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# THE SECULAR CITIZEN

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A NATIONAL FAMILY WEEKLY



# 2020

## HAPPY NEW YEAR

# 16th Ryan International Children's Festival held at Delhi

**Mumbai, Dec.15:** 16th Ryan International Children's Festival that had kicked off on 13th December with a grand curtain raiser ceremony at Talkatora Stadium, Delhi has been a celebration of cultures and togetherness with over 15,000 students from over 20 countries participating in it.

The festival was graced by the presence of Hon'ble Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri. Om Birla on the 14th of December, who was the Chief Guest for the event. His esteemed presence added to the grandeur of the ongoing extravaganza. The show had a variety of mesmerizing programmes which left the audience amazed by the sheer size and spectacle of the fascinating performances.

Speaker Birla in his speech said, "I get energized looking at the generation of today and I am confident that they will be effective leaders of tomorrow. I congratulate Dr. Grace Pinto for organizing such a grand event which gives opportunities for understanding cultures across the world. Dr. Pinto has dedicated her life for education and has worked tirelessly for it. Ryan schools provide not just outstanding



academics but also a strong moral foundation and values, and these students will do very well in the future. Let us all together build a new India, a strong India!"

Madam Dr. Grace Pinto, MD, Ryan Group expressed her heartfelt gratitude to Hon'ble Speaker for gracing the festival with his presence and appreciating all the endeavours and contribution made by the Ryan Group to education.

Ryan International Festival is specially designed to offer a holistic and creative space for children of the world to come and explore the Indian traditions and cultures. While the Indian students assimilate and learn the international cultures, they will present to the international delegates the rich cultural heritage of India. The entire festival beautifully brings forth a string of unity running amongst the Indian and International students - a true representation of global cultural integration.

Visiting countries were all thrilled with the experience. While expressing her excitement, Thelma Zaldívar, a student delegate from, Axioma Teatro, Paraguay said, "This is such an amazing opportunity that I have, I feel really grateful for traveling to a country as big as India and having the honor to represent my country and show my

culture, and I am very excited to know other cultures too."

The theme of the festival this year is 'Generation Equal'. The spotlight is on gender equality and stereotypes that exist in societies around the world. Predefined roles for boys and girls, are limiting children to develop their full potential. The festival aims to break such stereotypes and empower students to follow their passion. The festival gives Indian students a change to host, perform and interact with children from all around the world.

Countries like Russia, Germany, Czech Republic, Paraguay, Poland, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, India, Iran, Latvia, Lithuania, Morocco, Slovenia, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Thailand are participating in it. For both Indian and International participants, Ryan's Children festival will remain an unforgettable experience where they made new friends, learnt new cultures and together expressed their desire for a Generation of Equals.

*Ronida*

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## Start Today - The New Year 2020...

By Don Aguiar

As we begin the New Year my friends... the world and in particular our nation fights to figure this all out..... The challenges of living in turbulent times and the need to end the politics of hate.

One of India's wonderful oddities is that more non-Christians in the country celebrate Christmas than do Christians, simply because there are so many more non-Christians in India than there are Christians. Many non-Christians around India decorate a Christmas tree every year, give presents to those they care about, and happily sing carols (mostly off-key) with family, friends and neighbours.

This year, though, they as well as the Christian community found it difficult to celebrate. How does one sing "Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright" when a heartless and calculatedly divisive Citizenship (Amendment) Act has been passed in parliament, students brutalised on their own campuses, Muslims systematically attacked in Uttar Pradesh, and thousands detained across the country?

What is the hidden agenda? If no documents are required and when government has data on Aadhar based, Election card based and PAN Card based, why create NPR?? If this is similar to census, why call it NPR? Why is the government saying that they never talked about NRC whereas on the floor of Parliament the Home minister's emphasised that after CAA will come the NRC.

What is truth?? Many questions BUT no answers.

Three years ago we stood in line obediently outside banks as demonetization was imposed on us that broke the back of our country's economy. Now the National Register of Citizens coupled with the Citizenship Amendment Bill is set to break the back of our Constitution and cut ground from under our feet. Are we going to stand in line once again, obediently, and comply with this policy that eerily resembles the 1935 Nuremburg Laws of the Third Reich? If we do, India will cease to exist. We are faced with the biggest challenge since independence.

Any discrimination on the basis of religion should be opposed. Moreover, if a

(Contd.. on p. 17)

# She Gives Us Life, Respect Her In The New Year Protect Women

**F**rom the moment of our conception in her womb she taught us how to live and find our way as a child of God. Pope Francis said, "The womb which hosts us is the first 'school' of communication," he wrote this in his message, "Communicating the Family: a Privileged Place of Encounter with the God of love."

Despite all the help we receive from her in our growing years, most mothers seldom receive the love and devotion they are entitled to, why is this so inhumane?

In 2020 we should value the life of a woman. Pope Francis, I quote, "Mothers, who are ready to make many sacrifices for their children and often also for others," find no appreciation as much as they would like to have.

The final days in the life of Christ is ceremoniously started when a woman anoints Jesus with precious oil, which Judas, the first treasurer of the Church calculated the pure nard to be worth 300 denarii. The disciples thought it was a waste.

Jesus spoke of the woman: "Truly I say to you, wherever the Gospel is preached in the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her." The love of the woman is extravagant, and does not count the cost. The Lord reiterated: "When she anointed my body with perfume, she was preparing me for my burial".(Mat.26:12).

Every human body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, and it must be treated with respect. Women understand this better than men. We discover this truth when Luke's Gospel reminds us of the 'daughters of Jerusalem' lamenting for the condemned Jesus, and the two thieves who were doomed to die with

Christ.

At his passion, women saw what was happening to our Lord: the servant woman who remembered seeing Peter, the apostle, in the courtyard of the high priest; the wife of Pilate who told her husband to avoid putting the innocent man to death. In Luke's Gospel, the Virgin Mary wraps baby Jesus in swaddling clothes, and later when he is wrapped for burial.

Mahatma Gandhi understood and praised the spiritual strength and courage of women. He said: "Woman's capacity is greater than man's capacity. In the process of non-violence women



BY MELVYN BROWN

are the embodiment of non-violence by reason of her loving heart. She has greater intuition. She has the capacity of self-sacrifice, the greater power of endurance and courage, without her man could not be. She is the messenger of non-violence and incarnation of Ahimsa."

In the Bible we learn that Eve was created to be a companion to Adam, to work together in a relationship of equality in God's Kingdom. We find this concept of the origin of woman in both Christian and Hindu scriptures. In Manusmriti it is written that Brahma divided his body into two parts: male and female.

The dignity of woman was extolled by Guru Nanak in his writings: "To the woman we are wedded. The woman is our friend. And from the woman is the family. Through the woman, are the bonds of the world...without the woman there is none?"

Woman brings us comfort, happiness, love and with her presence the inspiration to rise when we fall in sadness or failure. The hardest issue

Pope Francis faces in his pontificate is the part of women in the Church. He wants women to take a large role by the value of her participation and deliberations. Women generate a significant place in the Gospels even when mentioned with broad brush strokes.

I remember the day in 1989 when I read the apostolic letter of Pope St. John Paul 11, Mulieris Dignitatem, in which I came across his praise for woman: "Women were in the forefront at the foot of the Cross. at the decisive moment in Jesus of Nazareth's whole messianic mission. John was the only Apostle who remained faithful, but there were many faithful women."

There is a popular saying that "all five fingers are not the same." I agree. Yet, after years of research and observation, having seen women by the side of those in grief, sickness, mental and physical brokenness, the feminine fidelity to care for suffering humanity was truly heart breaking. In my honest outlook, nine out of ten women are always precious, pious and faithful – and the other one, a saint.

"There will never be a generation of great men until there has been a generation of free women – of free mothers." Robert G. Ingersoll.

"A woman's Rights Convention as far back as 1848 had this to say in their Manifesto, at Seneca Falls: "The history of mankind is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations on the part of man towards woman, having in direct object the establishment of a tyranny over her."

And finally, in his book, Plain Tales from the Hills, Rudyard Kipling wrote: "Take my word for it, the silliest woman can manage a clever man; but it needs a very clever woman to manage a fool."



## On contentious Citizen Amendment Bill (CAB)

The contentious 'Citizen Amendment Bill' (CAB) which has now become law after the smooth sailing in both houses of Parliament, has unfortunately disturbed the peace of the country and set it on fire with several states condemning the bill as un-Constitutional, anti-National divisive, undemocratic, and an assault on the secular fabric of the country. North-Eastern states of Assam, Meghalaya, and Tripura continue to burn with widespread violence and rioting, even after the imposition of curfew and the deployment of several companies of para-military troops to restore law and order, after its disruption by rioting citizens and the student-community. Several cases of rioting and stone throwing were also reported in Delhi, even as chief ministers of 5 states viz: W. Bengal, Kerala, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh challenged the bill and refused to implement it in their respective states. It is a sad state of affairs that the sovereignty of Parliament as law maker is being challenged often these days every time a bill is introduced for its passage in both houses of Parliament. The recent abrogation of Article 370 is another case in point. Is it because there are a few ambiguities in the Constitution that are being exploited by political parties to further their cause and hidden agenda? Even govt-formation in some states is now being challenged as un-Constitutional. Thank heavens we have a Supreme court as the final arbiter to decide on such cases and come to the rescue.

—A. F. Nazareth,  
Alto Porvorim

## Onion brings tears before cutting

The price of onions has reached to such a level in majority of the States that it is difficult for the common man to purchase them. In some places, it is priced at Rs 180 to Rs 200 a kilo. Purchasing onions is bringing tears to our eyes much before we cut them. The government must do something to bring down the price. Onions are needed by us daily not only for cooking but also for making Kanda Poha, Salads, Kanda Bhaji and Egg Burji, etc. It is also used in raita..

— Jubel D'Cruz,  
Mumbai

## Don't politicise Christmas

I am in total disagreement with the views expressed by some overzealous and misguided clergy who are politicising and distorting holy scripture by portraying Jesus Christ as a "refugee and migrant Messiah". Nowhere in scripture do we find such menial references to the promised Messiah who, according to the Old Testament prophecies of prophets Isaiah and Micah would be a descendant of the royal family of King David, be born in Bethlehem and would rule over Israel. In the infancy narrative of Luke, angel Gabriel announces to Mary that the 'child to be born would be holy and called the son of God who would rule over the house of Jacob forever, and whose kingdom there would be no end' (Lk: 1-32-33. However, it was a different kind of Messiah and a different kingdom, which was not according to the messianic expectations of the time. ---- A 'kingdom of heaven'

with an extension on earth for the holy and just. There are many lessons and parallels that can be drawn with the Christmas narrative and the present day crises in the world, notwithstanding the present refugee crisis in our country. What is important, is the message of universal love, compassion, peace, and joy that Jesus came to give us with his birth in the manger and his teachings and example which we should emulate and bear witness.

—A. F. Nazareth  
Alto Porvorim

## Starting 2020 on a dismal note

Even as we are preparing to start the New year 2020 with grandiose plans, it is distressing to see the entire country in a state of widespread turmoil and uprising against the Citizen Amended Act (CAA) and the proposed National Register of Citizens (NRC) with reported cases of violent protests, arson, lathi charges, injuries and deaths due to alleged police firings and stone throwing on a unprecedented scale, with no end in sight. With the govt at the Centre in no mood to relent and determined to go ahead with the CAA and NRC in every state, there appears to be no light at the end of the tunnel or hopes of a silver lining for the millions who will be rendered stateless as illegal migrants, after the implementation of the NRC. The situation we now find ourselves at the start of the new year seems hopeless, as the fight for survival continues unabated. On the flip side, with the country's economic situation grim, unemployment at the highest level, GDP down to abysmal levels, exports on the decline, drop in Fixed deposit rates, bank frauds, poor investments, rise in farmers' suicides, and soaring prices of foodstuff and essentials, our hopes for "achhe din" now seem shattered and no more than a pipe dream. What a way to begin the New Year..

—A. F. Nazareth  
Alto Porvorim

# The Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) is **Unconstitutional**

**T**he nation is on fire !The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019(CAA) which was promulgated on 12 December after the President of India gave his assent to the Citizenship(Amendment) Bill, 2019(CAB), which was earlier passed by both the lower and upper houses of Parliament is blatantly discriminatory, divisive and draconian: besides, it is patently unconstitutional and it goes against the grain and spirit of India's democratic framework.

The CAA amends the Citizenship Act, 1955 to make irregular immigrants from Hindu, Christian, Buddhist, Sikh, and Zoroastrian communities from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan eligible for citizenship, but it significantly excludes Muslims. The government makes a distinction between Muslims, who it says have immigrated illegally, and 'refugees' – namely Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, and Jains trying to escape persecution in their country of origin. Defending the bill in Parliament during the debate on it, the Home Minister Amit Shah said, "There is a fundamental difference between a refugee and an infiltrator. This bill is for refugees.". But there are very few buying his argument. Already, some months ago, several opposition lawmakers, part of the Joint Parliamentary Committee that reviewed the bill, concluded that it is violative of Articles 14 and 15 of the Indian constitution, which guarantee the right to equality and non-discrimination.

When the CAB was being proposed , prior to its being tabled in Parliament, there was an expected and natural outrage from all sections of civil society: constitutional experts, academics, social scientists, human rights defenders, and other concerned citizens; there was an unequivocal opinion that together with 'The National Register of

## 'Why leave out Muslims?'

**The Bill (now Act) changes the way people can apply for citizenship and essentially adds religion as a criterion for eligibility.**

**The Bill (now Act) has been criticised for granting citizenship based on religion and violating Article 14 of the Constitution, which guarantees equality to every person and prohibits discrimination on the grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth. This applies to people even if they are not citizens of India.**

**The opposition parties in India have called the Bill (now Act) unconstitutional, adding that it goes against India's secular identity and propagates the idea of alienation of Muslims, which could also in the future prove to be detrimental to the Muslims living in India as well.**

Citizenship (NRC) ', the CAB is a blatant negation of the human rights of a citizen. The CAB whilst "assuring" citizenship to all undocumented persons, except those of the Muslim faith, risks tearing the country apart, reopening the wounds of partition, and ultimately destroying the secular and democratic tenets of the Constitution.



BY FR. CEDRIC PRAKASH SJ

A few days ago, campaigning in Jharkhand, 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. Most see the CAB as a very manipulative ploy: a diversionary and polarising tactic, by an incompetent Government which is not able to govern the country; where law and order has broken down and where the economy is in a shamble, with lowest GDP, low Consumption, highest unemployment, closure of industries etc. The country on every possible parameter has touched its nadir!

On expected lines, ever since the CAB was passed in Parliament and later okayed by the President, there is a huge backlash all over the country. Millions have come out on the streets to protest the CAA: from Assam to Kerala, from Tamil Nadu to Tripura the

country is literally on the boil! The army has been called out and curfew has been imposed in several places; internet has been shut down in some areas and a general curb of social media! The people of the North East are clear they do not want people of other ethnicities to come into their area even if they are 'Hindus';the people there are able to see through the machinations of the Government to flood the area with 'outsiders' in order to increase the number in their vote bank ! Violence has already flared up in several areas across the country. Eminent citizens in several signed statements , at media conferences and citizen rallies have vociferously condemned this fascist act of the Government

Several prestigious national human rights organisations have not minced words in the statements. The People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL) in a detailed release entitled,'Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019: A Hate Driven Move' has deplored the CAA and given an emphatic call "to Citizens to launch non-cooperation Movement against CAA & NRC". The PUCL statement said, "it is a matter of supreme irony that while the rest of the world woke up to 10th December, 2019, celebrated globally as 'International Human Rights Day', we in India woke up on 10th December to witness the virtual desecration of the key human rights principles enshrined in the Indian Constitution which values respecting diversity, ensuring equality amongst all com-

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munities and promoting co-existence, secularism and communal harmony. In the early hours of 10th December, 2019, the House of People (Lok Sabha) voted in favour of differentiating and discriminating persecuted people who seek refuge in India in terms of 'Muslims versus other religions. The dark irony in the deliberate action of the NDA government brazenly rushing through a discriminatory draconian law on Human Rights Day was not lost on the rest of the world, as numerous countries condemned the passage of the communally oriented Citizenship Amendment Bill."

The Citizens for Justice and Peace (CJP) and their grass-root teams, under the stewardship of its Secretary Teesta Setalvad has been working resolutely on issues related to the NRC and the CAB/CAA. In a campaign endorsed by several eminent citizens from all the country, the CJP statement said, "For the first time there is a statutory attempt to not just privilege peoples from some faiths but at the same time relegate another, Muslims, to second-rate status. The proposed amendments to India's 1955 citizenship law (Citizenship Amendment Bill, 2019) need to be strongly rejected on these counts alone, in that they are divisive and discriminatory in character. The CAB, 2019 is at odds with Constitutional secular principles and a violation of Articles 13, 14, 15, 16 and 21 which guarantee the right to equality, equality before the law and non-discriminatory treatment by the Indian state". "This regime threatens to go further. Through the process of enlisting for a National Population Register (NPR) and thereafter a National Register of Citizens (NRC), the present government appears intent on causing huge upheavals within Indian society. Assam has, especially since 2013 been reeling under the impact of this ill-conceived exercise. Apart from the huge material costs, the human costs have been immeasurable. Death, families torn apart; detention camps and foreigners' tribunals; fear, the spectre of statelessness – this is what the ordinary people, especially

minorities, Dalits, women, children and the poor have had to suffer and continue to suffer. The worst impacted are women and children. A nation-wide NRC, will unleash widespread division and suffering among people across the country – rather than address the critical needs, from food security and employment to the annihilation of discrimination based on caste, community and gender, to the freedom to speak, worship, and live as our diverse people choose. Today 19 lakh persons (1.9 million live a broken existence in Assam with the sword of statelessness hanging over them. Does the rest of India want to tread this path?" The CAA is clearly a majoritarian construct. There is a systematic but undeniable design for the establishment of a 'Hindu Rashtra' which has been on the agenda of the Hindutva elements since the 1930's : at that time , the writing on the wall was clear ( they were always on the side of the British colonialists) should India ever attain independence then it had to be a 'Hindu Rashtra'. Thanks to enlightened and visionary Indians like Gandhi, Nehru, Patel, Ambedkar and others, they did not succeed in their nefarious deeds! However, very surreptitiously and insidiously they are on the ascendancy! They have abrogated Article 370 and 35A of the Constitution, ensured the internet lockdown and blackout of all leaders in Kashmir; there is the Ayodhya - Babri Masjid decision by the SC in favour of the Hindu Community and its refusal to entertain review petitions; then the nationwide NRC and now the CAA; their desire to establish a 'Hindu Rashtra' is not only a faraway dream but seems to be an imminent reality!

The so called humanitarian approach to religiously persecuted minorities from other countries is neither humanitarian in approach nor is it intended for religiously persecuted minorities. If it was intended for those fleeing religious persecution then Myanmar's Rohingyas, Sri Lanka's Tamils & Sinhalese, Afghanistan's Hazara and the Ahmadiyyas from Pakistan and many others should also have been considered. If it were humanitarian in approach every 'refugee' from anywhere in the world should have been granted citizenship

Above all, to think that only Muslims will be affected by this draconian law is to live in a 'fool's paradise'! There are millions of undocumented people all over the country: the poor and the marginalised, the Adivasis and the Dalits, several minorities. The CAA undoubtedly aimed targets all these groups; a 'divide and rule' ploy meant to unleash a hegemony by the powerful, the rich, the upper castes and other vested interests.

There has been a world-wide condemnation of the CAA. UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, through a spokesperson in Geneva, in a strongly-worded statement said, 'the amended law would appear to undermine the commitment to equality before the law enshrined in India's constitution and India's obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, to which India is a State party, which prohibit discrimination based on racial, ethnic or religious grounds. Although India's broader naturalization laws remain in place, these amendments will have a discriminatory effect on people's access to nationality." The US State Department, other countries and reputed international agencies have also roundly condemned this draconian law. Many states in India have already stated that they will not implement the law in their respective States - to which the Home Ministry has replied that the States have no choice but to comply with the Centres directives on it!

The Supreme Court is the next port of halt! It is anybody's guess if the Judges there will act decisively and strike the CAA as unconstitutional. As of now the only option left for "we the people of India" is civil disobedience: to burn the Act and refuse to show any documentation in the context of the CAA to prove our identity. Already several eminent citizens and others have embarked on civil disobedience. We need to take a cue from Mahatma Gandhi who said, "complete civil disobedience is rebellion without the element of vio-

(Contd.. on p. 8)

# There Will Always Be A Christmas

By - Irwin Almeida

When the present regime took over our country in 2014 after a landslide election victory, thanks in large measure to the corruption-ridden Congress, it was rumoured that Christmas Day would be replaced with "Good Governance Day". Perhaps it might have been apt because Christmas is the celebration of the birth of the Prince of peace, harmony, goodwill and tolerance. All of which –requirements for good governance --would have been in the interest of this nation which after seventy

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lence in it. An out- and-out civil resister simply ignores the authority of the State. He never uses force and never resists force when it is used against him. In Fact, he invites imprisonment and other uses of force against himself.... Submission to the State law is the price a citizen pays for his personal liberty. Submission, therefore, to a State law wholly or largely unjust is an immoral barter for liberty. A citizen who thus realizes the evil nature of a State is not satisfied to live on its sufferance, and therefore appears to others who do not share his belief to be a nuisance to society whilst he is endeavouring to compel the State, without committing a moral breach to arrest him. A body of civil resisters is like an army subject to all the discipline of a soldier's life. One perfect civil resister is enough to win the battle of right against wrong".

We need to act now and fast to ensure that the CAA is withdrawn totally and unconditionally and before the fascists take control of our lives and destinies forever!

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

years of freedom from the yoke of foreign domination is now facing a new threat of intolerance and bigotry.

During the Prime Ministership of Atal Bihari Vajpayee the wide alliances that BJP was able to craft put the party on a centrist line and Vajpayee's legacy will live on not in merely building statues and renaming of material things. In fact, one might ask would Vajpayee have tried to change Christmas (his own birthday) into good Governance Day? It is observed that the space for the liberal Hindu is shrinking in today's politics. People are tired of hate speeches by so called leaders, like little children squabbling over petty games!

Let us not forget, Christmas is a fact of life, and history records this eponymous event of the Christian era which commenced a little more than 2000 years ago in a stable in Bethlehem. However, times have changed and today the signs are ominous and the reality differs from what is ostensibly proclaimed.

In fact, one is today inclined to wonder if there is any room left in our pretentious state for the Christmas festival. This view is prompted by the prevalent governance gap that those in power are simply unable to bridge. There is no question of a "new" India that the state can claim to be aiming for. Far from it, this is still the very same India we always knew. Only now we have the additional distractions of social media, food bans and gaurakshaks, followed by political silence. Or the other extreme of glorifying their heinous acts by garlanding these individuals!

Against this background there is a mood of pessimism which tempts us to look upon the festivities of the season as mere relics of a shattered ideal. True as that may be, it is our duty to collect the relics and preserve them with reverent care, for the ideal

of peace, goodwill, harmony and tolerance is the best we can pursue. We are not yet done with it and like everything else in the world these ideals do not stand in isolation.

Remember that one of the foundations of these virtues is brotherliness. Therefore, we must strive to bring people of different creeds, classes and cultures to realise that they are all members of the same great human family, that the good of all is contained in the good of each, and that if one is weak then all are weak. Such a move would ensure fewer breaches of the peace. Greed and selfishness rend asunder the bonds of brotherhood, and no amount of idealism should blind us to the terrible facts of undisciplined human nature.

The signs are ominous as we observe that the nation's fabric of unity in diversity is gradually being rent with fissures. Sensing further irreparable damage to society generally, a rather well-known and virile middle-aged activist who takes up the cause of survivors of violence and the homeless, Harsh Manderin an article "An antidote to hate" cautions: "There is a rising darkness in India. Mobs are acting out visceral hatred everywhere – on highways, in train compartments, inside homes – targeting people only because of their faith and caste. India has witnessed hate attacks in the past. What is new is the frequency and the normalisation of this lynching, in a growing aggressively majoritarian political and social environment."

Referring to the response of our elected representatives and the guardians of the law to the existing situation, he states: In most cases, it is revealed that in the many instances of violence, the victims are blamed as being guilty. He also describes the reactions of civil society, where it is noticed that people take videos of whatever violence, or just walk past unconcerned while

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checking messages on their cells. His worry is that most of us watch and do nothing. Our silence must be condemned.

While the reason for the ongoing kind of polarisation may be inscrutable, the fact is undeniable and saint and sinner alike have to face the possibilities. Let us remember that no matter what, the peace and prosperity of the world ultimately depends upon the control individuals exercise over themselves and the number of individuals who exercise such controls.

Today, it seems like mobs are omnipotent and in the face of anarchy they appear to be mesmerised into acting contrary to their own judgement. The mob has yet to be moralised, but this cannot happen unless a sufficient number of individuals have learned to control their passions that call for retaliation. This is the road to disaster.

The only way to realise the ideal that Christmas beckons us to follow is to keep in restraint all that seems to be the denial of the brotherhood of all nations consisting of people of different races, creeds and beliefs. Such sympathy and empathy will, in the long run, prove to be more powerful than armed conflict. However, in the present environment in India, we seem to be sitting on a powder keg and it has never been so difficult to maintain such a spirit.

There is today so much unfairness, injustice and intolerance, so much misrepresentation and falsehood, so much that is subversive of law and order and progress, negating the efforts of those who have given of their best. The writing on the wall seems to give a clear signal even though there are protestations to the contrary.

Saffronisation seems to be ailing the country now as we witness some of the signs like the rewriting of history books, the insistence on the singing of certain patriotic songs, the value given to the cow even to the extent of lynching by mob vigilantism, which often exceeds even the dignity accorded to the human person.

The times in which we live present us with a challenge to exist in an atmosphere of hatred, suspicion and bans entering our homes. Yet, the very heart of the Christmas message is self-abasement to celebrate the strength of universal brotherhood with joy, peace and harmony. And, finally, no matter what there will always be a Christmas....to celebrate Our Saviour born, the Prince of Peace! As I end, let us pray that all humankind from west to east, join hands and hearts and end the fight, and live together in Love and Light.

## The Lost Is Found

Are you that sheep that missed the track?  
Don't despair, the Shepherd will get you back.  
If you are the one, that has crossed the line,  
He's coming for you, leaving the ninety and the nine.

Gently He'll carry you back to the fold,  
With His tender love, you He'll hold.  
He'll rejoice over you, with all His friends:  
His joy will know, no ends.

Like the lost coin, do you feel dead in sin?  
This remember, you're still precious to Him.  
Though marred, you still bear the stamp, "in the image of GOD"  
And the blood of Jesus will cleanse you, and remove all the load.

You may be lost in the house or in the world,  
Still Christ can save you, whether young or old,  
Heaven rejoices when a sinner repents.  
God loves you, that's why His Son He sent.

Have you left God, like the prodigal son?  
Thinking that in the world, you could have fun?  
Have you wasted all your substances?  
And landed in dire circumstance?

His love will work things out for you,  
Because you are, one of the chosen few,  
Through different ways, His voice will be clear,  
He'll draw you home, for to Him you are dear.

Come to Him just as you are,  
He'll run to you, when He sees you afar.  
He'll not question you, for what you have done,  
You He'll receive back, as His own dear son.

A royal robe, new shoes & ring,  
The celestial choir for you will sing:  
"Welcome home, O heir of the throne,  
Welcome back, Welcome home"

—Winnifred Rego

# “I’m gonna leave the Church!”

**T**he lone New Year’s “resolution” the feisty fashionista of the parish made was precisely this: **to leave the church!**

And the professionalism with which she went about with putting that resolve into practice would put any ballerina or music maestro to shame! A gorgeous new gown for the Christmas Night Mass, with crystal and diamonds and the latest in stilettos to complete the look! The alacrity with which she greeted everyone after the Mass of the year was both amusing and amazing to say the least! “Hi Marcie! Merry Christmas!” “Hey Chryselle, I hear you are leaving the Church – tell me it’s a rumour, yaar!” “No dear, it’s not a rumour – it is as true as the blood in your veins!” “But then, how come you were at Mass tonight and are greeting all so happily?” “Arrey! My grandmother always told me that when I grew up, if I ever exited any organization, I must always do it in style! So now is my chance! 31 December will be my last day as a Roman Catholic, and so this is my last Christmas in your stupid—ha! Ha! Hah!! So, a fabulously merry Christmas, Marcie!” Honestly, Marcie, totally flummoxed, didn’t know whether to laugh out loud or simply break down in tears!

## **Leaving the church, a new fad!**

It has become a fashion today to gamely flaunt the threat “I’ll leave the Church!” at almost the drop of a pin so to say. Chryselle was miffed because she was denied the First Reading the previous Christmas, the narrator’s role at the Palm Sunday Parish Mass, the Commentator’s part at the Easter Vigil and so on. But what finally triggered her decision to exit was the denial of the right to conduct the Christmas Night Mass Choir and to sing all the solos herself.

What is obvious is the lack of depth in one’s Faith perception that actually denies one the identity proper to every baptized person: a CHRISTIAN – *not*

*chorister, cantor or conductor, not lector, organist or Eucharistic minister, not usher, altar decorator or whatever!* Undeniably, when we identify ourselves with the role we play in the parish or the position we occupy in an association, we come through as having missed the woods for the trees. Why? Because we’ve made our role/position the *raison d’être* of our very existence. Whatever happened to the catechesis we both *learned* in our growing years and *taught* in our adult years? On the other hand, whatever happened to the ‘service’ aspect of our ministry? Isn’t it time we attuned ourselves to exiting a given ministry when we realize that we can no more do justice to its demands? Why wait to be asked to step down and then feel like we are being victimized?



by Ladislaus L D'Souza

## **Vatican II and its aftermath**

Chryselle’s case apart, the reasons for which Catholics of every hue leave the church are too concrete to be ignored or dismissed outright. From expressions of faith through unconvincing practices to the attitudes of priests towards the Eucharist on the one hand and towards the faithful on the other, there is much between the cup and the lip to set off alarm bells that had better be listened to seriously by all concerned lest the situation get out of hand.

Time was when both the interior and exterior of churches and chapels big and small were adorned with statues galore, a practice that was not difficult to perceive as the faith expression of the missionaries and the converts. Those in the know will recall how Vatican II that changed all that—statues were abruptly ripped off shrines and niches in places of Catholic worship the world over, implying that a believer does not need pictures and statues to sustain his faith. Thus, priceless pieces of art landed up on sale by the wayside or in auctioneers’ nets, even as intricately carved church doors and furniture got replaced with mica

laminated or wrought iron stuff. Thus, antiques came to cost a bomb while parish church articles landed up in the homes of those favoured by priests of the parish. **The museum that certain dioceses like Bombay are trying to build up could be recipients of some of the finest wood and marble sculptures if those concerned would be willing to part with the same for the sake of enhancing the Church’s repositories of art and artefacts and for the benefit of future generations!** But will they?

Today, however, there seems to be a reversal of the trend, what with the resurgence of statues as is evident from the range in terms of description and size on display at most Catholic outlets selling religious items. Catholic book-centres, whose avowed mission was to disseminate the word of God through the print media, today find it more lucrative to stock the facility with statues of every kind. Be it a life-size statue of Christ the King seated on an opulent throne or a miniature of a sleeping Saint Joseph, or of Our Lady of Fatima or the Rosa Mystica or a crucifix in wood 20 ft in height or an 8” San Anton, it’s all yours for the asking. That is where the exit of Nattie and her family come in. “If the Church cannot be consistent with its views and teachings as regards idols and idol-worship, **why does the parish waste the money of the parishioners collected on Sundays on buying or replacing statues of the favourite saints of those who are hell-bent on having their own way in everything concerning the parish?**”

## **The ugly head of favouritism!**

How often do we not come across complaints such as Ginny being favoured over Jose\* all because Ginny is the blue-eyed girl of whom the Reverend Parish Priest is so flatteringly enamoured as to sacrifice Jose’s genuinely significant suggestions, just to please Ginny and her supposedly generous family? Exit Jose, who

(Contd.. on p. 18)

## Police fast track Justice?

The gruesome cases of rape and murder in Hyderabad and Unnao have stirred the conscience of the Indian public and there were persistent demands for 'quick fix' justice even from MPs which was rather unusual. Of course, the women's groups and families of the victims were equally vocal in their demand for justice within the shortest possible time and that was fair. Nobody thought that the Police, who did not crown themselves with glory in this case, actually appear to have taken the demand for quick justice seriously and I hope I am wrong in coming to this conclusion. Many right thinking people have questioned the veracity of the statements of the Police who claim that their rifles were snatched and then stones pelted at them. With no other option, they shot all the four dead – a cold blooded murder. If the Police version is wrong then it challenges the very tenets of the justice system in India.

I am sure there must have been a sizeable number of policemen accompanying the suspects who were brought from the lock-up and therefore totally unarmed. On the other hand, the policemen were properly armed and sober, and hopefully the arms were not left on the ground for the culprits to snatch them. This sounds more like a Bollywood story, rather a poor one at that. Were the policemen sleepy that they could not hold on to their guns? If reports are to be believed, some minister had something to do with the whole operation. If this is true, then there is something more than what meets the eye. It must be remembered that the Telangana CM was under tremendous public pressure and perhaps it was necessary to defuse the situation. The CM did not utter a single word on the barbaric incident.

There is no point in dwelling on the heinous crime that was associated with this case. A lot has been written, televised and debated to warrant any further addition. What needs to be realized is that we are witnessing these horrific events in the land of Mahatma whose 150th birth anniversary is being celebrated with much fanfare by the country led by Narendra Modi. The Mahatma would have been happier if the country followed his ideals and that applies to the people as well as the political leaders and the law enforcing agencies.

## VIEWS on NEWS

Such cases were not uncommon in the past but the frequency and the killing/burning of victims are recent phenomena. Over the years such crimes are getting more and more gruesome making one wonder where we are heading. What was believed to be one off incident in the case of Nirbhaya, has now become a norm. Even after seven long years the accused in that case are not hanged. It is said that one of them has filed a review petition in the Supreme Court.

Got a social media message which read as "Indian justice system explained. If rapist is poor, kill him. If rapist is influential, kill the victim". This perhaps sums up the prevailing situation in this country. It is true that this is a social issue and catching culprits red-handed is not easy. Perhaps a new and innovative approach is necessary. Lady Constables in civil dress [and properly armed] should try and roam alone in secluded areas preferably with a hidden miniature camera. Of course there should be enough cover from other police personnel hiding in the vicinity. The predators are likely to fall in the trap. This should be done across the country and should it succeed even partially, it could deter others from trying to commit such crimes. This may sound a little weird but we have reached a point from where it is hard to see any change in the mindset of those responsible for such crimes.

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## CAB – rushed through

No doubt, the Citizens Amendment Bill now CAA was the commitment of the BJP [like some others] in their 2019 election manifesto but the undue haste in which the BJP rushes through legislations, which have a huge bearing on a particular community, raises some questions. Knowing that this legislation has national ramifications the same should have been done through a long drawn consultative process so as to address the concerns of many stakeholders. When the idea was first mooted it was clear that the main aim was to protect the Hindus in Pakistan/Bangladesh and the reason proffered was the Hindus do not have any other country to seek refuge or asylum while Christians etc could depend on Western countries. When this was questioned the scope was widened to include Jains and Buddhists. The 2019



by Marshall Sequeira

manifesto did not find any mention of Christians and Parsis. However in the bill that was passed in the Parliament, only Anglos find no mention. Even their nomination to Parliament is withdrawn.

The BJP had done its home work and ensured that they will have the numbers in the Rajya Sabha and 'managed' to pass the bill with the President giving his assent. Anything that directly or indirectly affects the particular minority adversely, there is widespread support and the reason is not hard to guess. This is more pronounced under the BJP regime and the divide between the two communities is widening. This is not in line with the PM's mantra – Sabka sath, sakha vikas, sabka viswas. At least the 'sath/viswas' are elusive. Perhaps the government did not expect nationwide disturbances in N.E, Bengal, TN, UP, and Delhi where the situation is far from normal. As this piece is being written the university students have come out in full measure. It can escalate further. Celebrities as well as intellectuals have joined in. To show the Congress in poor light, former President Pranab Mukherjee was decorated with national honours by NDA government. He has now given some good advice to the BJP. Surely, a leader who is worth Bharat Ratna must know a thing or two about governance. Please take it seriously.

BJP election manifesto contains so many 'commitments' but the government is selective in prioritizing the issues keeping their vote bank in mind. Issues like electoral reforms, 33% reservation for women in Parliament, Police reforms through Model Police Act, UTs as models of development do not fall under the priority list. Surprisingly, the manifesto is silent about women's safety – a burning issue that needs more than just lip service. Just because you have the mandate does not mean that you can bulldoze public sentiments. Adverse comments do not represent Pak view point nor are they anti-national. By the way, even Indira Gandhi had a mandate when she declared emergency.



Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) Mumbai Region organised a Christmas Get-together and Dinner meet under the leadership of Nawab Malik and Clyde Crasto on 27th December 2019 at The Catholic Gymkhana, Marine Drive, Mumbai. The dignitaries present include Cardinal Oswald Gracias, Sharad Pawar, Bishop Dominic Savio Fernandes, Chhagan Bujbal, Mrs. Supria Sule and Fr. Frazar Mascarenhas. The leaders on dais gave their Christmas Message of Peace and love on the occasion. The meet was attended by a large number of Catholics representing Bombay Catholic Sabha, Christian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dimension and individual prominent Christians of Mumbai.

## What Cardinal Oswald Gracias Say

The ongoing controversy and demonstrations and counter demonstrations concerning the Citizenship Amendment Act is a cause of great anxiety for all citizens and could harm the country.

There is a danger that there could be a polarization of our peoples along religious lines, which is very harmful for the country.

Religion should never be the criterion for citizenship of a country. Nor is violence a solution when there is a difference of opinion.

It is necessary that the Government dialogues with those opposing the Act, and come to an agreement about the way forward with justice, equity and fairness.

There is no harm in backtracking: changing course if this is necessary for the good of the country and our people.

The time of Christmas is a time for peace, justice and unity. These values which Our Lord brought to humankind in Bethlehem should be paramount in our hearts and minds at this time.

+Oswald Cardinal Gracias\*  
Archbishop of Bombay & President, CBCI



## Distribution of Christmas tree saplings by Bishop Barthol Baretto



**ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM:** The Bombay catholic Sabha under the Aegis of Vice president Mr Bento Lobo undertook the Distribution of Christmas tree saplings on 20th Dec at Cannossa Annexe primary school. Bishop Barthol Baretto blessed the saplings and the same were distributed to all the people in the presence of Adv Raphael president, V.P. Bento Lobo, executive Committee members, Maryann Lopes, Anthony Dias, Rita Almeida, Sister Catherine, Sister Esperance. This was to keep the spirit of Christmas and also to contribute to a green environment. In all 60 saplings were distributed on a first come basis mainly to spark the drive of environment consciousness among our citizens celebrating Christmas and spreading awareness for the need of green celebration. We hope every family treats this sapling as a Christmas blessing and showers it with joy, love, abundance and prosperity for years to come!

## This New Year a New YOU

**The start of the New Year is a great time to help children focus on forming good habits and learning new things**

As we step in the New Year, it is important to make some resolutions for this coming year. Choosing a New Year's resolution helps you set a goal and work toward achieving it. Resolutions can be big or small and should be focused on your personal goals and desires. Your specific goals will depend on your challenges, abilities and interests. Here are some ideas to help you make resolution.

### Get Unplugged:

We spend so much time with electronics for work and play. When was the last time you and your family spent

a day "unplugged," without watching any TV, checking any emails, or staying glued to your cell phones? Set a goal of spending at least one day a month without your gadgets and instead, enjoy the outdoors.

### Eat healthier:

These are just two examples of healthy resolutions you should be tailored to his individual needs. Target the area you need to improve upon. So if you want to eat less fast food, talk about what you are going to eat instead. If you need to eat more veggies, agree on a specific number for the week and so on.

### Exercise:

Increasing physical activity is always a good resolution but the word exer-

(Contd.. on p. 15)

## Make New Year Resolution - This Christmas



Suggests Fr. Felix D'souza (Parish Priest of St. Anthony Church, Vakola)

For a change, think of 'Collective Resolution', and not just an individual one! Resolve to "CARE FOR CREATION"

A clarion call given by Pope Francis and many leaders, as a response to the growing menace of neglect for creation brought about by humanity.

Single use Plastics are not being bio-degradable, keeps piling up for years, becoming a toxic pile seen along any available open spaces. Much good can happen if the one time daily usage of plastics are totally banned by every human being.

### ACT NOW

By carrying personal water bottle, which is not of plastic material, and yet can be put into multiple time usage for months/years. Help in preventing pollution through lesser usage of plastic bottles

So Take your RESOLUTION NOW!

Buy stainless steel bottle with Refuse Single Use

Fr. Felix D'Souza of St. Anthony's church Vakola, supporting this campaign by giving out steel bottles at a subsidised rate.

## Awesome recipes for best party dips

If you're planning to host a party at home and wish to impress your friends with your culinary skills, then we've certainly got your back. Here's a list of few DIY dips that are perfect for your party

Be it fries, cutlets, kebabs, nuggets or garlic bread, dips complement with almost every snack. They can enhance the flavour of the dish to a significant extent.

### Mint Yogurt Dip:

When it comes to refreshing delights, yogurt can be termed as the most refreshing of the entire lot. With its cooling properties, yogurt is perfect to be savoured on a hot and sultry day. To transform it in the form of a dip, all you need is few mint leaves, garlic and blended yogurt. Blend one cup of yogurt and add few chopped mint leaves in it. Add one minced garlic clove along with a dash of salt and pepper in it. Your dip is ready. Pair it with finger food of your choice.



### Tangy Tomato Dip :

To make this classic tomato dip, finely chop some tomatoes and garlic, and mix the two ingredients in fresh thick cream. Add a pinch of salt, sugar and half teaspoon mustard oil. Your dip is ready. Pair it with nachos or fries.



### Sour Cream and Corn Dip:

This sweet and sour combination is an absolute stunner. Boil corn for 10 minutes. Then mix it with sour cream and add salt, oregano seasoning and black pepper. Add a pinch of sugar in it to add a little sweet flavour.

When it comes to pairing finger food with something delicious, dips can make or break the deal. To make sure that you prepare just the right kind of dip with perfect consistency,

## Eating on banana leaves is good for health



Most people use banana leaves to serve an authentic south Indian spread on festivals and family get-togethers. As they are large, flexible and waterproof, it is very easy to serve food in it. But have you ever wondered why these leaves are used to serve food for such a long time? We answer you by providing its few health benefits.

**Antioxidants :** Natural antioxidants like polyphenols are found in banana leaves. If you serve food on banana leaves, the food adsorbs these antioxidants that protect your body from many diseases. Banana leaves have antibacterial properties. Their wax coating protects the leaves from contamination and is even believed to kill pathogens.

**Hygienic :** Banana leaves are particularly used to serve food on auspicious occasions as they are more hygienic compared to other utensils are fresh and

clean since they are straight from the field and used only once. It also adds subtle and earthy flavours to the dishes that are served on the leaves.

**Natural :** Service you need to wash metal plates with soap and gels, traces of the chemicals in the soap may still remain on the plates, contaminating your food. Banana leaves just need to be rinsed with little water, and need no soap to be cleaned off toxins, so your food had no risk of contamination with chemicals from dish-bars or gels.

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# Detoxify your blood with these herbs

**YOUR LIFE RUNS** on an important liquid known as blood. It transports various metabolic essentials in our body, hence purifying it is necessary from time to time. These herbs will help you to do so

We eat a number of packaged and unhealthy food and inhale impure air of the polluted environment affecting the immune power of the blood. While we have little control over the out world's affairs, we can certainly change our diets and the daily habits that can cleanse the blood naturally. Here is the list of some of the list of some of the blood cleansing herbs that can be used in daily life, have a look.

**Guduchi** : This herb is a detoxifying



agent that purifies the blood. With the ability to balance the three doshas. Guduchi helps in cleansing the blood. It is also beneficial in controlling the uric levels in blood and strengthening the urinary system which ultimately promotes the proper elimination of toxins from the bloodstream.

**Basil** : Basil carries an exceptional ability to keep the blood unaffected from the influence of environmental impurities by cleansing the liver and kidneys. The anti-inflammatory herb makes sure to keep the temperature of the blood calm and draughty. You can use the basil leaves as a salad or in tea.

**Manjistha** : It is an astringent and bit-



ter herb with cooling properties that help dissolve the barriers in blood flow. Manjistha can remove toxins from your blood, improve blood flow, and boost blood circulation. It is effective in the treatment of skin conditions like itching, acne, darkened spots, and leucoderma and to improve the glow and complexion of your skin.



**Neem** : Neem possesses several medicinal properties, such as antibacterial, antifungal, anti-inflammatory, anti-gastric, antimalarial, and diuretic properties. Neem is a considered an excellent blood cleanser and is used in treating ailments that require the detoxification of the bloodstream. The herb is also effective in detoxifying liver.

(Contd.. from p. 13)

cise can be boring. Make fitness fun and easy by doing family activities that get you moving.

## **Help out around the house:**

Committing to chores is always smart because it can be very helpful for your parents. Plus, you'll get to learn new things.

## **Eco-friendly:**

Start a recycling program at home or we're just shorten your showers to only five minutes to conserve water. Plant some plants and take care of it.

## **Learn something new:**

Depending on your interest try something new. Learning new skills is always an exciting resolution that everyone looks forward to.

## **Read:**

How many books do you and your kids have on your shelves that you've never cracked open? And when is the last time you took a trip to your public library? You can make this the year that you all become bookworms! Find recommended reading for kids of all ages, and encourage kids to keep a reading chart

## **Be good to others:**

Put a stop to kicking under the dinner table, refusing to share, and forgetting to use the magic words with a refresher on manners. Try to be good to everyone your neighbours, classmates and everyone around.

## **Save money:**

Try not to waste too much on fast foods and save money for some good cause.

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## The boss

A man goes into a pet shop to buy a parrot. The shop owner points to three identical looking parrots on a perch and says, "the parrot on the left costs 500 rupees". "Why does the parrot cost so much," asks the man. The shop owner says, "Well, the parrot knows how to use a computer." The man then asks about the next parrot to be told that this one costs 1,000 rupees because it can do everything the other parrot can do plus it knows how to use the UNIX operating system. Naturally, the increasingly startled man asks about the third parrot to be told that it costs 2,000 rupees. Needless to say this begs the question, "What can it do?" To which the shop owner replies, "to be honest I have never seen it do a thing but the other two call him boss!"

\*\*\*\*\*

A woman's husband had been slipping in and out of a coma for several months, yet she had stayed by his bedside every single day. One day, when he came to, he motioned for her to come nearer. As she sat by him, he whispered, eyes full of tears, "You know what? You have been with me all through the bad times. When I got fired, you were there. When I got fired, you were there to support me. When my business failed, you were there. When I got shot, you were by my side. When we lost the house, you stayed right here. When my health started failing, you were still by my side. You know what?" "What dear?" she asked gently, smiling as her heart began to fill with warmth. "I think you're bad luck."

\*\*\*\*\*

## 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 al-



- lying 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.

\*\*\*\*\*

After 10 years a wife started to think their child looks kind of strange neither like the mom nor like the dad so she decided to go for the DNA test and found out that the child is not their, she told her husband what she found out, the husband replied, "You don't remember do you? When we were leaving the hospital the baby pooped and you told me go and change him so I went inside and got a clean one and left the dirty one there." The wife fainted.

\*\*\*\*\*

## How I learned to mind my own business

I was walking past the mental hospital the other day and all the patients were shouting, "13...13.....13." The fence was too high to see over but I saw a little gap in the planks, so I looked through to see what was going on." Some fool poked me in the eye with a stick, then they all started shouting, "14...14....14".

\*\*\*\*\*

Education took us from thumb impression to signature! Technology took us from signature to thumb impression!

\*\*\*\*\*

**Richard** : What role do you play at family gathering?

**Venkat** : Too young for the adults, too old to be chilling with the kids. So I just sit in the corner.

\*\*\*\*\*

## 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



(Contd.. from p. 3)

law is being enacted particularly excluding a religious group, it should be opposed and to support that there are those who are standing in support of their fellow citizens across the length and breadth of India - the doctors and lawyers who are offering their services free of cost to those who have been attacked, harassed and persecuted - the activists and journalists who are speaking up on behalf of those who do not have a voice of their own and those countless students and young people across India who have come out to tell the people of India that they will not be divided by the powers that be.

All is not calm. All is certainly not bright.

The Christian community is a major victim of discrimination on the basis of their religion. Article 341 [iii] is the world's biggest and most powerful anti-conversion law as it denies freedom of faith to the 15 to 20 crore Indian Dalit community. The abuse of gender and juvenile justice laws to target Christian hostels and congregations is now increasing.

The state anti-conversion laws are a classic example of government hypocrisy in which Congress, BJP and local parties are all complicit. The law does not punish conversion to Hinduism, even if violently done by VHP goons.

It is problematic when the BJP and the Sangh use it to forcibly convert Christians and Muslims - never Sikhs and Ambedkarite Buddhists - to Hinduism, especially in rural areas. A level of muscle coercion and a large dollop of state impunity are also involved.

There are many Christians/Catholics who are being persecuted for speaking against the government and facing arrest and violent attacks and in particular the Nuns of Mother Teresa's Congregation. Why should they be treated differently on the basis of their religion?

The law is a criminal ass if it says conversion to Islam and Christianity is offensive and illegal, but converting to the lowest caste category of Hinduism is ok. A third of the population has their right to adopt their choice of faith, or atheism, abrogated.

The Constitution and the Supreme

Court have refused to define Hinduism, and its core, Hindutva, called Way of Life. So how can anyone be converted to a way of life? A beef eater to a shakahari overnight? Not that they are offering to convert all of us to castes such as Saraswat Brahmins in south India, or Gaur in the north.

*Ghar Wapsi* is a wonderful thing. Ask any Indian woman who waits on karva chauth for her long-lost husband to return. It has also helped so many devout and fundoo congressmen to return home to the Sangh, joining the BJP in hordes across the country - from former governors, union ministers, chief ministers, party chiefs and mayors.

Every fascist regime needs communities and groups it can demonise in order to thrive. It starts with one group or two. But it never ends there. A movement built on hate can only sustain itself by continually creating fear and strife.

Those of us today who feel secure because we are not Muslims or Christians are living in a fool's paradise. The Sangh is already targeting Leftist historians and "Westernised" youth. Tomorrow it will turn its hate on women who wear skirts, people who eat meat, drink liquor, watch foreign films, don't go on annual pilgrimages, use toothpaste, prefer allopathic doctors to v aids, kiss or shake hands in greeting instead of shouting 'Jai Shree Ram'. No one is safe. We must realise this if we hope to keep India alive.

The most dangerous thing political leaders can be subjected to, is to be surrounded by people who will not tell them the truth or lie to them. Not necessarily by intention to harm them but it could just be to please them or are scared of them or psyched by them or in cases they take it for granted that they know what they are doing. A similar situation arises with the religious, priest and within the community.

The reason for hiding the truth could be many, sucking up to the leader could be one of them. Fear, belief to the leader's vision and not wanting to dampen the enthusiasm are others - the yes men culture.

The fact that many major decisions of the government made had poor fall-

outs, indicates that something is not right about the decision making process inside it. A similar situation arises with the religious, priest and within the community.

Christian sects do face persecution in Christian majority communities. The history of sects such as Quakers, SDA and Jehovah's Witnesses is a matter of shame for the West, apart from it also getting mixed up with racism. The historic persecution of Catholics, Christians and others face military repression in Israeli-occupied territories.

The church leadership finds itself in a place where Pope Pius found himself during the rise of Hitler in Germany.

Yes-men surround the leadership. Sane voices, talented individuals and people with independent opinions are not encouraged. Challenging this culture is extraordinarily hard. However if it does not change, we will continue to have such situations as today until one day, we have another policy that's the equivalent to just aag hi aag on the streets.

The government does not realise that the headlines we want right now are about our economic recovery, and not videos of female students in hijab in a face-off with baton wielding cops, but the government whole idea is to deflect and confuse so the right questions are never asked and keeps the nation busy with CAB & NRC resulting in nobody asking them for the prices of onions and petrol to be brought under control or the country's economic recovery.

How we will ever be able to build an India where everyone is included, respected and valued - treat others the way they wish to be treated - only then our country would indeed become a kinder and better place. I realise that while the festive feeling may be missing, the spirit of Jesus is alive and well.

Let us show love and judge less. Find our own way to swing the pendulum in the direction of love and kindness and acceptance of all. Be kind to a stranger today and every day. It just may be a friend you have never met. Be the change!!! **Be the light!! Start TODAY! THE NEW YEAR 2020!!!!!!-**

is now a 'pastor' in a church he has started on his own. It is plain to see that favouritism, when it raises its ugly head, can be quite a killer.

Cain was an active member of the Parish Choir and sang at the Papal Mass at Shivaji Park during the visit of Pope Saint John Paul II to Mumbai. Some argument triggered a crisis which many thought would blow over but didn't. Cain suddenly had a brainwave that made him question the practice of parishes holding Novena services and the like. Finding no basis for such practices in the Holy Bible, he quit the Church and started his own. Bumping into him one morning I was aghast at what he retorted: "**What does your Catholic Church do anyway? Pretends to look after the poor through Divine Mercy and what not!** Your church only conducts novenas, novenas and more novenas! Does any of you go to the slums and tell the poor people that they are sinners? See *my Church!* We go and tell the slum-dwellers bluntly that they are sinners!" One can only guess what would be the fate of Catholics, whether clergy, religious or lay-folk, going about telling people that they are sinners!

**The strange part of this case is that deserter Cain was invited to conduct the parish choir for the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's Messiah at the Easter Vigil! Why!?! Was the piece so intrinsic to the liturgical service that it had to be performed even if that meant inviting a deserter of the faith to conduct it?** The fallout of this nonsensical move on the part of the powers-that-be was that Leena refused to yield to a demand for a leadership change on precisely the premise that if a person who has deserted the church, in effect a non-Catholic, can be called upon just to conduct the choir as described above, what is wrong in her remaining conductor for at least another year? But PP and his henchmen-and-women would have none of it. Leena retorted by threatening to quit the church—and quit she finally did. PP however was

quick to exonerate himself by asking for a bowl of water and a tissue, saying, "I have no hand in her decision." But if truth be told, he did have a major hand in it and can never wipe it dry with the biggest of towels, leave alone a lowly tissue.

### ***The Priest – protector of faith and faithful alike***

Jesus once prayed to the Father: "When I was with them I protected them in your name that you gave me, and I guarded them, and none of them was lost (except the son of destruction), in order that the scripture might be fulfilled" (Jn 17:12). **Every priest, by virtue of his ordination, has the duty to feed the Lord's lambs under his care, thus ensuring that none is lost.**

The Church has over the years so structured herself and her practice of the faith as to make it easy for a believer to advance on his earthly sojourn towards heavenly glory. The Church's Liturgical Seasons – ADVENT-CHRISTMAS and LENT-EASTER-PENTECOST each have an incalculable beauty whose significance can never be measured in full. Inasmuch as every 'season' has its reason, ORDINARY TIME too is no less significant. Yet, the way para-liturgical and non-liturgical events are held through the year in certain parishes is abominable to say the least – **a Jewish Passover Meal on the Solemnity of the Assumption, a 'Mission' (essentially a Lenten practice) during Advent, talks in preparation for Lent a month before Ash Wednesday, celebrating youth week during early Advent, the Holy Hour traditionally held on a Thursday in keeping with its link to Maundy Thursday now being held on a Friday with lay-folk standing in the middle of the church with the back turned to the monstrance and yelling out instructions fisherfolk style for processions or whatever, substituting Lilac for the 'rose' (pink) of Gaudette Sunday....** Oof! The list of non-conformist practices can get excruciatingly long! Add to it, priests who desert the priesthood in favour of

marriage being given prominence by way of publishing their two-bits in the diocesan communication organ.

Sick as they are with the way liturgical nuances are sent for a toss left, right and centre, many prefer keeping their attendance at and participation in parish life at a bare minimum. Factually, distortions of any kind whatsoever are not merely disturbing can often lead to desertions. **A priest has a major responsibility in this regard and, after the example of Jesus the Eternal High Priest, the Good Shepherd *par excellence*, has the onus of keeping the flock under his care from deserting the cradle of faith.** Unless he chooses to give a go-by to the sentiments evident in John 17:12! That he cannot succeed in his endeavour singlehanded is a given. What counts is the effort he makes in collaboration with his fellow-priests in the parish. While one may not expect a priest in this fast-communication age to leave the 99 and go in search of the lost or errant 1, no priest who is convinced of wrongness of something, has the right to crit about the issue (be it with regard to 'vestments' being worn by lay ministers or the way the celebration of Mass is often hijacked by the celebrant) behind the back of the PP but is rather conscience-bound to bring it up at the clergy meetings and have issues resolved rather than leave wounds to fester to the point of having a limb severed. Of course, being PP at a time of heightened lay involvement is no piece of cake! Rather, it is imperative that a priest be willing to accept the challenge of taking up the PP post when offered, for, after all, only the wearer knows where the shoe pinches!

### ***"Feed my lambs..." [Jn 21:17]***

The exact nature of Christ's oration to the Father with regard to having lost none that were entrusted to his care is found in his command to his disciples to feed the 5,000! To their entreaty in the narrative concerning the 5 loaves and 2 fishes [Mt 14:13-21] to send the crowds away to fend for their food, Jesus retorts, mincing no words: "No!

(Contd.. from p. 18)

They need not go away. You give them something to eat yourselves.” This ‘giving’ role is further confirmed by Jesus in his Post-resurrection command to Peter, “Feed my lambs.”

The hunger of the 5000 is reflected in the unfulfilled craving of people for the Word at gatherings that fill our parish churches and grounds to overflowing when there is a guest speaker/preacher invited. Sunday after Sunday crowds flock our churches and what do they get? Despite Vatican II describing the Mass as the source and summit of Christian worship, it leaves most participants unfulfilled, dissatisfied... Why? Because the homily was either way too long or far below expectations even as the sacred host was given out with the celebrant looking all over the congregation except at the communicant. Missed is the weekly priestly opportunity to feed Jesus’ lambs with the kind of nourishment a priest has undergone a decade-long (sometimes longer) training to impart. Instead, dished out is a potpourri of sub-standard jokes and anecdotes that have no relevance to the Readings. The guest Celebrant at a Parish Feast Mass had the temerity to open his homily with a joke concerning the burial of a donkey. Hungry, thirsty they come, unsatiated they leave, ready to go anywhere that a preacher who has “come from out” is supposedly drawing crowds. Any wonder then why Bosco and Miriam, a committed Catholic couple, devoted to the Word and the daily Eucharist, left the Church in exasperation wondering aloud whether seminaries train priests to preach to donkeys! Jesus’ giving, one dare say was different – he gave from his heart, his hearers hanging on to every word he uttered and wanting just more!

#### **By example...**

No amount of preaching can change the mindset of an un-forgiving person – only example can. Preaching on love, Christian unity, forgiveness, community relationships and the like can prove futile unless backed by personal priestly example. Take the case of Fathers Jameson and Ulrich\*

## Cardinal Accepts Apology from Farah, Raveena and Bharti



His Eminence Cardinal Oswald Gracious was Kind enough to welcome Capt Allwyn Saldanha who was accompanied by Raveena Tandon and Farah Khan .

The Cardinal gave a patient hearing to the matter. Raveena Tandon and Farah Khan profusely And wholeheartedly apologised and offered their unconditional apology for hurting the sentiments of the entire Christian Community.

The Cardinal took time to listen to

the entire tape and finally took a written apology . As Bharti Singh is not in the country a audio message was played by Farah Khan expressing Bharti’s unconditional apology to all Christians

After giving them a patient hearing, He explained to them although we make mistakes Jesus still loves us and chooses to forgive us rather than condemning us.

His Eminence finally prayed for them and blessed them before leaving

(both since deceased). Ulrich, having had a series of run-ins with PP Jameson, stopped having his meals at the Parish House and, instead, made arrangements for his breakfast, lunch and dinner with a friend’s family in a neighbouring parish. “Why?” “What to tell you - I can’t stick that *bugger!* I feel like throwing up if I sit with him for my meals!” What was it Jesus once said about forgiving...?

#### **A ‘new’ New Year resolution...**

All said and done, what is the resolution worth putting into effect this New Year, 2020? Whatever it be, *leaving the church* can never be an option! Indeed, leaving some organization or association is one thing, leaving the Church is quite different: it’s like walking out of your own home as it were. Moreover, **how has the Church per**

**se wronged you?** So perish the thought! Rather, we could try using every experience, positive and negative, to deepen our faith in Jesus and his Church. Honestly, the remedy lies in priests and people alike realizing the significance of UNDERSTANDING the Faith well, delightfully soaking in the richness of the Church’s LITURGY, and living out faithfully its nuances so as to experience Jesus, love him more fully in one another and share him in a myriad ways with all those we encounter in the year ahead!

#### **A HAPPY NEW YEAR ONE AND ALL!**

*\*All names in this article changed to protect the privacy of individuals concerned.*

# Royal Christian Family MATRIMONIALS - GROOMS

**7118. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in January 1981), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 87 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Graduate, working in Doha Metro, in Doha Qatar. Contact email :

josephfernandes10@yahoo.com

**6993. MUSCAT :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in May 1982), Ht. 5' 8", Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., Dip. in Financial Management, Working as an Accountant. Contact email : sandeepfernandes2002@hotmail.com

**6250. MUMBAI :** East Indian Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in January 1974), Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 76 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A., working as a Manager. **Contact email : cardoz.clint@gmail.com OR 9833563182**

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

**6531. POONA :** Tamilian Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in May 1975), Ht. 6', Fair Complexion, Handsome, Edn. M.Com., Having well established business. Contact email :

**7034. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in June 1988), Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 80 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.C.A., Software Engineer, working as an Software Engineer, Asst. Manager (IT), Only Sonm seeks alliance from Mangalorean RC Spinster, educated, working in Mumbai. Reply with full details & photofraph to email : ID : vivian1548@gmail.com Mobile : 9096141335

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Email : royalchristianfamily@gmail.com

tony137@rediffmail.com

**6507. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor (Hearing Impaired) (Born in September 1989), Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 62kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. HSC., Dip. in Computer Hardware. Working as a Cashier. Contact email :

clifford9948@gmail.com OR 9920331773

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

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

**6707 MUMBAI :** Goan RC bachelor, (Born in June 1975), Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 70 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., having own business. Seeks a Family oriented girl. Contact email : maxabreo@yahoo.com / maxabreo@vsnl.net

**6713 MUMBAI :** Mangalorean RC Bachelor, (Born in September 1989), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 67 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.E. (Extc) working as a Sales Engineer. Contact email : coelho.helen@yahoo.co.in

**6841 MUMBAI :** Anglo Indian / Keralite Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in May 1991), Ht. 170 cms, Wt. 78 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.Com., working as a Sales Executive. Contact email : mrsannieroy@yahoo.co.in

**6708 USA :** Mangalorean Handsome RC bachelor, (Born in October 1984), Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 72 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.S., working as a Software Engineer. Seeks a good looking, fair

Mangalorean girl, working in America. Contact email :

rodrigues.gracy61@gmail.com.

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

**7018. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in October 1969), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 80 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. SSC, Self employed. Contact Email : fredrick.dsouza0110@gmail.com

**6980. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in September 1987), Ht. 182 cms, Wt. 79 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. PGDBM, working as a Manager. Contcat email : roystonpereira2007@gmail.com

**7011. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in September 1983), Ht. 6', Wt. 75 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBA Electronics and Finance, working as Research Electronics. Contact email : canute.serrao@gmail.com

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

**6228. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean RC Bachelor (Born in December 1972). Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 65 kgs., Wheatish Complexion, Edn. S.S.C. A/C Tech. Course, working as a A/C. Technician in Voltas. Contact email :lawrencedi-as321@gmail.com Mob: 8291056939

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**7042. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in September 1992), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 57 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working. Contact email : cute\_reema3@yahoo.co.in

**7036. USA :** Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1991), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 56 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.E. (E & T/C), M.S. (Tech. & Mgt.), working as a Strategic Consultant. Contact email : veronicadsouza27@gmail.com

**7014. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in September 1992), Ht. 5' 1", Wt. 45 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. MMS (Finance) working as a Finance Executive in Limited Company. Contact email : eva\_hpereira@rediffmail.com

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

**7012. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in April 1970), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 68 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Officer. Contact email : menezesvinet2014@gmail.com

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

gmail.com

**7006. DUBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in June 1987), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 68 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working for Bank. Contact email : liddysouza@gmail.com

**7022. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in January 1993), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 50 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., IT, working as a Manager. Contact email : doran.costa@gmail.com

**7002. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1987), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Masters in Management Studies, working as a Administration Professional. Contact email : kaazar2019@gmail.co

**7021. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in February 1988), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 58 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Sr. Sales Officer in Tatas. Contact email : ofira.afonso@gmail.com

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

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**6998. CANADA :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in May 1998), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 65 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. MBA Marketing & Advertising Professional. Contact email : richard.dsouza17@gmail.com

**7013. MUMBAI :** East RC Spinster,

(Born in November 1989), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 61 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.Com., PGDFM., working as a Financial Analyst, Contact email : dmelloraymond23@gmail.com

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

**7003. MUMBAI :** Tamilian RC Spinster, (Born in May 1991), Ht. 5' 1", Wt. 47 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., IT, working as a Software Engineer. Contact email : annette.anthony10@yahoo.in  
OR 9967681810

**7000. USA :** Goan RC Spinster, (Born in January 1993), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 55 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. Masters in Information system, working as a Business Analyst. Contact email : joe\_dots@hotmail.com

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

**7069. MUMBAI :** Tamilian RC Spinster, (Born in April 1992), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 50 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., Nursing, Staff Nurse. Contact email : mpchandran68@gmail.com Mobile : 9820041633

## MATRIMONIAL

**7066. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in June 1987), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 78 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.E., (EXTC) M.S. (International Business Management), working as a Consulting Manager. Contact email : 12018anselm@yahoo.com

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# Caste-base discrimination in India

The caste-based discrimination is interwoven in Indian psyche and this age-old tradition has roots in the Indian civilization. Be you an Indian Christian or Indian-born Muslim, that deep rooted sense of discrimination does not leave you alone. The oldest Christians in the down-South Kerals or the first-generation Christians of Adivasis carry this stigma (I mean it) with them. The Goans or the East-Indian Christians or the Anglos of West Bengal also will sincerely agree with statement that if one an Indian-born the age-old stigma carries its bitter sting with it.

A Brahmin friend of mine, mind you, a highly educated person that he is, has been living in the U.S. for the last 21 years, confessed. "My American Christian friends often mentioned about our caste system and that made me



ashamed of my own self because even after some shades of our shameful system....."



by Ignatius Dabhi  
Sr. Journalist

The ex-U S President Obama after touring Indian sub-continent made this stunning statement at the Delhi airport : "As long as there is the caste-system active, this country will make no progress..." Modi was present there.

The South-Africa railway station scene : A 37-year old Indian advocate trained in England, is thrown-out of the coach with his luggage.... "You bl.... Indian..... this coach is for the whites...." shouted the white guard. That advocate was MK Gandhi. It is then he realised that for centuries 'harijans' were treated in the similar way by the so called upper-caste Hindus. "Now can a human being discriminate his fellow human being? Wrote Gandhiji in his autobiography....

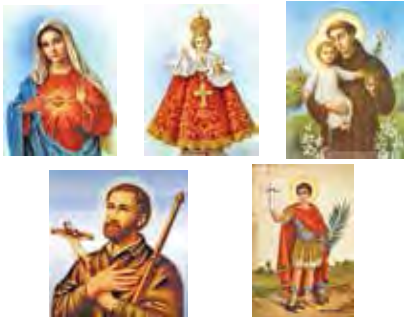
Be it Congress or Bhartiya Janata Party, that age-old stigma does not leave them. There were communal riots when Congress was in Delhi and there have been hundreds of such cases when great Modi is ruling! Strange and yet true that the entire candidate selection before any poll,

is invariably based on caste of time candidate.

'Hindu Rashtravaad' as it is called has its roots in the caste system. Every day we witness hundreds of cases where Adivasis and lower-castes are harassed, disturbed and tormented by the so-called upper castes. You may be living in the posh area of Mumbai Delhi, Chennai or Calcutta, everybody is deeply conscious of one's own caste.... This is India. The darkest side of 'Mera Bharat'.

There is no escape and no exception. The biggest hurdle in our lives! Our youngsters can write a new chapter.....

## THANKSGIVING



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**Setting and Maintaining Online Social Media networking, Websites, etc.**

**Script Writing - Editing**

**Singers Male and Female**

**Organiser and Coordinating Director**

**Sounds and Lighting Technitions**

**If you have any of the above qualities and want to be a part of our team, WhatsApp to 9820485388 giving your Name, Mobile No., Email, Talents with a Short Profile**