

# THE SECULAR CITIZEN

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**Pope Francis makes Francisco and Jacinta Marto saints at the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal, May 13, 2017**



## Diocese of Mangalore holds centenary celebration of Fatima apparition

Most Rev Dr Aloysius Paul D'Souza the Bishop of Mangalore joined by Msgr Denis Moras Prabhu and 52 priests celebrated the thanksgiving mass on 13th May at Our Lady of Fatima Church Tannirbavi to commemorate one hundred years Mother Mary's apparition to the three children at Fatima of Portugal.



The Bishop in his message said that the Catholic Church has grown spiritually because of Mother Mary's apparition at Fatima. Millions of people visit Fatima every year and go back changed- change of life. He also said that today Pope Francis is Canonising the two of the three children (Francisco and Jacintha) as Saints whom Mother Mary ap-

peared in 1917.

The statue of Our Lady of Fatima was brought in procession from Bondel Church at 3.30 pm to Dost Club ground Tannirbavi. From Dost Club Tannirbavi the statue was taken at 4 pm in a solemn procession to Our Lady of Tannirbavi Church grounds. Fr Joseph Martis the Rector of St Joseph Seminary Jeppu preached a homily during the Holy Mass. In his homily he highlighted the message of Mother Mary given to the three shepherd children ( Lucia 10 yrs, Francisco 8 yrs and Jacintha 7yrs) i.e. call to prayer, penance and devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

On this occasion the Bishop also released a documentary movie on Our Lady of Fatima produced by Fr Stany Monteiro of St Mary Vianny Church Bambil. Fr Claud Cord the Dominican Friar from St Dominic Church Ashoknagar spoke on the importance of praying Rosary.

4,500 people participated in the programme. Fr Alban Rodrigues the Parish Priest of Tannirbavi welcomed the dignitaries and the people. Fr Francis D'souza the convener of the programme thanked all those who worked and contributed to make the programme a successful one. Mr Felix D'Souza the vice president, Mr Clifford Lobo former vice president were present on the occasion.

—Rons Bantwal

## Pope Francis: I am suspicious of ongoing Medjugorje apparitions

Vatican City: Asked by journalists about the alleged appearance of the Virgin Mary at Medjugorje, Pope Francis said the original apparitions more than three decades ago deserve further study, but voiced doubt in the supposed ongoing visions.

He stressed the need to distinguish between the two sets of apparitions, referencing a report submitted to the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith by a commission set up to study the apparitions by Benedict XVI in 2010.

"The first apparitions, which were to children, the report more or less says that these need to continue being studied," he said, but as for "presumed current apparitions, the report has its doubts."

"I personally am more suspicious, I prefer the Madonna as Mother, our Mother, and not a woman who's the head of an office, who every day sends a message at a certain hour. This is not the Mother of Jesus. And these presumed apparitions don't have a lot of value."

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## 'Thought for the week'

*There's lot that is good in your life don't take it for granted. Don't get so focussed on the struggles that you miss the gift of today.*

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## Mother's Day

by Don Aguiar

**M**other's Day is a day for many people to show their appreciation towards mothers and mother figures worldwide. It is an annual event but is held at different dates in the calendar, depending on the country. This year it will be celebrated on Sunday May 14, 2017

Mother's Day is a time for people to thank mum for her contribution to family life

Mother's day is one of the occasions when you can show your gratitude to your lovely and gorgeous mother. The oodles of happiness and bunch of jovial moments that she has given you indeed need a celebration. She is the one who first showed you the world to you and now it's your turn to show her the world. A Mother takes every pain simply for her child without uttering a single word of dissatisfaction. Nobody else can be as caring as a mother. And therefore, she deserves to be celebrated for the way she has made your life a celebration with her unspoken prayers and continuous efforts.

Ask a mom if there is any day which is not Mother's Day. The day she learns that her child's heart beats inside her or the day when she holds the little fingers in her hands, the woman inside of her transforms into an ever giving and nurturing mother. Every day she breathes to bring love, nourishment and joy in the life of her munchkins.

Every day till her last one, a mother celebrates being one. Be it kangaroo care or a gentle hug the mother is flushed with "oxytocin" – the love hormone which helps in bonding and keeps moms and kids away from depression and dejection.

One relationship which is always with us is the one we share with our mothers. They are our guiding force and are responsible for making us who we are. Mothers also shape our lives and our personalities and crediting them for the same is something one should do at every opportunity. We might have our own individualistic approach in paying tribute to these amazing people in our lives, our mothers.

The best way to celebrate Mother's Day is to wrap her in a warm embrace and be grateful for her presence. If you are distant, you can still reach out and send warm

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(Contd.. from p. 3)

greetings as well placed words reach in heart spaces where nothing else can.

Mother's Day (in real life) looks like pretty much any other day of the year. Because when you're a mom, real life marches on through each and every holiday and occasion. It looks like waking up at the same crack of dawn o'clock as usual. It looks like stepping on Legos in the still-not-picked-up-playroom. It looks like crumbs from last night's dinner (lunch? Breakfast?) still under the kitchen table. It looks like grown-up sons and daughters who forget to call on Mother's Day. It looks like a disagreement with our own moms. It looks like accepting whatever the day throws at us because we still live in real life.

We don't live in the unable-to-be-met-expectations we've built up around one day.

On Mother's Day and beyond, we have the chance to embrace the actual people we've been given in our very real and wonderful lives. To cherish our family and circumstances as the gifts that they are. To release ourselves from the pressure cooker of perfection, and instead chase that which will last eternally.

God gives us opportunities to bless, and to be refined. So next time you're tempted to give into disappointment or to be disheartened because your life doesn't align with the picture in your head, lean into His heart instead. And in doing so, become more like Him.

Let's praise God, from whom all blessings flow – even the sticky, finger-printed, early-rising, crumb-covered, diaper-blowout, forgot-to-call, perfectly imperfect ones. May you have a happy Mother's Day, in all of its real-life glory! Celebrate moms every day. Have fun on Mother's Day.

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## North Korean defector: Despite horrific persecution, Christianity is growing

Washington D.C. :- Although the North Korean government is doing everything it can to suppress Christianity, the faith continues to spread, said a defector and missionary who called for prayers and action to increase religious freedom in the country.

"It is my prayer that all the international Christian communities will pray for those North Korean Christians to really help and engage them to spread the Gospel, not only through the works of the underground Church network, but also through the government and request for this religious freedom that they are earnestly praying for," Kim Chung-seong, a North Korean defector, told reporters through a translator on Friday.

Kim is a Christian missionary, and spoke at the first annual World Summit in Defense of Persecuted Christians in Washington, D.C. The summit was held on May 11-12 and featured Christian religious leaders from Protestant denominations, Orthodox churches, and the Roman Catholic Church. Persecuted Christians themselves were also present to give their testimonies.

Overall, Christians from around 130 countries and territories were represented at the summit, as well as representatives of Christian advocacy groups like Open Doors USA and Voice of the Martyrs. The summit was hosted by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

Along with his radio program, part of the Far East Broadcasting Company, he also helps send Gospel messages, Christian music, and world news smuggled into North Korea through USB drives and SD memory cards, he said.

"However, the most important work is to fill the North Korean peoples' minds with Jesus Christ, because the truth will set you free," he said on Friday. "It's my earnest prayer that the truth will set each of my North Korean brothers and sisters free."

The Communist dictatorship of North Korea is regarded as among the worst human rights violators in the world. "Freedom of religion or belief does not exist and is, in fact, profoundly suppressed," the U.S. Commission on International Re-

ligious Freedom stated in its 2017 annual report.

"The North Korean government relentlessly persecutes and punishes religious believers through arrest, torture, imprisonment, and sometimes execution," US-CIRF stated. "Once imprisoned, religious believers typically are sent to political prison camps where they are treated with extraordinary cruelty."

The group Open Doors UK in a recent report said North Korea is the "worst place on earth for Christians" because the totalitarian state does not tolerate dissenters, forcing everyone to worship the country's leader, currently Kim Jong-un.

There are an estimated 300,000 Christians amidst a population of 25.4 million there, and an estimated 50-75,000 Christians are in the country's labor camps, Open Doors claimed.

Despite poor conditions and the threat of imprisonment, the number of Christian believers in North Korea is growing, Kim said, and their faith is strengthened through persecution.

"The one thing that the North Korean regime fears the most, and is afraid of, is the spreading of the Gospel," he said. "Because the Bible and the Gospel speaks the truth. Once the light shines in the dark room, there is light in the room."

When Christians gather for prayer or worship, "it's on a family level" to avoid detection by authorities, Kim said. Christians leave their houses and "we retreat either to the riverside, the mountainside, somewhere remote."

"We cannot go into any building," he added.

The government uses a "façade" network – the Korea Christian Association – to discover who Christians are in the country, and many "are taught to believe that this Korean Christian Association is real," he said. The association also delivers "falsified information" to the international community to pretend like there is religious freedom and religious pluralism in North Korea.

(CNA/EWTN News)



## Reduce TDS on FDs to 5%

In the budget (FY 2017-2018) presented by Finance Minister Mr Arun Jaitley, the rate of tax for taxable income up to Rs 5 lakhs has been reduced from 10% to 5%. Salaried class have their tax deducted at source by their employers. Senior citizens/retired persons have most of their savings in Fixed Deposits (FDs). Banks deduct 10% on the interest payable on FDs unless the senior citizens fill Form 15 H. This is a tedious procedure for Senior citizens as they have FDs in different banks and every bank has its own Form 15 format.

Since the govt has reduced the rate of tax from 10% to 5% for the first slab which covers most of the retired citizens it is only logical for the govt to accordingly reduce the TDS on FDs from 10% to 5%. In such a scenario majority of senior citizens will not take the trouble of filling Form 15H as the tax deducted will be minimal and refunds are now prompt. Such a move will be a boon for all retired / senior citizens.

—Prof Robert Castellino  
Mumbai

## First Protect Women against Rape and Molestation

Some people worship the cow because it is Lord Krishna's favourite animal. But why don't they worship the fish when it's an incarnation of Lord Vishnu and the rat when it is Lord Ganesha's mount? They are against the killing of cows, but why aren't they against the killing of rats and eating of fish? These *gau rakshaks* (cow vigilantes) are only saving cows from being eaten but not fish from being eaten and rats from being killed. The government of India is only worried about saving cows from being killed and eaten and not bothered about women being molested, raped and killed.

—Jubel D'Cruz,  
Mumbai

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## IVF – Ethical Issues

An insignificant Australian company, Baby Bee Hummingbirds, is taking advantage, by using discarded IVF embryos into keepsake jewelry!

“This is so undignified that it has hit rock-bottom! The solution is to stop creating surplus embryos and freezing them, so that parents aren't left with these ethical dilemmas”, said Dr Jennifer Lahl, founder and president of the California-based Center for Bioethics.

“It loses sight of the fact that children are gifts and blessings from God, and not something that we have a right to do as we please.” However, Lahl stressed the need for compassion for those who have used IVF to treat infertility. We need to understand that infertility is a real grief.”

But she warned: “IVF is fraught with ethical problems, with health risks to the mother, whether surrogate or not, and even to the conceived fetus. Overwhelmingly IVF cycles fail; and typically costs six figures to successfully conceive and bear IVF babies, leaving the failed embryos in limbo!”

Dr Lehl disclosed: “Although, I am not Catholic, I commend the Catholic Church's teaching on these issues which are 'rich and important'! If you really look at the evidence in medical literatures, it will only reinforce the Catholic stand which upholds that the human embryo is a human being right from the moment of conception!”

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

# You The Citizens Decide:

# Are We In The New Post-Truth Era In India?

by Eric D'Sa

**A**fter the recent elections in Unites States of America we were being constantly advised, that we were living in a new age of "post - truth". As a matter of fact it takes time for us to try and grasp the actual meaning of this new term, which is being constantly used to the extent that it has been declared the word of the year 2016, by the Oxford Dictionaries. Post - truth is defined as an adjective relating to the circumstances in which objective facts are less influential in shaping political public opinion than emotional appeals. Though its selection followed last years Brexit and US Presidential election, post- truth was originally coined in 1992. Many will say that we Indians have been living in a post - truth period for sometime now.

The rise of post-truth politics has coincided with polarised political beliefs around many democracy's and especially in India. A latest social research project has found that those with the consistent ideological views on the left and right, have information streams that are distinct from each other. Data is becoming increasingly accessible as new information technologies are introduced to the everyday lives of ordinary citizens. An obsession for data and statistics filters into the political scene and political debates. Political speeches especially by excellent



orators become filled with snippets of information that may be misconstrued, false or not contain the whole picture. Sensationalised instant tv news repeatedly emphasise political grand statements. The situation worsens with the tv channels that have to depend on ads from political parties. This deliberate and constant shaping from the media influences how the public views political issues and politicians.

Social media and the internet adds to an additional dimension, as the close networks that users create can become echo chambers where one political viewpoint dominates and scrutiny of claims fails, allowing a parallel media ecosystem websites, publishers and news channels to develop, which can repeat post - truth claims without rebuttal. In this environment especially which surrounds lots of gullible less educated people, post - truth campaigns can ignore fact checks or dismiss them as being motivated by bias. There is a rapid rise of articles or blogs of dubious factual content with a misleading headline, designed to be widely shared on social media. Chasing down of these free clicks at the expense of accuracy and veracity, is undermining the value of journalism and truth. Unfortunately in our country there are not many fact checking and debunking sites. As the fake news sites that are financially supported by powerful political entities have multiplied, they have opened the sluice gates in the dam, to pour through so

much fake news, that it drowns anything that tries to check it.

The new digital world we live in permits anybody with a computer and access to the internet to post their opinions online and mark them as fact. These then become legitimised as true fact through echo-chambers. Everybody's voice becomes legitimate as fact based on how many views it gets, creating an environment based on click baits that appeals to emotion instead of researched facts. Content that gets more views is continually passed around different internet circles, regardless of its legitimacy. The overwhelming amount of fact available to everybody with a tablet or smart phone on the internet, leads to an attitude focused on knowing the information dished out, instead of an underlying truth or carefully thought out opinion.

At one time we had truth and lies. Now we have truth, lies, and statements that may not be true but we consider too benign to call false. We are economical with the truth, we sweeten it or tell the truth improved. The term deceive gives way to spin. At worst we admit to misspeaking, or exercising poor judgment. Nor do we want to accuse others of lying. We say they're in denial. A liar we say is ethically challenged, someone for whom the truth is temporarily unavailable. This is post-truth. In the post-truth era, borders blur between truth and lies, honesty and dishonesty, fiction and nonfiction. Deceiving others becomes a challenge, a game, and ultimately a habit. Research suggests that the average Indian tells lies on a daily basis. These fibs run the gamut from "I like Japanese sushi," "I respect all women" to "I love you."

What motivates the casual dishonesty that's become pandemic? Why do so many, even those with no ap-

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# Turning On The Green Lights

**(Third part of the trilogy “Seeing Red” and “Orange or Purple Caps”)**

We stop at a traffic signal when the light is red. It then turns to amber (saffron), before the green light gives us the signal to move ahead. I have unwittingly followed this colour sequence in my trilogy on the bishops of U.P. meeting the Chief Minister (CM) of the State. I have been severely critical of that meeting and had expressed the view that if at all such a meeting did have to take place then the laity should have been in the forefront.

Though more than two weeks have elapsed since that clandestine tryst on the 21st April, till the time of writing no information had trickled out on what transpired. Going by past experience I would presume that the bishops would have spoken about the community’s contribution in the areas of health and education. I feel that this is a ratta-pitta dialogue, because the nation is already aware of this. Besides, education today is so competitive and commercialised, that the service element is all but gone. Health definitely remains a major service. My daughter just delivered a baby in Mariampur Hospital, Kanpur, and I can testify that in health services our Christian witness is very powerful because of the amenities provided and the relatively low charges, as compared to private hospitals.

But we need to move on. I have in the past met Presidents, Prime Ministers, Governors etc; but I doubt if I will be bumping into the present CM of U.P. Be that as it may, what would I have chosen to speak about? The BJP Govt and its cadres indulge in what I would call pseudo-nationalism. Daring people to chant “Bharat Mata ki Jai” or “Vande Matram” is not nationalism.

Nor is the hysterical cry to cut off the heads of 100 Pakistani soldiers, to avenge the beheading of two Indian ones.

TV anchors cleverly steer a debate in the direction that they have pre-determined. Skilled negotiators, even in a hostage crisis, know how to change the course of an interaction. I may



not meet the CM, but I do interact with all sections of society, and I have learnt the art of steering a discussion. When the pseudo-nationalists talk of war against Pakistan I just ask them a simple question, “Is your son in the army? If not, do not make a sacrifice of somebody else’s son”. This invariably silences them.

The present CM is on record for even having questioned Mother Teresa’s motives in the work that she did for the poor. So our claims of “services to the nation” would not cut much ice



by chhotebhai \*

with him.

When we are accused of “conversions” I quote the Census of India statistics. When Narendra Mohan, the late editor of the Dainik Jagran, who was also a BJP MP, was spewing venom I met him for an hour. Other than the Census figures I also showed him the Vatican II document “Decree on the Missionary Activity of the Church”, that clearly forbids fraudulent or forced conversions. It states, “The Church strictly forbids forcing anyone to embrace the faith, or alluring or enticing people by unworthy techniques ... a convert’s motives should be looked into, and if necessary, purified” (AG 13). As I was speaking his face fell, because I had neutralised his subjective opinion with objective truth. So what should we talk about when confronted by the pseudo-nationalists of today? I would choose to talk about our contribution to the Defence Services and Public Life.

We take pride in supercop Julio Ribeiro, then Director General of Police (DGP), Punjab. He was not the only one. At that time Colaco held the same

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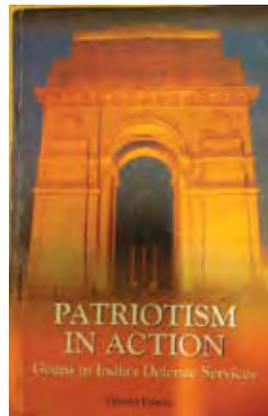
post in J&K and Saldanha (I hope my memory serves me right) was in Karnataka. Today when Kashmir is burning and a bye-election couldn't be held for security reasons, we should recall the tenure of James Michael Lyngdoh as Chief Election Commissioner, when there was the highest voter turnout in Kashmir.

Nehru chose RCVP Noronha IAS of the M.P. cadre to be the Chief Civil Administrator of Goa after its liberation in 1961. He was assisted by Alban Couto IAS of the Bihar cadre. When Noronha became the Chief Secretary of M.P. he still rode around on a scooter. The administrative training institute in Bhopal is named after him. Indira Gandhi chose A.L. Dias ICS to be the Governor of West Bengal when it was in a state of flux. At the time John Lobo was the Director of the CBI. Purno Sangma was the Speaker of the Lok Sabha during A.B. Vajpayee's tenure as PM. If we think that this is all old hat we need to be told that the present Chairperson of the Union Public Service Commission is David Syiemlieh from Meghalaya, and Anthony Lianzuala of Mizoram has just taken over as the Controller General of Accounts. How dare anybody allege that "missionaries" in the North East are fomenting trouble, when so many of its illustrious sons and daughters are holding high office in the Govt?

When the pseudo-nationalists talk of our ancient culture they need to be reminded that their much despised "foreign missionaries" were in the forefront of promoting Indian languages, their grammar and dictionaries. I will here draw on the book "The Christian Community and the National Mainstream" by Dr Louis D'silva, Dept of Political Studies, Bombay University. He says that Nehru credited the early Christian missionaries, especially the Baptist mission of Serampore for being pioneers in printing in native languages (pg 59). His daughter Indira Gandhi, while speaking of Padmab-

hushan Dr Camille Bulcke SJ (1909 – 1982) said that "He became one of the foremost authorities on the Ramayana and interpreted Tulsidas with rare insight" (pg 73). Such eloquent testimonies cannot be brushed aside.

Even in an area like sports we have seen how the evergreen Leander Paes rose to dizzying heights when representing the country. From their names many would not know that other sporting icons like Vijay Amritraj and Vijay Hazare are also from the



Christian community.

But if there is one area where Christians have excelled in inverse proportion to their numbers, it is in the Defence Services. It is a story that needs to be told, to silence any critics who may dare to call Christians anti-national. We have had two Defence Ministers, both respected for their simplicity and integrity, in George Fernandes and A.K. Antony. But it is the men in uniform that truly make us proud. Here again I will be drawing extensively from D'silva's book, particularly the section written by Maj Gen Eustace de Souza PVSM (Retd); as also another interesting book "Patriotism in Action – Goans in India's Defence Services" by Valmiki Faleiro.

The community has produced no less than 6 Chiefs of Staff – Admirals R.S. Pereira PVSM, AVSM, O.S. Dawson PVSM, AVSM and Isaac Sushil Kumar for the Navy; Air Chief Marshals D.A. La Fontaine PVSM, AVSM, VM and N.A.K. Browne for the Air Force; and

General S.F. Rodrigues PVSM, VSM, ADC of the Army.

The tiny State of Goa is better known for its Feni, Football, Fernandes and Foreign tourists. Add another F – Fighters! In the introduction to Faleiro's book Gen Rodrigues proudly states that "The Goan contribution to the officer ranks was the highest per capita in the country". Faleiro adds that before the Liberation of Goa in 1961, the Goans that had joined the Defence Services were expatriates living in different parts of India. In fact in the 1961 operation 7 of the 8 Goan officers involved were Catholics. Does one require any further proof of where our loyalties lie?

How many of us know that two brave Christian pilots, at different times, saved the lives of two Prime Ministers? Sqn Ldr Reggie Rufus crash landed his Dakota in a paddy field near Coimbatore to save Nehru. Wg Cmdr Clarence D'lima did the same with his TU 124 in Jorhat, Assam, to save Morarji Desai. But he had to choose between a nose landing that would kill him, and a tail landing that would endanger the Prime Minister. He chose the former, true brave heart and martyr.

Let's go back to when India gained Independence. The first Gallantry Awards were conferred in 1950. The very first Mahavir Chakra (MVC) went to Sqn Ldr Sidney Noronha (posthumously). Thirteen Christians from the IAF alone were awarded Vir Chakras (VrC). Of them, Air Cmdre Anthony Soares had the rare distinction of winning it again in 1961. Most of the dare devil pilots of that era were Anglo Indians.

I could not glean much information on the 1965 war. From the IAF website I found that Wg Cmdr William Goodman won the MVC, Gp Cpt George John got the PVSM, and the Keelor brother Sqn Ldrs Trevor and Denzil,

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## Catholic weekly celebrates 90th anniversary

Korea: The Catholic Times of Korea, founded by young lay Catholics in 1927, pledged to keep elucidating the teachings of Christ, at its 90th anniversary celebration.

The newspaper held the celebration at Myeongdong Cathedral in Seoul on April 27. It featured a Mass and a function for long-time subscribers, benefactors and supporters as well as Korean bishops including Cardinal Andrew Yeom Soo-jung of Seoul, Archbishops Hyginus Kim Hee-joong of Kwang and Thaddeus Cho Hwan-kil of Daegu.

In his homily, Archbishop Cho of Daegu asked the weekly to "continue transmitting truth, caring for the poor and alienated and helping Catholics look at society with the eyes of Christ."

## Mother's day 2017: Over 17,000 women behind bars across Turkey, many with children

Istanbul : - As Turkey celebrated the Mother's day on Sunday, more than 17,000 women, many of them with babies, have been deprived of enjoying the day as they are obliged to spend it in prisons across Turkey. A number increased in recent months, in the wake of a repression campaign launched by the authorities.

According to Turkeypurge, website documenting arrests and repression, especially after a coup attempt on July 15, prisons in Turkey turned into a hub for Turkish women, as the government adopted a policy of imprisoning those who, in some cases, have just given

birth or are pregnant.

In several cases, women were detained in the hospital immediately after the delivery of her baby and before they had a chance to recover. Many women were jailed as they were visiting their imprisoned husbands, leaving the children stranded in the ensuing chaos.

Since July 2016, Turkish authorities have arrested more than 45,000 people, including teachers, soldiers, intellectuals, opposition politicians, businessmen, journalists, activists and ordinary citizens. More than 135,000 public servants have been either suspended or dismissed.

The crackdown is aimed at Kurds, and sympathisers (real or assumed) of the movement led by Islamic preacher Fethullah Gülen, who lives in exile in Pennsylvania, US.

## Karjat, Over 3,000 Catholics celebrate Fatima's centenary

Around 3,000 people, Catholics and of other religious confessions, crowded the celebrations for the centenary of the apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima in the sanctuary of Karjat in Maharashtra, the first to be dedicated to the Virgin of the Rosary in Asia.

Marking the occasion, Card. Oswald Gracias, Archbishop of Mumbai, consecrated and blessed the new altar of the church. The cardinal also renewed the act of consecration of the archdiocese to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. He told the crowd: "Let us live the message of Fatima. Pray for peace and make sacrifices emphasizing the power of prayer."

The celebrations took place on May 13, at the same time as the canonization in Fatima of the two little shep-

herds Francisco and Jacinta Marto. The faithful came to the sanctuary from early dawn, despite the start of Mass being scheduled for 10:30 in the morning.

Speaking in front of the devotees of Our Lady, whose worship is increasingly widespread among non-Christians, the cardinal said: "At Fatima the Blessed Virgin spoke of World Wars continue today, with different forms and dangers, turmoil, upheaval and violence all over the world. Wars are also in our personal lives, in the struggle between good and evil." For this, he stressed, "It is important to pray, pray for peace".

According to Card. Gracias, "in families there is a growing need to pray." So he invited everyone to "pray the Rosary in families, praying for peace in our homes, in family relationships and in the world."

During the liturgy, the Archbishop of Mumbai blessed the new altar of the sanctuary, sprinkling holy water and crism oil. Fr. Callistus Fernandes, rector of the sanctuary, reports that at the end of the celebration "all pilgrims lunched together. In the afternoon, Eucharistic adoration and family consecration followed."

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# India's women theologians reflect on politics of Kin-dom

**Pune:** The members of the Indian Women Theologians Forum met in Pune April 21-24 and deliberated on the theme: The Politics of the Reign/"Kin-dom" of God in the Indian Context: A Feminist Theological Search.

Here are the relevant portions of their statement.

We based our reflections on the notion of "Kin-dom" popularised by mujerista theologian Ada Maria Isasi-Diaz, as it reminds us that we are all kin to each other in the family of God.

Understanding the 'Reign of God' as Kin-dom has special significance in the Indian context as it serves to challenge the hierarchical implications of domination and power associated with the term 'Kingdom', which is an expression with patriarchal overtones.

Enacting the foot washing ritual Jesus instituted as the exemplar of service and subversion of existing hierarchies, was a spiritual experience of bonding, reconciliation and an invitation to constant transformation. Conducted at the start of our meeting, this ritual offered us an occasion also to connect to the community of some of the tribes in North East India for whom foot-washing is a gesture of purification and connectedness. It was an exercise that motivated us to assert that we are Church and to commit ourselves to the Kin-dom of God that welcomes with humility and loving care, the least and the last.

Our sharing on the lived experiences of the 'Kin-dom' of God in our personal lives brought out the different facets of the Reign of God in the context of India. It was an invitation to engage consciously in the politics of inclusion against the backdrop of the practices of exclusion, as exercised by the mainstream systems of power including that of religions.

Our reflections were based on a series of papers presented on the changing Indian scenario where economic and social inequalities are growing, and hyper-nationalism and communalism are surreptitiously being mainstreamed through the shrinking of democratic spaces and the tacit complicity of those in power.

We observe the deliberate attempt in the global political economy to institutionalize exclusion by focusing on growth and the supremacy of the market, and using religion to polarize people. The irreparable damage inflicted on the environment, led by the greed

for profit, forces displacement of masses of people.

It destroys particularly the livelihood and the cultural practices of the Adivasis/tribal communities who live in harmony with nature. This has increasingly led to the feminization of migration, exploitation of labour and increased vulnerability of the poor.

We problematized the concept of 'kin' in the Indian context as the caste system in our society is a hierarchy that is defined by one's family identity.

Ethnicity and religion also create barriers to kinship. Within the family itself, traditional kinship relations are marked by discrimination on the basis of gender. While we reaffirm the need for kin-ship, and interdependence even with nature as a responsibility beyond self interest, we also affirm that Jesus' call to "Kingdom" is universal and inclusive.

Being subversive of hierarchy it challenges exclusive sectarian practices and oppressive traditions. In using loving, humble

service as the key to the Kingdom, Jesus binds humans to each other and the cosmos in interdependence and responsibility to the well being of all. In this context, we feel called to push with prophetic courage the existing boundaries of divisions and discriminations that mark our society and Church, in the name of blind adherence to tradition.

We see the Kin-dom as a gift and a task; a home coming of Sophia, a new wisdom that awakens us to be and become a transforming presence. The Kin-dom is at work in all social movements and various individual and collective initiatives that counter marginalization, discrimination, exploitation and exclusion – of people of minority faiths and genders, ethnicities, and caste hierarchies. We also acknowledge the liberative politics of the Kin-dom being enabled in the several initiatives that demonstrate alternate ways of enhancing sustainable development while preserving God's creation.

(Contd.. from p. 6)

parent need to do so, feel a need to embellish their personal history? This question arises every time prominent figures are unmasked as fabulists. Branches are grafted onto their family trees to give it colour. Unearned degrees show up on their resumes. Purchased medals appear on their chests. We can only understand the motives of such dissemblers by examining the sea in which they swim. Trends ranging from the postmodern disdain for "truth" to therapeutic non-judgment encourage deception. There is much incentive and little penalty for improving the "narrative" of one's life.

So we now live in a world of 'Ache Din' that has arrived. It is a world where we are governed by 'Sabkha sath, Sabkha Vikas.' There must be something wrong with you, if you doubt it. The Note bandhi has unearthed the black money hidden in closets of the rich that are so large that they are still being counted before being announced. The nation is proud of the guys who like silent lambs stood for hours in

long queues for their own money. We need more of these guys to succeed as a nation. We will give back more of their money during next election. Though millions lost their temporary jobs, it was worth to be part of this digital new world. No worry even if there was no money in the new bank accounts to buy food. The bank accounts give us hope of that Ache Din, when the countries stolen money in Swiss banks, will flow into these new accounts. The naxalites are from other planets and 95% of Kashmiris love India but are misled by these stone throwing girls. We need to get these girls back into their burkas where they belong.

Post-truth is building a fragile social edifice based on false truths and wariness to find the truth. It erodes the foundation of trust in what we read, which is the bases of any healthy civilization. When enough of us without a thought peddle fantasy as fact, society loses its grounding in reality. Society would start to crumble altogether if we assumed others are likely to do the same without guilt. Are we in India nearing that stage?

## The future of AAP

Arvind Kejriwal has put himself in a position from where it might be a little difficult for him to retrieve the lost ground. He came into limelight post the Anna Hazare wave and quickly capitalized on that to enter into politics – something he dreaded to tread. Politics was a “No-No” thing for him as he saw all politicians as roots of all evil in the country and there was no way he could jump on that bandwagon. Everybody applauded his humility. He is a man they said who is not after power and that his sole motive was to ‘deliver’ the common man from all evil. What a noble mission he had embarked upon with Anna as a Guru though the Guru who has seen more of Indian politics [from far] was not very comfortable with his chela plunging into the world of politics. In November 2012 he formed his party promising clean politics.

To everybody’s surprise Kejriwal’s entry into politics was one of envy for any politician. He swept Delhi winning 67 out of 70 seats which floored the BJP completely. Then came the general elections and Kejriwal saw himself as a potential Prime Minister of India instead of concentrating on building his nascent organization. He could have travelled extensively and canvass for the AAP candidates in Delhi and Punjab. He made the cardinal mistake of assuming that Delhi would be a cakewalk while giving some time for Punjab candidates. The biggest mistake of his life was the decision to take on Narendra Modi with disastrous results. All seven seats went to the BJP and AAP drew a blank in Delhi with a face saving four in Punjab. This debacle should have made Kejriwal put on his thinking cap and embark on course correction.

Soon there were internal fissures within the party with some of the top AAP leaders either deserting the party or were summarily expelled. Leader after leader began to realize that there was a perceptible change in the attitude and ambitions of their supreme leader. Allegations of arrogance and highhandedness surfaced. There was a feeling amongst the leaders that the values and principles enunciated by their mentor Annaji were being compromised. Leader after leader deserted Kejriwal and he was left with a small coterie around him which guides the affairs of the party. This lot alienated the dedicated workers of the party. The downslide had already started and the recent Punjab and Goa assembly elections brought home some truth about the party. With Goa rejecting the party completely, it earned a consolation prize

## IEWS on NEWS

in Punjab.

His running feud with the BJP and the LG of Delhi did not bring any credit to the AAP. The Public keeps watching you all the time and they draw their own conclusions which manifest in the results of elections that are held from time to time. Congress ruled Delhi with BJP at the Centre but they handled their differences with maturity and reasonableness. Despite anti-incumbency factor in the MCD elections, the BJP routed the AAP and the Congress put together. He continues on his collision with the Centre, LG, and also the EC over the EVM controversy.

*With allegations of nepotism, bribery and money laundering in the name of donations etc coming not only from his detractors but also from his own party members, the future is very bleak for Kejriwal. Every dissenting voice is met with expulsion from the party. It is disintegrating and it may not be too long before Kejriwal becomes part of history. His mentor Annaji has time and again berated him for deviating from the path which brought him into limelight. He also accused him of capitalizing on Annaji’s image and stature. With latest serious allegations from one of his sacked ministers, Annaji has categorically stated that should the allegations be proved to be true, he will lead the protest for Kejriwal’s ouster - a big body blow for the chela. For the sake of power he has strayed from the principles and values of this great social crusader.*

\*\*\*\*\*

## Senior Citizens

A letter purported to have been addressed to the PM Narendra Modi is making rounds in the social media. The appeal, inter alia, implores the Prime Minister to pay attention to the dire needs of this category of citizens. A number of demands have been placed before the Prime Minister which includes tax benefits, higher interest rate on deposits, exemption from filing returns with no taxable income, subsidized medicines etc.

This country is proud of its heritage including the oft-repeated ‘sanskruti’ [well, that is another topic which I would like to cover some day] in which we pay our respects to the elders – some touch their feet while others seek their blessings. The government at some point showed concern and brought about a legislation making it incumbent on the children to look after their parents – move which was applauded by the elders. The parents bring up their children; some with ease while a



by Marshall Sequeira

majority of them at great personal sacrifices. The government therefore realized that the children must in turn reciprocate in difficult times in their old age. Unfortunately, in many cases, children who are doing well do not take care of their aged parents and leave them to fend for themselves. NOGs and Good Samaritans step in to help such deserted persons.

If a son has a duty towards his parents, a nation too has some obligation towards its own senior citizens who undoubtedly have contributed to the nation. Some have contributed directly by way of income tax while others may have contributed in kind. They all have paid the service tax, excise duties and all that goes into the government coffers. What has the government done for this lot? A few peanuts in the form of higher tax exemption limit, is not enough. Nor some concession in travel is sufficient. Even a poor country like Mauritius pays a fixed amount to every citizen who is 60 years of age. Places like Canada too pay handsome amount even to those who have migrated to that country after some time. In some countries travel is free while some charge a nominal sum for full day’s travel. The government needs to wake up and think.

*The Senior Citizens in India need substantial relief. Firstly, there must be some provision for old age pension. There is a need for higher tax exemption. Rs 3 lacs is too meager and can be increased to Rs 5 lacs. Extending this benefit to those over 80 is laughable. How many survive that long. Even if they do they may not be earning at that age unless they belong to business families. This lot [Seniors] is not a dying species but one that grows continuously thanks to the progress made in medical science but the cost of medicines is prohibitive. Cheaper medicines with sufficient safeguards will go a long way. All ordinary senior citizens need relief. Politicians do not have to bother. Most of them earn [sorry accumulate] enough to feed generations. Besides, all over the world, politicians do not have any retirement age. We, lesser mortals, have a limited shelf life.*

# Teach your kids to have a

## Fearless Mindset

Today's kids are growing up in a time of exhilarating change, an era in which they face more opportunities and challenges at the same time than any group before them. They need a courageous spirit to adjust to the surefire changes that come along with growing up. Read on to learn how to help them navigate the road before them by being fearless

world, fear often tends to be out of proportion to risk and can prevent us from achieving as much as we would like and are capable of. Here are a few ways to help your kids develop a fearless mind-set and overcome the fears that are holding them back

### Let them learn to acknowledge the fear

Simply telling your child to not be afraid or to stop being silly, isn't an effective way to help them deal with it. You need to acknowledge it properly. Whatever you might think about the fear, it's very real to them and they need to know that you get that. Give them the opportunity to talk about it, show that you really understand. The fear needs to be acknowledged first before you can help them to move on from it.



**A**s a parent, you want your kids to grow up to be confident, happy and successful adults, able to face the world head-on and make the most of every opportunity. However, in our modern

### Tell them that failure is an option

Society places such pressure on everyone not to fail; we can easily forget that failure is often a key part of the learning process. Most of the greatest inventions in history were

(Contd.. from p. 12)

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the result of a long series of failed attempts before the final successful one was achieved. Don't let fear of failure hold your kids back, let them know that it's okay to fail sometimes, show them how they can learn from it in order to do better next time.

**Remind them that they're not alone**

Probably the most important one is to remind them regularly that they don't have to face their fears alone. If they feel secure in the knowledge that you will be there for them whatever the outcome, this will grow their fearless mindset and help give them the confidence to move forward.

**Help them identify the actual fear:**

Often when people express a fear, they're actually talking about something that is a step away from the fear itself - if someone says they're afraid of flying, they're probably not actually afraid of flying, they're afraid of crashing. An important step in overcoming a fear is to clearly pinpoint what the actual fear is, so help them to do this and then work together to address it.

**Having a fearless mindset serves children well in all they do-not only in schoolwork and extra-curricular activities-but also in leading a fulfilling and purposeful life.**

**Show them the varied benefits:**

Sometimes a child can be so focused on the fear that they can't see beyond it. Talk through the benefits of overcoming the fear with them, what they will gain, what it might lead on to. Ask them questions to encourage them to think of what the positive outcomes might be rather than just telling them.

Remind them of previous times they overcame a fear: Reminding your child of a previous occasion where they were afraid to try something but ended up enjoying it, can give them a little boost of confidence in their own abilities.

**Let them face fear in small steps:** Be guided by your child on this, if the fear

is overwhelming for them, then show them how it can be approached in small stages, only moving on to the next stage when a certain comfort level is reached. Plan the stages with them ahead of time so that they are clear on what is going to happen and don't spring surprises on them or they won't trust you next time.

**The six-step fearless parenting model**

1. Identify underlying reasons for fear
2. Cultivate a healthy capacity to trust
3. Model trust in God
4. Point out real life role models
5. Foster and encourage your child's unique gifts
6. Provide opportunities for success

Be strong, be fearless, be beautiful, And believe that anything is possible when you have the right people there to support you.

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# Focus on Practical Learning

Practical education is way more interactive than theoretical. It does not involve just teaching and lecturing, irrespective of whether the student is able to understand the concepts or not



out speaking that language at all and you will see no progress. But start using that language and try conversing with other people and you'll see the change. You will see improvement. So just sitting in a corner with a book or listening to a lecture has no practice involved unless the theoretical teaching is converted into practical activities.

**T**heory education usually employs teachers who teach in a plain manner or books which

may or may not include interactive exercises. Whereas in practical works, inputs from your side are not just invited but are also necessary. Interactive sessions, experiments, interactive exercises, are important features of practical education which ensure your involvement, making you learn and understand more. It does not require mugging up.

**Improves skills:** Training and exercise are meant to improve your skills which cannot be obtained by just theoretical knowledge. Theory can provide one with oodles of expertise and proficiency but it can never deliver those kinds of results and improved skills that you can get from practical education. Again, reading a chapter of engineering won't help, doing experiments will surely do and will improve your engineering skills.

## THANKSGIVING



*May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, Adored, Glorified and loved today and everyday throughout the world now and forever. Amen!!*

*Ask St. Clare for 3 favours, 2 impossible, and say nine Hail Mary's and the above prayer for nine days with a lighted candle and publish on the 9th day your request will be granted no matter how impossible it is*

*—Theodore D'Souza*

### **Knowledge retains in your mind:**

When you are cramming a lesson for a test, your brain tends to remember it for a short while which can be shorter than the duration of your test thus not serving that purpose also because your brain forgets it easily. You try too hard to learn a theorem or an experiments, real life projects or educational trips, the knowledge and the whole learning experience stays in your mind for long.

### **Develops a better Understanding:**

just by reading about a phenomenon or a lesson, it cannot get straight to your mind even though it may be explained in the best manner. You actually got to see it happening in front of your eyes and not by hearing it in somebody else's words. Practical knowledge can help a lot over here because it is all there. Be it understanding the phenomenon of physics or dwelling in literature.

### **Includes practice:**

Reading a lesson over and over again can be of little help. But performing activities or experiments based on it involves practice and you have heard it right, "Practice makes a man perfect". Go on reading a guide book for a new language with-

**It is more interesting:** Field trips, projects, experiments, don't they interest you more than books, assignments and lectures? Surely they do because they are so much more interesting and engrossing than reading your regular bookish material. I manage to survive through a one hour long chemistry class but give me an experiment and I can stay busy in it for hours. Ask geography students to learn the climatic conditions of a hill station or organize a trip for them actually taking them to that hill station. They will be surely interested more in the trip. As it is a better way of learning.

- Theory provides the groundwork for learning about a concept but, you have to actually see the concept in play to completely understand it.
- Incorporating practical skills into your studies is proven to help you learn better, gain a better understanding of the workforce.
- Aside from improving learning, practical training helps you acquire specific techniques.

# The Spirit Within Us Is The Breath Of God



BY MELVYN BROWN

**T**he Holy Spirit has been an important part of the Christian Faith throughout Church history. From the moment Jesus was baptized by John, the Holy Spirit is received by all baptized Christians. It is the source of our spiritual comfort, wisdom, strength and inspiration.

This is the sixth Sunday of Easter and Psalm 65 tells us to 'Cry out with joy to God, and all the earth'. Rejoice, for today we celebrate with devotion and praise the Risen Lord, to be remembered and acknowledged as the promised Messiah the Christ, Son of God in unity with the Holy Spirit One God.

The gift of the Holy Spirit is a sacred symbol. He gives us the breath of God and stays with us, willing to help, as well as to console, encourage and lead us to righteousness.

Jesus gave his apostles and disciples the assurance that they would not be deserted for he had given them eternal life. Christians are connected to Christ through baptism and the Holy Spirit. The Lord is our support system, we are never alone.

The Gospel of John makes the commandment of Christ very clear to every Christian: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Counselor, to be with you forever...you know him for he dwells with you, and will be in you..." (Jn.14:15-21).

The Spirit within us is the breath of God. When the early Christians suffered they believed this and it helped to make their faith strong, regardless of persecution. With courage, hope and trust the early followers lived in populated places among people of

many races and beliefs. Regardless, the faithful increased in numbers as fruits of the paschal sacrament. They abided by the commandments of Jesus with the Spirit of God within.

Jesus gives us the gift of the Holy Spirit, which enables us to often stimulate a positive reaction to sin, hate and violence with the buffer of peace, prayer, forgiveness and penance. Our reward and happiness is that our body is the temple of God, and He lives in us.

According to St. Thomas, human virtue is a workable habit leading a person to radiate good performance. The Trinity of Father, Son and the Holy Spirit draws us into this unique mystery – making it possible through the

Holy Spirit bestowing the breath of God in us. (1-2,q55,a2and3).

The Apostles Peter and John were preaching at Jerusalem when they heard of the great work Philip was doing preaching in Samaria, bringing Christ to many souls. So, both the Apostles went to meet Philip who had earlier been chosen to be a deacon for charitable works.

On reaching Samaria the apostles gathered together those who had been baptized and laid hands on them. From trial and depth of logic the truth revealed that the Messiah, his life, death and resurrection was a unique experience and truly the mother of all honest belief. The Spirit within us is the breath of God without doubt.

The Ambassadors For Jesus (Calcutta Chapter) have a unique campaign called Baptism Day. Their AFJ founder initiated this effort to celebrate every year the Day of your baptism.

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

"Our Baptism Day commemorates our rebirth as children of God." – Melvyn Brown.

"it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me." Saint Ambrose.

Maria was born on the 16th June and she was baptized on the 27th of July. (This is an example. You will find the day on your Baptism certificate.)

## 6th Week of Easter

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# Mangaluru ordains 3 sons-of-the-soil to the Redemptorist order



by **Ivan Saldanha-Shet**

mitment and with special prayers, called upon the Holy Spirit to fill them with graces. In his exhortation taking the recent words of Pope Francis to the clergy said that the priest must be a Good Sheppard in all manner and "imbibe the smell of the Sheep" to be in all the right spirit a good priest of the people. The bishop was particularly grateful, to the parents of the newly ordained for gifting their dear sons to the service of the Lord. The holy mass celebrated and the new priests giving their first blessings the church ceremony ended on a note of joy for all.

supplementary mission to motivate and train the young aspirants. Surely as expressed by many hopefully this trend will grow. Indeed May 8, 2017 will be a red letter day here for the Redemptorists too.

The entire congregation then moved to the venue of the felicitation on the right open space of the church; After a dance by children giving glory to God for His goodness, the 3 new Redemptorists with their parents, the provincial, the parish priest Rev. Dr. Pius Fidelis Pinto a historian and expert on Kanara Catholics with several books to his credit and the key Redemptorist priest of Alangar instrumental in cloaking the three new Redemptorists from their very school days in the mid 2000s and one person who has been a father figure to the youth and their families, Fr. Eugene D'Silva CSsR garced the dais. The felicitation was ably conducted by the youthful Redemptorist priest to be given care of the first parish of the Redemptorists in the Mangalore diocese, Fr. Rakesh Mathias CSsR. It was heartening to note that Fr. Roshan Rosario Ofm. cap, elder brother of Fr. Ritesh was instrumental in many ways and his enthusiasm was sublime to behold. The vice provincial Fr. Ivel gave a soul stirring appreciation and exhortation to the priests, as their mentor and professor he made a superb impact all these years. He said that the 'R' here is for the Supreme Redeemer, these too have to follow in His footsteps to Redeem.....surprisingly he said that their names all start with the letter 'R' too. Truly all present could not help but note that the well trained Redemptorists were extremely good speakers and articulates and their oratory

The focus of the day was on the three serene, serious, smiling deacons who were committing themselves to the Holy Redeemer the Christ, to be an image of His, for Good Shepherding in the modern times. Dn. Ritesh Rosario CSsR, last child (of 10) of Baptist and Sophia of St Francis Xavier Church, Ferar; Dn. Rohan Dias CSsR, last child of Dominic and late Nathalia Dias of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Nakre; and Dn Ravi Richard Fernandes CSsR, last son of Raphael and Jascinta Fernandes of Infant Jesus Church, Vamadapadav. Ordination, is indeed a matter of great joy and celebration; the church venue in nature blessed hills, was full to capacity,

It is indeed God's grace that in Mangaluru, 3 'sons-of-the-soil' who have been preparing for more than ten years were joyfully conferred ordination by Bishop of Mangalore Rev. Dr. Aloysius P D'Souza, with over a 100 priests con-celebrating, many nuns and an unprecedented congregation at Ferrar not far from the city. It is note worthy that a good number of the Redemptorists from Bangalore, Mumbai and so on were present. It is likely that the new crop of smart Redemptorists will launch their redeeming mission in Mumbai.

The rare honour for St. Francis Xavier Church Ferar, a cradle of Christianity and vocations is a blessing. At this Ferrar church this is the 3rd such occasion in its 104 year old history, the last ordination here was 40 years ago. On this joyous note the religious order of Redemptorists gain on this occasion these new priests for their preaching mission a divine gesture to be proud of. It must be lauded that these candidates are the first locally picked over ten years ago and set on course from Alangar and its Rector Rev Fr. Eugene D'Silva CSsR, who has made it his

At the start, Vice Provincial of the Redemptorists Rev Fr. Ivel Mendanha made a solemn declaration to the Bishop and community on the tested suitability for the priesthood of the three candidates present with their families, on the call of the Bishop the candidates stepped forward and accepted the call of Christ; the Bishop exhorted them on their premier role in the church, he examined their com-

(Contd.. on p. 17)

# Mary's call - To Consecrate the Family for Peace



by Don Aguiar

**T**he Centenary Celebration of Fatima Apparition will be held on 13th May 2017 at the shrine of Our Lady of Fa-

(Contd.. from p. 16)

skills are always looked up to by the people specially to bring God's message. The new priests in unison say, "I am the Good Shepherd...I lay down my life for the sheep", quoting the bible. God leaves nothing to chance 'All is His detailed design'

Brief on Redemptorists : On November 9, 1732, St. Alphonsus founded the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer, popularly known as the Redemptorists, in order to follow the example of Jesus Christ announcing the Good News to the poor and the most abandoned. From that time on, he gave himself entirely to this new mission. Today more than 5000 Redemptorist priests are carrying out the mission of Jesus in more than 75 countries. Inspired by their founder St. Alphonsus, they preach the good news to the poor and the most abandoned. Rev. Fr. Michael Brehl CSsR, is the present Superior General. In India, the Redemptorists have 2 provinces (Bangalore and Kerala) and a vice-province. The vice-province of Majella, covers the coastal areas of Mumbai, Goa, Gujarat and Mangalore. At Alangar, Moodbidri they have their community called 'Nithyadar Nivas.'

tima, Karjat and the focus is in the triumph of Mary's immaculate heart prophesied at Fatima, Mary calls for the sanctification of family life as an important part of the message and devotion. This is a call for each of us to conform our families more to God's plan for family life, which is portrayed by the faith, hope, and charity of the Holy Family. A true and full living the Sacrament of Marriage is mirroring the Holy Family: a miniature Kingdom of Heaven on earth. By learning how to increase our own charity towards our family through the Fatima message, not only will our hope for the glory of Heaven increase but family life will be renewed.

The first was the apparition of the Holy Family: Our Lady, and the Child Jesus in the arms of St Joseph, blessing the people.

In times such as the present, when the family often seems misunderstood in the form in which it was established by God, and is assailed by doctrines that are erroneous and contrary to the purposes for which the divine Creator instituted it, surely God wished to address to us a reminder of the purpose for which He established the family in the world?

God entrusted to the family the sacred mission of co-operating with Him in the work of creation. This decision to associate his poor creatures with his creative work is a great demonstration of the fatherly goodness of God. It is

as if He were making them sharers in His creative power; making use of his children in order to bring forth new lives, which will flower on earth but be destined for Heaven.

Thus the divine Creator wished to entrust to the family a sacred mission that makes two beings become one in a union so close that it does not admit of separation. It is from this union that God wishes to produce other beings, as He generates flowers and fruit from the plants.

A home must be like a garden, where fresh rosebuds are opening, bringing to the world the freshness of innocence, a pure and trusting outlook on life, and the smile of innocent happy children. Only thus does God take pleasure in his creative work, blessing it and turning his fatherly gaze upon it. Any other way of behaving is to divert the work of God from its end, to alter the plans of God, failing to fulfill and carry out the mission that God has entrusted to the married couple.

Hence, in the Message of Fatima, God calls on us to turn our eyes to the Holy Family of Nazareth, into which He chose to be born, and to grow in grace and stature, in order to present to us a model to imitate, as our footsteps tread the path of our pilgrimage to Heaven.

Yes, firm in faith, in hope and in charity, we must all struggle to achieve victory over evil, and attain the peace, joy and blessedness of the house of our Father who is God; and we, all together, form his family.

Let us resist the temptation of being attached to a glorious past; let's all be team players in order to better respond to the new communication challenges posed by culture today without fear and without foreseeing apocalyptic scenarios

In the world today, there is much confusion and chaos - ISIS, Syrian war in the Middle East. Migrant crisis and economic uncertainty in Europe.

(Contd.. on p. 22)

# Prayers for peace at Mumbai's Fatima Shrine

Mumbai: Asia's first shrine dedicated to Our Lady of Fatima will hold special celebrations on May 13 to mark the centenary of the apparitions of Mary which took place in 1917 in the Portuguese town, with an emphasis on prayers for peace.

Cardinal Oswald Gracias of Bombay will celebrate Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church in Karjat near Mumbai on May 13. The Archbishop will also bless a new altar extension.

"The Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima at Karjat was built in the year 1935, and houses the statue of Our Lady of Fatima brought from Portugal in the year 1920, years before the approval [of the Fatima apparitions] in 1930 by the Holy See," said Father Calistus Fernandes, the rector of the Shrine. "It stands as Asia's first Shrine dedicated to Our Lady of Fatima."

Cardinal Gracias is studying a proposal to give the shrine a more official status, naming it the 'Archdiocesan Shrine of Fatima.'

"This shrine is envisioned as a place for 'peace' and a house of prayer, which is the need of the hour," said Fr Fernandes.

The priest said Our Lady of Fatima is so popular because her message "is so simple, but loaded with tremendous power. "Her message was a call to achieve peace through mercy," the rector explained.

In addition to serving the thousands of pilgrims who come to the shrine every year, Fr Fernandes is also pastor to the small

Catholic population, which consists of about 40 families.

"It is with great joy that our local people embraced this centenary," the priest said. "The shrine of Fatima at Karjat is placed in the midst of a non-Christian locality."

He said that although the non-Christian population does not know about the specifics of the Fatima events, "they are aware something important is happening on May 13," and see that it is different than the usual celebrations the shrine hosts on the 13th day of every month, which he says draws interest because they are conducted in the local language.

"There is a special affiliation that has built because of the Fatima devotion among the people," Fr Fernandes said, adding many non-Christians participate in the monthly Fatima devotion. "Importantly, non-Christians have welcomed this devotion and this devotion has helped in interfaith relations," he said.

Fr Fernandes said his small parish has social development programs in the local region, focused on education in partnership with other religious congregations in the area.

He said the celebrations on May 13 are only the beginning of a new push to spread the message of Our Lady of Fatima.

"With 'peace' as the central message from Our Lady of Fatima, the mother shrine for Fatima at Karjat, along with the members of World Apostolate of Fatima, is drafting a master plan and ways to achieve peace during the centenary year," he said.

Source: *Crux*

## India, the most lover-worked country



In today's age of beating the competition, satisfying the clients, racing ahead of the peers, slogging it out for that next big promotion and running to chase a few extra bucks, Indians have earned a pitiful record of being one of the 'most overworked' in the world!

The global survey by Regus conducted among 12,000 employees in 85 countries found out that,

- \* 45 percent workers in India work for 9 to 11 hours every day.
- \* Over 50 percent of employees in India work way more than eight hours a day
- \* Over 40 percent regularly take their work home.

### In another survey by Mintel,

- \* Indians work 52 hrs per week compared with China's 48 hrs/week and Australia and Britain's 41 hrs per week.
- \* One in five suffer from fatigue, blood pressure and diabetes.
- \* India is 4th most holiday deprived nation in the world!

It is found that the tendency of the company to cut jobs and keep minimum workforce adds an extra burden to the employee. Also, with professionals working in scenarios like medical, fireplace, police face the heat. Since, there are no work timings fixed as one has to report to the emergency on the go.

# Inspiration!

change the your vision and it will be a lot more beneficial for you and your relationship with your partner. Respecting your partner makes you see their positive sides. It will help you to

## Have Respect in Relationship

**If you love each other, you start thinking that it is enough for life but truth is a way different than this**

If you have thought love, chemistry attraction, communication and understanding are enough to save your relationship, maybe you are wrong. Respect in a relationship is important!

### Fact 1

The 'respect' is the only ingredient that can save a relationship in the long run. Most of us would wonder why respect is important.

### Fact 2

Attraction can bring two people together. Chemistry can help the couple enjoy each other's company. But that is not all. If the relationship has to stay strong for a lifetime, respect is required.

### Fact 3

What is respect? And why should you respect your partner? Well, respect is a beautiful feeling that reminds you every moment that your partner is nothing but an extension of your own self.

### Fact 4

When you have respect, you will never take that person for granted. Respect will remind you that your partner is not just an object of pleasure. Your partner is not a toy. He or she is something more than that.

### Fact 5

Respect reminds you that you are not here to control someone. The way you respect your own self, you will respect your extended self (that is your partner). That brings the beauty into the relationship.



### Fact 6

Respect makes you wake up every day and see what you can do for your relationship. It helps you constantly think how you wish to add value to the relationship.

### Fact 7

Love shouldn't be underestimated though respect is an important ingredient. Love has its own role. It gives bliss, joy and proximity on which a bond is strengthened. But from there, respect can take over to save the relationship.

### Fact 8

Last but not the least; ask yourself this question. When you have respect towards someone, can you throw your frustration on them just because of an angry moment? NO. That is how respect can prolong the lifespan of relationships. The ugliness of arguments will be replaced with patience and positive vibes when you have respect towards your partner! It will

grow in relationship and to love each other more.

Respect is something that creates new bond between you two. Respecting the person you love can show you the newer sides of that person. Without respect no relation can survive. You have to take care of your partner's individuality at any cost. If you start respecting your partner, others also start doing the same. So take care and start respecting your partner if you don't.

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**6693. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean RC bachelor, (Born in September 1988), Ht. 6', Wt. 85 kgs, Edn. Graduate Degree, Merchant Navy Captain in U.K., working as a Merchant Navy Officer. Contact email : kennethlazrado@yahoo.com.

**6684. MUMBAI :** Goan RC bachelor, (Born in January 1969), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 60 kgs, Edn. High School, working as at Airport as Counter Staff. Contact email : danrox009@gmail.com.

**6682. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean RC bachelor, (Born in September 1986), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 56 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. ITI, working as a HVAC & BMS Supervisor. Contact email : vincent.serra1@gmail.com.

**6681. MUMBAI :** Goan RC bachelor, (Born in July 1977), Ht. 5' 10", Graduate Master of a reputed school seeks a suitable match. Contact email : noronhaneil@yahoo.in OR 9920460551 / 23820314.

**6677. BANGALORE :** R.C. Parents invite alliance : son Engineer B.E., (Mechanical), Divorcee working in the Gulf, having good job, well off, (Born in June 1967), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 63 kgs. Girl should be educated, good family background, kind, loving & caring : caste denomination no bar! Contact Mob.: 07795101265

**6669 MUMBAI :** Goan R.C. Bachelor, M.Sc., in Telecom, MBA, (Born in February 1978) Ht. 5' 5", Fair, good natured. Working as a Financial Analyst in New

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**6666 MUMBAI :** Mangalorean R.C. Bachelor (Born in February 1988) Ht. 6', Wt. 72 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. BMS/PGDM, working as an Asst. Head. Contact email: lilydsouza50@gmail.com OR 9869158197

**6664 MUMBAI :** Mangalorean R.C. Bachelor (Born in December 1982) Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 68 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., A.C.A., LLB., C.A. by Profession. Contact email: saldanha\_ryan@yahoo.com OR 9820670158.

**6663 MUMBAI :** Goan R.C. Bachelor (Born in January 1979) Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com, Working as a Manager in MNC. Contact email: francis\_fernandes20@yahoo.com

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anthony11@gmail.com OR. Mob.: 8390022313

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**6626 GOA :** Goan RC Bachelor, (Born in March 1970), Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 75 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. BL/LLB., Self Employed. Contact email : gdsouza07@yahoo.com

**6624 MUMBAI :** Mangalorean RC Bachelor, (Born in October 1986), Ht. 6', Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Bachelor in Hotel Management, working on Ship. Contact email : roland\_dsouza007@yahoo.com

**6621 MUMBAI :** TAMILIAN Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in September 1970), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 70 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as an Event Manager. Seeks good looking fair girl. Contact email: rosario.thefernandoco@gmail.com

**6618 MUMBAI :** East Indian Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in December 1989), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 56 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Edn. M.Sc., working as a Resource Manager. Contact email : fernandesclyde176@gmail.com

**6616 MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in October 1980), Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 80 kgs, Tan Complexion, Edn. SSC, working as a Graphic Designer, hardworking, smart. Contact email : velgomes3@gmail.com

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**6685. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1968), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. S.Y. B.Com., having own business on **DUBAI**. Contact email : reachbernie@yahoo.com.

**6683. BANGALORE :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in July 1989), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 48 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBBS., Doctor by profession. Contact email : nads.nisha@gmail.com

**6680. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in January 1988), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 80 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. BMM, MBA in HR, working as a HR. Contact email : walterabrahamdsouza@gmail.com

**6678. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in September 1990), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 50 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. BE (IT) MBA - Post Graduate Marketing, working as a IT & Financial Consultant. Contact email : md8officemail@gmail.com

**6658. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in October 1987), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 45 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.E. in E&T. with Master, working for Corporate firm. Contact email : jovi\_tangerine@yahoo.co.in

**6657. VADODARA :** Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in May 1989), Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 75 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.A., working for MNC. Contact email : cheryl24052001@yahoo.com

**6656. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in May 1988), Ht. 5' 1", Wt. 49 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. MTech (Biotechnol-

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ogy), working as a Scientific Assistant, Contact email : rachealm28@gmail.com

**6655. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean R.C. Spinster, (Born in January 1990), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 58 kgs, Fair Complexion, Good looking, Having own business. Contact email : raymondcoelho89@gmail.com

**6649. POONA :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in May 1991), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 56 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.E. in Information Technology, working a Software Engineer in MNC. Contact email : jane.rodrigues14@gmail.com

**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

**6615. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in March 1981), Ht. 154 cms, Wheatish Complexion, Educated, working, Contact email : valarie.estibeiro@gmail.com

**6614. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in September 1983), Ht. 157 cms, Wt. 69 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.Sc., working as a Lab Technologist in Doha Qatar. Contact email : nishlasrado@gmail.com

**6609. MUMBAI :** Goan RC Spinster (Born in October 1988) / 5 feet / 58 kgs, B.E. and MBA, working for reputed IT MNC as Sr. Analyst seeks alliance from professionally qualified RC Bachelors upto 33 years, well settled with sober habits and good family background. PI reply with details and recent full size photo to ashil2628@gmail.com

OR 9819950120

**6608. MUMBAI :** East Indian RC Spinster, (Born in February 1987), Ht. 5' 1", Wt. 53 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A., working as an Executive. Contact email: rebecca23\_2@hotmail.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

**6595. BANGALORE :** Born again christian spinster, (Born in August 1988), Ht. 5', Wt. 70 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A., Journalism, working as a Business Development. Contact email : manju2408@gmail.com

**6593. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in November 1988), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 75 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBA in Finance, smart and intelligent, working for private company. Contact email : fatulobo@rediffmail.com

**6592. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in October 1989), 5' 3", Wt. 50 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Sc. Microbiology working for Pharmaceutical Company. Contact email : mili.ferns123@gmail.com

**6591. MUMBAI :** Maharashtrian Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in October 1988), 5' 4", Wt. 58 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Master of Management Study, working as an Asst. Professor. Contact email : geo8747@gmail.com

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(Contd.. from p. 17)

Abortion and euthanasia in the United States and Canada. The genocide of drug suspects in the Philippines. In the midst of so much uncertainty, the only way the world can find peace is if it turns with trust to Mama Mary. If the Catholics throughout the world consecrated themselves to Mama Mary, her Immaculate Heart would triumph once more.

We can find peace and healing if we consecrate ourselves to Mother Mary, entrusting ourselves to her perfect care; she will bring peace back to the world as only the gentlest of mothers could.

Our Lady, who is our Mother of Mercy, kindly but sadly said, "God wishes to establish in the world devotion to My Immaculate Heart. If you do what I tell you, many souls will be saved, there will be peace."

Our Lady said that if we do not heed heaven's call much punishment will befall the world, "war, hunger, and persecution of the Church and the Holy Father." She foretold the importance of First Saturdays along with consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary in preventing these things.

So now as we at the 100th anniversary of Fatima, everyone is encouraged to take advantage of this special season of grace. Pray the Rosary and consecrate yourselves to Mama Mary. As she has shown throughout history, she can bring about peace in the midst of the greatest adversities. And should God permit us to suffer, she will give us the grace, courage and strength to love one another as Christ loves us on the Cross.

Look to Mama Mary, and learn how to become more humble, but at the same time more courageous in following the Word of God. Our relationship with Mama Mary also helps us to have a good relationship with the Church, learning how to love each person and become bearers of life, hope and peace to the world.

(Contd.. from p. 8)

together with FI Lt Alfred Cooke won the VrC.

Thanks to Maj Gen Eustace de Souza we have a lot more information on the 1971 war. The highest Gallantry Award, the Paramvir Chakra was bestowed posthumously on L/Nk Albert Ekka of the Brigade of Guards. Four Christians were awarded the MVC, of whom Sqn Ldr Allan D'costa was posthumous. Eleven brave hearts got the VrC, five the Sena Medal, three the Nao Sena Medal and four the Vayu Sena Medal. Twelve officers received the highest distinguished service award the Param Vishisht Seva Medal (PVSM), another thirteen got the AVSM and twelve the VSM. By any standards this is an enviable record, of which the Christian community in India should be legitimately proud. We don't have to go to any CM pleading for protection!

Air Marshal Johnny Greene was a 4-times decorated officer – PVSM, AVSM, VrC, VM, and Lt Gen Mathew Thomas, a paratrooper, was the only one to earn all three distinguished service awards – PVSM, AVSM and VSM. I would also single out for mention Lt Gen Reginald Noronha PVSM, MC of the Madras Regiment, who was the Deputy Chief of Army Staff during the 1971 war. Earlier, as a Brigadier, he had won laurels for the country as the Commander of the UN forces in the Congo. On a recent visit to Chaubatia Cantt in Uttaranchal I was pleasantly surprised to find a crossroad named after him (see pic). Maj Gen Eustace de Souza, who was

a witness to the horrors of the atomic bombs in Japan, commanded the prestigious Republic Day Parade. Lt Gen Christopher Barretto PVSM, AVSM, whose father Dr Cristovam Barretto (1889 – 1972) was Mahatma Gandhi's personal dentist at his Wardha Ashram, donated Gandhiji's teeth to the Gandhi Museum in Delhi (he could have auctioned them off for a princely sum).

Our Christian institutions have also produced many martyrs for the country. The first officer martyr in the Kargil operation (1999) was Maj Rajesh Singh Adhikari MVC from the Mechanised Infantry. He was from my alma mater, St Joseph's College, Nainital. The latest martyr, Capt Ayush Yadav, killed in Kupwara, studied in St Joseph's HS School, here in my hometown, Kanpur. The Principal, Sr Rose George UMI, led the mourners at the funeral, and kept the school closed as a mark of respect to the brave heart.

So despite all the red and saffron I do see the green light of hope, including the olive green of the Army, the sky blue of the Airforce, and the navy blue of the Navy. I trust that the sacrifices of all these wonderful people will not have been in vain. They will protect our country and our community, and hopefully inspire the young men and women of today to follow in their illustrious footsteps. JAI HIND!

*\* Every attempt has been made to be factually correct. However, if there are any errors or glaring omissions they are unintentional, for which I hope to be forgiven.*

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6. And several other offers - opportunities throughout the 5year period.

For this scheme 'Family' includes: Father, Mother and Children

Confidentiality will be maintained

Contact :

**The Secular Citizen**

99, Perin Nariman Street, 1st Floor, Fort, Mumbai 400001

Tel.: 022 - 22693578, 22654924 Email: [secular@sezariworld.com](mailto:secular@sezariworld.com)

The amount can be paid by NEFT, Cheque, DD, MO or by Cash (in the office)

### Bank details for making NEFT :

Bank: HDFC Bank  
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Account Name: The Secular Citizen  
Account No. 03552000006744  
ISFC code: HDFC0000355

**Royal Christian Family and The Secular Citizen has been serving the community for over 36/26 years**