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A NATIONAL FAMILY WEEKLY

Life lessons for young guns





Children's Day Message

“Let us sacrifice our today so that our children can have a better tomorrow.” These words of our former President **Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam** wonderfully highlight the importance and dire need of parents, school educators, elders, leaders and the society focusing on the welfare of children. Our little wonders, our kids are truly capable of mighty things in life, if they are provided with the right opportunities and proper environment to grow. Today everyone seems to be juggling between fast paced family life and financial securities with little quality time for children. It is high time for parents to be aware of their priorities in lives. A child needs attention and wants to feel loved by parents. ‘Spending quality time with children’ is vital as it helps them in building security & self-esteem. Let this quality time not be replaced by mobile phones, TV or computer. Even simple things like doing activities together or reading stories to them can boost the confidence among children and make them feel that they are loved, valued and cared for. Developmental psychology tells us that the brain development is at its highest peak during childhood where children learn rapidly during these

early years. They are like sponges just ready to absorb things. Parents’ quality time and interaction at home and teachers’ personalised attention during the formative years at school are therefore, critical factors in shaping and moulding their futures.

Children’s Day is celebrated as a tribute to our first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru for his love and care he showed towards children. Even though he was very senior in stature, he was fond of children and became popular as Chacha Nehru among them. He desired that every child grows into a responsible citizen through proper education and suitable environment. He wanted children to prosper in life and fulfill their dreams. As we remember Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru on this day of great significance, let us together turn our attention to the rights, care and education of children in our country. Let us make the required sacrifices today so that our children will have a better tomorrow. Let us not ruin their future by depriving them of their right to happy childhood. All that they need is:

- **HEALTHY & SAFE ENVIRONMENT,**
- **LOVE AND CARE**
- **EMPOWERMENT THROUGH EDUCATION**

HEALTHCARE • PROVISION OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT • A LISTENING EAR • QUALITY TIME • SAFE & JOYFUL FUTURE • GREEN, CLEAN & POLLUTION FREE ENVIRONMENT. In our country, the need of the hour is laying a greater emphasis on enhancing the school education system which is the largest in the world, catering to over 260 million young students. We need to treasure our children and provide them with opportunities and an environment to go to school and grow into persons they truly deserve to be. **“You have to love your children unselfishly. That is hard, but it is the only way.”** These words of Barbara Bush, Former US First Lady hold a profound message for every parent and teacher about the fact of preparing powerful, creative, integrated and emotionally healthy future citizens.

Children on your part need to be open to learn and make the best of every opportunity provided to you. We urge you children to imbibe values, critical thinking, collaborative and teamwork skills, time management and communication skills and develop yourself into an emotionally strong personality in order to lead a happy life and also to contribute positively towards building an empathetic society. Be grateful to God for the gift of childhood He has blessed you with. Pray for those who are not fortunate to go to school that they too may get the opportunity to study and live a life of dignity and respect. As you celebrate your childhood, remember that you are unique, special and a wonderful child of GOD.

Wish you a very Happy Children's Day!

Dr. A. F. Pinto
Chairman
Ryan International Group of
Institutions

99, Perin Nariman Street, Fort, Mumbai - 400 001.

Mobile: +91 9820485389 / 9820473103

E-mail : secular@sezariworld.com / seculardivo@gmail.com

Website: www.sezariworld.com

Editor: LAWRENCE COELHO

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Corruption & Religion like a business in India

By Don Aguiar

The fact that Ram politically and culturally triumphs in the recent Supreme Court's judgement is not always the moment that he is morally redeemed, or made whole.

So Ram has triumphed culturally and politically. The Supreme Court has declared that he, in his incarnate form, has sovereign rights to 2.77 acres of disputed land. Any other claimants to the land, especially the waqf board, whose main claim was possession of either full or part of the land, cannot claim adverse possession to the land. The sovereignty of Ram's empire over the hearts and minds of Hindus has been resoundingly affirmed. He is an object of worship, a locus of faith whose importance cannot be denied. He has politically triumphed over all the deniers: Those who denied he existed, and those who denied that there was an attempt to erase his temples. He has triumphed because a way has been cleared for the central government to manage Ram's land, to create a grand structure to mark his divinity. His sovereignty, and our faith in him, can now be affirmed in legalese, and etched in stone.

It is a reflection on the state of India's politics that the idea that the pre-1991 status quo ante would be restored was ruled out right from the start. **It is hard to imagine what Indian politics would be like if the Court had asked for the restoration of the Babri Masjid. So, the only two other options were a victory for the Hindu side, or some imaginative solution that did equal justice to all kinds of claims involved in this dispute.**

There is a cultural, political link to the religious aspect of corruption in India. Indians are not at all uncomfortable with corruption, corruption is very widespread here. Instead of opposing corrupt person, Indians tolerate them. No breed is so inherently corrupt to know why Indians are so corrupt, look at their lifestyles and traditions.

Religion is like a business in India. Indian people give money to God in the hope that in return God will give them preference in comparison to others. These arguments instils in their mind that unfit people or getting a court judgement in your favour or whatever have to give something to get the desired

(Contd.. on p. 4)

thing. Outside the temple walls, we call this transaction corruption. The rich Indian gives gold and other jewellery etc. instead of cash. He does not give his gift to the poor, he gives it to God. He also thinks that by giving to a person or authority or whatever who is in dispute with him the dispute would be settled to his advantage.

The temples of India get so much money that they do not even know what to do with it. Crores of wealth is lying in the temples. **When Europeans came to India, they got schools and hospitals built here. When Indians go to Europe and America, they build temples there just as they do all over India.**

The Allahabad High Court judgment, flawed as it was, was very explicitly a balancing act: Divide the property, respect all faiths, and put the past behind us. In some ways, this judgement has gone for a corner solution. It does say, none of the claimants can prove adverse possession; it does recognise that the demolition of the Babri Masjid was an act of political vandalism. It provides compensatory relief for the waqf board. **But in its operative part, this judgment is the opposite of the Allahabad High Court — no division of property; one faith nominally given priority over another, and an affirmation that long gone historical wrongs can continue to be the basis of new legal claims.**

But will this moment of political and cultural link to the religious triumph of Ram solve the dispute? Or will it only exacerbate it? We hope that the judgment, right or wrong, will de-politicise the issue. This would be the best option, a chance for Indian secularism to get a fresh start.

Indians feel that if God takes money to give something, then there is nothing wrong if they accept bribe. That is why Indians become corrupt so easily. Indian culture therefore assimilates such behaviour easily, because

1 Morally there is no moral stain in it. A very corrupt leader is voted back to power by the people, which you cannot even imagine in western countries.

2 The skeptical position of Indians about corruption is clear in history. Indian history tells that many cities and capitals were won by bribing the guards to open the gate and bribing the commanders to surrender. It only happened in India.

The corrupt character of Indians results in very limited wars in the Indian subcontinent. It is astonishing how few wars were fought by Indians in comparison to ancient Greece and Modern Europe. Nadir Shah's war with Turkey was very intense and was fought till his last breath. **There was no need for war in India, only bribe was enough to remove the army from the road and the same practice continues till date.** Any invader who wanted to spend money, could remove the Indian king, even though he had millions of soldiers in his army. There are many cases where Indians betrayed extensively just for bribe.

The question is why such a culture of bargaining is in Indians, whereas in all other civilized countries, there is no such culture of bargaining.

3- Indians do not believe in the principle that if they all behave morally, they will progress because their "faith / religion" does not teach it. Their cast system divides them. They do not believe that every human being is equal. Because of this, they are divided among themselves and have adopted other religions as well. Many Hindus pursued their own religions such as Sikhism, Jainism, Buddhism and many adopted Christianity as well as Islam. This inequality resulted in a corrupt society in which every Indian is against other Indians as per their faith.

But there are reasons to be nervous on three fronts: Psychological, institutional and political. For Hindu nationalists, this is a moment in a long his-

torical struggle. They identify Hindus as subjugated. The demolition of the Babri Masjid was a cathartic moment, and the building of a temple will be the denouement for a long-repressed civilisation. Has that cathartic need now been satiated? Or will this simply embolden those who see politics and culture as an apocalyptic conflict between Hindus and others, to assert their pride even more insistently?

The constitution postulates the equality of all faiths. Tolerance and mutual coexistence nourish the secular commitment of our nation and its people. The majesty of these words makes it hard to deny that India's highest court has set a new precedent in constitution morality for others to follow when deciding vexing inter-faith disputes.

In public form we all respect the unanimous view of the Supreme Court. But let us not pretend that, if not in this case, in a wider context, the Court's credibility is in serious doubt. Will marginalised groups read this as a loss of faith in the fairness of Indian institutions or not? Politically, does this judgment deepen the fusing of religion, culture and politics? In some ways, the institutional fusion has been deepening for a while — the political, legal and religious movements have all intermingled. **But with a central government trust, now in charge of effectively building a temple, the state is the medium through which Hindu sovereignty is now being exercised. The political and cultural reconfiguration of Hinduism, where political and cultural rather than spiritual forces now represent it, is now complete.**

There is no more sense of fairness. It's either majority versus minority where the majority voice wins. Or it's the number game, of how many voters are affected and how to appease the greater numbers, so as not to lose the voter base. We see sadly the same win-win clever strategy being used in deciding this case.



Concerted Consecrations

This has reference to the article “Concerted Consecrations”

(S. C. Sept. 2–8 issue) wherein it was suggested that there is excess baggage of western culture in our celebrations. This way of thought leads to inculturation. But the attempts made at some quarters give the impression that inculturation means adopting many modes of Hindu worship. This aping, people like me feel very foolish and tribal. The Church says that the missionary endeavour requires patience and the Gospel is to take flesh in the local culture by degrees to avoid tensions, mutual misunderstandings and even schisms. By the introduction of local languages for worship more than half a century ago, we have achieved much of the needed reform. However we have some hyper active enthusiasts who in their enthusiasm, forget the core and seem to please the Parivar Organisations who unleash attack regularly on the Christians. I give below a few examples of false pride and desire to steal a march over BJP’s Hindutva and the results.

1. Some time ago in Assam a priest composed some Christian songs in the tune of some Hindu Keerthan. When they were sung in the church, the Hindu organisations protested and it was dropped.

2. During a Mass celebrated in the so called Indian way in Satna, girls danced and performed aarathi while the Bread and Wine were being consecrated. One high official (Govt. of India) who attended the Mass wrote in the Herald “ that the main celebrant and the people in the church were looking at the beautiful movements of the body of the girls, unknowingly treating the Consecration and eleva-

tion insignificant. If inculturation does not help growth of spirituality and holiness, it is not advisable”

More than seven decades of adult life spent in our Punyabhoomi and even some periods spent in few foreign countries tells me that We Indian Christians are by and large rooted in the culture of our country and there is no need to start new ways and manners under the guise of resurrecting our culture or to please anyone . However I feel a reform which is biblical and practicable is needed consideration by the Bishops’ Council. The priests and lay persons who go to the Altar should be barefooted. This is in accordance with God’s Command to Moses (Do not come near, take off your sandals because the place where you stand is holy ground — Exodus 5:3) and to Joshua (The Commander of The army of Yehweh told Joshua “ to take off the sandals from your feet ; the place where you stand is holy“. Joshua 5:15) and with the Indian custom of approaching a holy place. I wrote to some bishops suggesting barefoot at the Altar, but it seems that a reply by bishop to lay persons might have been considered *infra dig*

—K. C. Thomas

Courts should not interfere with established faith

My personal view is that the SC should not rush in where angels fear to tread. Why should a bench of three, five or seven judges adjudicate on a matter of religion when all it requires is only one judge: God.

In our country religion is a matter of deep faith Nobody should interfere with established and deeply entrenched faith, unless there is some

man-made change of recent origin which is perceived to be adversely affecting a section of a religious community.

—Prof Robert Castellino
Mumbai

Don’t blame parents for vocational crisis

After the emptying out of most seminaries in the West, it appears that it is now the turn of the prestigious and hallowed seminary of the Archdioceses of Bombay in Goregaon (E) , going by the recent reports, that vocations and new entrants to the seminary have dropped considerably. Not surprisingly, the blame for this is put solely on parents, forgetting that it is the spate of sex scandals in the church by priests bishops and even Cardinals that have come to light and brought the priesthood into shame and disrepute. The question then is, what example have the clergy been setting for the youngsters with such abominable actions, behaviour and cover-ups? Can we ever hope to reap a rich harvest of vocations to the priesthood under these circumstances? The situation is so grave that this topic inevitably comes up for discussion at social gatherings, out of deep concern for the church and the priesthood, without malicious intent. By no means can these be construed to be the result of idle gossip and loose talk which prove detrimental to the youngsters. The youth of today are old enough to make their own decisions after what is reported and played out on social , print and electronic media.

—A. F.Nazareth
Alto Porvorim

Make the Goa metro a reality

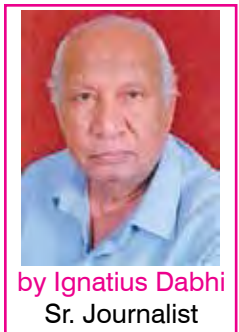
Travelling to different parts of Goa is time consuming , expensive and difficult so the problem must be ad-

(Contd.. on p. 19)

A Journalist with Catholic values, In today's media

Having completed nearly forty long years in print media as a professional journalist, I have some valuable experience, which I feel, I should share with my readers. Every assignment brought many unexpected newness that was an added impetus to work more and more.

Mr. Ramu Patel, a father-figure in Gujarat's journalist world, was my first boss. Ramubhai had a very good command over English and a long experience to have worked under the British bosses in Financial Express. He was actively associated in the Indian Freedom movement against the British rule. He started the first English daily news paper in Gujrat in the early forties. Mr. Ramu Patel always had a smoking pipe in his mouth and it was indeed difficult at times to understand what he said! He was a voracious reader, highly knowledgeable person and man with many high contacts in all the departments. At times he was ruthless and harsh but no bitterness in his heart. He often twisted a news and gave it a new meaning! He always took me with him - whether it was to the state Chief Minister or some highly influential authority..... He was a humble at heart and a subtle humourist - this reflected in his writings also. His news, views and opinions commanded respect all over. He had a deep knowledge of Christian faith and he was religious minded in his private and public life.



by Ignatius Dabhi
Sr. Journalist



Having worked with Ramu Patel for seven years, I joined the Times of India. Great Girilal Jain was the chief editor of all the editions and my news editor was Mr. P G Mahadevan - a veteran who took his training at Cardiff in U.K. Born and brought up in Karachi (Pakistan), he was educated from Saint Patricks School with L.K. Advani as his school mate. Mahadevan was a real Nambudari Brahmin but had a deep respect for Christianity. He was greatly amused to know that there was "Indian Catholic Press Association".... "Why do you need it? Then we can also have "Jain Press Association" and " Shia Muslim Press Association.." he had laughed at me and could never understand that we Catholics can have and do have "Press Association"...

Under Mahadevan I tried to learn a value-based journalism. Words carry weight and use your words meaningfully, he taught us. Gujarat, a highly communal state - Mahadevan never allowed The Times to take any communal side. The early seventies saw many communal riots and we learnt to keep balance.... Mahadevan could never be bought. No Hindu or Muslim swing! Today's media persons live in a slippery world..... This could easily be

seen in their news items. Newspapers and channels are paid in crores.... Media has become a purchase able commodity. My early grooming under Ramu Patel helped me to remain steady, firm, truthful and to the point. Communal forces created big problems to me and to my family..... My faith saved me. Many of my companions managed to have posh residences, cars and properties..... Because you are a value-based person, you pay....! And I paid through my nose! Chief Ministers, big police officers and district collectors often came to my house and tried to till their line.... "Do no wrong" and "Have a peaceful sleep" Ramu Patel used to advise me. I followed his advice.....

Does the Catholic Church in India recognise, appreciate, understand and fathom the whips and scorns of time I have undergone because I stood for the Christian values? My mind goes on fighting with my poor heart..... If everything is paid here, where is the need for heaven and hell?.....

Journalism is not a profession - it is rather a mission. Money, power, property and possessions are not all. Ultimately all this leaves you empty and dry.... Catholic values last- leave you hale and hearty?

Contemplation – The Way to Inner Healing, Peace and True Happiness.

by Joseph M. Dias, S.J.

We live in a world of feverish activity, especially in our cities. A lot of importance is given today to what we do, what we can do and what we can achieve by doing. People are evaluated by what they can do and how much they can achieve by their activity. Those who cannot do much are devalued and unwanted. Even in families, children are appreciated and wanted for what they can concretely achieve by their work and activity. This excessive emphasis on activity leads to a number of physical, emotional, psychological and spiritual problems. It is too much activity that leads to stress, tensions, conflicts, and unhealthy competition. No wonder more and more people have no peace of mind, suffer from depression and stress-related ailments of body and mind. Human nature needs a healthy dose of contem-

plation side-by-side with action; and silence must always precede talk, in order to make the talk meaningful. In fact, contemplation, viz., looking intently at the reality that surrounds us, at captivating scenes or events, silent reflection and pondering the deeper mysteries of life, brings us much more satisfaction, inner healing, joy and peace, than activity of any kind. While not all are fit for meaningful and productive activity, all of us, throughout our lives, are capable of contemplation. Therefore, it is in our own best interests to cultivate a taste and desire for silence and contemplation.

Children are born with a natural 'sense of wonder' as they begin to explore the mysterious world around them. We are all born 'contemplatives' with a strong desire to look at and to wonder at the marvelous world around us. This brings us great peace, joy and a zest for life. As we grow up, we begin to pick up all kinds of activities, which more often than not, bring conflicts, disappointments and unhappiness into our lives. The challenge before us is to retain the natural instinct for contemplation, silent reflection and wondering, if we are to find inner peace and happiness. As the greatest scientist of modern times, Albert Einstein, once wrote: "The deepest and most sublime instinct in man is the sense of the mystical. It is the source of all true art and all true science."

Down through the centuries, men and women seeking liberation and peace, have withdrawn to the awe-inspiring mountains, serene lake-sources of great rivers, dense forests and lonely deserts, to contemplate the wonders of nature. Even ordinary people can make an effort to find opportunities to just get away from the hustle and bustle of life, in order to gaze, to their heart's content, at the greenery in the

countryside, the starry skies at night, the snow-capped mountains, gushing waterfalls, the placid blue waters of lakes reflecting the beauty of giant trees, and sheep grazing lazily in lush grasslands stretching up to the distant horizon. "What is this life if full of care, we have no time to stand and stare!" as the poet, W.H. Davies, says. When the enchanting beauty of nature grips us, we realize, like the poet Gerard Manley Hopkins that "the world is charged with the grandeur of God"; we get transported to a new and better world -- the Great Beyond, and catch a glimpse of the Eternal, Infinite and Ineffable Mystery in which "we live and move and have our being". This is the all-embracing Reality, which brings into being all that was, is and will ever come into existence. Only the experience of communion with this Origin and End of all that exists, which gives meaning and purpose to our restless lives, can bring us inner healing, true peace, and that lasting happiness which the world cannot give, and no one can take away. How rightly, then, did the great North African thinker of the fourth century, St. Augustine of Hippo, describe human nature when he wrote, "Our hearts were made for you, O God, and they are restless until they rest in you"!

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Are We Responding To The Cries Of The Poor?

In 2017, Pope Francis dedicated a special day, to be observed by the Universal Church, every year, as the 'World Day of the Poor'. This year it will be observed on 17 November on the theme 'The hope of the poor shall not perish for ever'; in a message for the day Pope Francis says, "how many times do we see poor people rummaging through garbage bins to retrieve what others have discarded as superfluous, in the hope of finding something to live on or to wear! They themselves become part of a human garbage bin; they are treated as refuse, without the slightest sense of guilt on the part of those who are complicit in this scandal. Frequently judged parasites on society, the poor are not even forgiven their poverty. Judgment is always around the corner. They are not allowed to be timid or discouraged; they are seen as a threat or simply useless, simply because they are poor". He adds, "the Psalmist describes with brutal realism the attitude of the rich who rob the poor: "They lie in wait that they may seize the poor... and drag them off in their net" (cf. Ps 10:9). As in

a hunt, the poor are trapped, captured and enslaved. As a result, many of them become disheartened, hardened and anxious only to drop out of sight. In a word, we see before us a multitude of poor people often maligned and barely tolerated. They become for all effects invisible and their voice is no longer heard or heeded in society. Men and women who are increasingly strangers amid our houses and outcasts in our neighborhoods".



BY FR. CEDRIC PRAKASH SJ

On 13 October 2019, Pope Francis canonized **Sr. Mar-iam Thresia** (1876-1926) as a Saint of the Catholic Church. A day earlier 'Vatican News' said of her, "in imitation of Jesus, she helped the poor, nursed the sick, visited and comforted the lonely people of

her parish" According to the records of the Congregation of the Holy Family, which St. Thresia founded, "she worked at a time when women were not encouraged to go outside the home. There were many objections to her work in the beginning; but she persisted and continued her work for poor families. In many ways, she was a social reformer". Today (16 November), the Church in India celebrated her canonization with her huge function in her native Kerala.

On 23 November 2014, **Mar Kuria-kose Elias Chavara** (1805-71), was canonized a Saint. Apart from founding the Carmelites of Mary Immaculate (C.M.I.), and another one for women,

the Congregation of the Mother of Carmel (CMC), St. Chavara was also a great social reformer. He was well-known for reaching out to the poor and played a major role in educating and uplifting people especially from the lowest strata of society. On 4 September 2016, when Pope Francis canonized Mother Teresa (1910-97), he said in his homily, that "her mission to the urban and existential peripheries remains for us today an eloquent witness to God's closeness to the poorest of the poor".

Three of the five saints from India: Saints Chavara, Teresa and Thresia were not only personally close to the poor but also founded Congregations which were primarily meant to identify with the poor and marginalized and work towards their upliftment. In their canonization is Pope Francis sending the Church in India a very powerful message: to listen to the cries of the poor, to identify with and to respond to them?

The poor, the marginalized and the excluded (particularly the migrants and the refugees) are the hallmarks of the papacy of Pope Francis. He unabashedly supports them just as Jesus did and would have done today too; he takes sides with the poor; that he chose the name of 'Francis', after the 'poverello' St Francis of Assisi speaks volumes of where is heart is. When he was about to be elected as Pope, his good friend Cardinal Claudio Hummes from Brazil whispered to him, "Don't forget the poor". He has never done so – consistently reminding the faithful that to be a disciple of Jesus is to always have "a preferential option for the poor"

It must be acknowledged that the

(Contd.. on p. 9)

(Contd.. from p. 8)

Church, has over the years done considerable and yeomen service for the upliftment and the empowerment of the poor and downtrodden. There has been the whole spectrum of activities: education, healthcare, rural development, social forestry, cooperatives and other charitable works. These services have positively impacted on the lives of millions of people all over the country – particularly in areas where no one dared to go. Priests, religious and laity have selflessly accompanied the poor for a more just and dignified life; some have been martyred because of their engagements with the least, lost and last.

Unfortunately, in recent years the Church in India seems to have lost her moral compass by not demonstrating an unequivocal support to the poor of the country. A few days ago, the 'Global Hunger Index' released its report for 2019; India has fallen to an abysmal 102 out of 117 countries surveyed falling even eight notches below Pakistan. The poor continue to become poorer in India while a few rich have amassed a scandalous proportion of the nation's wealth. The Church in India through its various programmes has been speaking of a paradigm shift from the traditional charity-based (doling out; hand-me-down approach) to a more humane and dignified rights-based approach.

Ten years ago in his path-breaking social Encyclical, 'Caritas in Veritate' (CV), Pope Benedict redefined the meaning of 'charity' stating in his opening para, "Charity in truth, to which Jesus Christ bore witness by his earthly life and especially by His death and resurrection, is the principal driving force behind the authentic development of every person and of all humanity. **Love - caritas - is an extraordinary force which leads people to opt for courageous and generous engagement in the field of justice and peace.** It is a force that has its origin in God, Eternal Love and Absolute Truth. (CV # 1). He went on to add "in the present social and cultural context, practising charity in

truth helps people to understand that adhering to the values of Christianity is not merely useful but essential for building a good society and for true integral human development". (CV # 4)

An analysis of the Church in India today will clearly show that she is gradually abdicating her primary role and responsibility of being with the poor, taking sides with them and accompanying them towards a fuller and more dignified life. 'Good works' today is often relegated to a more secondary role and most often to cosmetic acts or sheer tokenism. Massive infrastructure, scandalous display of opulence and an emphasis on 'institution' seems to be order of the day. Wealth and power have taken several clergy and religious away from the essence of their vocation. Educational courses which cater to the elite few (and particularly to the wealthy) have become a priority. The Church lacks the prophetic role to take on the Government for its many anti-poor policies. There is a palpable 'fear' of taking sides with poor, of reaching out to them, just in case one rocks the boat of the 'status quo'. If thousands of poor adivasis, their huts and their lands are submerged by the waters from the Narmada Dam it perhaps does not matter; if impoverished Rohingyas seek refuge in India – and if the Government 'closes the door to them', it is perhaps none of the concern of the Church. Yes, there is 'fear' – a fear of losing one's privileges, power, possessions; the Church in India so easily forgets the example that Jesus gives us when he is tempted in the desert: "get away from me Satan!"

Pope Francis in his message for the 'World Day of the Poor' makes the reality and our necessary response abundantly clear, "daily we encounter families forced to leave their homeland to seek a living elsewhere; orphans who have lost their parents or were violently torn from them by brutal means of exploitation; young people seeking professional fulfillment but prevented from employment by shortsighted economic policies; victims of different kinds of violence,

ranging from prostitution to the narcotics trade, and profoundly demeaned. How can we overlook, too, the millions of immigrants who fall victim to any number of concealed interests, often exploited for political advantage, and are refused solidarity and equality?"

The Church in India can no longer take comfort in and recourse to diplomacy and tact; these are patently wrong and a clear betrayal of the person and message of Jesus. In his 2018 Apostolic Exhortation Gaudete et Exsultate (On The Call To Holiness In Today's World) says, "Equally sacred, however, are the lives of the poor, those already born, the destitute, the abandoned and the underprivileged, the vulnerable infirm and elderly exposed to covert euthanasia, the victims of human trafficking, new forms of slavery, and every form of rejection. We cannot uphold an ideal of holiness that would ignore injustice in a world where some revel, spend with abandon and live only for the latest consumer goods, even as others look on from afar, living their entire lives in abject poverty". Saints Elias Chavara, Teresa of Calcutta and Mariam Theresia lived their idea of holiness in responding to the cries of the poor. A question we need to ask ourselves: **are we responding to those cries today?**

**(Fr. Cedric Prakash SJ is a human rights & peace activist/writer Contact: cedricprakash@gmail.com)*

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The Prince Of Peace Is Coming

turn to the spirit of God to discover hope, comfort and courage this second Sunday in Advent.

Yes, Jesus, the Prince of Peace will be born to fulfill the promise of the prophet, whom John the Baptist proclaims as the Lamb of God, heralding the Messiah. John proclaims in a voice with trust and confidence: "Repent, for the

Kingdom of heaven has come near". In other words, the Lord is here to bring salvation to His people and to all mankind.

At the river Jordan, baptizing believers, the last prophet of the Old Testament says to the people, and to the Pharisees and Sadducees who had come to observe: "One who is more powerful than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire".



BY MELVYN BROWN

The prophet Isaiah had seen a leader emerging from the line of David, he also saw the great and eventual victory which would benefit humanity. Isaiah had seen the time when the "wolf and the lamb" would live together, and the whole world would be filled with the word of God.

In the second reading we find the apostle Paul sending out a letter of

hope to the Romans. The message in the letter could well be applied to our times as we stay still, wait and watch amid the chaos we are witnesses to.

St. Paul left the Eastern provinces to arrive at Rome. He discovered that a community of Christians had been established by Peter and other believers. So, before his coming to Rome from Jerusalem, Paul decided to write a letter to the Romans to make his coming a welcome moment in their lives of political struggle and persecution.

"And we know," wrote Paul, " that whatever was written in the past, was written for our instruction, for both perseverance and comfort, given us by the Scripture, sustain our hope. May God, the source of all perseverance and comfort, give to all of you, to live in peace in Christ Jesus..." (Rom.15:4-5).

John the Baptist prepared the way. You will find it in the Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 3, verse 1-12. Read the Gospel of Luke Chapter 3, verse 1 and in the Gospel of John, Chapter 1, verse 19. In humility, John the Baptist would say he was a Voice in the wilderness, "Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight".

Let us lift our hearts this advent in hope no matter how bleak the view of the world seems, the false news we read, the lies we are told, and the rise of false prophets. There are no grounds for despair. It is God who will ultimately determine the future. And God informs us, this earth and the universe is, "a world without end."

Face the gloom and respond to the glory of the Kingdom, having faith in the Christ-Child, the Prince of Peace this coming Christmas.

We live in fear but not afraid. The dark clouds of evil keep moving over the face of God's good earth, yet, "as water fills the sea," says the prophet Isaiah, " the earth will be filled with the knowledge of Yahweh'.(Is.11:9). The shoot which will come from the stump of Jesse will bear fruit: the Prince of Peace will soon be with us.

From the turbulence in the Vatican, terrorism, global warming, pollution of every sort, nations crashing in debt... And the fear never seems to end. We

Wuhan se kahan?

The bonhomie of the Wuhan meeting of the two powerful Asian leaders, Xi and Modi, some time back, had raised hopes of a very cordial and lasting Sino-Indian relationship. This was despite known Chinese opposition on India's dream of a permanent seat on the UN Security Council and reluctance to support, for years, to place Pakistani terrorist on UN list. These are both serious issues but the Indian leadership preferred to look the other way and see positivity in the relationship keeping the larger Indian interests in mind. This country never did or said anything that could upset the fragile courtship. The subject of highly unfavourable balance of payment position with China should have been a matter of concern and taken up at appropriate level for remedial action. If this was done the position could have been somewhat better than what appears today – pathetic. India chose not to do so, at least in public.

China on the other hand did not show that reciprocity. Despite knowing the highly sensitive Indo-Pak relations, China openly sided with Pakistan much to the discomfiture of Indian leadership. With the abrogation of articles 370 and 35A the Chinese position hardened significantly. While they did accept that Kashmir is a bilateral issue, they did not subscribe to India's position on the abrogation being India's internal matter concerning its constitution. This position of India's important and weighty eastern neighbor soured the relations to some extent though neither tried to escalate it. The series of visits by Pak leaders to China and vice versa only made things a bit dicey. One thing is clear. No matter what, China is going to stand by Pakistan and that is something India will have to live with and try to dilute its impact by getting rest of the world. India could snub Malaysia and Turkey but not China.

China is too big a country [unlike Pakistan] for India or for that matter even America to toy with. The sheer size and power of this eastern neighbour makes it incumbent on India to be patient and tolerant. It is too powerful a country for India to engage in any military adventure. If India is not the same as it was in 1962, more so, is China. With power at its disposal, China's hegemony is apparent in the South China region. It is trying to browbeat the nations in the region including

VIEWS on NEWS

Japan. The Indians are cozying up with all those countries to keep the Chinese dragon at bay and China is alive to this development. It is retaliating by its over-indulgence in Nepal and even Sri Lanka though it failed in Maldives.

India is a big market for China no doubt but for them Pakistan is more important strategically especially in the context of America wooing that country with Afghanistan in mind. It is all a game of chess among all the stakeholders India, China, Pakistan, America and Afghanistan. With a pro-Pak Taliban waiting to assume power in Afghanistan, India's discomfiture will be more pronounced. The combat ready Taliban militia will be jobless once it assumes power there. This surplus militia [dangerous and ruthless] could pose a greater challenge in Kashmir valley to give the already stretched Indian security forces sleepless nights. No matter what the Indian administration says, the situation in the Valley is uneasy. Hastily arranged guided tour of handpicked MPs from the EU actually shows government's nervousness.

Taking a holistic view of the entire scenario, especially post abrogation of article 370, India is going to be extremely patient and accommodating as far as China is concerned. India will also be cautious on the western front lest China decides to disturb the eastern front. The Sino American trade ties will possibly never be same again. That gives India some space to grab the opportunity which can soften the balance of payment burden. The Mamallapuram informal summit did not produce anything of substance. Whether the coconut water could sweeten the talks, it is hard to guess but there were plastic smiles. By the way, talking about plastics, did the two dignitaries use plastic straws to enjoy the coconut water? Was it in line with the PM's call to do away with single use plastic? It could have left a bad taste in Modi's mouths though. The Sino-Indian ties will 'Drag-On' though.

Lynching is pinching?

Why did the RSS Boss Mohan Bhagwat choose Dassera Day speech to dwell on the sensitive issue of lynching? If the Sangh Parivar believes that



by Marshall Sequeira

lynching [or call it by any other name yet it will still not sound sweet] is nothing to worry about then why give so much of importance. Like the government of the day, the Sangh Parivar is also in a deniable mode. It is precisely for this reason that the government is hesitant in bringing out a new legislation despite Supreme Court's advisory. If, as the RSS Boss claims, lynching is an alien concept then why hesitate to legislate? The issue is too serious to let political considerations take the centre stage. Lynching for whatever reason is happening everywhere for a variety of reasons. If allowed to go unchecked, we will have the Taliban type of justice system. Lynching – someone for being a witch or for suspected child lifting or any other purpose like honour killing, it is a cold blooded murder and a heinous one at that. To kill someone using medieval methods of stoning or by tying the suspect to a tree is a gruesome sight. While some indulge in the crime, others enjoy it standing at vantage points for better view while others are busy filming the act. Actually that is in public interest else we would not have seen the brutality and the authorities would have denied it.

But when lynch the suspects in the name of the cow [with religious angle] and force them to chant Ram and Hanuman or whatever, it has religious implications. While others can be claimed to be law and order, these are distinct religious in character and it is here that things become serious. That is why the government and the Sangh Parivar prefer to be in denial. The culprits are shielded through political pressure on Police who are equally guilty of partisan approach. Bhagwat, by saying it is a foreign concept, had the Saudi example of justice but mind you that is according to their law and cannot be strictly equated with vigilante justice. Even Donald Trump is influenced by Mohan Bhagwat. Now he calls the impeachment efforts as lynching. Yes, lynching is pinching everyone.

Life lessons for young guns

TEENAGE IS THE age where we learn a lot of things in a short span of time. This can be overwhelming but prepares us for life. Read on to find out what kind of skills is required for development of youth

There's no point in striving to make everyone happy in life. It's a game you'll never win. Our generation strives to please. It seems like we're always trying to impress or satisfy someone. That person might be a teacher, a parent, an employer or even a friend. You don't need to waste energy chasing other people's approval. Throughout life, there are many lessons we learn the hard way, through experience. Here are a few lessons that every teen must learn in life.

Circumstances change:

It's easy for me to stress over little things. When plans don't go my way, I dwell on them and it's hard to see the positive of that particular situation. Dealing with change does not come naturally to many teens.

However, over the years I've learned that everything changes at some point. The situations that I'm dealing with today won't be the same in a few years or even a few days. There's comfort in recognizing that fact and rolling with whatever life throws your way.

Everything happens for a reason:

Whether it's a job or a relationship, sometimes things don't work out. Keep in mind that there's reason why this is happening. The place you're supposed to work and the person you're supposed to be with will be the place meant for you.

Mental health is super important:

Many people didn't realize just how important mental health is. The way you operate mentally affects every single part of my life. If you are

drained, stressed, or down, it will have a negative toll on other aspects of my life.

The single life is a great life:

There's pressure to be in some form of a romantic relationship as a young adult in college. While being in a romantic relationship is cool, being single isn't a bad thing either.

Don't let anyone put you down for being you:

We live in a world where we get judged for every little thing we do. Whether that's for what we post on social media, what we wear. How we talk, or even who we are as people, the world likes to put us down. People constantly judge you because you're introverted, for instance.

Embrace your natural features:

So many teens struggled with loving the way they look. They feel like there are people who were blessed with good looking genes and those genes missed them. It can be hard to step away from this mindset. Loving yourself will always be an ongoing battle but come to a point in life where you accept the way you look.

Remember you are given your own unique, beautiful features for a reason and they aren't going anywhere. So you might as well learn to love them.

You won't please everyone:

There's no point in striving to make everyone happy in life. It's a game you'll never win. After trying for so long to please everyone in your life, you will realize that there will always be someone who is unsatisfied... As long as you are happy with yourself, that should be enough.

Be open to new perspectives:

One of the best things to know is that there are many great perspectives out there that can teach you a great deal. Expanding knowledge has definitely opened those doors for you to see the world in new, inspiring ways.

Doctorate to Edward Pinto from JNU New Delhi



Edward Pinto has been awarded Doctorate for his thesis on **SOCIO-POLITICAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH CARE JURISPRUDENCE IN POST-INDEPENDENT INDIA** By Jawaharlal University New Delhi during annual convocation on 12.11.2019. During the occasion Vice President of India Shri Venkaya Naidu and HRD ministers were present.

He is a native of Niddodi and son of late Joseph and Mary Pinto.

Edward Pinto [Premdas], is a Human Rights lawyer and Public Health scholar-activist, engaged in processes and social justice issues of the marginalized communities in India for the last 25 years. His academic journey includes scholarship from eminent institutions – masters in social sciences from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, law studies in Karnataka followed by human rights diploma from the National Law School of India University, Bengaluru and a doctoral study on health care jurisprudence from Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi. His praxis of social justice includes engaged with the dam displaced tribals, Dalit women in Karnataka and several social movements that directly and indirectly engage with the issue of well-being, dignity and justice.

Currently he is the Director – Research and Advocacy at Centre for Health and Social Justice, Delhi.

Dr John Chirayath Award For Fr George Kannanthanam

Fr. George Kannanthanam was conferred the Dr John Chirayath Award for Social Service for his lifetime contribution to the field of social work. The award was handed over by Justice Kurian Joseph, former Supreme Court Judge, at a function at the Kerala Sahithya Academy Auditorium, Trichur, Kerala today. (Nov 16th, Saturday).

Fr George was given the award by 'Maryvijayam', a 70 year old Catholic magazine of the Malabar Missionary Brothers for his involvement with various innovative social initiatives focussed on the people in the peripheries of society since 30 years. Justice Kurian appreciated the significant contributions made by Claretian priest Fr George for those affected by addiction, leprosy, HIV/AIDS, disabilities and natural disasters. Handing over the citation and the award he said that, "Our self knowledge and our spiritual knowledge must lead us to the commitment to the others."

Fr Kannanthanam founded the HOPE Society in 1988 to work among alcoholics and drug addicts, which runs an 80 bedded de addiction centre in Belgaum, North Karnataka treating more than 12,000 alcoholics and drug addicts.

Ordained in 1992, Fr George lived a good part of his life as a priest in Sumanahalli leprosy centre in Bangalore, which has more than 100 leprosy affected inmates. He set up a school, garments manufacturing unit and built about houses for the leprosy affected persons.

Support Centres in Bangalore (2004) and Belgaum (2008) were established by Fr George to provide residential care and rehabilitation for the those affected by HIV/AIDS. Integrating the HIV affected to the mainstream of the society was the major focus of these centres.

Tsunami in 2004 found Fr George moving to Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu working in seven villages for relief and



Justice Kurian Joseph presenting the Dr John Chirayath award for Social Work to Fr George Kannanthanam

rehabilitation. Maduvapalam, a village with 60 fishermen families was the first to go back to sea with new boats for fishing on the 23rd day, in the entire coastland of India after tsunami. The shared boat ownership concept wherein a group of eight families were given a new boat to be owned and operated by them sharing the profits was a path breaking initiative adopted by various agencies for tsunami rehabilitation. One of the eight was a widow, who lost the bread winner in tsunami. None of them owned boats earlier. Hundred boats were provided and 100 houses built for the victims affected by tsunami.

The 2015 earthquake in Nepal saw Fr George rushing to Kathmandu, with his initiative named Bangalore Cares for Nepal. He worked with a leprosy colony named Budaneelakanta, in the outskirts of Kathmandu, to provide the fifty families there with shelter. About 600 temporary shelters and 65 permanent houses were constructed in remote areas of Nepal. A school and a community hall in Kavre stand testimony to his work. About 40 students from families affected with earthquake have been brought to Bangalore for nursing and hotel management training, providing them sustainable livelihood. Many of them are now taking caring of their families.

Floods in Kerala in 2018 saw Fr George initiating the program called Bangalore Cares for Kerala. About 330

temporary shelters were constructed mostly for the tribal families in Wayanad. Now 25 houses are being constructed for various families with special needs like disabilities and widows.

Currently Fr George is the Director of Project Vision, working for the cause of the blind. He dreams of a world where all the visually challenged people can gain sight.

One of the special interventions focused by Fr George was to provide shelter and housing to the poorest of the poor. Beginning with the construction of three houses for his ordination, avoiding all celebrations, so far about 1300 houses have been built buy him for victims of leprosy, HIV, disabilities and disasters.

With a Masters in Social Work and Doctorate in Sociology, Fr George has written the book named THE EMPTY NEST, on the rehabilitation model for leprosy. He was conferred National Award from Government of India which was received from President Abdul Kalam in 2003, Mother Teresa Award for selfless service in 2012 and Best Citizen of Bengaluru Award from Namma Bengaluru Foundation in 2013.

Prof. P C Thomas was given the Darzana Award for social and literary works, Dr Cyriac Alias Kanichai cmi for his Theological contributions and Mr T C Mathew for his journalistic works at the function by Justice Kurian Joseph.

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(State Your Petition) _____
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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)

—Veena A. Monteiro, Udupi

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

—Peter, Sawawadi



Thanksgiving



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

—Leena Das, Bangalore



Prawn Curry with Bamboo Shoots

Required :

- 1 cup prawns, shelled;
- 1 cup cleaned and sliced bamboo shoots;
- 1 cup grated coconut;
- 1 large onion, chopped fine;
- 2 tbsp. Coriander leaves, chopped;
- 1 tbsp. tamarind pulp;
- 4-5 peppercorns;
- 1 tsp. chilli powder;
- 1/4 tsp. turmeric powder;
- salt to taste;
- oil.

Method :

Grind coconut, peppercorns and one tsp. chopped onion to a fine paste. Slice and soak the bamboo shoots in water for one day. Apply a little turmeric powder, 1/4 tsp. chilli powder and salt to the prawns and keep aside to marinate for 30 minutes. Heat oil and fry the remaining chopped onions till brown. Add prawns and fry for two minutes. Add bamboo slices and saute for five minutes. Add two cups water, stir well. Cover and cook for 10 minutes. Add tamarind water and the ground masala paste. Bring it to a boil and remove from heat. Garnish with coriander leaves.

Kitchen Tips - Chillis

1. The burning sensation caused by handling chillis or chilli powder (either while grinding, cooking or by accident) can be reduced considerably if the affected parts are washed with sugar or tamarind.
2. Apply oil to your fingers and palms when cutting or slicing chillis as a prevention against the burning sensation.
3. To sprinkle spices like chilli powder etc. on the surface of a dish, do it economically and evenly by using a spare salt-cellar.
4. The cough you may get when frying dry red chillis can be prevented if a little salt is mixed with the chillis.
5. To keep green chillis fresh, remove stems and store in plastic bags.
6. If you wish to store chilli powder for a long period, smear a little groundnut oil on the inside of the jar before storing. This will prevent the chilli powder from getting rancid.

Foot baths that cure ailments

SOAKING YOUR FEET in a bath of hot water does more than just relax and soothe your body; for soaks also have the power the alleviate abdominal pain, headaches, cramps, flu symptoms and more

Foot soaks can be prepared at very little expense and with ingredients that can be found in every household. These remedies can stimulate blood circulation, help heal certain diseases and have a powerful effect on your mind and body. Here are few things magic foot baths that work great for different health purpose.

Epsom salt soak to reduce inflammation :

Epsom salt does not kill the fungus that causes athlete's foot. However, it may help draw the moisture out, which makes the environment less inviting for fungus. While some claims that an Epsom salt foot soak removes toxins from the body, there is not strong evidence to confirm this. However, the absorption of the magnesium through the skin may boost the levels of the mineral in the body and decrease inflammation. Reducing inflammation may ease pain and stiffness associated with conditions, such as arthritis and gout.

Herbal soak to recover after a long day at work :

This home remedy will help the body function properly, especially after many hours spent walking or sitting. Among the bonuses you'll get will be a detoxification and healthier skin. Fragrant herbs also do wonders for your mood and help you totally relax. Make a foot bath with warm water, add 2 tbsp of Epsom or sea salt, 1 tsp of baking soda, 1 tsp of extra virgin olive oil and whatever herbs you prefer - parsley, rosemary or mint. You can tie the herbs inside of a cheesecloth so that your bath will stay clean.

Lavender bath to soothe sore muscles :



Lavender is known to be a natural pain reliever. This bath will help soothe sore joints and bring relief to muscles, while the beautiful aroma will calm your mind. To a bath of warm water add 1/2 cup of Epsom salts, 2 tbsp of baking soda and six drops of lavender essential oil. Soak your feet in there for 15 to 30 minutes.

Baking soda for skin problems :

Baking soda baths are more commonly used for skin concerns. A warm soak with baking soda can be the ultimate solution if you want to remove dead skin from the feet. To make the bath add two to three tbsp of baking soda to a full foot bath of warm water and soak your feet there for 10 to 20 minutes. Apply plenty of moisturiser after this procedure.

Eucalyptus soak to relieve stress :

It won't be long after this spa inspired foot bath that you'll find yourself feeling more relaxed and calm. To make the soak add some soothing Epsom salts of your choice to a container full of warm water and follow with 10-12 drops of eucalyptus oil. Soak your feet for 20-30 minutes.

Cucumber bath to reduce stiffness :

This homemade treatment works great in cases of swollen feet and stiffness. Cucumber also makes the soak super refreshing. Cut one cucumber into thin slices. You can either put the slices on the feet and cover them with a loose bandage or just extract the juice of cucumber, add it to the water of the foot bath and apply the mixture to your feet, either will get you the same results.

Love & concern for human beings

A recent newsreport of a woman approaching the police station and filing an F.I.R. with the help of some Animal Rights activists, against her mother for putting a dog out of the house, is disturbing, a cause for concern. It seems the woman had taken a stray dog into the house as a pet while the mother did not seem to take too kindly to it. And so one fine morning the mother decides to take the dog and leave it free outside. Keeping a pet in the house should have been a matter of consensus among the family members since the pet would be a part of the family. But, what this woman did was a little difficult to digest. Imagine your own daughter or son lodging a complaint an F.I.R. at the police station over such a matter. This is just not done.

One can understand and it's good to see some people showering so much love and concern on animals or birds, they are so passionate about their pets. Let's look at the scenario when it comes to showing love and concern on the parents or other members of the family. We must have come across several incidents where children are ill-treating their parents in their old age, making fun of them, ridiculing them. Why, there are also incidents where children are even evicting their parents from their house at a time when they are in need of tender love and care. Is our concern misplaced? Should we not be showing the same love & concern for human beings on the whole? This is something we need to think about.

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

Every husband is expected to give his wife six things Sincerity, Affection, Love, Attention, Respect and Yourself. You know it is difficult to remember these things in order. So women have an acronym for that. It is simple to remember and give. Here it is.....
SALARY!

The CEO of a large corporation was giving advice to a junior executive. "I was young, married and out of work," he lectured. "I took the last nickel I had and bought an apple. I polished it and sold it for a dime. The next day I bought two apples, polished them and sold them for ten cents each." "I see," said the junior executive. "You kept reinvesting your money and grew a big business." "No," said the CEO. "Then my wife's father died and left me a fortune."

Rates for this Festival season :

Ladoo : Rs 400 per kg
Jalebi : Rs 600 per kg
Kaju Barfi : Rs 800 per kg
Chocolate : Rs 1,000 per kg
Weight Loss : Rs 10,000 per kg
Enjoy responsibly!

Life of student's these days

One hand on pen, other on phone,
one ear on lecture, other on gossip,
one eye on the blackboard, other
on crush. Who says student's life is
easy? We are so busy!

Two regulars are sitting at a bar when one of them casually points to a couple of drunks across in front of them. "That's us in ten years," he says. His friend takes a sip from his beer, sets it down on the bar, turns to his friend and slurs, "That's a mirror."

I was on a business call when I realised I was late for a class at the gym.



I must have sounded rushed because the woman on the phone said, "Am I keeping you from something?" I replied, "I have to leave for tai chi." "Oh," she said, sounding intrigues. "What country is that in?"

To improve Vodkabulary the following books essential reading.

01. Bar and Peace
02. Tequila Mockingbird
03. Blender's Pride & Prejudice
04. The Last of the Mojitos
05. Ale of Two Cities
06. The Absinthe - minded Professor
07. Lord of the Gins
08. The Monk who sold his Bacardi
09. Harry Potter and the Goblet of Beer
10. Drunk Dad, Sober Dad
11. Adventures of Huckleberry Gin
12. Charlie and the Vodka Factory
13. Twenty Thousand Pegs under the Sea
14. The Three Whickeyteers
15. Not a Pint more, not a Pint less.

The haircut

Wife : Can I cut my hair and make it short?

Husband : Cut it.

Wife : I took lot of efforts to grow it long.

Husband : Then don't cut it.

Wife : They say short hair is the fashion these days.

Husband : Then cut it.

Wife : What if the fashion changed after I cut?

Husband : Then don't cut it.

Wife : All my friends say that I will look beautiful with a short hair..

Husband : Then cut it.

Wife : But I doubt whether short hair

will suit my small face..

Husband : Then don't cut it.

Wife : But short hair is easy to manage..

Husband : Then cut it.

Wife : But how I wear flowers in my hair. I love to wear flowers.

Husband : Then don't cut it.

Wife : I think there is nothing wrong in trying once...

Husband : Then cut it.

Wife : But it may take a long time to grow hair again.

Husband : Then don't cut it.

Wife : Still I feel like giving it a try once

Husband : Then cut it

Wife : If I look ugly after cutting my hair....

Husband : Then don't cut it.

The husband is undergoing treatment in a mental hospital presently. He doesn't speak anything except two sentences." Then cut it and then don't cut it.

My paramedic team was called to an emergency. Before we took the patient to the hospital, I had a question for his wife. "Does your husband have any cardiac problems?" I asked. "Yes", she said with a note of concern. "His cardiologist just dies."

We Indians have solution for literally every problem in the world. The only thing is the problem shouldn't be ours.

Function in School Principle : Please ask the students to bring Rs 100 per head for the school function.

Teacher : Tomorrow please get Rs 200 for the school function.

Kids : Mom there's this school function and we have been asked Rs 500 per head.

Mom to dad : Tomorrow it's our kid's school function we have to pay Rs 1,000.

Dad : There is no need for him to attend the school function.

Inspiration!

people can meet and catch-up with the latest happenings with friends. It is one thing to have an attractive profile but, if your profile is jam packed

Do you fancy everything about life?

"Talent is God-given. be humble. Fame is man-given. Be grateful. Conceit is self-given. Be careful.

-Anonymous

WHILE MOST OF us are happy looking within ourselves and trying to diminish the presence of our flaws; show-offs prefer to take a different route; they embellish their strengths and, pretend their flaws don't exist! We have all seen them before: That boy or girl who is always talking about, how well things are going for them and how they are God's gift to the world. The show-offs of today would like to have you believe that they are better than you; the truth is that, they are misguided human beings bound to live a life of failure. People who keep bragging about themselves unnecessarily are generally mocked. Is your life restricted to too much off showing to others?

It's good to be successful. You have the right to enjoy your success and be excited but, not at cost of bragging. Remember, there are people who are more successful than you but, they are modest. They know that life is about inner peace, not in just showing shallow life. Nobody becomes greater by demeaning others.

You might be having enough

money to satisfy your greed but, not your inner peace. Moreover, it is rightly said, "showing off is the fool's idea of glory." Do a little introspection to see if you are a show off too!

Diverting every conversation to self :

Do you have the inherent tendency of diverting every conversation to yourself? For instance, if your friend tells you that he bought a new car, you are expected to listen as he talks about its features. You shouldn't be instantly turning the conversation around to your car and how you got a great deal for it. Not every conversation is supposed to be about you, if you don't listen to what other people say and are only interested in what you have to say in return, you could turn into a type of person that people stay away from.

Doing things just because they are cool :

Are you one of those people who will do things that they don't like doing just because it is the cool thing to do? If you buy a tablet PC just because everyone is carrying one or if you learn an exotic hobby even if you have absolutely no interest in it, chances are that you are strategically doing all these things to 'show off'. Stop doing things that you are not interested in. Just because everyone else is doing it, does not mean that you will look cool doing it too.

Brag on social networking profiles :

It may become very easy for others to label you as a complete 'show off' of all you do is brag on Facebook, Twitter and celebrities and stop sounding like a narcissist. Social networking sites are meant to be places where

with a list of your achievements, your talents and your model-like pictures, you may be pushing it a bit too far.

Fishing for compliments? :

Braggarts are known to enjoy being the centre of attention all the time and they like their egos puffing-up with praise and compliments. Stop asking your friends questions, which force them to respond with a compliment. Everyone feels good when they are appreciated but, it can be very annoying to others if you dig down deep for compliments all the time.

Feel humiliated other people show off :

What is the first thing you feel when a guy keeps bragging about his new laptop all day long or when a girl keep flaunting her new shoes for weeks together? Would you make fun of them and ridicule them for being a complete show off? Or would you feel humiliated because that guy or girl apparently has something that you don't? If you chose the latter, you are possibly a show off yourself.

- If you really are amazing and if you believe, others also consider you amazing, then you won't need to prove it. We only show-off when we think that others are evaluating us negatively or when we are in need of attention.
- Show off is just your mind's attempt to improve your image and you will only try to improve your image if you think there's something wrong with it!
- Work hard on your desired goals instead of just showing off what you got.

CONGRATULATIONS ! DEAR JUBILARIANS

4th November, 2019 was a Red letter day in the annals of the Shrine of Don Bosco's Madonna, as it felicitated Fr. Mathew Thalany on the Diamond Jubilee of his Ordination, Fr. John Samala on the Diamond Jubilee of his Profession, Frs. Adolph Furtado, Anacleto, Corlis Gonsalves and William Falcao on the Golden Jubilee of their profession, Frs. Anthony SantaRita, Baptist Monteiro and Bernard Fernandes on the Silver Jubilee of their Ordination, Frs. Glen and Isaac on the Silver Jubilee of their profession. The Shrine was packed with priests, sisters, relatives and friends.

The main celebrant for the Eucharist was Fr. John Samala. He was joined by the Provincial, Fr. Savio, the Vice-Provincial, Fr. Ashley and many other priests. The homily was preached by Fr. William Falcao wherein he spoke about his journey of 50 long years.

At the get-together that followed, the compere, Fr. Leon Rodrigues stole the show with his terrific sense of humour. The Provincial, Fr. Savio Silveira was called upon to raise the toast. He said, "I feel privileged to raise the toast. We are not just celebrating an occasion, but persons, not years but the memories that go with the years, not a journey but a venture into new ventures. Today, we are celebrating 11 outstanding Salesians. Speaking about Fr. Mathew, he said, "60 years of Ordination is no ordinary feat. Fr. Mathew is the Pioneer and Patriarch of St. Dominic Savio Parish at Antop Hill. Fr. Mathew mentioned to me about the "bootleggers" and "bhais" that existed during those days but I'd like to mention that our Mathewbhai was no less a "Don" anointed by God. Being the compassionate Mother Teresa of Antop Hill, he has always reached out to the poor. We thank God for the gist of this priest who is a loving brother to us, a Pastor to the faithful, a dedicated builder of the Province and the flame of the Salesian Mission."



Next in line was Fr. John Samala. Speaking about him, the Provincial said, "Fr. John is celebrating 60 years as a Salesian. Today is the Diamond Jubilee of his profession. From being

ever. He was a Pastor and Educator in Mumbai and Hyderabad. He is known for his authentic, religious commitment. He is an Altar Christus – a true diamond in the rough.



Headmaster to Novice Master, from serving the poor in India to serving the poor in Ethiopia, he has seen it all. He has the qualities of the Good Shepherd. His, is an unforgettable journey of joys and sorrows. This is the stuff of which our legends are made. He has been a Pioneer and a Prophet who has worked with dedication and devotion. He went beyond the call of duty. He epitomises that Diamonds are for-

Speaking about the Gold Jubilarians, he said, "These four extraordinary men who celebrate the Golden Jubilee of their profession have left a stamp on the Province by being innovators and builders. Their passionate zeal and striving has taken our Province a mile forward. Fr. Adolph Furtado

is a stalwart on whose shoulders we stand. He has been the Headmaster of schools and has also served as Vice-Provincial of the Mumbai Province. He has shown fortitude in times of trouble, following the footsteps of Don Bosco. He is admired for his ability to remain serene and enhance thinking. Fr. Anacleto is a pioneer and an educator. He has worked in the ca-



capacity of Province Economer. He has supported and accompanied these on the periphery. His efforts to aid the young and reach out to the disadvantaged people are lettered in Gold.

Fr. Corlis Gonsalves is an Educator and a Good Samaritan. He is remembered for the wonderful musical plays that he put up years ago when he was the Headmaster. He did bring a ray of hope to thousands of drop-outs through the Open school. His ability and

keenness to go where no one has dared and his commitment to stretch is amazing. Fr. William Falco is a Pastor and Educator. With his rock like faith in God who is not just up there but very much in our midst, he tackled the hurdles that came his way and moved forward. He has a multi-facetted persona and a zeal to save souls.

Felicitating Fr. Anthony Santarita, Fr. Baptist Monteiro and Fr. Bernard Fernandes, the Provincial said, "They are the broad and strong shoulders of the Province, driving forward our ministry by giving their best to the young and the poor whether in Mumbai or elsewhere. They bring the goodness of God to others. Fr. Anthony Santarita has brought Vocational Education to rural Maharashtra. He is a go getter, a pastor and a crusader in the real sense of the word.

Fr. Bernard Fernandes worked as a Principal in several schools. He is a good Mathematician. He is a warm and concerned friend. He is a sparkle in silver streak. He is known to be one who walks the talk.

Fr. Baptist Monteiro is presently an Administrator. Wherever he has been posted, he has ensured that the unfortunate were taken care of. He has been very much concerned about them and made them feel wanted."

Speaking about Frs. Glen and Isaac, the Provincial said, "They are the Benjamins of this evening. They celebrate 25 years of their profession. They are

known for their optimism, creativity and good cheer, ever present among the young. Fr. Glen is the Principal of a school and if the students are well groomed, they owe it to him. Fr. Isaac is presently a Parish Priest. He has always been a mentor to the young.

After the toast was raised, the 11 Jubilarians together cut the Jubilee Cake. The Citations were then read out and each of them was presented a Citation.

Fr. Glen was asked to propose the Vote of Thanks. He said, "I celebrated my Silver Jubilee way back, when I completed 25 years as a Priest. Thanks to Fr. Savio Silveira for raising the toast, to Fr. Glen Lowe for preparing the citations, to Fr. Edwin for the Eucharistic Celebration in the Shrine, to Fr. John Samala for being the main celebrant, to Fr. William Falcao for his meaningful homily, to Fr. Leon Rodrigues for compering, to Fr. Elson , Fr. Ashley and all those who helped in convening the celebration." He ended with a quote, "We make a living by what we get but we make a life by what we give".

Before saying the Grace before meals, Fr. Bernard prayed, "Heavenly Father, thank you for bringing each of us together and for the Salesian Vocation and Priesthood. Bless our families, relatives and friends as well as those who could not be with us today. Help us to proclaim your Word to the poor and abandoned." This was followed by a sumptuous meal.

Well dear Jubilarians, it would be nice to end by saying,

*May the many happy years
Now passing in reviews
Bring back a host of memories
To make you glad anew
And may life give its best to you
As future years unfold
To bring still greater happiness
As you march towards, Platinum,
Diamond and Gold.*

— Doly Afonso

(Contd.. from p. 6)

dressed immediately without fail by constructing a metro both underground and multi level ie railway bridges constructed in the left hand and right hand sides or one on top of the other space permitting overhead /light railway first to and fro from the main cities ie Panjim / Panaji , Margao / Madgao , Mapusa , Porvorim , Ponda , Old Goa , Vasco, Marmagao and Dabolim and then to the other smaller towns etc .

Power for the metro can be obtained by buying it from other neighbouring states or by letting the metro build its own power plants or by using inbuilt diesel -electric or diesel-electric cum electric locomotives to haul the trains .

The under ground metro must have a double hatch to prevent flooding during the monsoons and must even be built under the sea bed to help increase its lines .

Referendum polls and grevience polls conducted separately but at the same time of elections and public meetings and seminars etc can provide further interesting and unique and important suggestions and tips for the metro .

Thus we see the need to make the Goa metro a reality.

—Peter Castellino

The importance of the night shift

With reference to the extremely interesting article titled : Ultimate tips to stay healthy for night shift workers in The Secular Citizen dated 18, Nov. 2019 it is very much cooler and silent and peaceful to work during a night shift.

But just as a coin has two sides ie heads and tails one's social life is completely ruined in a night shift

Thus while some people some how manage to work for a long time in the night shift others cannot just cope with it for long time and take up a normal day job .

This then is the importance of a night shift .

—Peter Castellino

Royal Christian Family MATRIMONIALS - GROOMS

7110. MUMBAI : Goan + East Indian Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in December 1984), Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 85 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc. IT, working as a Server Engineer. Contact email :

fernandes.raymond@gmail.com

6994. AUSTRALIA : Mangalorean Roman Catholic divorcee, (Born in April 1959), Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 80 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Dip. ITI Course, working as a Technician. Contact email :

ninearries21@gmail.com

6996. MUMBAI : Tamilian Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in September 1990), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 75 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. BMS., M.Com., MBA in Marketing, working for L & T Infotech. Contact email :

rodnidavid@gmail.com

7010. BAHRAIN : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Divorcee (with in three months of marriage), (Born in June 1985), Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 76 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. HSC Diploma in food & beverage, working in 4 Star Hotel Bahrain. Contact Mob: 8806129309

7018. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in October 1969), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 80 kgs, Wheatish Com-

plexion, Edn. SSC, Self employed. Contact Email :

fredrick.dsouza0110@gmail.com

6993. MUSCAT : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in May 1982), Ht. 5' 8", Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., Dip. in Financial Management, Working as an Accountant. Contact email :

sandeepfernandes2002@hotmail.com

7008. USA : Separated Roman Catholic, (Born in October 1983), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 62 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MD, MS, working as a Senior Engineer. Contact email :

jesusmary58@yahoo.com

6986. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in March 1990), Ht. 160 cms, Wt. 66 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Graduate, working for MNC. Contact email :

alwyn90lewis@yahoo.com

7005. DUBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in May 1986), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 50 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. BMS /CFA, working as a Head Treasury in Dubai. Contact email :

matri3119@gmail.com

6964. DUBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in January 1987), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 58 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. 2nd year PUC, working as an Export Executive. Contact email : dorathydsilva@gmail.com OR 9930785590

6788 MUMBAI : East Indian Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in May 1987), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 75 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Diploma in Industrial Electronics, BAMAC., Having own business. Contact email : info@icmtraining.in

6980. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in September 1987), Ht. 182 cms, Wt. 79 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. PGDBM,

working as a Manager. Contcat email :

roystonpereira2007@gmail.com

6977. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in April 1980), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 65 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. S.Y. B.Com., working as B Bartender at princess Crews. Contact email :

dlimadenzil@yahoo.com

6979. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in March 1989), Ht. 162 cms, Wt. 74 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Office in Bank. Contact email : luton767@gmail.com

6963. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in July 1981), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 62 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBA, Well settled. Contact email : freshflwr@gmail.com

6852. MUMBAI : East Indian Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in August 1983), Ht. 5' 8", Well built, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Bachelors in Hospitality and Tourism Management. Working as a Chef Head Chef in DUBAI. Contact email :

joslyn.gomes@gmail.com

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7034. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in June 1988), Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 80 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.C.A., Software Engineer, working as an Software Engineer, Asst. Manager (IT), Only Sonm seeks alliance from Mangalorean RC Spinster, educated, working in Mumbai. Reply with full details & photofraph to email : ID :

vivian1548@gmail.com

Mobile : 9096141335

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7108. MUMBAI : East Indian Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1990), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 58 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Sc. (Aviation), Ae SI (Part), AME (Aircraft Maintenance Engineer), working as a Aircraft Maintenance Engineer. Contact email :

lucyann.alvares@yahoo.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

7029. MUMBAI : Keralite Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in September 1992), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 55 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.Sc., Asst. Professor. Contact email :

augustyofs@gmail.com

7109. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in June 1986), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 58 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBA, working as a Associate Consultant. Contact email :

helendsz27@gmail.com

6999. PUNE : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in May 1991), Ht. 5' 4", Wt.60 kgs, Very Fair Complexion, Edn. MBA Finance from Symbiosis Institute of Business working as a Senior Credit Analyst. Contact email :

andreagemdsouza@yahoo.co.in

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

7015. MUMBAI : 35 years, Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in February 1983), B.Com., LL.M., working in a MNC in Mumbai, seeks alliance from well educated and well settled bachelor. Kindly reply with profile and

photograph on the email ID : alliance3525@gmail.com

7095. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1992), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 55 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Com + Import Export Certificate Course, working as a Billing Assistant in Well known Hospital. Contact email :

perpetualdias7@gmail.com

6998. CANADA : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in May 1998), Ht. 5' 3", Wt.65 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. MBA Marketing & Advertising Professional. Contact email :

richard.dsouza17@gmail.com

7059. SATARA : Tamilian Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in July 1983), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 55 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MA, B.Ed., (English), Teacher in Convent School. Contact email :

veronicadavidvd12@gmail.com

7036. USA : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1991), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 56 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.E. (E & T/C), M.S. (Tech. & Mgt.), working as a Strategic Consultant. Contact email :

veronicadsouza27@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

6978. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in

June 1989), Ht. 5' 4", Wt.50 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Undergraduate, Self employed. Contact email : sd450199@gmail.com

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

7003. MUMBAI : Tamilian Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in May 1991), Ht. 5' 1", Wt.47 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., IT, working as a Software Engineer. Contact email : annette.anthony10@yahoo.in

OR 9967681810

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

7001. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in August 1994), Ht. 5' 4", Wt.48 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.A., working as a **AIR HOSTESS** Lead Cabin Attendant. Contact email :

stephen@thesocialstreet.asia

7013. MUMBAI : East Indian Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in November 1989), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 61 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.Com., PGDFM., working as a Financial Analyst, Contact email :

dmelloraymond23@gmail.com

MATRIMONIAL

7066. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in June 1987), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 78 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.E., (EXTC) M.S. (International Business Management), working as a Consulting Manager. Contact email : l2018anselm@yahoo.com

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An Amazing Experience

APANG SEVA TRIP TO Bangalore, Mysore and Ooty.

It was an amazing experience involving a big whole world in the event! A multi-religious group of 50 handicapped persons was visiting 3 cities of India, Bangalore, Mysore and Ooty in 7 days. It became an unbelievable experience of human cooperation Sahakaar. The group was Apang Seva from Vasai touring on 25-26-27-28 Oct.

The principle followed by the organizers is that let the locals make the group feel at home in every manner. And so on 25th as the group reached Bangalore, the youth group of Railway Line parish welcomed them at the City station and helped transferring their luggage and wheelchairs from the train to the bus. Fr. Sagay at NBCL-Centre was all set to refresh them and serve hot idli sambar for their breakfast. Mr. Mani, Tomy, Frs. George and Martin coordinated the sightseeing program and food in Bangalore. Mr. Raju arranged a 50-seater bus take the group all around and on the last day to bring them back to Bangalore station for catching train to Mumbai. All Samaritans were contacted for the purpose and they responded readily!

On 26th the group did sightseeing in Mysore which was guided by Mr. Raju

again. The group had free entry to the Palace and Vrundavan Garden. Their bus was allowed to go in up to the point of the light and sound program in Vrundavan Gardens! Of course proper applications to authorities for facilities were presented and permissions obtained in advance. The facilities were sought as the rights of the handicapped, not just favours! Those on wheelchairs covered the little walking distance in the gardens, by boating. Just that day, the management at Vrundavan Gardens was changed from the government to some private agency. Even they obliged make entries smooth and free of charge for Divyangis! And thus the 7-day trip was made available to the participants only for 6000 Rs. and for deserving individuals still cheaper!

Many were advising the group not to go to Ooty. 'It is too long a journey and tiring for the disabled'. But the Divyangis as they are, they did not give up the chance they were getting once in their life time. Precisely to teach them face life bravely was the purpose of the trip. On 27th the group was lucky to make a safe visit even to Ooty with 3 small vehicles. Free entries to botanical Gardens and boating were obtained by Mr. Noel. FFM Sisters served lunch that day at their prestigious institution with love. The Mass was celebrated there and that being the Dipavali day, had even an oil lamp lighted by the Hindu participants.

28th was the 6th and last day of the trip. Starting early morning the group came to Yelhanka Station, near Bangalore to catch Vivek Express. Why? Because the express runs through Vasai, their home town! Indian Railways too cooperated with the struggling group of the handicapped with Mr. Sunil Bhaderikar, and gave all 50 seats in the same compartment S9!

Of course they were not to leave the state of Karnataka as tourists, just strangers but as special guests! Fr. Amal and Velankani parish group nearby was there to give them a musical sendoff! They helped transferring the luggage from the bus to the station and put it right in the boggy! As the train left they were on the platform to wave their hands and give flying kisses!

The trip was affordable to the participants only because charity was sought at every stage. That's how the event became not just a touristic visit but one that was building relations. Those who helped financially were not just donors but became 'relatives'! It was a national event connecting three states, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamilnadu. Mr. Raju the bus-man gave utmost concessions. Mr. Santosh provided simple food at 'simple' rate. Bishop William Anthony gave Catholic Centre for their 3-day stay. Thus Innumerable people came to make the trip a reality, easy and memorable! It was an experiment in Bharat Jodo! Of course, Fr Michael G planned every detail well in advance and searched for the collaborators. His motto was: the disabled are the responsibility of the whole society not just of Apang Seva. Hence he engaged all those willing to give a helping hand. And in fact every one welcomed the opportunity to help. There is goodness in every human being. It needs to be tapped. Even passers-by on the roads were helping to push the wheel chairs! It was a community building exercise; a Bharat Jodo exercise. The Church of Vasai thanks the Churches of Bangalore, Mysore and Ooty! Of course it was our 33rd national trip!

—Ms. Cynthia Baptista,
Director,
APANG SEVA Vasai.

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Modern electronics and bookless libraries...

Image result for Modern electronics new trend in libraries images

There was a time when every knowledge seeker had to depend on books and library for everything – be it for reference material or for any research. In fact, one could not even think about finding any information without the help of a library and the material there. Not anymore - the future as can be seen is 'Bookless' libraries!

Thanks to modern day electronics and IT, especially Google (a few serious researchers may not agree, but by and large, it is a fact). Every little information is available in three little letters – “WWW” (World Wide Web).

With the advent of WWW, many have stopped going to libraries (which is actually not a good trend) as every little information is available at your fingertips at any given point of time.

Quite interestingly, librarianship is one of the emerging professions and it represents one of the oldest as well as one of the youngest callings. Providing intellectual access to information is a role librarians have filled for long time. In fact, the most important issue for any librarian is to provide information in whatever form it is packaged.

As the father of Library and Information Science S R Ranganathan puts it: “Results of modern rethinking makes the library heart of the institution, through which all activities radiate and with it all gets irradiated.”

A point worth mentioning at this juncture here is that whatever technology may come, still it can't replace the human brain. It is said that unless a person in the modern world is “updated”, he or she is “outdated” and it is the same in every field.



User-friendly and access-friendly...

In the modern world context, every person looks for user-friendly aspects. Unless the product is user-friendly, the chances of users using the same are remote. At the same time, it has to be easily accessible too. There is no point having a couple of good books and material, if it is not easily accessible, especially at a time when it is most needed.

Secondly, if the material or subject or content is NOT interesting, there may not be many takers. Just like the first para of any news... If the first para of any news is not interesting or catchy, many may not prefer to read the second para and the subsequent paras. Hence, many newspaper offices have re-writing desks, just to make every story more interesting.

Along with making things / subject interesting, it should be useful to users. Unless the user finds it useful, the chances of revisiting the library is very reduced.

Finally, the readers should return from the library with a sense of satisfaction. A unhappy visitor may not think of returning to the library even if he/she is not satisfied. Making things user friendly here lies with the librarian.

Very interestingly, there are several modern tools which can draw readers towards the libraries. It could be digital content and virtual reality among

others.

Studies reveal that school librarians need to assume a more instructional role in order to develop competency and cultivate information literacy for students. In addition, school library is also responsible for organisation and providing information for the purpose of increasing students' knowledge and the integration of information skills into the curriculum.

Though the modern libraries include modern shelving, computer access and a virtual as well as physical space, unless innovative methods are used, the chances of users making use of the library are unsure, thanks to modern gadgets including mobile phones.

Libraries have always been about sharing knowledge, culture and skills and these new digital services are just one way of engaging with customers and providing them with services to help them and make their lives more productive and satisfying.

On the contrary, too much dependence on library too may be disaster. Just to mention a simple and common example, these days, many presenters go blank if power goes off and if there is no power back up. As one of the presenter puts it: “There is neither power nor point without power point...!”

The author : Dr. Tressie Irene Menezes, has been in historic St.Agnes College, Mangaluru, since 15 years is Librarian of the PU college, earlier she was Librarian at srinivas College.



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