enjoy- ing the moment.

Ensure about partner:

If at any point your partner makes you feel guilty, or as though you have to choose between who and what you love, you're probably not with the right person. Or, rather, he or she is not the someone with whom you will be able to build a truly fulfilling life. The best relationships are the ones that make you more yourself, not less.

Being independent is a good thing, just be careful not to push your part- ner away by being cold and unavail- able. You need to be strong in rela- tion but at the same time you need to be listen to your partner respectfully. Understand what you exactly want from a relation and then take a further decisions.

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Our Lady of the Rosary

by Capt. Mervin J. Lobo

THE rosary is “man’s crown of merit during lifetime, a crown of peace during death and a crown of glory in heaven,” Saint Louis de Montfort said. In 1214 Saint Dominic went to a forest near Toulouse, France, for three days to pray on how to convert sinners and the Albigenses, a heretical sect who believed on the “duality of good and evil.” To these heretics, Jesus is a rebel against the cruelty of an omnipotent God.

He wept and performed penance with his body, so lacerated that he lapsed into coma.

The Blessed Virgin Mary, accompanied by three angels, appeared and said: “Dear Dominic, do you know which weapon the Blessed Trinity wants to use to reform the world?” “The rosary.”

It is in the 16th century that the rosary evolved to its present form with 15 joyful, sorrowful and glorious mysteries, noted Fr. Nil Guillemette, quoting Foley in *The Cedars of Lebanon*. In October 2002 Pope John Paul II added the five Mysteries of Light which centered on the public life of Jesus.

Our Lady’s apparition Saint Dominic, with burning seal, went straight to the cathedral. Unseen angels rang the church bells to gather the people. During his homily, a storm broke out, the earth shook, the skies darkened with lightning accompanied by thunder. The picture of the Blessed Mother came to life and “she raised her arms thrice toward heaven to call down God’s vengeance upon them if they failed to be converted,” Saint Louis de Montfort narrated in *The Secret of the Rosary*.

The people of Toulouse were converted and renounced their false beliefs. In his lifetime, Saint Dominic exerted great influence for and devotion to the



Holy Rosary. But the fervor lasted only for a century. In 1349 according to Saint Montfort, God punished Europe with plague that lasted for three years. It was followed by the Flagellantes heresy and schism in 1376. In 1460 Blessed Alan dela Roche, a Dominican Father in the Monastery of Dinan, Brittany, restored devotion to the rosary after a reproach from Jesus. Jesus spoke to him in the Sacred Host: “How can you crucify me so soon.... You have all the learning and understanding that you need to preach my Mother’s rosary and you are not doing so.”

Most meritorious prayer

Pope Urban VIII in *Ad Perpetuam Rei Memoriam* in 1626, decreed that every time the rosary is recited in two groups, every participant gains a hundred extra indulgence.

When we pray the rosary, we pray with our Blessed Mother to honor the life of Jesus. And Mary is the only one on earth and heaven to whom Christ our Lord cannot say no. She made 15 promises to anyone who prays it fervently. Through the centuries, the rosary has never diminished its efficacy and timeliness. It is easy to carry, can be prayed anytime and anywhere by people of all ages, healthy or sick. “More meritorious for the soul than any other prayer,” recited fervently, it “gives Jesus and Mary more glory.” The merit one gains in praying, according to Marian Theologians, is equivalent to the number of people in the group. But it is one of most difficult to pray because the devil makes it so for us, according to Saint Louis

de Montfort. He makes us “bored, exhausted, distracted and oppresses us from all sides.” But more merit there is, when it is harder to pray and we do pray. The saint reminds us of two pitfalls in praying the rosary—“not asking for any grace at all and getting it over as quickly as possible.”

Each Hail Mary is a salutation equivalent to a rose to form a crown for the Blessed Mother which is returned as a crown of spiritual grace to one who prays the rosary with spiritual disposition. A well-known Jesuit Bro. Alphonsus Rodriguez is noted for saying the rosary with such fervor that a red rose comes out of his mouth at each Our Father and a white rose for every Hail Mary, equal in beauty and fragrance, narrated Saint Montfort in his book.

Our Lady’s naval victories

During the pontificate of Pope Pius V the Turks threatened to invade Europe. Alarmed, the pope prayed for enlightenment, called all European leaders to unite, form an army, gave every soldier a rosary and asked the entire people of Europe to pray the rosary. The 208 ships with all men armed with rosaries sailed off from the Sicilian port of Messina on September 16, 1571. Stopping at Corfu, they were horrified. The Turks had attached the island, desecrated churches and mutilated religious objects, murdered hundreds and captured boys to be sold in slave markets of Turkey. In Famagusta City, the residents were massacred and the brave commander Bragadino was flayed alive and his corpse dragged throughout the city. In the morning of October 7, the wind favored the Turkish fleet anchored in

(Contd.. on p. 16)

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“Unmaking Of India!”

As reported in Newspapers on Oct 07, 2015, writer Nayan-tara Sahgal, 88, niece of Prime Minister, Jawarharlal Nehru, has returned the prestigious ‘Sahitya Academy Award’. Ms Sahgal was known for her strong opposition to the Emergency of 1975-77 imposed by Indira Gandhi. In her statement to NDTV explaining her decision titled: “Unmaking of India” (a veiled reference to PM Modi’s, “Make In India”), she refers to four pertinent points:

1. The recent mob lynching of a Muslim man over rumours of beef-eating ; and the killing of rationalists MM Kalburgi, Narendra Dabholkar, and Govind Pansare.
2. In support of Indians who uphold the right of dissent, an integral part of India’s Constitution.
3. The silence of PM Modi which is deafening. He has not uttered a word of condemnation. The whole country is demanding a statement.
4. Under Modi we are going backwards; regressing and narrowing down to ‘Hindutva’ ... There is a rising intolerance and lots of Indians are living in fear.

Freedom of expression is our sacred birthright, as long as it does not hurt the sentiments of others, as the controversial play, ‘Agnes of God’, which offended the religious feelings of Christians; for it distorts the real truth: “You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free” (John 8:32).

—Dr Trevor Colaso

(Contd.. from p.15)

the Gulf of Corinth, blowing the ships forward against the Holy League. Then the wind shifted, hand-to-hand fighting on the decks complimented arrows and bombardments of cannons. At sunset the battle was over. About 8,000 Christian soldiers died, 16,000 wounded and a dozen ship destroyed. Approximately the same number of Turks perished, 50 ships sunk and 117 were captured. Pope Pius V credited the victory to the intercession of the Virgin Mary, which “ended any major attack on the Mediterranean.”

He declared October 7 the Feast of Our Lady of Victory and later changed it to Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. The Battle of Lepanto was chronicled in Ten Dates Every Catholic Should Know by Diane Moczar. The defeat of the Dutch troops in Manila in 1646 was also attributed to the intercession of Our Lady of the Rosary. On March 15, 1646, a “formidable flotilla” of Dutch Protestant ships arrived in the port of Manila.

This brought anxiety to Spaniards and Filipinos who had only two merchant ships and were not ready for a war at sea. Fr. Jean de Conca, OP, taught all the sailors how to and why they should pray the rosary. During encounters, they prayed the rosary in chorus. From March to October, they recited the rosary and what was humanly impossible happened: The Protestant fleets were destroyed and only 15 of the 200 Christian men died.



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The New Evangelization In Mark's Gospel

Are we forgetting something? The Synod of Bishops (October 2012) that had created a strong voice on the New Evangelization, a theme announced by Pope Saint John Paul II, further proclaimed with zeal by Benedict XVI had been received with fervor worldwide. The Synod had also inaugurated the Year of Faith (October 11, 2012 – November 24, 2013). These two concepts are found in St. Mark's Gospel.

Let us not forget the success of the implementation of the New Evangelization during 2013-14. This October makes it three years: yet, this October we have reached the point of thinking more about the presence of evil in the world, of fear, hate, violence, and murder by the IS, and the horrible reflection that in and among the millions of migrants who have entered Europe may be X-Spam-Subject: YES X-Spam-Subject: YES terrorists, drug-dealers and merchants of the sex trade.

First things first, is to understand by observation the word 'Gospel' which means evangelization. The Greek word "euaggelion" or 'good news' in English transcreation derives the essence of 'to proclaim'. Theologians will differ.

Mark's Gospel begins with : "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus...(1:1). When it ends, it clearly proclaims the commission of Jesus to his apostles : "Go into the whole world and proclaim the good news (euaggelion) to every creature..." (16:15). Between these two ends of the book is the mission of Christ, which is all about evangelization Jesus taught, spoke and by His miracles He spread the idea that God is working through Him and His ministry for all humankind.

Vatican Council II had informed us, "The pilgrim Church is by her very nature missionary." In Mark's Gospel he makes it clear that the Kingdom of God was soon to come and called for

conversion. "The Kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe the good news." (1:15) Christ made it known in many ways that God's message of salvation is bound in the Christian faith by evangelization.

All Christians are called to witness the truth of our faith. Mark's perspective discloses many reactions to Our Lord's ministry. Miracles alone had not been enough, it included the powerful teaching and preaching of Jesus' public mission. The Gospel shows us how patience can be effective and sufficient for drawing people to the Father. Mark's Gospel is all about evangelization with trust and authority.

In Mark's Gospel, the disciples are not always good listeners. Quite often they misunderstood what Jesus said – the message gives a disturbing picture to those who gather with fear to be persuaded. This happens sometimes in his Gospel : read the chapter and verse, (6: 52). There was a time when the disciples imagined that Christ was out-of-His-depth (3: 21). When Jesus' works are confused (8:21). Even Jesus' talks on the passion (8:31-33).

Being human, the disciples, sometimes lacked faith. "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" (Mk.4:40). Evangelization is a call for the Church to be a never-ending realization, both inwardly and outwardly. To repent and convert is the commission given by Jesus. It is essential in summary to believe in the Master's good news. God's message is not only for believers but for the entire world of disbelievers.

It is known that Europe, the stronghold of the Catholic faith is losing ground. The Church's longtime message of evangelization must be revived; the seeds of Christianity must once again germinate not only in the West but across the earth. In 2012 Pope Benedict XVI had clearly stated how "the bastion" of the Catholic faith in Europe was collapsing, and needed a resurgence



BY MELVYN BROWN

of evangelization – " a New Evangelization" to reach out to a new world, not forgetting the young: to "re-propose" Mark's Gospel.

Today's clergy need an "on-going" conversion "of repentance, and a renewed acquisition of the Lord's message. By the grace of God, the members of the Church must be reborn to proclaim the message in the Gospel : "The time is fulfilled and the kingdom has come near; repent, and believe in the good news (1:15). Faith is an encounter with Christ.

The New Evangelization is to also revive the "Catechism of the Catholic Church". Most lay Catholics have a limited knowledge in the specifics of the faith. We must learn to come in closer contact to Jesus, especially in the Sacraments.

Mark's Gospel gives a strong line of direction to help the faithful in meeting Christ. Do not be afraid, or your faith will suffer; put God's hand in your lives. "But overhearing what they said, Jesus spoke to the leader of the synagogue, "Do not fear, only believe" .

An idea for the New Evangelization could be : "I believe; help my unbelief." (Mk. 9:24).

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“Not As I Will, But As You Will”

I got a phone call from an unknown person from Mumbai. The caller introduced herself as Ms Sonea. She is an Advocate by profession and a Hindu by religion. She said that she reads the Bible daily. She got a small book entitled “What Does Jesus Mean to You & Me?” from Goa. Sonea read the 40 page pocket-size booklet written by me and found my mobile number and called me.

Sonea had a question to ask: Fr Varghese, the Bible says that a person has to live according to the will of God. But God has created us with free will. So an independent person has his free will. How can a person be free and at the same time follow God’s will? If a person wants to follow God’s will, then he/she should sacrifice his/her free will. Then, where is the freedom and independence of a person? How can a person be free and at the same time do God’s will? It is a difficult question! Isn’t it?

I believe that without the freedom or free will of a person, morality and ethical behavior is not possible. The way of God is the way of ethics and morality. We know through our experiences that a person experiences an interior tug of war between following God’s will and doing one’s own will. St Paul has expressed this inner tug of war very well. He writes in his letter to the Romans: “I don’t do the good I want to do; instead, I do the evil that I do not want to do.” (Bible, Rom. 7:19). Here Paul bares his soul. He shares with us his experience of inner conflict.

The ancient Greek poet Ovid has said something similar to Paul’s words: “I see the better things and I approve them, but I follow the worse” - Ovid.

A well known biblical scholar William Barclay, commending on Paul’s words about his inner struggles, has explained that the Jewish people understood Paul’s words very well. The Jews spoke of a person’s two natures called “Yester hatob and Yester hara.” God created a person with two inner

forces: one for the good and the other for evil. But a person needs not succumb to the evil tendencies in him/her. The free will is choosing between the good and the evil.

In this context it is appropriate to quote a passage from the biblical book, Sirach: “Don’t blame the Lord for your sin; the Lord does not cause what he hates. Don’t claim that he has misled you; he doesn’t need the help of sinners to accomplish his purposes. The Lord hates evil in all its forms, and those who fear the Lord find nothing attractive in evil. When, in the beginning, the Lord created human beings, he left them free to do as they wished. If you want to, you can keep the Lord’s commands. You can decide whether you will be loyal to him or not.” (Sirach 15:11-15).

The Jewish people believed that a person may not yield to the evil tendencies in him/her and commit bad things. So God has given them ethical principles and moral norms especially the commandments. So when a person is pulled in opposite directions, he/she can use his/her intelligence to distinguish between the good and the evil and follow God’s commandments. For, in following the commandments a person can confirm his/her own free will to that of God’s will.

Certainly God’s will for a person and the person own free will are not one but two different things. But when a person willingly follow God’s will, then his/her will become one with God’s will. Often a person’s free will keeps him/her away from following God’s will. For as Paul said, a person experiences inner pulls in opposite directions. A person, so to say, experiences two opposing powers within himself/herself. So the basic question is what shall we do in this conflicting situation? How can a person without losing his/her free will follow the will of God?

I think that a person can follow God’s will without losing or sacrificing his/her free will by taking three concrete

steps. First, know oneself; second, know God’s commandments as well as ethical principles and moral norms of life; and third, learn

to discern or develop the power of discernment to be able to recognize between good and evil with love and intelligence. Taking these three steps a rational and loving person can know that his/her true freedom or free will is exercised in confirming his/her will to that of God’s will. Let us reflect a little deeper on these three steps.

First, knowing oneself. A famous Secretary General of United Nations U Thant well known for his posthumously published Diary (book) ‘Markings’ said that the longest journey of a person is the journey inward. Knowing oneself involves that long inner journey.

Jawaharlal Nehru as a political prisoner during the independent movement read a lot and shared his reflection with his teenage daughter Indira (Gandhi) in the form of letters which was later published as a bulky volume entitled “Discovery of India”. In a person’s inner journey he/she will discover many more things than a book can contain. In knowing oneself there is much to understand oneself and others. A person may discover many hidden talents, and forces at work in him/her. A person can develop all such forces and talents according to his/her time and situations. In the inner journey it may help a person to try to see oneself as God sees him/her. Knowing oneself thoroughly also helps to understand others.

Intelligence is a unique power of a human person. Through the intelligence a person can increase his self knowledge and wisdom. In knowing oneself



by Fr Varghese Paul, SJ

(Contd.. on p. 18)

Inspiration!

Good Qualities to imbibe

You can always make a choice to be a better person than you are today. Here are a few qualities you must imbibe.

Being a good person is not hard, but it doesn't just happen. As much as anything else, you have to be a good person and make choices that correspond with your beliefs.

Be Kind: A small gesture of kindness like helping an elderly person cross the road or offering your seat on the bus is enough to make someone's

day. And do you know the best thing about kindness? It's contagious! If you are kind to someone, you touch his heart and urge him to be thoughtful about others. It's one of the characteristics of a good person you must develop to be happier!

Be grateful: Count your blessings. In your struggle to be better than others socially, physically and



economically, you may often miss out on noticing the good things that you've been blessed with. Instead of focusing on what you don't have, be grateful for what you do have. This is one big step towards how you can become a good human being and save yourself a lot of heartburn.

Live life to the fullest: Let bygones be bygones and stop worrying about the future. You can't change what's happened and you don't know what will happen tomorrow. So why worry? If you want to know how to become a better person, focusing on the present and living every-day to the fullest is the best

way. You'll be amazed at how quickly your worries reduce.

Spread love: In between trying to succeed at work and keeping up with responsibilities, we sometimes forget the magic that love can weave. But if you learn to love yourself and those around you, this is one of the best ways to become a better person. Try to see through religion, caste and status; you know they're all superficial and don't define a person.

Listen carefully: Another tip on how to become a good person is to develop impeccable listening skills. Many people feel the need to express their feelings, but don't really lend an ear. Don't be that person; listen and give those around you a chance to speak their minds.

Be forgiving: One of the most important steps to becoming a better person is to learn to forgive those who've hurt you. It may not come easily, but remember that anger is a poisonous plant that eats at your inner peace and happiness. When you forgive someone, you let go of hate and resentment and become a calmer person.

Embarking on a journey of self discovery and betterment takes time, patience and the determination to go on. Use these tips and you'll soon notice how beautiful life always was but you never noticed it!

(Contd.. from p. 18)

a person realizes that knowledge and wisdom are not enough. For instance, a person is wise and knows theoretically swimming. But if that theoretical knowledge is not supported by experiential knowledge of swimming, he/she will get drowned in deep water. So knowing oneself is not limited to knowledge and wisdom but they need to be enhanced with the power of rational thinking and discernment to recognize good and evil.

Second, to follow God's will, first of all, one needs to know God's commandments. A person can also read Bible to know God's will. Meditating on the life and message of Jesus Christ can also help a person to know God's will.

In other words, meditative reading of the Bible, contemplation of the life and message of Jesus as well as the knowing God's commandments are very important in seeking God's will. We also need to recognize God at work in you and me as well as in the whole creation. With the help of all these we develop our power of discernment to distinguish good and evil and we are able to recognize God's will in still small inner voice which we call our conscience or the voice of our soul.

Third, developing the spirit of discernment with the knowledge of self and God's will, a person also needs to develop the spirit of discernment to follow God's will. A person's rational thinking and discernment are developed by his/her religious teachings, moral principles and ethical norms. A developed or an enlightened conscience helps a person in discernment.

A person may know well himself/herself; he/she may be well aware of God's commandments; she/he may also be able to discern well between good and evil. Still there may not be oneness of a person's will and God's will. A person also needs a firm resolve to follow God's will. Still a person's behavior is often at loggerhead with the will of God. We do not follow God's commandment; but often break them. When such things happen, we need to recognize our helplessness and weakness and humbly turn to God in dependence and ask God's forgiveness and continue in our efforts with God's help to know and follow God's will. Then we may experience oneness and unity of God's will with our personal will.

Grooms



MATRIMONIALS

MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 30 years, Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 58 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. Post Graduate in Marketing, working as a Manager. Contact email : francis.godad@gmail.com OR 9820829839 (Regd. No. 6429)

MUMBAI : A R.C. Goan Widower age 70 no encumbrances, owns spacious flat, in perfect good health seeks matrimonial alliances from widows / spinsters above 60 years. Contact email : rick6522@gmail.com OR 7208966328 (Regd. No. 6344)

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 28 years, Ht. 6' 2", Wt. 82 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. Hotel Management, working as a Manager. Contact email : collin.n.dsouza@gmail.com OR 9967286246 (Regd. No. 6336)

MUMBAI : Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 40 years, Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 55 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. SSC, working as a Lab. Technician in Dubai. Currently in Mumbai contact email : clementd818@gmail.com OR 25741993 (Regd. No. 6334)

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 29 years, Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 80 kgs, Fair complexion, Edn. M.Sc., Advance Computer Networking, working as a Networking Engineer. Contact email : grettadsouza53@gmail.com OR 9833418836 (Regd. No. 6328)

MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 32 years, Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 63 kgs, Fair complexion, Edn. 12th Sc., + Navatical Studies, working as 3rd officer in Merchant Navy. Seeks Only Goan girl. Contact email : ferns1244@gmail.com OR 9920884799 (Regd. No. 6327)

MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 40 years, Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 73 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Higher Secondary. working as a Fabricator in U.K. Contact email : savioeferns@gmail.com OR 9769054347 (Regd. No. 6321)

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 35 years, Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 71 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., Diploma in HRM, working as an Executive Asst., Secretary in MNC. Contact email : loveforlife2305@gmail.com OR 9869136747 (Regd. No. 6319)

MUMBAI : Goan RC Bachelor 32 years, Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. S.Y.B.A., Computer Engineering, working as a Team Leader. Seeks a Goan or Mangalorean girl. Contact email : myfrancis@gmail.com OR 9969887236 / 9870002508 (Regd. No. 6310)

MUMBAI : Goan RC Bachelor 58 years, looks young, 5' 7", slim, wheatish, B.Com., own flats financially very well settled in Mumbai. Seeks educated, presentable lady upto 50 years. No Bars. Email : gerryc1956@gmail.com OR 09820636316. (Regd. No. 6301)

MUMBAI : Anglo Indian Roman Catholic Bachelor aged 37 years, Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 75 kgs, fair Complexion, Edn. Bachelors in Business Administration, Diploma in Electronics, currently pursuing MBA in projects. Working as a Senior Operations Manager. Contact email : vanderhidebrian123@gmail.com OR 8655770778 / 9920207250 (Regd. No. 6298)

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Divorcee, aged 44 years, Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 66 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. HSC., Service. Contact 9167419437 (Regd. No. 6292)

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 37 years, looks much younger to his aged and slim, Ht. 5' 5", Fair Complexion, Edn. HSC., Working as a Financial Consultant. Contact email : ronaldsouza888@gmail.com OR

9004566519 (Regd. No.6290)

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 / flourindsouza@gmail.com OR 9769259694 / 9892873474 (Regd. No. 6264)

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 : Protestant Christian Bachelor, aged 49 years, looks much younger to his age, Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. DMLT., working as a Section Technical Coordinator. Contact email : shashibsd_d@yahoo.co.in OR 9869117823 (Regd. No. 6253)

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MATRIMONIALS

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 25 years, Ht. 5' 2", Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Post Graduate (HR), working as a Junior Officer. Contact email : natasha.lima25@yahoo.com OR 9920930518 **(Regd. No.6410)**

MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 29 years, Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 80 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. BMS, M.Com., MBA., working as a Asst. Manager, Contact email : silverbells1960@gmail.com OR 28931512 **(Regd. No. 6409)**

MUMBAI : Goan RC Spinster, aged 28 years, Ht. 5' 1", Wt. 57 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., IT., MBA working as a IT Engineer. Seeks a well settled boy. Contact email : m.rodricks24@gmail.com OR 9821596241 / 26424190 **(Regd. No. 6408)**

NEW DELHI : Mangalorean RC Spinster, aged 27 years, Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 70 kgs, Fair, good looking, Edn. B.A., LL.B., LL.M., Legal Executive in MNC. Contact email : judith_m@outlook.com OR 9560242263 **(Regd. No. 6382)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC Widow, aged 46 years, Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 55 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. 12th std., Housewife. Seeks a suitable match. Contact email : benedicta43@gmail.com. **(Regd. No. 6371)**

VALSAD : Goan / Mangalorean RC Spinster, aged 27 years, Ht. 5'1", Wt. 58 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working. Seeks a suitable match. Contact email : idsouza14@gmail.com OR 9892233758 **(Regd. No. 6345)**

MUMBAI : Goan RC Spinster, aged 28 years, Ht. 5', Wt. 64 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. HSC., Teacher by profession. Contact email

: juliejoedesa@gmail.com OR 9769614656 **(Regd. No. 6343)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC Spinster, aged 25 years, Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 56 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A., working in Family business. Well settled. Seeks a suitable match. Contact email : grehans.gretel@gmail.com OR 9819727898 / 9869251674 **(Regd. No. 6339)**

MUMBAI : Tamilian RC Spinster, 27 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 RC Spinster, 27 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 RC 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 OR 9869765169 **(Regd. No. 6330)**

MUMBAI : Goan RC Spinster, aged 33 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 RC Spinster, aged 27 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 : Goan RC 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 RC Spinster, aged 29

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 RC Spinster, aged 37 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 : Mangalorean RC spinster 1973 born, 5' 5" tall, fair complexion with qualifications, B.Com. (Mumbai), M.B.A. Finance (Canada), M.B.A., (H.R.) and Diplomas in I.T. (NIIT), Comp. (APTEC), and Cert. Ind Acct. (I.C.A.), working in good position. Graduate / Post Graduate unmarried R.C. Bachelors upto 45 years, employed in good position and well settled in Mumbai or abroad. Contact email : bellwether77@yahoo.com or Mobile No. 9892700617. **(Regd. No. 6166)**

MUMBAI : Goan RC Spinster, aged 30 years. Ht. 5' 3", medium built, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. HSC, working as a Receptionist. Contact email : lumira_rodrigues@rediffmail.com OR 9821025069 **(Regd. No. 6016)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC Spinster, aged 33 years, Ht. 5', Wt. 54 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.A.,B.Ed., ADCSSAA, Teacher by profession. Contact Email: mathias.reshma@gmail.com/reshma_mathias@rediffmail.com OR 9757289026 **(Regd. No. 6043)**

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MUMBAI : RC Goan Spinster, B.E. - Computer Engineering, studing Executive MBA, Working for reputed MNC in Pune but has permanent residence in Mumbai. 26 yrs., 5 ft., wheatish, homey with good family background. Career minded and willing to relocate abroad. Please send details and photo to email : ashil2628@gmail.com **(Regd. No. 6298)**

MUMBAI : Goan RC Spinster, simple and decent, aged 30 years, Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 62 kgs, wheatish complexion, Edn. M.Sc., B.Ed., Teacher by profession. Seeks a well educated and well settled bachelor. Contact email : fritzydsouza@gmail.com OR 9833952113 / 8976343556 **(Regd. No. 6295)**

MUMBAI : Tamilian RC Spinster, aged 26 years, Ht. 5', Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., Working in Hospital in Administrative. Contact email : anharichard@gmail.com OR 9769277062 / 9819315925 **(Regd. No. 6291)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC Spinster, aged 26 years, Ht. 5' 1", Wt. 54 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.A., working as a HR & Admin., Contact email : pearlcfri@gmail.com OR 9867118077 **(Regd. No. 6288)**

MUMBAI : Goan RC Spinster, aged 37 years, Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 45 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A., working as an Exeucive in MNC. Contact email : 12annd@gmail.com OR 9594597319 **(Regd. No. 6200)**

MUMBAI : East Indian RC Spinster, aged 46 years, Ht. 5' 1", Wt. 62 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., Giving Tuition. Contact : 9221758206 **(Regd. No. 6181)**

MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 33 years, Ht. 5' 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", Wt. 70 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. Graduate working as a Office Assistant. Contact email : melsav2014@gmail.com OR 022-2416 2210 **(Regd. No. 6180)**

MUMBAI : Goan RC Spinster, aged 38 years, Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., PGDC, NIIT. working as a Sr. Executive in DUBAI. Looking for well qualified bachelor from Working in UAE or Mumbai. Contact Email : vsearch2373@gmail.com OR 00971501684427 / 919820594221 **(Regd. No. 6177)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC Spinster, aged 25 years, Ht. 5', Wt. 50 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. HSC, Diploma, working as a Graphic designer. Deaf and dumb, can understand and speak little in English. Seeks a suitable match. Contact email : serraonancy3@gmail.com OR 7208812988 **(Regd. No. 6176)**

MUMBAI : Keralite Syro Malabar Spinster, aged 27 years, Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 70 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MA, working with CFA firm in USA. Seeks a suitable match. Contact email : day-skul@yahoo.co.in OR 9869431648 **(Regd. No. 6175)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC Spinster, aged 29 years, Ht. 5', Wt. 48 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. BE (IT), working as a Sr. Software Engr., Seeks a suitable well qualified match. Contact email : western2462@rediffmail.com OR 8652024267 **(Regd. No. 6173)**

MUMBAI : Tamilian RC Spinster, aged 32 years, Ht. 4' 10", Wt. 50 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a CRE, Contact email daisy.dec1@gmail.com OR 7507899111 **(Regd. No. 6129)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC Spinster, aged 27, Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 58 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., employed as an Administrator. Seeks a suitable match. Contact email : dsouzareena10@gmail.com OR 9920623791 / 7738745831 **(Regd. No. 6127)**

MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 33 years, Ht. 5' 2", Slim, Fair, Edn. B.Com., working as a Operation Analyst in Financial Organisation. Seeks a suitable match. Contact email : tracymails@yahoo.com OR 9920243080 **(Regd. No. 6122)**

MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 26 years, Ht. 5', Wt. 50 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., B.Ed., Teacher by profession. Contact email: ritinadsouza@gmail.com / arlophvieira@gmail.com OR 9820448715. **(Regd. No. 6119)**

MUMBAI : East Indian Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 27 years, Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 55 kgs Fair Complexion, Beautiful, Edn. MSc (statistics), working as a Sr. Marketing Executive. Seeks a well settled, understanding bachelor below 35 years. Contact email : perkin12@gmail.com OR 9833989747 **(Regd. No. 6117)**

MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 32 years. Ht. 5' 2", Wheatish Complexion, Edn. HSC, working as a Chef in Qatar. Contact email : venitadsouza1986@yahoo.co.in / jddsouza007@gmail.com OR 9892071067 **(Regd. No. 6115)**

MIRAJ : Maharastrian Protestant Spinster, 32 years, Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 50 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.D.S., (Dentist), Lecturer in Dental College. Contact email : dprebentisch@hotmail.com OR 0233-2211495 **(Regd. No. 6108)**

MUMBAI : East Indian Roman Catholic Spinster, 27 years, Ht. 5' 1", Wt. 45 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working. Contact email: dsdece@gmail.com **(Regd. No. 6107)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 27 years, Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 56 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., C.A, Inter, working as an Accounts Executive. Contact email : philomina88@yahoo.com OR 9867175073 **(Regd. No. 6430)**

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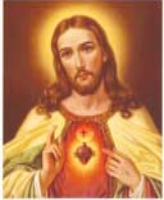
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— Nelson, Pune

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The Holy Spirit

for the favours granted

—Thelma Pereira, Thane

Thanksgiving



Thanks to Fr. Agnel for the favours granted

— Sebastian Rego, Andheri

Thanksgiving



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

—A Devotee

Why has India become so expensive?

Seven years down the line, I see a sea of change in India. Traffic notwithstanding, malls are bustling with people, the general spending seems to have increased and prices have sky rocketed.



The real estate rates seem to give me nightmares. How can Indians afford apartments worth more than a crore? Are there such high paying jobs in India?

Black Money is the reason for Real Estate boom. You can't buy an apartment in a Metro without paying minimum 30% in black. There isn't any black income for salaried class.

A new bed here will cost you at least Rs. 25,000+, a recliner for a new home, nothing fancy, just something that will let me lean back and read a book. The cheapest I could find was for somewhere around Rs. 16,000

Fact is, despite all what the media might say about India, there is still very little competition here.

Honestly, the consumer experience in India makes me want to move to the US. The cost of living is extremely high if you want a decent lifestyle. Petrol is more expensive than in the US, so are the cars. Even movie tickets on weekends at a decent theater are as much as the US.

Most of the shopping is done online in US, so the retailers there can provide it cheaply, while there are overheads in India due to more reliance on brick and mortar shops.

Here, People are earning more. Similarly people are spending more. Value of the Rupee has gone down. Thus people charge more, which leads back to point 1. India continues to be a very cheap place for basic things like milk, bread etc.

Import duties make electronics & automobiles expensive. On top of that quality is worse (trust me...India is a dumping ground for poor quality stuff made by top manufacturers of ANYTHING).

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When do we change our attitude?

In the last few years some large cities have seen the rise of many online startups. These startups offer as much salary as some of the multinationals. This has no doubt been a major factor in driving up the average salaries. Just to put this observation in perspective, a fresher joining a product company can expect almost double the salary than what was the norm five years ago.



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