

संश्लेषण
RNI No. 56987/92

BJP

CONG

OTH

THE SECULAR CITIZEN

Vol.28 Issue No.16

(Total Pages 24)

Mumbai, 15-21 April, 2019

Rs.10

A NATIONAL FAMILY WEEKLY

Deint

77

Total LS

UPA

0

NDA

6

BSP

0

AAP

1

OTH

0

TOTAL LS SEATS SURVEY

543/543

*Margin of error +/- 3

Indian Media

CHANGE

4.1

NDA

38.9

43.3

-4.4

-1.5

1.8

Margin of Error +/-

free but not fair

9PM: THE BIG PICTURE

Co powered by

एनडीए 281

यूपीए 124

अ 13

Modi's Charisma in 2019 Etc

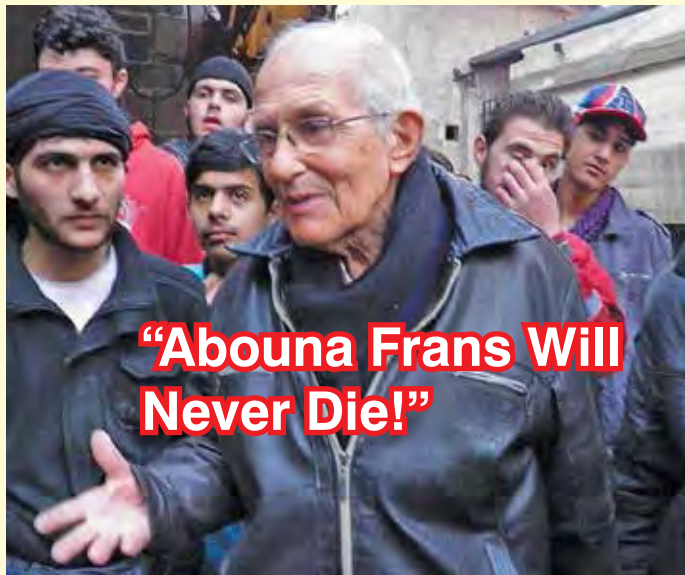
बीजेपी 02

कांग्रेस 01

एनसी 02

पीडीपी 01

जम्मू-कश्मीर



“Abouna Frans Will Never Die!”

unfolding the holiness, the humaneness, the sensitivity and the grace that were the hallmarks of a modern day saint.

Fr. Frans Van Der Lugt was brutally gunned down in Homs Syria, five years ago, on April 7 2014. ‘Abouna Frans’, as he was lovingly called, was a Dutch Jesuit who was born on April 10 1938 in

ages and pains of the conflict, alongside both Muslims and Christians. As the fighting intensified, Fr Frans moved to the Jesuit residence in Boustan –Diwan (the inner city). From there he shared the suffering of the inhabitants, refusing to leave, even as that part of the city continued to be bombed from all sides. His centre became a home for those who had nowhere to go: Muslims and Christians; old and young. It was a ‘safe place’ for them and Fr Frans was their refuge. His message to all was one of hope: of mercy and reconciliation, of justice and of peace!

The Jesuits of Netherlands and Flanders recently produced an animated film on Abouna Frans. The film begins when he is being killed and then he gradually looks back into his life. In the film he makes a powerful appeal to the whole world: only love triumphs and it must come first!

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fhrEK4X9IM0> and the text of the animation <https://www.jezuieten.org/frans-van-der-lugt-sj-5-years-after-his-death/>)

Abouna Frans was an extraordinary person: fully human, fully alive. He was warm and compassionate to all; to the youth, he was an inspirer and motivator, who never tired of hiking, trekking and long walks in the beauty of nature; to the elderly, he was a friend and mentor; little children loved to cling to his long legs; for Muslims and Christians, for atheists and agnostics, for those belonged to different sects and rites, he was a bridge-builder, a reconciler, a person who could draw the best out of them; for the spiritually weak and lost, he was a source of strength and a patient listener. He was a true shepherd, always in the midst of his sheep, who smelled of them. They simply loved him. He had the courage of his convictions and he communicated this unequivocally.

Every year, the World Health Organisation celebrates 7 April as World Health Day. It was significant that

(Contd.. on p. 4)

Miryam (name changed) spoke in a steely voice, but with passion as tears welled in her eyes, “Yes, they killed him! But for me, Abouna Frans will never die!” Those words of a young lady are a fitting tribute to a person who meant so much to her and to many others. Her profound sentiments, echo the feelings of hundreds of others who were impacted by Abouna Frans. “I went for retreats with him. He listened to my pain and brokenness; when I cried, he cried too. He was truly a Father to me!” She goes on and on narrating one incident after another- each time

The Hague. His father was a banker. In 1959, he entered the Society of Jesus and seven years later opted to serve as a Jesuit in the Middle East. With the exception of a short break to complete his doctorate in Psychology, he spent almost fifty years (from 1976) in Syria. He founded the Al-Ard institute in Homs, where handicapped children of all religions and ethnic groups found a warm and welcoming haven.



BY FR. CEDRIC PRAKASH

SJ In 2011, when civil war erupted in Syria, he chose to remain in the country, among the people he loved, suffering the short-



Vel-Vin Packaging under the leadership of Mr. Vincent Mathias has received another International **NEW FACTORY LAYOUT AWARD** at Shanghai, China recently for their factory on corrugated packaging based in Goa.

99, Perin Nariman Street, Fort, Mumbai - 400 001.
Mobile: +91 9820485389 / 9820473103
E-mail : secular@sezariworld.com / secular@vsnl.com
Website: www.sezariworld.com
Editor: LAWRENCE COELHO

Subscriptions Rate:

One year (anywhere in India) Rs. 500

Two years (anywhere in India) Rs.1000

Five years (anywhere in India) Rs. 2000

One year (outside India) Rs. 3500

E-paper Edition

sent anywhere in the world (by email)

One year

Rs. 600 or US \$ 15

Advertisement. Tariff

Over all size 21.5 cms x 27cms ● Print area 18 cms x 25.5 cms

Full pg. back Colour (19 cms x 24 cms) Rs. 15,000

Center spread colour(39 cms x 23.5 cms) Rs. 15,000

Full pg. inside Cover colour(18 cms x 24 cms) Rs. 10,000

Full pg. inner colour (18 cms x 24 cms) Rs. 8,000

Half pg. Colour (18 cms x 12 cms) Rs. 5,000

Full page B/W (18 cms x 24 cms) Rs. 5,000

Half page B/W (18 cms x 12 cms) Rs. 3,000

Small Size Ads B/W

12 x 12cms Rs. 2400 ● 6 x 24cms Rs. 2400

18 x 6cms Rs. 1800 ● 6 x 12cms Rs. 1200

6 x 6cms Rs. 600

Matrimonial Classifieds:

● Rs. 500 per insertion (for 35 words) (includes box no.)

● Rs. 3000 for 12 insertions. (1 year The Secular Citizen FREE)

Contents

pg. 2 - "Abouna Frans will never die!"

pg. 3 - Indian Media Free but not fair

pg. 5 - Voice of the People

pg. 6 - We vote to change and ...

pg. 7 - 'The crown of thorns'

pg. 8 - You the citizens decide

pg. 10 - Elections in India are ...

pg. 11 - Views on news

pg. 12 - Make small changes in ...

pg. 13 - Gift giving customs ...

pg. 15 - Canon Law # 286

pg. 16 - A fool's paradise

pg. 17 - Inspiration!

pg. 19 - Diocese of Jalandhar

pg 20 - Matrimonials

pg 22 - Bishop of Mangalore ...

pg 23 - The importance of ...

Cover : Indian Media Free but Not Fair:

(Article on pg.3)

Now get your digital copy of

THE SECULAR CITIZEN

through WhatsApp / Email

Subscribers in India and world-over can now get their Digital copy of The Secular Citizen by WhatsApp / email every week.

Send in your request to :

+91 - 9820485389

or

secular@sezariworld.com

Indian Media Free but Not Fair

Democracy cannot succeed without constructive criticism and this was not visible with the Indian Media specially electronic and social media after Modi became the Prime Minister. There are ample allegations within and outside the country that the Media is bias in its reporting. It's views are always one sided i.e. is in favour of the ruling party at the Centre. The country's media currently works in the BJP's favor as the party prepares for elections in 2019, Control over the country's media is about something more sinister.

It is also an attempt to hegemonize its communal narrative in an officially secular country with a large Hindu majority. It looks like the BJP Pariwar is set to dominate entire minority groups and religions in this country and even slowly take away their rights by amending the constitution when they get majority in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

Control over the media was the first job by the ruling party when it achieved landslide victory in 2014 general elections. And this indirect control seems to continuing still more strongly in 2019 election too. 2014 electoral success of Modi and his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was predicated on two fundamental tenets: removing corruption and strengthening and modernizing India's democracy. But both these tenets have remained a distant dream infact looking at the behaviour of BJP and RSS thoughts and actions even in future these dreams will not be achieved in this country which is a multi pluralistic society.

What we see over the years that BJP has always shared a close relationship with the Sangh Parivar, an organization of extremist Hindu groups who advocate Hindu dominance over the country's Christian and Muslim minorities.

On the flip side, media that is critical of the BJP becomes a target. The government has deployed tactics of fear and intimidation against opponents, often doing so through Hindu nationalist groups part of the Sangh Parivar.

If the international community is concerned with the strength of India's democracy and the prospects for inclusive social and economic growth in a post-Congress India, it should challenge Modi — who has recently been chastised for his inaccessibility to the media — to abide by the visions he

(Contd.. on p. 4)

(Contd.. from p. 3)

outlined in 2014. Ignoring what is happening with the media in the world's largest democracy is not good for Indians, Indian democracy, or liberals across the world who believe in and uphold the global liberal order.

Today, the democratic republic of India is ridden with a crisis of political representation. We have free and fair elections that allow us to choose our representatives, but there is no guarantee that they would genuinely serve our interests on assuming office. Money and muscle power increasingly determine electoral outcomes, with party funds and elections being financed through corrupt payments made in exchange for favours such as contracts or clearances. Add bureaucratic inefficiency to this political situation and you have a crisis of governance brewing, resulting in overall disenchantment with the democratic system.

**Wedding Invitation, Christening,
First Holy Communion, Mortuary
Cards & Religious Goods**
Contact:

David & Company
Rivendell House, 1st Floor, 650,
J. S. S. Road, 2nd Dhobitalao
Lane, Mumbai 400002
Tel.: 22019010 / 2205 7394
2206 0344 / 22079592

Email: davidprinters@gmail.com
www.davidcompany.com

The Temptation Caterers

Perfect Wedding Receptions

AT Unbeatable & Uncomparable Prices
Lawns Available for Weddings, Anniversaries all kinds of parties at Andheri (West)

Capacity 50-100, 500-1000+

TRESSA D'MELLO
9967374315 / 7900039842

temptationsevents@gmail.com

Head Office: Shop No.1&2, Charlie Pereira Compound, Near Raj Laxmi Building, Veera Desai Road, Andheri (W), Mumbai - 400 058.

(Contd.. from p. 2)

Abouna Frans was martyred on that day. He was a healer – he embraced all those who suffered from illness – be it physical, mental or spiritual. Like Miryam, an encounter with him brought healing, a great consolation, a movement towards wholeness. The theme of World Health Day 2019 is 'Universal Health Coverage: Everyone, Everywhere'. Abouna Frans lived this theme as he reached out in very tangible ways – to all who needed him.

Above all, he was a man of deep prayer who was able to communicate the 'joy of the Gospels' to all. The sparse room he lived in, is a testimony to his frugal and simple lifestyle. Pope Francis in his Apostolic Exhortation on holiness 'Gaudete et Exsultate' says, "we are inspired to act by the example of all those priests, religious, and laity who devote themselves to proclamation and to serving others with great fidelity, often at the risk of their lives and certainly at the cost of their comfort. Their testimony reminds us that, more than bureaucrats and functionaries, the Church needs passionate missionaries, enthusiastic about sharing true life. The saints surprise us; they confound us, because by their lives they urge us to abandon a dull and dreary mediocrity." Words befitting to Abouna Frans because he truly epitomised holiness.

On 6 April, hundreds of people, from all walks of life, gathered in Homs, to celebrate the memory of Abouna Frans. For many who were touched by him, this was the first time, they were coming together after his death and the years of war. At the homily during the Eucharistic Celebration, Fr Arturo Sosa, the Superior General of the Society of Jesus, shared with the Congregation extracts from Fr. Frans' homily, at his First Mass on 30 May 1971, in which he said, "only when my hands are empty that I can really receive the other!". Prophetic words indeed from a man, who like his master Jesus of Nazareth, lived these words, joyously and unconditionally embracing others. On 7 April,

the fifth anniversary of the martyrdom of Abouna Frans, hundreds more are expected to gather at the St Joseph's Jesuit Church in Beirut for a special Thanksgiving Eucharist which will be presided over by Fr. Arturo Sosa.

Abouna Frans comes as a soothing balm to our broken and fragmented world. His voice was one of reconciliation and peace. He transcended the narrow confines of religion and rituals; everyone to him was a sister or brother – a human being. He gave to all a meaning and purpose in life. He accompanied them, encompassed and communicated love and ultimately, like Jesus, laid down his life for his people and for a greater good! He continues to live in the hearts and minds of many! The words of Miryam keep re-echoing, "Abouna Frans will never die!"

*(Fr. Cedric Prakash SJ belongs to the Gujarat Province. He is currently in Beirut on a brief visit. Earlier, he had spent three years working with the Jesuit Refugee Service in the Middle East. During that assignment he visit Homs a few times; he has also met and spoken to several people who were very close to Abouna Frans.
Contact: cedricprakash@gmail.com)

Subscriptions for

THE SECULAR CITIZEN

Renewal as well as New, can be sent through Bank Fund Transfer to any one of the following banks:

Bank: HDFC Bank

Branch : CST - Mumbai VT

Account Name: The Secular Citizen

Current Account No. 0355200006744

ISFC code: HDFC0000355

or

Bank: Citizen Credit Co-op Bank Ltd.,

Branch : Colaba, Mumbai

Account Name: The Secular Citizen

Current Account No. 209003100000489

ISFC code: CCBL0209003

Please inform us through email: secular@sezariworld.com or through phone: 9820485389 after transferring the same.



Catholic politicians at Hindu temples

It has become a common practice for politicians in Goa to seek the blessings of their deities before the start of their election campaign. A few Catholic politicians are also found to visit Hindu temples and do likewise. A recent photograph published in the Navhind Times shows a prominent Catholic South Goa Congress Lok Sabha candidate, along with his supporters, seeking the blessings of Lord Damodar at the Lord Damodar temple in Vasco. This brings to mind an incident in Mumbai, about 2 decades ago when a hue and cry was raised, after a photograph of an eminent Church dignitary was published in a national daily showing the prelate lighting the traditional and innocuous welcome lamp at a Hindu puja. Today, times have changed, and it is considered a privilege instead, by the Church, as it is seen as one way of fostering communal harmony. Not only the welcome lamp but also 'aarti' have become accepted practices in the Catholic church as part of inculturation. However, it is still not known whether seeking the blessings of a Hindu deity and offering 'aarti' to the deity violate the first commandment of God by constituting acts of idolatry, explicitly proscribed by the church. A church official in this connection will be welcome. "

—A. F. Nazareth,
Alto Porvorim, Goa.

AShifting the blame

It was shocking to read a news item We are in the habit of opposing everything that the government does on one pretext or the other. The policy

of every government is to do greatest good to greatest number, be it liquor ban or plastic ban or bar dancer ban. As to plastic, we are responsible for this situation. We use the plastic bags and then throw them on the road or drainage channels resulting in clogging and overflow of dirty stinky water on the public roads creating unhygienic situation. Then we curse the municipal authorities for it.

—Jubel D'Cruz,
Mumbai.

Standing from two constituencies in Lok Sabha elections

The law permits a candidate to stand from two seats. Certain inferences can be drawn from this act of the candidate, of course done with the permission of his/her party. This is because the candidate/party is not quite sure of one seat but is a hundred percent confident of the other seat being won. If it happens that the candidate is elected from both the seats the candidate has to resign from one of the seats as per his choice. This constituency goes to polls again. Look at the extra money, time, and effort involved. More than this it could be the people of the constituency who have to go to the polls again for reelections who are hurt. They have been used. They voted for the candidate in good faith but now they are put to the trouble of voting again. All this to accommodate the whims of a party or candidate. If the candidate is voted from one party and loses at the other seat there is no problem as he occupies the seat where he was victorious.

If in the rare instance where a candidate loses both seats he deserves it

and can not be a leader or politician. He/She has lost the confidence of the people. Goodbye to politics.

All this is very legal of course but is against the spirit of democracy. I do not know if the government in power at any time will do away with this dicey privilege of standing for elections from two constituencies and permit candidates to stand from one constituency only. It would be interesting to know if this indulgent privilege of standing from two constituencies is permitted anywhere else in the world..

—Albert C deSouza (Bandra)

Pope Francis on Conversion

During his visit to Morocco, Pope Francis warned the people against trying to convert (Moroccans), as conversion usually 'leads to an impasse'. This is possibly the first time ever, that a Pope has warned against evangelisation. And rightly so. This observation by the Pope will be criticised by many, for our religion enjoins us to "Go to all ends of the world, and preach the gospel to all creatures".

The Holy Father's observation holds good for India too for there are many similarities. Morocco is a predominantly Muslim nation, with 99% of the inhabitants professing Islam. The remaining 1% are Christians and Jews. In India, Catholics are slightly better placed at 1.55% of the population. Moreover our constitution guarantees us religious freedom unlike Morocco. Nevertheless we need to show self-restraint and respect the sentiments of the majority community.

Personally I believe that 'good works and deeds' can accomplish much more in our country, than aggressive evangelisation. Today we see a growing number of people who are preaching the Word of God but ironically the number of people practising the Word of God is getting lesser and lesser. I believe that one person who practices the Word of

(Contd.. on p. 6)

We Vote to Change and NOT Be Changed

by Don Aguiar.

There was one such Irani restaurant outside HN hospital (now taken over by Reliance), which was run by a bearded old Irani lady and her son, which was the favorite haunt of many doctors of the hospital, who stepped out for a cup of tea, an omelet or a cigarette. The place had not been cleaned for years, cobwebs dating from 1947 were still hanging, and the glass cabinets contained everything from the peppermint cigarettes we used to be eating in school, to packets of sanitary pads from the last century, cakes so old, the icing, fungus and cobwebs all looked the same. But the young old son with a 4 day stubble any day of the week could rustle up a lovely omelet, and a good Irani chai to follow.

A few regulars would occupy the same table and chairs for so long that one would think they were part of the furniture. An old man reading a newspaper with a cigarette hanging from his lips sat every day for several hours with the same cup of tea in front of him. He would fall asleep, with the cigarette miraculously still there, the paper still in front of him, as if frozen

in time. The grumpy son would nudge him every time he passed the table till he probably ended up with a tennis elbow, but the old man never looked up.

I went back again after a few years – the stubble was still 4 days old, but the old man was gone. The time that stood still had passed.

Have spent many an hour of my younger days in it, drinking tea (slurping it from mini saucers holding mini cups), eating bun-or brun-maskar or kheema patties dipped in desi sauce.

It was walking distance from Khotachiwadi, and sits across the road from Babubhai Jagjivandas. No trip to the naaka for a myriad reason or while to or from Grant Road market, was quite complete without a diversion into the restaurant for a cup of tea and a cigarette or two.

Older bawas and Iranis would sit on those too-small wooden chairs and marbled topped tables as a routine of their retired existence at fixed times of the day, talk of this and that and, of course, their good old days.

I pay homage to the restaurant and those days and went down recently to this restaurant on a-rare visits. Save the owners and one or two long-term waiters, the faces at the gulla are unrecognizable, and the complexion of the clientele has changed, too. The tea cups seem smaller, their sizes compensated by the cost of their contents.

At such times of finishing drinking tea, alone, in a restaurant that hold decades of unremarkably ordinary memories of days pregnant with promise, but which is now for me soulless, and while walking to the gulla to pay the bill, shouted out loud by the waiter in response to “kitna hua”, while the money changes hands and the returned chillur is put in the pocket, I

realize my near- complete irrelevance in it all, and wonder whether it is that more than the ravages of time that really gets us in the end.

We the people do have similar memories of the past which does include that of the ruling governments at the time, which maintained its secular, democratic fabric, and which took the minorities along. Could we say the same of the present ruling government who took the help of the minorities to vote them in? Have the minorities now realized their near complete irrelevance the present government has shown them due to the present government major ideological differences with the minorities?

We the people can vote for change and not be changed like some folks who were compiling their family history but were confounded about how to describe their great uncle (who had died in the electric chair in prison) in a positive light. After some discussion of their illustrious relative: “Uncle Jerome occupied the chair of applied electronics at one of the leading government institutions. He was attached to his position by the strongest of ties. His death came as a shock.” An excellent example of positive change but the content/self not changed. Could we the people do likewise in ensuring to vote for a positive, progressive, secular democratic government rather than the present dispensation who have major ideological differences with the minorities as well as with our CONSTITUTION.

All citizens are no longer equal or secure. People are now divided on the 2019 election. We have hate mongers driving public discourse. Elections are now fought on Smashan vs Khabrastan, Ali vs Bajrang Bali. And this is only a prelude to 2019. Every dissenting voice bit the dust, every person with a spine stood bloodied and was uprooted.

(Contd.. from p. 5)

God by deeds and actions is worth ten persons who preach the Word of God without deeds and actions.

A non catholic friend pointing to a man and said to me " This is a good Catholic ". I asked the reason for his statement. He replied "I know that he's a Catholic by his name, way of life and dress. But I do not know if he is religious, or even if he goes to church regularly .He never speaks about his religion. But I can see his religion in his works and deeds"..

—Prof Robert Castellino
Mumbai

(Contd.. on p. 7)

(Contd.. from p. 6)

It is high time we begin to acknowledge institutional bias against Minorities, Dalits, Adivasis and others. Everything seems to be leaking in this government. Rights from leaking mouths of politicians to leaking banks to leaking exam papers. The list goes on and on, what we need is a good plumber and not a Chowkidar. I feel every citizen must take responsibility to be a good plumber to plug this leak.

Humans we are, at some point or the other, we all need a fallback. 'Who is your fallback' makes all the difference in this forthcoming elections. Choose well!!!!!!

Strong minds suffer without complaining: Weak minds complain without suffering.....

People help you the way they know to help you. To help you to come out of stress, one friend will ask you to drink and another will ask you to meditate. To overcome hurt, one friend will ask you to take revenge and get even, and another will ask you to forgive and get ahead with your life. To decide who to cast your vote you make an informed choice on "Who is your fallback" which makes all the difference.

Duryodhana's predicament, in his own words, was, "I know what is right but I am not able to indulge in it. I know what is wrong but I am not able to avoid it." He needed a fallback. His fallback was his uncle Shakuni, and resultantly, Duryodhana moved from bad to worse.

Arjuna's predicament was different. He was allowing his personal emotions to dominate his sense of duty, and hence wanted to escape from the responsibilities he had towards upholding righteousness. He needed a fallback. His fallback was Krishna, and resultantly, Arjuna was restored to his greatness.

Who is your fallback makes all the difference in ensuring that India continues to remain a secular democratic

republic and our constitution followed.

When you get what you want in your struggle for self, and the world makes you king for a day. Just go to the mirror and look at yourself and see what that man has to say. Conscience and Ethics is the need of the hour rather than otherwise....

For it isn't your father or mother or wife whose judgment upon you must pass. The fellow whose verdict counts most in your life is the one staring back from the glass.

He's the fellow to please – never mind all the rest. For he's with you, clear to the end and you've passed your most difficult dangerous test. If the man in the glass is your friend.

You may fool the whole world down the pathway of years. And get pats on the back as you pass. But your final reward will be heartache and tears – if you cheated the man in the glass.

We all are aware that our prime minister or "chowkidar" as he now wants to be known has forgotten to look in the mirror but prefers to fool we the people with fake news and his many not kept promises down the pathway of his now concluded tenure and for that he gets a pat from his party and associates. For he sees that all that matters is loyalty to the leader to ensure that he himself is put before his party and country. Although we are governed by sick people. And the hunger for power is such that Goa was ruled by a half dead man and the swearing in happened as the ashes of the dead leader were still hot. This is no less than a sedition!

We must vote for that political party that will think peace, think ahead, looks to the future and builds hope. We vote for goodness than evil, humanity than religion, performance than perception and hope than fear. We vote to be free than imprisoned. We vote for what suits us than what suits them. We vote ourselves in. We vote. To change. And not be changed.

' The Crown Of Thorns '

The crown of thorns is depicted in art as a band with plant like thorns and as a full cap of thorns nearly an inch long and it appears in the Gospels Mt 27:29 , Mk 15:17 and Jn 19:2 and is not mentioned in any writings for over 400 years and in the 1918 Catholic Encyclopedia is not spoken of as a relic by St Helena who went to Jerusalem to find Christ's true cross and by St Jerome who lived in Jerusalem in the 5th century but is mentioned by St Paulerius of Nula who died in 431 mentions its veneration in Jerusalem in 409 AD.

In Constantinople several church treasures from Jerusalem were transferred to the Byzantine Empire.

In 1238 Baldwin II the Latin emperor of Byzantium as part of a deal sold the crown of thorns as he needed the cash and King Louis IX of France agreed to purchase it from the Bank of Venice who advanced / gave the funds to Baldwin .

On AUGUST 19 ,1239 the relic arrived in Paris.

Louis a down to earth man who was later canonised as St Louis of France took of his crown and royal robes to walk barefooted behind the relic which was carried to the unfinished Sainte Chapelle - the French Kings chapel completed in 1248 that housed Louis's collection of Passion relics -and the crown of thorns was the premier relic.

Relics of the Passion are drawn on the stained windows of the chapel .

When in Sainte Chapelle several thorns were removed and gifted from kings of France to important figures of that time like Mary Queen of Scots queen consort of France in 1559 -60 who married Francis II who reigned for a year and when he died Mary returned to Scotland with a holy thorn and after her execution the thorn was given to Thomas Percy her servant of Elizabeth Woodruff.

Elizabeth gave the thorn to a Jesuit priest who presented it to the Jesuit's Stonighurst College where it lies and is placed in the college chapel and during Holy Week the thorn is exposed as a reliquary with a string of pearls surrounding it.

During the French Revolution in the 18th century many church treasures and relics were lost but Napoleon saved the crown of thorns and kept it in the National Library till 1804 and Christ's crown of thorns was given back to the Archbishop of Paris and on August 10 , 1806 was placed in the Cathedral of Notre Dame de Paris , France.

Thus we see the importance of the relic of Jesus's crown of thorns.

— Peter Castellino

WHEN TRUE SPEECH IS TRULY FREE?

by Eric D'Sa

The true power of speech is its capacity to make those in power accountable to those who don't have power. This is needed for the functioning of a good democracy

Watching recently three or four interviews of college students from different cities on TV, I was a bit surprised that freedom was one of their top priorities, after jobs and acquisitions of skills. Hence it should not come as a surprise that freedom is a theme which is going to come up again and again through this election. It is a term, like truth, that has globally become extremely important today. But it is not an easy concept to understand, especially in a public political discourse. First of all, there are many kinds of freedom: freedom to speak, to write, to think, to imagine, to live our lives, to marry whom we want, to eat what we want, and so on. Since this term is invoked so quickly and so easily — witness little children saying they want their freedom to have ice cream! — it is important that we understand its diverse meanings in our everyday use of this term.

Here we need to understand what one of the most important expressions of freedom, free speech, could mean. We often tend to think that among the main elements of democracy are the holding of elections and a free media. Both elections and free media are important because they stand, among other things, for the notions of free speech and free expression. Casting a vote anonymously, of one's own free will, is an example of free expression and is broader than just 'free speech'. Similarly, when the media has the freedom to air all kinds of views, it is seen to be an example of free speech. But is free speech really the essence of democracy? Is it really so important for an effective democracy?

Paradoxically, there is an inherent

tension between free speech and democracy. If free speech is understood merely as the freedom to say what one wants, then that is obviously not conducive to meaningful social behaviour. For example, one can spread falsehood about another in the name of free speech. One can insult, lie, create harm and hatred through free speech. In these cases, free speech should rightfully be called rumour and gossip. Rumour, gossip, fake news and deliberate lying can be hidden under the guise of free speech. It is speech with an ulterior motive. To call these as free speech is a mistake.

The answer to the problem of defining

YOU THE CITIZENS DECIDE:

what really constitutes free speech lies in understanding the meaning of 'free' in free speech. What is really free in free speech? The freedom to say what one wants? We can't really say what we want all the time since all speech is constrained. We are constrained by language, words, concepts and grammar, and even by the physical contours of our mouth and tongue. We are constrained by the biological and cognitive structures related to thought and its expression through language. Socially, we are not fully free to say what we want. We cannot make certain utterances in certain places. A commentator, commenting on a game of cricket, cannot suddenly give a lecture on cinema saying that he is protected by free speech!

In addition to constraints, all speech also has a cost. When we utter something, good or bad, there is a price to pay. Even in personal relations with family and friends, we cannot say what we want. If we do so — that is, if we are honest and outspoken — there is a price to pay. Relationships get broken, wars are declared between people

because somebody spoke 'freely' and may be without thinking. Once you get married you learn very fast, that discretion is better than valour.

Thus, the essence of free speech is not really about the freedom to say what we want. It is more about speech which is free, which comes with no cost. Free speech is actually speech for which you don't pay a price. But paying a price is not in the hands of the speaker. When I say or write something, I do not know who will take offence at it. People get upset and take offence very easily these days! Free speech is nothing but the conditions under which the hearer is not allowed to take offence and intimidate the speaker.

The real freedom in 'free speech' lies not in the freedom of the speaker to say what he or she wants, but in the constraint on hearers to allow the speaker to say what he or she wants. Thus, when we demand the right to free speech, we are essentially demanding the right to stop others from not letting us speak. The most important consequence of the idea of free speech is that it shifts the responsibility of free speech from the speaker to the hearer. But does this mean that anybody can say what they want? Can they slander a person through falsehood in the name of free speech? Is slandering a person the same as criticising the government or the nation? After all, our governments, independent of which party is in power, have effectively used the charge of sedition to stop certain utterances in public. This is the reason the Sedition law enacted by the British to subjugate the Indian population should be abolished.

It is not free speech to purposefully slander a person. But criticising the government or nation is not the same as slandering an individual. Such criticism is not just a right, it is more a duty of democratic societies. In a true democracy, there is nothing that can be con-

(Contd.. on p. 9)

(Contd.. from p. 8)

sidered as slandering the government, even if a criticism may be wrong and unjustified. That is because free speech is a tool to make democracy workable and it is not really about the individual freedom to say what one wants.

Democracy is about governance for others and on behalf of others. It is a social and public system of responsibility of governance. The very foundation of democracy is collective action and the real freedom in a democracy is the freedom of choosing who will govern on our behalf. The ideal of democracy is that we are all potential rulers — any one of us can be the Prime Minister of our country.

When we elect somebody, we are only putting a group of people to govern on behalf of us. Free speech is the mechanism to make sure that they govern correctly and on our behalf. It is only free speech, defined in this manner, that makes democracy workable. The true power of free speech lies in its capacity to make those in power accountable to those who do not have power. It is a means to control those in power and is not really about freedom of individuals. The price we demand for making somebody govern on our behalf, the elected leaders, is to allow us to say what we want about them, not as individuals but as political leaders.

Thus, true free speech covers only those acts of speech which speak against power, and keep those in power accountable. It thus safeguards the most cherished democratic principle. Free speech by itself is not the essence of democracy but is the means by which any democracy can be sustained. Anybody who doesn't like to hear criticism of government or government representatives is being undemocratic. We dilute the importance of free speech when we use it to derive personal benefit or cause harm or do so in situations which are not about power. Speech, in the task of keeping check on power, has to be supported and made free by those in power. We need to remove any of our leaders who say they need a Sedition law to control our right free speech.t

Transfer Season In The Archdiocese

This time of the year, parishioners start speculating, as the transfer season commences in the archdiocese . It reminds me of the annual IPL transfer season. While the same rules of bidding for, or retaining players cannot apply, I wish that as stakeholders of the church, we are allowed to at least make suggestions. Some parishes, for example, have a strong sporting tradition. Parishioners would like a priest who can carry forward the tradition. Or a parish may have a priest who has initiated a good project which needs to be completed. Parishioners should be allowed to request for an extension for the priest . This applies to parish priests and school principals too.

Unfortunately the Catholic Church lacks a reliable feedback system. Time and again we are told that we are stakeholders, that WE ARE THE CHURCH. But when it comes to giving an opinion or suggestion, we don't count at all .Yes there is the Parish Pastoral Council but the Councillors are very docile and are more concerned with carrying out their duties at the sector level, which itself is very taxing. Rarely do they initiate debates on ask questions. And if they do they are not liked. I am reminded of a poem by William Wordsworth :

' The cattle are grazing
Their heads never raising
They are forty feeding like one... '

So long as their heads are down, they are good Catholics. The moment they raise their heads they are accused of being against the church. That attitude needs to change. Suggestions must be welcomed.

—Prof. Robert Castellino
Mumbai

Walmart's Satanic Products!

The world's leading company by revenue – over \$510 billion, as well as the largest private employer with 2.3 million employees, WALMART, including Walmart India which owns and operates 23 Best Price Modern Wholesale Stores on a Cash \$ Carry format, has come under fire – the 'fire of Hell'!

Their online catalogue has 22 pages of around 440 items of demonic merchandise which include demonic sculptures, satanic pornography that blasphemes Christ's Crucifixion, sexual perversions and homosexuality, pentagrams, books that propagate a 'satanic bible', and files on spells! Especially featured is 'Baphomet', the two-horned goat figure symbolizing the 'church of Satan'!

According to a leading exorcist, "trivializing evil by selling satanic artifacts puts people at risk. It opens a person to the demonic presence. And that is very serious ... Either they are intentionally promoting demonic things, or they are ignorant. Either way, they are responsible for spreading evil. And frankly, I wouldn't be surprised, if at some point they might be held responsible for illnesses!"

"So beware! Just as there are nine choirs of angels, there are nine choirs of demons! Besides, satanic products also have a 'curse' put on it. When items are cursed, they become potent portals for evil."

"Evidence of demonic possession, leading to oppression and depression could be actually frightening! These include physical attacks, hallucinations and paranormal occurrences in the vicinities! I advise victims, besides exorcisms, to go to Confession, seek pardon, and pray to Mother Mary and to Jesus Who have defeated the dragon" (cf. Revelation Chapter 12).

—Dr. Hazel Colaso, Memphis TN. USA.

A Large Prayer Hall

with all facilities available for **CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP** between Goregaon (W) and Malad (W) at a very nominal rate.

Reply SMS: 8308094058

Elections In India Are Always Caste - based



Right from the time of 'Manusmriti' (around five thousand years ago) this country of ours is communally divided - everything is caste - based. Intellectual Hindus do admit this ageless and shameless tradition of ours. Every Indian name has a 'surname' - the word that tells its caste. The Indian society is divided in four main castes - Brahmin, Kshatriya, Vaishya and Dalits. Brahmins are hardly four percent, kshatriya are 30 percent, Vaishya are 8 percent and the rest are Shudras(Dalits)- by far the majority. The highest and prestigious jobs - nearly 70 percent - are captured and occupied - by Bhrahmins.



by Ignatius Dabhi
Sr. Journalist

Shudras - Dalits -, the majority of the Indian society have been poor, jobless, starving, and the worst sufferers of all. Wherever Indian go, invariably they carry this system and inflict limitless humiliations on the 'low-caste' people. Inter-caste marriages are exception and rather rare.

Every serious decision, job selection, residential places and so on are always - always - caste based. You be a Catholic or a muslim in India, you are bound and guided by that age-old caste system. Neither Muslim or Christianity could bring any big change in the mindset of Indians. We are born with this stigma and it has been ruining the very fibre of Indian society. Ex-President Obama, when he learnt about this system, he, in the very presence of the Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, said : "So long as the society is caste - based, the country will not make a big progress sociologically." Election in any democracy, is a big, vital event. When democracy advocates equality, how can it really succeed in a country which is basically formed on the caste system? A Patel or Patil will never be contesting from a Muslim area. And a Muslim or a Christian candidate will never be fighting the election from a Hindu area! This is a cruel, but real, reality

of Indian democracy.....

The Western democracy succeeds and fructifies because the society in the West is not based on such stigmatic basis. This is very unpleasant and disturbing thought that the Indian democracy depends and is grounded on the wrong foundation - the caste system. Gandhiji, Nehru, Sardar Patel, Maulana Azad and other prominent leaders in 1952 General Election experienced that all our tall talks of quality is a simple eye-wash! We, basically, from our very roots are caste-based! Be you a Gujarati, Goan, Malayalee or Bihari - as long as you are Indian, your roots are caste-based ! I may be a practising Catholic but my family roots are caste based. I am Ignatius - a Catholic but my surname 'dabhi' tells that we belong to Kshatriya roots.... Caste system has divided Indian society and it rendere a blow to democracy.

The 2019 General Election are not exeptop Modi is contesting from the deep-rooted Hindu base - Varanasi and Amit Shah from Gandhinagar where 80 percent voters belong to his caste!

Lalu Yadav - days before the ban - spoke in the Lok Sabha : " Our country is divided within itself - intrinsically we live in four castes...."

Ours is a unique democracy - our Indian democracy is based on a divided society. No religion can cement or iron out our differences. Our talks and preaching fail to tough our lives - it's strange but very true!

PAMELA WADIA

Meet Pamela Wadia for designs fitted to perfection from simple A-line styles to fabulous Ball Gowns Excellent bead work & Embroidery - Any size or Shape, as per your budget.

BRIDAL GOWN

BRIDES MAIDS DRESSES
FLOWER GIRLS DRESSES
COMMUNION DRESSES
WESTERN FORMAL WEAR
READY WEDDING GOWNS ALSO
AVAILABLE

Mob: 932227790,

www.ready2wed.in

Lucrative time for politicians

Come election time and it is advantage - politicians . Barring a few, this is the most productive time for them. Their desire to serve their people is so intense that they are prepared to accomplish this mission through any political party which is ready to accept them for a price – the highest bidder can also assure the disgruntled guy a seat which his own party denies him. Every politician will parrot that standard line – “I am disciplined soldier of the party and will do whatever my ‘leader’ wants me to do”. But what he does not say openly is ‘T & C apply’ – in short, conditions apply! Pray, what are the conditions? I must get a seat during the election and if I am old by then, my wife or son or daughter or daughter-in-law or son-in-in-law or nephew or niece must get the ticket. That is my right and if that right is snatched from me, I go in search of greener pastures in a political mandi [market] where buying and selling goes on.

Suddenly, this loyal soldier who has vision for the country, switches sides and starts talking highly about his new leader who has a roadmap for a radical change in the lives of the people. This is to ensure he gets a ministerial berth if the party wins. There are instances of a politician returning to his parent party subject to inducement. If this does not happen, he is issued a show cause notice and possibly expelled from the party. But who cares! Sometimes it pays to stand for election as an Independent. He has a lot of flexibility and an in-built immunity from anti defection law so to say. The turncoat knows that his expulsion could be short lived if his parent party falls short of majority. If the independent wins and should his parent party or any other party needs his shoulder to form the government, it is a win-win situation for him. He gets doubly rewarded. Apart from financial gains, he is assured of a ministerial berth of his choice. Our man, who is in demand, does not make haste. He keeps dialogues going with all the interested parties till the end and then closes the deal to his best advantage.

It is a matter of shame that a country which boasts of being the largest democracy in the world, has yet to mature into a real representative democracy. If people elect a party candidate,

VIEWS on NEWS

it is a vote for that party and therefore it should preclude him from switching his loyalties to another party. He should actually step down and then join another party. Each party will blame the other of poaching or buying their MLAs or MPs but they will not sit together and bring out political reforms which will take care of all such ills which have made mockery of our democratic values. Election funding is one issue that has been debated ad nauseam. In the 2018 union budget electoral bonds were introduced which anyone with a PAN card could buy and give to the party of his choice. This back door funding, people believe, is nothing but kickbacks made legal by the party in power – be it at the centre or a state. The donor remains anonymous. Only the government has access to information . These sort of hypocritical steps only expose the malaise in our electoral system which is otherwise so vibrant and kicking.

What we need to see is a change in the selection of candidates for election. Opportunists from other parties must be kept away for at least one year after admission into the party. This will ensure that only those who have a real change of heart will switch sides. Any candidate with a blemish like charge sheet should be denied ticket. Of course, where a person is convicted for certain years, is barred from standing for elections. If we look at the statistics on the number of elected representatives with criminal record – some very heinous crimes, it is disturbing. It is only in such cases that the politicians think about collective action. Politics today, is all about, money and more money.

Media – free but not fair

Like the judiciary, this fourth pillar of democracy has a vital role to play and is supposed to keep a constant watch on the performance or non-performance of the government. Though democracy is considered as the best form of government, there are areas which are vulnerable. The greed for money and power can corrupt any politician and if he or she gets a free hand with brute majority, it could be disastrous. The media has played a key role in the past and exposed many a scam and other shortcomings which have even ruined the careers of certain



by Marshall Sequeira

politicians. Therefore they are generally on the alert and the politicians would naturally like to see the media on their side for obvious reasons.

Earlier it was print media that played that pivotal role but with the advent of television, the politicians and bureaucrats are more vulnerable to be caught on camera. With investigative journalism including sting operations, picking up there is competition among TV channels. Each one wants to outdo the other primarily for TRP ratings rather than as a matter of public interest. With rude anchors, some of the channels, like the newsprint, try to be aggressive to browbeat the targets and go overboard. Some of the political parties even boycott such channels and refuse to participate in debates. The debate then becomes one-sided. This gives such channels freedom to tarnish the image of the party they hate. Some channels are said to be funded by interested politicians or parties. Then we have cases of paid news.

Not all journalists have crowned themselves in glory – some are tainted, others are bought. Today, we find that while some of the channels are pro-government, others are pro-opposition and their bias is noticed by any discerning viewer. Pro-government channels will debate on issues which will embarrass the opposition while anti-government media channels will select topics which put the government on the back foot. This is not the ideal situation in a democracy. The media should be non partisan and should debate/ report or show facts as they are. It should be for the readers / viewers to form their own opinion. A biased media can adversely affect the outcome of an election. An election which is influenced by extraneous considerations is not fair. People will view the party/candidate with jaundiced eyes. To that extent, the media needs to be independent and more responsible rather than be TRP driven. The edifice called ‘democracy’ is likely to be weak if its fourth pillar is vulnerable.

Make small changes in your life

I CAN'T CHANGE THE WORLD,
BUT I CAN CHANGE THE WORLD IN ME.

FIRST IT IS BETTER to take many small steps in the right direction than to make a great leap forward only to stumble backward. Have you ever noticed that it's rarely the 'big things' in life that make the most impact on our day to day happiness? More often than not, it's the little things we do that allow us to live a better life. Small shifts in attitude have a huge cumulative impact.

The only way that we can positively change our lives is through the choices we make. On a daily basis, choices drive us to do what we do. No matter how old we are, it's never too late to change your life for the better. Read on to learn how to make small and positive changes on both the inside and outside to feel more fulfilled, happy and at peace

Less anger, more understanding :

When we can understand why other people act the way they do - whether they are three years old or thirty - the need to yell automatically starts to diminish.

Less complaining, more gratitude :

When we look at all the wonderful things in life, the things that don't go well start to seem trivial.

Less blame, more guidance :

When we get hurt, it is instinctive to want to make the other person 'pay' but if we can guide the person to fix the situation, things are more likely to get better sooner.

Less judgement, more wonder :

We are all unique, different and a bit crazy in our own way. The best way to counter the urge to be judgmental is to cultivate a sense of wonder at each person's uniqueness.

Less resistance, more acceptance :

The more we resist something, the more it persists. The more we accept it, the less it bothers us.

Less shame, more vulnerability :

Shame is a deep-seated fear that we are not enough. Yet, it's a fact that none of us is perfect. When we accept the imperfection and embrace it, the tight grip of shame starts to loosen up.

Less fear, more action :

We cannot reason with fear, especially the irrational one that stays in the head. The best way to make change happen is to take action and keep moving forward.

Less comparison, more contentment :

Our life seems like a drag when we compare our 'behind-the-scenes' with the highlight reel of someone else's life.

Less will power, more habits :

It's scientifically proven that we have a limited supply of will power and the more we exert it, the less we have for future use. So, whenever possible, turn things into habit, limiting the need to use will power.

Less guilt, more communication :

We all make mistakes. Communicating how badly we feel and figuring out how to fix things will keep guilt from gnawing away at our happiness.

Less competition, more cooperation :

Come at things from a place of abun-

dance and seek intentionally to cooperate and the fear of competition starts to melt right away.

Less stress, more fun :

If there is one thing we can learn from kids, it is to have fun. Ever notice how few kids are actually stressed?

Less distraction, more rest :

Seriously, make getting a fixed number of hours of sleep each night a priority and distractions like social media and television will automatically stop killing productivity.

Less bitterness, more forgiveness :

Bitterness only hurts the person carrying it. Forgive those who hurt as and move on.

Less control, more flow :

Some things are simply out of our control. Learning to go with the flow helps tone down the urge to control.

Less stubbornness, more openness :

What if we are wrong some times? Being open to accepting failure and constantly learning makes life so much simpler and beautiful.

Less expectation, more patience :

Start small by delaying gratification with little things. As we learn to be more patient, our expectations of how and when things should turn out start to relax as well.

Less ego, more humility :

Earlier said than done but the more easily we can say 'sorry' and 'thank you' (and really mean it), the less hold ego has on our life.

BIG CHANGES THAT YOU CAN START MAKING IN SMALL WAYS

- Appreciate what you have in your life on a daily basis.
- Express more gratitude in daily life.
- Reconnect with people in your life.
- Switch up your day-to-day grind.
- Try to learn something new.
- Stop feeling like a grown up.
- Feel more comfortable in your skin.

Gift giving customs around the world

IF YOU THINK the art of giving gifts is tricky at home, try making it work abroad. While you must carefully choose the item itself, the gift's wrapping is surprisingly important, too, as is the timing

In fact, in many cultures, gift-giving is like a traditional dance - you have to do the steps in order, in time to the music and without stepping on anyone's toes for it to be a good experience for everyone involved.

So whether you're at a business meeting in Seoul or visiting a friend's home in a destination-specific guidelines you can (and probably should) follow to offer and receive gifts without causing offense. Here are some traditions to be aware of on your travels.

Insist a little : China, Singapore, Taiwan, South Korea and Japan

In many countries in East Asia, when offering a gift, you should expect it to be refused once, twice or even three times. This is done to avoid seeming greedy or impatient.

If you're being offered a gift in one of these places and want to be polite, you're well advised to do the same. Also, when the person finally accepts, you're expected to thank them.

Hand it over with care : India, Africa, the Middle East and East Asia

In Asia and the Middle East, how you handle gifts is very important. In India and the Middle East, the left hand is considered unclean so use your right hand to give and receive gifts (unless they're so heavy two hands are required).



In East Asia (China, Thailand, Vietnam), always offer or accept a gift with both hands, palms up.

Give gifts as a thank - you : Asia, Russia

Throughout Asia, gifts are given to show gratitude after receiving a gift and as a thank-you for hospitality.

In Russia, thank-you cards are thought of as impractical; send a small gift to your hosts after a dinner or overnight stay instead.

Avoid taboo objects : China, Hong Kong, Italy, Japan

In China, don't give someone an umbrella - it means you want the relationship to end. Also avoid giving a green hat; in China and Hong Kong, they communicate the decidedly unfriendly message that your wife is cheating. Straw sandals, handkerchiefs and clocks are also taboo in these two cultures because of their association with mortality.

Skip brooches and handkerchiefs in Italy for the same reason and in Japan, forget about handing over a potted plant as a hostess gift - it's thought to encourage illness.

No gifts, please : Yemen, Saudi Arabia

In these countries, receiving a gift from anyone but the closest of friends is considered embarrassing. If you do happen to have a best buddy from this part of the world, expect to have any gifts you give thoroughly examined - it's a sign of appreciation and respect for the gift and giver, who's expected to carefully select the best quality available. For men, don't give anything made of silk or gold.

LEAVE SHARP OBJECTS HOME

East Asia, Brazil, Italy, Peru and Switzerland and in more countries than you might imagine, scissors, knives and basically anything pointy or sharp represents the severing of ties and relationships - a gesture you'd probably prefer to avoid if you've gone to the trouble of buying and wrapping a present.

THE SECULAR CITIZEN

News item, Articles, Stories, Opinion, interview, Poems, etc. can be sent by

WhatsApp: +91 9820485389

Email:
secular@sezariworld.com
news@sezariworld.com
secular@vsnl.com

by Post

The Secular Citizen

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

Ad. Rates for Thanksgiving

	Colour	B/W
Favours granted minimum i.e. 15 words + 1 block(1 photo of saint)	Rs. 800	Rs. 400
each additional block	Rs. 400	Rs. 200
Holy Spirit Prayer	Rs. 1000	Rs. 600
Other small prayers (upto 100 words)	Rs. 1000	Rs. 600

Contact: Tel.: +91 - 9820485389, 9820473103

THE SECULAR CITIZEN,

99, Perin Nariman Street, Fort, Mumbai - 400001

Prayer to **St. Expedite** for solving a financial crisis



I call forth the Power and the presence of **St. Expedite** in my time of financial trouble. I offer my body, heart, mind and soul upon your altar of light. I have faith and trust and complete confidence that you will be my strength in this time of need. Quickly come to my assistance.

(State Your Petition) _____
My financial need is urgent. Be my

Light and Guide in this situation so that I may live with peace, love, prosperity and abundance and in the Praise of God.

Amen. (Promise Publication)

—Merline Sequeira, Andheri

Thanksgiving



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

—Gregory Noronha & Fly, Mumbai

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 three favours two impossible and say nine Hail Mary's and the above prayer for 9 days with a lighted candle and publish on the 9th day your

request will be granted no matter how impossible it is

— Benedict & fly Nasik



South Bengal church installs open air Stations of the Cross

Kolkata: A Church in South Bengal has installed an open air Stations of the Cross as run up to the upcoming Easter celebrations scheduled for Sunday 21 April 2019.



Bishop Salvadore Lobo of Baruipur blessed the Stations of The Cross installed at Sacred Heart Church, Thakurpukur, in the presence of large number of guests and dignitaries, Sunday 7 April 2019.

The Stations of the Cross is designed and curated by Church Art of Kolkata.

“The Stations of The Cross reminds us of Christ’s sacrifice for mankind and is bound to evoke piety and prayer among the devotees and visitors, and will add to the spiritual ambiance,” said Bishop Lobo.

“The five feet high and ten feet wide Stations of the Cross is a scaled down version of the Stations at the world famous Marian shrine of Lourdes in France,” said CEO of Church Art Kolkata, Mr Subrata Ganguly.

“As we prepare for Eastern celebrations this year the Stations of the Cross would remind us of the supreme sacrifice of Jesus Christ and also convey a message of mercy, compassion, repentance and remembrance to the visitors and humanity at large,” said Parish Priest of Sacred Heart Church, Thakurpukur, Fr. Himangshu Poti.

Last month, President of Federation of Asian Bishop’s Conference (FABC), Salesian Cardinal Charles Maung Bo of Yangon (Myanmar) visited the Sacred Heart Church Thakurpukur and appreciated the prayerful ambiance of the Church.

The Stations of the Cross, also known as the Way of the Cross, is a depiction of 14 stages of the conviction of Jesus, his journey with the cross, the crucifixion, his death and burial and accompanying prayers. The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is celebrated at Easter – the oldest of Christian festivals.

The Sacred Heart Church Thakurpurkur comes under the Baruipur diocese which is led by Bishop Lobo. Over the past 25 years the diocese has witnessed developments by way of the establishment of 11 new parishes, 8 new convents, 7 new schools and 5 different kinds of new institutions.

Source: Matters-India

Canon Law #286

Canon law #286 states: "Clerics are prohibited from engaging in business or trade personally or through others, either for their own advantage or for the advantage of others, except with the permission of the legitimate ecclesial authority" (the bishop is usually the legitimate ecclesial authority in the diocese) .

Canon law is a little over a hundred years old. It consists of regulations and ordinances made for the governance of the church and its members. The last part of this canon: 'with the permission of the legitimate ecclesial authority' was never a part of canon law, but was added reluctantly and after much deliberation in 1977 because it was found that some clerics were engaging in trade for some 'serious reasons'. (These 'serious reasons' were not specified). Hence to make these aberrations legitimate the clause was added with the assumption that it would be an exception. Bishops are not expected to give permission for any business dealings except in 'exceptional cases', else this canon will be meaningless.

Recently, a priest from the diocese of Jalandhar was raided and Rs10 cr (approximately), in cash, was recovered. This priest is an aide of Bishop Mulakkal and holds a high position in the diocese.

A clarification was issued by the diocese of Jalandhar regarding the issue. The clarification states that all are aware of the existence of a group of Cos under the name of Sahodhaya. These Cos supply text books, smart boards and security guards for the church run schools and a construction Co for building schools and churches. These cos are not run by the diocese but are partnership cos in which some priests are partners with due permission. The profits of these cos are used mainly for social and charitable works.

Personally I believe that the diocese erred in issuing the clarification and in trying to justify the misdeeds of the priests. There is no question of a priest partnering in a Co. In a partnership Co he becomes a full and equal partner in business. Moreover, if the church enters businesses like security guard agency and construction business even with the best of intentions, what is there to prevent all other parishes in the country from engaging in similar businesses? What is there to prevent parishes from opening grocery stores or even small supermarkets for Catholics of their dioceses? Who knows, in a few years we can even rival Baba Ramdev's Patanjali Company!

This must be nipped in the bud before it spreads. Bishop Agnelo Gracias, the administrator of the diocese must immediately withdraw the permission given to the priests to engage in business. There is no justification at all for priests to engage in any business on such a large scale involving a turnover of several crores of rupees. The Cos may be handed over to lay persons or shut down completely. If the intentions are genuine, these companies will survive in the hands of lay directors. Otherwise it will imply that the clergy were in full control, not merely 'partnering in them'.

—Prof Robert Castellino
Mumbai

Caritas India Lent Campaign – 2019: “Nutrition Our Right”!

The humanitarian arm of the Indian Bishop's conference, Caritas India, is focusing its Lenten Campaign for 2019, and even beyond Lent, on a collective awareness to ensure solidarity, food security, healthcare, and a dignified life for all citizens with the theme: “Nutrition Our Right”! In this framework, Caritas India has undertaken initiatives in individual Indian States, involving lay organizations and leaders of various Ecclesial communities.

The above theme, touches the scourge of “Malnutrition”, defined as painful and shameful for humanity! The number of malnourished children and women is among the highest in the world. According to official data, the country presents 38% children suffering from rickets, and 38% underweight, precisely because of food insecurity!

“Malnutrition is a debilitating condition which weakens the child's immune system, exposing them to diseases resulting in a high mortality. Also, malnutrition as a product of extreme poverty and inequality, irreversibly damages both individuals and society; and increases the burden of disease on families and governments”, said Fr. Jolly Puthenpura, vice executive director of Caritas India.

“During Lent, in which believers are invited to personal conversion, love of God and service to neighbor, we intend to raise awareness among the Ecclesial laity on the situation of the poor, hungry, farmers, and migrants looking for work.”

“The Compassion of Jesus needs to be lived and experienced, as Jesus Himself acknowledged: ‘Because they have been with Me for three days and have nothing to eat’ (Mark 8:2). Besides, malnutrition dehumanizes the ‘person who is made in the image and likeness of God’!” (Genesis 1:26).

—Dr. Trevor Colaso,
Memphis, TN. USA.

A Fool's Paradise

The 1st of April is a fun day. With the advent of electronic communication I can now fool people across the world. I get fiendish delight in fooling the “powerful”, and have often incurred their wrath.

This April Fool's Day would have been no different, until I read the story on Antony Madassery, a priest of the already infamous Jalandhar diocese. I don't know who is fooling who, when an amount of Rs 16,65,00,000/- is involved; in which the person caught with so much cash by the police says that the cops that accosted him gyped him off Rs 6,65,00,000/-; and handed over that much less to the Income Tax (IT) department! This is straight out of a mystery thriller, compounded by the fact that the Antony in question is the purported right hand man of Franco Mulakkal, the erstwhile bishop of Jalandhar, who is facing serious charges of repeatedly raping a nun of the Missionaries of Jesus congregation that comes under his ecclesiastical jurisdiction. But this is no laughing matter. It is a cruel joke that is bringing disgrace upon the miniscule Catholic (Christian) community in India.

Let us examine the facts, or rather the claims and counter claims. First, the police version. A Press Note was issued by Sri Dhruv Dahiya IPS, the SSP of Khanna in Punjab. He states that the Punjab police seized cash amounting to Rs 9,66,61,700/- on 29th March, in the course of routine highway patrolling on the Jalandhar Ambala road. They were checking for illegal cash in the light of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) in force during the ongoing Lok Sabha elections. They accosted three vehicles – an Ecosport No PB10GB0269, an Innova No PB02BN3938 and a Breeza No

Jalandhar Scam

PB06AQ8020.

The occupants of the three vehicles were Antony, s/o Pappu, r/o Partapura village, Jalandhar; Rachpal Singh of Tarn Taran, Ravinder Lingayat and his wife Shivani of Navi Mumbai, Ashok Kumar of Himanchal and Harpal Singh of Jalandhar. The aforesaid recovered cash was handed over to the IT Dept and Enforcement Directorate authorities for further investigation.

The fun starts now. Antony, s/o Pappu, is actually Antony Madassery. From the surname he is a Malayalee, like Franco. I have yet to come across a Malayalee whose father is called Pappu; a derogatory term used for simpletons in north India. Was Antony trying to hide his identity from the cops? Antony issues his own Press Note the next day (31st) on the letterhead of Sahodhaya that has its registered office at 595 Jaisingh Complex, Model Town, Ludhiana. Its Jalandhar office is on Gulmarg Avenue, near Chajja Singh Gate.

Antony states that Sahodhaya is a partnership firm for providing (not selling) books, stationary, uniforms, security etc to schools in Punjab. Strangely the firm's money is not collected in its registered or branch office, but in Antony's residence in Partapura village. The note states that Rupees Fourteen Crores had already been deposited in the bank (when and where not mentioned) and the remaining amount of Rs 16,65,00,000/- was to be deposited on the 29th March. For this the staff and guard (no names mentioned) of South Indian Bank (branch not mentioned) were there to take the money to the said bank after counting.

Just then 40-50 people armed with pistols and assault rifles barged into his residence without any search warrant, and forcibly took away the alleged Rs 16,65,00,000/-, together with mobile phones, and abducted him and others (names not mentioned). He alleges that the “local police” were not informed about the raid (so were they on his take?) He further alleges that he was forced to sign some documents written in Punjabi that he cannot read (though he has probably been living in Punjab for 25 years). Thereafter the IT Dept served him a notice to give detailed proof of the sum of Rupees Nine Crores Sixty Six Lakhs seized by the police. There was no reference to the remaining sum of Rs 6,66,00,000/- that the police had “misappropriated”.

His Press Note goes on to say that he has complained to the Commissioner of Police about the “misappropriation” by the Khanna police; and if no action is taken against them he will file a writ in the High Court. The son of Pappu further claims that every year he complies with all the rules of the IT Dept, and this case has been filed because he is a follower of the church (not Christ)! He claims that his mobile location can establish that he was not in Khanna at the time of the seizure, as alleged by the police. Witnesses that corroborate his version include the bank officials (no names given).

So which version do we give credence to, the cop's or the priest's? Enter Bp Agnelo Gracias, the Apostolic Administrator of the diocese, after Franco's removal. He issues a “clarification”, using the diocesan monogram that is printed on page 9 of the diocesan magazine Christward, April issue. Really fast work! I have seldom, if ever, seen bishops act with such alacrity.

The “clarification” has become necessary because a priest of the diocese is involved. It states that “all are

(Contd.. on p. 18)



by chhotebhai *

Inspiration!

Successful vs unsuccessful people

THERE IS NO secret formula to being successful. It doesn't just fall out of the sky nor does it happen out of nowhere. There is no book or movie you can watch to get you there. What it comes down to is habits. Habits are what separate the strong from the weak. What we do on a constant basis and what we incorporate into our lives are what creates our future.

Have you ever wondered how one person becomes so highly successful than another person who is just like him or her (in almost every way) becomes so woefully unhappy and unsuccessful? Here are some of the biggest differences between successful and unsuccessful people.

Unsuccessful people criticise :

They will find something wrong with everything and will blast your failures and shadow your successes. They will be the negative voice that doesn't believe in anything and are narrow minded.

Successful people compliment :

They understand when they should give constructive criticism or not. They will talk with positivity and see the future in something rather than just talking down about something.

Unsuccessful people blame others for their failures :

These people love to point the finger on anything and anyone when something goes wrong in their lives. They constantly look for excuses and reasons as to why something didn't happen, rather than looking into what they did wrong.

Successful people take responsibility for their own actions :

They learn from their mistakes because they look at what they did wrong, recognise it and figure out a

way not to make the same mistake twice.

Unsuccessful people think they know it all :

Unsuccessful people are stubborn; they always think they are right and that they know it all, when instead they are the least informed lot.

Successful people are constantly learning :

Successful people understand that everything in life is about experience and the day you stop learning is the day you are dead. They are always asking questions and are always looking to attain more and more information.

Unsuccessful people don't know what they want to be :

They love spitting out the line "I don't know what I want to do with my life." They never have any direction and instead of looking for some direction or some sort of target, they just sit and complain about it.

Successful people have a target and goals :

They understand there is no fundamental in life, you need to understand where you are aiming so that you can start shooting towards it. It's having a target and the shot is your actions towards that target.

Unsuccessful people fear change :

They think that what they are doing right now will never change and they are content with where they are in their lives. As long as they have the bare minimum of their basic needs, they are okay with it and don't really change their lives much because they are afraid to lose that consistency.

Successful people love innovation and change :

They are always thinking about what is next, not what is going on right now. They welcome risks into their lives and are okay with sacrifice and risking it all for the greater good of

their goal.

Unsuccessful people procrastinate :

They will look for any excuse to take a break from what they are doing. They get distracted easily and they love putting things off until tomorrow. They are constantly letting unimportant things get in the way of what is important.

Successful people value their time :

They will not let a minute go to waste for nonsense. They understand that time is the most valuable commodity that they have and they use it wisely.

Unsuccessful people don't understand hard work :

They look for miracles, they look for free hand-outs and they look to get lucky. They think that success is only granted to those who are lucky. They have no work ethic behind them and will do the bare minimum just to feel like they did something.

Successful people know things take time and hard work :

They understand that nothing happens overnight. They know that the hard work that you put in will become the output that eventually emerges. They understand that success takes time and that they have to perfect their craft and work their hardest to get there.

Unsuccessful people are negative :

They are constantly calling themselves depressed and have severely negative outlooks on the way life treats them. They actually believe that everything will not go their way - and it eventually doesn't. It is their negative belief and the lack of confidence in themselves to ever amount to some-

(Contd.. on p. 19)

aware of the existence of the group of companies, under the name Sahodhaya for the supply of books ... construction of schools, churches etc". It states that "these companies are not run by the diocese. They are partnership companies with some priests, who belong to our diocese, as partners, with due permission. It is within the ambit of law. The accounts are audited and income tax is paid in advance". The clarification goes on to say that the "profits from these companies are used mainly for social work operated through a network of social and charitable services". The rest of the clarification is but a re-run of the Press Report by Antony. The bishop's clarification is more of a conundrum, as it raises more questions than it answers.

However, a report published by the Tribune from Chandigarh on 1st April (Fool's Day) has a slightly different take. It says that 4 priests working under the Jalandhar diocese have been running an independent business with a turnover of Rupees Forty Crores. Other than Mulakkal's right hand man Pappu Antony, the other three are Jose Palakuzha, Paul and Shine, who are running the partnership firm Sahodhaya. Defending his actions Antony told the paper "I have every right to do business ... it is permissible as per Canon Law ... it is just like what the Ambanis do"!

A little historical perspective is required before asking some uncomfortable questions. Jalandhar was a part of Lahore diocese before Partition. It was ministered to by the Belgian Capuchins. In 1952 it was made a Prefecture under the English Capuchins, and a diocese in 1971. As per the Catholic Directory of India 2013, it had 116,968 Catholics in 106 parishes. The local Catholics are mainly Dalits, who were once scavengers; and are still treated as such across the border in Lahore. Hence one wonders how much lay leadership has been nurtured in the diocese? How many of the clergy and religious are local Punjabis?

Antony is reportedly the Superior General of the diocesan Franciscan Missionaries of Jesus congregation founded by Franco. The latter's alleged rape victim also held the same post in the Missionaries of Jesus (sisters) also under the diocese. All the dramatis personae, including Antony's partners in crime, sorry firm, seem to be Franco's country cousins. Are they holding sway over the hapless, voiceless and socially marginalised locals?

Canon Law states that "Clerics are forbidden to practice commerce or trade, either personally or through another, for their own or another's benefit" (Can 286). Unfortunately, it ends with the caveat "except with the permission of the lawful ecclesiastical authority" So where does that leave us? Based on the above my queries/ observations are as under:

1. Clerics practicing trade and commerce is an exception not a rule. In the instant case it seems to be business as usual, without any justification. If indeed permission was granted it should be revoked immediately.
2. Police are within their rights to conduct a raid in another's territory if there is a tip off. They cannot be faulted for this.
3. When the Model Code of Conduct is invoked during election time one is not permitted to carry more than Rs 10,000/- in cash.
4. As per IT norms cash transactions exceeding Rs 10,000/- are not permitted.
5. How did this group collect 30 (14+16) crore rupees in cash? This defies all logic and norms of doing business.
6. Why was so much cash kept at Antony's residence, and not in his office(s)?
7. Banks use counting machines for such vast sums of money. Were such machines placed at Antony's residence?
8. The good bishop seems unable to distinguish between a partnership firm and a company. He should have refrained from giving a clarifi-

cation when he was not competent to do so. Besides, social/ charitable works are undertaken by charitable trusts or societies, not by firms/ companies that are profit oriented. I also doubt if they can legally gift their profits for charity.

9. As per IT rules the seized cash can attract interest, penalties and imprisonment, if it cannot be established to be clean tax paid money.
10. Only printed books are exempted from GST. What else was Antony selling/ providing, and are his supplies/ services reflected in his firm's GST returns?
11. It is morally and ethically wrong for a diocese and its institutions to grant a monopoly of trade to one powerful lobby like Antony's.
12. The diocese should immediately issue a circular stating that there is no contract between it and Antony's firm for books, construction, security etc.
13. The bishop, like Pilate, cannot wash his hands off this sordid affair by issuing a mere clarification. He must issue a public notice disassociating the diocese from the said firm. The four priest partners should be transferred to four remote corners of the diocese, to minimise further collusion.
14. I request the Papal Nuncio to immediately institute an enquiry into the whole "business".
15. There should be a moratorium on diocesan congregations, and the existing members should be amalgamated/ absorbed into other dioceses/ congregations.
16. Immediate steps should be taken for the establishment of Diocesan and Parish Finance Committees. All contributions above Rs 1000/- should be by cheque or direct bank transfer.
17. Franco should be extricated from the territory of Jalandhar diocese.

Failure to act will leave us in a fool's paradise, being led up the garden path by Antony, Franco and their ilk.

** The writer is the Convenor of the Indian Catholic Forum*

DIOCESE OF JALANDHAR

AN IMPORTANT CLARIFICATION

You must have read in the papers the news item about a huge amount of money being found with a priest our diocese. This is a note of clarification with regard to this issue. All are aware of the existence of the group of companies, under the name of 'Sahodhaya', for the supply of text books and smart boards for our schools, for the training and employment of security personnel for our institutions, for construction of schools and churches etc. These companies are not run by the Diocese. They are 'partnership' companies with some priests, who belong to our Diocese, as partners with due permission. It is within the ambit of the law. The accounts are audited and income tax is paid in advance.

The profits from these companies are used mainly for social work operated through network of social and disabled member, scholarships for deserving students, medical and for the sick and so on. The amount of charitable work being carried out is immense.

Sahodhaya had just finished collecting the money from the sale of books to the 70 odd schools in the Diocese. It had already deposited 14 crores in the bank and the

balance amount of 16 crores and 65 lakhs were to be deposited on 29th March 2019. The employees of South Indian Bank, Jalandhar, were counting the money to deposit the same in the Bank. The staff and the guard of the Bank were there to take the money to the South Indian Bank to be deposited.

At this point, around 40 to 50 people armed with pistols and AK 47 without any search warrant trespassed in the priest's residence and forcibly took away approximately 16 crores, 65 lakhs. They abducted him from his residence at gun point. None of the local police officials were informed about this raid. After interrogating him for many hours at Khanna police station, he was released at 5 am on 30th March 2019.

The Khanna police au-

thorities have presented 3 crores 66 lakhs to Income Tax authorities as the amount they collected. Six crores and 65 lakhs have vanished in their hands! Complaints have been forwarded by email to Chief Justice, Haryana and Punjab High Court, Chief Minister, Punjab, DGP, Punjab, DIG Ludhiana and other senior police officials. Sahodhaya is waiting for action to be taken.

Even though the Diocese of Jalandhar is not involved in the whole incident, as these companies are not run by the Diocese, I thought of issuing this Statement in the interests of truth since some of our priests are involved. Jesus very beautifully said: The truth will set us free (John 8:31)

Agnelo Gracias
*Apostolic Administrator,
Diocese of Jalandhar.*

(Contd.. from p. 17)

thing.

Successful people are positive :

They look at life differently, they are optimists and their beliefs are strong behind them. They believe that they have the ability to do anything they set their minds to and they eventually do so. Their will-power is what pushes them, they're ambitious and they believe that they can conquer whatever they want.

**HERE IS A LIST OF POSITIVE MIND
- SET THAT EVERY SUCCESSFUL**

PERSON HAS IN COMMON

- They know when to stay and when to leave.
- They do more than what's asked of them.
- They are willing to fail in order to eventually succeed.
- They know that they make their own luck.
- They set real goals that they can accomplish.
- They make change instead of being affected by it.
- They create instead of just consume.

Royal Christian Family MATRIMONIALS - GROOMS

7032. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in November 1977), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 72 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. Degree in Electronics and Telecommunications, working as Telecom Engineer. Contact email : franky54@rediffmail.com

7031. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in September 1985), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Undergraduate, IT Software, works at TCS. Contact email :

josephavild@yahoo.co.in

7028. ABUDHABI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in September 1985), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Diploma in Mechancial Engineer, working as a Stores Officer in Shipping Company. Contact email :

pjmpraveen@gmail.com

6939. MANGALORE : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in February 1989), Ht. 6' 1", Wt. 70 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Tech / MS (US) working in US as Consultant. Contact email :

ritadsouza800@yahoo.com

6938. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in January 1989), Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 70 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., well settled. Contact email :

yohancharry03@gmail.com

6934. MUMBAI : East Indain Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in October 1987), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 75 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. Gradute, Hotel Management, Contact email :

nevoid2016@gmail.com

6930. GOA : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in August 1979), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. SCC and Diploma in Electrical, Electrical Contractor. Contact email :

cajetan1208@gmail.com

6924. MUMBAI : Mumbai born and broughtup Roman Catholic Keralite Bachelor, (Born in September 1984), Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 72 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.Sc. (I.T.), working as a Sr. Software Engineer in Foreign Bank. Contact email :

dianamanuel320@gmail.com

6923. PUNE : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Divorcee, (Born in April 1963), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 62 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn.High School + 3 years Full term apprectice, working as a Machinist CNC Operator in reputed organisation. Contact email :

mathiaswilliam04@gmail.com

6918. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Widow, (Born in November 1953), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 58 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn.D.P.E., Well settled. Contact email :

louisn23@hotmail.com

6917. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in October 1985), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn.B.E. MBA, working as an Engineer. Contact email :

delphinempinto@gmail.com

6916. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in October 1986), Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 84 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn.B.E.Mechanic, working as an Engineer in the Oil Industry. working as an Engineer in Major MNC Company. Contact email :

treasa542000@gmail.com

6879. U.S. : Parents of RC Mangalorean Bachelor, (Born in October 1989), 5' 10", born-bought up in Mumbai has done his Masters in Computer Science in US and is presently working there, seek alliance from RC preferably Mangalorean qualified spinsters

working in US, pleasant personality and good family values. Please reply with details and photographs to Email: amy.rigues@gmail.com

6874. MANGALORE : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in May 1984), Ht. 5' 11", Wheatsih Complexion, Edn. PGDMA., working as an Account Manager. Contact email : eltonjds@gmail.com

6856. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in September 1973), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 67 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. MBA, working as a HR. Contact email :

clifforddsilva@yahoo.co.in

6854. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in October 1985), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 78 kgs, Tan Complexion, Edn. F.Y. B.Com., working as a Sales Executive. Contact email : rquadres85@yahoo.co.in

6797 MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in December 1987), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 72 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working for Five Star Hotel in Mumbai. Contact email : johnserrao14@yahoo.com

6585. MUMBAI : Mumbai born and broughtup Roman Catholic Bachelor, Handsome, (Born in June 1988), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 78 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. EXTC Engineering, working as a Networking Engineer. Having own accommodation. Contact email : 18.elaine@gmail.com

Please renew your subscription if expired. Mention your subscription no. while sending the renewal amount

Address your replies to :
Regd. No. _____
ROYAL CHRISTIAN FAMILY,
99, Perin Nariman Street, 1st Floor,
Fort, Mumbai - 400 001.

To Place Your Matrimonial Advertisement Call:

+91 - 9820485389 or 9820473103

* Check your email at least once a week.

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Telephone no. of candidate will be printed only with the consent of members.

For Tel. Nos. Please contact:

+91- 9820473103 / 9820485389 or

Email : royalchristianfamily@gmail.com

Royal Christian Family MATRIMONIALS - BRIDES

7033. U.S.A. : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in September 1991), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 62 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.Tech USA., working as a Business Developer. Contact email : vio.ban65@gmail.com

6959. MUMBAI : Alliance invited from well settled RC Goan bachelors upto 30 years. for RC Goan Spinster (Born in November 1990), a B.A. graduate, done IATA, presently working in **DUBAI** in a travel company as a corporate travel officer, Ht. 5' 3", (preferable working overseas) Contact email : sabjf1963@gmail.com OR Cell No.: 8828998414

7030. JAIPUR : Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in November 1987), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 85 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.A. in English & B.Ed., Teacher by profession. Contact email : jennifer27nov@gmail.com

6690. MUMBAI : East Indian Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1986), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 54 kgs, Fair Complexion, good looking, smart, intelligent, Edn. CS., LL.B., working as a Asst. Company Secretary. Seeks a suitable educated and well settled bachelor. Caste no bar. Contact email : joylinafaroz@gmail.com

7027. MANGLORE : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in August 1982), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 65 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Tech (IT) 4 years, Teacher by profession. Contact email : ranjithamenezes@gmail.com

7016. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in November 1989), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 60 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., IATA, working as a Asst. Manager in Airlines. Contact email : vinita.dsouza89@gmail.com

6992. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in September 1989), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 63 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.E.

(Computer), MBA (Finance) working as a Officer in Bank. Contact email : thea_rocque@hotmail.com

6990. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in October 1981), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 70 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. F.Y. B.Com., Completed Aviation Course & holds knowledge of French Language and computer course. Contact email : evane_martis@yahoo.co.in

6989. MUMBAI : Smart, good looking Spinster, (Born in February 1989), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 72 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Sr. Specialist. Looking for God Fearing boy from Catholic family, Settled in Mumbai. Contact email : khanhi@willis.com

6988. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in September 1992), Ht. 5', Wt. 55 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., Dip. in Finance, working, Contact email : pbttaaa@gmail.com

6985. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Divorcee, (Born in November 1984), Ht. 157 cms, Wt. 68 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Customer Support. Contact email : jokina10@rediffmail.com

6984. GOA : Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in July 1986), Ht. 165 cms, Wt. 70 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A. working. Contact email : jane.matthews14@gmail.com

6983. MUMBAI : East Indian Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1991), Ht. 160 cms, Wt. 52 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Educated, working. Contact email : joaquimbalbina17@gmail.com

6943. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in August 1990), Ht. 5', Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Chartered Accountant, working as a C.A., Contact email : sandrereg67@hotmail.com

6942. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in Octo-

ber 1987), Ht. 5' 4", Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M. Com., working as a Sr. Associate in Foreign Bank. Contact email : olgapin123@gmail.com

6937. POONA : Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in July 1988), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 58 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. MBA (Finance) working as a Financial Analyst. Contact email : sheron.muller@gmail.com

6822. KUWAIT : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in November 1982), Ht. 5' 4", Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc. Post Graduate in Mumbai University, Teacher in Kuwait. Contact email : pereiralucy2017@yahoo.com Tel: 00965-60402765 / 9867308911

6821. UAE : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in May 1992), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 70 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Sc., in Zoology from Mumabi, working as a Content Writer at Academic Publication. Contact email : clevan2006@rediffmail.com

6873. MUMBAI : Affluent family R.C. Mangalorean Spinster, (Born in August 1980), Ht. 5' 3", very beautiful and pretty. B.A., E.A. (Secretarial Course), worked for foreign MNC's, currently managing Father's Business. Contact email : lvbsh16@gmail.com

6772. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic spinster, (Born in August 1984), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 59 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Accountant. Contact email : josephpiadadepereira@yahoo.in

Registered members can publish their ad in all the 50 issues in a year for Rs. 8000 only.

If you wish to publish your matrimonial classified advertisement in all the 50 issues in a year, you can do so for an amount of Rs. 8000 only.

To Place Your Matrimonial Advertisement Call:

+91 - 9820485389 or 9820473103

* Check your email at least once a week.

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

**Royal Christian Family
Helps In Choosing
The Right Life-Partner
Serving Since 37 Years**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Telephone no. of candidate will be printed only with the consent of members.

For Tel. Nos. Please contact:

+91- 9820473103 / 9820485389 or

Email : royalchristianfamily@gmail.com

Bishop of Mangalore visits Same Tanzania Mission

- Compiled : Ivan Saldanha-Shet.

Bishop, I had a lot of adjustments to make, from academic to administrative



working here is exemplary. I appreciate the progress done in such a short time in establishing the parish mission, "Rupert" project and above all the school infrastructure and academic performance; appreciate the forward looking attitude to grow further by adopting farming, providing water and other facilities to the poor. The people have the simple faith. They are poor financially but they have a generous heart. They love sincerely. They have understood that God is at work amidst them. They are ready to come from distant places and spend time together to nourish their faith. The sharing of responsibilities in this direction is edifying as each takes care of different sub-stations.

Mangalore diocese is known for its efforts to meet the peoples' needs of the times. On his maiden visit to SAME, in Tanzania - the African Mission that the diocese has been cultivating in a fraternal way, the new Bishop was warmly welcomed. Well aware of the commitments that Mangalore diocese has there, it was a quiet but deeper personal attention by Bishop Rev Dr Peter Paul Saldanha, in the month of March 2019. On his return he spoke on the Mission, an over view of his insights for our readers follows :

I am happy that Mangalore diocese has taken up this Mission and with lot of hard work it has been brought to the present level. We are the first diocese in India, I believe, to take up a Mission in the African continent. Fidei Donum priests of other dioceses have gone already to Latin American countries with prayers and financial assistance. The diocese is adopting students and families.

Relating to this Mission : Same mission was not new to me, the various reports of those who worked here, especially Fr. Alwyn D'Souza. I had learnt that Boys' Science Secondary School is established. I knew that life is tough here being in another culture with very few facilities. We need to depend totally on the providence of God and generosity of people as there was no regular financial support system. In the past six months after my consecration as

and pastoral. Meeting priests, religious and lay faithful, listening to them, forming various councils and committees for the smooth functioning of the diocese, attending to various problems made great demands on my regular time table. It was really demanding a lot of time and energy. But now things are falling in place, and Same mission too needs a visit.

The important priority of the diocese is the building the faith community, deepening the faith we have already received and spreading the faith. Here, lay faithful, religious and diocesan clergy need to work together. Second thing is protecting the environment and conserving water - 'Laudato Si Project'. Third is to build bridges between the people of various faith traditions and create a fellow feeling in are neighbourhoods.

The priests and laity in Same Tanzania : The mutual, brotherly affection of priests

The mission is on the right track and is being stabilised and sustained. The mission as pastoral care of the Christians is taken care of. Yet a little more visiting of individual families and learning about their situation will help to focus on the right approach to inspire them to Christian values. The school ministry will help in mission ad gentes. The boys are to be trained in the practice of Christian and human virtues, keeping Christ as model. The mission inter gentes, among the people, needs to be taken up, so that people of other faith traditions, cultures and also the poor get sufficient amount of attention, and we must get them engaged with us in common action.

Bishops Message : First believe that God is working in you and through you. You are doing Christ's mission. Second, bring Jesus Christ into the lives of people and students by living the Gospel so that many may be attracted to Christ. Third, inspire the youth here to be missionaries in their own land.





Friendship is an important piece in a human's life. Our friendships mould us into the personalities we have become. When we are affectionate, we become active. We spend time thinking of our friends, important things to them and how to find ways to help them.

Making friends is an art that people should learn in life. Friends enrich one's life. They care, help when needed, encourage, congratulate, and criticize among other things. Friends sometimes help us see the part of life that a person cannot see.

It is not easy to make friends. Real friends are rare in this world. Man is a social animal and instinctively seeks companions. We come across countless people but with everybody we do not make friends. The essential condition of friendship between two persons is affinity of mind, tastes, temperaments or pursuits.

We can make friends only if we love people, if we are good and sincere to them and if we share their joys and sorrows. Friendship is a matter of give and take.

There cannot be all the 'give' on one side and all the 'take' on the other. Equal sacrifice on both sides is a pre-requisite of friendship. True friendship is possible only between two equals in age, similar in thoughts, views and achievements. An old man seeks the compa-

ny of an old man, and a student that of a student, a fat man that of a fat man and a pious man that of a pious man.

We can make friends if we are ready with our sympathy for others in their times of trouble. Adversity is the touchstone of friendship. Two friends are like one soul living in two bodies.

Friends made at school are life-long friends. They bring to us memories of those early days when life was young and free from all cares and worries. The friendship of Krishna and Sudama in Hindu mythology is a classic example of true friendship in our country.



By Jubel D'Cruz

Sudama was a poor Brahman; yet when he goes to his old school friend Krishna, the latter hugs him to his bosom though he is the king and the idol of his people. Without telling him, he converts his poor life into a rich one.

If we are open, plain and frank, we make friends who are sure to stand by us through thick and thin. We should exercise a good deal of self-control and sweet reasonableness in dealing with others, always trying to avoid misunderstanding and displaying a spirit of 'forgive and forget' if we want to gain friends.

We should not be soft-spoken flatter-

ers who say what will give pleasure only, irrespective of whether it is true or false. We must speak out the simple truth, however unpalatable it may be, if it is for the good of others. We should always be sincere well-wishers of others, never sweet-mouthed sycophants.

To attract friends, we must ourselves be attractive. We should have a trustful nature. Trust alone begets trust. We should open our heart to a friend, holding back nothing. Secrecy is the poison that always destroys lasting friendship and so we must have no secret from a real friend.

We must be tolerant and forbearing.

No man is all good. If we are always fault-finding, it will produce a feeling of natural irritation. This leads to estrangement. It is only when friendship is tested by the trials of life that faults may be pointed out without creating ill-will.

We must cultivate a spirit of harmony and proportion. We must not be too exacting. Having won a friend, we must nurture

friendship with love and affection; we must constantly tend it with acts of kindness. Our aim must be to serve more than to exact, to give more than to receive. What is given must be without reserve, what is received must be recognized as a privilege.

A true friend is an unmixed blessing. He/She sweetens our life, heightens our joys and lightens our sorrows. Even death cannot separate such a friend from us.

Friendship is like the sweet scent of the flowers of different colours and odours in a beautifully decorated vase. It is a divine spark motivating our noble actions. It is a sweet song of a cuckoo, filling our hearts with joy and happiness. It is like a lighted match in a dark room.



Since 1961

100% Hallmark
Jewellery Showrooms

**Begin
a Legacy
of your
own**



**Diamond Jewellery
starts from
Rs.15000/-**

**NOW OPEN
7 DAYS A WEEK**

Visit our website at www.pmshah.comInstagram : [pmshah_jewellers](#) | Facebook : [pmshahjewellers](#)

Marinelines (E): PM HOUSE, 480/82 JSSRD, Chirabazar. Ph - 91 22 22018670/ 22056700

Vasai (W): Ambadi Road, Opp Vishwakarma Paradise. Ph - 91 250 2350000/1010