

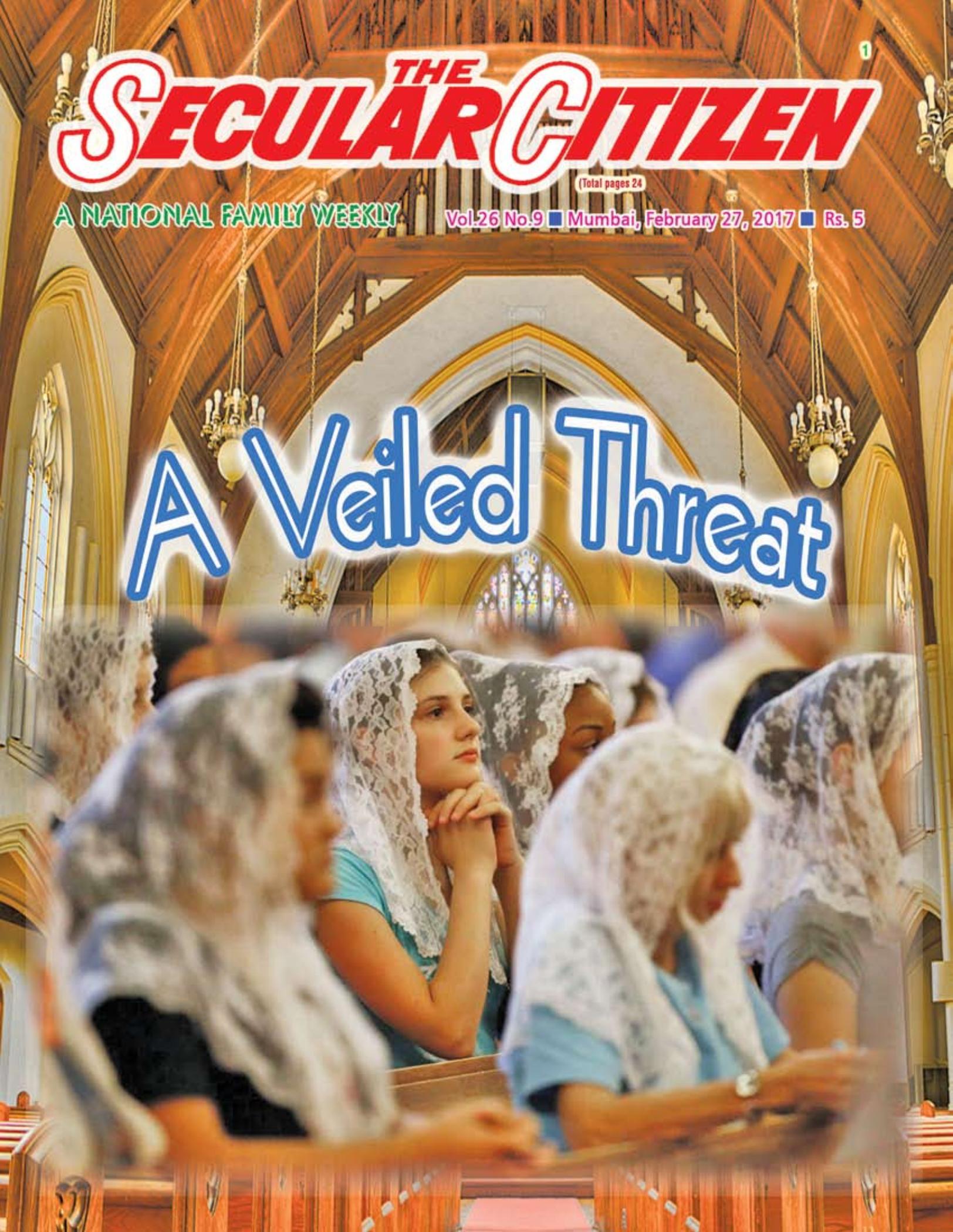
THE SECULAR CITIZEN

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A NATIONAL FAMILY WEEKLY

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A Veiled Threat



Sabha Day 2017 of BCS



Report on pg.18

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Valentine's Day!

by Don Aguiar

Be the one who has an understanding heart. Don't write your name on the sand, waves will wash it away. Don't write your name in the sky, the wind may blow it away. Write your name inside the hearts of people you come in touch with. That's where it will stay.

On Valentines Day!

It doesn't matter if you're in a relationship or single, because it should all be about self-love anyway. For some it doesn't go much deeper than an opportunity to eat a chocolate lollipop (why is chocolate SO satisfying in lollipop form??).

However, I just had to share this lovely quote ...

“If you love a flower, don't pick it up.

Because if you pick it up it dies and it ceases to be what you love

So if you love a flower, let it be.

Love is not about possession.

Love is about appreciation.”

The word 'love' implies that you like or adore a person for a beautiful mind or body. It is of this world.

Since a person has a body, mind and soul, an all-encompassing word is needed to cover these three dimensions. This is the Persian word 'ishq'. This is love divine without any conditions. This word used by the Sufis, 'ishq' means love with total intensity. One is lost in it, one is possessed by it. One goes mad in it. It also includes man's love for God. So it is pure love with no lust.

This classical story of Laila and Majnu has many versions. A popular version in India goes like this:

A beautiful girl of a rich family, Laila fell in love with a poor poet, Majnu. He composed many poems dedicated to her. His friends made fun of him and called him mad to love such an unattainable lady. One day, he went to her father seeking her hand in marriage. He was promptly turned down and the two lovers were forbidden to see each other.

A devastated Majnu wandered away in the desert pining for his Laila. Meanwhile, Laila was married off to a rich groom and moved away. But she continued to yearn for her true love and died after an illness. When Majnu's friends came to know about her death, they searched for him far and wide in the desert. They found him dead near a rock, and saw

(Contd.. on p. 4)

(Contd.. from p. 3)

that he had carved three versus of his eternal love for Laila as his last tribute. Did Majnu search for divine love in Laila? Did ishq create such passion in Majnu that he sailed on its wave to reach to the ultimate?

On the commercial side –

On this particular day we are all bombarded by an industry with information, illusions and hopes around the subject of love, of course always in connection with spending money and a focus on “the other”, a partner, lover or at least a Valentines date.

Do not let the Valentine’s Day declaration ‘I love you’ can possibly become ‘I hate you’ in future. Why? Because ‘love’ has a direct opposite ‘hate’ and so, in some cases, it transforms into just that.

As if our country didn’t already have enough problems with its border, come February and every year, another war is looming on the horizon, ‘The St. Valentine’s War’.

You must have heard that on the 14th of February, namely ‘Valentine’s Day’, the whole pacific world decided long ago to celebrate ‘The Lovers’ Day’.

Just like McDonald’s and Nike, this Valentine is trying to put its feet in our country, but it seems that some local religious fundamentalists, though wearing Nike shoes and holding a vegan-burger in their hands, have found many reasons to oppose it, and even to declare a Jihad (holy war) against this last perversion coming from the West.

In particular the recently deceased Bal Thakray who was the uniting factor for the Shiv Sena who violently oppose the celebration of Valentine’s Day, said that it isn’t part of traditional Indian culture. Last year, activists of Shiv Sena burnt Valentine’s Day greeting cards.

I must say that the leaders of this holy war have a point, such as:

“The Indian culture teaches to love good-work, well-doing, good-thoughts, and good-people every day, contrary to the culture behind this St. Valentine’s Day, which talks about love only one day a year. What should we do for the rest of the year? Chasing flies?”

There is a point, as you can see, and if the morality of these people were to be as open as their sense of humour, I dare to give some suggestions for the rest of the year: Since

“Poor in spirit” (Mt. 5:3)...

On Sunday 29 January 2017, Pope Francis dedicated his catechesis to the Gospel Reading which was on the “Beatitudes”! He focused on the first, “Blessed are the ‘poor in spirit’ for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 5:3) – Some highlights:

“One who is ‘poor in spirit’ does not rebel, but knows how to be humble, obedient and available to the grace of God. They listen with respect, and are ready for dialogue with others. Humility like charity (love) is an essential virtue for living together in Christian communities.”

The ‘poor in spirit’ value material goods, but use them in moderation. A voracious and an unhealthy consumption, a ‘culture of waste’, can kill both soul and body; and can never deliver a lasting happiness, but can lead to diseases.

“Poverty in the evangelical sense, is the true pathway to God’s kingdom - a path that favors sharing rather than possessing. Thus, by being ‘poor in spirit’, there would be fewer divisions and disagreements.”
“You can walk the path of love only if you have an open heart. Follow the example of Our Lady, the prime model of the ‘poor in spirit’! She was totally docile to the will of the Lord, as the ‘servant or handmaid’ (Luke 1:38).”

And if I may amplify – a recipe ‘pure in merit’! “For it was the generous act of Lord Jesus Christ, Who though he was rich, yet for our sake he became ‘poor’; so that by His ‘poverty’ we might become rich” (2 Corinthians 8:9).

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

nobody could manage to chase all the flies from Mumbai, what about letting young couples walk hand in hand along Marine Drive? Or even place some benches there, where the young or old lovers can sit and watch the sunset shoulder to shoulder?

Some love the idea of having St. Valentine’s Day every day in India. This will be a revolution! Russian or French revolutions will be nothing compared to it, but no, the real idea is not, Some are afraid, to have a ‘Lovers’ Day’ every day, but to deny even this one day of the year to the worshippers of Love, such as the young and young at heart.

This has been happening more or less for the past many years. What will happen in the future remains a mystery even for the most alert political analysts.

The real question is:

Will these Valentinians be ever capable of coming out in the open? I know that the same question can be posed about other so-called minorities, such as gays or women-lib groups, but this will open another chapter altogether. For now, let’s hope that love will prevail, and a long life to St. Valentine!

On a lighter note -

What is Valentine’s Day?

If you marry the right person, everyday is Valentines Day. Marry the wrong person, everyday is Marttrs Day. Marry a lazy guy, everyday is Labour Day. Marry a rich fellow, everyday is New Years Day. You marry a Childish guy; everyday would seem like Childrens Day. Marry a Cheater or a Liar, everyday will becomes April Fools Day. Don’t get married everyday is Independence Day.



Municipal Corporations – the route to wealth !

In the backdrop of the forthcoming municipal elections in Mumbai (which would be complete by the time this comes into print), there have been news reports recently, that some of the corporators' assets have risen 2 & 3-fold since 2012. This is disturbing news. When the corporators, for that matter all public servants including MLAs & MPs, are called to work for the welfare of the citizens, this sudden rise in assets is certainly questionable; they seem to be working for their own welfare ! And this point regarding rise in corporators' assets, was highlighted at the KYC – Know Your Corporator programme, organized by the Orlem-Malad unit of the Bombay Catholic Sabha, on 15th February 2017. Dolphy cautioned the candidates that in view of the newspaper reports, they would indeed be under 'public watch' and would be answerable to the public at some stage. It is also well known that several corporators have graft charges against them.

In the meanwhile, the Supreme Court upholding the AIADMK chief, Sasikala's conviction in the "disproportionate assets" case shows that one cannot escape the Law. Incidentally, Sasikala's case is around Twenty years old – the wheels of justice move slowly, but they do !

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

On pastoral care and discernment

The recently concluded Latin rite 'Conference of Catholic Bishops of India' (CCBI) in Bhopal, with its theme 'Promoting the joy of love in our families' will hopefully bring about the much neglected pastoral care in our parishes to families in distress and those divorced and re-married couples who are not in full communion with the church. There is nothing new in the much-quoted Apostolic Exhortation " Amoris Laetitia' of Pope Francis, which some dismiss as 'old wine in new wine skin' and is basically the end-result of two successive Synods in 2014 and 2015, with no change in church doctrine and a mere continuation of the earlier exhortation of pope John Paul II , 'Familiaris Consortio,' which calls for pastoral care and a careful discernment of divorced and remarried persons. 'Amoris Laetitia' has unfortunately failed to address the vexed problem of prohibition of remarried and divorced Catholics from receiving Holy Communion. Of what use then is pastoral care and discernment of different categories of such persons, when they are all lumped together and branded as " living in sin"

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Christian Journalists Meet at Nagpur

Kochi: Archbishop Abraham Viruthakulangara of Nagpur will inaugurate the 22nd National Convention of Christian Journalists at the Archdiocesan Pastoral Centre, Nagpur on February 24.

Fr Ambrose Pinto, Director of the Indian Social Institute, Bengaluru will deliver the keynote address on "Media's Response to Atrocities against Minorities and Dalits."

An awards function in the afternoon will be presided over by Bishop Salvadore Lobo, Chairman of the CBCI Office for Social Communication. Fr Louis Careno Award winner James Edayody and CBCI SC/BC Commission Award winner Gengaikumar will be presented the awards. Five local journalists will be felicitated on the occasion.

Organised by the Indian Catholic Press Association (ICPA), the convention is expected to be attended by about 40 members. The ICPA will hold its annual general body meeting on February 25.

Jose Vincent,
Secretary, ICPA

even in different degrees of culpability? And, because of a few contradictions in some footnotes in the text, 4 Cardinals have written a letter to Pope Francis asking for clarifications , which is unprecedented in the case of teachings of previous popes.

—A. F. Nazareth
Alto Porvorim

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Catholics Create Voter Awareness

an announcement in all churches on Sunday 12th February. Rev Thomas Kumar of St Patrick's Church said that Vatican II teachings had made it incumbent on the laity and lay organisations like the KCA in particular, to participate in political affairs. The diocesan bishop, Raphy Manjaly of Allahabad, also expressed appreciation for the KCA's efforts. Kanpur goes to the polls on the 19th.

The KCA members who actively participated in the campaign included Eliz-

abeth Singh, Emmanuel Premchand, Cornelius Kujur, Peter Fernandes and Prem Balmiki.

chhotebhai
PRESIDENT

KANPUR CATHOLIC ASSOCIATION

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KANPUR (15th Feb): Though the Catholics of Kanpur are a minuscule 6,000 in a population of 5 million, divided into 7 assembly constituencies in the city, they have always actively participated in every election in creating voter awareness, thanks to the leadership of the Kanpur Catholic Association (KCA). Knowing its numerical limitations the KCA acts as a leaven in the dough, collaborating with like minded civil and social organisations.

and violence in Muzzaffarnagar, Dadri and Mathura, and poor civic amenities. It appealed to the voters to not be taken in by promises of freebies, as there is no such thing as a free lunch. The price will be extracted somewhere.

The campaign was launched at a Press Conference at the Press Club on 10th February, addressed by noted litterateur and Gandhian, Dr

For the U.P. elections 2017 it has teamed up with the Kanpur Nagrik Manch (Citizens' Forum) whose Convenor, chhotebhai, is also the KCA President. 5000 handbills in Hindi were printed as a voter's guideline. It included a Citizens' Charter of Demands bearing in mind the city's urgent needs. The handbill presents an analysis of various national, State and local issues, including the notorious demonetisation move (better termed "demonisation", communal flare ups

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Love Walking in the Rain



BY FR. CEDRIC PRAKASH
SJ

Amman, the capital of Jordan, is a wonderful city complete with history, tradition and modernity. Amman, however on a very cold (temperature less than 5 °) and rainy day is not the most exciting place to be in. Above all, since Amman is built on hills (jabal) and has several valleys (wadi), walking distances from one house to another, is certainly not something that one easily relishes.

Nevertheless, walking today in the rain with Esraa and Mohamed, two volunteers with the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) here in Jordan, was indeed a very special experience. 'Camp Hussein' not far from downtown, in north-west Amman, was set up in 1952 to house thousands of Palestinian refugees, after the Arab-Israeli war of 1948. Today, the winds of change have blown over this sprawling area. It however continues to be one of the poorer quarters of the city; the people who live here are not only Palestinians but also refugees from other countries like Iraq, Syria, Sudan, and Somalia besides poor Jordanians.

Esraa and Mohamed had prior appointments with six refugee families, who had contacted JRS sometime earlier. As a 'Family Visit' team of JRS (there are four two-member teams) this 'first visit' is important: to make a personal contact with the family, to listen to their pain and suffering, to assess their needs and above all, to see in what ways JRS can serve, accompany and if needed, to advocate for them.

There was always a warm welcome at every house. As one listened to the heart-rending stories of these refugee families, one often wondered if compassion and love were just

dreams of the past. Everybody had fled war and violence; their travels to Jordan were arduous, but somehow they made it. Once here, there are issues of loneliness and isolation, of not being easily accepted, of education for the children and of employment. The rented 'homes' they now lived in had the minimum of facilities (one could see it); the rentals kept increasing. Most find it extremely difficult to make both ends meet.

We listened to the Iraqi woman who fled Mosul and also a violent husband; to the Syrian woman with three children, whose husband is now taken away from her and now detained far away in another camp, because he was 'working' and that is against the law; then, there was another woman whose husband has been deported back to the country from which he had fled- and the family has absolutely no knowledge of his whereabouts. Some want to die; others feel totally helpless and hopeless. Listening to their pain, seeing their tears, made the rains and chill, the steep climbs and the slippery slopes, pale into insignificance. As one walked on, the words of Charlie Chaplin kept tugging at my heart-strings "I always love walking in the rain, so that no one can see me crying." We did however experience the refugees crying.

For the refugees, JRS represented by Esraa and Mohamed, comes as a life-line. The two of them listened with their hearts. The bonding was infectious, the warmth was palpable. One could feel this, as Esraa embraced an elderly woman and as Mohamed took out some sweets from his bag to give the little children. Today was also 'Valentine's Day', when the world celebrates 'love' - even if it is very commercial and cosmetic! (Plenty of reminders in the shops, newspapers and WhatsApp messages). One could not help reflecting on the real meaning of 'love': the courage to reach out in compassion, to our sisters and brothers who are displaced, excluded

and marginalised. In a very extra-ordinary way, through seemingly ordinary deeds, I was part of an experience in which Esraa and Mohamed communicated to those they encountered, what love actually means!

When I was young, there was a popular love song 'Walking in the Rain'; it was a boy-girl romantic song. Today, in a very different context and a more challenging reality, I cannot but help remember the chorus of that song:

*"Feels like I'm walking in the rain
I find myself trying to wash away the pain
Cause I need you to give me some shelter
Cause I'm fading away
And baby, I'm walking in the rain"*

* (Fr Cedric Prakash sj 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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9-year-old girl forces company to change juice packaging

NEW DELHI: A 9-year-old girl in Guwahati refused to drink a juice contending that the beverage was meant for “him”, referring to the packaging which carried an image of a boy in school uniform.

“Real fruit juices can be consumed only by boys?” the girl asked her father, Mriganka K Majumdar, referring to the packaging of juice carton, which had an image of a boy in school uniform with a caption, “something that’s good for your child should also make him smile”.

The matter was taken up by union Women and Child Development Minister Maneka Gandhi after the girl’s father wrote a letter to Ms Gandhi claiming that the packaging of the beverage was discriminatory.

“I was caught aback and could not reply to her (sic),” Mr Majumdar said, adding that Dabur’s ‘Real’ juice brand needs “to show some respect to our daughters”.

The company has denied the charges of gender discrimination.

Iraqi Christian refugees protest against UNHCR resettlement delays

Dozens of Iraqi Christians in Lebanon protested in central Beirut this week, demanding the UN to grant them quicker resettlement abroad.

Between 150 and 200 demonstrators gathered outside a UN building, carrying placards that read: “the future of our children is wasted” and “our only demand is to [go] to countries that re-

spect humans,” among others.

Lebanon has received thousands of Iraqis as violence has intensified in their home country. Iraqi Christians have sought refuge in multi-faith Lebanon, especially since Islamic State seized Christian-majority areas of Iraq in 2014.

The protesters on 13 February sought to highlight their vulnerability as religious minorities. Further placards read: “We will not return to a country where we’re being oppressed because of our Christianity. We want stability in a country that respects us.”

First woman to head Saudi stock exchange

Riyadh : NCB Capital Co. Chief Executive Officer Sarah Al Suhaimi was appointed the first woman to chair Saudi Arabia’s stock exchange, a prestige position in the ultraconservative Wahabi kingdom.

This is a significant step in a country in which women are not allowed to drive, leave the house and the country unless accompanied by a male relative, or even receive medical treatment without the permission of a male relative.

The Board of Directors of the Saudi Stock Exchange (Tadawul), whose members include representatives of the Central Bank and the Ministries of Finance and Trade, chose Sarah Al Suhaimi (pictured) to head the region’s largest bourse.

This is the first time that a woman, albeit one of the most authoritative and well-known in the world of finance and banking, is called to lead such an important public institution in Saudi Arabia.

Al Suhaimi was the first female head

of a Saudi investment bank when she was named CEO of the NCB Capital Co. in 2014.

In Saudi Arabia, women are relegated to the margins of society. Only in recent years, they have gained the right to vote and stand for office in municipal elections.

Catholic thinker Michael Novak remembered with gratitude

NWashington D.C., : The theologian, philosopher and Catholic commentator Michael Novak died Friday, drawing remembrances for his insights and influence on religion in public life.

“We are immensely grateful that he could end his academic life as he began it, as a member of our community,” Catholic University of America president John Garvey said, calling Novak a man of “great intellectual honesty.”

“Unlike some scholars, Michael Novak made it a point to reflect on new and different topics, always with a fresh and dynamic perspective,” Garvey said.

Novak died Feb. 17 at the age of 83.

He was a student at Catholic University of America in 1958 and 1959. In 2016 he was named a visiting fellow at the university’s The Arthur and Carlyse Ciocca Center for Principled Entrepreneurship. He taught special topics in management and lectured on human ecology.

The center’s director, Andreas Widmer, stressed Novak’s pioneering role in considering the intersection of faith and economics. He said he and his colleagues were touched by Novak’s “kindness and humility,” his generosity with his time, and his encouragement for others.

Novak is survived by three children and four grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife Karen Laub-Novak.



A Veiled Threat

Christian women could feel threatened by a recent article “Why Women Wear Veils in Church” written by one Susanna Spencer. It appeared in a pious journal published by a renowned pilgrim centre for hopeless cases. It was hopelessly off the mark, as I shall presently expound.

Spencer claims that Christian women always covered their heads in Church. They sometimes wore hats, scarves or stylish headbands. The article quotes extensively from 1 Cor 11:2-15 in support of her above contention. She further claims that “veiling is a statement against modernity and its lies”. A veil accentuates the natural beauty of a woman when she dresses up for church. She claims that the 1917 Code of Canon Law provided for women to cover their heads, and the opposite for men. The 1983 Code has scrapped the provision for women but retained that for men. I have not come across any such provision in the New Code of Canon Law, but would be happy to stand corrected. Before addressing Spencer’s claims let us first see what the quoted text has to say.

Paul begins by congratulating the Corinthians for maintaining the traditions that he had passed on to them (v2). The head of a woman is a man (v3). If a man prays with his head covered it is a disrespect of his head (v4). In contrast if a woman’s head is uncovered it is disrespect for her head (v5). If her

head is uncovered it is like having her hair shaved off (v5), in which case her hair should be cut (v6). It is improper for a man to cover his head as he is the image of God (v8). A woman should cover her head as a sign of the man’s authority over her (v10).

After these rather misogynistic statements (sounds like Donald Trump) Paul modifies them to say that both men and women are interdependent and come from God (v11-12). He leaves it to them to decide for themselves (v13). He then relapses into saying that nature teaches that if a man has long hair it is a disgrace (v14). He finally admits that “If anyone wants to be contentious I say that we have no such custom, nor do any of the churches of God” (v16).

This last disclaimer by Paul sounds like something that he said earlier in the same letter to the Corinthians when talking of marriage, celibacy and sexual abstinence in marriage, when he admits that “These instructions are my own, not the Lord’s” (1 Cor 7:12). His personal opinion and natural ideas (not the Lord’s teaching) were influenced by his erroneous belief in an imminent end of the world – “the time has become limited” (1 Cor 7:29). His repeated reticence could indicate that he sensed that he was walking on thin ice.

Let us first examine Paul’s statements, as Spencer’s are largely based on his. For this I have drawn from the Jerome

Biblical Commentary (JBC), a leading reference book in Catholic seminaries. It distinguishes between an epistle (that is for universal consumption and systemic teaching) and a letter (that is more personal, disjointed and often written in haste). 1 Cor is therefore classified as a hurriedly written personal letter that cannot be termed systemic teaching. The JBC further explains that in the Greek tradition men with long tresses and women with short hair were considered transgenders or homosexuals and abhorred by society. So Paul was in fact imposing a local social more, which had no relevance outside its specific social context and timeline. The JBC adds that kephale the Greek word for head was also used for “source”, and the reference here is to the source of man and woman in the Genesis account of creation, and does not connote either authority or superiority. We need solid exegesis before quoting scripture out of context thereby drawing erroneous conclusions.

I shall now take recourse to another authentic source, the Dictionary of the Bible (D.O.B.) by Rev John McKenzie SJ, to unveil the “veil”. It says that the wearing of a veil by women is an ancient, widespread but diversified custom, but it was not customary among the Israelites. It was worn by women at the time of consummation of a marriage and during sexual intercourse. In Middle Assyrian law women wore a veil. Among the Canaanites, nude female figures had a veil, indicative again of sexual intercourse. “Paul’s precept that a woman should wear a veil during worship is obscure ... he tried to introduce customs of Oriental decorum as practiced in his own city of Tarsus, into Corinth”. From the above it is apparent that women wearing a veil in worship was neither Judaic, Christian or even sacred. To the contrary it was largely associated with sex!

As for hair and beards, the D.O.B. says that the Semitic peoples kept full length beards, whereas the Romans and Greeks were clean shaven. The

(Contd.. on p. 16)



by chhotebhai *

Jesus, The Trouble-Maker

by **Bernie Tellis**

Do not think that I have come to bring peace on earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. (*Matt – 10 : 34*)

No one made more trouble, than that gentle Jesus, meek and mild. –*James Gillis*

A kind old gentleman I used to meet frequently, once asked me what my profession was. “Trouble –maker”, I replied in jest. He was not amused and has been avoiding me ever since.

There are different types of trouble-makers: union leaders and rabble rousers; rebels and revolutionaries; activists and re-activists; social reformers and freedom fighters; mischief-makers and in-laws, so some married people claim. But throughout human history to this day, the pure in heart and the just, like Jesus Christ, cause the most “trouble”, because they hold up a mirror to our souls which are not a pretty sight.

Such trouble-makers are not merely avoided, hated, condemned; they are also feared and their adherents, persecuted. When King Herod heard of the birth of a Child who would become King of the Jews, ‘he was troubled and all Jerusalem with him.’ That the two kingdoms had nothing in common was beyond his comprehension.



So he responded with an evil order for the slaughter of the Innocents. Later, another trouble-maker, John the Baptist, who was feared as a holy and righteous man, paid for it with his head.

Mahatma Gandhi, Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King, Nelson Mandela, Aung San SuuKyi.... the list is long . You can kill a person or incarcerate her/him, but you cannot kill their ideas and the causes they espouse. In death / in prison , they wield even greater influence than they did when alive and free.

But even these great individuals pale in comparison with Christ. He was in a sphere of his own. From his extraordinary birth in a borrowed stall to his ignominious death on a makeshift Cross ,he turned the whole world upside down and its value system, inside out !

In Jesus’ day, for instance ,it was unthinkable for anyone to question the religious teachers, much less to dare teach them! Yet that’s exactly what he did in the Temple. The 12 year old “carpenter’s son” who was about his ‘Father’s business’ was probably telling them in no uncertain terms, that the truths of the Lord are more in the spirit, less in the word and that they were not to teach as doctrine the precepts of men.

In Christ’s time (as today) Salvation was understood as worship in the Temple, making an offering and carrying salvation away in a package – the prerogative of formal believers. However, in the parable of the Good Samaritan, we are made to realise that not only is such worship not enough, it is even worthless when unaccompanied by good works. And in the parable of the Prodigal Son, Jesus makes us see that forgiveness and reconciliation are the fruits of repentance.

G K Chesterton, the great English litterateur and convert said that

Christianity has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult and not tried. True. Jesus set the world a tough act to follow. He raised the bar sky high, quite literally. “If you wish to be My disciples, take up your cross and follow Me”. I believe we shall be judged in this, not on how well we succeeded , but on how hard we tried.

At practising Love, for instance. Not just love of family and friends - problematic, at best - but love of enemies, and trouble-makers have so many ! As if that wasn’t enough or difficult enough, we are exhorted to be perfect as the Heavenly Father is perfect; and as Jesus told the rich man who asked Him what he should do to attain salvation, he should give all his possessions to the poor and follow Christ. Not a few or just some possessions, but everything. The rich man ponders over the response and walks away and though Jesus sadly watches him do so, he isn’t called back nor is the message diluted to make it more acceptable.

Christianity is hardly a populist Religion just as its Founder wasn’t or He wouldn’t have ended up on the Cross. It’s especially tough on its latter- day followers who swear by the new trinity of ‘rent, interest and profit’. Preparing the way of the Lord is too unattractive. We’d much rather prepare the way of Mammon as is evident in our choice of Barrabas over Jesus, every time.

To say that Jesus was hated is to put it mildly. He was detested and feared, most of all by the high priests and Pharisees for whom he reserved his harshest strictures for maintaining only the letter of the Law. We get an inkling of the just wrath of God in the action of Jesus as he whips out of the Temple those who have profaned

(Contd.. on p. 22)

[o]OPS! Paner Tikka tuned sour?

O Paneerselvam [OPS], a loyal and obedient follower of Jaya, suddenly changed his stance and became a vocal rebel which was rather astonishing. He tendered his resignation as the Chief Minister and even suggested the name of Chinnamma Sasikala to replace him as CM, as a loyal soldier. He did not complain until the Amma 'spoke' to him from the heavens. He then took a somersault and proclaimed to the world that he vacated the coveted post of CM and proposed the name of Chinnamma under duress who he said was all out to usurp the legacy of Madam Jaya. Till then he was comfortable with it which is a little confusing. Who instigated him to revolt?

The lady however proved to be smarter with quick thinking. She Resort[ed] to abduction of loyal MLAs. OPS was left with a handful of MLAs and MPs but he had the support of the people of Tamil Nadu. Undoubtedly everybody supported him except those who matter – the MLAs. Riding on his success in restoring the Jalli Kattu, much to the satisfaction of the people, he went all out to challenge the aspirant for the CM's post. Much to his surprise the MLAs by and large remained loyal to the new Madam but the Governor kept her in suspense by not inviting her to have a go at the formation of the government. On hind sight, many now feel that the Governor was right in deferring the process of government formation. But the fact still remains that he had no business to wait for the court judgement. But that is history.

With the adverse Apex court pronouncement convicting Sasikala in the two decades old DA case, all her dreams of becoming the CM to control the party and the government were shattered. This came to her as a big jolt but she was not unduly perturbed. Perhaps she was expecting such a setback and had her plan B ready. She continued to keep the MLAs well protected and finally chose a new leader E. Palanisamy [EPS] to take over the Chief Ministership as her proxy during her 4 year-long incarceration. Simultaneously she expelled OPS and his supporters from the party. After failing to get a breather from the Supreme Court for delayed surrender, she was compelled to leave the Poes garden abode for a prison

VIEWS on NEWS

cell as an ordinary convict. This environment is familiar to her having spent some time there earlier. Unfortunately for her, it is not TN jail where she could 'manage' some perks. How often she is able to remain in contact with her loyalists to advise and guide them to face the threat from the rebel group is important. If she remains unreachable for some time, she may slowly but surely lose her grip. Four years is a long time in politics.

Jayalalitha is dead and gone and the final verdict against her [and Sasikala] came posthumously. Though a deceased person cannot be convicted, Sasikala's conviction for abetment indicts the Amma for possessing disproportionate assets. These did not come from healthy means naturally but the question is with no family of her own, for whom did she accumulate this ill-gotten wealth at the cost of her blemish-free image. Her party led by Sasikala is happy to grab power and wealth but the blemish on their departed leader will hurt them for a long time. If OPS cannot reverse the situation to his advantage when Sasikala is in jail, then he may not be able to do later. It could be curtains for his ambitions.

BMC elections

The BJP-SS divorce has been a bitter one at least as far as the municipal elections are concerned. By holding on at the State government level, they are only confusing the electorate. You cannot be friends at the State level and foes at the municipal level. Sometimes you wonder if the whole drama is a fixed match. Both these parties are running the Corporation and more than the opposition, the BJP is complaining about its senior partner with allegations of massive corruption and other serious irregularities.

Shiv Sena on the other hand is doing likewise and alleging that the BJP government at the State is mismanaging with dubious deals. It is hard to fathom what exactly they are trying to do. The BJP is blaming the Sena for aligning with the Congress in Panchayat elections. They all believe that in politics there is no permanent friend or foe. Therefore, one should not really bother about who aligns with whom as every political party has lost its credibility – even those like the AAP which came into prominence on the plank of transparent politics. No



by Marshall Sequeira

wonder that the general public has ceased to be agitated when allegations of corruption come to the fore. Politics and corruption are inseparable and people realize that unless we allow this to continue, we will be deprived of even the basic services or governance. It is akin to the parents who overlook the misdeeds of their son because if they take objection their own livelihood will be at stake.

The Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has listed a series of scams which he attributes to the Sena. This is a very serious charge and as CM should he not start investigations right away into these allegations? Does the election code which is in force not allow the CM to act? If there are no hindrances, what is stopping him from initiating action. This is where the hypocrisy angle comes into play. These thunderous speeches are merely for the consumption of the general public with an eye on the ensuing elections. We have the case of Eknath Khadse lingering for months and the court had to pull up the government for not being serious. The irrigation scam of the erstwhile dispensation of which NCP was a part, is making no headway. But NCP could be indispensable.

Soon the results will be out and it is very likely that there will be a hung house. The BJP or the Sena will have to ultimately depend on the other to come to power which is intoxicating. If they say there are no scams, the credibility of the parties will be at stake. On the other hand, if they say that there are scams and do not take any action, the BJP will be accused of compromising for the sake of power. The Sena will say 'We told you so. There are no scams' and get away with it. The stock of the BJP is likely to suffer. Even otherwise the BJP government can do nothing so long as Sena is a part of the establishment. The usual – 'compulsions of coalition politics' excuse will be dished out. Better be prepared for it. Actually, we always are.

Model Bank Received Bankers Association Award



The Maharashtra State Co-operative Banks Association Ltd., Mumbai held an award function, where Model bank received the "Excellent Bank" award for the collection of highest deposits in the financial year 2015-2016 in Mumbai division.

The 21st Annual award function was held on Friday at Ravindra Natyamandir Auditorium, Prabhadevi at Dadar (W). The former Chief Minis-

ter of Maharashtra and leader of Co-operative sector, Prithviraj Chavan presided over the function, Girish Kuber—editor of "Lokmath" daily and Subhash Ramdev Joshi were present. Albert W D'Souza—the Chairman received the award on behalf of the Bank. William Sequira, Vice Chairman, William L D'souza —CEO and General Manager were also present on the occasion. —Ronida

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Forgiveness The Trademark Of Christians



Forgiveness is the most essential quality of a Christian. If a Christian is unable to forgive his or her brother or sister they cease to be a Christian. Forgiveness is the ornament of the heart. Forgiveness is the embellishment of the humanity. Forgiveness is the soothing oil for the body and soul. When we forgive a person from the heart it's like undertaking a wholesome treatment to the person. Forgiveness brings inexplicable joy to the heart. The power of forgiveness is matchless or priceless.

Jesus says to Peter forgive seventy times seven. It simply meant to forgive a person insurmountable time. Forgiveness is the face value of a Christian. It brings surplus joy and happiness to the lives of the people. It's a panacea to all kinds of sicknesses. Forgiveness is the golden thread that connects the undefeatable

relationship between God and human beings. Christian life is imperfect without the virtue of forgiveness. We need to become like the father in the story of Prodigal son, waiting to forgive as soon as the son returns.

It's very challenging to forgive a person from our heart, because it's testing for the person to give away our

pride and accept the other unconditionally. No one can love or forgive another with disinterestedness but only God can. Our selfish nature will not allow us to forgive a person from our heart.

We need much inner strength to forgive another from the heart. Recently I visited a person who is a well known in the outer circle and who does tremendous service to the marginalized people in the society. She herself is a Dalit activist working for the welfare of the Dalit from many years. She earned a very good reputation



Sr. Bindu Abraham

in her locality. Not only that she has got very influence even in the political level. I was introduced to that lady by one of our school parents. It happened that her family has distanced herself because of some long standing family disputes. Though she was crowded with many followers she was lonely and isolated. In fact she had none to confide in.

It happened that the family kept her aloof and she was dangerously in need of the family. She could neither think of forgiving them nor talking to them. The grudge within her has

been smoldering. The very thought of talking to them who deceived and double-crossed her made her frantic. She was desperate and distressed. Unfortunately, she was detected with blood cancer and was hospitalized. The worst things took place. She had none by her side only some helpers from her influential circle. That was the very hour I visited her. She was a Catholic but never practiced or went to church. So it was my turn to talk to her. By the grace of God she was able to listen after many failed trails and visits. The local parish priest was called in she made a good confession after thirty-two years! What happened the rest of the story is the miracle of forgiveness. She yielded herself to the spirit and was able to forgive from her heart to every one of her family members including her own two sons the sickness vanished from her body. The doctor certified that there is no trace of cancer in her blood. And I believe it's the power of forgiveness. It's a miracle .

Dear friends, there's unbelievable result when we forgive someone from our hearts. Let this be a medicine, an elixir to wipe away all that is disconcerting us whether at home or outside. We are called to live a life along with Christ Jesus taking our cross. Let our lives be something very creative and interactive. Let's sow the seeds of forgiveness wherever we go to bring more happiness in the lives of the people. Let us not see a dawn or dusk without experiencing the depth of forgiveness. Let our Christian families be storehouse for nurturing the virtue of forgiveness.

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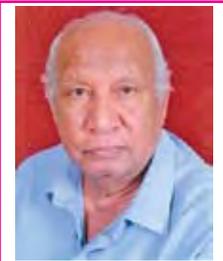


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“..Feel Insecured Under Modi..”: A dalit

Untouchability, cast - consciousness and religious differences are practised all over India - chiefly in Gujarat, Bihar, Maharashtra and U.P. Religious minorities live a second - class life. They are discriminated and belittled in all BJP-ruled states. Human right commission is helpless.....



by Ignatius Dabhi
Sr. Journalist

A massive dalit rally was organized in Ahmedabad in the last week of January 2017. Young and aged dalits from all walks of life rushed to voice their concern and show dalit solidarity against the sea of troubles posed by the Sangh Parivar and ruling pro-upper caste BJP government.

Mr. Kartik Senva, 31 a commerce graduate leading a team of 150 dalit youths said, “ We dalit do not feel secured under the BJP-ruled government. After the Una brutality, dalits all over India feel highly insecured No BJP office-bearer in and around Una - Amereli area in Gujarat came to our aid. Even the local police and advocates turn their faces when approached. We, after better-qualified for jobs, are insulted and put aside by the BJP minded officials and businessmen. Most of them have decided not to give us job or work. Many of qualified youths’ parents have begged, gone to their knees before them. They have been told that the only way to subjugate a dalit is to crush all his self respect.... After 67 years of democracy, the present BJP rulers do not want we go... Now, under the pretext of protecting cows, the so called high-castes, misguided youths are all out, all over India, to make our lives impossible... In Gandhi’s Gujrat, every month there are 4 to 6 murders and 8 to 10 rapes on dalit women...”

The most -read daily news paper, ‘Gujrat Samachar’ on 14-7-2016 gives this report: Under this title “Gujarat witnesses 1,100 attacks on dalit every

year”

The state of Gujarat in the year 2014-15, witnessed 1200 violent attacks on dalits. More than 50 rapes and incidents of torture were suffered by dalit women - many were the school-going minor girls. When a lot of hue and cry was made, the National Backward-class Corporation asked



the BJP government of Gujarat to give a report on ‘attacks on dalits’. The districts of Banas Kantha lead 1,133 violent attacks on dalits the highest in Gujarat. Various dalit organizations have formed a state level dalit union which will give a tough legal and social fights, said Janak Chauhan, a dalit leader.

A pro-dalit ‘Navsarjan Sanstha’, said, the Modi government did not utilized Rs.5,548 cr meant for 40 lac dalits in Gujrat. The BJP government did not utilized fund for the dalits. Gujarat has nearly 10 percent dalits and yet the state government allocated a budget for 4.94 percent for dalits. Every year 6,500 girls-many of them under 13 years - are kidnapped in Gujrat. A dalit social leader, Kokila Parmar said, “of those 6,500 girls, more than 4,500

girls are from the dalit families. During the last week of January 2016, a dalit girl was gang - rapped by four BJP leaders in Nalia-Bhuj. The police tried its level - best to ignore the incident but the high court had to order the DGP to book the culprits soon.

Often the PM Modi visits GUJARAT and by now the majority of “sponsored crowds” does not believe in crocodile tears of the ‘netaji’!

Giving a well drafted report of congress, the opposition leader, Mallikarjun, said, ‘why do you give a false reports of development of the dalit class? Who would believe your untrue promises? “Fortunately PM was listening to the congress reply on the Presidents Address to the Parliament. Modi as usual, answering to the question, would make on

Rahul Gandhi, Manmohan Singh or Congress Party! People with serious grievances against his men are not allowed to give a written memoranda to him, dalits are pooh-poohed and all his tall claims have proved to be empty promised, the apparent apathy of the BJP and the Sangh Parivar is their’ secret agenda.... A few dalit names in the BJP list have long back sold their ‘pro-dalit’ solidarity. All of them are ‘His Master’s voice. Dalits are not allowed flats in decent housing societies, dalits are not allowed to fetch water from the public water systems...

Gujarath might have made some industrial progress, but the inner picture of reality is shocking disturbing and often frightening.... Any secular citizen will feel shaky to experience the cruel reality of dalit lives.

(Contd.. from p. 9)

Egyptians wore a square cut goatee artificial beard. For the Jews it was an indignity to have their heads shaved or plucked. Egyptian artists portrayed the people of Canaan sporting long hair and beards. In the Old Testament it was a dishonour to cut the beard and hair (cf 2 Sam 10:4), other than as a sign of mourning. (cf Is 15:2). Here in India too, male Hindus have themselves tonsured when a relative dies.

Now let me revert to Spencer. She avers that the Church veils things that are sacred, like the tabernacle and chalice. There is also the implication that after Moses met God on the mountain, his face was veiled (cf ex 34:29-35). We conveniently forget that he was first instructed to remove his footwear. Why don't we follow this biblical precept when entering a place of worship? Why are we selective and target women? The D.O.B. explains that "the veil masked the face of the prophet so that his own person was concealed when he spoke the word of Yahweh in the person of Yahweh". By that standard our clergymen, beginning with the Pope, should enter the church barefoot, with their faces veiled! That would be fun to watch.

On a more serious note, after the liturgical reforms of Vatican II, the veil of secrecy is off. We should not mistake secrecy for sacredness. Finally we need to recall that when Jesus died on the cross the veil in the Temple was rent (cf Mat 27:51). This was symbolic of unrestricted access to the Divine, for Jesus is indeed the way, the truth and the life (cf Jn 14:6). Even our dear Paul acknowledges in what is actually his fourth letter to the Corinthians that "We use boldness of speech unlike Moses who put a veil over his face ...

the veil is taken away in Christ" (2 Cor 3:14). We are further exhorted to "enter the presence behind the veil" (Heb 6:19).

I will sign off from Paul with another of his contentious exhortations, "Slaves obey your masters" (Col 3:22). Here again this may have been said in a given context, but certainly not tenable today. My purpose is not to belittle Paul or the sacred scriptures, but simply to remind gullible readers to not be taken in by false prophets masquerading their personal opinions as Gospel truth.

As an Indian, living in a multi-cultural milieu, I would also like to examine the cultural angle, apart from the scriptural one. Spencer says that women dress up for church with hats, scarves and headbands. This is obviously western/European culture, alien to India, or Asia and Africa for that matter. I recall my childhood when there were still a lot of Europeans and westernised Indians around. Mass was a veritable fashion parade, with the headgear being anything but sacred. I have no intention of judging what women wear on their heads, for me what is more important is what is in their heads.

In India I see Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and Parsis worshipping. All of them, both male and female, cover their heads and remove their footwear. This is part of our composite culture. When I visited Jerusalem in 1980 I noticed that orthodox Jews had long hair in ringlets. Jews also wear skull caps while worshipping, as do our bishops.

The latter also wear grotesque mitres that make them look like circus performers. Images from the Sudarium of Oviedo in Spain, believed to be the burial face cloth of Jesus, and the Shroud of Turin, both of which have identical AB+ve blood stains, indicate that Jesus himself had shoulder length hair and was bearded (common in all sacred imagery). Jesus belonged to a Semitic race, just like the Arabs (sons of Abraham).

So it is possible that dear St Paul was trying to bridge the cultural gap between Judaic and Hellenistic customs when he wrote to the Corinthians about their hair and decorum in worship. Unfortunately he ended up creating more confusion than clarity.

Having read this I hope that our womenfolk will not be coerced into being veiled; and overzealous writers will not go over the top propounding unsubstantiated or half baked ideas, and passing them off as integral to Christian orthodoxy or orthopraxis. I'll end this with a reference to the last book of the Bible – Revelation. It is also called the Apocalypse derived from the Greek word apokalypsis, which literally means the lifting of the veil to reveal something. This is the most misunderstood and misquoted book of the Bible. I believe in divine revelation, but not in apocalyptic fear or veiled threats.

** The writer is a layman without any training in theology or exegesis. He willingly accepts that if there is any error in this presentation he is fully responsible for the same.*

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Prelude To Lent: No Greater Love Revealed



BY MELVYN BROWN

The Church keeps us together in the reflecting light of Jesus Christ, like a mirror, in his love, grace and mercy. This week will launch the season of Lent, reminding us of what the Prophet Isaiah said in the Holy city of Jerusalem: "Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you" (Is.60:1).

When we believe and rely on God, life begins to make sense. Jesus, His Son, has come to us with the assurance that God is our Father; He is a loving, merciful and forgiving Lord. The Messiah has brought his light to guide us to the gateway of salvation.

In obedience to the will of God, Christ will lay down his life as a sacrifice for our sins, misdeeds and hate. The Lord will make a total surrender of his incarnation to man's inhumanity. We will discover the agony, pain, humiliation and suffering in the weeks leading to Christ's Passion. We will understand the words of the Psalmist who said, "The faithfulness of the Lord endures forever". (Ps.116:2).

Christ was sent to save, not condemn. Abba made man and woman in His image. He created both as "one body". It is valid to note this coming lent the words of St. Paul to the Galatians, "There is neither Jew or Greek, neither slave or free, neither male or female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus." (Gal.3 :28). Christ was sent to preach, teach, suffer, die and by His Resurrection to gift his believers (the one body") redemption. All those baptized and who follow Jesus will be saved.

Soon, this coming season of lent will

reveal how the Son of God laid down his incarnate life because of His great love for humankind. "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." (Jn.15:13)

Let us prepare ourselves for lent. Get ready to proclaim the gospel as a service to God, for there is no mission more praiseworthy and fulfilling as reflecting the light of God. Discern what is happening in your soul – are you a true messenger, or one who is uncertain of the path of good.

In a few days lent will be upon us: to meditate on the Passion of Christ; to pray for the Holy Spirit to show us the power of the Lord's encounter with sinful man – to deliver His creature from the hold of darkness and death. We will practice charity, do penance for our wrongs, and make the fourteen Stations of the Cross. We will forgive our enemies, fast and spend more time with Jesus in the Eucharist. The words of Christ Jesus will awaken our spirit, "My son, my daughter, could you not keep watch with me for one hour?" (Matt.26:40).

On bended knees bow your head to Jesus and worship him. It will be the time to overcome the bitter taste of sin, to renew our faith before the Eucharistic Lord, and adore him. Pray that the weeks of devotion and receiving the Sacrament of reconciliation may clean us of evil thoughts, words and deeds.

Brace yourselves with intercessory prayer: asking God to heal our spiritual wounds; to be merciful when people disrespect human life; to save families and loved ones from the hate and violence surrounding the world. Make an honest Sacramental confession, and a blessed Eucharistic communion.

Today, make an Act of Contrition. Jesus died for us and we had, too often, ignored him. Be truly sorry. Ask the Lord to give you the strength to follow him on his journey to Calvary. To be a witness to the stripes and the bruises he received at the scourging pillar, when he carried his Cross up the rugged path, when the nails were driven through his hands and feet, the time when a spear tore open his side letting blood and water gush out, for all this ask Jesus to let you share a small moment of his suffering.

Recite the 'Anima Christi' from the depth of your heart. Christ is your sanctification, your redeemer and salvation. Surrender yourself to him this season in lent.

The original version of the prayer:

Soul of Christ, sanctify me. Body of Christ, save me. Blood of Christ, inebriate me. Water flowing from the side of Christ, wash me. Passion of Christ, strengthen me. O good Jesus hear me. Within thy wounds hide me. Suffer me not to be separated from thee. From the malignant enemy defend me. At the hour of my death call me, and bid me come to thee. That with thy saints I may praise thee. Forever and ever. Amen.

Heavenly Father, make this prelude to lent reach out to your followers, and to millions of believers who offer their prayers for peace in the world; and, an end to all your fallen children who walk in darkness and know not what they are doing.

May the love of Christ be revealed to humankind at lent. May it be a reminder to us that good is greater than evil.

Sabha Day 2017 – A Report

Pomp and grandeur marked Sabha Day 2017 that was celebrated on Thursday 26 January 2016 by the Bombay Catholic Sabha at St. Paul's School Ground, Dadar. This was preceded by the Thanksgiving Mass at which Fr. Michael D'Cunha was the main celebrant and Fr. John Lobo concelebrated. The event was blessed with the presence of Bishop Elect Fr. Allwyn D'Silva as the Chief Guest and Dr. Snehal Pinto, Director of Ryan International Group of Institutes, as the Guest of Honour (on behalf of her mother Madam Grace Pinto). The packed St. Paul's School Ground, Dadar enjoyed the evening of awards, fun and fellowship as they cheered the Star and Challenger Units from various Deaneries as they received Awards for the good work they had done in the year 2016.

The newly elected BCS President, Ms Rita D'Sa, welcomed the gathering and presented her road map for making the BCS more visible, more active in civic involvement and more empowering for the youth. She thanked all those who collaborated and partnered with the Sabha in its projects and appreciated the team spirit of the new executive committee.

Dr. Snehal Pintostirred the gathering with her motivating message that we are a powerful force in the city having Our Lord with us. She said we are all blessed with different capabilities and strengths which we need to use to the maximum potential and unitedly we can make a difference. She concluded asking all to affirm that we are winners and achievers.

Fr. Felix D'Souza, Ecclesiastical Adviser, congratulated the Sabha for all that they were doing in the city and church. He urged the Sabha to work towards getting more of the community youth to take up responsible positions in the places of authority in public sphere.

Bishop Elect Fr. Allwyn D'Silva appreciated the work of the Sabha in the civic and secular fields. He was emphatic when he said, "you are the face of the Church" and hence it is necessary to be christian in our working, intensify our efforts, and move from creating awareness to actually implementing sustainable projects that would bring about visible change. He reminded the members to be the "salt" and "light" that Jesus challenges us to be so that all our actions will contribute to the better tomorrow and bring glory to the Lord.

The Secretary General Mr. Anand Castelino earlier presented the report of the Sabha for the year 2016. St. Anthony - Tembipada Unit presented a meaningful prayer dance. As usual Units were awarded for excellence in activities based on the thrust areas of the Sabha. The Award winners were the following:

STAR UNIT OF THE DEANERY (Best Unit)

- O. L of Victory - Mahim
North Bombay Deanery
- St. Joseph - Vikhroli
Thane Deanery
- O. L. Of Lourdes - Orlem
Borivali Deanery
- St. Francis de Sales - Koparkhairane
Navi Mumbai Deanery

CHALLENGER UNIT OF THE DEANERY

- O. L. of Glory - Byculla
South Bombay Deanery
- St. Michael - Mahim
North Bombay Deanery
- O. L. of Mount Carmel - Bandra
Bandra Deanery
- St. Theresa - Bandra
Bandra Deanery
- St. Francis Xavier - Kanjurmarg
Thane Deanery
- St. John Bosco - Borivali
Borivali Deanery
- St. Francis Xavier - Panvel
Navi Mumbai Deanery

The BCS Power of One Awards were

given to the following individuals :

Ms. Odil Medeira, St. Michael - Mahim for Excellence in Creative Arts & Drama

Ms. Sarah Menezes, St. Pius X - Mund for Excellence in Sports.

Mr. Jacques D'Cruz, St. Anthony - Vakola for Excellence in Promotion of Govt. Minority Schemes for Students

Mr. Anthony Chettiar, St. Jude - Jerimeri for Excellence in Promotion of Education to the Girl Child

The BCS President paid a special tribute to the late Fr. Edward D'Souza, Ecclesiastical Adviser of the Sabha who expired in March 2016 and to Mr. George Menezes, founder member and friend of the Sabha, who had passed away in September 2016.

We are grateful to our Partners:

Madam Grace Pinto of Ryan International Group of Institutes - Title Partner.

Mr. Christopher John of M/s. Earnest John Group of Companies - Gold Partner

Mr. Albert W. D'Souza of Aldel Education Trust - Gold Partner

Mr. Vincent Mathias of Vel Vin Packaging (P) Ltd - Gold Partner

Mr. Henry Lobo and Family - Gold Partner

M/s Model Cooperative Bank Ltd - Pearl Partner

Thanks are due to the Sabha Day Conveners Mr. Lawrence Fernandes. Mr. Ronald Tressler and Mr. Robert D'Souza who together with the President Ms. Rita D'Sa put in their efforts to make this a very entertaining and cherished evening.

The Jt. Treasurer, Mr. Gordon D'Silva proposed the vote of thanks and the large gathering then participated in the merriment as they danced and shared the fellowship dinner, returning back with feelings of gladness and gratitude.

*Anand Castelino
secretary general*

Inspiration!



Why we all should have a hobby

By nature, humans are creatures of habit. But too often, we let those habits become our routine that ends up draining us in life. Work, eat, sleep, repeat. It's important to do things outside of work or school or else you can find yourself stressed and ultimately less productive. Hobbies provide health benefits and can impact you in many positive ways. Let's explore the importance of having a hobby:

We are all so busy nowadays, that we hardly have the time to pursue a hobby. Everyone is good at something but many of us haven't discovered yet. Hobbies are a way of filling your leisure time with something you are interested in. Just as physical exercise is important for the body, cognitive relaxation, that is, relaxation of the mind is also essential. In fact studies reveal that people who cultivate themselves through hobbies are less likely to suffer from rage, depression and other negative feelings. Explore some reasons to have a hobby:

Hobbies help you structure your time: Our work expands so as to fill the time available for its comple-

tion." More simply, things take as much time as you have. So, when the evening stretches out before you, unscheduled, you might find yourself laboring over that work project or answering emails into the wee hours. Chances are, if you had choir practice or a book club meeting that night, you would get those tasks done much more quickly. So, hobbies can seem to create more time by encouraging efficiency.

Help you cope with stress: Imagine a rough day at the office, where you were harshly criticized by your boss. Coming home and turning on the TV may provide a brief distraction, but it doesn't address your damaged ego head-on. Now imagine that after work you head out to your soccer league or pottery class. These activities are more than merely distracting. They remind you that there are many facets to your self-concept.

Living in the moment: How often are any of us actually in the moment? So many of us worry about the thing that we have to get done in a day. We're doing one thing, while thinking about what we have to do next. Or we spend our time living for the weekend, taking no notice of the present. Then there are those people who reflect over the past - so tied up with thoughts about things that have happened, they are barely aware of their current situation. Al-

lowing yourself to be immersed in the activity will do wonders for your wellbeing. The next tip will help you do just that.

An alternative career option: Many people have made a flourishing career out of their hobby. What can be more rewarding and enjoyable than the fact that your career and work is also the source of your unwinding and relaxation! When you take-up a hobby or pursue the one you have with a sense of purpose, you can think of adding value to yourself.

Life-long pleasure: Most people think that the time to pursue their hobby is when they retire. They miss a very important aspect that by the time you retire, you would have lesser ability and agility required of a person to learn a hobby. However, those who have pursued a certain hobby in their younger age would continue to do well into their old age. By then, it will become their second nature.

Hobbies make you interesting: Hobbies give you something to talk about at parties and around the water cooler. They add layers to your identity, richness to your self-concept. People want to be around those with passions, with a sense of curiosity, with stories to tell. You not only feel more inspired when you have a rich and active life, but you will inspire others as well.

- **If you have the same daily routine with no hobbies, life can begin to feel boring and overall depressing. Hobbies create some sort of excitement and change in the routine. Keep life fun.**
- **Moreover, while you pursue a hobby, you may discover that you have a talent for something unusual as well which you did not know about so far!**
- **According to the psychology, hobbies reflect the inner most desire of people, help them fulfill their unmet needs and make them feel special.**



6586. BANGALORE : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Divorcee, (Born in January 1985), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 65 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., LL.B., M.S.W., Working as HR Executive. Contact email : advocatcastelino@yahoo.in

6660 NASHIK : Goan R.C. Bachelor (Born in November 1984) Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 70 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Edn. Graduation in perfusion technology, working as a Clinical perfusionist. Contact email : dan2mills@gmail.com

6659 MUMBAI : Sr. Citizen RC Widower, seeks educated lady, cheerful and healthy as a companion / partner. Preferably without any encumbrance. Contact email : envision 277@yahoo.com

6424. MUMBAI : East Indian Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in October 1991), Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 75 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. F.Y.B.Com., well employed. Contact email : gerardd754@gmail.com

6619 MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in September 1985), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 82 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. MBA Finance, woking in MNC. Contact email : josh99.joshva@gmail.com

6598. MUMBAI : East Indian Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in September 1984), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 85 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Post Grad. Diploma, working as a GM-Marketing. Contact email : gomes.gavin@gmail.com

6597. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in April 1978), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 68 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Customer Support.

Contact email : augustinelobo_78@yahoo.com

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

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

6589. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in March 1987), height 5' 8", weight 50 kgs, wheatish complexion, Edn.B.com, working as a Senior Analyst in a reputed MNC. Non smoker & Non drinker. Seeks alliance from RC spinsters upto 28 years, graduate with sober habits. Open to all communities. Contact Mobile no. 9769840021

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

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

6584. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Divorcee, (Born in October 1978), Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 79 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.E. (Electrical Engineering), MBA (Marketing), working as a Manager with an IT Technology Company. Contact email : austin.alva@gmail.com

6583. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in June 1987), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 70 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBA Finance, Working as an Asst. Manager in reputed private bank. Contact email : alliancesralph@gmail.com

6573. SAUDI : Goan / Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in February 1986), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 68 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.E. Mechanical, working as a project engineer seeks a well qualified girl from a good family background. Contact email : ian.roshan.dsouza@gmail.com

6579. MUMBAI : Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in August 1985), Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 72 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. HSC., & Diploma, Working as a S. Bartender. Contact email : rahulf28@yahoo.com

6572. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in October 1986), Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 75 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. BE (EXTC), working as a Network Engineer. Contact email : ivorbritto@gmail.com

6567. MUMBAI : RC, Mangalorean Bachelor, Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 70 kgs, (Born in April 1977), Fair Complexion, Consultant Surgeon by Profession in Top Hospital in Mumbai, seeks suitable match. Contact Email : kalinaproperities@gmail.com.

6564. DUBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in November 1987), Ht. 179 cms, Wt. 78 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Mechanical Engineer, working as an Engineer. Contact email : godfreyjoelfernandes@gmail.com

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 royalchristianfamily@gmail.com

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Brides



MATRIMONIALS

6414 MUMBAI : Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in July 1989), Ht. 5'1", Wt. 48 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., (Banking & Insurance) working as a Consultant. Contact email : rosemarybharda@yahoo.com OR 9224780162

6644. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1991), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 52 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. Graduate (Travel/Tours), working as Sr. Operation Exe., Contact email : bernie0164@gmail.com OR 9930466725

6642. MUMBAI : Goan/Mangalorean Roman Catholic Divorcee, (Born in September 1979), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Customer Service, Seeks a suitable match. Contact email : rowmonteiro@yahoo.com OR 9820792115

6640. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1980), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 85 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.B.A-HR, B.Com., 1st class, working as an Asst. to Vice President. Contact email : rodrigues2631@gmail.com

6639. MUMBAI : Protestant Spinster, (Born in June 1981), Ht. 5', Wt. 50 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A. Journalist, Working as a Fashion Designer. Contact Mob: 9820250350

6638. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in May 1989), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 57 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Com., Bank Officer. Contact email : noronha2305@gmail.com

6635. MUMBAI : East Indian Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in January 1990) Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 60 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn.M.Com., B.Ed., Teacher by profession. Contact email : judithds1901@gmail.com

6633. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in July 1989), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.E., Computer Science, working for

Foreign Bank. Contact email : mendonca17edward@gmail.com

6632. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in November 1989), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A., working as a Travel Counsellor in MNC. Contact email : denverr89@gmail.com

6631. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in September 1983) Ht. 5' 7", Wheatish Complexion, Ph.D., from American University, working as a Senior Healthcare Consultant in a MNC Mumbai. Kindly reply with details and full length photograph to mendoncaedwina@gmail.com

6627. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1988) Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 58 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Graduate with Diploma in Interiors, working as a Interior Designer. Contact email : virlib2209@gmail.com

6620. MUMBAI : East Indian Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in August 1987), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Post Graduate, working for Foreign Bank. Contact email : beann_lam@rediffmail.com

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. Seeks a groom below 28 years, preferably Mangalorean. Contact email : amd19901992@gmail.com

6607. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in February 1990), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 63 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Tech., PGDM., working for Marketing Manager. Contact email : sphylomena@gmail.com

6606. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman

Catholic Spinster, (Born in September 1989), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 55 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. BDS., MDS., Doctor by profession. Contact email : florinelobo26@gmail.com

6604. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in November 1981), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 70 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. S.Y. B.Com., wokring in Dubai. Contact Mob.: 9820733952

6603. MUMBAI : Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in May 1975), Ht. 167 cms, Wt. 55 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A., & Diploma in Export, working as an Export Admin. Secretary, Contact email: sindhupatil75@gmail.com

6602. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in July 1981), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 68 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A., working as a Trainer. Contact email : charlottesimpleindian@hotmail.com

6601. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in March 1989), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 62 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. ICWA, Working for Finance Industry. Contact email : jenniferabreo29@gmail.com

6600. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in August 1989), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBA, working as a HR Executive. Contact email : britto_leena@hotmail.com

6599. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in September 1980), Ht. 5' 5", slim, young and good looking, Edn. B.A. + Music Exams, Teacher by profession. Seeks a well settled tall bachelor. Contact email : septsmile3@gmail.com

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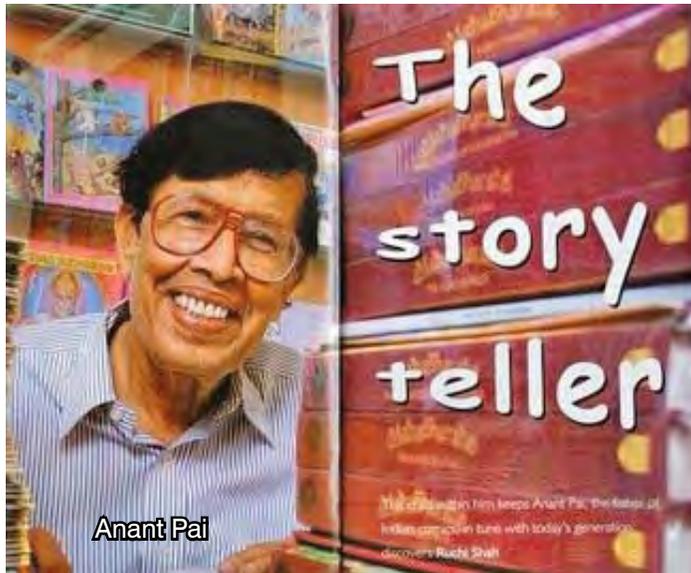
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Down Memory Lane



Anant Pai

As a regular reader of Tinkle and Amar Chitra Katha comics in school, I had a great intention of meeting Uncle Pai in person. Then when I completed my education, I happened to come across a vacancy in a leading newspaper for the post of an Editorial Assistant for Tinkle magazine. I applied for the job and two weeks later, I received a telephone call from Anant Pai popularly known as Uncle Pai himself on my office landline number (Remember, there were no mobile phones, pagers and computers then).

Excited, I applied for leave the next day and went for the interview (the address was of course given to me). When I knocked on the cabin door, I was dumbfounded as I was seeing this famous personality in person. The interview was not a tough one and Uncle Pai was all smiles. I was selected for the job. Till today, I am working for the same organization.

My first day at the Tinkle office was reading and replying to all the letters received by post as there were no computers then. I would draft my own letters to children as well as grown-

ups as I was very good in English. In school, I would get full marks in essay writing. Though I committed a lot of typing errors, Uncle Pai was very calm and gentle and brought the errors to my notice.

Today, I still remember Uncle Pai even though he's no more with us. He expired on February 24, 2011 at the age of 81. Uncle Pai was the man who started Tinkle and Amar Chitra Katha comics. He was born on September 17, 1929 in a small town in Karkala in Karnataka State. Six days before he died, Uncle Pai was honoured with the lifetime achievement award at India's first comic convention in New Delhi. Unfortunately, he couldn't attend the function as he was in hospital battling between life and death. May his soul rest in peace.

Uncle Pai was very fond of children. He would shower children who would come along with their parents to the Tinkle office with lots of gifts, autographed copies of Amar Chitra Kathas, Tinkle comics, Tinkle Digests, Flip books, Tinkle character stickers and book labels, Flying discs, Tinkle logo T-shirts, etc — all free. Every letter/story was also replied to.



by Jubel D'Cruz,
Mumbai

(Contd.. from p. 10)

the sacred. In a gesture so relevant for our times, he exhorts us to raise hosannas not funds in the house of God.

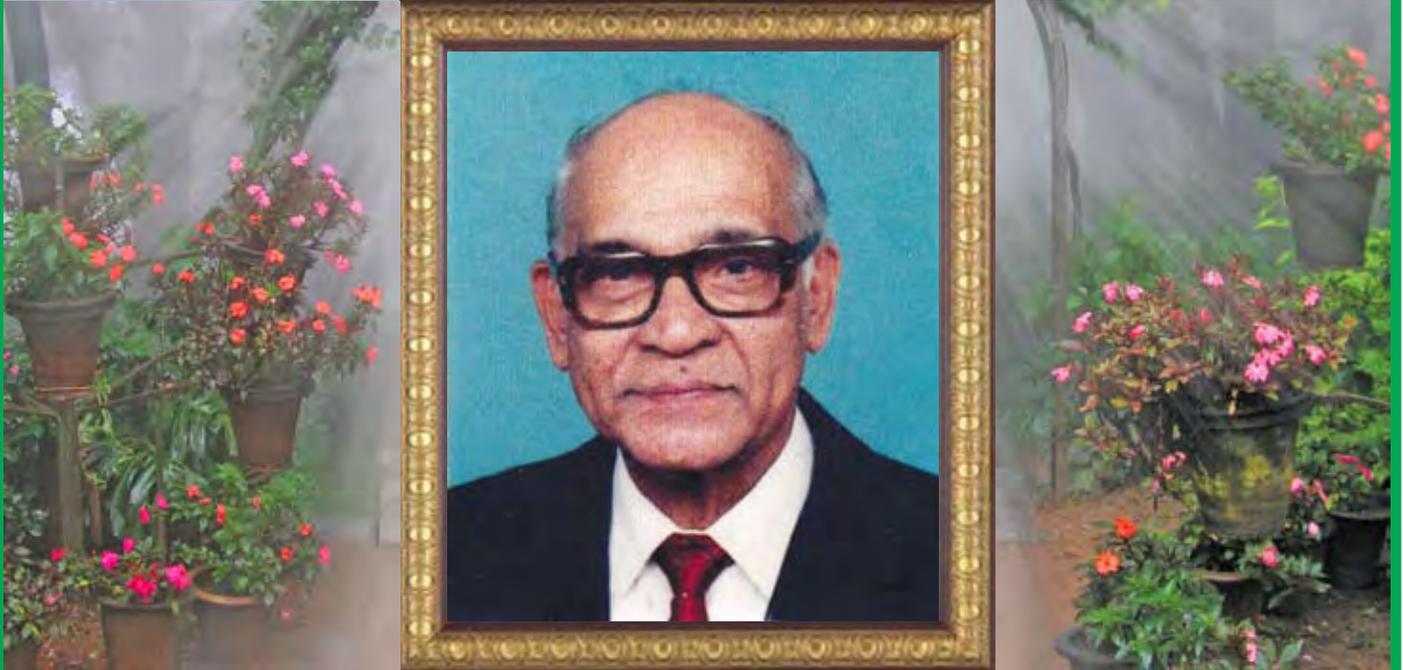
We are no different from the Pharisees of yore: we assume holy postures in church and adopt unholy practices outside. We suffer from a galloping consumption of moral courage which sees us silent in the face of untruth and injustice. The world is full of tame Christians, as a consequence of which our churches are empty of life, if not of people. For every ninety – nine members by inheritance, there is but one by conviction.

Jesus then was a trouble-maker with a difference. He comforted the disturbed and disturbed the comfortable. He challenged our assumptions, destroyed our illusions and gave us a New Commandment that was more trying than all of the old Ten put together! He said that unless we are born of the Spirit, our entry into Heaven would be more impossible than that of the camel through the needle's eye. He demonstrated in the incident of the 'woman taken in adultery', that there is no place for unjust laws and inequalities in God's kingdom. And by example, at the Last Supper, that keeping Christianity is good, but sharing it is best.

Jesus was a perennial thorn in the flesh of hypocritical Jews, pompous scribes and self-righteous Pharisees. How was he able to give such assurances of salvation with such confidence, they wondered. How was he able to speak with such authority when they who were learned, were groping in the dark. Simply because of his true Divinity, Christ's theology was definitive, not speculative.

Jesus the 'trouble-maker' has outlasted the empire that crucified him 21 centuries ago. He will outlast the ones who deny Him today. His resurrection holds out the promise that ALL who follow him in truth, shall do so too.

Centenary Remembrances



DR. GEORGE COLACO

Gifted: 3rd March 1917
United: 3rd September 1996

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Blend such a wondrous clay
To create a majestic father
Who showed the Divine way!

- G** – Gifted medical profession through keen work ethics
- E** - Empowered the family by his example so unique
- O** - Offered children the perfect love of Abba-Father
- R** - Refreshed us with the most Holy Spirit our Consoler
- G** - Greeted and treated all of every creed and caste
- E** - Enlightened everyone with Christ's mind to ever last

- C** – “Clothed with compassion, humility and patience” (Col 3:12)
- O** – “Observed teachings commanded by Christ Jesus” (Mt 28:20)
- L** – “Letter of Christ written with the God's living Spirit” (2 Cor 3:3)
- A** – “Anointed by the Holy One for true knowledge” (1 John 2:20ff).
- C** – “Conscience filled with good faith for the moral fight”(1 Tim 1:19)
- O** - “Obedient to Jesus Christ, destined by Abba-Father,
and sanctified by the Holy Spirit”..... (1 Peter 1:2)



Inserted and Inspired by his eldest offspring, as a Tribute of Love, Honor and Gratitude – Dr. Trevor Colaso, Bandra, Mumbai.

Mass at St. Andrew's Church, Bandra (W) on 3rd March 2017 at 8.00 a.m.



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