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THE SECULAR CITIZEN

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A NATIONAL FAMILY WEEKLY



Changes Indian education needs



Model Bank Imparts Training On Co-operative Banking To Shareholders

Mumbai, Dec. 04: Model Co-operative Bank Ltd. organized Training Programme for the Directors and Shareholders on Co-operative Banking on November 30, 2019 at Xavier Institute of Engineering, Mahim.

The Training was conducted by Mr. Prakash Kondpalle, Chief Faculty of JSBL Solutions Pvt. Ltd., Kothrud,



Pune and Mr. Vijay Purshottam Bhave, Director-JSBL Solutions Pvt. Ltd. The objective of the training was to sensitize the Shareholders about the History of Co-op. Movement in Maharashtra and India, Principles of Co-operation, Analysis of the Financial Statements of Co-operative Banks,



Rights of Registrar, 97th Constitutional Amendments and State Order of 2013 on Co-operative Societies. The programme was well attended by over 200 shareholders.

Prakash Kondpalle replied to the queries raised by the Shareholders and stated that the Bank is having an impeccable track record, the performance of the Bank for the FY 2018-19 is outstanding and the same should continue in future.

Albert W.D'Souza, Chairman of the Bank expressed his gratitude to the Resource Persons for conducting the training programme for the Board of

Directors and Shareholders and for sharing their views on the various aspects of Co-operative Banking.

The Shareholders appreciated the Bank for conducting the Training Programme and building the trustworthiness of the Shareholders. Directors Vincent Mathias, Sanjay Shinde, Benedicta Rebello, Gerald Cardoza, Pius Vas, Thomas Lobo, Ancy Dsouza, William L. D'Souza, General Manager & CEO and Zenon D'Cruz, Deputy General Manager attended the function. The programme was compered by Edward Rasquinha, Manager.

—RONIDA

Christian Delegation Meets Nawab Malik Of NCP.

Some of the issues raised by members of Bombay East Indian Association and Watchdog Foundation during the meeting held today.

1. Relaxation of Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) (Amendment) Rules, 2010 for holding Mid-night Mass at 12.00 am for Easter & Christmas every year.
2. Implementation of recommendations of Minority Welfare Committee 2013 -2014, Government of Maharashtra, as stated in Report dated 11th June 2014, for the removal of reservation of Export Processing Zone (Customs Bonded Area) in respect of St. John the Baptist Church, Condita, SEEPZ, Andheri (East), Mumbai. The said Church be handed over to the Archbishop of Bombay having access 365 days round the clock and preservation and maintenance of the said Church at cost State Government.
3. Marking of all Gaothans/Koliwadadas/Adivais Padas in Development Plan - 2034. No SRA Schemes to be permitted in these areas.
4. Exemption from property taxes for residential houses



in Gaothans/Koliwadadas/Adivais Padas. While 500 sq. ft. flat valued at Rs.4 crores exempt, but 501 sq.ft. house in Gaothans/Koliwadadas/Adivais Padas valued at Rs.22 lakhs is charged property tax.

5. Implementation of Gaothan Extension Policy OR Land for Gaothan Bhavan

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FEAR v/s COURAGE

By Don Aguiar

She had always been afraid of being used and thrown away like some expired item. She had guarded herself against boys by wearing baggy clothes to hide her blossoming body; her growing breasts and widening hips. At eighteen she approached anything in trousers with suspicion and fear. 'Men will misuse you and you will end up raising fatherless children.' She had heard the phrase enough times from the women around her to make her skin crawl and her bones grow cold from whistles or courtesies from boys.

Her first relationship came at twenty-five. A nice boy with a jawline that made her want to look at him forever. They talked. At first the boy told her how attracted he was to her mind and the beautiful conversations they had. But that soon grew stale and he wanted more. Holding hands, kissing, removing her heavy jumper, her baggy trousers, "It would bring them even closer," he assured her.

It was a cold, cloudy evening when she lost her virginity. Baby-making weather, he had texted earlier. The sex was uncomfortable but unpainful. It must have been the bike rides and the running away from boys, only to trip on one and fall with her legs wide apart. She cried that night. **'Your purity is your gift to your husband on your wedding night.'** She heard the voice of her religious mother in her ear and she almost wanted to rip both of them out. Her father, brothers and uncles whispered next.

She covered her ears with a pillow. 'Men will misuse you and you will end up raising fatherless children.' The voices of her aunties and the women around her were sonorous. 'You idiot! You stupid, stupid girl!' she cursed herself countless times and for the next three months, she took a pregnancy test every week.

It did not happen. She did not get a fatherless child. Instead, she got another boy and another and another after that. With the first one, she had dreams, big ones. She built castles in her sleep. There was a moon-white wedding gown with a fishtail so long it stopped at the entrance of the church when she

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(Contd.. from p. 3)

was at the altar. There were envious looks from the maids in the congregation and proud smiles from her mom, dad, sisters, brothers, aunts and uncles. 'Atta girl,' their faces blushed pink, 'You did not embarrass us. You did not let us down.'

Reality was different when she opened her eyes. The boy with the perfect jawline had other plans that did not involve a wife and responsibilities. Texts and calls fizzled. Plans for dates got cancelled or ignored altogether and when she knocked on his door to check up on him she was received by vacant silence. Eventually, she got tired of the rejections and moved on. The weight of love, she realized, is unbearably heavy, especially when you're shouldering it by yourself.

The second boy was straight to the point. He was in it for fun. She got regular booty-calls and even though she fought them, she always succumbed. 'Men will misuse you and you will end up raising fatherless children.' A cold chill went down her spine and she recoiled into the edge of his bed one evening, her knees touching her chin and her arms wrapped around her legs.

'Why do you have condoms in your house?' she heard herself bark, accusingly.

'For protection,' the boy answered mindlessly.

'Is this why you called me, just for sex?'

She hoped the boy would say marriage and kids but instead his forehead creased in almost annoyance. 'Don't pretend you don't want it too.' Of course she wanted it but she also wanted more. 'Men will misuse you and you will end up raising fatherless children,' the voice boomed as she allowed the boy's hand to find its way up her inner thigh.

The third boy was the same and so

were the fourth and fifth. There were three abortions from three quack doctors and two miscarriages. She had given herself strength. 'At least there were no fatherless children.'

The sixth was different. She found herself down the aisle exchanging vows at the altar with him. The gown was snow-white, the fishtail touched the entrance when she was at the altar. It was every bit like in her dreams, except for children. They never came.

'As long as we have each other everything will be okay,' her husband had encouraged her and she had resented him for it. 'How could he possibly love me, a barren woman?' Fingers were pointed and blame shifted and soon the conversations wilted together with the intimacy. Meals went cold and working hours grew long. When she confronted him it was the same story, 'I'm working hard for our future,' Whispers became common knowledge after an ex showed up with a baby that was a photocopy of him.

A divorce followed and a bitter exchange of words with her parents soon after, she found herself in a small rented space with little means. 'Men will misuse you and you will end up raising fatherless children.' The words were heavy on her mind just like her stomach was heavy with a child.

The doctor told her it was a boy, a miracle born from a weak womb. She felt his strong kicks and a lone cold tear found its way down her cheek. **She would raise him differently, she vowed, away from the voices of fear and the whispers of shame. She named him Emmanuel and she did all she could to raise him, encouraging his talent.**

His talent of kicking paid off from playing football for school to playing for his country and later for an international football club. His goal scoring abilities resulted in a massive fan following and he became one of the most sort out players.

Through her patience and prayers

she guided him back when he was about to go astray at times as she was aware that young boys and men are actually unaware of what constitutes sexual relationship. Many of their actions that are 'fun' to them can actually be categorised as relationship. Worse still, their actions are justified by friends, family and community with a dismissive statement — "boys will be boys". She needed to change this notion in her son and she knew it had to start first from her....

Appreciating the hardships and sacrifice his mother had to go through in order for him to reach fame and be financially well off, he always ensured that she put her encountered dark days behind her and was well looked after.

She never in her wildest dreams thought that the adversity she faced of the voices of fear and whispers of shame would change the minds of those very people to view her now as a courageous, confident and accepted person capable of raising a successful caring and loving son who could influence and touch the lives of many others with hope, joy, peace and love.... Wishing you a blessed ADVENT.

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Homes For The Aged In Parishes

Joseph M turns logic on its head when he suggests the opening of Homes for the Aged in every Parish and expecting not only parish funds [including Sunday collections and special collections] to be allotted for the purpose but also the parish community to be involved in taking care of the home and its inmates [TSC 28/50 - 9 Dec 2019].

Some four decades ago, when the Late Father Austin Cerejo was Director of Our Lady's Home at Dadar, I had approached him on behalf of a family from Gorai to have the children admitted to the boarding because the father was unemployed and an alcoholic and the mother lacked the wherewithal to make ends meet. Father Austin gave me a hard look and said: "We are not here to look after other people's babies, Ladislaus," before walking away. That's when it dawned on me that an 'orphanage' is not a place where able-bodied parents leave their children to be looked after at the Church's expense, cleverly exonerating themselves of fulfilling their civic responsibilities. **Joseph M now seems to suggest a reversal of roles—that the Church encourage able-bodied grown-up children to dump their parents in homes for the aged run by parishes and go settle out of the parish, out of the city, or even out of the country, happy in the thought that their responsibility is over!**

What cheek Mister Joseph M! This is just not done!

—*Ladislaus L D'Souza, Malad*

Eucharistic Miracle at Tabor Bhavan --- A Retreat Centre

"For now I have chosen and consecrated this house that my name may be there for ever; my eyes and my heart will be there for all time" (2 Chronicles 7:16).

On August 27, 2007 in the presence of around 60 retreatants including myself, when Fr Joby was celebrating Mass,

he noticed many drops of blood on the altar cloth. He immediately announced to the retreatants that Jesus Christ was pouring out His blood and continued celebrating the Mass.

Later, during the offertory, he testified that the wine too had changed into blood and when he sipped it at communion time, it smelt like blood and it was not flowing as easily as wine should normally flow. After sipping the wine, he found that it was sticky in his mouth.

The choir members who were near the altar too witnessed the droplets of blood. At the end of the Mass, the retreatants came up to the altar and took photographs of it on their mobile phones. Nine of the retreatants testified that they had seen visions of Jesus Christ sprinkling His precious blood onto the stage.

— *Jubel D'Cruz, Mumbai*

Age, dementia & care

With life expectancy increased due to better medical facility the aged sick

are seen to linger on for longer time, though their quality of life is not so good and suffer a lot. Suffering is also for those close to them physically. Hospitals, medical professionals do their best. Yet many a gap between the cup and lip has to be smoothed. Basic set procedure and plan can go a long way to eliminate unnecessary suffering and trouble for all.

Often institutions do not alert next of kin early when aged persons are sick, the responsible persons are away and the others don't take responsibility. It is however a must that a proper chart of whom to contact be available. The house doctor must be alerted and readiness for any eventuality assured. Prompt in-house attention and essentially medical care must be ensured on priority.

Once in the hospital a causal caregiver from an agent at high expense is inducted. These agent centered workers are often illiterates, untrained and agents keep changing the person too often which is hazardous. The head of institution/home must provide efficient information to specific kith and kin on the patient at least once a day - a proper contact must be allocated to avoid worry. It is a matter of serious negligence if the institutions refuse reasonable information on the current condition of sick inmates categorically.

One very negative aspect that can be noted is in old age institutions where money is the priority, there is no democracy. Power and responsibility must be regulated. Managements are willing to handle bank matters of the aged and instances of misdealings have surfaced. A committee inclusive of representatives of the in-mates and members of the community too must review and pass rules/regulations and equally inform changes officially to all concerned. The concerned authorities must note and put in place a suitable mechanism at the earliest.

—*Ivan Saldanha-Shet*

(Contd.. on p. 6)

Importance of Moral Education

There is absolutely no doubt that molestation & rape of women continue to happen even after the Nirbhaya case. And we had said at that time, 'enough is enough.' The latest case to make the headlines, is the Hyderabad rape case where the women was raped, killed and burned. One tends to ask, how long should this continue. In the midst of all this, comes newsreports that the four accused in this case have been killed in a police encounter. Considering that such trials in court never seem to end, one tends to wonder whether such instant justice is the need of the hour!

What is it that make men resort to incidents of rape? They do not seem to realize that, that woman could be somebody's sister, somebody's daughter, somebody's spouse, somebody's mother. The question before us how do we stop such incidents. This morning I was watching a chat show, where one of the participants said, 'you know there is a rape taking place every minute.....every time a man looks at a woman with lust, with bad intentions, ogling at women, he is committing a rape.' He may not physically commit the act but mentally he has committed the crime. The chat continues as to how crimes against women could be prevented and the other says, 'I think we need to 'educate' people about the whole thing.' **Valid point that, but the more important point he made was, 'not just educate, they should be morally educated.'** Yes, the person may be educated but they may seem to lack morals. And, I think, this holds true not just as far as rape or molestation of women is concerned, even to those who harass other human beings, beat them or kill & chop other human beings. We need to understand the importance of Moral Education.

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

People's Synod Planned

Taking a clue from the recently concluded Amazonian Synod held in the Vatican, Catholic Church Reform International, a body of reform minded Catholics, is seeking to have similar people's synods in various countries. Plans are afoot in Brazil, Mexico, USA, Germany, Kenya, Australia and New Zealand. The word synod, though normally synonymous with bishops, actually means walking together, especially in the Lord's presence, as on the road to Emmaus.

In India this initiative is being taken by the Indian Catholic Forum (ICF) that was formed earlier this year at the National Consultation "We Too Are Church" (V2RC) held in Kolkata. As a follow up, the second consultation V2RC II is being held at Mount Hosanna, Bharanganam, Kerala, from 7th to 9th February 2020.

V2RC II aims at informing, transforming and reforming, especially according to the far sighted teachings of Vatican II and the humane, pastoral approach of Pope Francis. Notably, the Amazonian Synod was a push from bottom to top, because it was a people's initiative. This is so different from the top to bottom trickle down theory that seldom works, either in Govt or the church.

75% of the bishops that attended the Amazonian Synod voted in favour of

married clergy, in itself a path breaking move. They also endorsed a greater role for women in decision making positions in the church, an emphasis on local culture to express the gospels and a deep concern for the environment.

The ICF is not an organization. It has neither membership nor bank account. It seeks to be a leaven in the dough that has no identity of its own.

Jesus told his disciples to read the signs of the times. Churches in the West are empty. Vocations have reduced to a trickle. Young people are not inclined towards organized religion. There is turmoil in the church in Kerala, the cradle of Christianity in India. No less a person than Pope Francis has said that clericalism is the biggest stumbling block for the growth of the Church. The country seems to be heading towards a totalitarian, unitarian regime, where Minorities feel insecure. V2RC II hopes to prayerfully address these issues with like minded lay leaders, priests and religious. All are welcome.

For programme details please contact the ICF Convenor, chhotebhai, at noronha.kp@gmail.com 9415130822 and for registration contact ICF Co-ordinator Thomas John at joypal@nonviolence.com 9072119598.



Prayer & Thanksgiving Prayer to the Sacred Heart

Oh Lord Jesus Christ, to Your most Sacred Heart I confide this intention (your request). Only look upon me, then do what your love inspires. Let your Sacred Heart decide ... I count on You ... I trust in You ... I throw myself on your mercy. Lord Jesus, You will not fail me.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, I trust in you.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, I believe in your love for me.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, Your kingdom come.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, I have asked you for many favors, but I earnestly implore this one. Take it, place it in your open Heart. When the Eternal Father looks upon it, he will see it covered with your Precious Blood. It will be no longer my prayer, but yours, Jesus. Sacred Heart of Jesus. I place all my trust in You, Let me not be disappointed. Amen.

—A Devotee

Demolishing Human Rights In India

This past year from December 2018, had two significant 70th anniversaries: first, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (10 December 1948) and then, of the promulgation of the Constitution of India (26 November 2019). It is quite certain that the makers of the Indian Constitution took inspiration from the UDHR. Strangely enough, as if on cue, everything possible is done by the powers that control the destiny of the nation, to demolish human rights and the values enshrined in the Constitution! There is perhaps not a day in the recent past, when the country has not witnessed violations of human rights be it the gang rape and murder of an innocent woman, the lynching of a Muslim and for that matter, a carefully-orchestrated and manipulative initiative to render people, 'stateless!'

As the world observes the 71st Human Rights Day on 10 December, there is perhaps just one conclusion that emerges: for the vast majority of the people of India, where human rights are concerned, it has been a truly horrendous year! Ever since the BJP-led NDA Government seized the reins of power in May 2014, there has been a steady deterioration, violation and now the demolition of human rights in the country. In the 'Human Development Index 2018', India reached an all-time low of 130 out of 189 countries. In several other objective and unbiased international analysis and studies, India has touched, on all parameters, abysmal depths.

India has acquired the awful and dubious distinction of being regarded as the 'rape capital' of the world! In a society which has consistently treated women as second class citizens, the discrimination that women have been subjected to, was accepted in several quarters as 'normal'. Ever since, the

Gujarat carnage of 2002, raping and murdering women, has been occurring with a frightening regularity. The recent gang-rape in Hyderabad sent shock waves through the nation. The chilling aspect of these sordid acts, is that if you are rich and powerful you can get away with rape and molesting women. You can even become a law maker! In May 2019, the Association of Democratic Reforms (ADR)



BY FR. CEDRIC PRAKASH SJ

released a report according to which, nearly half of the newly elected Lok Sabha members have criminal charges against them, a 26% increase as compared to 2014 and a 44% increase when compared to 2009. Out of the 539 winners analysed in Lok Sabha 2019, 233 MPs or 43% have declared criminal cases against themselves. After analysing data of state Assemblies and Lok Sabha, ADR found that the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has the most number of MPs/MLAs with cases of crimes against women. About 30% of them face very serious charges, like those related to rape and other crimes against women, murder, kidnapping.

Then are the 'fake encounter' killings! Four alleged rapists were arrested in the aftermath the Hyderabad gang-rape and murder; a couple of days later, all four of them were murdered in cold blood! The 'justification' of this act hardly finds any takers! A macabre 'fairy tale' which one cannot fool a five-year old kid with. All this, is a painful reminder of the 'fake encounters' in Gujarat; of how one of the powerful men of this country was responsible for it and of the 'untimely' and 'unnatural' death of Justice Loya who refused to be compromised or bought up. Strangely enough in the case of the rapes and murder of women, if the accused are poor then they are 'done away with'; however, if the accused are rich and powerful then the victim

or the witnesses are done away with, as we have seen in the Unnao case!

On 6 December the nation remembered the 1992 demolition of the Babri Masjid. This year that 'black day' was shades darker for many! The recent Supreme Court verdict on Ayodhya took a strong stand against the demolition; but then its decision to give the 'disputed' land to the majority community has rankled many. Sections of Muslims are already planning to file a review petition. Writing in 'The Wire' (9 November 2019), well-known writer and political analyst Siddharth Varadarajan says, "*The court acknowledged the manner in which Ram idols were planted in the mosque was illegal and that the mosque's demolition in 1992 was "an egregious violation of the rule of law". Yet, the forces responsible for the demolition now find themselves in legal possession of the land. The site will be managed by a trust that the government will now set up. And the government and ruling party have in their ranks individuals who have actually been charge sheeted for conspiring to demolish the mosque.*"

For more than 125 days now Kashmir has been in a state of siege! On August 5, the State was overrun in a swift, unethical and undemocratic way! In a patently unconstitutional and anti-people act, the BJP-led NDA Government abrogated Article 370 and 35A of the Constitution. The draconian and secretive manner in which the Government pushed a sensitive bill, steam-rolling all opposition, without consulting Parliament, without taking the people of Kashmir into confidence, is clear betrayal of the values embedded in the hearts and minds of most Indians. The UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) states, "*The fact that hardly any information is currently coming out from the region is of great concern.*" The Spokesperson pointed to the UNHRC's July 8 report on the

(Contd.. on p. 18)

Suicides of Priests and religious

A Reflection

I think we must take up the issue of suicides of priests and religious and discuss about it in our internal fora. Neither brushing it aside as an isolated incident nor sweeping it under the carpet to protect the image of religious/priests would help.

A few days ago, Sr. Sandra committed suicide as per the version in many news reports. Her body was found on a railway track. This is not an isolated incident and at least a dozen cases of priests and nuns' suicides or at least likely suicides have been reported in these last few years. Those recent ones in Mangalore and Kerala are still fresh in our memories.

Yet, what has been our response? Is there any church forum which has effectively addressed this issue? Is there any religious order which has thought it is a serious problem of their members in the days ahead? Unfortunately nothing is heard so far.

Why these suicides of religious and priests? Why is it getting rather common in these days? How many religious talk about it openly in their communities? These types of conversations are usually brushed aside and often avoided as they evoke fear in some and pain in others. While it may be the natural response of a religious whose life and choices have been one way, it's time to break this stereotype. This issue needs to be talked about in occasional conversations so that fostering accompaniment of each other may be envisioned. The further it is brushed under the carpet, we would continue to sense smoke every now and then.

What do we do and where do we go from here?

1) **Dialogue.** Fostering dialogue between community members especially with the lonely and the young.

2) **Superior.** The role of superior is not to scold, control and dictate rather to identify the struggling members, follow closely those seems straying away and enter into a communion with him/her and if not able, alert the provincial/Superior not as complaint but in an effort to find a way of assisting the member.

3) **Family.** Help every member to have a healthy and adequate relationship with their respective families. This implies sufficient annual holidays every year and participation in family events.

4) **Formation.** This I believe is the most important of all. A female religious formation to its most part is on history of the congregation and founder, Charism and apostolate, constitution of the congregation and maybe some psychology. The two years of novitiate is usually complete along with learning some rubrics of English Language and some musical notes. While all of it is important, if you can instill the art of reading in your students in formation they will learn by themselves. Educate them instead/or along with the existing curriculum, alternative sciences promoting life, stress management, handling relationships, responsible freedom and personal liberty in place of excessive obedience lectures, community orientation which is not triangular but circle model and finally trust building in the community. This would apply largely to male religious formation as well.

5) **A comforting friends circle.** As no one is an island, let's not form islands. Right balance in friendships within the community and outside is always bolstering to a religious/priest who otherwise could end in a lost world where mission and ministry suffers leading to dangerous consequences. Though it's a delicate terrain, a religious needs it more than anyone else.

6) Regular gatherings, outings, picnics and celebrations.

7) Seminars, community meetings that address issues like Suicides and suicidal tendencies.

8) Raising the level of table conversations. Consciously stop talking about other persons of the community and focus on subjects which enhance each other and doing better the ministries of the community. Discussing other persons in a derogatory manner isolates him/her and the person may take extreme steps.

9) Identifying vulnerable religious/priests and assign appropriate ministries. Assign a quiet and private type of a member to a lively and supportive community. A genuine provincial or major superior will have a periodical healthy oversight of these members.

10) Good Food, decent allowance and appropriate personal space.

When I started to type this WhatsApp message, I did not think it's going to be this long. These are some stray thoughts which dominated my mind as I kept hearing about these cases of suicides of religious and priests in the last few years. You may differ with me on some of these thoughts and I gracefully welcome that, but my intention is same as yours.

Some stories of suicides of religious/priests come to light while others don't. I know two priests who attempted suicide, one of whom died in the second attempt and the other survived whose stories never came to light. It's with this feeling of sadness that I put these thoughts at a time when the church needs to address this issue sooner than later.

God Bless

Why do we Catholics cross our forehead, lips and heart during Mass?

Here is why we do it.

During Mass, we make a little cross on our forehead, lips and heart, because these outward gestures made with our bodies are pointing to an inward prayer that is happening in our hearts.

When the gospel is about to be read, the priest says: "A reading from the Holy gospel according to St ____". The congregation then responds, "Glory to You oh Lord," making a small cross with their thumb over their forehead, lips and heart.

We must remember that the cross itself is a sign of redemption in and through Jesus Christ. When we make this sign of the cross, it is an outward act to profess our inward faith in the Holy Trinity (Father, Son and the Holy Spirit). This sign declares that through our baptism, we belong to God.

The reason for making a cross during this period of the Mass is to highlight the importance of the Word of God we are about to hear.

St. Paul taught us, "For the Word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit, of joints and marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12).

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Special Request Granted



The Bombay Catholic Sabha, St. Dominic Savio Church Parish Unit, Wadala (E) met Sr. Inspector of Police RTO Wadala on Fri. 6th December 2019. The members along with Fr. Cleophas Braganza Administrator requested the Inspector to allow 4 to 5 cars to be parked on Wadala bridge only on Sunday's from 8.30 am to 11.30 am for the people who come for mass on Sunday's to St. Dominic Savio Church as the church parking space is small.

The inspector was kind enough to hear our plea and grant the permission to park our vehicles on special consideration. The request was made by the Parish Priest Fr. Savio D'Souza at a PPC meeting to the BCS members. The delegation was led by the Chairman along with Ms. Assumpta Fernando Hon. Sec, Bertie Rocha, Stephen Fernandes & Fr. Cleophas Braganza.

Herbert D. Barretto
Chairman

In the outward sign of crossing our forehead, lips and heart, we are asking that the Word of God to pierce our mind, lips and heart.

We cross our forehead so that the Word of God may be in our thoughts and purify our minds. We cross our lips so that our speech may be holy and incline us to share the gospel with others. And we cross our heart to invite

God to strengthen our love for Him and others. All of this is so that we might know, proclaim, and love Jesus Christ all the more.

So next time you're at Mass and the gospel is about to be proclaimed, pray "Let the Word of God be ever in my mind, proclaimed by my lips and pierce my heart leading me to deeper communion with you, Jesus".

— Jubel D'Cruz, Mumbai

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International Human Solidarity Day (IHSD)

The UN General Assembly on 22 December 2005, designated that the IHSD would take place on December 20. The 'UN Emblem' could be found in material promoting IHSD –which is a projection of the globe centered on the North Pole, surrounded by images of olive branches, representing peace! The IHSD also encourages the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)!

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): These are the blueprints to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. They address the global challenges we face, including those related to poverty, scarcity, inequality, climate change, environmental degradations, peace and justice. The 17 Goals are all closely interconnected, and is geared to achieve them by 2030. The SDGs are also especially built on the foundation of global co-operation and 'Solidarity'!

Aims of IHSD: It has five core components: // 1.To celebrate our unity in diversity. // 2.To remind governments to respect their commitments to international agreements. // 3.To raise public awareness of the importance of solidarity. // 4.To encourage debate on ways to achieve the SDGs. // 5.To encourage actions and new initiatives for poverty eradication.

Activities on IHSD: Pursuits include at least five campaigns to contribute to issues such as: // 1.Banning land mines. // 2.Making healthcare and medication accessible to the needy. //

3.Advancing efforts to help those who have suffered the effects of natural or human-made disasters. // 4.Achieving universal education. // 5.Striving against social evil like corruption, pollution and terrorism.

The Day is nurtured through all forms of 'mass media': newspapers reports, magazine articles, speeches at official events, and web blogs from groups, individuals and organizations committed to 'Universal Solidarity'!

Pope Francis on Solidarity! Here are four notable exhortations of his Holiness on 'Human Solidarity'! // 1. Solidarity means adopting a lifestyle which respects those in want: "Solidarity requires that all members of society renounce something, and adopt a more sober lifestyle to help those in want" – Address to Managers and Workers, 2014. // 2. Solidarity is more than a feeling. It is a Commitment to the Common Good : "Solidarity is much more than a feeling of vague compassion, or shallow distress at the misfortunes of people, both near and dear. Solidarity is a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the common good; to the welfare of all, because we are responsible to all; because compassion flows from fraternity" - World Day of Peace, 2016. // 3. Solidarity is drawing closer to your neighbor: "Solidarity entails an awareness of being part of a single body, while at the same time involving each member to 'sympathize' with others, and with the whole. When one suffers, all suffer –For solidarity expresses with concrete actions and steps, to draw closer to our neighbors in whatever situation they find themselves" – Address to Heads of State, 2017. // 4. Only education in solidarity will overcome the culture of waste: "Only by educating people towards a true solidarity, will we be able to overcome the 'culture of waste'! This doesn't concern only food and goods, but first and foremost, the people who are cast aside by our techno-economic systems which, without even realizing it, are now putting products at

their center, instead of people" – Video-Message in Ted Conference, 2018.

Catechism on Human Solidarity! "The principles of solidarity are also articulated in terms of 'friendship' and 'social charity'; and is a direct demand of human and Christian brotherhood. // Solidarity is manifested in the first place by equitable distribution of goods and proper remuneration for work. It also presupposes the efforts for a more just social order where tensions are better able to be reduced, and conflicts more readily settled by negotiation. // Thus, socio-economic problems can be resolved only with the help of all forms of solidarity – solidarity of the poor among themselves, between the rich and poor, of workers among themselves, between employers and employees, in a business setup, and solidarity between nations and peoples. International solidarity is a requirement of the moral order; and world peace depends in part upon this. // The Church has promoted and often opened new paths for the development of temporal goods as well. So throughout the centuries the Lord's saying in Matthew 6:33 is verified: "Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things shall be yours" - Catechism of the Catholic Church(CCC): 1939//1940//1941//1942.

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

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Pawars humiliate BJP leadership

If blood is thicker than water, in the case of family, regional bonding is stronger when it comes to politics. It will be a futile exercise to determine who betrayed whom – BJP or Sena. The fact remains that over-confident BJP thought that, being a dominant party, it could bulldoze the Sena to play a subservient role. That did not seem likely and from day one, the Sena maintained that the CM would be from their party. The BJP tried all the tricks under its hat but the Sena opened discussions with another regional party – NCP to uphold the Marathi 'asmita'. The elder statesman – Sharad Pawar, a master strategist and a shrewd leader, managed to stitch a three party alliance which 'flooded' the BJP.

If there is one thing that the BJP has done is to tell the world that it is willing to go any length, fair or foul, in its quest for power. For them, power is everything even if they have to do business with the most corrupt politician in Maharashtra. In Goa too, they compromised. When you compromise with shady characters they are bound to ditch you. The BJP wanted to teach a lesson to Sena and the likes of Modi and Shah gave their blessings to Fadnavis to go ahead. As senior leaders, they should have asked the State unit to tread cautiously keeping the background of the man they were aligning with. Everybody knew that Ajit Pawar was bitter with his uncle over the leadership of the party and the possibility of him being denied the deputy CM's chair in the new Agadi. Despite this, they took Ajit for face value with a letter and a 'separate' sheet of paper with signatures of legislators. If they thought the entire NCP was aligning with them was it not prudent to check with the patriarch – Sharad Pawar?

The role of the Constitutional functionaries in this case has come under close scrutiny and it would be only fair that one waits for judicial pronouncements on this issue. It is sad that the tearing hurry in which the whole operation 'Grab Power' was carried out raises many questions about the role of the Governor, President and the PM to some extent for using emergency powers [over-riding the cabinet] just to grab power at midnight. No wonder every political party in power at the Centre

IEWS on NEWS

wants its own Governors and President. That is fair but these functionaries owe their responsibility to the Constitution first then the people of the country and then and only then the party they were associated with before.

Though Devendra Fadnavis put up a brave face, it was clear that he was shattered with the loss of face and the ignominy that his party had to face. The central leadership is equally culpable for its failure to see things in totality. Amit Shah cannot wash his hands. He is on record saying just because he was silent on the controversy does not mean that he was 'not doing anything' behind the scene. Their arrogance and overconfidence will continue to harm the party. The invincibility of the duo is eroding and with Shah slated to demit office of the party President, the next incumbent will have his hands full.

The BJP has learnt a lesson of its life. The Sena has thrown a few eggs on the face of the BJP, rotten ones at that. The stink of the rotten eggs will not leave the BJP anytime soon. The BMC elections in the State are not too far away. If the new Agadi can work together the BJP will have a tough job on its hands for sure. Credit must go to Sharad Pawar. He could manage to convince Sonia Gandhi to dilute her 'secular' cloak and Uddhav Thackeray his 'Hindutva' face. The NCP has always been a pliable party – willing to swing either way depending on which side the bread is buttered. He also managed to convince the prodigal nephew to repent and return home. That is Pawar – the modern Chanakya. For now, chaltika-naam [A]gadi. By the way, auto with 3 wheels also go in the same direction, like a car.

Pragya Thakur shames BJP

Once again, the fire brand BJP MP from Bhopal, created a stir in the Lok Sabha reportedly referring to Nathuram Godse as a patriot – a remark she made earlier and embarrassed the BJP party no end. She also insulted the 26/11 martyr Hemant Karkare. She said he met that fate on account of her curse for torturing her in the so called saffron terror case in which she continues to be a terror accused. Mind you despite car-



by Marshall Sequeira

rying that baggage she was 'rewarded' with a Lok Sabha ticket. The question arises 'Who has been backing Pragya Thakur?' Is that group or individual so powerful that the party had no option but to give her the ticket? Was it meant to galvanize the Hindutva forces before the general elections?

She was admonished earlier for her intemperate remarks but with her godfather/s behind her, she has remained unrepentant and more defiant than ever before. Remember the Prime Minister had said that he will never forgive her for her highly condemnable remarks on Nathuram Godse as well as Hemant Karkare. But despite this, she was appointed on the highly sensitive Defense Panel. A lot of eyebrows were raised because she was appointed despite Narendra Modi showing his huge displeasure publicly. Does his view cease to have any value in the BJP party? Even the motor mouths think so. It is this perception that shows the party in poor light and eventually will cost the party a great deal.

The opposition parties, 'refreshed' with the Maharashtra developments, got a huge opportunity to take on the treasury benches on the explosive Pragya comment in Parliament and demanding that she be sacked as an MP. This has put the BJP in a very piquant situation. Acting quickly the party decided to sack her from the Defense Panel and also barred her from attending any Parliamentary Party meets; yet BJP MPs defended her. Did this upset the PM? He is silent when he should have said something. Was he 'told' not to go public with his displeasure? The party should distance itself from the likes of Pragya Thakur completely so as to send a very clear message to the people of this country that it abhors such ideology – but will they? Is Narendra Modi losing his grip – losing State after State? It should not be surprising if Pragya Thakur becomes a candidate for Bharat Ratna one day.

Changes Indian education needs

WE CANNOT DENY the fact that the Indian government and institutions have been working to reform the existing education model. However, there are still several issues which are required to be taken care of

Education has been a problem in our country and lack of it has been blamed for all sorts of evil for hundreds of years. Funny thing is that from the colonial times, few things have changed. We have established IITs, IIMs, law schools and other institutions of excellence; students now routinely score 90 percent marks so that even students with more than 90 percentage find it difficult to get into the college of their choice but we do more of the same old stuff. To counter these kind of problems, what changes are required?

Communication :

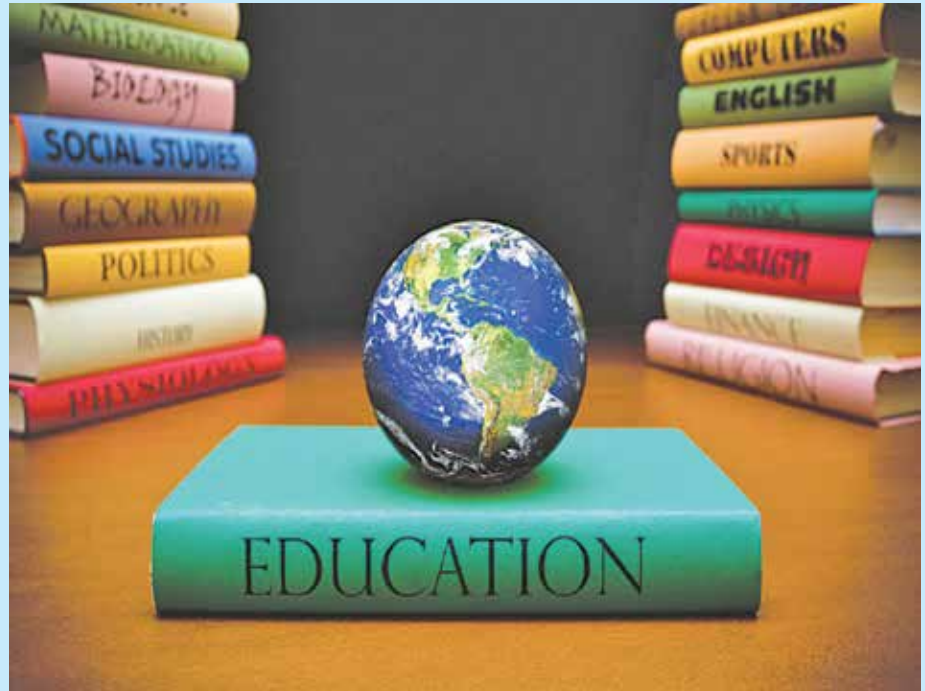
Most of the schools are English Medium but how many will speak in English? We think the teaching staff and class leaders will speak in English and the remaining students are comfortable in their own mother tongue. This situation is happening in every corner of India. Even parents have to motivate their children and at the same time, they need to speak in English.

Allow private capital in education :

The government cannot afford to provide higher education to all the people in the country. It is too costly for the government to do so. There can be helping hand from corporate world too. Allowing profit making will encourage serious entrepreneurs, innovators and investors to take interest in the education sector. The government can allow private sector too, to join the education field because it will act as a helping hand to government.

Better training of educators :

Teachers play the most important role



in schools and hence, they should be given the best of class training. After all, they are shaping the future of the nation, the children. Teachers are often considered as second parents. While teaching, they should create a congenial and home-like atmosphere where students can feel the empathy and love in the classroom and which can then be reflected in their behaviours.

Evaluation system :

Marks still continue to play the most important card in deciding the future of children and this often comes down upon students as a burdening factor. The pressure of marks often makes students under perform. Instead of focusing the evaluation on a three-hour exam, the focus of evaluation should be classroom participation by a student, projects, communication and leadership skills and extra-curricular activities.

Research and innovation :

Our education system rarely rewards what deserves highest academic accolades. Deviance is discouraged. Risk taking is mocked. Our testing and marking systems need to be build to recognise original contribution, in

form of creativity, problem solving, valuable original research and innovation. If we could do this successfully Indian education system would have changed overnight.

Broaden the career scope :

India is opening up a little bit to the fact that there are jobs other being just a doctor or an engineer or a lawyer, which is of course a good thing. But more than the education system we need the parents to open their eyes and broaden their minds, The child can't be forced by the forced by his or her parents. The students need to be aware of the multiple career options.

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Rote Learning:

The Indian education system has been diseased with rote learning for a long time now. Rote learning refers to the system where the same things are read, studied or practised again and again until it gets fitted into the pupil's mind.

However, there are International Baccalaureate (IB) schools which try to teach students with an approach that helps them endeavour in academic as well as personal development. But still, rote learning is a reality for many Indian schools.

The government shall aim to eradicate the same by introducing conceptual and practical based learning. Instead of cramming things up from books, students shall get out of classrooms to conduct practical illustrations and understand concepts in a clearer manner.

Equal importance to all subjects:

Even in a modern world like today, where the parents are educated enough, importance is given to science and mathematics-based subjects only. Communication, language, arts subjects are looked upon with insignificance. This needs to be changed.

Every subject shall be given equal importance in the curriculum of the students. This will help them understand their own choices in a better manner and guide them to choose a career field of their own choice.

Better training to educationists:

A student is like wet clay and a teacher is the one who moulds it in perfect shape. However, sometimes the education system has to come across teachers who do not understand their duty of imparting wisdom and knowledge to the budding future of our nation.

Effectively training a teacher is the most important part because a teacher is like a second parent and they should be able to give students a comfortable environment where students can learn with an open mind.

Technology-based learning:

Technology is an unspeakable part of everyone's life. May it is daily life, profession or anything else, technology is all around. Hence, it becomes very significant to introduce technology in the education system.

Introduction of technology will endure students in two ways. One it will make

students familiar with the technological updates and make them comfortable in using it in a day to day life. Secondly, it will make education easier because that's what technology is for, making our life easier. Technology in education will revolutionize education like never before.

Personalised Education:

The famous idiom "You can't just a fish by its ability to fly" fits perfectly in this scenario. Not every student is the same and so is not everyone's absorption power. Then, how can the same teaching method be applied to every student?

Personalised learning methods should be introduced to some extent to make students feel right about their own learning pace and interests. A single teacher can't address every student individually. This is where technology comes in. Artificial Intelligence, chatbots and such other techniques should be developed and implemented to impart personalised education.

Teach the purpose of education:

The system of educating students is focused upon training students to fight the industrial competition and become richer than others. Instead of enduring students with a competitive ideology, we must teach our children the religion of humanism.

To have qualities like empathy and generosity and invest time, life and money in the welfare of society, has always been the prime purpose of education. Students shall be given moralistic lessons and taught values of humanism to make the future world, a better place for themselves.

We all look forward to an education system where these points are a reality. Instead of waiting for someone to implement this initiative, we shall start teaching our students & children using all these techniques. Maybe one day, the face of the whole society will change with the change in the education system.





Rice Marble Fritters (Gullio)

Ingredients : ½ kg. rice; ½ kg raw rice; 450 gms, jaggery; 1 coconut; salt to taste; ghee or oil for frying.

Method : Wash, soak and grind the rice together with the juice (milk) of coconut, jaggery and salt to obtain in thick dry batter (warm it a little if required). Form into round small marble-like balls of equal size and deep fry in oil or ghee until brown.



Nevri

Required : Filling : 2 cups freshly coconut; ½ cup jaggery; ¼ cup til (sesame) seeds; ½ cup chopped cashew nuts; Cardamom powder to taste.

Covering : 1 cup flour; 1 ½ tbsp, ghee or oil; a pinch of salt; water to mix the dough, ghee or oil for deep frying.

Method : To prepare the filling: Wash the til seeds and drain well. Roast in a dry hot karahi till it splutters. Keep aside. Mix together the jaggery and coconut. Cook in a thick bottomed pan till nearly dry. Add the toasted, fluffed till seeds and cashew nut pieces. Flavour with cardamom powder and keep aside.

To prepare covering: Warm ghee or oil and rub it into the flour. Add salt and knead it into a stiff dough with water.

To prepare nevrís : Take a small portion of the dough, roll out as thinly as possible into a small round puri. Place a spoonful of the filling on one half of the puri. Moisten with a little water, the edge of half the puri around the filling. Fold the other half over and press well on the moistened surface of the edge. Trim with a serrated cutter or in a 'karanji' press. Repeat till all the filling is used up. Keep the Nevris well covered before frying. Deep fry in ghee or oil to light golden colour.



Kokisan

Ingredients : ½ kg, raw rice; 100 gms, sugar; 1 coconut; 4 eggs; a pinch of grated nutmeg; salt to taste; ghee or oil for frying.

Method : Extract juice of coconut. Wash the rice and immediately grind it with about 1/3 litre of thick coconut juice. Add to it salt, sugar, nutmeg, beaten eggs, remaining coconut juice to obtain a medium thick batter. Heat ghee or oil, dip the kokisan form in boiling ghee or oil, then carefully dip it in the batter so that the latter sticks only to the bottom and about three-fourths its height (not the upper brim) and immediately hold it dipped in boiling ghee or oil in which the kokisan will automatically release themselves and get fried. Repeat the process until all the batter is converted into fried kokisans.



Patholeo in Turmeric Leaves

Ingredients : 1 kg. boiled rice; 2 coconuts (fairly tender); 500 gms. jaggery' 1 tsp. Cardamom powder; salt to taste

Method : Wash rice and soak it for about an hour, and grind it with salt to form a thick and dry dough. Mix well, finely scraped coconut, jaggery and cardamom. Evenly and thinly spread dough over each turmeric leaf, place coconut mixture in a line in the center over the dough and fold the leaf firmly pressing the edges. Steam in a steaming vessel (thondor).



Mandas of Cucumber

Ingredients : 1 kg, boiled rice; 1 kg. raw rice; ¾ kg. jaggery; 1 large cucumber; 4 coconuts; 175 gms. ghee

or oil; a pinch of grated nutmeg; 1 tsp cardamom powder; salt to taste; a few plums and/or almonds.

Method : Extract 2 cups of thick juice of coconuts. Peel the cucumber, remove pith and seeds and cut into pieces. Wash and soak the boiled and raw rice for an hour and grind it along with jaggery, cucumber, coconut juice and salt to obtain a thick batter. Add to this batter blanced and cut plums and/or almonds (if available), cardamom powder and a little ghee and mix well. Spread plantain leaves (slightly faded by warming) at the middle bottom and sides of the steaming vessel (thondor). Apply ghee or oil thickly over these plantain leaves, pour in the thick batter on leaves and sprinkle a few drops of ghee on top of the batter. Cover the mouth of the vessel with plantain leaves, place the lid and steam it well by burning fire underneath the vessel and placing burning cinders over the lid. When it is well boil, decrease the fire underneath and increase the live coals on top so that the steaming may be uniform. This can also be baked in an oven or electric oven if you have the facility.



Puffed Rice Laddoo

Ingredients : 100 gms. kurmura (puffed rice); 200 gms jaggery; 30 gms. ghee or oil.

Method : Make a syrup of one-string consistency, with jaggery, and one cup of water. Remove from fire. Mix in kurmura and fat. Form into lime-sized balls.



Til (Gingelly) Ladoo

Ingredients : 1 kg. Jaggery; 2 tps. sugar; 6 cigarette tins gingelly seeds and a few cardomoms.

Method : Bring jaggery to boil. When hard, remove from fire, mix in gingelly and cardamoms and make ladoos.

Health benefits of a clean house



THE PHYSICAL BENEFITS of exercise like cleaning house are well established, from reducing fatigue to improving concentration. Exercise like housekeeping produces endorphins which improve the ability to sleep, which in turn reduces stress.

With the popularity of tidying room by room, de cluttering and other house-keeping trends to create a more peaceful environment and a calmer mind, it's time to take a look at connection between clean house and our health.

Keeping your home clean is a tedious task. Gone are the days when people took hours using the traditional methods to keep their home clean. The increasing amount of pollution has made it necessary to switch to a smart way of cleaning your home by using a vacuum cleaner. A clean house is health friendly and benefits you in these ways.

Sleep better :

When your home is less messy you naturally sleep better. However, the dust mites present on your pillows and mattresses disrupt your sleep. The traditional methods of cleaning your mattresses and pillows don't remove dust mites and other microorganisms. Vacuuming your beds regularly remove dust mites, thereby helping you sleep better.

Improves the sanitation of your home :

When you clean your home, you are protecting yourself from bacteria, viruses and other microorganisms. Proper cleaning keeps your home safe from germs such as E. Coli, salmonella and staph, which are responsible for food borne diseases and in-

fection.

Helps you lose weight :

When your home is organised it enables you to be more mindful of what you are eating. An organised home also helps you plan your meals and eat more nutritious food. It gives you more time to prep things such as fruits and vegetables to ensure that you eat healthy. An unorganised home leaves you no choice but to eat unhealthy foods that lead to obesity.

Keeps you safe from allergies :

Allergy sufferers need to be extra careful and stay away from dust. Not just dust outside but there are some areas in your home that may have a lot of dust and trigger allergies. Vacuuming your home, especially the carpets, beds and sofas remove harmful pet dander, dust mites and a dozen other allergens that led to cold and flu-like symptoms.

Despite the physical health benefits, mental health also improves in the form of:

- Helps in destressing
- Reduces depression

Helps in destressing :

Untidy houses increase the level of cortisol, which is a hormone that indicates stress. A clean and organised keeps the homeowner happy and stress-free. This destressing also ensures that you eat more healthy foods, get better sleep and build your immune system.

Reduces depression :

A cluttered and unorganised home makes you depressed and unhappy. When you come home to a pile of things that you need to do, it can take a toll on your mood, sleep and health. Keeping your home clean will help you stay happy.

Tips on how to maintain good health

Besides giving you three different takes on how to pick your health battles, this list gives you choices you can make without being whisked off to a reality-show fat farm or buying a second freezer for those calorie-controlled, pre-portioned frozen meals.

Eat healthy :

Food equals energy. A balanced diet is about eating all the nutrients you need in the right proportions. A nutritious diet can ward off disease, keep your weight under check, improve your complexion and even your emotional state.

Exercise regularly :

It can be a sport of your choice, dancing, yoga, playing with your kids or taking your dog for a walk. A good 30-minute workout can go a long way to rescue you from stress, diabetes, blood pressure and other cardiac problems. Healthy muscles, bones and joints and lower anxiety are other pluses.

Get a minimum of five hours of sleep :

Don't skimp on sleep, period! Adequate sleep can benefit your mind, heart, weight, complexion and so much more. Remember, it is also essential to have a consistent sleep pattern, both in duration and timings.

Get regular health checkups :

Regular health checks is just like getting your car serviced before it breaks down. Checkups like sugar an thyroid is very important for seniors. Regular screenings helps to track your health updates.

A woman goes to the doctor for her yearly physical. The nurse starts with certain basic items. "How much do you weigh?" she asks. "115" she says. The nurse puts her on the scale. It turns out her weight is 140. The nurse asks, "Your height?" "5 foot 8," she says. The nurse checks and sees that she only measures 5'5". She then takes her blood pressure and tells the woman it is very high. "Of course it's high!" she screams, "When I came in here I was tall and slender! Now I'm short and fat!"

Lawyer : Judge, I wish to appeal my client's case on the basis of newly discovered evidence.

Judge : And what is the nature of the new evidence?

Lawyer : Judge, I discovered that my client still has Rs 50,000 left.

The voice mail

I was at the post office, when I saw a woman shouting into an envelope. I asked, "What are you doing? The woman replied, "Sending a voice mail."

Proposal

The hospital calls me up and tells me my wife has wrecked my car. I say, "What! Don't you people ever have any good news!?" "It depends on how you feel about your wife. You see the air bags failed too."

Q : Why did God make man before woman?

A : Because He didn't want any advice on how to do it.

Wife : Are you drinking again?

Husband : No, it's just tea.

Wife : What kind of tea?

Husband : Tea-quila.

One day a secretary is leaving on her lunch break and she notices her boss standing in front of a shredder with a clueless look on his face. The secretary walks up to him and asks if he needs help. "Yes!" he says looking and sounding relieved, "This is very important." Glad to help, she turns the shredder on and inserts the paper.



Then her boss says: "Thanks, I only need one copy."

Teacher : I told you to write this poem out 10 times to improve your handwriting and you've only done it 7 times?

Little johnny : Looks like my counting isn't too good either!

I got a lift to the eleventh floor and a I got out, the operator said, "Have a good day, son." "Don't call me son," I said. "You're not my dad." He scratched his head and replied, "No but I brought you up, didn't I?"

Three mental patients

Three patients in a mental institution prepare for an examination given by the head psychiatrist. If the patients pass the exam, they will be free to leave the hospital. However, if they fail, the institution will detain them for five years. The doctor takes the three patients to the top of a diving board looking over an empty swimming pool and asks the first patient to jump. The first patient jumps head first into the pool and breaks both arms. Then the second patient jumps and breaks legs. The third patient looks over the side and refuses to jump. "Congratulations! You're a free man. Just tell me why didn't you jump?" asked the doctor. To which the third patient answered, "Well Doc, I can't swim!"

Valuable take away points from Maharashtra's politics especially for corporate world employees

1. Never resign before getting offer.
2. Never disclose offer before last day.
3. Leave company on good notes.
4. Don't ask more than your capabilities.
5. Get your basics right, before allying with new technologies.
6. Don't burn the bridges behind you and always leave space for return.

7. When you are in deep trouble, learn to keep your mouth shut. Otherwise you will be hospitalised.

What is peace?

Most People do not understand what is Peace.

Once there was a king who offered a prize to the artist who would paint the best picture of peace.

Many artists tried.

The king looked at all the pictures. But there were only two he really liked, and he had to choose between them.

One picture was of a calm lake. The lake was a perfect mirror for peaceful towering mountains all around it. Overhead was a blue sky with fluffy white clouds. All who saw this picture thought that it was a perfect picture of peace.

The other picture had mountains, too. But these were rugged and bare. Above was an angry sky, from which rain fell and in which lightning played. Down the side of the mountain tumbled a foaming waterfall. This did not look peaceful at all.

But when the king looked closely, he saw behind the waterfall a tiny bush growing in a crack in the rock. In the bush a mother bird had built her nest. There, in the midst of the rush of angry water, sat the mother bird in her nest - in perfect peace.

Which picture do you think won the prize?

The king chose the second picture.

Do you know why?

"Because," explained the king, "peace does not mean to be in a place where there is no noise, trouble, or hard work. Peace means to be in the midst of all those things and still be calm in your heart. That is the real meaning of peace."

The peace that we seek is not the peace of the graveyard.

The real peace is the serenity and tranquillity within, when there is chaos all around us

Inspiration!

ing it simple can be the best game ever.

There's a time to wait and there's a time to move :

There's right time for everything

"There's no need to rush. What's meant for you always arrives right on time."

THERE IS AN appointment time for everything. For instance, a time to plant and a time to uproot what is planted! God has appointment the times and seasons, the events of our lives, the happy and the sad, the easy and the difficult. Every action you take may seem effortless, when it is performed at a right time. The right moment can serve any kind of action. It's all about managing your life

We are reminded every single day that life is short and that we should do our best to make the most of our days. Yet, living life to its fullest seems difficult when it feels like time is slipping through our fingers way to quickly for our dreams to come true. So, when it comes to life, is it really all about timing? Well yes, there is a time to do mindful task and to express your inner most emotions. Here's how:

There's a time to cry and there's a time to mend your broken-self :

They say that crying is the best way to heal. Sometimes, all you need is to hit rock bottom, so once you have fallen apart, the only way out is 'up'. Timing is supposed to be about doing something in the moment that will ignite an optimum effect; it's doing the right thing at the right time

for the right outcome. So, whenever you are ready to dry those tears, trust that your gut feeling will take over to show you the way back up.

There's a time to play games and there's a time to be real :

We love to play games. We think that because we won't text back right away if someone is sorry, the odds will play in our favour and keep our hearts and egos safe a bit longer. There's nothing wrong in playing hard but keep in mind that not everyone is up for it. When it comes to relationships, play-

You must have heard that good things come to those who wait. At times all we really want is to press fast-forward and get to where we want to be. Your life will change whether you want it or not and sometimes, you won't even notice it happening. In one month, one year from now, something will have changed; perhaps because you decided so or through the influence of other forces around you. Just wait for the right time!

There's a time to hold on and there's a time to surrender :

Remember that there's always hope in pretty much everything and no situation is as bad as it may seem. But, also know that you can waste a lot of precious time you will never get back if you chase perfection. If you really think about it, you will realise that many things that happened to you taught you something; they crossed your path on your journey through life for a 'reason'. We are where we are right now because it's the way things are supposed to be and if you think about it, the present looks like a good time after all.

- Remember, things change but, the sun always rises the next day. The good news: Nothing is permanent.
- Just because today is a terrible day doesn't mean tomorrow won't be the best day of your life. You just got to be patient.
- There's always a right time for everything. Sometimes you have make it but, sometimes you just need to wait for it.

Thanksgiving



Thanks to Sacred Heart of Jesus & Mary, Infant Jesus, Holy Cross of Jesus, Holy Spirit, Mother of Good Health of Vailankanni, Mother of Fatima, Mother of Milagres, Mother of Nazareth, Mother of the Forsekkan, Annai Vailankanni, Mother of Guadalupe, Mother of Remedies, Mother of Lourdes, Mount Mary, Mother of Perpetual Succor, Poondi Madha, Mother of Irla Vailankanni, Parvathi Cross, Dhobitalo Cross, Bambolin Cross, Chicalim Road Cross, Milgrees Cross, Vasai Station Road Cross, Ambadi Road Cross, Bangli & Babole Naka Cross, St. Thomas, St. Michael, Fr. Agnel, St. Alex, St. Jude, St. Francis Xavier, St. Anthony, St. Sebastian, St. Peregrine, St. Joquim, St. Benedict, St. Roque, Khanddi Khuris (Maina-Curtorim) for the Special favours received.

— Joaquim & Fly, Vasai.

(Contd.. from p. 7)

human rights conditions in Kashmir, which documented how authorities in India have *“repeatedly blocked telecommunications networks to muzzle dissent, used arbitrary detention to punish political dissidents and employed excessive force when dealing with protestors leading to extrajudicial killings and serious injuries;”* adding that the latest restrictions *“will exacerbate the human rights situation in the region.”*

Freedom of speech and expression in the country has almost become a ‘reality of the past’. In April 2019, when the World Press Freedom Index was released, India had fallen to a miserable 140 out of 180 countries. Media has been compromised, bought up, made to toe the line! This is obvious when one reads the headlines of most national dailies or listens to the electronic media! The Government now blatantly snoops into computers, taps telephones and monitors WhatsApp messages; they have also begun controlling other forms of social media. The recent exposure that at the behest of the Government, an Israeli firm hacked into the WhatsApp messages of human rights activists, lawyers, academics, political opponents – has made it clear that this regime will destroy even the right to privacy in order to realise their anti-Constitutional agenda.

It has also been bad for human rights defenders. One hears about threats,

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coercion, intimidation, arrests, foisting of false cases and even death for all those who take a stand for human rights, justice and peace. Some months ago, five well known human rights activists Sudha Bharadwaj (Faridabad), Arun Ferreira (Thane), Vernon Gonsalves (Mumbai), Gautam Navlakha (Delhi) and writer P Varavara Rao (Hyderabad) were arrested on absolutely fictitious charges(most of them are still languishing in jail after repeated denial of bail); eighty - year old Jesuit Stan Swamy was searched, hounded and his meagre personal belongings attached. There are several others who have to bear the brunt of a very repressive political system. The ‘sedition law’ is both archaic and draconian and is still being used by the ‘powers’ to quell dissent and even to muzzle citizens when they ask questions! The amended Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) has now become an instrument to terrorise the citizens.

The National Register of Citizenship (NRC) is downright negation of the human rights of a citizen. Initiated in Assam, it has already ‘declared’ almost two million people stateless. The NRC together with the ‘Citizenship Amendment Bill’, assuring citizenship to all undocumented persons except those of Muslim faith, risks tearing the country apart, reopening the wounds of partition, and ultimately destroying the secular and democratic tenets of the Constitution. A few days ago campaigning in Jharkhand, the Home Minister Amit Shah said that *“2024 is the deadline for completing the National Register of Citizenship across the country.”* This is an extremely dangerous step and the country today stands at the brink of catastrophic human suffering and injustice, if the government as it plans to do, begins implementing it nation-wide. That are several protests all over on this sensitive issue. The Assam ‘Land Policy- 2019’, which mentions land allocation only for “indigenous peoples”, is another anti-people step. The definition of indigenous people has not been, so far, finalised (excluding toiling populations of Muslim/Hindu and Bengali origin). Without this definition in place, the

‘Land Policy- 2019’ has been repeatedly made mention of the fact that the ownership of land will be exclusively reserved for the indigenous people; again a blatant violation of the Constitution.

Freedom of Religion or Belief, is on the back foot. The latest data with intelligence agencies shows a rise in communal incidents in nine states, led by Uttar Pradesh which has witnessed 457 communal incidents this year, between January and October. There were almost five hundred reported attacks on Christians in various parts of the country. In Gujarat, police are knocking at the doors of Churches to extract details from Baptism and Marriage registers. The fundamentalists thrive on ‘hate speech’. ‘Lynching’ has become the new normal as right-wing forces are ready to kill anyone not like them and without any provocation! The Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister tries to introduce the ‘English medium’ in Government-run schools; the votaries of Hindutva see it as a ‘ploy to convert people to Christianity!’

The rights of children are violated with impunity! Millions of children still labour in hazardous occupations in several parts of the country; besides being denied their right to education, they are also deprived of their childhood. Innumerable women and children are trapped in the web of human trafficking. The Government of India’s stand on the Rohingya Muslims fleeing persecution from Myanmar – besides violating the rights of refugees, goes totally against the basic spirit of compassion and hospitality. Millions are still displaced by mega –projects as we see in the Narmada Dam area. Powerful vested interests continue to destroy the environment and displace thousands of poor people everywhere. The LGBT community is still looked down upon and treated very unjustly in India.

In mid-October, when the **Global Hunger Index (GHI)** was released, India was placed at an abysmal 102 out of the 117 countries ranked. The annual index is designed to measure and track hunger at the global, nation-

(Contd.. on p. 19)

(Contd.. from p. 18)

al and regional levels and to assess progress and setbacks in combating hunger. India is now ranked below Pakistan (94), Bangladesh (88) and Sri Lanka (66) among South Asian nations. According to the report prepared by Welthungerhilfe and Concern Worldwide, India is among the 45 countries that have serious levels of hunger. "In India, just 9.6 per cent of all children between six to 23 months of age are fed a minimum acceptable diet. As of 2015-2016, 90 per cent of Indian households used an improved drinking water source while 39 per cent of households had no sanitation facilities (IIPS and ICF 2017)," said the report.

The economy is in shambles; 'demonetisation' has had an extremely negative impact on the common person (in a new book the former Chief Economic Adviser Arvind Subramaniam refers to it as "a massive, draconian monetary shock"). Banks have gone bust and many have lost their hard-earned savings; corruption has been totally institutionalised by the Government and their ilk. The poor and the vulnerable find it impossible to make both ends meet due to the escalation of prices on essential commodities. Unemployment in the country has reached an all-time high! Industries are closing down rendering thousands jobless overnight! Farmers continue to commit suicide. Even the 'humble onion' which is (with the chilly) indispensable to the poor has sky-rocketed to more than Rs. 100/- a kilo! There is a growing gap between the rich and poor! Those who are rich continue profiteering at the expense of the poor! The country is being dragged into unmitigated disaster by the Government and its unholy nexus with small group of anti-national forces consisting of fundamentalists, fascists, fanatics and other fringe elements! These are the people who legitimise the role of 'Godse' – the man who murdered Mahatma Gandhi! They have abdicated their role and responsibility to protect and promote the rights guaranteed to every citizen by the Constitution: the right to life and liberty; to dignity and

equality; to freedom of speech and expression; to freedom to preach, practise and propagate one's religion; the right to livelihood, to eat, to dress and to see and to read what one chooses to; and all the other fundamental rights guaranteed to the citizens. The Government no longer cares about the right to information, the right to food, the right to a clean environment and to safe drinking water. Human rights in India are systematically being demolished!

The 'Human Rights Watch' Annual Report 2018 is relevant today as it succinctly states, "Vigilante violence aimed at religious minorities, marginalized communities, and critics of the government—often carried out by groups claiming to support the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)—became an increasing threat in India in 2017. The government failed to promptly or credibly investigate the attacks, while many senior BJP leaders publicly promoted Hindu supremacy and ultra-nationalism, which encouraged further violence. Dissent was labelled anti-national, and activists, journalists, and academics were targeted for their views, chilling free expression. Foreign funding regulations were used to target nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) critical of government actions or policies. Lack of accountability for past abuses committed by security forces persisted even as there were new allegations of torture and extrajudicial killings, including in the states of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Chhattisgarh, and Jammu and Kashmir".

In a hard-hitting article entitled 'Blood and Soil in Narendra Modi's India' in

the prestigious 'The New Yorker' (9 December 2019 issue) the author Dexter Filkins writes, "a feeling of despair has settled in among many Indians who remain committed to the secular, inclusive vision of the country's founders. "Gandhi and Nehru were great, historic figures, but I think they were an aberration," Prasad, the former Outlook editor, told me. "It's very different now. The institutions have crumbled—universities, investigative agencies, the courts, the media, the administrative agencies, public services. And I think there is no rational answer for what has happened, except that we pretended to be what we were for fifty, sixty years. But we are now reverting to what we always wanted to be, which is to pummel minorities, to push them into a corner, to show them their places, to conquer Kashmir, to ruin the media, and to make corporations servants of the state. And all of this under a heavy resurgence of Hinduism. India is becoming the country it has always wanted to be."

There is a feeling of 'dèjà vu!' But the people of India must not give up: though human rights are being demolished, there is still strength and resilience in the people: an undying conviction that "we shall overcome"; that justice and truth will finally triumph! This 10 December, is a fitting day for all to commit themselves to and ensure "human rights for all and for always!!!"

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

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7100. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in March 1987), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 52 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. H.S.C., working as a Event Coordinator. Contact email : celeseinepereira@gmail.com

7083. MUMBAI : East Indian Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in November 1985), Ht. 6', Wt. 68 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Com., PGDLM, PGDSM, working as PPM & Data Engineer in Shipping Company. Contact email : ryan.intermilan@yahoo.co.in

7088. MYSORE : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in March 1983), Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 70 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. MBA. Marketing. well employed. Contact email : vishwasturners@yahoo.com

6906. ABUDHABI : Tamilian Ro-

man Catholic Bachelor, (Born in July 1988), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 67 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Bachelor in Business Admin., working as a Customer Support. Contact email : dvdleena@yahoo.co.in

7049. CANADA : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in June 1986), Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 85 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. BE (Computer), working in CANADA in a Non IT Field Seeks a working girl in Canada and holding a PR Visa. Contact email : anniedrz@gmail.com

7077. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in March 1987), Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 80 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Manager. Contact email : leroy2266@gmail.com OR Mob: 9503282306

7041. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in July 1985), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. 10th Std., working as a Plant Operater. Contact email : ronnydsouza075@gmail.com

7068. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in June 1983), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 58 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. HSC, working as a Customer Service. Contact email : cynthiadalmeida83@gmail.com

7040. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in October 1991), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 65 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.C.A., MBA Pursuing, working as a GIS Analyst in MNC. Contact email : ronaldpereira1210@gmail.com

7052. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in June 1977), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 72 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A., Retail Management, working as a General Manager. Contact email : albert.pinto2006@gmail.com

7039. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, Handicap - slight Scoliosis - taking treatment, spine slightly curved. (Born in September 1976), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 45 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A. Computer Prog. / Hair Designer, Having own business. Contact email : reginarodrigues634@gmail.com

6952. MUMBAI : Tamilian Roman Catholic bachelor, (Born in June 1974), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 60 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. HSC, working as a Supervisor, Only Child. Contact email : williammendes2106@hotmail.com

7050. LONAVLA : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in November 1985), Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 75 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. MBA., working. Contact email : dsouza_adrian@yahoo.co.in

7026. AMERICA : Goan Roman Catholic Divorcee, (Born in March 1977), Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 72 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Manager. Contact email : aydenoneil@gmail.com

7045. CANADA : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Divorcee, (Born in September 1985), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 68 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., Hotel Management, having permanent Resident. Contact email : bmathias88@gmail.com

7004. MUMBAI : Tamilian Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in August 1988), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 90 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.E. (Inst.) MBA, working as a Sales Engineer. Contact email : amarian1988@gmail.com OR 9967657806

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7117. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in May 1991), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.A. in English Literature, Teacher by profession. Contact email : examiner2019@gmail.com

7091. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in March 1990), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 44 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBA PGDM, working as an Assistant Manager Presales for a multinational firm. Contact email :

priyaquadrass@gmail.com

7093. MUMBAI : Gujarati Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in July 1982), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 50 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working for Private Bank. Contact email : annie.waghela@gmail.com

7086. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in March 1991), Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 62 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. 12th + Hotel Management Graduateion. working as a Developer Manager in Insurance Company. Contact email : samanireena05@gmail.com

7080. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in July 1991), 5' 5", Wt. 78 kgs, Wheatish

Complexion, Edn. M.Com., working as an Accountant. Contact email : fernandesronita25@gmail.com

7078. USA : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in September 1992), 5' 6", Wt. 65 kgs, Brownish Complexion, Edn. B.E. Mumbai, MS Newyork, working as a Consultant. Contact email :

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7073. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in January 1982), 5' 3", Wt. 64 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M. Pharm, Ph.D., Seeks a well settled qualified bachelor. Contact : email :

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

6969. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in September 1983), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 54 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.A., Working as an Educational Consultant. Contact email :

elviraaranha@rediffmail.com

6959. MUMBAI : Alliance invited from well settled RC Goan bachelors upto 30 years. for RC Goan Spinster (Born in November 1990), a B.A. graduate, done IATA, presently working in **DUBAI** in a travel company as a corporate travel officer, Ht. 5' 3", (preferable working overseas) Contact email : sabjf1963@gmail.com OR

Cell No.: 8828998414

6967. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in June 1991), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 57 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBA (Finance), working as an Asst. Manager. Contact email : rctmumbai91@gmail.com

6954. MUMBAI : Goan Roman

Catholic Spinster, (Born in October 1987), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 47 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., CA., working as a Finance Executive. Contact email : merissa5@yahoo.com

6950. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in July 1990), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 68 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. Post Graduate, working as a Relationship Manager in Private Bank. Contact email :

mendoncas2307@gmail.com

6951. MUMBAI : Born Again Christian Divorcee, (Born in October 1976), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 55 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. Post Graduate Diploma, working for Insurance Company. Contact email : sonalmodawal33@gmail.com

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

6936. MUMBAI : Karwari Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in May 1968), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. SSC., working as a Patient care taker. Contact email : donii1967@gmail.com

7069. MUMBAI : Tamilian Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in April 1992), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 50 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., Nursing, Staff Nurse. Contact email :

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How to build corpus to buy first home?

Owning a house is a goal that most of us pursue. But the cost of realising this dream is huge and thus it constitutes a major financial decision of our lives. Read ahead, to know how to properly align your finances.

To build to corpus required to buy your first home, not only do you need proper planning but also need to incorporate its cost into our budget without affecting our lives. So instead of purchasing the home by liquidating your savings, availing a home loan is a more viable option. But a down payment of the house is indispensable for a home loan. The size of the down payment and the mode of creating it depends on your financial circumstances and your preferred investment choices.

Ideally, you must consider investment vehicles that will work in your favour and help you get a higher rate of return that beats inflation. Firstly you must decide the year in which you can afford to purchase your home. An early start will help you save more amounts. For example, if you start planning at the age 25 years you will be able to save a considerable amount for funding your home down payment in the next 8-10 years. But you must plan by evaluating the financial instruments.

Best Investment Options to build a corpus:

As per financial advisors, there are two options:

Large Cap Fund:

Large-cap fund value on the units you purchase but you are also likely to get dividend payment. These are ideal investment options for investors who want equity exposure but do not want the returns to fluctuate more than the market.

Mid-Cap Fund:

Mid-cap funds are the ones whose market capitalization lies in the segment of Rs. 500 crores to Rs. 1000 crores. These funds are capable of generating high returns as they are volatile on the stock market index. If you are ready to face the volatility of stocks as an investor then you can invest in these funds in expectation of higher returns.

Married father-of-five approved for ordination



Deacon Drake McCalister, his family with Bishop Jeffrey Montforton

Ohio, Dec 5 2019: A former Pentecostal minister and married father of five has been approved for ordination by the Vatican. Deacon Drake McCalister will become the first married priest to be ordained in Steubenville Diocese, in Ohio in USA. He will be ordained on December 19.

McCalister served as a Pentecostal pastor for 13 years but resigned his pastorate after he began to be drawn to Catholicism. He was ordained to the diaconate in 2018.

Catholic News Agency reported that McCalister was first drawn to the Catholic Church after listening to a Catholic radio show. He said the more he listened, the more he felt drawn to the Catholic Church and started to do his own research.

After five years of study and discussions with his wife, the pair decided to join the Catholic Church with their children in 2004. But it was only in 2010 that McCalister considered ordination. Catholic News Agency reported that he will draw from his family life in homilies and is most excited for “life in the spirit and engagement in the mission”.

In 2016, McCalister wrote about his conversion in the Steubenville Fuel. He said he first attended Catholic Mass on a holiday in Utah, 800 miles from his home. He wrote that he initially feared members of the Catholic Church would be “cold, disinterested and inhospita-

ble”. However, he said: “At the end of the liturgy, God gave me the greatest gift possible for my first Mass.” A parishioner turned to him and invited him for coffee. That experience changed McCalister’s view on the Church and from that moment: “I was regularly surprised how often I found zealous and engaging people with whom I could connect” in the Catholic Church.

Although clerical celibacy is the norm in the Catholic Church’s Latin rite, exceptions are made on a case by case basis for married clergymen from other denominations who decide to become Catholic. An example is the Church in England and Wales, that accepted married priests from the Church of England who could not accept the ordination of women in the C of E. The exception applies to priests from other denominations who are already married – if an unmarried C of E cleric becomes Catholic, he will be obliged to remain celibate.

In its final document, the Amazon synod, that was held at the Vatican in October, recommended that the possibility of ordaining married men of exemplary character who are supporting their communities in remote regions should be examined. In effect this means ordaining men normally termed “viri probati”. The proposal is now on the desk of the Pope, who has in the past suggested he is open to the idea, in order to address the shortage of priests in such regions.

(source: The Tablet) MattersIndia

Popular St Joseph Vaz Shrine, Mudipu M'lore

The annual feast of St Joseph Vaz Shrine in Mudipu on the out skirts of Mangaluru was from November 28 to December 1 - proof of the devotion and popularity growing far and wide is evident. The shrine is regularly visited by local and out side people. The outlook and facilities have developed and cause an atmosphere of spiritual holiness and prayer - giving faith and confidence a boost. The local history and admiration is rapidly coming to the fore.

Mass on November 28 was dedicated to the sick and suffering - celebrated by Dr Pius Thomas D'Souza, Bishop of Ajmer, with special prayers for the sick and suffering. On November 29, solemn festal mass at 10.30 am was celebrated by Rev Dr Aloysius Paul D'Souza, Bishop Emeritus of Mangaluru. On November 30, Rev Dr Ignatius D'Souza, Bishop of Bareilly presided over the Eucharistic celebration at 10.30 am.

On December 1, Bishop of Mangalore, Rev Dr Peter Paul Saldanha celebrated the festal mass. He stressed, the holy advent season instills in every faithful a strong hope that Christ will come to bring God's love to everyone. he gave us a call to be zealous missionary like St Joseph Vaz who was a missionary disciple and who lived the Gospel concretely.

On the same day, Rev Dr Lawrence Mukkuzhy, Bishop of Belthangady diocese, presided over the mass at 4 pm in Kannada. The concluding mass of the annual feast was at 8 pm, celebrated by Rev Msgr Maxim L Noronha, vicar general of the Mangalore diocese.



Meals were offered to all pilgrims at noon on all the four days, around 30,000 devotees visited the shrine daily.

was able to work freely. By the time of his death, St Joseph Vaz had managed to rebuild the Catholic Church on the island.



by Ivan Saldanha-Shet

History : St Joseph Vaz in Konkani is Sant Zuze Vaz; Portuguese: São José Vaz; Born : April 21, 1651 – Died : January 16, 1711. An Oratorian priest and missionary in Sri Lanka, then known as Ceylon.

As a result of his labors, Vaz is known as the Apostle of Ceylon. On January 21, 1995, he was beatified by Pope John Paul II in Colombo. He was canonized on January 14, 2015 by Pope Francis in an open-air Mass ceremony at the Galle Face Green in Colombo.

St Joseph Vaz arrived in Ceylon during the Dutch occupation, when the Dutch were imposing Calvinism as the official religion after taking over from the Portuguese. He travelled throughout the island bringing the Eucharist and the sacraments to clandestine groups of Catholics. Later in his mission, he found shelter in the Kingdom of Kandy where he

He is the first priest from the Konkani community to be elevated to sainthood. The shrine in Mudipu Hill is the only church in India dedicated to St Joseph Vaz, he became a priest in 1676 and served in different parishes in Goa till 1681. At the age of 36, he decided to pursue his dream of working as a missionary in Sri Lanka. He is remembered for rekindling



the Christian faith in Sri Lanka. Pope John Paul II recognised the missionary's work and proclaimed him Blessed Joseph Vaz in Colombo on January 21, 1995. He was canonized in 2015. Today, St. Joseph Vaz is gaining great popularity and people from all over from all back grounds are becoming devoted to him for the Glory of GOD.

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