

THE SECULAR CITIZEN

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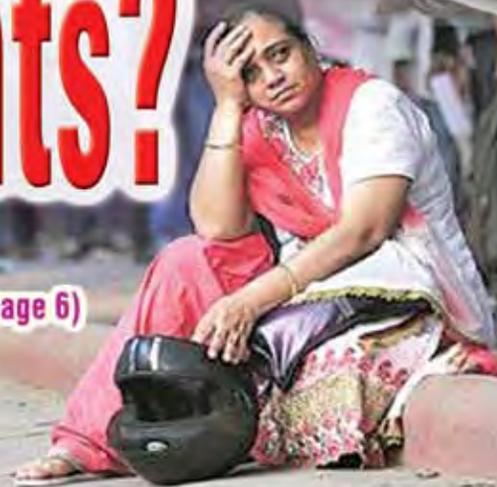


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Three Rights?

(Read on page 6)



Locals rush to collect 'holy water'

Kharodi: The police had to rush to Kharodi village near Malwani on Friday morning to ensure there was no stampede-like situation after a large crowd gathered around a crucifix in the area with the belief that water had started seeping from its feet 'miraculously'.

The Jesus statue at Kharodi village comes under St Anthony's Parish and is located near the Infant Jesus Chapel.

they rushed with water bottles to collect 'holy water', forming long queues. The Malwani police had to later rush to the spot to control the crowd, DNA reported.

"The pictures and videos of the statue soon went viral as devotees from Andheri and Bandra rushed to the spot to check for themselves. We also saw people from far off suburbs collecting holy water from the feet", said Greg Periera, resident of Malwani village.



said, "I believe that it is a way that Jesus Christ is trying to make his presence felt to the devotees. We believe that its a miracle and it depends on the perspective of the individuals. We are receiving pictures and messages from every nook and corner, and larger crowds are expected in the next two days," said Mendonca.

As soon as locals heard the news, George Mendonca, another resident

Meanwhile Fr. Nigel Berret, spokesperson from Bombay Archdiocese, said, "We have not confirmed or sought details of the incident, but have received the pictures from the priests regarding the same". We will have to check before coming to a conclusion, he added.

Source: mattersindia

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'Thought for the week'

Take life day by day and be grateful for the little things. Don't get stressed over what you can't control.

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Cover : Three Rights?:

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Righteousness Comes From Many Perspectives

by Don Aguiar

Righteousness is one of the chief attributes of God as portrayed in the Hebrew Bible. Its chief meaning concerns ethical conduct

When the gospels were written, those who were writing the gospels were not aware that someday things would look fictitious. It was so natural in those days that the gospel writers could not imagine that someday it would look false, would not sound real or the concept of righteousness will vary from one person to another as they went on writing about the boldness of a righteous man Jesus, sent by God his father to redeem all of mankind.

The word "righteousness" has become a religious cliché that has lost its meaning to many people. Even Christians are confused about what righteousness is. This has left our society without a clear understanding of what it takes to have a relationship with God. This is reflected in our nations and as said by many even in our church moral collapse. It's imperative that we get back to the basics of righteousness

Most scriptures agree that love is an important manifestation of a man's spirituality or religiosity. The next virtue expected in a spiritual person is holiness. Holiness is nothing but righteousness. When righteousness prevails in a society, its effect is justice and peace. But the problem is that the concepts of righteousness, of right and wrong, vary from person to person; they are colored by his world view, environment and other factors. In fact, while everyone is looking for justice and righteousness, conflicts arise as to what constitutes righteousness.

Imperfect as human nature is, man is more inclined to be self-righteous than righteous in a real sense. Man has an infinite capacity for self-justification. This is at the root of all problems, violence and war. Our unrighteous selfishness prompts us to take advantage of others for our benefit.

Have you encountered that kind of person who thinks that he/she always knows the right answer? Or that his/her beliefs are the absolute truths? If you have, please accept my greetings. For sure you had your share of stress for dealing with a self righteous person.

I had a vegan friend who literally cut me off from talking to him simply because I told him I didn't agree that "Milk is rocket fuel for cancer". I told him I respected his beliefs but I just didn't agree with that or the vegan lifestyle. He got all weird and told me that it was "facts" and when I tried to tell him I have an opinion of my own and he has his own opinion, he only

(Contd.. on p. 4)

(Contd.. from p. 3)

saw his opinion as dead-on facts.

Whether it's true or not, he got really self-righteous and when he doesn't agree with someone's lifestyle he insists his views on them to the extreme as if he is an all-knowing human being.

Anyways we aren't friends anymore because I finally stood up for myself and told him how I felt. I kind of told him he was a "fascist" because he pressed his views on me and wouldn't drop the subject until I agreed (I wasn't even arguing with him on the topic. I was simply saying I respected his view, although I just disagreed and I simply wanted to drop the subject).

He was even too self-righteous to "agree to disagree". I literally asked if we can just agree to disagree but he got all offended because he couldn't do that with a "fact". He thinks he is helping people by spreading his views (Milk is rocket fuel for cancer) but I feel like if someone disagrees then he should just drop it, but he didn't. How do you deal with people who act like this?

When people are self-righteous, they aren't getting their sense of righteousness from themselves. What happens when somebody is self-righteous is they are actively comparing themselves to others and measuring themselves as a better keeper of the rules. Christian communities are loaded with these people because, well, we've got lots of rules. That's like crack for a person who is given to comparing themselves to others. The given rules translate into "God thinks I'm doing things more right than you."

But here's the catch. Self-righteousness is a sin. It's a dark sin. It's up there with all the other dark sins like gluttony and fornication.

In the eyes of Jesus, those who are winning in an earthly religious system will finish last. Jesus says they have their reward in full. What Jesus means by this is all the attention and praise self-righteous people are getting on earth is all they're going to get. That feeling of earthly fulfillment is their reward.

For righteousness to prevail, we need to

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Prop. B. D'Souza

overcome the hate, selfishness and greed that devastate our hearts.

Henry Clay said, "I would rather be right than president,"-- an expression that is quoted to manifest the spirit of righteousness that dwells in the human heart. Abraham Lincoln risked near dissolution of the American nation when he stood resolutely for abolition of slavery. "Whenever I hear anyone arguing for slavery, I feel a strong impulse to see it tried on him personally," the great emancipator had commented.

Such boldness in standing for what is right is a rarity among politicians and even among our people. Of course leaders had always endeavored to go with the crowds. The Pharisees were a highly religious, righteous group who lived in the time of Jesus. Addressing them, Jesus had declared: "For I tell you unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the Kingdom of Heaven." (Matthew 5:20)

Jesus was murdered for his boldness as a righteous person not by bad men, he was not murdered by criminals; he was murdered by very respectable rabbis. In fact, religious people killed him for his virtue of love and mercy which is an important manifestation of spirituality and holiness and in overcoming hate, selfishness and greed - in short for being righteous.

Religion is never in danger from irreligious people because they don't bother about it. Religion is always in danger from the so-called religious, because their whole life is at stake. If Jesus is right, then all the rabbis are wrong. If Jesus is right, then the whole tradition is wrong.

Everybody stood against Jesus because he was righteous. And righteousness leads to always being left alone, very alone. You cannot understand his aloneness. Whatever you know about aloneness is a physical aloneness. Sometimes no one is in the house, the house is dark, and you are alone. The electricity has also gone so you cannot put on the light; you cannot put on the radio or the TV. You are suddenly thrown into aloneness. But this is a physical sense of aloneness; and not the aloneness Jesus went through because of his righteous ways: you don't know what Jesus felt, his aloneness was because of his manifestation of spirituality in overcoming hate, selfishness and greed.

He was alone, amidst strangers, where it was so difficult to find a friend who will recognize him. He goes on looking into each and everybody he meets on the path, penetrating, gazing deep in the eyes. Nobody recognizes him, nobody understands him. Rather, people misunderstand him. They are ready to jump into misunderstanding, but nobody was ready in any way to understand him and

to accept righteousness one the chief attributes of God which he was preaching because they were self-righteous people.

Self-righteous people have a tendency to let the world know that they are the most right. They have this unending need to preach and make others feel small, illiterate and nothing compared to them. How cruel, right? But the world has them. Actually, everyone might have a share with it. You, your friend, lover, parents, siblings, and even I, at one point had a share with it. Or that you, at this very moment, still take part in such kind of attitude.

As said, these people possibly don't know the right channels of expression for their thoughts. The need to be self-righteous comes from feeling unsafe in this world. And that's what needs to be addressed. These people have to understand that they can try trusting other people with their thoughts and feelings. Not everyone will judge them the way they do. Learning to trust other people is a step closer to freeing oneself from the need to appear right to others.

Whenever Jesus went about promoting righteous ways and means, the so-called religious were all against him. They would like to kill him immediately so the danger is avoided and their security again becomes certain.

People were very much against Jesus because by promoting his righteous ways and means, he was ruining all their edifices. They were thinking their houses were built on rocks and just his presence showed them that their houses were built on sand, they were already falling. They jumped on him, they killed him. He was not killed by the political powers; he was killed by the pseudo-religious powers, by the priests.

If religion has disappeared in the world today, it is not because of science - no. It is not because of atheists - no. It is not because of rationalists - no. It is because of pseudo-religion. There is too much pseudo religion and it is so bogus, phony, that only people who are phony can be interested in religion. People who have even an iota of reality will go against it, they will rebel.

Jesus had always been rebellious but ethical, because reality wants to assert its being, to express its freedom. Rebellious people are not slaves. Jesus was in right relationship with God as no one else can be. He is the Son of God. He is God manifest in the flesh (1 Tim. 3:16). He is holy and pure and without sin, yet He became sin for us (2 Cor. 5:21), through no wrongdoing on His part. He took our sin in His own body on the cross (1 Pet. 2:24). This boldness and righteousness of Jesus in itself is a meaningful quality that is to say a quality that gives meaning to life, makes sense of life.



Crackdown on black money

The demonetisation of Rs 500/ and Rs 1000/ currency notes by the Modi govt, is a welcome step and comes a day no too soon. Such a bolt from the blue became necessary in view of the huge amount of black money and tax evasion in the country, as well as the increasing number of counterfeit higher denomination currency notes in circulation. Also, several raids carried out earlier by the govt have not proved successful in unearthing the black money and proliferating money-laundering, even though scams after scams have come to light. Mr Modi may not have succeeded in bringing back the mind-boggling Rs 35-lakh crore believed to be stashed away in foreign tax havens even after several voluntary disclosure schemes and tax concessions were announced, but the efforts put in by the BJP govt at the centre during its less than three-year tenure in power need to be lauded. Chaotic scenes and inconvenience to the people and foreign tourists were witnessed after the demonetisation and closure of ATM machines for 2 days. Nevertheless, a 50-day time period for the public to exchange their old notes for the new denomination Rs 500/ and Rs 2000/ notes seems very reasonable. But the fact that the Rs 1000/ note is being exchanged in the black market for Rs 300/ is a further indication of how much more needs to be done to ferret out the black money lying hidden in the country itself.

—A. F. Nazareth, Alto Porvorim

End of jubilee year of mercy

November 20, 2016 brings to a close

the jubilee year of mercy with the closing of the holy door of mercy at the Basilica of St Peters in Rome by Pope Francis. The holy year of mercy inaugurated on December 8, 2015 by Pope Francis, was both timely and significant, coming at a time when the world is experiencing an increase in incidents of violence, religious intolerance and killings in the name of religion, even though all religions teach peace, in many ways. It is also a happy coincidence that one of the greatest missionaries of mercy, Mother Teresa was declared a saint during the year of mercy. The example set by her through her acts of mercy and compassion in the streets and slums of Kolkata should serve to make us realize that the mercy of God has to be shown to the poor, the needy and suffering in concrete action. It is this mission of mercy and compassion which the church teaches that becomes the responsibility of every human being, irrespective of caste or creed that will help to break down cycles of hatred and violence and transform the world into a better to live in, even after the closure of the holy door of mercy.

—A. F. Nazareth, Alto Porvorim.

Hope in God's Mercy!

Around 1,000 detainees, along with their families, prison chaplains and staff, and various associations attended a Mass on 6th November 2016, for the 'Jubilee of Prisoners'! Pope Francis centered his homily on the theme of "Hope"!

"Hope is a gift from God, which should be nourished. St Paul in his Letter to the Romans, reveals that God too hopes to shower mercy on us (cf. 4:16-18). His mercy gives Him no rest. He is that Father in the parable, Who 'keeps hoping' for the return of his prodigal, wayward son."

"Hope gives strength to keep moving forward. It is the power to press on towards the future and to a changed life. It is an incentive and a medicine for our failings, and can show us a new path."

"Whenever you make a mistake, the Father's mercy is all the more evident. It awakens repentance, forgiveness, reconciliation and peace. Your lack of freedom is the worst part for serving time in prison for crimes. However, do not be discouraged, maintain the 'breath of life'!"

Pope Francis criticized the "hypocrisy" of those who see prisoners only as "wrongdoers", and who disregard their reformation and rehabilitation. He concluded by reflecting on 'Our Lady of Mercy' with the Child Jesus holding a set of chains. And if I may add: For He liberates us from the shackles of sin; "because Christ came to proclaim release to the captives, and to set the oppressed free" (Luke 4:18).

Yours in the 'Liberation Divine Mercy' of CHRIST!

—Dr. Trevor Colaso,
(Now at Memphis, TN. USA).



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Three Rights?

We know the old adage that two wrongs do not make a right. We may also remember the three R's – reading, riting and rithmetic. My three Rights are different, and not to be confused with the three Rites that have become the bane of the Catholic Church in India. The three Rights that I am referring to were three headlines on 9th November – Demonetisation, Trump's victory and Arnab Goswami's impending ouster from Times Now TV. I am not a fan of Modi, Trump or Goswami, so what is right about them?

First the big Indian bombshell – Modi's tryst with the demonetisation of Rs 500/- and Rs 1000/- notes (euphemistically referred to as high denomination currency). I would daresay that there is hardly a family in India that does not possess a Rs 500/- note. By no stretch of the imagination can it be called a rich man's prerogative. Modi's avowed purpose for demonetisation was threefold – to curb the use of black money, synonymous with crime and corruption, to eliminate fake currency, and to stem the flow of funds to terrorists.

Modi had made the return of black money from overseas one of his 2014 poll planks, claiming with his 56 inch chest that he would, within a month of getting elected, get Rupees Fifteen Lakhs from money parked abroad, into every Indian's bank account.

Cars on national highways were allowed to zip through toll free, but those rummaging the bye lanes in search of food got no such privileged treatment.

Nothing like that happened. He then came out with a voluntary disclosure scheme that ended on 30th September. This too lagged way behind expectations. So now came the body blow, an after eight announcement of demonetisation, portrayed as a surgical strike against black money. This talk of another surgical strike reminds me of another adage – the operation was successful but the patient died!

There is a mounting fear that this is what is happening to the poor and lower middle class, while the affluent class that is the purported target of the scheme, seems relatively unruffled. It is the poor that have taken the biggest hit - in Rahul Gandhi's words – the farmers, the housewives and the petty traders.

I belong to a family that has been in business for 160 years. Sadly, I must admit that before Independence we were affluent, and relished doing honest business. However, with the march of time came increasing dishonesty, bureaucratic red tape, lopsided laws and a plethora of unjust taxes. Our family fortunes withered and we are as good as gone. I do not long for the past, and despite many odds, have soldiered on in doing honest business, to pay my taxes and fight against black money. I have failed; while on the other hand I see unscrupulous businessmen and industrialists flourishing and flaunting their wealth.

In principle therefore I welcome Modi's demonetisation, if indeed it succeeds in eliminating or severely curtailing black money. But we Indians are incorrigible innovators (jugadis). The more the laws and curbs; the more the ways



by chhotebhai *

to evade them. Modi's Gujarat has been a dry State for years, but liquor flows freely. We have

laws against dowry, child marriage, untouchability etc, only to have them flouted with impunity. I am proud to be an Indian, but I don't hesitate to call a spade a spade. We Indians are dirty and dishonest. So I support both of Modi's campaigns – for a Swatch Bharat and demonetisation.

In the present instance I am deeply troubled by the manner in which demonetisation has been suddenly imposed. Yes, Modi said that for the greater good of the nation we should endure some temporary hardship. Pliant TV anchors said that there can be no gain without pain. On TV a BJP spokesperson wondered what all the hue and cry was about. People could use their credit cards and convert their money at the banks! Such gross insensitivity reminds me of the infamous statement attributed to Marie Antoinette during the French Revolution, "If they can't get bread let them eat cake". For the poor and disadvantaged in India this was like rubbing salt into the wound. Try telling a stranded traveller to approach the bank after two days. Try telling a dying man to go to a Govt hospital for treatment. Modi made an exception for purchasing petrol but not for daily rations. Cars on national highways were allowed to zip through toll free, but those rummaging the bye lanes in search of food got no such privileged treatment. This was the theatre of the absurd.

Now to the banks. I am writing this on the 10th November, the day the banks have opened. I had Rs 18,000/- in "high denomination currency". As per the Govt notification I could withdraw Rs 10,000/- cash at a time, so I sent

(Contd.. on p.10)

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America gets what America is!

Just as India got what India was in 2014 with the election of a new regime and a non-Gandhi / non-Congress Prime Minister.

In both cases, the elections threw up hitherto politically unknown faces in two of the most important countries.

India- the world's largest democracy (in terms of population and that's what ultimately counts as votes) got PM Narendra Modi.

USA- the world's super power gets President Donald Trump.

But wait there is more...

America is anti-establishment!

So a change must come, a regime change that is unlike the predecessor.

While India voted in favour of the most viable alternative, America had no choice, due to their two party system, after the Republican nomination of Mr. Trump. That Mr. Trump got through, defeating seasoned politicians, to storm his way to becoming the official nominee itself was a sign of the times.

America is media-fed and media-driven.

I do not imagine any other candidate garnering this victory except the very publicly recognized, very media savvy and the very epitome of the 'lifestyle of the rich and famous' person as Mr. Trump is.

To be able to pull a nation behind you, the least they should do is recognize you.

Unlike his predecessor Barack Obama, Donald Trump was already a known face thanks to TV shows like 'The Apprentice,' 'Pageant Place,' 'The Celebrity Apprentice' and 'The Ultimate Merger,' and the tag of being the ex-owner of The Miss Universe Pageant.

America is angry.

Angry about being 'big brother' to the world and so Trump's belief that the world is dumping its problems on America and none more so than Mex-

ico, hit a cord.

Trump has also proposed a "complete and total shutdown" of Muslims entering the US until the country "can figure out what the hell is going on".

Just about fuelling the anger that also propelled the 'Let's bring our heroes back from Iraq' in the previous regimes.

America is losing jobs.

Unemployment rates in the US hover around 5% with 7.9 million unemployed as of Oct 2016.

The part-time employed (whose work hours were cut back or who could not find full-time jobs) in Oct 16 was 5.9 million.

There are also about half a million discouraged workers (those who did not even search for jobs in the last 12 months as they believed there were no jobs available).

There is anger about the jobs that are being outsourced to other countries hence Trump's vow to be "the greatest jobs president that God ever created" and "to bring back our jobs from China, from Mexico, from Japan, from so many places. I'll bring back our jobs, and I'll bring back our money"- resonated the way it did.

America is violent

The Black Lives Matter movement, the violence on campuses, the homophobic shootings – all are a result of the fact that 'the US owns way, way more guns per capita than the rest of the world'.

In the midst of this chaos comes Trump's proposition of the Second Amendment which protects the rights of Americans to keep and bear arms. In the wake of the Paris terror attacks, the Republican front-runner said, "If they would have had the guns, they wouldn't have had the carnage they had."

A clear call to arms as a means of protection, signaling a retaliatory, suspicious regime on the cards that feeds on the insecurities of the masses!

America is Corporate



by Maria Coelho

Considering that America continues as a global nerve centre for business and how the recent Wall Street Crash of 2008 impacted the entire world, it continues to be market driven and business oriented.

Mr. Trump, a real estate mogul and shrewd businessman truly believes that America is for business. He thinks that the whole climate change science is a hoax and a big restriction for doing business.

So while he does believe in having clean air and water, he does not want it interfering in business decisions and allowing it to make American companies less competitive in the global marketplace.

"I do not believe that we should imperil the companies within our country," he told CNN on the issue. "It costs so much and nobody knows exactly if it's going to work."

So in reality, while the world is still coming to terms with the new President's election, it is quite simply as the title of this piece suggest – America has only got what it truly is!

-The writer can be reached at maria@almarbusinessconsulting.in

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Arrupe: Courageous Prophet !

Pedro Arrupe was born in Bilbao, Spain on November 14th 1907. He was faring brilliantly in his medical studies when he heard the Lord's 'call'. He joined the Society of Jesus in order to commit himself in service to God and to people. He opted for the Japan Mission where he spent forty years of his life mastering the Japanese language and culture and being a spiritual guide to many.

The defining moment of his stay in Japan was on August 6th 1945 when the world's first atom bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. Fr. Arrupe (he was the novice master then) was in the midst of this tragedy. He made his Jesuit residence into a make shift hospital administering to those who were badly wounded. For days on he selflessly catered to the dying and the wounded using his medical skills to the maximum. Later he would often recall that terrible tragedy, encouraging people across the globe, to take a stand against nuclear warfare. In 1979, speaking to hundreds of youth in Assisi, he told them about his experience whilst celebrating the Eucharist on August 7th, *"I cannot forget the frightful impression I had when I turned towards them at the "The Lord be with you" (Mass was then said with one's back to the congregation) and saw that sight from the altar. I was unable to move and remained as if I were*



BY FR. CEDRIC PRAKASH SJ

paralyzed with my arms stretched out as I contemplated that human tragedy: human knowledge, technical advance used for the destruction of the human race. All looked at me with eyes filled with anxiety, with desperation, as though expecting that some consolation would come to them from the altar. It was a frightful scene!"

Fr. Arrupe became the Superior General of the Jesuits in 1965 – the historic period when St. (Pope) John XXIII literally opened the doors of the Church to allow the fresh breath of the Holy Spirit to embrace her. Fr. Arrupe took the teachings of the Vatican II very seriously and allowed that newness to permeate the Society of Jesus. He presided over GC32, provided the inspiration and motivation for the Jesuits to take a very clear stand for the service of faith and the promotion of justice. This was keeping with his vision that if one were to be true to the spirit and message of Vatican II, the Jesuits had

to work for a more inclusive and all-embracing Church which is people-centred and where the dignity and the rights of the poor and the marginalised are respected and protected.

In 1973, Arrupe very clearly re-defined what Jesuit education was all about; in a much-remembered address to Jesuit alumni and educationists from across the globe, in Valencia, Spain, he said, *"today our prime educational objective must be to form men-and-women-for-others; men and women who will live not for themselves but for God and his Christ - for the God-man who lived and died for all the world; men and women who cannot even conceive of love of God which does not include love for the least of their neighbours; men and women completely convinced that love of God which does not issue in justice for others is a farce"*.

Arrupe also heard the cries of the 'boat-people' of South-East Asia and he responded in a constructive



manner. On November 14th 1980, he founded the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), an important instrument of the Society of Jesus, which for 36 years now, has been serving, accompanying and advocating for millions, across the globe, who are forced into migration as refugees or internally displaced persons (IDPs) providing them hope and a more dignified life.

Fr Arrupe, died on February 5th 1991, leaving the Society, the Church and the world a rich legacy: a faith which is rooted in justice, which reaches out to all; to take a stand against nuclear warfare (any war); to embrace the poor and the excluded, particularly the refugees. This spirituality has been the hallmark of the papacy of Pope Francis, who very recently reminded the Jesuits gathered at the General Congregation (GC36) in Rome, *"Father Arrupe used to say that wherever there is pain, the Society is there"*.

In our world of today, which seems to be mainstreaming hate, divisiveness, prejudice, exclusiveness, racism, xenophobia and every form of bigotry, we desperately need the prophetic vision and mission of Pedro Arrupe, as never before. He was truly a courageous prophet! As we celebrate his memory, especially on **November 14th**, let us pray in his words *"Grant me, O Lord, to see everything now with new eyes, to discern and test the spirits that help me read the signs of the times, to relish the things that are yours, and to communicate them to others. Give me the clarity of understanding that you gave Ignatius"*.

* (Fr Cedric Prakash sj a Jesuit of the Gujarat Province is a human rights activist. He is currently based in Lebanon, engaged with the **Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS)** in the Middle East on advocacy and communications. Contact: cedricprakash@gmail.com)

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Seeking A Marriage Partner Is Serious Work



Saint Paul in his letter to the Hebrews said, “Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled.” (Heb.13:4).

Marriage is a part of the tapestry of creation. “God created man out of love also calls him to love – the fundamental and innate vocation of every human being. (CCC.1604.90). “And God blessed them and God said to them: ‘Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it’ (CCC.1604.91).

The gift of married life can begin with an encounter of love, followed by courtship, caring and bringing a new life into the family, the Church and the world – an experience immeasurable in faith and trust.

Married life could also start when parents find a match and decide to seal the union. The modern method is to search the internet, not always a good idea, especially when the family needs a Christian or Catholic person.

Marriage is all about the ability to focus so as soon as issues arise, we are able to live through it. Broken marriages reveal a sad failure in close relations, the couple not having understood the tradition of marital values and vows taken. “For better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, till death us do part”.

The Catholic Church has been constant and steadfast in its efforts to confine and control erosion in wedlock. Primarily for the Church when a couple desire to end the marriage it becomes a tragic feat to conform with spiritual engineering (so as to keep the pillars of faith firm in its foundation) .

For this reason I have put my trust in advertising Christian matrimonials in a Christian media as the best and safest choice. This has been proven to me across the passage of years in the successful selections made.



BY MELVYN BROWN

In order to restore faith in marriage and to rekindle its virtues, Pope Francis broke ground by bringing back into the fold many divorced Catholic couples who were living in sin, and to restore to them the grace of returning to the Catholic faith in the Year of Mercy. We should recall the fact that Christ had forgiven Mary Magdalene whose husband had divorced her for being barren.

Inter-faith marriages with Christians and Catholics have to be skillfully handled and discreetly accepted. The troubled heart beat for the community is when women move into alien cults and religions, later finding no spiritual comfort for having crucified the soul.

It is said that such women sacrificed their faith for love. Did they doubt the presence of God, or slide into a relationship in a weak moment? Could there have been true feelings on both sides of the fence? It is not the will of God but that of the individual – after all, the Lord has given us the gift of free will.

Marriage through the internet is a seed planted to shadow social barbs, selling lives to the highest bidder by highlighting the temptations of wealth, job security, handsome looks and beauty, no demands (till later)...

Spinsters and even bachelors because of their getting on in age, race to meet, date and tie the knot with strangers and those outside the faith. The choice by .Com is not recommended, unless it is a Christian website.

Unions for a good marriage made through Christian internet sites is always safe as journals take note of the advertiser and their credentials before going into print.

I have read the book, Marriage is so much more, Lord by Ruth H. Calkin. It is a work of splendid thought, God oriented and a reservoir of strength and pious advice for those contemplating a married life.

St. Jerome said, Matrimony is a religious Sacrament.

(Contd.. from p. 6)

my man to the bank to deposit a like amount. I expected to get 5 gleaming new Rs 2000/- notes with the Mars Rover (Mangalyan). I got a bundle of soiled Rs 100/- notes instead. Another person who had gone to exchange the permitted sum of Rs 4000/- was given a heavy sack of 400 Rs 10/- coins. One of my workers, after standing for hours in a line to deposit his wife's meagre savings of Rs 1000/- managed to deposit it but could not withdraw any money as the bank had run out of currency. Such scenes must have been repeated across the country. So much for the "ease of doing business" tom-tommed by the Modi Govt.

Now to the core issue of curtailing black money. Who are the major players? 1. Industrialists and big business houses 2. Politicians and 3. Bureaucrats. The first have a host of competent chartered accountants to advise them on how to divert, invest and park their funds. They may even have been forewarned by a business friendly Govt. They are not likely to be sitting on stacks of liquid cash, inviting swift penal action. This brings us to the politicians, especially those preparing for State elections. The BJP may have had a whiff of what was coming, even if they didn't know about demonetisation per se. It's the opposition parties that would have been caught with their pants down and their underwear bulging with wads of cash. They are not going to take things lying down. They will galvanise their cadres, farm out the cash and get it converted during the 50 day grace period. That

leaves the bureaucrats who do not easily bear scrutiny. Most politicians have a 5-year shelf life, and need to nurse their constituencies. In contrast the bureaucrats have a 35-year tenure and no liabilities. If they haven't converted their ill-gotten wealth into bulion and real estate then they are the ones who are well and truly jacked.

My only objection to the demonetisation is the haste with which it was implemented, causing untold hardship across the board. The Govt should have given the public at least two days to stock up on essentials, make travel plans or prepare for contingencies. This is the common refrain. When I mentioned this to a chartered accountant he had a different take. He said that had a window of opportunity been afforded the big guns would have ensured an immediate flight of capital outside the country! This came as a shock to me. So I would say that the jury is still out on whether Modi's tryst with demonetisation was a surgical strike or a failed operation.

Briefly now to the other two Rights. By Right I now mean that Trump's victory was another sharp turn to the Right following in the footsteps of the Brexit vote. The latter was a conundrum, raising more questions than it has answered; and leaving the British shell-shocked at the consequences that they had not really envisaged. This time what really shocked me was the reaction of some so-called "intellectuals". They welcomed Trump's victory claiming that it was a slap in the face of the over bearing Muslims! That was something that I could not digest. Has the world become so polarised and intolerant of the "other"? Are Samuel Huntington's predictions of a "Clash of Civilisations" coming true? I shudder at the thought.

Now to the third Right, the out-

er of Arnab Goswami from Times Now TV. I have always found the man downright obnoxious, foisting his personal agenda and not allowing his panellists to speak uninterrupted. I felt that he had crossed all limits of decency and decorum while anchoring a debate on the Uniform Civil Code, in which Dr John Dayal was also present. He kept cutting John, and went to the extent of calling him a lackey of the U.S. Govt. That was too much for me to take. Sitting in front of the TV I dashed off an email to John asking him to never again accept an invitation to be on that channel. I have on several occasions in the past also expressed my displeasure at Goswami's behaviour.

So I was really relieved to read that he is getting the royal boot. Good riddance to bad rubbish. I am told that he may now be joining Fox TV, purported to be another right-wing fundamentalist channel.

So though two wrongs don't make a right, the three rights could have something wrong about them. Time alone will tell.

In Remembrance of



CATHOLIC DIRECTORY
2013 - till date

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Personal Excellence

COACHING SERVICES

"I don't believe in Luck. Luck = Leaving things to chance and outside world. I believe in being harbingers of our fate, taking action and creating our own path and destiny in life. Your life is yours to create ---- Don't let others to do it for you."

Celestine Chua

What is Excellence?

Excellence can be described as the furthest end of the quality spectrum. That is we think of an outstanding aspect, a model of its kind – the very best ----- THERE.

Excellence can be the result of Intrinsic Motivation that is self-propelling from within. When we ourselves attempt or determine our own goals. Satisfy a desire without being influenced by someone else.

Extrinsic Motivation On the other hand is when we are compelled to do something or act a certain way because of external factors. These might include incentives, rewards or even punishment. Someone else normally determines the goals and expectations.

Personal Excellence starts when you discover your passion. The concept Excellence is not one rigidly defined entity. At some point it is capability, at

some point it is attitude and at some other point it is skill. Remember Excellence then is attitude, Ability and Skill. We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence is a habit, your passion and commitment. Here you can adopt island of Excellence.

Every ambitious individual nurtures a silent desire to excel and succeed. However the journey to excel begins with humility to learn. Fit yourself in the role you desire to accomplish. Prepare, Accept, Adapt and then Modify. Over a period of time by practice, these virtues unconsciously get embedded in the mind.

How to Achieve Personal Excellence?

- Remember Excellence is a continuously moving target that can be pursued through actions of integrity, meeting all obligations and improving in the sphere you choose.
- Be positive: - People with positive attitudes have personality traits as, humility, confidence empathy and patience. Withdraw all negativity.

Take criticism and setbacks as lessons for self-improvement. Imbibe positive vibes at every available opportunity.

- Moral and Ethics: - With good intent come real good result. Be conscious and sensitive to your surroundings, which help to foster better relationship while you become a contributing member of your society and an asset to the Nation
- Optimist: - Be an Optimist. Look at the bigger brighter picture. If you foresee a hurdle overcome it. The best way to address the problem is to solve it. Learn from yesterday, live for today and hope for tomorrow. That should be your attitude.

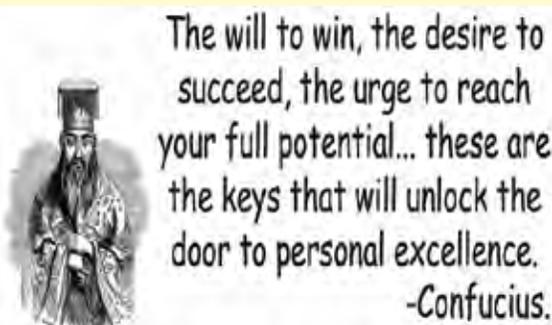
Note Personal Excellence is an Achievement, the end result or satisfaction and a feeling of personal pride and fulfillment.

Here your personal talent or quality surpasses ordinary standards.

GO GET IT



by **Priscilla Buthello**
 Certified Image Consultant /
 Soft skill trainer
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THE SECULAR CITIZEN

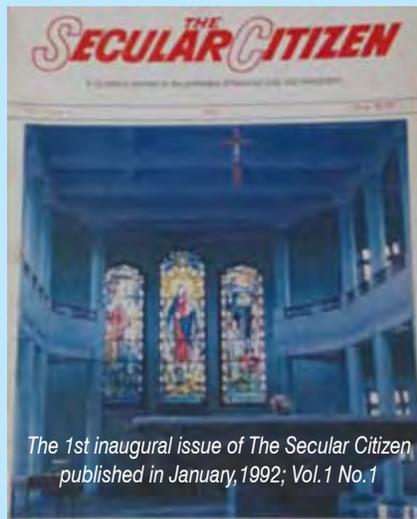
Celebrating 25 glorious years in the field of communication

“Publishing is a business. But journalism never was and is not essentially a business, nor is it a profession.” The person who said this knew what he was saying for he went on to become one of the greatest American press magnates of the early 20th century: Henry Robinson Luce, who gave the English speaking world some of the finest magazines of all time, notably, TIME, LIFE and FORTUNE to name but a few, publications that have stood the test of time. Simply put then, journalism is the science of communicating news and views in the light of truth to all without prejudice in a spirit of cordiality.

Silver Lining!

Seen against this background, **The Secular Citizen [TSC]** that hit the stands barely 25 years ago might seem small fry. But 25 years in the context of the Indian ethos is no mean achievement for a couple who've given their life to the cause of authentic journalism. Its first issue was published in April 1992 in magazine format. This of course was preceded by an issue in December 1991 under the masthead of THE NEW HORIZON, as a quarterly.

The month of February is traditionally observed by the Church in India as 'Press Month' while November is observed as 'Communications Month', the focus of which is the electronic media. Being the Year of Mercy, the theme set for Communications month by the Church Universal for the year 2016 is: **Communication and Mercy: A Fruitful Encounter**. All literature, whether print or electronic, that aims to spread knowledge and awareness, in effect goodwill, serves as both a means and a meeting point



The 1st inaugural issue of The Secular Citizen, published in January, 1992; Vol. 1 No. 1

of fruitful encounter between hearts and minds of diverse sections of society, thereby communicating love and compassion. This is precisely what THE SECULAR CITIZEN has been so conscientiously doing these last 25 years!



by Ladislaus L D'Souza

Layout and Cover Design

Periodicals are known to hire professional help specifically for the layout and cover design of their publications. A stickler for perfection,

Mr Lawrence Coelho, the Founder-Owner-Publisher, not only takes care of the editing and collation of material for each issue (not excluding advertisements), but he also does the layout and the cover with such finesse as to render each issue a delight to the eye! Now, how many can claim this sort of success is anybody's guess!

Secularism to the fore

Sometime in the year 1990 a need was felt for a secular publication for the Christian community, of the Chris-

tian community and by the Christian community across the country. That's when the idea of TSC was born. "Today," says Mr Coelho, "the need is even stronger given the kind of situation the community is facing nationwide. We need a powerful voice to express the community's feelings and fears, its hopes and expectations, and its aspirations and disappointments in relation to its all-round growth and progress vis-à-vis society in general. In fact with over 10 lakh Christians in fast expanding Mumbai alone we now need a 'daily' to have our voice heard even louder all over India."

The past 25 silvery years have seen TSC through varied change. TSC converted to Tabloid format before returning to magazine format with the 25 March 2013 issue (Vol. 22, No. 12). From Vol. 5, No. 11, November 1996, it went on to become a fortnightly in magazine format. From Vol. 7, January 1998 it emerged in Tabloid format. From Vol. 8, No. 28,



Honoured by Indian Catholic Press Association at Pune in March 2016

December 1999 it ran as a Weekly in Tabloid format; from Vol. 22, No. 12, 25 March 2013 it reverted to the Magazine format in which we continue to read it till date.

Achievements

TSC has studiously promoted individual talent in the community and interacted with various social and religious organizations. In association with **Royal Christian Family [RCF]**,

Lawrence

Susan



stone in the life of our publication, we are deeply indebted to our well-wishers whose unstinted support has been the chief motivating factor from year to year!"

The Lady Behind the Throne!

"Behind every successful man is a woman," says Julius Henry Marx, an American comedian and film and television star of the last century, professionally known as Groucho Marx. A hard working woman, Susan, the amiable wife of the very gentlemanly Lawrence, has all information concerning subscribers and the postal service at her fingertips and it is she who ensures timely dispatch of every issue of the two publications across the length and breadth of the country. "My wife Susan's involvement in the TSC group is total, her dedication amazing! Ever since the launch of TSC and DIVO as well as the various projects and activities she has been a strong pillar of support. Apart from handling DIVO, she has played the role of Public Relations Officer and Finance Controller with aplomb! Demonstrating her part as decision maker when required, she has been representing the group at various events and meets. Indeed! But for Susan's help," attests Lawrence, "I would have been at sea!"

it has been bringing together large numbers of marriageable boys and girls in a successful search of a suitable life-partner.

Interestingly, Mr Coelho, through TSC and DIVO, has always demonstrated a highly encouraging stance in relation to budding writers and their texts. In fact numerous are the writers who've cut their milk-teeth on writing for TSC.

TSC has given immense exposure to up and coming businessmen and entrepreneurs of the Christian community, besides promoting businessmen and helping them launch their business activities.

Awards

TSC has been generous in its appreciation of those concerned, awarding and honouring achievers in various spheres of life:

***Lifetime Achievement Award**

to Mr Anthony Parakal, King of Letter-writers, May 2005 [Citation, floral bouquet, ceremonial shawl & Rs 50,000 in cash]

***Writer of the Year Award** to Mr Marshall Sequeira in 2011 [citation, memento, ceremonial shawl & Rs 20,000 in cash]

***Social and cultural meets**, apart from LIMRT [Leaders in the Making and Reaching to the Top] seminars for youth organized

***DIVO**, Konkani weekly [sister publication to TSC] published from Mumbai, presently in its 22nd year of uninterrupted publication

***TSC** now available as an e-Paper edition for internet online readers.

***E-Learning website portal** www.limrt.com, online learning website to help develop skills and to learn more on academic and corporate topics, launched to mark the completion of 25 years of TSC's existence

Financial stability

Financial stability is the mainstay of any periodical, bulk of the finance involved accruing from advertisements. Never in the past 25 silver years has a single issue of TSC or DIVO been stalled for want of



Magazine Size



Tabloid Size

funds. Though Lawrence and his wife, Susan, epitomes of simplicity and sincerity, have never had occasion to stretch their hands out before any individual or organization for monetary help, they are confident that the business section of our community will continue to be on hand to lend necessary and timely support in case of an eventuality. They are quick to add: "As we reach a mile-

stone in the life of our publication, we are deeply indebted to our well-wishers whose unstinted support has been the chief motivating factor from year to year!"

trust I have in him."

Informatively, the couple was felicitated for their silvery feat by the Indian Catholic Press Association during 'Press Month', February 2016!

Congrats Lawrence & Susan Coelho! Congrats TSC!!

May Silver Turn to Gold!!

The Power of Candle Colours

Colors play an important role in our lives and even when we do creative work or meditate, Candle magic is based on the same principle as that of color therapy. Different colors have different frequencies which, in turn, have different effects on the human psyche. Here are the meanings of different candle colors in general:

- * White candles- Destruction of negative energy, peace, truth and purity
- * Purple candles- Spiritual awareness, wisdom, tranquility
- * Lavender Candles- Intuition, Paranormal, Peace, Healing
- * Blue and Deep Blue Candles- Meditation, Healing, Forgiveness, Inspiration, Fidelity, Happiness, and opening lines of Communication.
- * Green Candles- Money, Fertility, Luck, Abundance, Health (not to be used when diagnosed with Cancer), Success
- * Rose and Pink Colored Candles- Positive self love, friendship, harmony, joy
- * Yellow Candles- Realizing and manifesting thoughts, confidence, bringing plans into action, creativity, intelligence, mental clarity, clairvoyance.
- * Orange Candles- Joy, energy, education, strength attraction, stimulation
- * Red or Deep red Candles- Passion, energy, love, lust, relationships, sex, vitality, courage.
- * Black Candles- Protection, absorption and destruction of negative energy and also repelling negative energy from others
- * Silver candle- Goddess or feminine energy, remove negativity, psychic development
- * Gold candle- Male energy, Solar energy, fortune, spiritual attainment,

Candle colors for healing purpose
Candle magic therapists also recommend specific colored candles for



addressing different illnesses. In brief, these are:

- Allergies- Violet
- Anxiety- Rose
- Colds- Green/violet
- Depression- Orange/Indigo/Rose
- Insomnia- Blue
- Indigestion- Yellow
- Fever- Blue
- Headaches- Green/blue
- Diabetes- Yellow



According to the science of candle magic, specific candles may be used on specific days of the week, since these colors are also associated with the different Planets. Thus:

- Sunday- Gold or yellow candles
- Monday- Silver, Grey or White
- Tuesday- Red
- Wednesday- Purple
- Thursday- Blue
- Friday- Green
- Saturday- Black or Purple



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Weeding Out Corruption?



by Ladislaus L. D'Souza

The headline on the front page of Mumbai Mirror of 12 November 2016 said it all: 'FIRST VICTIM OF MADNESS AROUND WITHDRAWAL OF RS 1000 AND 500 NOTES', the victim being an infant son of a carpenter. Nothing can compare with the loss of Jagdish Sharma and his wife. Nothing can comfort them either, not even the affirmation of certain Catholics that "JESUS is King and in full control". Not all the 500 and 1000 rupee denomination currency deposited in the country's banks will bring the Sharma infant to life, nor even all of the new 2000 rupee denomination currency bring consolation to the grieving parents.

While one may opine that the sudden and swift action of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in demonetizing the two high denominations currency notes was a deft move aimed at weeding out all the black money supposedly stacked by the corrupt in our country, the fact remains that it is the common man who has become the victim of such a mindless act as this. The queues outside most banks one passes by anywhere largely consist of the class that one would associate with vendors, hawkers and others. A day spent at the bank just to get a note or two of the demonetized denomination exchanged or even deposited means the loss of a day's earnings. Now imagine this happening to your regular bhaajiwalli two days in a row, or to the fruit vendor you patronize in the market, or your shoeshine guy at the railway station! Do we realize what that means in terms of the daily bread of the poor? Or look at the frail and ageing pensioners bent over their walking sticks in a queue that seems endless—they'd probably reach their graves before their turn at the counter comes. Of course there are in the queue also some able-bodied and the well-off who, with age and leave benefits on their side, are probably there to exchange their ill-gotten old booty for new currency. Will these ever realize what the less fortunate than them-

There are also reports that the old notes are going to be back in circulation after a while. Than what is the purpose of this sordid exercise we are all being put through?

selves are in for in the present situation?

It's all very well to conclude that no matter what, Jesus is in control. O yes, as Christians we do believe that assertion. But what does one tell the Sharmas? Or the senior citizen in a remote village who's got to be around her ageing, bed-ridden mother who needs money – her own money, damn it, money that has overnight turned useless! Is she going to remain near her ailing mother or is she going to spend a couple of days at a bank that is an hour's walk away. Frankly, the child's death is solely on the head of the PM who is having a merry time out of the country. So is the impending death of the worsening health condition of bed-ridden citizens of the country.

Do the proponents of the Modification madness that has gripped the nation give a thought to the fact that the man and his ministers don't even have to touch their wallets when travelling or dining or whatever – all they have to do is step in and out of air-conditioned vehicles, be those of the wheeled or the winged variety, with their ADCs and PAs, valets and chauffeurs and their innumerable minions handling the nitty-gritty of payments and the like.

It certainly would have been amusing but for the fact that it's a serious matter –

how come nobody but nobody seems to consider the so-called prime ministerial masterstroke or whatever they choose to glory in calling it as a purely diversionary tactic? Diwali is just over and many are of the opinion that this year the festival was a bit subdued, with not too many fireworks taking money up in flames, what with the cost of everything having skyrocketed. Before the issue could reach peak proportions Modi decided to divert people's attention from the price rise factor to the corruption issue, never mind the fact that he has failed miserably to bring back home to India the funds the BJP said were stacked in Swiss banks, the return of which Modi had said would be marked with a certain amount being deposited by him in the bank account of every Indian!

There are also reports that the old notes are going to be back in circulation after a while. Than what is the purpose of this sordid exercise we are all being put through?

Thanksgiving



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



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

— Devotee

Magician priest of Mangaluru excels in spite of handicap

It is note worthy that Rev Fr. Ivan Madtha, a well known priest of Mangaluru diocese who met with a rail accident several years ago, lost his left hand, some fingers of the right hand and survived fatal injuries miraculously and after long rehabilitation helped by family and close friends has continued his spiritual and magic ministry more widely, actively and attracted people all over the country, specially South India, with the blessings of many people and organisations. He is officially certified as 80% disabled. He regularly also gives very special religious 'retreats' at Fatima Retreat Center Jeppu Mangaluru and other places in the South and all over India, on invitation.

Invited by PMI, Prison Ministry India, recently held over 40 shows of 'value based magic' in various schools in and around Bengaluru to raise funds for PMI in support of those in Prisons, their families and PMI works. According to an official figure from PMI, 1, 68,000 students attended the sessions and



by: Ivan Saldanha-Shet, Mangaluru based Freelance Journalist, is a regular contributor to local News papers, Magazines and web sites.

were sincerely motivated by the magic items and talks which Fr. Ivan with the help of Sr. Doris, his assistant performed at different venues normally holding, time consuming two to three shows a day on various stages. His enthusiasm for Christ is unmatched.

Rev Fr Ivan Madtha of Mangalore diocese received National Excellence Award 2011 from Catholic Priests' Conference of India (CPCI) at a glittering function organized in Trichur, Kerala on 30th November 2011. This

is one of the prestigious award given to a Catholic Priest for exceptional services rendered to the society at large. On the second anniversary celebrations of Daijiworld Weekly, during which differently-able achievers were conferred the first 'Swabhiman Awards' on Jun 12, 2011, Fr Ivan was one of the prominent awardees. Fr. Ivan has been chosen in recognition for his work as a Magician priest, for the creative use of the art of magic for the promotion of the Christ's Kingdom and for his great resilient enthusiasm in his mission even after being seriously disabled. He had been nominated by several prominent individuals and institutions for this award. Living at 'Vianney Home' at Fr. Muller's Hospital campus in Mangalore, Rev . Madtha travels around giving retreats, value based talks, personality devel-



opment workshops and value based magic shows where required. He is admired by a host of people for decades and his talks and discourses are in great demand and appreciated a great deal

Rev Fr Ivan Madtha has recently undergone the 14th surgery on his knee, a major one at Fr. Muller's in Mangaluru, for final correction of his knee which was damaged severely in the train accident many years ago and which seriously impedes his movements. Hopefully it will help him beyond expectations. Thousands of people in groups and individually are offering prayers and assistance for his speedy recovery.





Cardinal to head fact-check panel on Mother Bernadette

Ranchi: Cardinal Telesphore P. Toppo Saturday formed a three-member tribunal to examine if the founder of the Daughters of St Anne Congregation (DSA), Mother Mary Bernadette Prasad Kispotta, had led a virtuous and religious life of love while serving on earth, the first step towards her possible sainthood.

In July, the Vatican had issued a "nihil obstat" (nothing stands in the way) certificate for a thorough probe into the life of Mother Bernadette following which, Cardinal Toppo, who also holds the post of Archbishop of Ranchi, signed a decree on August 7, naming her a Servant of God, the first step towards sainthood.

The DSA founder is the first tribal nun to be considered for such an honour.

While Cardinal Toppo would be the president of the tribunal, Bishop Theodore Mascarenhas, the secretary general of the Catholic Bishops Conference of India (CBCI), the highest policy making body of the Roman Catholic Church in India, has been appointed Episcopal Delegate or judge of the tribunal.

"One million voice" to support Church stay in Middle East

A Syrian Christian now living in the UK is helping to bring hope for the future to his native land as part of a worldwide advocacy campaign.

Rami (who can't use his real name for security) co-ordinates 'Hope for the Middle East', a seven-year advocacy campaign from charity Open Doors which works with the persecuted Church. It seeks to maintain a presence in the Middle East for the Church and to show that it has an active

role to play in the future of Syria and the region as a whole.

He told World Watch Monitor, "I'm originally from Aleppo. About five years ago I moved to the UK to study. In the summer of 2012 I finished my Masters and planned to go back. At the same time, the protests against the Assad regime started to escalate. Flights were cancelled and borders were closed. I had my heart set on returning, but suddenly I couldn't go back. My family and friends still lived in Aleppo. I felt so disconnected. Whenever I read about something that had taken place, I asked myself: 'Where did this happen? How does this affect the people I know?'"

We see something in the Middle East that is probably unprecedented.

Jacobite Syrian Christian Church calls for vegetarianism

Kochi: It appears that the Jacobite Syrian Christian Church is taking the vegan way. Catholicos Baselios Thomas I, head of the Church, has asked the believers not to use meat for 'nercha sadya' (feast) in churches under it.

The circular gains significance in the wake of the country-wide debate over eating beef. Though the Catholicos has not specified the meat, it is pointed out that beef has widely been used for the 'nercha sadya' in churches across the state.

In a circular on April 18, the Catholicos asked the faithful to avoid using meat and liquor in churches for feasts. In a previous circular on July 28, 2015, the Catholicos had made the same direction, The New Indian Express reported.

Kerala priest wants E-way to combat currency woes

Thiruvananthapuram: As the whole coun-

try is reeling under the problems posed by demonetization, a priest in Kerala has come up with an innovative means to solve the problems plaguing the currency system.

Fr Abraham Mulamoottil, a senior priest of Syro-Malankara Catholic Church, suggested that the best way to keep a tab on black money and corruption is to switch over to 'E-Rupee.' India could trigger an economic revolution if it implemented the system, he says.

Fr Mulamoottil, the author of the book 'E-rupee to Reinvent India', says that the government can effectively deal with illegal money through the new technology gateway. All fund transfers, bills and payments could be channelised through authorised and convenient electronic interface, secured by private passwords.

The Reserve Bank should stop printing currencies of higher denominations and limit it to 100 and 200 notes for the convenience of the public. The higher transactions should strictly be made through E-money, Mulamoottil suggests. By shifting to E-rupee would also check corruption in the country more efficiently.

The E-rupee can save money spent on printing currencies too. Installing servers for the E-rupee facility would cost only one fourth of the money being spent on minting money, said Mulamoottil who was the Administrator of Mar Athanasios College for Advanced Studies (MACFAST) and Pushpagiri Hospital.

The priest also feels that by scrapping 500 and 1000 notes the government has taken the first step towards digitalisation of Indian currency. With the help of technology, the government could make sure that people are not divided on the basis of wealth.

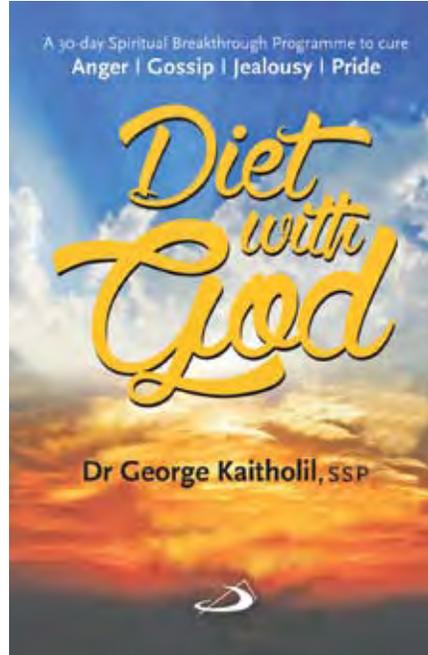
Fr Mulamoottil is currently working on his second book on 'Blockchain Technology,' an innovation of Bitcoin that makes e-transactions more secure. Incidentally, his first book on E-rupee was released by Finance Minister Arun Jaitely in 2014.

Diet With God

By Dr George Kaitholil SSP

The modern day generation is far more health conscious than its predecessors and resorts to *diets* in a big way, different people doing so for different reasons. A diet is understood as a special, restricted intake of food within a specific range of items, following a doctor's prescription in terms of content and duration, in order to improve one's health. Some people diet to reduce their weight, others to control their diabetes or cholesterol. Still others diet as part of treatment for a specific illness. In most cases, if not all, dieting has to be accompanied by appropriate exercises for the desired results.

But have you ever thought of a spiritual form of diet – one that serves as a prelude to a cure for the many spiritual disorders that assail us on account of an excess in negative qualities or undesirable behaviour patterns? Spiritual illness involves an indulgence in unjust, immoral or uncivil speech or behaviour, unduly bloated ego and excessive pride, nursing hatred, calumniating, insulting, humiliating and hurting others whether verbally or physically and deliberately becoming a stumbling block to others. The spiritual form of diet involves dieting with



God with a view to becoming healthier in both our spiritual and social life and to grow more like God in goodness, kindness and concern for others. God

being perfect in every respect, dieting with Him offers us an opportunity to become like Him in some measure, imbibing at

least some of His goodness, love and mercy.

Holy Mother Church offers us two specific seasons for the specific purpose of such dieting, viz LENT and ADVENT. **DIET WITH GOD** [published by ST PAUL'S] is a dated programme in the sense that adherence to its contents guarantees results within a 30-day timeframe that fits snugly into the observance of Advent! While there may be innumerable things we might need to diet on account of, this book focuses on overcoming four specific broad traits in our makeup; these are **anger, gossip, jealousy and pride**, all human negativity emanating from these four spiritual problems. Not stopping at that, the book discusses countering those negative traits with the cultivation of **patience, edifying talk, goodwill and humility**.

The purpose of this book is twofold, viz to *offer spiritual support* by way of encouragement and suggestions, and to *show the pathway* to overcoming certain negative emotions and harmful habits. Dieting with God, following a certain psycho-spiritual discipline and schedule is the only way to achieving good spiritual health. Notably, this diet programme is based on Biblical teachings whose stipulated *do's and don'ts* we simply have to know and observe religiously so as to achieve success.

A word of caution: the programme suggested in **DIET WITH GOD** [pp 111 / Rs 80] comprises, apart from essential data, a diet prayer, a diet mantra, a diet resolve and a diet exercise. Faithful adherence to it is called for, no matter what. Only then will the toxins of *anger, gossip, jealousy and pride* be flushed out of your system, thereby ensuring for yourself good health of body, mind and spirit, not forgetting a great season of Advent followed by a blissful Christmas! After all, this comes from a religious priest of repute. An experienced teacher, preacher and spiritual guide, this is his 86th title, a number of his other titles having been published in various languages and countries aggregating a sale of over two and a half million copies worldwide!

BOOK REVIEW

by Ladislaus L D'Souza

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Thanksgiving



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

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

— Lavina Gomes, Mahim

Inspiration!

Advantages of currency ban

Historical reform in India which was announced on 08th Nov, 2016 of banning the Rs. 500 & 1000 note is being welcomed across the country. The revolutionary move was appreciated even by the World Bank and many leaders across the world and Indian corporate big wigs.

Although Indians are currently facing difficulty in exchanging the banned Rs. 500 & 1000 notes or withdrawing/depositing cash from the ATM/bank; the problems won't last long. Banks and RBI are taking every possible measure to help people by exchanging demonetized currencies. They are also making cash available in sufficient quantity in the ATMs; so that people do not face problems in buying day to day utility things such as grocery, vegetables...

But do you know that this move is going to boost Indian economy in the long run? Let's understand:

This demonetization decision has three main objectives: Unearth stashed cash, Collect taxes from this cash and Stop black money flow

More tax collection:

Since government has increased the tax from these evaders, they will have to pay larger sum. More money collected with the government will in turn benefit Indian economy i.e. GDP will increase.

Nation Building:

Collection of higher taxes will eventually benefit Indian economy as large amount of money will flow into the system which would be used for the nation's development such as infra-

This radical move in india's currency system will boost investment in gold as an alternative to cash deposit in the bank. It will give rise to deposits through gold monetisation scheme. Also, with this decision, India's ranking on global scale in terms of investments and ease of doing business will improve as corruption will drastically reduce. At the same time, drop in real estate prices, control on terrorism, smuggling.

structure, roads, transportation, and many others. And this means more GDP growth. More the development projects in the country straight away means requirement of manpower. And this will give jobs to many people. Most importantly the money can be used for the welfare of the farmers.

Banking Boost:

More people will now open bank account, which would increase deposits in the banks. Since more people will use banking for money transactions, dependency on cash transactions will reduce and transparency will increase.

Increase in digital payments:

Apart from bank account, more people will start using debit or credit card or digital wallet. Ultimately this will benefit government's digital India initiative. Basically this move will bring higher level of transparency in transactions. Currently major chunk of transactions in India happen through cash. Digital wallet companies will naturally get investment boost due to increase in using their services.

Lowered interest rate & inflation:

Loan interest rate will fall as banks



will have more money to invest due to increase in deposits. This will lead to increased investments by foreign companies will lead to price control of essential commodity and thereby inflation will reduce.

Employment will increase:

More demand for houses and increase in nation developmental projects means more demand for labors and other skilled manpower. And this will give boost to the employment and unemployment will eventually reduce. Employment increase will give jobs to poor especially those who are unskilled. It will eventually meet the objective of Sabke Saath Sabka Vikas.

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6436. MUMBAI : Maharashtraian Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in July 1990), Ht. 6' 2", Wt. 94 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.E., MBA (Fin.), working as a Dy. Manager. Seeks a well qualified, cultured and homely girl. Contact email : bharati.muntode@gmail.com OR 9322105132

6594. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in May 1984), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 69 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. C.A., MBA (Finance) working as an Asst. General Manager. Contact email : neem444888@gmail.com OR 9892775385

6596. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in January 1980), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 72 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, SSC. ITI, NCVT, working for offshore industry as marine technician, having own house. Contact email : lezzrocks@gmail.com OR 9321902508 / 7083597383.

6588. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in August 1986), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 70 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., CWA (Inter), CA (Inter), working as an Accountant. Contact email : saviopinto23@gmail.com OR 9619520408

6587. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in August 1984), Ht. 6', Wt. 95 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.E. working as a Civil Engineer. Contact email : matrimonial.2312@gmail.com OR 9833483113

6590. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in November 1986), Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 70 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Graduate, working as a Cruise Reception Manager. Contact email : fernajoy@gmail.com OR 8286400396 / 8286500593

6515. MUMBAI : East Indian Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in June 1989), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 64 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. P.G.D.B.M., working as a H.R. Contact email : leo.rglobus@gmail.com OR 9324900279

6612 MUMBAI : Mangalorean Ro-

man Catholic Divorcee, (Born in October 1970), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 66 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. HSC., Service. Contact 9167419437

6605. MUMBAI : Gujarati RC Divorcee, (Born in June 1963), Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 85 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Sr. Accountant. Contact email : parmar777@gmail.com OR 9987050500

6585. MUMBAI : Tamilian Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in June 1988), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 78 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. EXTC Engineering, working as a Networking Engineer. Contact email : 18.elaine@gmail.com OR 9167944625.

6553. GERMANY : German Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in August 1980), Ht. 175 cms, Well built, Fair Complexion, Edn. Normal School Cheff. Working as a Cheff. Contact email : evascherrmann@yahoo.de OR 4974861015

6526. DOHA QATAR : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Divorcee, (Born in September 1982), Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 75 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBA, PGDM, having decent job. Contact email : secondsairik2016@gmail.com OR Phone: 0097466710060

6508. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor (Born in October 1986), Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 80 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.E.. working as a Asst. Manager in German Company. Seeks a tall, well educated homely Mangalorean girl. Contact email : colind.3010@gmail.com OR 99200 63946 / 98203 73826

6467. MUMBAI : Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in November 1986), Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 85 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.E.IT & MBA IT, working as a Business Analyst. Contact email : briansavio86@gmail.com OR

09820744043

6435. MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC Divorcee, 1st marriage annulled by the Church, (Born in March 1977), Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 68 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Undergraduate, working as Asst. Manager-Stores in Cruise Lines. Contact email : jacque@universal-medicare.com OR 7045120382.

6404. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in February 1981), Ht. 5' 5", Wheatish Complexion, Edn. HSC / Diploma in Optometry, working as a Sales Professional. Contact email : picardosimon@gmail.com OR 9819403252

6349. MUMBAI : Anglo Indian Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in December 1980), Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 70 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Duty Manager. Contact email : saviohenry@gmail.com OR 9820267423

6347. MUMBAI : East Indian Roman Catholic Divorcee, (Born in January 1970), Ht. 5' 9", Wheatish Complexion, Edn. BE/MBA., working as a Software Professional. Contact No. 9819406433 OR email: examiner-boy@yahoo.com

6363. GOA : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in December 1983), Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 60 kgs, Very Fair Complexion, Edn. 3 years Diploma in Catering, working as a Chef at a Supervisory level. Contact email : chefsavio83@gmail.com OR 8652744565

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6617. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in November 1992), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 60 ks, Fair Complexion, Edn. MMS / MBA working as a HR in MNC. Only Child. Contact email : amd19901992@gmail.com

6505. MUMBAI: Mumbai based Mangalorean Roman Catholic parents invite alliance for their Beautiful daughter, (Born in May 1988), fair, smart, M.B.A., working as an Executive. Boy should be well educated, God fearing having good family background. Please contact with photograph & all details to Tel.: 7506319407 Email: richard.dsouza17@gmail.com

6473. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in June 1982), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 68 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working in Bank as AVP in **LONDON**. Contact email : rati27@gmail.com OR 9869476537

6470. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Divorcee, (Born in September 1960), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 75 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. SSLC., working as a Care-taker. Contact : 9324953353

6469. RAJASTHAN : Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in February 1987), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 65 kgs, fair and goodlooking, simple, loving, very understanding girl, Edn. M.A., B.Ed., CTET, Teacher by profession. Contact email : arleen_sunni@yahoo.co.in OR 8239871729

6462. MUMBAI : East Indian Roman Catholic spinster, (Born in February 1989), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 49 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. BMS., MMS (Mum. Uni.) working as a Data Analyst. Seeks well educated and working and settled abroad, preferably dubai. Girl willing to relocate any city in the world. Contact email : melwyn_dsilva@hotmail.com OR 9224258001

6460. BANGALORE : Goan Roman Catholic spinster, (Born in February 1987), Only child, Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 55 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Masters in Library &

Information Science, working as an Asst., Librarian, seeks a boy preferably working in Bangalore. Contact email : gracefreitas@rediffmail.com OR 9731866341

6439. MUMBAI : Mangalorean/Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in May 1986), Ht. 5'6", Wt. 56 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.E. Comp. MBA., working for MNC. Contact email : sybil8.lobo@gmail.com OR 9920309470

6437. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in October 1989), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 70 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., Nurse, working as a B.Sc. Staff Nurse in **SAUDI**. Contact email : sybilalvaes18@gmail.com OR 9657035849

6428. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in August 1988), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 65 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.A. (Lit) Teacher by profession. Contact email : shalantam@gmail.com OR 91-67285160

6394. MUMBAI : East Indian Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in January 1985), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 56 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., CS., LLB., working as a Manager. Contact email : lfaroze@gmail.com OR 9819824865

6390. AUSTRALIA : Mangalorean RC parents seek alliance for their daughter (Born in May 1987), 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.

6383. NAGPUR : CNI Protestant Spinster, (Born in September 1984) , Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 57 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Sc., Biotechnology. Contact email : shikhanath@yahoo.com OR 9422300753

6382. NEW DELHI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in August 1988), 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

6381. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in April 1984), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 58 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Com., working. Contact email : soareskaren14@gmail.com OR

9967297756

6374. PUNE : Maharashtra RC Spinster, (Born in January 1986), Ht. 5' 1", Wheatish Complexion, Edn. BHSC, B.Ed., Post graduate, Teacher by profession. Contact email : cyrilmntode@gmail.com OR 9850978699.

6371. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Widow, (Born in March 1969, Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 55 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. 12th std., Housewife. Seeks a suitable match. Contact email : benedictad-souza04@gmail.com.

6368. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in May 1988), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 54 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., Dip. in (HR), working as a French Analyst. Contact email : selmamascarenhas88@gmail.com / malmasca@rediffmail.com OR 9702111899

6367. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, Only Child, (Born in August 1991), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 45 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as HR. Contact email : staceydsouza95@gmail.com OR 9930276885

6366. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, Only Child, (Born in October 1985), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Post Graduate (Marketing & HR), studied and working in **SYDNEY-AUSTRALIA**. Contact email : sydn2020@gmail.com OR 9892112703

6365. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in July 1984), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 45 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. BMS & appearing for MBA. working as a HR Manager in IT Company. Contact email : alee_812@rediffmail.com OR 9967924579 / 8454841729

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Conference on 'LAUDATO Si' by Christian Businessmen

report by Don Aguiar

The FABC – (Federation of Asian Bishops' Conference) Climate Change desk was established under the Chairmanship of Cardinal Oswald and Fr Allwyn D'Silva was appointed the secretary. The Climate Change Desk requirement was to lay a foundation on Climate Change in the context of Christian Business and accordingly organized a one day Maharashtra State Level Conference on LAUDATO Si and CHRISTIAN Business on Sunday 13th November 2016 at St Pius Collage, Goregoan, Mumbai, together with the Christian Chamber of Commerce.

How will the world's climate change in the coming century? The answer to this question depends on how human societies develop in terms of demographics and economic development, technological change, energy supply and demand, and land use change.

The Climate Change Desk conference on Climate Change and Christian business required to deal with how Christian Business can save the environment through their respective business and establishments and had described new scenarios of the future, and predicted greenhouse gas emissions associated with such developments. The scenarios provide the basis for future assessments of climate change in the context of Christian Business and possible response strategies.

This conference gave an insight and state-of-the-art assessment available of greenhouse gas emissions scenarios, and provides invaluable information for industry, policy-makers, environmental organizations, and researchers in global change, technology, engineering and economics.

The conference began with the lighting of the lamp followed by a reading from scripture Rm. 8:18-25 and a



prayer For Our Earth by Bishop Bosco. Mr. Albert D'Souza welcomed the delegates after which Bishop Bosco was invited to deliver the "Key note Address" based on the Encyclical of Pope Francis named "Laudato Si" which deals with environmental issues and in particular with Chapter 3.

The matter of his address was taken from three documents –

Laudato Si: By Pope Francis,

Laudato Si: an official summary for bishops,

sky. His focus was mainly on solar energy with a few key pillars – Mitigation, Adaption, Technology Transfers, Financial Transfers, Capacity Building, Loss & Damage. This was followed by a question and answers session. However the audience noted that Industry and transportation were missing and could not be taken up due to time constraints as time allotted was overshot..

The next speaker was Fr Allwyn D'Silva who explained in brief what 'Laudato Si' is all about and the encyclical that shows the way that thru creation and thru nature you can feel the love of God. He asked the audience what kind of world do we want to live in as the problems were linked closely to the throw away culture and concluded that the climate is a common good belonging to all and the faiths of Christians motivate them to care for nature.



CCBI Bulletin June 2015, Federation of Asian Bishops Conference (FABC) papers 140-141 on climate change and ended with A Christian Prayer in Union with Creation.

Bishop Bosco advice to all speakers in order to get the audience attention was to – Be Brief, Be Bright, Be Gone and handed it over to the first speaker Mr Walter Mendonza who dwelt on the topic – Climate Change, Concept Impacts, Current Trends with the help of slides. He put it across to the audience that what is at stake is our civilization and what do we do about it in the face of pollution and other factors that even inconvenience the fishermen who are now unable to read the

The next speaker was Deepika Singh who dwelt on Laudato Si and Role of Business in promoting Environmental Sustainability and shared her insights on Pope Francis that he wants to connect to all as business is a very noble profession and one must appreciate small business as they employ the poor. Christian Business must keep in mind mother earth. And keeping with Bishops Bosco advice she and Fr Allwyn D'Silva was indeed brief, bright and gone.

After the lunch break a panel of experts on technical inputs shared their expertise in their own field.



Mr Nitesh Mehta on Business Affecting Environment: Sustainable Business practices.

Ms Kreethi D'Souza dwelt on Ecology Sustainability Legal and Regulatory Factors in Business



Dr. Priyadarshini Karva dwelt on Equitable Sustainability Development through Renewable Energy, Business ventures.

After the tea break Cardinal Oswald addressed the audience requesting the Christian business to



lay the foundation to save the earth by applying good business practices that will not endanger the climate after which a panel of experts shared their experience in Individual Good Business practices

ICPA Opens office in Delhi



New Delhi: A new office of the Indian Catholic Press Association (ICPA) here in Delhi was inaugurated and blessed by the Capuchin Provincial of North India province, Fr PA Joseph, on November 10. The office is located in Jaipuria Enclave near the Kaushambi Metro station and is in the territory of Uttar Pradesh, about 3 km from NISCORT.

Secretary of the CBCI office for Social Communication Fr Varaprasad, former Provincial of the Capu-

chins Fr Dominic, the office-bearers of the ICPA and two of its Executive Committee members were among those present. ICPA President Fr Alfonso Elenkikal welcomed and the Secretary Jose Vincent proposed a vote of thanks.

The Executive Committee of the ICPA, which met on November 11, finalized the venue of the Association's next National convention and annual general body meeting as Nagpur on February 24 and 25, 2017.

—Jose Vincent, Secretary.



Mr Vincent Mathias shared his experience on the Packaging industry Waste

Mr Pankaj Sharma shared his experience on his working in Swati Pentose Pvt Ltd

Mr Rudolf D'Souza shared his experience on Rain water Harvesting

This was followed by a question and answer session and a vote of thanks by Fr Allwyn D'Silva.

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