

THE SECULAR CITIZEN

(Total pages 24)

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Essential values every family must share



Kohima Parish Honors Catholic Religious Women

Kohima: The Cathedral Church of Kohima, Nagaland, observed May 22 as the feast of Mary Help of Christians and Sisterhood Day.

As many as 90 Catholic religious women participated in the celebrations where 51 children received the First Holy Communion.



Bishop James Thoppil of Kohima thanked the sisters for their dedicated and devoted services to the northeastern Indian diocese, even in the most remote areas. He assured them of prayerful support.

Bishop Thoppil also said the feast reminded Christians that they are in relationship with each other and are able to love and help each other.

The celebration was preceded by one-day seminar on Year of Mercy animated by professor of Oriens Theological, College, Shillong, Fr Graviour Augustine.

The same evening saw the blessing of the new statue of Mary Help of Christians, presented to the church by the Nagaland Catholic Youth Movement. A solemn prayerful candle lit procession followed.

Several lay leaders thanked the sisters for their committed life and service. Each sister was presented a memento.

The Serra Club Of Bangalore Holds Its 9th AGM



The Serra Club of Bangalore that works for the fostering and promoting of vocations in the Catholic Church, held its 9th Annual General Meeting on Sunday, 15th May 2016, at Paalana Bhavana, Nandidurga Marg, Benson Town, Bangalore 560 084.

Col Frederick D'Sa was appointed

the Election Officer, and the following were elected as Members of the Governing Council : Jeanette D'Souza (President); John Rosario (Vice President); Brian D'Lima (Treasurer), Anisha Lingham (Secretary); Carol Beck, Evelyn Coutto, Priscilla D'Gama, Jennifer Francis and Eric A. Rodrigues.

Show More Reverence In Church



In an attempt to curb the 'unbridled emotional outbursts' during charismatic prayer meetings and controversies associated with the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in Uganda, the Archbishop of Kampala has issued a set of guidelines to be followed in that country.

According to the guidelines charismatic prayer meetings can be held only at places approved of by the local bishop. Falling, rolling on the ground or shouting is prohibited. And most importantly, only a priest or a deacon and no one else may conduct charismatic prayers.

It is the duty of the local bishop to ensure that whatever happens in the diocese is in conformity with the church's teaching. The guidelines seek to protect the vulnerable faithful from self-styled preachers.

Personally, I am of the opinion that there is a need to show more reverence and restraint when such meetings are conducted inside the church. Also, I believe that meetings inside the church should be conducted only by a priest or deacon. Lay persons may be permitted to conduct prayer meetings at other places approved of by the local bishop. The spiritual director of the ministry must visit these meetings occasionally to ensure that they conform to the church's teachings.

It is necessary to ensure that lay preachers are sufficiently respectful to clerical authority and that such meetings do not tread the pentecostal path, which may lead to schisms in the Catholic church

—Prof Robert Castellino
Toronto Canada

'Thought for the week'

We were all humans until, Race disconnected us. Religion separated us. Politics divided us. & Wealth classified us.

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The Holy Door - A Holy Year - Mercy

by Don Aguiar

In Catholic tradition, the Holy Door represents the passage to salvation -- the path to a new and eternal life, which was opened to humanity by Jesus.

This spiritual process of encounter and conversion is made tangible in the elaborate rituals developed over time for the opening of the Holy Door.

The symbolic ceremony of opening a Holy Door came more than a century after the first Holy Year was proclaimed in 1300.

It also symbolizes an entryway to God's mercy -- the ultimate and supreme act by which he comes to meet people. Mercy is "the bridge that connects God and humanity, opening our hearts to the hope of being loved forever despite our sinfulness," the pope wrote in "Misericordiae Vultus" ("The Face of Mercy"), instituting the Holy Year of Mercy.

The door is also a symbol of Mary -- the mother, the dwelling of the Lord -- and she, too, always has open arms and is ready to welcome the children of God home

But the door especially represents Christ himself -- the one and only way to eternal life. As Jesus said, according to the Gospel of John (10:9), "I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture."

That is why passing through a Holy Door is part of a longer process of sacrifice and conversion required for receiving an indulgence granted during a Holy Year. A plenary indulgence, the remission of temporal punishment due to sin, is offered for pilgrims who also fulfill certain other conditions: reception of the sacraments of penance and the Eucharist, visits and prayers for the intention of the pope and performing simple acts such as visiting the sick.

Why a Jubilee year of Mercy today?

Because the Church in this time of great historical change is called to offer more evident signs of God's presence and closeness

This is not the time to be distracted; on the contrary, we need to be vigilant and to re-awaken in ourselves the capacity to see what is essential. This is a time, for the Church to rediscover the meaning of the mission entrusted to her by the Lord on the day of Easter, to be a sign and an instrument of the Father's mercy (cf. Jn.20-23)

For this reason, the Holy year must keep alive the desire to know how to welcome the numerous signs of the tenderness which God offers to the whole world and, above all, to those who suffer, who are alone and abandoned, without hope of being pardoned or feeling the Father's love.

A Holy Year to experience strongly within ourselves the joy of having been found by Jesus, the Good Shepherd who has come in search of us because we were lost, a Jubilee to receive the warmth of his love when he bears us upon his shoulders and brings us back to the Father's house, a year in which to be touched by the Lord Jesus and to be transformed by his mercy, so that we may become witnesses to mercy.

Here, then, is the reason for the Jubilee because this is a time for mercy. It is the fa- (Contd.. on p. 4)

(Contd.. from p. 3)

avorable time to heal wounds, a time not to be weary of meeting all those who are waiting to see and to touch with their hands the signs of the closeness of God, a time to offer everyone the way of forgiveness and reconciliation.

Pope Francis said in the document that he wants the year, which will begin Dec. 8, to be a time for Catholics to contemplate just how merciful God has been to them and to understand better how they are called to be merciful to others in turn. Mercy, the pope wrote, is "the beating heart of the Gospel." Nothing in the church's preaching or witness, he said, can be lacking in mercy

We see many people walking through this door of mercy thinking they have received indulgence not understanding the process of sacrifice and conversion required for receiving an indulgence negating fulfilling the condition of reception of the sacraments of penance and the Eucharist and the sincere practice of mercy which so many Catholics have no idea how to go about

We hear many people saying that they have walked thru the Holy Door many times as they want indulgence once again after being sinful from their last walk thru the Holy Door. For these people just walking thru the Holy Door is all it takes. They say Pope Francis is great for thinking of this method as then there is no need to go to a priest for confession after all there is a shortage of priest moreover you rarely see them sitting for confession and may be the reason the pope thought of such a method.

What would one conclude? That although it has been more than five months into the Holy Year the support to the pope from the clergy in ensuring the success of the Holy Year is far from being achieved. After all it is the clergy who have to get it across to the people/laity and set the tone and example, especially the sacrament of penance and acts of Mercy which the pope is focus-

ing upon very often.

How can we show others the mercy of God? We say that God is compassionate, but we ignore the poor. We say that God loves us and has mercy on us but we hold grudges against our friends and family. Our actions need to authentically reflect God's mercy.

Mercy can be of two kinds. It can be very egoistic, then it only appears as mercy but is not; unless mercy is absolutely egoless it is not authentic. And the difference is very subtle: from the outside there is no difference at all but one can feel the difference inside.

If mercy arises out of your bliss then it can never be an ego trip. If you share your bliss you feel thankful to the person who receives it, you feel humble. Bliss never makes anybody egoistic; on the contrary, dropping of the ego is the basic requirement of being blissful. Unless one drops the ego one is never blissful. Bliss happens within you like a flame of light and mercy is the radiation of it. When your bliss starts reaching to others it is mercy, compassion.

But the false and the pseudo coin which is cheaper to attain is also there. And that's what so many religious people go on doing — the Christian, Hindus, Jaina, Buddhist, etc. Their mercy is not out of joy, out of ecstasy; their mercy is a means. They are using mercy as a means of attaining something in this life or in the other life — but it is not an end.

The person who is merciful towards the poor, the starving, the ill, and is using it as a means of attaining heaven, of attaining God's grace, is exploiting these people. In fact this type of man will never like the world without the poor, without the ill, without the starved, because where will he show his mercy then? And how will he attain to paradise? — His whole ladder to paradise will be lost.

So these people who go on serving the poor and the ill are the people who would like the poor and the ill to remain forever. They would not like the world to be really happy because the happy person does not need your mercy. They would not like the pain to disappear totally, the suffering to be gone forever — then who will need you? Then you will feel absolutely futile. That was the meaning of your life; you were dependent on those people.

In fact one of the so-called Indian saints — his name is Karpatri — has written a book against socialism. The most fundamental argument that he places against socialism is that if nobody is poor then what will happen to service? If nobody is poor then what will happen to charity? Without charity nobody can enter into paradise, so the poor are absolutely needed. He is, in a way, a sincere man — that he has said so. But the reason is very clear: the religious people would not

like the world to be a really happy place.

If the world is happy and people are enjoying themselves and are blissful, who cares about the other world and heaven? — We can make heaven here. Hence all these religious people are against such things because their whole effort is not to make you blissful here and now. There is no need for them to teach any service to the poor and to teach any service to the ill and the starved. They must only teach bliss, and if out of bliss service comes it is beautiful. If out of bliss you start serving people that is spontaneous; there is no goal to it, it is unmotivated. And when it is unmotivated it is beautiful.

In fact these are the people who function as agents of the **status quo**, of the vested interest. They go on consoling the poor — that is the only way to avoid the revolution. Console the poor, serve the poor, give them little bits and they remain as they are. Tell them "You are suffering because of your past karmas," tell them "You are suffering because God is testing you," and tell them "You are suffering because God is purifying you". These are beautiful strategies to keep the poor poor and to keep the rich rich.

But the vested interest — the politicians, the rich, the priests — are not interested in people who do not function as agents of the **status quo**; they would not like them to exist at all. They are interested in people who console the poor because that is an anti-revolutionary act, consoling the poor. The consoled poor can never rebel. And the mercy that is shown by such people is a strategy for them too: by serving the poor they are trying to reach heaven.

They must not only teach service to the poor, the ill — they must simply teach bliss. Be blissful and out of that much is going to happen. But that will be natural, so there is no need to talk about it at all; it is going to be a by-product. Service, compassion, love — these are by-products of being blissful.e

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Congrats, Sr. Jessy

I congratulate good Sister Jessy Kurian to voice her concern about Christian absence in minority commission of India.

It is indeed painful to realize the way we, minority Christians, are being treated by the RSS-guided BJP government, Modi during his German and French trips did face journalists who asked him the pathetic conditions of Christians in India. Some of my UCIP friends told me that Modi lied to them. When a Christian delegation visited him in Gandhinagar, when he was CM of Gujarat, he nearly belittled them and insulted them. The RSS in him is always active when it comes to meet Muslims and Christians. Minorities do live in fear under Modi, no doubt about it. Gujarat witnesses the saffron threat in many ways.

The second biggest minority community that we are, we Indian Christians should not be afraid. Ours can not be a religion of cowards. Some of us, who are in public life, should encourage and strengthen of other Christians to come forward to shout out our grievances. Christian humility is not cowardiceness. Remember, when Christ was slapped, he had said: 'If I do no wrong, why do you slap me?' Christianity is not a foreign religion here. We are Indian first and Indian 1st and we believe in him who has a universal appeal of love and equality.

I am sure, a person like Sr. Jessy will inspire and guide many of our youth.

—*Ignatius John Dabhi*
Ahmedabad - Gujarat

Dr Ambedkar's Advice to Christians

The write up captioned "Ambedkar's advice to Christians" (Secular Citizen, 16th May) made a refreshing reading. The speech given by late Dr Ambedkar in the year 1938 to the

(Contd.. on p. 15)

Forgiveness of misdemeanours and the Door Of Mercy

As the Catholic Church continues to celebrate the Year Of Mercy the faithful must without reserve fully and wholeheartedly rejoice

as we seek and acknowledge forgiveness from God for our sins through the Sacrament of Reconciliation which we accept through the solemnity, through the act of confession which signifies the authenticity and promise of having received God's forgiveness. No clemency is available if you walk through the Door of Mercy without cleansing yourself from all human aberrations and immoral acts that transgress against divine law. The Holy Father has with divine care postulated the value of adhering to the presence of very important involvements during this period that celebrates the blessings that emanate from the Door Of Mercy.

Forgiveness is one of the more stronger precepts that come well attended with the elements of confession which is what one has to consider as the final requirement before full acceptance is granted to those who follow the process and the involvement of self after you pass through the Door Of Mercy.

This Catholic gift is meant for everybody from all corners of the earth. And for all ages and all kinds of tenure. A year of freedom to acquire the Father's mercy is at hand. And so easy to possess. The most significant offering of this holy happening is that besides not restricting the availability of the gift to only certain geographies the process to be involved is open to all who accept the value of this divine

offering.

As an example and to allow for understanding of how effective this offering is on the faithful one should visit the Basilica of Mount Mary in Bandra west. On a Sunday, very specially, where, on a hilltop, there stands the Basilica Church that welcomes people of all casts from India and the world over and whatever creed they come with, on a devotional visit to the Blessed Virgin Mary and how sanctified and consecrated is the moment to see these gentle people walk through the Door of Mercy with a hunger to know more about the Father's free gift. I report this content as I have been present there to see and feel the joy of how so many people of different castes and creeds uniformly ascend the entrance steps at the main door of Mount Mary Church to walk thru' the official Door Of Mercy with hope and confidence for God's blessings upon them.

—*Rtn. Calwyn D'Abreo*
Bandra West

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What is FOCUS

by Rtn. Calwyn D'Abreo

What is the name given to the apothegm or the axiom "like attracts like"

On the preface of it all it is a New Thought philosophy that announces a new way of indulging in mind applications and the jurisprudence that affects the outcome.

New Thought is an evolvement of a mind settled on understanding that by focusing on optimistic, affirmative and clear-cut thinking or the opposite of these attributes a person brings positive or negative inferences to the fore. You get what you think about, most. It is a law like the law of gravity. What goes up must come down.

New Thought is often referred to and interpreted as the new application for alignment with the omnipresent essence of reality defined in man himself. Documentary evidence exists and can be accurately traced to Jesus Christ who was a representation of new interpretations to old truths, terms used in the BC of that period and experiences. Jesus became the doctor of change and navigated his

three years as a preacher with an ideology that ran through the veins of all those who believed in him.

Like attracts like but to evolve into that which must manifest there is required to be a ratio of involvement which is 'focus'. Without strong focus you are sliding back into that area when you were indulging in a thought process but only believed. Belief, is primary and as a catalyst comes desire to stroke the fires of wanting but little progress can be made until you apply clear focus. Chances are you may not even know what it is that you really want if there is no focus.

So, as like attracts like and needs the quotient of focus you are thereby encouraging the ability to narrow your viewpoint and direct all of your otherwise inane ability to assume position and look for an outcome. You must direct all your energy and attention to one specific goal. The goal that you will call manifestation. Common applications of this law is for good things to become manifested. That means knowing exactly what it is that you want and focusing on the presence of it even before of its arrival on the

plain of probability and assumptions. Thoughts come into being as the primary and without feelings and then not taking appropriate action you may be lost in oblivion. That which you focused on may never see the light of day. The process yet is sublime and yet anecdotal. Students of New Thought must apply mental, emotional and physical energy to correspond to the results of deliberate focus. Often times, the student is encouraged by outer circumstances to become distracted from the real essence of what is to be manifested and by default create an aura around a requisition that may be a passing thought in relation to the thought which is active and the if's and but's of clarity spawn a reverse mode. By default, the student activates a resultant manifestation but not that which he had intended to acquire. He is now the owner of anything or that something he had not desired.

When you focus you narrow your attention to a very, very specific point of interest.

Indulgent focus keeps the focused mind in good order whilst keeping your emotions in pure alignment. Remember, emotions are meant to be in tandem with thought, belief and feelings. Focus also convert limiting beliefs into energizing beliefs. Stay focused. Try and emit the right frequency of energy focus that will attract your desires.

In closing the inertia on the solemnity of the word focus it is essential to remember that you must refrain from rampant negative thoughts that often arrive by default. Never stay a victim to an impulse thought. Build a better mental focus and shoot from the hip when it comes to debarring irrational inferences of negation. Continuously expose yourself to positive inputs. Stay aligned with positive people. Learn the nuances of focus from them. Emulate their stances and body language. Ask then how they focus. If you are lucky you may get an H G Wells to tutor you on the effectiveness of pure focus.

Panel Discussion

The Bombay Catholic Sabha has organized a Panel Discussion on 'POLITICAL SCENARIO IN THE COUNTRY TODAY' on Sunday May 29, 2016 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm at Sarvodaya, St. Pius X Complex, Goregoan East. Presentation on 'CHALLENGES TO THE INDIAN DEMOCRACY' will be made by Dr. Ram Punyani, Author & Chairman at the Center for Study of Society and Secularism and "CHRISTIAN RESPONSE TO CURRENT POLITICAL SCENARIO" by chhotebhai, Author, Activist & former President of All India Catholic Union from Kanpur. Mr. Gordon D'Souza, President of the Bombay Catholic Sabha will moderate the Discussion.

Those who wish to attend may register
by email to: president.bcs@gmail.com
or
call the BCS Office on 24446632 / 24463853

Save Earth – Only YOU can SAVE the World !



by Melville X. D'Souza

A couple of months back, a video was being circulated in the social media, especially through the popular 'WhatsApp', about how in Morocco, the clouds have fallen on earth. As per the explanation accompanying the video, this is the first time ever that such a thing has happened. "Wow !! Watch this video ... you won't get a proper word to describe it God's Amazing Act ! Catchy words indeed and so this video went viral; whoever got this video on their mobile went on a Forwarding spree - sending it across to whoever they had on their WhatsApp chat.

So, what was it ? Was it really the clouds ? Was it God's Amazing Act ? The cloud-shaped substance sparked off a discussion of mystery among social media users. No logical scientific explanation was forthcoming at that point of time and so people were left guessing as to what it actually was. However, it is widely believed that it was definitely not the clouds but some sort of 'foam' caused by pollution and climatic changes. There you have it, this was yet another case of how the environment is getting affected due to climatic changes. This is yet another warning of more dangers yet to come and experts believe, if these signs are not heeded, we shall all be doomed !

Inhabitants from across the Pacific Islands have migrated to safer places as global warming unleashes a barrage of cyclones, floods, storm surges and droughts, a newsreport warns. Thousands of people have already fled island nations such as Tuvalu and Nauru which, because of their poverty and proximity to the sea, represent the "ground zero" of climate change. They are leaving as their crops, buildings and water supplies are damaged by extreme weather, according to the research which purports to offer the rest of the world a glimpse into the future of life under a warming planet.

In our own country, only recently, torrential rains wrecked havoc in Chennai, causing tremendous hardship and loss of life and property. The rainfall that they received was never ever experienced in the past. It has also been reported that Acid rain has been falling in several parts of our country.

So, here we are – we can see the situation only getting worse the world over; as things stand, the very survival of our planet Earth, is at stake. Over the years, time and again, environmentalists have been warning us of the depleting ozone layer and the general deterioration of the environment. However, all such warning have been falling on deaf ears. Environmentalists have been crying themselves hoarse but all seems to be in vain.

It is not just the environmentalists, but the Holy Father, Pope Francis, has also expressed serious concern about the environment and has brought out an Encyclical with regard to care for the Earth. Pope Francis says, "Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with coloured flowers and herbs. This sister now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her. We have come to see ourselves as her lords and masters, entitled to plunder her at will. The violence present in our hearts, wounded by sin, is also reflected in the symptoms of sickness evident in the soil, in the water, in the air and in all forms of life. This is why the earth herself, burdened and laid waste, is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor; she "groans in travail; we have forgotten that we ourselves are dust of the earth. our very bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters".

'Save the Earth – only I can save the Earth – is that so ? Is that a joke ? Is it really upto us to save the Earth ? Are we capable of taking care of the Earth single handedly ? Can we as individuals do anything about it ? Oh, No, it is a gigantic task – taking care of such a Big planet ? We put up our hands - No way !

No, we are not called upon to save the whole world single handedly. But, yes, whatever little we can do, in our own little way, will surely go a long way in saving the earth. Take for instance, garbage management. Many of us would have heard of Fr. Felix Rebello who was at the St. Francis Xavier parish at Panvel until recently. And what an innings he has had at this parish – it seems he has transformed the entire parish; he has galvanized a whole lot of people into action. He has been referred to not only as one of the best shepherds but also as one of the best environmentalist priest in the Archdiocese ! He focused his attention first on the garbage generated in the parish kitchen – segregation of wet and dry garbage ! He says, "To put it simply, it means to help reduce the volume of garbage by using the method of segregation of garbage at source. And now, it is there for all to see, this programme has been immensely successful. The dry waste is sold off while the wet waste is being turned into manure. He even set up a biogas plant to use the garbage produced by the church and turn it into energy which is used in the church kitchen. And to take it further, they are striving to take the "Zero Garbage" to a bigger platform.

So, can we make a beginning ? A small step will surely a long way in saving the Earth – for ourselves and for the future generations to come. Yes, the world is in our Hands – Let's save it !!!

Priests' Campaign Fails to Help BJP in Nagercoil

Kanyakumari: Some Catholic priests actively supported and campaigned for BJP's M. R. Gandhi, but he has lost in the Christian stronghold Nagercoil constituency of Kanyakumari district in Tamil Nadu.

BJP lost to DMK-Congress alliance for a margin of around 21, 000 votes, but received about 1,000 votes more than the sitting MLA from ADMK.

Two weeks ago, as temperatures soared and weary campaigners tried to sharpen their pitch, Nagercoil residents spotted Roman Catholic priest

DMK-Congress alliance," said Father Valeriyen.

In Madurai, TN Bishop Council President and Archbishop, Anthony Pappusamy had announced they had decided to support Congress and DMK to back secular and democratic values.

However, in the border district of Kanyakumari, a BJP pocket borough, the party had gained support from an unexpected quarter - sections of the Roman Catholics and the Pentecostal congregation.



The district dominated by Christians and the nadars (OBC) has seen parties fielding mostly candidates from these groups for assembly and Lok Sabha elections. The Christian voters in the district, with six assembly constituencies, backed

from suburban Chennai, Father David R Thomas, campaigning for BJP candidate M R Gandhi.

Since the 2014 election, some priests have broken ranks to back the Hindutva party, going against the Church's diktats.

Catholic priest Father Valeriyen of Kanyakumari had told TOI a few days before the elections that this time there would be no 'secret' communication to the congregation or directive as to which party they should vote for.

"A few days ago, notices were quietly passed around regarding the Roman Catholic Church's preference for the

Congress in the past. And being a communally divided district, BJP has won in Kanyakumari Lok Sabha seat whenever Christian votes have split.

With Union minister and senior BJP leader Pon Radhakrishnan winning from there in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, Kanyakumari has now been tinged with the saffron ideology.

"When I needed a passport, Pon Radhakrishnan helped me get one. So, now, I campaign for him every election," said pastor T Clarat, called 'kadavulinmanithan' or 'messenger of god' by members of Pentecostal faith.

Christian Pacifism

Bishop Robert Barron, Auxiliary Bishop of Los Angeles, and founder of 'World On Fire Catholic Ministries' revealed on May 11, 2016: "On the theory and practice of pacifism or non-violent resistance", Cardinal Francis George stated that he had never heard of such an answer before. He spoke at the University of Notre Dame – (Brief extracts):

"The Church needs pacifists the same way it needs celibates, in order to witness to the end times in the midst of a fallen world. Those who live a radical non-violence bear witness to a time beyond – "When the lion will lie down with the lamb; and when men will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks" (Isaiah 11:6-7; Micah 4:3).

The Cardinal further disclosed: "Just as I don't want everyone to be a celibate, I don't expect everyone to be a pacifist. But in the field of social actions of renowned pacifists like Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Dorothy Day and St. John Paul, pacifism can constitute a massively efficacious means of battling evil and bringing about real peaceful change. Advocates of non-violence plant the seeds of eternal life in the soil of a sinful world."

He was speaking of the venerable Catholic tradition of a 'just war', which is permitted under certain stringent conditions, so as to secure justice, peace and security. It reminded me of the words of Lord Jesus: "Love your enemies and pray to those who persecute you, so that you may be children of Your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:44-45).

—Dr. Trevor Colaso,
Bandra (West)



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CCCI'S EXCELLENCE AWARDS



Nominations are invited for the following six CCCI'S ANNUAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS from Members of Indian Christian Community who have excelled and achieved recognition during the calendar year 2015:

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- 2. CCCI's Daniel & Sons - Public Service Award**
(Eligibility: Made Positive Contribution to the society at personal cost and following Christian principles and ethics)
- 3. CCCI's Velvin Packaging Pvt. Ltd. - Social Service Award**
(Eligibility: Worked for Social, Charitable, Philanthropic causes.)
- 4. CCCI's Aldel Education Trust - Young Entrepreneur Award**
(Eligibility: First generation entrepreneur age limit 45 years as of 31st December, 2015)
- 5. CCCI's Pattathu Brothers - Woman Entrepreneur Award.**
(Eligibility: A self made person, good turn over, innovative)
- 6. CCCI's Reliable Industries - Excellence in Education Award**
(Eligibility: Contribution to the field of Education)

The nominations with complete profile of achievements with supporting documents and related details along with a photograph be addressed to The Convener, Awards Committee and sent to the Chamber's Office. The last date for receipt of nomination is 15th. June, 2016.

A panel of judges nominated by CCCI will decide the awardees. The Award presentation ceremony will be held at Mumbai on 24th September, 2016.

Anthony Sequeira
Chairman

John D'Silva
Vice Chairman & Convener Awards Committee



Modi, Banerjee to attend Mother Teresa Canonization in Rome

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee are among scores of Indian leaders who plan to attend the canonization of Mother Teresa in Rome on September 4.



The prime minister has expressed interest in attending the canonization ceremony of the world's most renowned nun, who had made India the base for her works among the poorest of the poor, the Malayala Manorama newspaper reported May 21 quoting the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India.

A delegation from the conference had recently requested the premier to

head the Indian team.

On May 22, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee too confirmed that she would attend the canonization ceremony. The revered nun had



begun serving the downtrodden in late 1940s from Kolkata (formerly Calcutta), capital of the eastern Indian state. She died in the city on September 5, 1997, aged 87.

Banerjee's decision comes in the backdrop of her successful electoral victory in West Bengal, reports india.com.

The news site noted that Banerjee's attendance at the canonization ceremony would send out a political message at a time when right-wing forces try to project Mother Teresa as an opportunist evangelist, whose only goal was to convert the poor to Christianity. However, the larger secular section of Indian polity and society have criticized the hard-right stalwarts for defaming Mother Teresa and her nearly 40 years of selfless service in India.

By attending the canonization ceremony, Banerjee will not only cement her image as a secular leader and but appeal to Christians across India, the website claims.

source: matters india



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Article 356 - the most misused

There has been an ongoing debate in the country on the misuse of this very vital article in the Constitution of India by political parties. What was meant to be a provision for a catastrophic situation in a State due to failure of the constitutional machinery has in fact become a tool in the hands of parties in power to topple inconvenient regimes. Sad but true – the constitutional Head of the State which is the Governor has been a pawn in the hands of such dubious decisions to impose President's rule. It has been used more than 120 times thus far with Indira using it 50 times in 15 years of rule followed by Morarji Desai 16 times in 3 years of which erstwhile Jan Sangh was a part. NDA-1....5 times!

The recent developments in the State of Uttarakhand has brought the issue back in extreme focus with the judiciary literally castigating the Centre for its blatant action in dismissing the government led by Harish Rawat – no saint either, but elected CM all the same. This, coupled with the coup in Arunachal Pradesh some time back, has brought the Modi government into disrepute. These are the same politicians who, time and again, during the UPA regime would parrot the observations of the Bomai judgment and literally hound the previous regime, and rightly so, for misusing the article 356. During the debate in the Constituent Assembly, Dr B.R.Ambedkar had said it was meant to be used 'in rarest of rare cases' in response to strong opposition to article 356 which in fact was a reincarnation of article 278 of 1935 British law. To assuage the concerns of the members of the Constituent Assembly, Dr Ambedkar articulated his expectations on this provision – "In fact I share the sentiments expressed by my Hon'ble friend Mr. Gupte yesterday that the proper thing we ought to expect is that such articles will never be called into operation and that they would remain as dead letters. If at all they are brought into operation, I hope the President, who is endowed with these powers, will take proper precautions before actually suspending the administration of the provinces."

This shows how important a role Dr Ambedkar had envisaged for the President of India. That the President

VIEWSON NEWS

- Pranab Mukerjee, a man considered to be an authority on the constitution should have succumbed to the machinations of the NDA, is rather unfortunate. One can definitely understand Governors, who are political appointees, being keen to please their masters lest they be sacked on some pretext or the other. Fortunately, the President of India has no such fears unless, of course, when it comes to being re-nominated for a second term. It is hoped that the government at the centre would have learnt its lesson. Doubtful though! With Ram Vilas Paswan demanding President's Rule in Bihar, let the people decide.

BCCI – unending troubles

The woes of the cricket administrators do not seem to end. With the Supreme Court sticking to its guns on most of the issues, the powers that be, find the heat too much. This added to the oppressive summer, the likes of Shashant Manohar, the President of the BCCI who has just resigned, opted for the desert heat where thankfully no court will ask questions. It is reported that he did not want to work with too many restrictions. While it is his choice to opt for the Chairmanship of the ICC, one would say that he abandoned the ship when it is facing the toughest test. It is like running away from the challenge.

The troubles for the BCCI, started way back when the match-fixing charges started flying around. People started losing faith in the fairness of the game and the authorities initiated some knee jerk measures with a couple of cricketers being banned etc. Soon the problems increased with spot fixing etc and the final nail in the coffin came with the IPL mess thanks to the likes of enthusiasts and conflict of interest issues which surfaced then. Ever since, the judiciary has remained in the frame finding faults with the cricket authorities.

The Indian courts have been very severe with the BCCI, calling it a cozy club, mutually beneficial society etc. These are harsh observations but the thick skinned members of the club did not do really anything worth a mention. Some cosmetic changes were sought to be made which were frowned upon by the courts. With multiple litigations,



by Marshall Sequeira

the apex court decided to appoint the famous Lodha Panel. Some of these recommendations, harsh as they are, were backed by the court.

The cricket bosses feel it is their right to have the last say on every cricketing matter. In the past when there were complaints about too much of cricket being played to the detriment of the cricketers, they said if any cricketer suffered from exhaustion, he could request the board to allow him to opt out. The cricketer has to "ask", mind you, to be rested. Now when questioned why Harsha Bhogle, was omitted from the cricketing commentary in the IPL, the reason given by the IPL boss is 'every commentator "needs" a break'. By the way they are sitting in A.C. rooms while the players are sweating in the oppressive heat. How come some of the other top commentators are there for years together without a break? Do they not 'need a break'? Or do they parrot BCCI line? If you comment on the poor pitch conditions, you are 'rested' for the entire IPL season. This is a clear warning to one and all. Either toe [the BCCI line] or you go. By the way, commentators are supposed to be unbiased with independent view points on all issues concerning the game of cricket and obviously other related issues, pitches included.

With a younger team in place already, a lot is expected of them. The board needs to function in a transparent and professional manner. Had they done so earlier, there was no need for the courts to step in. Hopefully, things will change and change drastically. The mutual benefit club should be disbanded. The old folks [those over 70] are finally out. With the new duo averaging 49 years, a new look BCCI should take all the States on board – just not those which are favourably disposed. The Courts will continue to watch to make sure that the Lodha recommendations are implemented, albeit with some very minor changes. Stop 'resting' the wrong people.

Essential values every family must share

Having a strong well defined family values helps strengthen the foundation for a strong, tight knit family. Strong and consistent family values are important in building trust and confidence in each family member

How do you define family values? In our home, family values are rules or ideals that, as a family, we agree to live by and stay true to. The list of essential family values would be a mile long no doubt but here are the most important ones



Belonging

It is important that each member of my family feel that they are loved, that they belong and that they matter. Creating a strong family unit is great but each person should be allowed the space and freedom to explore the activities they think they may enjoy. People are more courageous and more willing to take chances if they know they have a safe place to come back to when things don't quite work out well. Coming together for special occasions and holidays and just spending time together as a family is what helps build that sense of belonging.

Respect

This is a bit more difficult to define, to respect each other is to take feelings, thoughts, needs, and preferences in to account when making decisions. It also means acknowledging and valuing everyone's thoughts, feelings and contributions to the family as a whole. Respect is indeed earned and there is a very fine line between it and fear. The only way to earn and keep someone's respect is to first show them respect yourself. Respect as an important family value will extend out of the home and into school, work or other social settings.

Honesty

This is the foundation of any relationships that are meant to last. Mother-daughter, husband-wife, sister-brother. Without honesty a deeper connection will not form and certainly won't last. Encourage honesty by practicing understanding and respect when someone tells you of their wrong doings. If we lose it and get angry when we're told what has happened the other person will be more likely to hide it from you next times simply to avoid the disrespect.

Flexibility

Order, schedules and structure in family helps maintain some level of rationality. But too much structure and the unwillingness to give a little can result in a lot of unhappiness and anger. The more flexibility you have in decision making, for example, the happier your family will be for it. Imagine one member of the family always thinking they are right and enforcing their way of doing things. This certainly wouldn't lead to much happiness within the family unit.

Forgiveness

Forgiving people who have wronged you is an important choice to make. Yes, forgiveness is a choice. It is not some feeling that randomly

washes over you when you feel the other person has "suffered" enough. This can be tough since a lot of us tend to equate forgiveness with saying what you did was okay. They are not the same thing. Holding a grudge, is not conducive to a close family with mutual respect. Keep in mind that everyone makes mistakes, we all occasionally say things we wish we hadn't and none of us are perfect.

Responsibility

We'd all like to be considered responsible people. Responsibility is something that is learned. As a child you may have been shown how to put your toys away after playing, how to tidy your room or how and when to feed the dog. This sense of responsibility extends well into adulthood. An adult who has an intrinsic sense of responsibility doesn't require a lot of prodding to show up to work on time, return phone calls or meet deadlines. Setting out individual responsibilities for family members works to instill this quality in everyone.

Traditions

This is by far the most fun for me. I think traditions are what make a family unique, they draw people together

and create a sense of belonging for everyone. Traditions don't need to be expensive, elaborate or a lot of work. It can be something as simple as a lazy Saturday morning sipping coffee and chatting or an annual dinner to ring in the new year. If you don't currently have traditions in your family, create them! All traditions started with one person, why not let your family traditions start with you? Get creative and have fun.

Few secrets of happy families

- Enjoy each other's company
- Set examples of love
- Eat together
- Play together
- Put family before friends
- Build and honour rituals
- Keep your voices down
- Never fight in front of the kids
- Don't work too much
- Encourage sibling harmony
- Limit children's after-school activities

Indian Family Value System

Values can be defined as certain attitudes and beliefs that a person follows in his conduct. Those standards as per which an individual judges his own actions, whether he is right or wrong can be called as values. Value system comprises of all those beliefs and viewpoints that the parents pass on their next generation, they further pass it on to their offspring and so, the legacy goes on and on. Now let us come to the 'Indian Family Value System' - what is it and how does it influence individuals. In the Indian culture, there are certain rules and regulations that each and every child is taught right from his childhood.

Family values cover in India are -

a young person should never speak in a high or rude tone to those who are older to him; he should always give respect to elders. he should respect women; he should always speak truth and try to engage in non-violent be-

havior; and so on. Most of the values that the parents impart to their children in India, as a part of the family value system, are similar in nature.

Some other values that are part of India's cultural heritage are:

Living peacefully and respecting each other's rights.

Never ever compromising on integrity for the purpose of prosperity.

Maintain strong bonds with the family members as well as relatives.

Being hospitable to everyone who comes to your home, irrespective of his caste, creed, financial position or status.

Treating guest as God 'Atithi Devo Bhava'.

Remembering and bowing to God first thing in the morning.

Indulging in meditation.

Always taking the advice of elders in case of any important decision.

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Refresh Your Marriage

Sometimes it's difficult to understand your husband. Let's be honest, we communicate and think differently than our other half. No matter where your marriage is, it can always become stronger. Here are some ideas for those who want to shake things up a bit

Whether your marriage is struggling or you just want to shake things up a bit, here are some ideas for building unity and getting a grip on bliss

Give compliments

Decide to compliment your husband on at least one thing every day. Be careful to listen. Your husband will compliment you on areas in which he wishes to receive compliments.

Date your husband

Don't lose that loving feeling you had when, you first started dating. Commit to regular, scheduled date nights and take turns choosing the agenda. Don't take calls or texts during your date. Refrain from talking about stressful subjects such as finances, kids or work. This is the time to rekindle dreams and thoughts for future.

Share your time

This is your life, right now. Don't get so busy that you forget to slow down and enjoy life - and to enjoy it with your husband. It's a compliment when your husband wants to spend time with you. Plan out and prioritise your calendar. Designate time for relaxing, going out and completing chores. Make time to spend on activities together.

Be spontaneous

Do something out of the ordinary for your husband once a week. Sometimes you need to plan ahead but do something to surprise your husband, something that he would never ex-



To keep your marriage relationship fresh and growing stronger, you must practice being attentive to the other person's need and desires. When a husband and wife successfully blend their two perspectives, unity and understanding is found in the marriage.

pect you to do. Stretching yourself and your husband can be an incredible growing experience! Draw closer to one another in the midst of the unfamiliar.

Listen attentively

Devote your full attention to what your husband is saying rather than using the time to prepare your own response. Restate your husband's words, reaffirming what he said and then thoughtfully respond. Discern what role your husband wants you to play in a conversation, whether as a passive listener or an active problem solver and opinion giver.

Support change

You and your husband will change over the course of your marriage and it's important to accept those changes. Continue to value and trust each other back from growth-it's easy for resent-

ment to creep in when you do.

Celebrate milestones

Be intentional about making memories with your husband, especially for holidays, birthdays or anniversaries. Create your own celebrations and traditions as a couple. If a day is especially important to him, celebrate it the way he wants to. Make sure both of you have fun on holidays!

Give space

At times you need space and on other times, you may need more intimacy. Tell your husband what you need, when you need it. Understand his innate desire to be independent - encourage him in activities that fill that need. Spend time with yourself alone too, sometime. Respect the need of space and avoid cribbing about it when he asks for some 'me time' or needs the feel to be left alone at times.

A Brief Evidence On The Human Soul?



BY MELVYN BROWN

Toward the end of the 20th century philosophers and scientists imagined they had come close to solving the riddle of life. They envisioned many possible solutions to explain the prognosis for life through experiment and theory.

The role of creation became an act of cosmological constant to advocate the presence of matter, and to propagate a universe of equations by concocting newer theories of space and time.

Suddenly, on the morning of December 20, 1972 The Statesman (Calcutta edition) published a brief report under the caption "Weight of a Human Soul". Readers of the paper thought it was a profound statement.

A Swedish doctor, Nilsolof Jacobson said the human soul weighed 21 grams. Jacobson went on to insist that he had enough evidence to prove it.

All living things must perish. No discrepancies could exist. We all know that from our school days. Scientists from the dawn of time had accepted the fact. The dynamics of the universe further transformed man's fear of death by making it a part of his birth, development and extinction. The eternal puzzle however, to the question: does life go on, remained an enigma.

Magic, in sorcery and witchcraft restored a sense of optimism for a short span in mankind's befuddled mind, that truly indeed, "life is a mere passage" and that the Spirit of humans raced on to greener shores, or stayed earth-bound for brief periods of time.

World religions across the globe spun their own colourful visions, and in a dispassionate way promised hope and a haven on the other side.

The paranormal leaped into the realms

of the occult where the living power of nature was being rediscovered. Unheard of kinetic forces, stories of human combustion, vibrations in chants, auto-suggestions and telepathy were being experienced and documented throughout the years of the first millennium.

But nowhere was man tempted to question the driving "Force" or "Spirit" within him. Religions breached the corridors of silence, and called it the "Soul".

It took generations of mankind to fill "the face of the earth". Many more generations of diversity in race and culture – with wisdom of their own making, and with philosophies of deep values and insight, which together helped to shape the world we live in.

In his book, Dr. Nilsolof Jacobson described how he went about finding the weight of a "Soul". The doctor would place terminal patients on death-beds

(Contd.. from p.5)

Christians of Solapur district in Maharashtra is quite relevant even today to all the Indian Christians. Dr Ambedkar has correctly pointed out that the Missionaries convert people to Christianity, but do not bother about their political rights and that it is difficult for any institute to survive without political support.

We Christians have been facing grave problems in India since independence as we have no voice in politics. Our people are busy with their own life. We have not developed spirit to fight against social injustice. Priests are intoxicating the laity with the rosy picture of life after death, whereas we are dying on earth.

It is high time that we should stop following the hierarchy on corporal matters and take active part in social,

resting on sensitive scales. When the patients died their souls would leave the bodies. The needle on the scales would drop 21 grams.

The breath of life in the living is the energy which keeps him alive and active; a topic for serious research in every modern human society. It becomes debatable if this force is called a Gas (as in fuel) or Spirit (as in faith).

The power of reasoning in Homo Sapiens and their perception of the universe has transformed our destinies. The human brainchild on the subject of reincarnation touches upon the soul and karma. Darwin's theory of evolution and Einstein's theory of relativity were only tips of an iceberg taunting the provinces of the soul. Somewhere along the way, a phrase "soul-mate" was born. The everlasting universe theme is today packed in the bag of quantum mechanics (not too distant from the Soul continuum theory).

political activities like other Indians.

— **Vincent Bagul,**
Mumbai

Minor Seminary

Archdiocese of Bombay has started a minor seminary at Parel to promote more men for priesthood. This should promote not just the Archdiocese of Bombay but also the Seminary Incharge, Rev. Fr. Walter D'Souza to introduce special camps and training programs not just in the Archdiocese of Bombay but also in the parishes for the students who are to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation and for students from Std. IX to Std. XII and introduce them to the vocation of priesthood.

—**Cajetan Peter D'Souza**



St. Lawrence - Attur, Now a Minor Basilica

St Lawrence Shrine at Attur, Karkala has been elevated to the Status of a Minor Basilica by H.H. Pope Francis through the Sacred Congregation for the Divine Worship and Discipline of Sacraments, Vatican, Rome.

Bishop Dr Gerald Isaac Lobo, Msgr Baptist Menezes, Fr George D'Souza the rector of the shrine and his team of priests and lay leaders with the shrine committee had helped in the documentation work.

St Lawrence Shrine is in Udupi diocese and is a famous place for the devotion for decades.

Shoe church launched in Taiwan



A huge church built as a glass high heel has been created in eastern Taiwan.

The shoe has been created entirely from blue tinted glass and measures around 55 feet tall and 36 feet wide.

It took two months to construct and will open next month before the Lunar New Year on 8th February.

Zheng Rongfeng, spokesperson for the Southwest Coast National Scenic Area, told Huanqiu.com, that the church could attract more female wor-

shippers and will have a total of 100 'female-oriented features'.

He thought installing "chairs for lovers, maple leaves, biscuits and cakes," might help encourage a more diverse congregation at Ocean View Park in Budai town.

Sudan Church mourns missionary nun's death

Rome: Catholics in South Sudan mourned the death of a Holy Spirit nun, a missionary to the troubled northeastern African nation.

Sr. Veronika Rackova, a medical doctor died on May 20, a week after a soldier shot and wounded her in Yei, a medium-sized city in South Sudan's southwest. The nun worked as a medical doctor at St Bakhita Health Centre there.

Bishop Erkolano Lodu Tombe of Yei, who led a memorial Mass at Christ the King Cathedral on May 21, expressed profound sadness at the missionary nun's death when normalcy was returning to his strife-torn nation.

The prelate urged security personnel to not let wrong elements provoke citizens into "unnecessary reactions." He also urged military commanders to punish immediately soldiers who abuse their role while protecting lives and property of citizens. Earlier this week, the government said it had arrested three soldiers for the shooting.

Pastor, two women arrested in MP

India: A Christian pastor, his wife and another woman were detained in Madhya Pradesh on May 22 on proselytization charges.

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Not A Single Inch Of Our Land

A human chain was organised today, Sunday, May 22 between 10.30 a.m and 11.30 a.m. Over 3000 citizens participated from all over Mumbai at this event.

This protest was against the unjust demand of the BMC to demolish the Heritage Cross / Graveyard of the Heritage Church of Our Lady of Remedy which has a history of over 450 years.

On one side the BMC because of a lack of governance and corruption has already disturbed the living . NOW THEY ALSO WANT TO DIS-

TURB THE DEAD BY DEMOLISHING THE GRAVEYARD. We condemn this.

Date: Sunday, May 22 , 2016 Time: 10.30 a.m and 11.30 a.m.

Venue: Outside the Our Lady of Remedy Church , opp. Poinсур Depot, S.V. Road, Kandivali West.

Organised by GUARDIANS UNITED with SAVE OUR LAND [SOUL], WATCHDOG FOUNDATION, Church in the City, St. Vincent De Paul Political & Civic Cell and several other Citizen Groups.



image and identity of the City.

We further learn that many builders in the city who are seeking to develop the properties in vicinity of religious structures in BMC are finding it difficult to remove the said religious structures on the road/foot-path, including to the Holy Crosses, are now conniving with the officer of BMC and are hell bent on removal of such religious structures. Why we say because even in case of Our Lady of Remedy Church is not an exception to this unholy nexus between BMC and the builder. There is Tower consisting of 32 storey constructed very close to the church and there are no flat purchasers for the said building and the said building is lying mostly vacant due to the fact of narrow passage which leads to the said building. As such the flat purchasers are shying away from buying any flats in the said building. Therefore it is apparently clear at whose instance the BMC is acting in the matter to widen the S.V. Road in front the church.

The Constitution has made provisions for the Fundamental Rights in Part III, which the State has to comply with and these are also judicially enforceable. The various Articles of the Constitution providing rights to the minorities, clearly and firmly point out to only one direction: that of a multi-religious, multi-cultural, multi-lingual and multi-racial Indian society, interwoven into an innate unity by the common thread of national integration and communal harmony.

The Mumbai Christians just want a fair system to fulfill their basic needs and a chance to live an honourable life which can only be provided by the institutionalisation of minority rights in general.

Therefore any attempt to demolish the graves and Holy Cross would amount to defiling the religious sanctity of the Holy Place and hurt the religious sentiments of the Christian community and as such the BMC should come up with some alternatives so that no law and order situation arises.

—Dolphy A. D'souza

Brief Details of the history, issue and why we are upset:

1. This has reference to the proposed demolition on 21st April 2016, whereby the local ward office (R South Ward) threatened the Parishioners of Our Lady of Remedy Church, Poisar, Kandivali (West), Mumbai 400 067, to demolish the Holy Cross inside the compound wall of Church and also construct road on the graves situated in the said compound. Our Lady of Remedy Church (Padroado Church built 1550).

At the very outset we wish to state we are extremely pained by the step motherly treatment meted by the successive State Governments including the Mumbai Municipal Corporation to the members of the Christian Community of Mumbai in general and the Parishioners of Our Lady of Remedy Church, Poisar in particular. The Mumbai Municipal Corporation is hell bent on trampling the rights of the minorities in the State, which are guaranteed under the Constitution of India.

We hereby record our displeasure that on 23rd February 2016, a chawl on the church's property was demolished. Further, on 21st April 2016, the Sub-Engineer of the BMC came with officers and threatened the church employees. When the locals met the Assistant Municipal Commissioner R South Ward, he was adamant and told them no action will be taken till 26th April. We hereby state that the said heritage church has a heritage cemetery wherein there are the graves which are still active and cannot be dug up as per civic rules. We also state that there is a religious sentiment as far as the dead are concerned in the graves and the bodies

are semi-decomposed and desecrating and opening them on the intended road will disturb the religious sentiments of the families of the deceased and can give rise to law and order problem. Also currently the parishioners number 2800. There are at the moment approx 100 graves. If the unwarranted demolition is carried out the Church stands to lose almost 50 percent of the Graves which will leave hardly any burial place for the parishioners of the Church.

It is notable to observe that inspite of several agitations and protests in the past, the BMC has not been able to allot land and construct a Cemetery since the last 15 years on the western express highway for the Christian Community that numbers almost 3 lakhs. Time and again BMC has made promises but nothing concrete has happened.

The said Church has already been included in the proposed heritage Category II A List published by Mumbai Municipal Corporation.

We submit that, the said Church along with the Holy Cross would qualify to fall under the definition of the said 'ancient monuments' as defined in Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 and thus need to be preserved and protected. As per the Development Control Regulations for Greater Mumbai, 1995, particularly, the Heritage Regulations for Greater Bombay, 1995 framed under Regulation No.67, lists some of the Churches in Grade II A of the Heritage Regulation and contribute to the

Tomorrow Will Be Too Late!



BY FR. CEDRIC PRAKASH SJ

The World Humanitarian Summit (WHS), May 23rd & 24th 2016, in Istanbul, Turkey is finally underway!

The two-day event convened by the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon is focused around his call that humanity-people's safety, dignity and the right to thrive-be placed at the heart of global decision-making. Three major goals have been envisaged for the Summit:

- a) to re-inspire and reinvigorate a commitment to humanity and to the universality of humanitarian principles
- b) to initiate a set of concrete actions and commitments aimed at enabling countries and communities to better prepare for and respond to crises, and be resilient to shocks
- c) to share best practices which can help save lives around the world, put affected people at the centre of humanitarian action, and alleviate suffering

In order to deliver for humanity, stakeholders must act immediately on five core responsibilities:

- i. to prevent and end conflict
- ii. to respect rules of war
- iii. to leave no one behind
- iv. to work differently to end need
- v. to invest in humanity

besides two other responsibilities are also highlighted:

- i. catalyse action for gender equality
- ii. respond to disasters and climate change

Both the goals and the core responsibilities are certainly laudable and could go a long way to help bring 'humanity' back centre-stage in a world that so desperately cries out for it! The WHS, a first-of-its-kind was expected to bring together heads of State and Government and key decision-makers from across the globe. On the eve of the Summit however, in a lead 'The New York Times' (May 21st 2016) states "most of the world's most powerful leaders-those

whose soldiers and diplomats can end wars and hold accountable those who violate international humanitarian law- are not going." Angela Merkel, the Chancellor of Germany is the only G-7 leader who is expected to be present. The absence of world leaders at this important summit is a sad commentary of how far an immediate global response will actually go in the wake of the greatest humanitarian crisis that has gripped the world today!

It is true however, that the WHS will bring together more than six thousand participants representing more than 125 countries, the UN agencies and the whole spectrum of civil society organisations which are engaged in humanitarian issues. It will be a great opportunity not merely to exchange notes, 'sell' the good work being done- but more than ever to see in what ways an immediate, collaborative, pragmatic and sustainable response is agreed upon – and which can be implemented without delay.

Many are skeptical if this will actually happen. A few weeks ago one of the leading humanitarian INGOs 'Medicins Sans Frontieres(MSF) (Doctors without Borders) pulled out of the WHS. MSF stated, "as shocking violations of international humanitarian law and refugee rights continue on a daily basis, WHS participants will be pressed to a consensus on non-specific, good intentions to 'uphold norms' and 'end needs'. The summit has become a fig-leaf of good intentions, allowing these systematic violations, by states above all, to be ignored. We no longer have any hope that the WHS will address the weaknesses in humanitarian action and emergency response, particularly in conflict areas or epidemic situations."

Point taken. But those who gather in Istanbul must ensure that the WHS is no 'fig-leaf of good intentions' and must have the courage to ask and answer difficult questions, like:

- will the so-called developed nations CLOSE DOWN immediately their arms and ammunitions industry?

- will developing nations stop increasing their spending on 'Defence and Military warfare'?
- will nations stop the juggernaut of fascism, fundamentalism, fanaticism and misplaced 'patriotism' which excludes the other and propagates the building of walls and fences?
- will heads of State stop killing their own people –in the name of quelling dissent and rebellion?
- will human rights violations particularly of the IDPs and the refugees be addressed immediately?
- will increased funding for education of the vulnerable and the marginalised become the corner stone for a more inclusive and egalitarian world? As part of the WHS, the UN has launched a major campaign 'Education cannot wait!' stating, "one in four of the world's school-aged children – 462 million – now live in countries affected by crisis. Of these children, 75 million are in the most desperate need of support: they are either in danger of or already missing out on their right to education. Education gives children the building blocks to rebuild their lives and, eventually, their country."

These are but some of the questions! Unless there is a clear political resolve to address endemic issues- nothing may change dramatically. The WHS is an opportunity -for the sake of millions of people the world over- which cannot be wasted. It should not be allowed to be an exercise in futility or a mere cosmetic with empty rhetoric! Those who are there MUST realise that the time to ACT is NOW! Tomorrow will be too late!

**(Fr Cedric Prakash sj is a human rights activist and is engaged with the Jesuit Refugee Service in the Middle-East)*

Inspiration!

Focus on self-grooming

This is one of the fruitful ways to improve your persuading skills. Choose a topic, stand in front of the mirror and try to put forth your views and counter

Build Your Persuasion Skills

Convincing people to do certain things is not an easy task. We tell you how you can effectively you can build your persuasion skills

How many of you are at a loss when you really need to do some persuasive talking? There are many who cannot persuade others without sounding too bossy or intimidating. We have suggested some easy methods to build your persuading skills here and help you understand the power of persuasion.

Sound positive

If you want to build your power of persuasion, you definitely have to incorporate a positive tone when you talk. You must not be loud or forceful. Instead, you have to sound confident, enthusiastic and optimistic about what you are saying.

Use facts and figures

When you want to persuade someone, the best way would be use examples and actual facts to make them understand what you are saying. When you present proven data and available truth to a person, they will agree more readily to what you are saying and you can become the master of power of persuasion.

Be logical

Do not speak for the sake of speaking. Instead speak logically and avoid nonsensical talks. Do not say something without thinking it through. Speak slowly and let the other person digest whatever you are saying. Don't make ridiculous comments and unreasonable arguments that mean that



you do not have the power of persuasion.

Listen Carefully

If you want to be listened, you have to listen. Do not interrupt the other person when he/she is speaking. Instead listen to what the other person has to say, and use his/her points and views to counter attack him/her.

Be a part of debates

As and when you can, join group discussion and practice speaking in public. Also, participating in debates every now and then can help you build persuading skills. If possible, try to attend speeches given by renowned orators. By observing them talk, you can learn important articulation lessons and master/improve your power of persuasion.

Read books

There are several books that can help you build your persuading skills. Also, you have to first work on your language skills because if you speak erroneously, the other person may not even pay attention to what you are saying.

attack on your arguments. This way you not only tend to improve your persuading skills but also have a chance to understand and work on your facial mannerisms and body language, which can improve the power of persuasion that you already possess.

Barriers to successful persuasion

Being afraid of rejection. This can even stop people from trying to persuade in extreme cases. Making assumptions about your audience, and then not being prepared to reassess when new evidence emerges. Forgetting that the whole conversation is important. You need to engage in order to persuade, right from the beginning.

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MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 42 years, Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Admin. Controller in **DUBAI**. Visiting Mumbai in the month of June 2016. Contact email : dsouzarobin25@gmail.com OR Tel : 22-24983066 **(Regd. No. 6358)**

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 : 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 / flourind-souza@gmail.com OR 9769259694 / 9892873474 **(Regd. No. 6264)**

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

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

MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Divorcee, aged 60 years, looks much younger to his age, Ht. 5' 10", Fair Complexion, M.Sc., IT, worked in Australia as a Programmer. **(Regd. No. 6236)**

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

MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor aged 32 years. Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 57 kgs., Wheatish Complexion, Edn. HSC, working

as Food Production. Contact email : vaz.dominic@yahoo.com **(Regd. No. 6229)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor aged 41 years. Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 69 kgs., Wheatish Complexion, Edn. S.S.C. A/C Tech. Course, working as a A/C. Technician in U.A.E. Contact email : lawrencedias321@gmail.com OR 9594678829 / 7208825574 **(Regd. No. 6228)**

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 31 years, Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 82 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. H.S.C. + P.G. Diploma, working on Cruise Ship. Contact email : stanlybobn@yahoo.com OR 9869332407 / 22836151. **(Regd. No. 6220)**

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

MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 32 years, Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 64 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.E., (Comp.), working as a Software Engineer. Contact email : barretto.elton@gmail.com OR 9004500088 **(Regd. No. 6034)**

MUMBAI : East Indian Roman Catholic Widower, aged 60 years, Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 70 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Handsome, Edn. SSC, Well settled, having own accommodation. Seeks a good looking girl below 50 years, working or non working. Contact : 7506014145 **(Regd. No. 6075)**

MUMBAI : RC Bachelor 40/5'8", B.E., working in Senior position reputed IT firm. Seeks alliance from R.C. spinster educated good family background Pl. reply with photograph and details to keithcardozo@

hotmail.com or contact 9820338755 **(Regd. No. 5996)**

Pune : Tamilian Roman Catholic 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)**

DHARWAD : Goan RC Bachelor aged 37 years, Ht. 6', Wt. 79 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Masters (Navitical Science), working as a Merchant Navy Chief Officer. Having a flat in Mumbai. Contact email : ephremf@gmail.com OR 9768153407 **(Regd. No. 6205)**

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

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 33 years, Ht. 5' 7", Wheatish Complexion, Edn. PGDRM, working as a Manager. Contact email : larsen316@gmail.com OR 9819068603 **(Regd. No. 6213)**

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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)

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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)

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MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 27 years, Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 65 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.A. (Lit) Teacher by profession. Contact email : shalantam@gmail.com OR 91-67285160 (Regd. No. 6428)

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 30 years, Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.E., working as a Sr. Analyst in MNC. Contact email : joe51in@yahoo.co.in or 9322282297 (Regd. No. 6427)

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 26 years, Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 50 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. Bachelors in Physiotherapy, working as a Physiotherapist. Contact email : tracy.veigas89@gmail.com OR 7045278809 (Regd. No. 6426)

MUMBAI : R.C. Spinster, 25, 5' 2", post graduate, fair, preety, working seeks alliance from R.C. bachelors, below 30, well qualified financially stable, own accommodation with good values and family background Goans, East Indians, Mangaloreans may send their details to : dsilva.maggie252@gmail.com OR 9960376878 (Regd. No. 6425)

MUMBAI : Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 29 years, Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 61 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Sc. working for Govt. Firm. Contact email : graciav765@gmail.com OR 9987890858 (Regd. No. 6423)

DUBAI : Anglo Indian RC 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)

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MUMBAI : Goan R.C. Spinster, aged 28 years, Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 50 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., IT, working as a Software Engineer. Contact email : sabyfialho@gmail.com OR 9819931532 (Regd. No. 6519)

RAJASTHAN : Goan RC Spinster, aged 27 years, Ht. 5' 7", Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working for Railways as a Confidential Assistant to Sr. DCM. Contact email : casrdcm@gmail.com OR 09829980087(Regd. No. 6525)

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Christianity growing rapidly in Nepal



Religious tension in Nepal is on the rise, but Christianity is unexpectedly also growing at a rapid rate in the country despite the situation.

In a recent entry on Breakpoint, Eric Metaxas highlights the fast growth of the populations of Christians in Nepal. While there were virtually no Christians in the country in 1951, the census registered 458 after 10 years and 102,000 after forty years. In 2011, that number already hit 375,000.

What is more interesting is that the International Institute for Religious Freedom reported that Nepalese Christian leaders believe there are actually almost 2.3 million Christians in Nepal. While the government claims that Christians presently constitute only 1.5 of the population, it could really be 10 percent, if the Nepalese Christian leaders' claims are accurate.

Metaxas suggested that the discrepancy in the figures reported may be due to the Nepalese Hindu activists' manipulation of census data. Apparently, they are not happy with the mass conversion of the citizens to Christianity.

Nepal's interim constitution outlaws evangelism and prohibits a person from either converting to another religion or from doing anything to disturb a person's religion. Still, a lot of Nepalese are dropping their Hindu or Buddhist beliefs to embrace Christianity.

One reason for the mass conversion could be the love that Christians are showing to the Nepalese. This is what Filipino missionary Evelyn Martin said in an interview with the Christian Broadcasting Network.

Another reason for the Christian conversion is the adoption of Nepal's new constitution in September 2015. Previously an official Hindu nation, the country has become a secular state. However, proselytizing is still prohibited despite President Bidhya Devi Bhandari's declaration of freedom of religion under his rule.

The mass Christian conversion in Nepal could also partly be attributed to the weak enforcement of the said law. Christians reportedly occupy places that are not serviced by the government or the Hindu majority.

Source: christianmessenger

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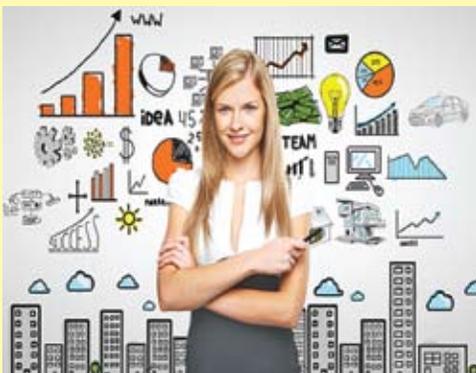


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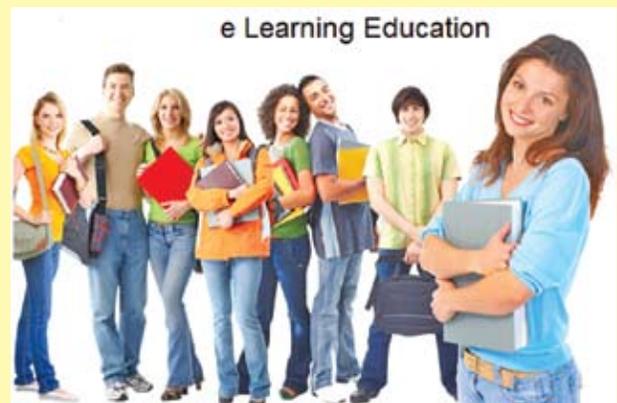
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