

# THE SECULAR CITIZEN

(Total pages 24)

A NATIONAL FAMILY WEEKLY

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## New book investigates anti-Christian violence in Kandhamal



# Nun credits elephants with religious vocation

**Bhubaneswar:** The first member of the Sisters of Destitute from Kandhamal district of Odisha credits elephants with her religious vocation.

“I decided to dedicate my life to God and serve him through the poor, needy, marginalized and sick in 2009 after I heard how a herd of elephants meted out justice to the victims of Kandhamal anti-Christian violence,” says Sister Alanza Nayak who became a member of the Kerala-based congregation four months ago.

On January 26, her village, Mandubadi, a substation under Daringbadi parish in Kandhamal district, honored her with a special Mass and festivities. More than 3,000 people attended the program.



“Pink Auto Rickshaw” in Thane district came into existance from 1st February 2017 onwards which is owned and driven exclusively by women drivers. —Ronida

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## 'Thought for the week'

*If you pay too much heed to your fears, you may never discover what a great person you could have been*

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**Cover :** New book investigates anti-

Christian violence in Kandhamal:

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## The Advantage of the Crowd

by Don Aguiar

India is hitting global headlines for many reasons, but one of them is for being one of the most unequal countries in the world with a very high and sharply rising concentration of income and wealth as well as education, ethics and reasoning.

As humans we need to show off our might and we do this best in a democracy by going in a crowd as right now the law is for protection of the crowd and at times this crowd works well for the individual or party or vested interest as achieving their goals or victory in winning the elections or getting what they want seldom or never work when one goes as an individual or even as equals This is what prompted the anarchist Peter Kropotkin to remark that nature is not "red in tooth and claw" but people are.

The idea of protection of the crowd comes from the belief that a crowd's fortunes are rooted in the creation of a buzz which can then bring in media coverage which in turn could morph into victory and achieving their needs/goals/interest.

On one occasion, a Mohammedan's watch shop was being looted. It was the most precious collection of watches. The people who were taking away those watches and destroying the shop — they had killed the shop owner — were all Hindus. An old priest I was acquainted with was standing on the steps and shouting very angrily at the people, "What are you doing? This is against our religion, against our morality, against our culture. This is not right."

I was seeing the whole scene from a bookstore, on the first story in a building just in front of the shop on the other side of the road. The greatest surprise was yet to come. When people had taken every valuable article from the shop, there was only an old grandfather clock left — very big, very antique. Seeing that people were leaving, the old man took that clock on his shoulders. It was difficult for him to carry because it was too heavy. I could not believe my eyes! He had been preventing people, and this was the last item in the shop.

I had to come down from the bookstore and stop the priest. I said to him, "This is strange. The whole time you were shouting, 'This is against our morality! This is against our religion, don't do it!' And now you are taking the biggest clock in the shop.

He said, "I shouted enough, but nobody listened. And then finally the idea arose in me that I am simply shouting and wasting my time, and everybody else is getting something. So it is better to take this clock before somebody else gets it, because it was the only item left."

I asked, "But what happened to religion, morality, culture?"

He said this with an ashamed face — but he said it: When nobody bothers about reli-

(Contd.. on p. 4)

(Contd.. from p. 3)

gion, culture and morality, why should I be the only victim? I am also part of the same crowd. I tried my best to convince them, but if nobody is going to follow the religious and the moral and the right way, then I am not going to be just a loser and look stupid standing there. Nobody even listened to me; nobody took any notice of me. He carried that clock away.

This is one example of community leaders and political parties using the crowd to inflict harm, difficulties, financial loss over another community or ensuring victory in the coming elections in the respective Indian states and local bodies but the effectiveness depends on one's skill and technique to go for the bull's eye.

The crowd as such is ugly, and the crowd has committed the greatest crimes in the world, because the crowd has no consciousness. It is a collective unconsciousness.

Consciousness makes one an individual - a solitary pine dancing in the wind, a solitary sunlit mountain peak in its utter glory and beauty, a solitary lion and its tremendously beautiful roar that goes on echoing for miles in the valleys.

According to many, (right now) law is not for protection of the just, it is for protection of the crowd; whether it is just or unjust does not matter. Law is against the individual and for the crowd. It is an effort to reduce the individual and his freedom, and his possibility of being himself.

Every crowd is a motley crowd, but no individual is motley. Every individual is an authentic consciousness. The moment he becomes part of the crowd he loses his consciousness, and then he is dominated by the collective mechanical mind.

The crowd is always of sheep and all efforts of the past have been to convert every individual into a cog in the wheel, into a dead part of a dead crowd. The more unconsciousness he is and the more his behavior is dominated by the collectivity, the less dangerous he is. In fact he becomes almost like a slave to the leader or party or vested interest which ever may be.

I have seen at least a dozen riots in the city, as well as groups of people being carried away by

their talk or preaching by vested interest, community leaders and politicians and I have asked individuals who have participated in arson, in murder, in rape, in exercising their franchise wrongly (they realised this later) "Can you do it alone on your own?" And they all said without exception, "On our own we could not do it. It was because so many people were doing it, and there was no responsibility left. We were not answerable, the crowd was answerable."

Man loses his small consciousness so easily into a collective ocean of unconsciousness. That is the cause of all wars, all riots, all rapes, all murders and all voting for the wrong candidate and party to form our government / municipal bodies and so on.

Right now being part of a crowd they are not free, not even conscious enough to have a dialogue.. People get carried away by the mass-minds

Friedrich Nietzsche has said, "Madness in individuals is a rare phenomenon but in crowds it is the general rule." It is very rare that people become mad individually but it is almost the rule that crowds become mad. The general excitement is just too much, the fire is too much, you start burning with it - and it is very unconscious. And there is no responsibility any more and there is no problem of conscience - you are not killing or raping somebody, the crowd is killing or raping. You are simply participating because you were there. Nobody can catch hold of you and nobody can say to you that "you killed or raped!" You were not individually responsible

People in the crowd have always behaved

blindly. If you pull the same man out of the crowd and ask him, "What were you doing? Can you do it alone, on your own?" he will feel embarrassed. And you will be surprised to hear his answer: On my own I cannot do such a stupid thing, but when I am in a crowd something strange happens.

A large mass of people enthusiastically waving banners and dancing can sway decision making in their favor.

In a country of diverse requirements, deprivation and squalor the views of the crowd takes precedence over an individual view especially in matters of inequalities, conflict and civic issues that causes inconvenience and hurt to many. This respect for crowd acceptance lies at the root of our government policy for democracy.

Very soon many states in India will go to the polls. With the political parties and vested interest whipping up and using crowd hysteria to ensure winning it is anyone's guess who the winner will be and what sort of government will rule the respective state or local bodies. Will the government or local bodies elected by these people and in particular our community ensure communal harmony, economic upliftment, trade and commerce in a transparent and professional manner?

India is like a volcano that can erupt any time if not handled properly and necessary measures put in place. With development enjoyed by a select few, urban as well as rural India has emerged as a hotbed of rising inequalities, conflicts and crime, often suspect to be a direct upshot of deprivation and squalor. An undercurrent of tension is apparent in the fast paced cities of the 21st century. The potential for a major tear in the social fabric of urban and rural geography is considerably large.

Will our community be wise enough to not fall in this trap of temptation and false promise which is pushed thru crowds and fancy and attractive advertisement and slogans but instead vote as a conscious individual ensuring that the social fabric is maintained and a non communal, professional party is voted to power.

All religion and religious groups, particularly the Catholics, are the conscience keepers. The church in India has a twin role of keeping the moral audit of the administration and to be able to tell the government and local bodies where to direct its energy.

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## Holy Communion – only for Catholics ?

There has been much discussion/debate with regard to distribution of Holy Communion at church services on occasions like Christmas, or Funerals, marriages, etc., where our non-Christian brethren are present. While some feel that the announcements made at such services, which clearly specify that Holy Communion is only for Catholics, etc., sounds too harsh, almost amounting to discrimination, there may be others who feel that there could be a better way of putting it across. Or, maybe Holy Communion could even be distributed to them as non-Christians see it as 'prasada' which they receive in their temples. Of course, this cannot be permitted. The debate/discussion could continue, but in the meanwhile, there seems to be a new approach at the Holy Family Church at Chakala, Andheri.

At a funeral Mass recently at the Holy Family Church I am told, at the time of distribution of Holy Communion, the usual announcement about Holy Communion being only for Catholics was made. However, the announcement further said, that the non-Christians could come forward in a queue (parallel to the queue for Holy Communion). And, the priest blessed each one of them by laying his hands on their forehead and said a little prayer for them. I certainly feel those who came forward (and it seems, many did) must have felt 'blessed' and part of the congregation. Whether this could be emulated in other churches as well ?

—Melville X. D'Souza  
- Orlem, Malad West

## Un-planned Budget

The Union Budget 2017-2018 was not well-planned as it only benefitted the government at the centre and not the common man. Manmohan Singh was a better Finance Minister. He was far better and much more superior to Arun Jaitley. Ever since Jaitley took charge as the Finance Minister he has been thinking only of himself and not the common man. Has he or Prime Minister Narendra Modi stood in long queues outside banks or ATMs to withdraw cash during demonetization period? Have they ever stood outside ration shops in queues to get their monthly quota of kerosene or at a railway booking ticket counter? Or have they ever travelled during peak or non-peak hours in buses or trains? All they are doing is enjoying themselves on the taxpayer's hard-earned money. We work, pay our taxes and they eat. Is this they call India?

Section 80L should have been brought back and the tax-free limit on interest earned from bank fixed deposits should have been raised to Rs 50,000/- per annum. This would've encouraged savings and inflation could also have been brought under control. Also, the pensioners are drawing minimal amount as pension. This should be increased. The retirement age from service of an employee of limited and private limited companies should also be increased from 58 years to 60 years.

I expected much more from the Union Budget. Modi's promise of depositing Rs 15 lakh in the bank account of every Indian citizen should have been fulfilled.

—Jubel D'Cruz,  
Mumbai

# Trump's Catholic Staff!

The National Catholic Register, America's most reliable Catholic news source, had reported on 31 January, 2017: "When it comes to religious affiliation, a distinctive pattern has emerged in President Donald Trump's new administration. Most of his high ranking appointees, especially to 'military-related positions', hail from a Catholic background!"

These include Gen. James Mattis, secretary of Defense; Gen. John Kelly, secretary for Homeland Security; Michael Flynn, National Security advisor, who grew up in a devout Irish Catholic family on Rhode Island; and, Vincent Viola, Army secretary, a war veteran and a major donor the Catholic Fordham University.

Military historian and analyst William Leeman noted: "The armed forces provide a more conservative environment that is friendly to the expression of faith; which helps them get through hardships they face on field and back home - Because the military places a high value on ethics and character education."

According to super cop Julio Rebeiro, in an article published in The Indian Express on 17, March, 2015 titled "As a Christian, suddenly I am a stranger in my own country!", had attested to the fact that the Indian defense forces were once headed by Christians; and even today countless men and women in uniform are Christians.

And if I may truthfully supplement – All conflicts are life-threatening and deplorable, whether due to internal disturbances or external aggression, especially when the army get involved. Instead, we should fight the spiritual battle: "Put on the armor of God, to stand up against the wiles of the devil" (Ephesians 6:11).

—Dr. Trevor Colaso,  
Bandra (West), Mumbai

# ICPA awards

Kochi: James Edayody, Sunday Shalom Correspondent for Mumbai belonging to the diocese of Kalyan and M Gengaikumar, a writer and publisher from Thiruvannamalai of the diocese of Vellore in Tamilnadu have been chosen for the Indian Catholic Press Association (ICPA) Awards 2017.



**James Edayody**



**M Gengaikumar**

While James has been awarded the Fr Louis Careno Award for the outstanding journalist of the year, Gengaikumar has been chosen for the ICPA-CBCI SC/BC Commission Award for the best write-ups on dalit issues.

Each award carries a cash prize of Rs 10,000, a citation and a trophy.

The awards will be conferred on them during the 22nd National Convention of Christian Journalists at the Archdiocesan Pastoral Centre, Nagpur on February 24.

Jose Vincent.K.J  
Secretary,  
Indian Catholic Press Association

## Love supersedes Fear

by Calwyn D'Abreo

Fear is a syndrome that is always fathomed within the human psyche. And the good news is that it is always and only available in the future and never in the 'now' or the present moment. You have ample time to resurrect from the chasm of fear and come straight to the affable and congruous platform of disrupting the qualification that creates fear. The vacant mind without positive focus and a bed of weak emotions and feeling is the mattress on which it will lie and interfere with the fabric of human existence.

The wonderful part that fear plays is that you can change fear into love. Surprised as we may be but the answer lies in the ratio between the anchor of fear and the disbursal of love in quantities, unlimited. This may sound difficult but allow yourself to recognize it as simple shifting of the mindset from what it is you felt as in fear to what is divinely available as an antidote within the answer of using love as a core requirement. By understanding the detriment of fear as a leverage towards disaster in everyday living consider love to harbor in as it becomes our strength. We need to apply faith in ourselves and therefore

change our attitude and take action of seeing the wonderment of the end effect of what we are wanting.

*"Love is contrary to fear. The more you are willing to love and trust who you are, the more you attract those qualities to ourselves. When we're on a streak of really being frightened or upset or worried or not liking ourselves, isn't it amazing how everything goes wrong in our lives? It's the same when we really love ourselves. Everything starts to go on a winning streak, and we get the green lights and the parking spaces. We get up in the morning and the day flows beautifully. We have to turn to the power within. We have to spiritually connect. We have to maintain this composition of emotional status and distribute feelings of love that supersedes the anatomy of fear. " H. L.*

## Thanksgiving



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

—A Devotee

# Parents cause for maximum marriage separation

by Saramma Emmanuel

Bhopal: The new generation couples believe in sharing their life equally unlike in the past and parental interference in their life lead to 80 per cent cases of marriage separation, says P A Edwin, a church councilor from Chennai addressing the Catholic bishops participating in the 29th biennial plenary assembly of the Conference of Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI) in Bhopal on Wednesday.

More than 130 Bishops from 132 Latin rite dioceses in the country are participating in the eight-day gathering focused on revitalizing the family life of Catholics in the country against the backdrop of dilution of family values, morality, domestic violence, divorce among other issues confronting family life.

Edwin along with his wife Nimmy Mar-teena sharing their family experience said their mutual respect bonded them together to face the challenges of life happily. According to them, "when a couple begin to care for each other the journey of life becomes joyful and worth".

Edwin from his experience as counselor, said, "the time has changed

and the young couples want to lead an independent life, that too, with equal participation. If a man earns Rs 1 lakh, he believes that his wife too is capable of earning the same".

"They believe in sharing their responsibilities. They are also more focused. Only when parents indulge in unwarranted interfere with their life things get worse and even lead to divorce", he explains.

When it comes to divorce "I find only 20 per cent gets separated on account of their individual differences and the rest of the 80 per cent the root cause are parents", he emphasized much to the surprise of bishops.

A single mother Ms Biju Cheryath from Bangalore sharing her experience stressed the need for being focused and believing in oneself to lead a happy life in a society that looked down on single parent like her. She also said, "I always believe keeping myself away from negativity".

The gathering of the bishops is focused on the theme of Amoris Laetitia (Promoting the Joy of Love in Our Families) according to Pope Francis call for revitalizing Catholic families.

The prelates listened testimonies from couples and single parent to identify the problems they face in their family life to help reshape the family apostolate to address them effectively on Wednesday, the second day.

Earlier on Tuesday, the Chairman of the CCBI Commission for families Bishop Lawrence Pius Dorairaj presented a report on the "Experience and challenges of family life" and highlighted the problems the families in India especially Catholics faces.

The prelates also welcomed suggestions from the couples to prepare the couples properly before entering into wed lock to lead a happy life.

"In many cases, newly-wed couples face innumerable problems to adjust with their new status and the Church leaders will ponder over how best it can help them in the days to come", added the office bearers.

Cardinal Lorenzo Baldisseri addressing the plenary assembly

Cardinal Lorenzo Baldisseri, the Secretary General, Synod of Bishops who came from Italy celebrated the Eucharist and prayed for the success of the gathering.

The prelate also briefly touched on the subject of parental responsibilities especially fathers in his homily.

According to him, parents should not always accept the demands of their children instead correct them if they are wrong and it was very essential for their proper upbringing.

"A father does not educate his children by always saying yes. It is sometimes necessary to say no to help the child grow and improve," says the prelate.

The prelate also urged his fellow bishops, priests and other pastoral workers to create a renewed enthusiasm in family ministry to revitalize family life in India where more than 30 per cent live below poverty line.

Source: mattersIndia

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# A 118 year old haven for the homeless

## 'St. Anthony's Ashram' Mangalore

by I. J. Saldanha-Shet

Catholics in India since early times have known St. Anthony of Padua, as a 'wonder worker' and miraculous saint (Ascharyan Gaar Sant). The very first Christians of Konkan adopted the saint's name in many forms, the name Anthony means 'priceless'. Even today the name of Antony/Anthony, Anton, Tony, Antonia and so on are popular. During the times of war in in early 20th century, when times were difficult, destitution prevalent and food was scarce, the name of St. Anthony and his power of obtaining favours spread in mysterious ways. In Mangalore St. Anthony Ashram on Fr. Muller Road, Jeppu is an astonishing haven, normally 400 plus people, hailing from the region, marginalized people without shelter and care, from all sections of society are housed in peaceful and positive surroundings and given care that is truly a blessing for the last 118 years. From February 6 to 15, 2017 it is going to mark a very special occasion, as such, it is worth while to take a brief look at this unique "Ashram", a welcome refuge for those of all ages.

**A Miracle Ashram since 118 years :** This beloved 'Ashram' situated in a central but quiet green belt of the main city is very accessible. The abandoned homeless of all ages from the streets seek shelter here. The de-



serting destitute needing shelter and food on a permanent basis are usually referred by known responsible persons and social workers. Normally the aged and maimed once admitted never leave this secure and happy shelter that is a virtual home, with all support, physical, emotional and moral. Quite a few who did not make it better in Mumbai and the metros are seen here. The campus is a treasury of the ecology aiming to reduce pollution and 'global warming'. Systematic ecology by water conservation, harvesting rain water, solar power, LED lighting are part of the institutes aim, enhancing the all around well being of this 'St. Anthony Ashram'.

The management of this Ashram since 118 years is directly under the catholic Bishop of Mangaluru who along with its director, administrator, staff and volunteers maintain a consistent hands-on care on all aspects of life in a dedicated and committed spirit. The facilities are quite up to date and entirely provided for by a system of 'providence' that is partly God's own through human efforts. The residents as per their ability and desire are well involved in the day to day services, which helps to keep them cheerful, useful and healthy. There has never been a serious complaint from any quarter about this miracle shelter.



The medical needs of the residents are met with the support of a nearby complimentary charitable super specialty Fr Muller Hospital, and the Govt. Wenlock District Hospital, Mangaluru. No effort is spared by the management, who also reside in the campus, to unfailingly provide tasty, nutritious food cooked in the central kitchen and from where it is distributed to different houses. At least thrice a day all come together for community interaction as needed as well as prayer and to pray for people who support. Noting the many residents of all ages, their loyalty and sense of belonging to their real home at 'St Anthony Ashram' is real love, much can be said about this, but space here is limited.



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The various Homes/units to house, secure and decentralize for individual and better care are at least 14 : Boys, Aged men, Girls, Young women, Aged women, 2 units. Bed-ridden women, Filarial Cases, Dubash memorial dispensary, Home for Physiotherapy clinic, Homeopathy hospital, Isolation ward, Infirmary, Industrial School for Tailoring, and trades; All totalling around 400 residents at any given time it is said.

The residents, in one way or the other according to ability and age are involved in activity. Vegetables and fruits of several kinds are grown in house, harvested throughout the year are used for Ashram consumption, which is a boon in the nutrition of the residents. The Institutes provide opportunities to residents to make use of their skills, talents and abilities and it makes them productive. Candles and church needs are produced with the industry of residents. Entertainment is well regulated with work and life interspersed ; meditation, yoga, retreats and prayer are a high point at the Ashram and many are happy to be involved. Thanks to kind at heart and considerate donors from all over, St Anthony's Charity Institutes have reached high standards in serving the destitute and disabled for 118 years. One can find infants, children, youth, the young, old, sick and helpless. All are enabled to go about their roles with all possible support from the management - be it studies (tertiary and college), work in house and in the city, getting treatment for the aged and sick and more. The normal children get education as per normal needs, grow up and find a footing as per capacity establish families and homes merging into society .....life takes it's designed trajectory, nothing is chance, all a divine design, life moves on with blessings from above.

Brief growth history :

It had a simple start on June 12, 1898.

Late 'Msgr M.P. Colaco' inspired by Divine Providence is it's founder, at the Milaagres church set up in 1680, on June 13, 1898, the feast day of St Anthony was first celebrated. Devotion of the people became legendary, people



of the area and from far away too became devoted and brought offerings. What was realized from these offerings was distributed among the poor . This great priest follower of St. Antony, spread the word world wide. A life size statue of St Anthony from the Vatican, Rome was obtained, blessed by Pope Leo XIII and installed at the shrine which is now venerated. On February 15th 1899 a second Feast of St Anthony, that of his relics were commenced, the tradition has grown to this day.

In 1911, Rt Rev. Dr Paul Perini S.J. then Bishop of Mangalore, with rare vision and unusual faith in Providence, gave Rev M.P. Colaco, charge of St Anthony's Bread, the work became a separate entity, out of the Milagres Parish, constituted as an Institution directly responsible to the Bishop. The "Poor Homes" to shelter the challenged, destitute, orphans and the aged who did not have any one to take care of them materialised with Fr Colaco leasing a plot across the road. He laboured hard for 31 years. Msgr. M.P. Colaco was honoured with the status of 'Msgr'; and before he could retire he passed away on July 20, 1929, his mortal remains are interred in front of the Shrine altar.

The number of inmates kept shooting up, a bungalow and the surrounding land of 27.36 acres at Jeppu, was acquired in an auction by Rt Rev. Dr Victor R. Fernandes, Bishop of Mangalore. Rev. Charles Lobo's extraordinary efforts and the Almighty's plan, Rev. Julian Rego, on October 15, 1936 completed the work of shifting the inmates from Milagres to the new homes at Jeppu, the present site. The diocese of Mangalore will always prize this Ashram as most dear, urging it to strive even more to serve the suffering needy.

In the modern era from Year 2000, Fr. Clifford D'Souza; then, Msgr Fred V. Pereira were Directors; due to age and ill health retirement resulted. In May 2008, Msgr Denis Moras Prabhu took charge of the Institutes in addition to his position as Vicar General of the diocese, for a while. The present Director Fr. Onil D'Souza along with the long time Administrator Fr. Francis D'Souza, assistants, staff, volunteers continue doing admirable work. Many generous souls in past decades have contributed and are remembered always. Caring for helpless, gravely ill and physically challenged numbering around 400 day to day, is a task that is possible to human limitations only and only with the direct grace and help of the Almighty GOD.

- I J Saldanha-Shet.

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# American Jesuits Take A Stand

**T**hese are tumultuous times for the United States and in fact, for a good part of the world. President Donald Trump is being true to his campaign promises. In just about ten days after his inauguration, he has signed several controversial executive orders. These include, imposing a 120-day suspension of the refugee programme and a 90-day ban on travel to the US from citizens of seven countries which are regarded as 'terror hot spots': Iraq, Iran, Syria, Libya, Yemen, Somalia and Sudan. Additionally, there are orders to build a US-Mexico border wall, to publish a weekly list of 'criminal actions by aliens' in Sanctuary Cities (besides stripping these cities of federal funding), and to ramp up immigration enforcement and deportation efforts. These orders have naturally polarized several sections of society, besides generating massive protests in the US and elsewhere. Civil society and institutions committed to human rights, justice, freedom and peace, find these orders illegal,



BY FR. CEDRIC PRAKASH SJ

cruel and misguided.

The Jesuits of America have not lost time in taking a courageous and unequivocal stand on behalf of the refugees, the migrants and the excluded. As early as November 17th 2016( just a week after the results of the Presidential Elections), Fr Leo J. O'Donovan, sj , the Executive Director, of the Jesuit Refugee Service/USA, set the tone and spirit, with a letter addressed to 'Friends and Fellow Americans' saying, "How shall JRS/USA respond to this situation? How shall we respond to the spectre of fear, selfishness, and lack of compassion that appears before us? First, let me say clearly

ly that the divisive election campaign and its surprising outcome can only serve to reinforce JRS's commitment to our mission to accompany, serve, and defend the rights of refugees in the United States and throughout the world. This commitment is absolute. It stands on the foundation of the teachings of the Church that we are all equally children of God and are related to each other in equal dignity as one family. In this context, our commitment to support and to speak out for the most vulnerable people, giving comfort, companionship and education to those otherwise forgotten and bringing the voice of the voiceless to the seats of power is unshakeable. It is in fact even more important at this uncertain time".

Fr O'Donovan followed that path-breaking letter with an 'Open Letter' addressed to President Trump on the day of his inauguration (January 20th 2017), emphatically stating that, "our country's welcome of these newcomers expresses who we are as a people. It is a sign of our commitment to the rights of refugees to seek and enjoy asylum from persecution. It reflects our desire to respond to the call of

the Jewish and Christian scriptures to welcome strangers among us, especially those in danger or great need. It is rooted in the recognition that all men and women possess a shared human dignity and, in the eyes of faith, are sons and daughters of a loving Creator who calls us together as one human family". The letter was also a challenge, "Mr. President, the generosity of the United States in response to the needs of refugees is a source of our reputation as "the last best hope of humankind" and expresses our highest moral values"; with a final appeal, "when you consider actions you might take to fulfil your promise to make America great again, remember the greatness of heart that is at the foundation of just and humane U.S. refugee assistance. Our nation and our world look to you for a magnanimous response to those who have been forced from their homes".

Jesuits run several Universities in the US, which include some of the most prestigious ones. In the wake of these executive orders the Presidents of almost all these Universities, have issued powerful statements reiterating their commitment to Gospel values, Jesuit identity, human rights and to a welcoming, inclusive and diverse American society. The President of Georgetown University for one, states, "Our Catholic and Jesuit identity provides the foundation for our lives together. Guided by our mission, we have placed a special emphasis on interreligious dialogue and our openness to different faith traditions and cultures. This includes our efforts to support a diverse and vibrant Muslim community on campus." The Boston College President is categorical, "The order is also contrary to American understandings of this nation's role as a refuge and its place as a society that does not discriminate on the basis of religion or national origin." Whereas Marquette University reaffirms, "More than 135 years ago, Marquette Uni-

(Contd.. on p. 22)

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## Jalli [Kattu] Good but...

The people of Tamil Nadu need to be complimented for the exemplary discipline shown during the recent agitation for the restoration of the Jalli Kattu which they believe is their 'tradition' deep rooted in the psyche of the Tamil people. Nobody really challenges this part of the whole saga. For almost a week, the silent and highly disciplined protests went on very peacefully without any untoward incident. The problem however was that the protestors were demanding something which was banned by none other than the Apex Court in 2014. What is surprising is that for two long years there was no real protest or murmur. What really prompted this unprecedented and sustained protest? With leading Film and Sports personalities supporting the demand for restoration of the banned sport, the movement received the impetus that was needed for it to surge ahead.

In a swift move, the Centre lest it annoys the Supreme Court, 'advised' the State that actually they could restore the old tradition by promulgating Ordinance followed by introduction of a regular bill in the Assembly. In the process the Centre washed its hands and avoided the ignominy in the event of the Supreme Court striking down the new legislation. This put the Tamil Nadu government on the back foot and they had no option and went through the motions meekly. The law was passed post haste. The pre-dawn swoop on the agitators and the resultant arson was simply uncalled for. The new legislation has already been challenged legally and it will be interesting to see how this case moves forward. A week ago 74 were injured 11 critically. The Apex court will surely factor this when the verdict is pronounced.

Undoubtedly, the people's movement was a great success. It shows that if there is unity nothing is impossible including virtual reversal of the judgement of the Apex Court. However, with no offence to the Tamil people, the whole episode opens a Pandora's Box and may not exactly augur well for the future. As expected, in the name of tradition, citizens from other States have demanded restoration of the banned sports which involved animals. The Karnataka State has already seen disturbances for lifting the ban on their traditional sport. The Maharashtra

## VIEWS on NEWS

people [rather the Politicians who do not want to be left behind] have demanded that the bullock cart races, cock fights etc be restored. This will only put the relative State Governments as well as the Centre in a very awkward situation.

Every State will have some form of animal related sport based on the tradition of the people living there. Their governments cannot alienate themselves from such demands which may be legitimate. But the fall out of such agitations will weaken the national fibre. The Judiciary may not be convinced and what would follow in such situations, is really frightening.

Let us remember that the nation is facing tricky situations in trying to tackle issues like Triple Talak, Uniform Civil Code, Ram Mandir issue et al. In the case of first two, there is vehement opposition to the 'imposition' of government will on the minorities. They too speak about their traditions. MIM has already taken the lead. Each affected lot will indulge in mass agitation [howsoever peaceful] and demand that the decision be reversed should it go against their interest. In a country of the size and diversity as ours, our only hope is the Judiciary. Let us not undermine its sanctity and effectiveness. Then we have the emotive Ram Mandir issue where the majority community is demanding construction of the Mandir where they believe is the actual birth place of Lord Ram. Here is a matter of faith rather than tradition. In national interest, the nation must learn to accept the decisions of the Apex Court as final and binding.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Unaccounted Party Funds

The Union Finance Minister, Arun Jaitley in his Budget announced some path-breaking measures, howsoever symbolic, to curb the menace of unaccounted [rather a gracious term for black money] influencing the election process of this country. Actually, the government had no option. Narendra Modi in his crusade against black money with a decisive step on demonetisation had shown his intentions. He wanted every citizen to go digital [never mind if he did not have a cell phone] even to pay for his vegetables or may be even eggs. Good



by Marshall Sequeira

move this! The media and the public pounced on the government for its silence on funds which all political parties gather in 'cash' from unknown donors. For almost seven decades the political parties had a field day. With virtual no control, the black money in electoral battles flourished. Whoever could bring in more 'funds' was a VIP. This had to change some day.

Fearing the 'double standards' charge during the UP, Punjab, Goa election, the scheme of Electoral Bonds was announced. It is undoubtedly a good move. The buyer pays for the bonds by cheque from his account. Obviously, his PAN details will also be collected. The bonds so purchased have to be donated to the political party of his choice with a specified time frame. This is a good move. The other step of restricting the cash donation to just Rs 2000 as against 20,000 is good but it is seen as a follow up of the CEC suggestion for which the government cannot really taken credit. On paper it sounds good but in reality, all political parties will circumvent this directive.

Firstly, there has to be a will on the part of political parties to implement the new measures seriously and not find ways to circumvent the initiatives to show the BJP in poor light. No matter what compulsions forced the government to act, the credit must go where it deserves. Secondly, two things need to be ensured. The Electoral Bond donor's details must be conveyed to the EC as well as the IT department. For the Rs 2000 limit for cash donation to be successful, it is necessary to cap the percentage of cash donations to total donations of a party say to 10%. Otherwise there is no way you can ensure its success. Alternately, disallow tax exemption on cash donations. This will force the political parties to avoid cash donations. A new chapter has been opened in the political funding. The election process at least will see Achhe Din.

# It's time to Paytm!

**I know the first thought that might pass your mind is, "Not another article on demonetisation!" or something in the same vein. Well, this article is not about that at all. I think we have heard and read enough on the subject, not to forget, even experienced the effects of it.**

When I chose to title this article the way I did, I only wanted to highlight a spiritual truth. Something we all know, have grown up with and perhaps somewhere along the growing up phase - forgotten.

Remember the time in childhood when we would run around playing tricks on unsuspecting folks? Many-a-time we would go scot free. Then there were those times we almost got caught. Then of course the painful moments when we were caught! How terrible it felt!

If we were clever enough, we would trick the person and pretend we had nothing to do with the act in question. If there was no way out then we would squeal on the names of our co-conspirators as well. The inevitable question always was, "Who else was with you?"

There would be that inevitable round of being lectured to and being asked to apologise, especially if our victim happened to be a senior or elder who probably could have died due to our misplaced humour (Again, I never quite understood this dramatic quotient but it always created huge sympathy for the victim!). Not to forget of course the spanking or being sent to bed hungry (not quite sure which was worse though)

Apologise we always did, as good children of good families ought to do, but how much of that we really meant



was another story altogether.

I often wondered, did we apologise because we understood we had done wrong or did we apologise to escape a thrashing? I strongly feel it was the latter in most cases. The only measure of the real intent would always be, if we never repeated that act again.

But, lo behold. Repeat we did! And the saga continued.

It continues to date, despite being grownups now.

And the wake up call is ...it's time to PAYtm.

Paytm, not just the name of a digital wallet that has seen tremendous business since demonetisation ( oh, that word again!) but a reminder that we really, really have to PAY.

So let's just take this allegory. There are steps we take when we use Paytm.

You register, you transfer money from your bank and load your Paytm account, you shop and you scan the code to pay. Simple!

Let's look at our lives.

At baptism, we have registered into a heavenly account.

Let's say we do a number of deeds a day- good and bad. All these get credited into our account in the Book of Life. Let's call it MY CURRENT ACCOUNT. Current, because it gets updated literally every second! Now there is a rule - You can draw a benefit from the account only from your good deeds,... obviously!

So, you can withdraw only the good deeds from your current to pay for what you, yourself may require. Your bad deeds simply remain there.

Now, let's face an imaginary situ-

ation. You are desperate, you need some help. So you try to withdraw from this account. How? By trying to enlist the help of those around you. But, if you have never helped anyone else, chances are, you are not going to get help yourself! No good helpful deeds to withdraw from your account!!!

You turn to God. You pray. However, your bad deeds are so overwhelming that the few good deeds show up as "Your account is below the required minimum balance. Sorry, transaction declined! Please transfer funds to complete transaction"

You try to bargain with people around, try to get them to loan you what you need with a promise to repay. However no one is willing to because you already have a bad loan in terms of your bad deeds.

What do you do?

Ever been stuck in such a situation? Well, that's what I meant by "It's time to Paytm".

And that time can come to anyone, anytime.

Money became useless overnight! The worthy became worthless!

How much balance of good deeds do you have in your Paytm account? If less or nil, then start now, we have only just started the year! Look for opportunities to help, to do charity, to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked, to wipe the tear of the sorrowing, to educate the young, to empower the weak (Mt 25:35)

Build up your treasures in heaven by your deeds on earth. ( Mt 6:19-20)

For when the book of life will be opened ( Rev 20:12)

It will definitely be the TIME TO PAYTM!



by Maria Coelho

*The writer is Chief Consultant at Almar Business Consulting and can be reached with your views on how to load your heavenly account positively at maria@almarbusinessconsulting.in)*

# St. Mary Annunciata RGS. – Diamond Jubilee

by Dr. Jeanette Pinto



Sr. M. Annunciata

**O**n the 8th of January 2017, Sr. Mary Annunciata daughter of Dr. Titus William Sequeira and Ethel Sabina Pinto of Mazagaon, Mumbai celebrated her Diamond Jubilee (60) years of her religious profession ..... indeed a very blessed moment. Congratulations to her.

I have known Sr. Annunciata who is a Good Shepherd sister for the past 20 plus years when we both were involved in Pro-life ministry. We were both raised in Pro-life families. Sister grew up in a family of eight children, I in a family of 12 children and the eldest. Large families are a blessing; we grow up learning many life lessons as well as to share, care and love each other. Sr. Annunciata's three siblings were present on the occasion – Marie, wife of Late Dr. Gerry Mascarenhas, Dean St. John's Medical College; Brother Dr. Anthony J. F. Sequeira, Secretary General III Asian Congress of Catholic Doctors (Bombay – 1964) and Vice President CUI / All India Catholic Union (1977-84) and Manuel Sequeira of Mississauga, Canada

St. Annunciata started the "Respect for Life" a secular organisation based in Bangalore. She has been very active over the years giving talks to school and college children on Human Sexuality, educating couples on the evils of abortion, on how to raise children and handling various other life issues. Sr. Annunciata has not only organised programmes/conferences on Pro-life themes but also attended the Asia Pacific Congresses held by Human Life -Asia in various Asian countries.

She has truly done her family and her religious congregation proud! Her brothers, sisters and family members

were present at the special Diamond Jubilee Eucharistic celebration, held at the Good Shepherd Chapel Bangalore. Sr. Naomi, the Superior, presented an impressive brief of Sr. Annunciata before the Mass. Thereafter followed a fellowship lunch the sisters



A family group picture shows Mrs. Paula Gonsalves, Mr. Manuel Sequeira, Sister M. Annunciata RGS, Sister Superior M. Naomi RGS, Dr. Anthony J. F. Sequeira, Mrs. Jeanne Marie Verghese, Mrs. Marie Mascarenhas

of her congregation got her to cut a big cake. Her brother Dr. Anthony Sequeira said a few joyful congratulatory words on behalf of the family. Dr Jeanette



Sister M. Naomi RGS releasing Dr. Jeanette latest book "I'm Pro-Life, are you?"

ette Pinto had the release of her new book titled: "I'm Pro-life Are you?" by Dr. Anthony Sequeira. The first copy was presented by Dr. Jeanette to Sr. Annunciata who has been a dedicat-

ed Pro-lifer.

Sr. Annunciata was awarded the Life time Award for her Pro-life ministry of 28 years from Fr. Shenan Boquet President of Human Life International - USA. She has also received the Lily and the Rose Award from the Diocesan Human Life Committee, Archdiocese of Bombay, as well as many other accolades. Her calm and gentle disposition to life and her experience as a sister helped her to shepherd many people who she has come across along life's journey.

Truly she deserves credit for her dedication, and commitment for this worthy ministry.

Congratulations and may Jesus bless her with many years of good health and happiness.

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# Celebrate The Date Of Your Baptism



BY MELVYN BROWN

**R**ecently, I read a book by Matthew Kelly, Rediscover Catholicism and it promised to be a spiritual guide to living for Catholics. What surprised me was his viewpoint on Catholic celebration. He wrote: "As Catholics, the one thing we do more than anything else is to celebrate. Everything the Church does is centered around a celebration."

To enhance this thought on celebration, Pope Francis in 2016 said: "Celebrate the date of your baptism every year".

Indeed, the most important first celebration in anyone's life is baptism. However, the matter needs a proper range of explanation. Do we always see things as they really are?

Pondering on this dimension of baptism we remember that Jesus went down to the river Jordan and had the prophet John to baptize him. As Jesus came out of the water, "he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the beloved; with You I am well pleased." (Mk.1:10).

"The Holy Spirit, received for the first time on the day of baptism, opens our hearts to the truth, to the whole truth," said Pope Francis.

Baptism is the essence of grace par excellence of the Christian faith. Let us always ask for the Lord's grace to understand what is in our hearts, is the divine Spirit of God. The enactment of baptism becomes a memorial in the history of the Church: it is affected by and in return affects our lives. Baptism is a fact that God has permeated His love to us as a spiritual privilege.

To celebrate the date of your baptism leads to the primary enrichment of

**CELEBRATE**  
the Day of your  
**BAPTISM**

"The Holy Spirit, received for the first time on the day of your baptism, opens our hearts to the truth, to the whole truth."  
- Pope Francis

You received the Holy Spirit for the first time on the day of your baptism. Rejoice, it's a great day in your life every year. Celebrate it with Family & Friends

**It commemorates your rebirth as a child of God**

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trust in our belief; to a supreme act, so subtle it teaches, and propagates the gift of hope, new life, and eternity. All creatures will die. The baptized must also die, first, and then to a spring of undamaged victory. The Lord said, "Fear not, for I am with you." (Isa.41:10).

The first sacrament of initiation is baptism. You were immersed in Christ and will rise as a "new creature". (2 Corinthians 5:17). This baptismal act is known as the "bath of regeneration" in the Holy Spirit. In the Old Covenant baptism had been "prefigured" in water, means of life and death (Noah and the floods).

Announce the celebration of the day you were baptized – it commemorates your rebirth as a child of God.

Remember, you were sent by God. You are the church, for you radiate Christ with the power and wisdom of the Holy Spirit through baptism. Rejoice and declare, "It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me." (Gal.2:20).

You have a role to play on earth and it is of great importance, be it a minor part or a major act: whoever you are, whatever you do – simple, weak, humble, poor or destitute – you are a child of God, your life has the essence of an Oscar-winning performance.

Your award awaits you. The spotlight fell on you at baptism, and you became the focus for all who met you: the atheist, the believer, the fanatic, the pious, the proud and the evil among humankind – each playing their parts in the drama of existence.

When you decide to celebrate your date of baptism, you will shine with the brilliance of His light. Jesus prayed at his baptism in the Jordan. (Lk.3:21).

If you are cold and hungry, alone and afraid, single or in a broken home, unloved and in sin, old and weak, in doubt of God's presence, or without comfort at the end – pray for the grace to know in your heart that the Spirit of God will never leave you.

Find your baptism certificate or visit the church you were baptized in and get to know the date and celebrate as a "child of God" your rebirth in Christian fellowship. Your place in life must not defeat your purpose to shine – it is the role God has chosen for you.

## MY DATE OF BAPTISM

Card is available on request to help you inform your loved ones and friends that all may celebrate this precious day. Write to me at Divine Mercy Chapel 3 Elliott Road, Calcutta 700016. (M)8017934248.

# Social Network for a change

In today's age where the ill effects of social network are more highlighted, from the American elections to the local ones, everything seems to have been influenced, rightly or not, by social network, it is rare for something to remind us what it is actually capable of. MOM - Moms of Mangalore, a social group of over 20 thousand women from the region, has just done that. This group which started over a year ago, has brought the mothers of the region, across religions and social backgrounds, together on one platform to make a change in the lives of people in the region. Over the last two months, the inspiring mothers of this group, in association with the PG Dept of Social Work, St. Aloysious College - Mangalore, have been extensively involved in a collection drive to provide support to the less fortunate. In the process they were able to help over 175 children and adults from the lesser privileged areas around Mangalore, Sirsi and Shimoga with clothes and toys.

The communities included in the collection drive were from various parts of Mangalore and Shimoga -  
 -Loyola Vikas Kendra, Mundgod, Sirsi  
 -Prashanth Nivas  
 -Snehasadan Centre  
 -Ashok Nagar Community  
 -Kasaba Bengre Community  
 -Ullal Community  
 -Needy Children of few of the Angan-



wadis  
 -Government School Children of Bengre School  
 -Nightingale Happy Home for the Aged, Shimoga  
 -Samvedana Centre, Pumpwell

This is just one of such many initiatives that the group has started. From their social get together to honour mothers, to efforts in social causes like Chennai relief fund, collection drive for the kids with special needs, collection drive for the less fortunate to name a few, this group in just over a year's time, has highlighted what the mothers in particular, of the region are capable of.

MOM is a non profit, non religious and non political group. As a part of the group's initiative, they have a panel of doctors who are selflessly responding to queries from the members. Children psychologists, counsellors, nutritionists, health support groups, advocates, lactation specialist, contests, mass child immunization reminders, parenting tips, women health tips published by our doctors, Mompre-

neur Mondays (forum for Mothers to display their entrepreneurial skills via posts on their businesses) are some other initiatives of the group.

While we might have just been included into the Smart city initiative by the Govt of India, through such acts, time and again we show, that the tag is well deserved and growing as more mangaloreans keep doing things which makes our People proud and stand out.

Mothers are encouraged to join this group and make full use of the resources at their disposal.

—Lyvia Dalmeida  
 Admin - Moms of Mangalore  
 Ronida

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## Thanksgiving

May the sacred heart of Jesus be praised, Adored, Glorified and Loved, Today & everyday, throughout the world, now & forever Amen! Ask St. Clare for 3 favours, 2 impossible, and say 9 hail Marys and the above prayer for a days with a lighted candle and publish on the 9th day. Your request will be granted, no matter how impossible it is.

— D.M, Vasai

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## 9-Day Novena begins in preliminary for feast of Relic of St Anthony at Mangalore

Fr Walter D'Mello, the associate judicial vicar of Mangaluru diocese inaugurated 9-day novena in preparation for the feast of Relic of Saint Anthony by hoisting the flag of St Anthony, near St Anthony's Shrine, Milagres Church, here on Monday, February 6 at 5.45pm.

It was followed by Eucharistic Celebration for the special intention of youth.

Fr Walter in his homily emphasised on the talent bestowed by God on the youth and urged them to make best use of their inherent talent in serving God and parish community.

## Cardinal Gracias re-elected to head Latin rite bishops

Bhopal: Cardinal Oswald Gracias of Bombay has been re-elected to head of Conference of Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI), the forum of Latin rite bishops in India, for another term of two years Feb. 6.

However, other top officers, vice president Archbishop Philippe Neri Ferrao of Goa and secretary general Bishop Varghese Chakkalakkal of Calicut were replaced. Archbishop George Antonysamy of Madras - Mylapore is new vice president and Archbishop Anil Joseph Thomas Couto of Delhi is new secretary general.

The re-election of Cardinal Gracias was unanimous decision of more than 130 bishops attending the 29th plenary of the bishops in Bhopal, said CCBI spokesperson.

The prelates are deliberating on way to revitalize Catholic families after Church studies have suggested that Catholic families are drifting away from vital the Catholic teachings such as those on family planning.

Cardinal Gracias is also the president of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences.

## Philippine bishops rally Catholics against drug war

Manila: The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines rallied Filipino Catholics against a wave of killings over the past seven months blamed on the government's "total war" on drugs.

"If we consent or allow the killing of suspected drug addicts, we shall also be responsible for their deaths," said the bishops in a pastoral statement read in churches nationwide on Feb. 5.

"The traffic in illegal drugs needs to be stopped and overcome," the church leaders said. "But the solution does not lie in the killing of suspected drug users and pushers," they added.

It was the first time the country's Catholic Church leaders have spoken as one against the killings. The statement was approved during the prelates' bi-annual plenary assembly Jan. 28-30.

## Syro-Malabar bishop encourages more women representation

Ernakulam, Kerala: The Auxiliary Bishop of the Syro Malabar Archdiocese

of Ernakulam-Angamaly, Sebastian Adayanthrath has called for more women's participation in the parish administration. He expressed his support in an article in 'Missam'- the monthly bulletin of Ernakulam-Angamaly archdiocese.

Bishop Adayanthrath lauded the decision of some parishes to ensure representation of both men and women in the selection of Trustees. He encouraged other parishes to consider following this example.

The bishop also pointed out that there is no canonical restriction on women being witnesses in the sacrament of marriage, although it is customary that men undertake this role. He asked family units and parishes to discuss these ideas to ensure women's participation in significant roles in the Church.

## 7% Australian Catholic priests alleged child abusers: Report

Canberra: An inquiry examining institutional sex abuse in Australia has heard 7 percent of the nation's Catholic priests allegedly abused children between 1950 and 2010.

In one religious order, more than 40 percent of church figures were accused of abuse, reports BBC.

More than 4,440 people claim to have been victims between 1980 and 2015, the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sex Abuse was told.

The commission, Australia's highest form of inquiry, is also investigating abuse at non-religious organizations.

It has previously heard harrowing testimony from scores of people who suffered abuse at the hands of clergy.

The average age of victims was 10.5 for girls and 11.5 for boys.

# New book investigates anti-Christian violence in Kandhamal

**Bhopal:** Cardinal Oswald Gracias, president of the Conference of Catholic Bishops of India, has released a book detailing the delay of justice to the victims of anti-Christian violence in Kandhamal and the continued human right violations against Christians.

Noted lawyer Vrinda Grover and a law professor Saumya Uma coauthored the 304-page "Kandhamal: introspection of Initiative for Justice 2007-2015."

It is the first comprehensive investigation of the justice process in one of the most traumatic cases of communal violence targeting the Christian community in India, its joint publishers Media House and United Christian Forum claimed.

Cardinal Gracias released the book during the ongoing meeting of Latin-rite bishops in Bhopal.

"This book examines whether nine years later, closure and justice have any resonance in the lives of the victims of the anti-Christian violence in Kandhamal', the authors say in their note.

Kandhamal, one of the poorest districts in the state of Odisha, ranks dismally low on the Human Development Index. In December 2007 and again in August 2008, Kandhamal witnessed widespread and organized attacks on the Christian community.

Human rights groups estimate that around 100 people were killed, including disabled and elderly persons, children, men and women. More than 600 villages were ransacked; at least 6,500 houses were looted and burnt; at least 54,000 people were left homeless; 395 churches and other places of worship, were destroyed.

The Kandhamal violence can be viewed in the context of other anti-Christian attacks over the past few decades, particularly in 1997-98 and 2014-15. Attacks against Christians in India have been in the form of killings of priests, sexual assault of nuns, and the physical destruction of Christian institutions, schools, churches, colleges and cemeteries by organizations whose main aim is to promote and exploit communal clashes to increase their political power base.

"It is both striking and disturbing that the pattern of impunity and injustice that defines other instances of communal and targeted violence, including the 1983 barbaric massacre of Muslims in Nellie; 1984 anti-Sikh pogrom; 1992 attack on Muslim in Mumbai; the 2002 genocidal assault on Muslims in Gujarat; the violent uprooting of Muslims from Muzaffarnagar in western Uttar Pradesh in September 2013; defines the aftermath of the Kandhamal communal assault," Vrinda Grover and Saumya Uma say.

The uncertain jurisprudence reflected in these earlier cases of mass crimes discloses that the Courts are yet to fully comprehend the distinct nature of

mass crimes; the diabolical complicity of the Sate in a 'riot'; the lethal intent of the mob; the sexualized targeting of women's bodies; the partisan and compromised investigations; the destruction of properties and assets of the victim community; all of which reveal the collaboration of the Sate and the genocidal intent of the violence.

"Nine years later, in Kandhamal, justice eludes the victims, their families and the targeted Christian community. Fear and insecurity haunts their daily existence, as their religious identity continues to erode their equal right to exercise of citizenship.

"In August 2008, the 'collective guilt' for the murder of the Hindu preacher Laxmananand Saraswati was thrust on the Christian community in Kandhamal, providing not just an occasion, rather a justification for the targeted violent attack. Even though the Maoists claimed responsibility for the killing of Laxmananand Saraswati, the Christian community suffered an egregious loss of life, limb, property, displacement, education, employment and a permanent social breach in the district," the authors say.

Source: ucanindia

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# Inspiration!

## Times you need to speak up for yourself

How many times have you said 'yes' when you really wanted to say 'no'? What about the times you've compliantly accepted a 'no' from somebody when everything inside you screamed, 'Speak up and get a yes?' How about the times you've wanted to shout, 'This is what I want' but stifled it and kept quiet? Learning how to speak up for yourself is an important part of growing up. Your voice and opinions matter! Letting others know your thoughts and feelings will help you feel stronger and more confident



Stepping away from the crowd and their combined beliefs is hard to do because it can possibly mean the end of a relationship. And while our head knows that any relationship worth having supports our values, our heart has a hard time letting go. It's those first steps away from the crowd that will allow you to attract people who are like-minded and share in your values and beliefs.

### When it prevents you from learning:

Being comfortable and content in your life and with your friends can end up dampening your curiosity. Without curiosity, our natural quest for learning subsides. The problem lies in the fact that we like to learn with others and if the others around you aren't interested, it is necessary to forge a learning path on your own. Learning is important for our continued personal growth and evolution. Once we make the commitment to honor our natural curiosity, we will often find others that are walking the same path. It is rare that an individual learning quest stays solitary for long but taking those first steps against the fray will open new doors.

### When your gut tells you to:

If we are truly following our intuition and listening to our gut then we'll know when it's time to speak up for yourself. This usually happens when we have seen personal growth that has led us down a different path than the crowd. The crowd as a collective may not be serving your needs any longer and your intuition is often the first to enlighten you.

### Why is speaking up difficult sometimes?

Sometimes it may seem easier to keep your feelings inside to avoid becoming embarrassed or having a hard conversation, but it's just a short term solution. It can be tricky to know when the best time is to speak up for yourself. For example, should you speak to a teacher privately or raise your hand in front of the classroom? Learning how to speak up can change your life in a very positive way.

**W**e all want to belong, and the best way to belong is to make sure everyone else likes us. But even in the most strict societies, there are always groups that aren't afraid to speak up. They think differently, believe differently and want different things. It's the actions of these groups that often prompt change in the bigger society. Sure, there is some risk when we decide to speak up for ourselves but if we want to be truly happy and live our best life, that risk is worth taking. Here are some times speaking up for yourself is worth the risk.

### When your success is at stake

Successful people challenge the norm, question the status quo, and create their own rules. They do it respectfully, but they refuse to be categorized because they are too busy

creating their own category. Success means different things to different people, but one thing successful people have in common is they broke away from the crowd, took a risk and persevered. They believed so strongly in their mission that they were able to put aside the naysayers and step into their truth. Successful people at some point in their journey had to trust enough to go against the grain.

### When your beliefs are questioned

When we begin to speak up for ourselves and live from our truth, it becomes clear who around us has similar values and who doesn't. Initially, maintaining these relationships can be challenging because we want to share our beliefs with the people close to us. It is not uncommon for others to show a disinterest in being exposed to new points of view.



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**6650 MUMBAI :** Mangalorean R.C. Bachelor, (Born in August 1971) Ht. 5' 11", Edn. Undergraduate, Working as a Asst. Manager in a reputed company in Mumbai seeks alliance from RC Spinster simple & understanding with good family values, Kindly reply with details and photograph. Email : deric.nazareth@rediffmail.com OR Tel.: 9869844097

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**6643. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in July 1984), Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 80 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Undergraduate, working for American Cruise Line, having own accommodation, visiting India shortly. Seeks an educated Mangalorean girl, above 5' 4", below 30 years. Contact email : janetdso57@gmail.com, OR 9619747169 / 9769506595

**6641. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in July 1982), Ht. 6' 1", Wt. 100 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Graduate, working as an Engineer, Contact email : melvinsaldanha20@gmail.com or 9820477618

**6637. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in February 1987), Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 70 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. T.Y. B.Com., Hardware & Networking Diploma, working as a Technical Team Leader & Coordinator. Contact email : bipinsw52@gmail.com

**6636. MUMBAI :** East Indian Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in September 1983), Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 80 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.E., working as a Technical Lead. Contact email : joy.dominic@gmail.com

**6634. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in November 1982), Ht. 157 cms, Wt. 80 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. Diploma Holder, working as a Mechanical

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

Engineer. Contact email : santoshdrigues7@gmail.com

**6630. MUMBAI :** Madrasi / Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in July 1983), Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 85 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., Post Graduate, working as Associate Manager. Seeks any Roman Catholic good family background. Contact email : riya.anthony11@gmail.com OR. Mob.: 8390022313

**6571. USA :** Goan Roman Catholic Divorcee (Marriage Annuled), (Born in December 1969), Ht. 6' 1", Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Eng., Engineer by profession. Seeks a girl below 35 years, preferably working in USA. Contact email : divinegrams@gmail.com

**6494 MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in May 1960), Ht. 6', Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. SSC., working as a Security Guard. Contact Mob : 8451069841

**6471. PUNE :** East Indian Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in September 1982), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 66 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Dy. Manager. Contact email : warren\_4153@hotmail.com

**6446. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in June 1977), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 72 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A., working as a Deputy General Manager. Contact email : albert.pinto2006@gmail.com

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**6651. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in May 1984), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Customer Support. Contact email : dsilva.seema@gmail.com

**6498. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean RC Divorcee, 1st marriage annulled by the church, (Born in October 1984), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com, working as a S&Q Officer in Shipping company. Contact email : sanctity6498@gmail.com

**6496. MUMBAI :** Goan RC Spinster, (Born in March 1985), Ht. 5', Wt. 47 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., (Chem), MBA, working as a Product Manager. Contact email : smartmind0412@gmail.com

**6495. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean RC Spinster, (Born in August 1990), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com / MBA, working as a Purchase Executive, Contact email : dsouza.deena833@gmail.com

**6492. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Born Again Spinster, (Born in May 1987), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 53 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBA in Finance, PGDM., working

for a co-op. Bank in Mumbai. Contact email : brinliafernandes@yahoo.com

**6488. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean RC Spinster, (Born in January 1984), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 54 kgs, Fair and good looking, Edn. 12th Std., Beautician by profession. Contact email : sweta.ignatiusdsouza@gmail.com

**6484. BANGALORE :** Mangalorean RC Spinster, (Born in September 1986), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 70 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., Nursing, working as a Nurse. Contact email : dsouza.antonette@gmail.com

**6482. K.S.A. :** Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in July 1983), Ht. 160 cms, Wt. Normal, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc. in Chem/ PGDMLT, Pathology Lab Technician (Instructor) in KSA since 10 years, well settled, seeks a suitable match. Contact email : mathew\_680@yahoo.com

**6481. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean RC Spinster, (Born in November 1981), Ht. 5' 3", Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Supervisor in Airport. Seeks a well settled bachelor. Contact email : linnet\_r@rediffmail.com

**6479. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean RC Spinster, (Born in November 1985), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 55 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBA, PGDM, working as a IT Engineer, Seeks a suitable match. Contact email : 2016onlyforyou@gmail.com

**6478. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean RC Parents from Mumbai seek alliance for their daughter (Born in September 1987) height 5' 4", Fair, highly educated, working as a Physiotherapist in States. Seeks a suitable match from states. Contact email : mariapereira1909@gmail.com

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**6468. MUMBAI :** Parents of R.C. Goan innocent divorcee, 1st marriage annuled by the church, (Born in September 1980) / 5' 2", looks much younger to her age, Only daughter, working in Muscat as a teacher, seeks preferably working and living India OR abroad below 42 years only. Contact email : carvalhovanessa28@yahoo.com

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# 29th Plenary Assembly of Conference of Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI) at St Assumption Church

**“Mercy is not an option but it is the culture of Christianity,”** says His Eminence Oswal Cardinal Gracias.

Bhopal: The 29th Plenary Assembly of Conference of Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI) is commenced with solemn Eucharistic celebration in the St Assumption Church, Asha Niketan Campus here on Tuesday. More than 130 Bishops of the 182 Latin rite bishops in the country are participating in the 8 day deliberations on the issues on concerning to Families in Asia with special focus on India.

Cardinal Oswald Gracias, the main celebrant in his message, called for revitalizing the families in view of the call given by Pope Francis. “We need to turn good families to better and holy families to holier”, he said. “We the bishops”, he said, “will discuss about all the issues affecting family life in the changed social milieu”.

“Revitalizing the families is one of the most urgent needs for the Church.” “Family is sacred and so we must protect it. There are many ideologies around us which destroy family values. So we must reach the message

of love to the families without any exclusion.”

“Even though, the Asian families do not face so much of problems, families worldwide are in crisis on account of economic disparities, cultural difference, religious and linguistic differences among a host of other things”. “Jesus’ presence was a healing presence and it will be an answer to many problems the families face today. So one need to deepen faith in Jesus and take the values”, the prelate emphasized.

(Contd.. on p. 23)

(Contd.. from p. 10)

versity served a booming German population that fled failed revolutions in Europe and came to America in search of democracy and human rights. Today our Catholic and Jesuit tradition calls us to speak out. We stand with our international students and any other student whose family is impacted by this evolving situation.”

The statement from the Jesuit Conference of Canada and the U.S. minced no words, “as members of a global religious order that works to form men and women of conscience and compassion, we denounce the Trump Administration’s Executive Order suspending and barring refugees and banning nationals of seven countries as an affront to our mission and an assault on American and Christian values..... We will continue that work, defending and standing in solidarity with all children of God, whether Muslim or Christian. The world is deeply troubled, and many of our brothers and sisters are justifiably terrified. Our Catholic and Jesuit identity calls us to welcome the stranger and to approach different faith traditions and cultures with openness and understanding. We must not give in to fear. We must continue to defend human rights and religious liberty. As

Pope Francis said, ‘You cannot be a Christian without living like a Christian.’”

Jesuits in America are certainly not the only ones speaking out against these orders. Several others are doing so from across the board: church and other religious leaders, academics and intellectuals, lawyers and civil rights activists, corporate leaders and ordinary citizens – there is without doubt a groundswell of protest. The Jesuit response has been consistent with their faith- justice mandate. An added motivation for the Jesuit stand, could also be from their recent General Congregation 36, which emphatically states in the first Decree, “The letter of Father General, Adolfo Nicolás on reconciliation and the teaching of Pope Francis have given this vision greater depth, placing faith, justice, and solidarity with the poor and the excluded as central elements of the mission of reconciliation. Rather than ask what we should do, we seek to understand how God invites us-and so many people of goodwill-to share in that great work” (D.1#3) and On The displacement of peoples (refugees, migrants, and internally displaced peoples): In the face of attitudes hostile to these displaced persons, our faith invites the Society to promote everywhere a more generous culture of hospitality.

The Congregation recognizes the necessity of promoting the international articulation of our service to migrants and refugees, finding ways of collaboration with JRS. (D.1#26a)

What impact will the stand of the American Jesuits have on these orders is anyone’s guess. Some of Trumps key personnel are Jesuit alumni, besides there are many others who wear their Christian label on their sleeve. Will their hearts melt? Will their consciences be pricked? Will they climb down from this unchristian position? Tough questions to answer but the world wants to know. On the other hand, will the Jesuits now have to face consequences and other repercussions? The American Jesuits and their collaborators however, through their committed and courageous stand, have given America and the world, particularly the refugees, migrants and the excluded, a wholehearted assurance: “come what may, we stand by you!” A new hope! An example worthy of emulation by others everywhere: Je-

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(Contd.. from p. 22)

The prelate also urged the people to be optimistic, work hard and take risk for a better and life citing the example of St. Don Bosco.

A grand welcome ceremony for the participants of this historical conference was arranged along with the splendid inaugural session in the St. Joseph Co-ed School auditorium. His Eminence Oswald Cardinal Gracias, the President of the CCBI, His Eminence Telespore Cardinal Toppo Archbishop of Ranchi, Leo Cornelio Archbishop of Bhopal, Bishop Varghese Chakkalal, CCBI general Secretary, Archbishop Filipe Neri Ferrao, Vice president of CCBI, Msgr. Henryk Jagodzinski representative of Nunciature, and Fr. Stephen Alathara Deputy Secretary General of CCBI lighted the lamp and officially inaugurated.

During the welcome address the Bhopal Archbishop Leo Cornelio described the historical background of the city and the gradual development of church and its contributions for the development of Bhopal. Archbishop Leo acknowledged with gratitude the great contributions of former Archbishops Eugene D'Souza and Pascal Topno and different religious congregations. His Grace expressed the sentiments of gratitude for organizing the CCBI assembly in Bhopal.

His Eminence Oswald said in his presidential address, "Mercy is not option but it is the culture of Christianity. Nobody is excluded from God's mercy, and church leads man to this mercy. Mother Theresa is the embodiment of the Mercy". His Eminence highlighted and encouraged to promote the culture of mercy by reaching God's love to all. Walk together and work together must be our style.

Bishop Varghese Chakkalal, the Secretary General of CCBI presented the annual report of CCBI. Exhorting to continue to be the messengers of Mercy to all, especially to the poor and marginalised, Bishop concluded



the report.

All newly appointed Bishops were honoured with floral greetings.

Msgr. Henryk representative of the Nunciature shared the message and Blessings of Holy Father Pope Francis for the success of the CCBI Conference at Bhopal. Pastoral centrality of the family in the church, opens a new mission thrust for families, the message reminded.

Archbishop Filipe Neri Ferrao proposed the vote of thanks for all who attended the inaugural session of the CCBI conference.

In the first session of the conference, Most Rev. Dr. Lawrence Pius Dorairaj, Chairman, CCBI Commission for Family and Bishop of Dharmapuri, presented his findings on "Experience and Challenges of Indian Families." The members deliberated on the issues related to the presentation.

In the second session Mr Joseph and Mrs. Assunta Minj from Bhopal and Fr. Somy Jacob from Jabalpur diocese shared various aspects in "Promoting the Joy of Love in Our Families."

Mr. Patrick and Mrs. Christina Gana-wa, Jhabua shared their experience on "Family Spirituality".

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