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A NATIONAL FAMILY WEEKLY



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Vaccine At Crossroads



With no medical cure in sight, the race for a vaccine is intense now. There is political pressure as well to expedite the tried and tested global vaccine development approval processes. Russia approved its indigenously developed vaccine even before crucial Phase-3 trials. Its vaccine is named Sputnik V, a throwback to the days of the space race when the USSR was outgunning the U.S. In India, a letter from the Director General of the ICMR pushed for India's vaccine candidate, Covexin from BBIL, to be ready by August 15, Independence Day is delayed further.

The Serum Institute had made a calculated risk in investing on the testing and production of Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine. The keen public interest in the development of the vaccine, the political pressures at play globally in vaccine development, and the Serum Institute's own risks, make this story important. At this rate, the much expected is not going to hit the market by this month end and it is a testing time for Covid-19 patients. There is no end of the road as the number of cases are on the increase and expected to peak during October and it is a warning signal indeed.

With a spike of 95,735 new Covid-19 cases and 1,172 deaths, India reported a record jump in single-day cases as experts fear that the second wave of the pandemic has arrived. The country has, in fact, overtaken Brazil to take the second spot in the total number of Covid-19 cases worldwide. As India nears the grim milestone of one lakh cases each day, authorities claim that the spike in tally is due to the increased rate of Covid-19 testing across the country.

The national capital and the financial capital of India, Delhi and Mumbai, respectively, have maintained the top slot in the number of Covid-19 cases in terms of daily count. Both cities had briefly contained the rapid surge in cases. Meanwhile, the global death toll from the coronavirus passed 900,000, as worldwide cases topped 27.7 million. The United States remains the world's worst-affected country, with deaths exceeding 190,000 and cases exceeding 6.3 million. The going is not good for the Indian subcontinent. With a large population to handle, the people are not following social distancing, wearing masks - gloves and washing their hands more frequently with soap for a minimum 20 seconds is not followed to the desired level.



C.K. Subramaniam

Cracking of a vaccine at this stage of the year appears to be a distant dream. The first country to have full immunity to the coronavirus will enjoy a tremendous economic and geopolitical advantage, a once-in-a-century window of opportunity till other countries catch up. As much as the covid-19 pandemic is accepted as a challenge for all humanity, realism—that dismal but unfortunately accurate way of reading international relations—suggests that countries which acquire the vaccine first will be tempted to use this relative advantage to promote their national interests. With Metro cities Mumbai, Chennai, Bengaluru and Delhi contributing to maximum of Covid-19 cases on a daily basis, it has become a herculean task to control the pandemic further.

A country that acquires an effective vaccine has options. It could freely license the technology and win the world's distributing rights. This will give countries with vaccine manufac-

turing bases a strong hand. It could take a purely commercial route, with non-discriminatory differential pricing to make it affordable to lower-income countries. It also could use pricing, quotas and queueing as instruments of foreign policy, extracting concessions from both allies and adversaries. Lastly it could deny the vaccine to its adversaries to the extent possible and exploit the advantages of being the sole coronavirus-immune country, though at great cost to its reputation.

The crucial missing information right now is how many antibodies that stop the virus are needed to get a pretty good immune response. There are reports that people who have mild infections don't generate many antibodies naturally. The other really good news is that recovering patients generate T cells: these cells can be thought of as the conductors of the immune response orchestra. Immunity booster is available in deluxe packing in India. Some of them are available in powder form also. But the search is on for finding the vaccine which can prevent coronavirus so that the people can lead a normal life by the end of this year or at least by early next year. We are searching for light at the end of the tunnel.

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Leadership Matters, As Has Now Been Made Abundantly Clear

by Don Aguiar.

The present pandemic never occurred to our government. The idea that the prime minister would ever be required to pay attention and make rational decisions that would determine whether hundreds of thousands of Indians would live or die not once crossed the minds of those who put him into the Prime minister's Office.

They all had their various reasons for wanting him there. For the ideological Hindutva, he had explicitly promised to appoint the SC & HC judges they had so longed for to turn back the nation's cultural clock and for a Hindu state. For Amit Shah, a Modi win — was the only real path to making sure BJP retained control of the parliament and he himself remained majority leader. They were not remotely interested in what Modi's ascension might mean for the country in the event of an actual calamity. **If the country were dumb enough to vote for him, well, they deserved whatever they got.**

As for Modi's supporters, perhaps so

much time had passed, that the idea of a genuine national emergency was but a faded memory. Perhaps the quiet competence that Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's team had employed with the 2009 flu pandemic had diminished the perceived threat that a simple virus could present.

Modi's incoherence, his impulsiveness, his breath-taking ignorance — all of it was well-known among the top tiers of the BJP machinery. But for them, it was simply a challenge to overcome, another hurdle that fate had placed between them and their holy grail of judges and tax cuts and regulatory rollbacks. **Not once was it ever heard of any concern that just maybe they were working to install a person, with absolutely zero leadership qualities one ordinarily looks for in someone aspiring to become the prime minister of the world's largest democracy.**

This already became apparent in the off-year elections, with Congress and other opposition parties winning back states in the state elections Whether BJP suffer a complete wipe-out in the

(Contd.. on p. 4)

(Contd.. from p. 3)

next elections is debatable, but that it will happen is not. Modi is betting not just his own future, but that of the party he hijacked on the dwindling demographic of ideological Hinduvta without college degrees, disproportionately in the North. This is not a winning bet.

Separate from the BJP's failure to safeguard the country, though, is the failure of ordinary Indians. Modi did not elect himself. And while he had the direct help of the ideological Hinduvta group and the unintended help of their bhaktis, it was, in the end, actual Indians who cast their ballots for him.

In a representative democracy, the buck ultimately stops with the voters. So, yes, the prime minister failed us miserably in his handling of the pandemic. From pretending he had stopped the virus from entering the country to claiming it wasn't so bad to wishing that it would just go away to nonsensically hyping an unproven treatment to eventually just getting bored with it and moving on, the prime minister could not have handled this more poorly had he been actively trying to fail us.

This is on him — the many hundreds of thousands, even millions, of serious illnesses that might not have happened with a competent response. The 150,000 deaths, at least, that could have been avoided. But it's also on us.

In truth, no one should have been surprised by the prime minister's ruinous handling of a real disaster when it arrived in January 2020. He himself had given us all a clear warning just a few months earlier when he ginned up a fake one for no good reason at all.

How would he manage a threat that a prime minister was in a position to deal with?

It's easy now as the pandemic drags on and the Indian death toll climbs

toward 200,000 to put all the blame on Modi. He did, after all, make bad decision after bad decision in the crucial early weeks of the outbreak, from ignoring intelligence community warnings. He even called concerns about the pandemic "a hoax" at one time, sending a signal that public health officials have had an impossible time countering ever since.

That mishandling of the disease, in turn, wrecked the strong economy that for six years Modi had been claiming as his own. In truth, he had inherited it from Manmohan Singh, with employment and gross domestic product numbers largely similar to those under his predecessor's term. The resulting crisis is rivalling the Great Depression in job losses. With a competent response to the pandemic, much of the related economic catastrophe might have been avoided, as well.

And yet, again, Modi did not anoint himself prime minister. That was the work of those 1.3 billion Indians who walked into their polling places and decided to put a communal-minded party, with an unserious person into the most serious job in the country.

Modi's handling of the pandemic, also, was entirely predictable. When the experts were trying to tell him that something bad was happening in China and that we needed to prepare, **Modi could not be bothered to listen. His top health officials were getting alarming news about a pneumonia-like outbreak in Wuhan. Prime Minister Modi was entertaining President Donald Trump.**

Indeed, Modi's singular focus was then, and remains today, his own reelection. Nothing else matters, and that is now why well over a hundred thousand people in India killed by the coronavirus would still be alive if just about any other adult human being had been prime minister instead of Modi.

He refused to take the pandemic seriously, even as it ravaged Italy and Iran.

When a top health official warned that people's lives were about to change dramatically, Modi was enraged because of the stock market sell-off this triggered. He told Indians that thousands die from the flu every year and encouraged them to buy stocks.

Indeed, just reading back through his various statements through the course of the pandemic is an exercise in shock and awe. "The coronavirus is very much under control in India." "This is a flu. This is like a flu." "It's going to disappear. One day, it's like a miracle, it will disappear." "Just stay calm. It will go away." "Slow the testing down, please."

If evil scientists had conspired to concoct a worse prime minister for our country in a time of crisis, they would have been hard-pressed to outdo Modi. The same cannot be said for all the Indians who will have died unnecessarily because one of the worst human beings in public life — a man who has shown time and time again that his lack of humanity is matched only by his open corruption — happened to become our prime minister.

Perhaps something good can come of this, in the end. Maybe this hard lesson will bring back the idea that the prime ministership is not a game. That the judgment and the maturity and the smarts of the person behind that desk matter — and not in the way that most people think.

Maybe, perhaps, the election of a shameless, cheerfully corrupt con man whose selfishness and ignorance led to the sickness and death of so many of their fellow Indians will help these people grow the hell up.

We don't choose a heart surgeon or a tax accountant or an airline pilot using those criteria, and their jobs are not nearly as critical for the common good as the prime minister of India.

Sure, it would be nice for a prime minister to be interesting and down-

(Contd.. on p. 6)



The New Education Policy

Much has been written, recently, about the New Education Policy, 2020. From the various comments made, one gets the impression that this policy has incorporated some of the most progressive ideas being implemented in the field of education in the most advanced countries. However, it is difficult to see how this Policy can be implemented in a country as culturally diverse and as lacking in the required infrastructure, as ours. The framers of this Policy, which is meant for the whole country, ought to have consulted all the States and Union Territories in this vast country, since according to the Constitution, Education is a subject in the Concurrent List, and the States have as great a role to play as the Centre in the field of Education. Besides, the minorities (which run a very large number and some of the best educational institutions in the country, reaching out to our poorest and most neglected citizens in its remotest corners), ought also to have been taken into confidence, in order to make the Policy more practical, relevant and acceptable to each and every social group (including the most backward) in the country -- given its unique composite culture and immense variety of ancient traditions. How are the poor and neglected masses in our highly congested cities and poverty-stricken villages going to provide schooling for their children at the tender age of 3 years? Several well-to-do countries, like Finland, which boast of an ideal education-system, begin schooling for their children at 5+ or even 6+ years of age, when their young minds are psychologically better prepared to benefit from schooling.

Regarding our institutions of higher learning, do they have the space, facilities and qualified teachers needed to give students such a wide choice of subject-combinations? What will be the quality and depth of learning acquired through such an unrealistic and over-ambitious provision? Is superficial learning in colleges and universities going to prepare our youth better to face the challenges of the future? Perhaps, we are trying to bite more than we can chew. Moreover, according to the NEP, all decision-making in the field of education is going to be highly centralized. Will not such an approach lead to imposing a uniform culture and an attempt to create a uniform identity, which is quite alien to the reality of Indian culture as it has evolved down through the centuries? There is also a lurking fear among many, especially social activists, that the NEP is yet another attempt by the ruling dispensation to subtly promote its own ideology, weaken democracy, secularism, our commitment to uplift the economically and socially backward sections, and to stifle all dissent and diversity. What kind of society is the NEP trying to promote? Will students be encouraged to think for themselves and ask questions, or will they be compelled to think in a particular way, using a rigid system of evaluation which rewards only passive conformity? Will the emphasis be on modernization and progress or on promoting irrational and unscientific thinking, in the name of narrow nationalism and biased teaching of Indian History and Culture? These are some of the pertinent points raised by the manner in which the NEP has been rushed through, without any debate or discussion even in Parliament.

—Joseph M. Dias, S.J.
Andheri (East), Mumbai-400 093.

Not just temples, churches and mosques too

Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) Chief Raj Thackeray has written to the CM Uddhav Thackeray to reopen temples in the state of Maharashtra. By just mentioning temples, he is being selfish and doing injustice to the other communities living in the state. We have people of various communities living in Maharashtra --- Christians, Muslims, Sikhs, Parsis, etc. If temples have to be reopened, then churches, mosques, gurdwaras and fire temples should also be reopened. Both Raj Thackeray and Uddhav Thackeray should be fair and square and respect all religions and communities.

— Jubel D'Cruz,
Mumbai

Flag hoisting at novena services

This is with reference to the letter 'Latin Rite' by Ladislaus Louis D'souza (Secular Citizen Sept 14-20). The writer has rightly raised some pertinent questions in connection with the flag hoisting ceremony held in some parishes in the Archdiocese of Bombay at the commencement of novena services. It comes to me as a surprise, because in all my seven decades as parishioner of St. Michael's church, Mahim, I have never witnessed such 'tamasha' and misplaced devotion. In Goa however, it is not uncommon to witness a church banner with the imprint of Mother Mary or infant Jesus or some religious symbol being hoisted up on a pole and venerated at the start of the novena of the annual church feast, popularly known (Contd.. on p. 19)

(Contd.. from p. 4)

to-earth enough to seem relatable — but that's not nearly as important as competence. There's nothing wrong with supporting a candidate who shares your ideas and ideals. But making big changes takes time, and, in a crisis, an ideologue can be the worst personality to have in charge. You need someone willing to understand the world as it is, not insist on seeing the world as they feel it ought to be.

As for inspiration — we do not pick the surgeon who is funnier or the accountant who spins out the most engaging anecdotes. Why do we conflate those traits with leadership?

Forget all the insane promises the prime minister made that were not possibly deliverable. The only real promise that the biggest slice of his base wanted was to make India like it was in the 90s and beyond, which even they knew was not possible. They didn't care. They liked that he was willing to promise it to them and that he was willing to smash things and make "the establishment" mad.

Maybe the coronavirus pandemic can impart the lesson that, first and foremost, the person elected to the Rastrapati Bhavan has to be capable of handling the really bad things, the things you did not or even could not anticipate. Airlines don't pay pilots \$200,000 a year to set planes down on clear sunny days with little wind. They get paid well for their years of experience, for all the training they've had and the training they continue to undergo for the day the hydraulics fail and they lose an engine to a bird strike on final approach during a thunderstorm, with a bad crosswind. On a related note, nobody asks as they climb aboard whether the pilot is someone they'd like to have a beer with later, or what her views are on "Medicare for all."

Leadership matters, as has now been made abundantly clear.

The burdens of office have not weighed down on him a single bit. Compare photos of Manmohan Singh before he took office and four years in. Note the greying hair, the worry wrinkles and weariness. Now, look at Modi before and today. More bloat, perhaps, but a face otherwise unchanged.

What's remarkably missing is a full-throated, or frankly, even half-hearted defence of any sort of basic, human decency in him. People defend his "economic" nationalism. They shrug and point out the judges he has appointed and the regulations he has rolled back. Others point to the tax cut and how he has helped their personal bank accounts. Not one bothers to sell the idea that he is misunderstood and is, at heart, a good human being. Not one. And none of this was hidden from view. Not a single bit of it. Yet people voted for him anyway. **That says a lot about us. None of it good.**

Democracy is not easy.

If there's one lesson that needs to be learned from the Modi years, it is that one. Democracy is not easy, because for many, many people on this planet and in this country, freedom is not easy. For folks who more or less have it together, that may be hard to understand.

While those who live and work in the world of ideas have the time and the inclination to ponder grand concepts and endless possibilities, a great many of our brothers and sisters struggle just to get through each day. As in, literally wonder how they will manage to make it until bedtime. Whether its anxiety or depression or the drugs and the alcohol with which they are often intertwined, many people just want someone to tell them what to do and to take care of them.

It's no wonder that religions with strict rules on how to live one's life hold such appeal and are growing so rapidly. The more rules, the better.

This is the key to "populists," who un-

derstand that a substantial number of people are perfectly fine with a strong leader who promises order in a universe that appears not to have any. The vast majority of people are not entrepreneurs who dream of starting their own businesses. Most people just want a steady job that will be there next year and in five years and in 20 years so they can buy a house and raise children and do all the things they're supposed to do the way their parents did.

Small wonder that a craven demagogue like Modi could take advantage of those insecurities and tell those people exactly what they wanted to hear.

This has always been the inherent danger in the Indian experiment: Self-governance requires active engagement by the citizenry. Because things rarely work out as planned, the drafters of the Constitution came up with a democratic republic, secularism, federalism and checks and balances. On top of all that, this country has been blessed by its massive population and its attendant bureaucracy. It's hard to institute large-scale change of any kind, in any direction. People demanding action on the climate can attest to this. People pushing for universal health care can attest to this —indeed, have been attesting to this, for decades?

Despite this, the fact remains that breaking things is easier than fixing them, as Prime Minister Modi has repeatedly demonstrated. With a 30% plurality of the populace interested in maintaining its cultural supremacy solidly behind him and a large enough slice of the BJP establishment willing to accept a Faustian bargain for the sake of its own agenda, he has gotten away with it.

We can already see what this has done to our country after six and a half years. What happens if that six and a half becomes fifteen?

The past couple of weeks, particularly these first days of September, have been a defining period in the history of India. It is no longer about the 'writing is on the wall'; it is much beyond, not any more a reality show, but reality itself! It is about

We Must Arise



THE WALL which divides, denigrates, demonises and decimates. About a regime which has become completely insensitive to the cries of millions of people, which just does not care!! In the garb of 'democracy', it is hard-core fascism! There is however, a silver lining with more and more coming out (at least virtually in this time of the pandemic), becoming much more visible and vocal, saying in one loud voice, **"We must arise!"**

The eleventh of September was a day of great significance: several anniversaries on one day! In 1893, Swami Vivekananda gave his famous speech at the World Parliament of Religions in Chicago; in 1895, Vinoba Bhave was born; in 1906, Mahatma Gandhi launched the 'Satyagraha' movement in South Africa; in 2001, the world witnessed the violent attacks on the US; and now in 2020, we have just learnt the news of the sad demise of Swami Agnivesh. All seemingly unrelated events, spanning 127 years; yet in every single one of them, is that defiant assertion, **"We must arise!"**



BY FR. CEDRIC PRAKASH SJ

Swami Vivekananda was palpably direct when he said in Chicago, *"Sectarianism, bigotry, and its horrible descendant, fanaticism, have long possessed this beautiful earth. They have filled the earth with violence, drenched it often and often with human blood, destroyed civilization and sent whole nations to despair. Had it not been for these horrible demons, human society would be far more advanced than it is now. But their time is come; and I fervently hope that the bell that tolled this morning in honor of this convention may be the death-knell of all fanaticism, of all*

persecutions with the sword or with the pen, and of all uncharitable feelings between persons wending their way to the same goal". Today, the bhakts of the Sangh Parivar are doing just what the Swami has condemned. Christians and Muslims are at the receiving end of an agenda of hate, fanaticism and bigotry. We have seen it happening in these past days. A Muslim barber from Panipat had his hand chopped off because he had '786' tattooed on it! Four Christian organisations had their FCRA suspended because of 'conversion' activities! But the minorities of India are no pushovers; the sanctity and rights guaranteed in the Constitution belong to every single citizen. The minorities have literally no choice today but to say in unison, **"We must arise!"**

Mahatma Gandhi launched his non-violent resistance campaign at a historic mass meeting in Johannesburg South Africa. It was the birth of a new movement 'Satyagraha' - the relentless pursuit of truth and justice. Gandhi believed that they were non-negotiables; two-sides of a coin. More than three thousand Indians (both Hindus and Muslims) and others, gathered to support the beginning of civil obedience. Later with 'Ahimsa' (non-violence), 'Satyagraha' would ultimately become Gandhi's twin-doctrine in belief and in practise. He used it effectively in his struggle against British colonial rule in India. Many Civil Rights leaders like Martin Luther King Jr. and Nelson Mandela have over the years embraced this twin doctrine. Sadly, the India of today does not have the courage to learn from the past; casteism, xenophobia, exclusiveness, pseudo-nationalism and discrimination have a stranglehold on the nation. The emergence of the

'hindutva' ideology wedded to fascism and fundamentalism is destroying the country! Some are 'building walls and fences' to keep 'others' out but **"We must arise!"**

The 'Prashant Bhushan final judgement' was delivered on 31 August after holding him guilty for contempt of court earlier. The punishment was a one-rupee fine, which today has become symbolic of the resistance also growing in India. Earlier when Bhushan was asked to tender an apology by the Supreme Court he categorically said, *"Therefore, I can only humbly paraphrase what the father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi had said in his trial: I do not ask for mercy. I do not appeal to magnanimity. I am here, therefore, to cheerfully submit to any penalty that can lawfully be inflicted upon me for what the Court has determined to be an offence, and what appears to me to be the highest duty of a citizen"*. A defining statement for the cause of justice and truth; for freedom of speech and expression and above all for freedom of conscience. This struggle is still on for **"We must arise!"**

Any and every form of violence is non-acceptable and needs to be strongly condemned. No violent act can be justified, whatever the provocation! That unprecedented violence in the US is remembered and defined by a date "9/11." The very utterance of it evokes all kinds of emotions: from undiluted hatred to a feeling of utter helplessness, in the face of rabid terror; from inconsolable grief at the loss of a loved one to heated debates on imponderables. A visit to 'ground zero' brings back painful memories of the almost three thousand lives, which were lost in just one place. One is also reminded of the millions of people who suffer every day in Palestine and Yemen, Syria and Iraq, DR Congo and Sudan, Myanmar and Afghanistan, Venezuela and El Salvador and so many other parts of the world. Though 9/11 will continue to remain etched in memory of many, Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Vietnam and Cambodia, Germany and Poland and other places

(Contd.. on p. 9)

DID INCOMPETENCE GET INDIA INTO ECONOMIC CHAOS OR THE ACT OF GOD?

by Eric D'Sa

The estimated 24% GDP contraction in April-June 2020 compared to the previous year is the worst performance among G20 economies, and even compared to other South Asian countries. But these numbers are likely underestimates because they are based on information from the formal or organised sector, extrapolated to informal unorganised activities. The actual decline is probably worse. Some Economists have estimated to be around 32%.

Physical indicators such as the index of industrial production (covering registered manufacturing) declined by more than 20%, but ground reports indicate that unorganised manufacturing declined by much more. Many micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in manufacturing and services are still closed or functioning at a small fraction of their capacity. Wage incomes are falling more sharply than GDP because of the combination of employment declines and falling wage rates.

There is other bad news in the GDP data: every sector other than agriculture declined sharply, especially the more employment-intensive sectors such as housing and manufacture. The good rabi harvest and very good monsoon provided some respite in agriculture, but with incomes down, farm prices are unlikely to revive and ensure sufficient returns for cultivators over the year.

Government consumption expenditure increased by about 16% over the same period in the previous year, but since total investment fell drastically by around half, it is likely that public investment also fell. And gross value added in public administration, defence and other services fell by more than 10%. Around 90% of this is salaries. Central government salaries have not fallen, so the squeeze must have fallen on State governments: many of them have probably frozen or delayed salary payments.

Meanwhile, the pandemic continues apparently unabated: all talk of “flattening the curve” (as wishful as the “green shoots” in the economy that official spokespersons keep seeing) has vanished, replaced by the completely meaningless indicator of recovery rates which are bound to improve with more cases. The brutal national lockdown with just 6 hours notice, generated economic collapse even before the disease had spread much. Instead of testing, tracing, isolating and treating — which is costly but is still the only effective way to deal with this disease — the central government shut everything down across the

**YOU THE CITIZENS
DECIDE:**

country without warning. Then it provided no compensation and almost no social protection to those around 80% of workers who lost livelihood.

Migrant workers were forced to return in terrible conditions to their homes, where they have unwittingly spread the disease in rural areas with poor health facilities. Working people have been impoverished and debilitated by lack of nutrition because they have been less able to afford food. Now they are being told to go back to work (mostly at lower wages) even as the risk of disease has grown exponentially.

What is more terrifying is that this is still just the beginning: there is little reason to believe that this awful trajectory will be halted unless there is a major change in government strategy on both health and the economy. The downturn is definitely extending into the current quarter, and probably the rest of the year, so we are staring at the biggest economic crisis in independent India.

The Lack of demand is a crucial reason for this. Both consumption and investment were declining well before the pandemic struck. Thereafter, despite the enormity of the economic collapse,

the government's relief responses have been pathetically small, barely touching the hundreds of millions of people affected and with little impact on aggregate demand. The halting steps taken on increasing liquidity have been effectively useless: bank credit has declined overall, and (other than favoured large companies) all types of borrowers have received less bank credit.

The most disgraceful treatment has been of State governments. Despite the centralising imposition of the national Disaster Management Act, there was almost no coordination. State governments have been forced to do all the heavy lifting of dealing with the health crisis and the economic effects of the pandemic on their own, even as the Centre has denied them resources to do this effectively. The Centre is even denying the States their legal dues of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) compensation cess. This renegeing of a contractual promise could spell the end of what has been a poorly conceived, badly planned and worse implemented GST.

The consequences of this stinginess will be felt directly by citizens. Most State governments front-ended their expenditures for the entire year to deal with the crisis and are now running out of money. Unlike the Centre, they face hard budget constraints and gave up their revenue-raising powers to the GST. They are now being told to borrow money that the Centre owes them, when it is uncertain how they will repay. This is going to affect their spending for the rest of the year and people will feel the results in reduced basic services.

The result of the above, has made at the end of the last month the following to be official: India has managed to become the global leader in the number of daily Covid 19 cases and at the same time the worst performing of all major economies of the world during the period of the pandemic so far. How did we manage this double feat? Certainly not as the finance minister claimed ‘As the act of God’.

(Contd.. from p. 7)

will never be forgotten. We need to stop all war and violence just now; we must close down the military-industrial complex and all nations need to denuclearize immediately! These days we have witnessed any number of despicable acts of violence: yet another rape and murder in UP: this time of a three-year-old child; a navy veteran is bashed up in Bombay because he forwarded some message on WhatsApp. The perpetrators of these acts of violence get away with impunity! To ensure a non-violent society, **“We must arise!”**

Vinobha Bhave would have completed 125 years on 11 September. This great but unassuming Gandhian initiated in 1951 the ‘Bhoodan Movement’ (Land Gift Movement) which was a voluntary land reform movement in India. The Bhoodan Movement attempted to persuade wealthy landowners to voluntarily give a percentage of their land to landless people. Philosophically, Bhave was influenced by Mahatma Gandhi's Sarvodaya movement. Women volunteers carried the message of Bhoodan to all parts of India. Women played a significant role in the Telangana Peasants Armed Struggle which challenged the feudal system. As their region became free from bonded labour, women also found freedom from this torment. Very ironically and sadly, one of the last orders of Justice Arun Mishra in the Supreme Court before his retirement was the eviction of thousands of slum dwellers who lived along the Railway tracks in Delhi. The judgement among other things stated, *“We also direct all the stakeholders that a comprehensive plan for removal of jhuggies be made and executed in a phased manner. The encroachments which are there in the safety zones should be removed within a period of three months and no interference, political or otherwise, should be there and no court shall grant any stay with respect to removal of the encroachments in the area in question. In case any interim order is granted with respect to encroachments, which have been made along with railway tracks, that shall not be effective.”*

Writing in ‘The Wire’ (6 September 2020) V. Venkatesan says, *“The order smacks of complete absence of concern for the right to housing and dignity as part of the right to life. With such a poor record in rehabilitation, imposing a stringent deadline seems not only unjust but an invitation to a humanitarian disaster”* and further, *“With COVID-19 still raging, the court appears to have learnt no lessons from that initial abdication of its responsibility, which invited universal condemnation. The eviction order smacks of a deep disconnect of the court with the realities of urban poverty and the contribution of the urban poor to the city's growth and prosperity.”* So, at the receiving end are clearly the poor who need to say **“We must arise!”**

Swami Agnivesh left this earth on 11 September! His death is a great loss to all those who struggle for a more secular, tolerant, equitable and democratic India! Swami was a well-known social activist who founded the Bandhua Mukti Morcha (Bonded Labour Liberation Front) and worked relentlessly on behalf of the oppressed and exploited of society! He fought against every form of injustice and very specially against the hatred and divisiveness which is gnawing at the heart of the nation! In 2018, he was attacked by BJP henchmen and their ilk in Jharkhand when he was there to attend the 195th Damin Mahotsav at Littipara and once again at Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, Delhi while on his way to pay tribute to former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. He never seemed to have recovered from these violent attacks. The perpetrators once again have gone scot-free! In a tribute to him Shabnam Hashmi of ANHAD says, *“We have lost a fighter, but his teachings will always be with us. He believed in the idea of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, a vision that encapsulates the world as one family. His struggle for achieving social justice and casteless society will be carried forward by thousands of those who were inspired by his life.”* He has left us all a rich legacy! If Agnivesh was with us today his voice would be emphatic, **“We must arise!”**

Silencing those who take a stand for truth and justice, the human rights de-

fenders, those who dissent, those who side with the poor and the excluded, the marginalized and the minorities- is a fundamental of fascists. The past few days have witnessed this in no uncertain ways. Freedom of speech and expression is being throttled. Even a virtual ‘question hour’ in Parliament was a no-go! Those who took a stand against the CAA and the NRC, have cases foisted on them and have been incarcerated. Many of them are Muslims; then we have the case of a huge 50-lakh surety being imposed on the 24 year old Dalit student Suvarna Salve by the Mumbai police. Salve, a lead singer and activist of the cultural troop Samata Kala Manch, was one of the thirty-one persons to be booked by the police for participating in a peaceful rally from Hutatma Chowk to Gateway of India in South Mumbai on January 6. Over 300 people from across Mumbai had joined that anti-CAA rally. Then we have the BK-12 (11 in jail and one still to be imprisoned) who took a stand on behalf of the Dalits and the down-trodden. They were once again in the news because of their plight. The message however is unequivocal truth can never be silenced and, **“We must arise!”**

On 5 September thousands observed the third anniversary of the brutal murder of Gauri Lankesh; also remembering the others who have been killed because of their efforts to preserve the secular and pluralistic fabric. A huge national effort #FWEDONOTRISE, brought together thousands of citizens from every walk of life from 3-5 September. The statement signed by thousands said, *“On the one hand, India is recording the largest daily increase in corona cases in the world, and deaths are on the rise. On the other hand, the country's economy is in deep crisis. Lakhs of people have lost their jobs, unemployment is soaring. However, the central government has provided a niggardly relief package to tackle the crisis: neither has it substantially increased the investment on our public health services; nor has it provided any significant economic relief to the people in the form of sufficient rations and cash transfers. It has*

(Contd.. on p. 11)



Anthony Ashram Museum Mangalore is Born : Sept 8.

-Ivan Saldanha-Shet.

Mangaloreans are known for great affection of their roots and culture, anywhere the world over they may be. All recall nostalgic visits to good old 'Kodial', catching up with elders, relatives and the goodies, along with brushing up on rusted Konkani. A few decades ago, visits to beaches, parks, churches and historical spots were a big part of the rare visits to native land. St. Aloysius College and its museum, as well as Mirajkar's museum were stops my late grandfather would take us grandchildren to learn, more than half a century ago. Today, there are several other recently opened museums in and around the city - you have read about some of these. On September 8, 2020, a unique ethnic cultural red letter day, at the well known 120 plus year old institution St. Anthony's Ashram, Jeppu in Mangalore city, in tranquil and serene green surroundings, inauguration of a long desired unique new Museum was a highlight.

A major section was set up in the last few months housed in an old traditional building, itself an antique worth much serious admiration. The grand collection of different categories of curios on show is amazing. The generous person who has collected these items since years and now for better access to thousands has generously donated to this Ashram his invaluable collection, so far admired by hundreds; he provided all assis-

tance to set it up here wonderfully. This lover of culture and rare curios and admirer of Canara is well known - he is none other than Mr. John Valerian Tauro with his wife Regina. Their home "Budget House", Shivabagh Cross, Mangalore, gradually grew into a 'home museum', the gentle folk gradually put together the wonderful collection locally and globally from all corners of the world, now generously handed over to this Ashram at Jeppu, for greater causes.

Mrs & Mr. John V Tauro - generous donors : Cutting the ribbon for this wonderful couple was a great honour appreciated and applauded by the select present on the auspicious day. John Valerian Tauro, did his early education in native Kirem. Young John Tauro was enthusiastic in various extra-curricular activities like sports, parliament, debating, music, drawing and painting and he did have a penchant for the unusual. John then headed for Bombay as was the norm then, to make a life for himself, he explored the avenues and went in for a Diploma Course, had to work hard to support himself too. After a while he got a break like many of those times to go to the Gulf, he landed in Kuwait in 1970. In 1972 luck smiled on his goodness and was selected as a technician in Kuwait Govt's, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). His sincerity, hard work and pleasant nature soon helped him move ahead. After 35 years in the service of DGCA and Kuwait Govt, John retired in 2008 at a senior and prestigious level.

John Tauro married Regina from Belman, February 1978. Regina Tauro later served as a dedicated Nurse in the Kuwait health services, a very kind and understanding person. John and Regina are blessed with two daughters-Rithika and Monica, both shining stars, married, are in Kuwait along with their families. During his service in Kuwait Civil Aviation, John Tauro had golden opportunities to travel to several lands covering all continents. His unique passion and curiosity for travelling and collecting experiences, curios and antiques, and so on got a great boost. Now in his 74th year too he is active and agile in soul, mind and body. Certainly this 'House Museum' is not John Tauro's only achievement; he is a noted social worker and spends considerable time helping the needy in several ways. John Tauro is also a leading contributor to media, he attends various programmes in and around Mangalore; and provides reports and pictures to well known local media organisations and is appreciated and widely recognised.

Antony Ashram's New Museum : St Anthony Ashram's Museum, one major section now, with John Tauro's great contribution, was inaugurated in a simple ceremony with joy and prayer and declared open on September 8, 2020 forenoon - a very significant day, the Nativity celebration for Konkani Catholics of Canara, a harvest family feast of an agricultural community who settled in this fertile land with the good will of the local Tuluva rulers, 500 years ago. Rev Dr Ronald Serrao, Rector of St Joseph's Inter-diocesan Seminary, Jeppu across the road here, blessed the new museum. Rev Serrao, a leading personality of the clergy of Mangalore, has started a Museum of antique church and religious articles used in this area over centuries. He said that protecting and preserving old invaluable articles which are the core of memories is a noble and valuable task for humans, the article's



(Contd.. from p. 10)

invaluable treasures. These allow to bring to light the way of life, thinking and future aspirations of the people in the past in particular areas. He appreciated this great venture and the good people involved and the Ashram's concern and contribution. This new museum houses mainly items used from early times to the present, and a collection of curios from all around the world. It has a potential to educate and appease minds in search of the old ways of life past.

Rev Fr Onil D'Souza, the long serving Director of St. Anthony charitable Institutions, a sprawling 40 acre land developed for the purpose since a century now houses near 350 destitute men and women, mostly aged and sick, who are cared for holistically; at least a 100 very deserving students are also given special shelter and support to attend colleges in the city and get educated. Rev. Onil D'Souza expressed his deep admiration and gratitude for the Tauro couple and appreciated their invaluable contributions. He said now with phase one well progressed other sections which will focus on St. Anthony and religious history and values in the adjacent section of this unique ancient building, giving it a vintage profile. He said that the inmates too are enthusiastic and contribute in whatever manner possible voluntarily. Fr. D'Souza expressly requested that word be spread on this worthy venture and people motivated to visit and contribute their old heirlooms to be protected and preserved here for posterity – what is discarded soon becomes very valuable and can never be recreated in original. He was very grateful to all concerned. Rev Alban Rodrigues, Administrator and Rev Roshan D'Souza, Asst director who are very supportive added to the joy of the occasion. When in Mangalore next, please do not miss a lovely opportunity to admire, learn and be thrilled. St Anthony protects from all pandemics.

(Contd.. from p. 9)

also not provided sufficient cash transfers to the states to fight the corona crisis - in a complete violation of federal norms. At the same time, taking advantage of the lockdown in which people cannot protest, the Modi government has accelerated its pro-corporate policies. It has announced a massive privatisation drive of all public sector undertakings and banks, it is accelerating the corporatisation of agriculture, it has announced a new education policy which only promotes more privatisation of education and makes it more elitist, it is dismantling labour laws to make it easier for corporations to exploit labour. Simultaneously, it has launched a vicious fascist attack to suppress all dissent, harassing and imprisoning activists opposing its anti-people policies and reporters exposing the lies of the government under false charges; attempts are being made to silence even progressive lawyers.

"We - the working people, farmers, students, youth, intellectuals, all the common people, need to unite, overcoming our religious, caste-based, gender-based, regional differences, and fight this onslaught on our livelihoods. We need to demand that the country be run according to our Constitution, which calls for building a country that guarantees good quality and free education and health care, decent jobs, and adequate shelter to all people, and also guarantees our democratic rights of speech and dissent. The people, united, can never be defeated. History has witnessed that whenever injustices were done on people, they have united and fought back and ultimately changed and advanced society. Not very long ago, we defeated the world's biggest empire and won independence for our country. Now we need to unite to further advance the dreams of our freedom fighters and fight for getting the Constitution implemented. More than 600 human rights groups, Farmer-Worker-Feminist-Student organizations, LG-BTQIA community & intellectuals from all over the country are taking part in this movement, #IFWEDONOTRISE". Now with an extremely flawed and biased report on the recent Delhi riots by the Delhi police – the ones 'blamed' are

innocent intellectuals and civil society leaders. The situation is going from bad to worse! It is not going to abate! Therefore **"We must arise!"**

There is much more: The economy is in a terrible mess; millions are unemployed! India's GDP has fallen to a record minus 23.9% and the Finance Minister terms it 'an act of God'! The COVID-19 pandemic is holding India with an iron grip; with over four million cases India is the country with the largest numbers affected and killed by the pandemic in the world after the US; in the daily spike India is on top. India has no answer to the almost daily incursions by the Chinese! Yet at the launch of the Raffaele jet in India - which is clearly one of the most corrupt cases in the history of the country – many unthinking Indians are clapping hands because some prayers were said from other religions! No God blesses corrupt deals or machines that kill other human beings! The regime is destroying the environment, ensuring that some corporates loot our precious natural resources and fragile biodiversity for their own profiteering! Adivasis are systematically being evacuated from the forest lands! The Education system is being tampered with as never before and students are left in the doldrums. All this and much more in just a few days. So, **"We must arise!"**

And in all this rot – 'Godi'-fied, paid, corporatized media tries to make us believe that the only thing that matters in the country today is the suicide or murder of a Bollywood actor and the shenanigans of an actress acting on behalf of the regime! We forget that the Bihar elections are round the corner and the Maharashtra Government has to be taught a lesson! In short, they seem to be 'convinced' that the average citizens of India are a bunch of morons who cannot think for themselves any longer! Before it is too late **"We must arise!"**

Like the Phoenix the mythological but legendary bird of the ancient world, **"We must arise!"**

**(Fr. Cedric Prakash SJ is a human rights & peace activist/writer
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Season Of Creation

1ST SEPTEMBER TO 4TH OCTOBER 2020

Week 2 - Fossil Fuels



I. What are Fossil Fuels?

Coal, crude oil and natural gas are called fossil fuels because they are formed from the fossilized, buried remains of pre-historic plants and animals that lived millions of years ago. Because of their origins, they have high carbon content. Crude oil or petroleum, literally rock oil in Latin is liquid fuel made up mostly of hydrocarbons. Fossil fuels have been used to generate about 80% energy for over a century.

II. Why are Fossil Fuels bad?

1. Land degradation: Fossil fuels are extracted by mining or drilling and therefore result in land degradation. Extracting them from under the earth takes a huge toll on landscapes and eco-systems. Infrastructure like wells, pipelines, access roads, facilities for processing, waste storages and waste disposal needs huge stretches of land. Often forests and whole mountain tops are scraped and blasted to take the underground coal or oil. After the extraction is over, the nutrient leached land is almost useless. Critical wild life habitat thus gets fragmented and destroyed.

2. Water Pollution: Drilling, Fracking (the worst method of extraction) and mining operations generate enormous volumes of waste water which is often laden with heavy metals, radioactive materials and other pollutants. This waste is often stored in open-air pits or underground wells, which leak or overflow into waterways and contaminate aquifers with pollutants causing cancer, birth defects, neurological damage etc. Oil spills and leaks during extraction or transport, pollute drinking water sources and jeopardize entire fresh water or ocean eco-

systems. Fracking and its toxic fluids contaminate drinking water.

3. Emissions: Fossil fuels emit harmful toxic air pollutants even before they are burned e.g. benzene which can cause childhood leukemia and blood disorders and formaldehyde which is a cancer causing chemical. Mining is bad for the miners themselves because of the toxic air borne particulate matter.

III. What happens when Fossil Fuels are burned? It results in:

1. Global Warming: because carbon emissions trap heat in the atmosphere and lead to climate change.

2. Other forms of Air Pollution: They emit dangerous mercury (sulphur dioxide) into the air which results in acid rain and soot (particulate matter) in the air. Cars, trucks and boats using fossil fuels emit poisonous carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxide which produces smog and respiratory illnesses on hot days.

3. Ocean Acidification: our seas absorb a quarter of the carbon we humans emit. Due to burning of fossil fuels the ocean has become 30% more acidic. This reduces the amount of calcium carbonate in the ocean which oysters, lobsters and countless other marine organisms need to form their shells. This affects food chains and even coastal livelihoods.

IV. The Indian Scenario:

- India's electricity sector is dominated by fossil fuels in particular coal. India is now the world's third largest electricity producer.
- About 65% of the electricity consumed in India is generated by thermal power plants, 22% by hydroelectric power plants, and 3% by

nuclear power plants and the rest 10% from other alternative sources like solar, wind and biomass.

- Though modern fuels like kerosene and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) are the major sources of cooking energy in urban India, a large proportion of households still use biomass i.e. firewood, dung, crop, crop residue and coal /charcoal.
- India imports nearly 83 % of the oil it consumes, making it one of the biggest importers of oil in the world. Most of India's crude oil and cooking gas comes from Iraq and Saudi Arabia.
- Thermal power which is the largest source of power in India needs coal, gas and diesel or natural gas to run the plants.
- Maharashtra, where we have many religious communities has the highest electricity rates in India i.e. Rs 8.80 per unit.

Eighty-three year old Octogenarian Jesuit **Fr Stanislaus Lourdusamy**, a human rights defender who has fought for the Adivasis is presently languishing in the Jharkhand jail. He was charged for alleged links to a banned Maoist group. The priest had been documenting rights violation by state police and security forces, including the extensive use of torture.

Many other social activists fighting for the rights of those working in mines, the Tribals and the Dalits who are affected because of displacement are in prison. **Do such everyday happenings disturb your peace? If so, how do you handle such disturbances or lack of peace with faith, Church teachings, scripture etc. that you have learned and have been brought up on since childhood? Any answers? Suggestions?**

Sr Mudita Menona Sodder RSCJ
Sophia College Campus, Mumbai
(JPIC Coordinator,
Indian Province)

In Support Of Our Activists At Elgaar Parishad

Bhima Koregaon Shauryadin Prerana Abhiyan Pressnote of 8 September reminded me of our activists, **Vernon Gonsalves** and **Arun Ferreira** arrested on August 28, 2018 along with **Varavara Rao**, a poet and outspoken human rights activist; **Sudha Bharadwaj**, an advocate supporting peoples' causes and **Gautam Navlakha**, a writer and activist.

Last week **Bhima Koregaon Shauryadin Prerana Abhiyan** Pressnote of 8 September 2020) about **Elgaar Parishad** made me sit up! "Pune: ATS has today arrested **Jyoti Jagtap** (Member of **Bhima Koregaon Shauryadin Prerana Abhiyan** and **Kabir Kala Manch**). ... Yesterday, on 7 September, **Sagar Gorkhe** and **Ramesh Gaichor** were arrested late evening and today **Jyoti Jagtap** has been arrested. Since June 2018, one after another such 15 human rights activists, lawyers, professors, writers and artists have been arrested in the **Bhima Koregaon - Elgar Parishad** case.

The **Elgaar parishad** was held in Pune on 31st Dec. 20017. The (Pune) conference was an effort to bring together people under one slogan, 'Save the Constitution, Save the Country'. On the following day i.e. on 1st Jan. 2018 at **Bhima Koegaon** celebrations were organised to mark the 200th anniversary of the **Battle of Koregaon**, **Bhima Koregaon Shauryadin** in which Mahar (lower caste) soldiers fighting for the British East India Company had defeated the upper caste Peshwa army. Of course, the **Battle of Bhima Koregaon** is controversial, with right-wing groups claiming that it was a battle between British and Indian rulers (Peshvas) and left-wing groups claiming that the battle was against caste-based oppression. The violence was witnessed during celebrations on 1 Jan 2018.

Just after the violence, some upper caste activists reportedly linked to hard-line Hindutva groups had been taken into custody by the police. Later, these



Arun Ferreira



Vernon Gonsalves

activists were released. But then arrests of social activists began. Justice **PB Sawant**, one of the organisers of **Elgaar Parishad** sharply criticised the arrests, calling them a "campaign of misinformation."

OUR ACTIVISTS:

I was reminded of our activists, **Vernon Gonsalves** and **Arun Ferreira** arrested on August 28, 2018 along with **Varavara Rao**, a poet and outspoken human rights activist; **Sudha Bharadwaj**, an advocate supporting peoples' causes and **Gautam Navlakha**, a writer and activist. I have been always glad to see these two Christian names shining along with the others! I want to focus on them in the article. They are still in jail! God be with them!



Fr. Michael G. Vasai

1. VERNON GONSALVES

He is held for 'Naxalite' Links. Earlier on 19 August 2007, the Maharashtra Anti-Terror Squad arrested **Gonsalves** alleging that he was a "top-level" Naxalite, who possessed explosives. Just months prior to the arrest, **Gonsalves** was working for tribal rights in Maharashtra's **Chandrapur**, which was known for its Naxalite infiltration. Soon after **Gonsalves'** arrest, a delegation reportedly met the then Maharashtra Home Minister **RR Patil**, a Congress leader, to make his case. The then **ATS** Chief **KP Raghuvanshi** told the minister that they had "evidence of numerous accounts" with huge funds. The security agencies slapped 20 cases against **Gonsalves** under various sections of the **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act** and **Arms Act**. In 2007, he was even convicted under various sections of **UAPA** and **Arms Act** by a Mumbai court. Writing about the incident

on **DailyO**, **Gonsalves** said that the trial went on for the next six years, "without any evidence." The money that the police claimed to have found with **Vernon's** co-accused was ordered by the court to be given back to him! In 2013, **Gonsalves** was acquitted in 17 cases against him. He walked out of jail after spending nearly six years in various Mumbai prisons. Speaking to **Rediff** after his release, he said: "The falsehood was evident even to the magistrate.." **Gonsalves'** lawyer told **The Times of India**, "Since most charges were disproved against **Gonsalves**, it is unfair to call him anti-national. Moreover, the prosecution also failed to prove that he was abetting war against the nation or government."

He has come under the scanner several times. Nowadays "Any form of freedom of expression and dissent is only tokenism. If you have ideals and they question you and your authority, then you will be arrested." tells **Sagar**, who is still coming to terms with his father **Vernon Gonsalves'** arrest from their residence in Mumbai on Tuesday, on 28 August 2018. Sixty-one-year-old **Gonsalves**, a former academic, is among the five activists who have been taken into custody over the ongoing investigations into the **Bhima-Koregaon** violence. Like the other four activists – **Varavara Rao**, **Arun Ferreira**, **Sudha Bharadwaj**, and **Gautam Navlakha** – he is critical of the establishment. **Gonsalves** has worked in some of the prominent colleges in Mumbai. he writes for online publications regularly.

After he was released from the prison, **Vernon** along with **Arun Ferreira**, writes regularly on prevailing law and order

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issues, and is critical of the establishment. He also writes extensively on Dalit and tribal rights, the condition of prisons in India, and is a vocal about wanting UAPA to be scrapped.

(<https://www.dailyo.in/politics/bhim-army-azadi-kooch-dalit-una-naxalites-rohith-vemula-caste-system/story/1/18414.html>)

In connection with Bhima-Koregaon protests Gonsalves had called the letter on the 'Rajiv Gandhi-type' assassination plot to kill Prime Minister Narendra Modi "fake!" He wrote: *The sole purpose seems to be to whip up a false narrative, favourable to the current regime. Sidetracking the demands of the Dalit movements to punish the Hindutva leaders and the organisations responsible for the attacks of 1 January 2018 on the congregation at Bhima Koregaon can be another probable purpose.* Activist and lawyer Susan Abraham, wife of Vernon Gonsalves, said, "... The raids are being conducted under pressure from the government. ... If you think Bhima-Koregaon was an assassination plot then, why not file an FIR?" she asked. The list of agitations, false accusations, and arrests goes on!

From the above short list we can understand how painful and challenging years he has lived; and his family has given him the continued support! Hats off! What is his fault? That he has supported the dalits and Adivasis in their fight for livelihood! Today he continues to be in jail in Talolja! Languishing? Never! He must be creating something! I would like to meet him to gain some 'fire' imprisoned in his bones (Cfr. Jeremiah 20.7-9)!

2. ARUN FERREIRA.

Mr. Arun Ferreira's life sketch as an activist makes it unbelievable that he hails from the peace loving (*Sushegaat*) Catholic community of Mumbai! It is interesting for a Catholic youth to note that Arun's interests in social activism were strongly nurtured by his uncle, Father Raymond D'Silva, who was a liberation theologian. As a member of the All-India Catholic University Students' Association, he explored the strong social sin of the millions of people living in abject poverty! He made the students question 'why there is so much poverty when India is abundant with resources?

Arun grew up hearing about the unequal distribution of resources and the fact that the rich always remained in control. He soon adopted more radical views of politics. He was actively involved in slum rehabilitation at Dindoshi, Colaba and Goregaon.

He moved to Chandrapur in 2001 and along with Arun Bhelke, he started the *Deshbhakti Yuva Manch* to recruit more youths for the banned outfit, Communist Party of India (Maoist). Arun was horrified at the brutal killings of four members of a dalit family on September 29, 2006 in **Khairlanji** village (Bhandara district) and the police and government's attempt to cover up. Arun was active in the post-Khairlanji protests to garner support for the dalit cause among the underprivileged *Kunbis*, *Marathas* and other backward classes.

He was arrested in 2007 for alleged links to the Indian Naxalite movement and spent five years in prison! He began as a criminal lawyer defending political prisoners. He was arrested in his late 30s on May 8, 2007 under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) on charges of sedition and spent four years and eight months at the Nagpur jail. Here he began to draw and these sketches marked the beginning of his book *Colours of the Cage* (Aleph). In 2008, Arun Ferreira started a hunger strike along with other imprisoned activists. Over the course of his sentence, Arun Ferreira had 11 cases filed against him under the UAPA and the Arms Act.

After his acquittal in 2011 he became a part of the 'Indian Association of People's Lawyers' and the 'Committee for Protection of Democratic Rights'. IAPL was created to gather lawyers involved in the legal support of collective struggles for people's rights and in situations of gross rights violations. Arun Ferreira carried out social work with an NGO, *Naujawan Bharat Sabha*, by gathering together workers and peasant youths. This social work was deemed "covert Naxalite activity". Arun stated in a 2015 interview that there has been an increase in attacks on Christians and Muslims since Modi came to power. He believes the government is responsible for anti-minority propaganda and stirring feelings of hate towards minorities.

In August 2018 he was kept *under house*

arrest. As reported by the Chandrapur superintendent of police, Cherring Dorje, Arun used to run a government banned organisation named *Vidyarthi Pragati Sangathana in Mumbai* which took up many struggles and campaigns for the rights of students and other oppressed sections. With his VPS comrades, Arun Ferreira worked to transform a class- and caste-ridden country into a more just and equitable one. He was fighting for the democratisation of student councils in the various colleges, cultivating student-worker and student-peasant solidarity, the latter, buttressed by its "go-to-the-village" campaigns.

Arun had terrible experiences of torture and solitude in prison. He describes them in his book *Colours of the Cage*. In prison Ferreira was not only interrogated by the local Nagpur police, but by officers from the Anti-Naxal cell; he was placed along with the Anti-Terrorism Squad, the Intelligence Bureau and even the Special Intelligence Bureau of Andhra Pradesh. He was interrogated for days. After all preliminary interrogation techniques failed, he was transported to a Hospital where sodium pentothal was used for Ferreira's narco-analysis! On 29 January 2014, he was acquitted of all charges!

OUR HEROES!

The purpose of my article is to bring these two social heroes into focus. I spoke to Bishop Allwyn D'Silva. Arun Ferreira is his sister's son. He is still in Talolja jail. Vernon and Arun are Christ's soldiers. What keeps them on to be faithful to their mission for years together? Jesus declared he has come to rescue those who are held captives and announce good news to the unfortunate (Luke 4.18). Our heroes are precisely doing the liberating mission, endangering their own lives. They and their families should be celebrated in The Secular Citizen! The Christian community, specially of Mumbai should be proud of them. In the next article we shall think about the government's sinister plan to amend UAPA to easily condemn social activists as terrorists and plan to bring about a fascist regime. We must be alert! Watch for the 2nd part of this article!

INQILAB ZINDABAD!

Disruptive Technologies!

*When TV came to my house, I forgot how to read books! *When the car came to my doorstep, I forgot how to walk! *When I got the mobile, I lost how to write letters! *When the computer came to my room, I slipped on spellings! *When the AC came to my bedroom, I stopped going under the tree for cool breeze! *With credit and debit cards, I overlooked the value of money! *With the smell of perfume, I was baffled with the fragrance of fresh flowers! *With arrival of fast food, I omitted cooking traditional cuisines! *Lastly, when I got Whatsapp, I left behind how to communicate!

Relevant Rhymes!

*He is dead for fear, She is now in jail, What went wrong dear, Where did we fail? // *They were both middle class, In a way they were same, Bright with vast intelligence, Just looking for money and fame! // *They just choose the wrong set, Of people around them, So literally unaware that, It could lead to mayhem! * The glitz misled them too, The friends were all fake, Dope and substance abuse, All for 'keeping up' sake! // *The big guys were smoking, Having parties and fun, Who cares if families are broken, Safe, they do not have to run! // *So we should tell our kids, To dream and dream high, But check their parachutes, Before they take off for the sky! // *So morning, noon or night, Always be ever so happy! So when others see your sight, They can be filled with gaiety! *Here question and answer are same! Decide who is to blame? Who declared Corona-virus a pandemic? WHO declared Corona-virus a pandemic! // *A doctor can save your life! A lawyer can defend your life! A soldier can provide peaceful life! But only CHRIST can give 'Bread of Life'!

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

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But her singing makes her look ten feet tall.
When she is at the recital you forget the rest,
And you know she is undoubtedly the world's best.
With all the trust that she can hatch,
She can score a purple patch
This woman is the World's Eighth Wonder
And the auditoriums she brought thunder.
As she led from the front to music destiny
She will be remembered forever in history.
The woman leaves no doubt in my mind
She is absolutely one of a kind,
She can make the Hall fill and blur,
And her name I know, you know is
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—C.K. Subramaniam

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Minor issues in India

Corona virus increasing
GDP Falling
Millions out of job
Students suffering
Petrol price hitting century
PM Care Froud

Wake Up India!

Absence!

Father: Why did you get such a low score in that exam?

Son: Absence!

Father: You were absent on the day of the exam?

Son: No but the boy who sits next to me was!

Beans

A teacher asked her students to use the word "beans" in a sentence. "My father grows beans," said one girl. "My mother cooks beans," said a boy. A third student spoke up, "We are all human beans."

Caterpillars

Johnny: Daddy, are caterpillars good to eat?

Father: Have I not told you never to mention such things during meals!

Mother: Why did you say that, Junior? Why did you ask the question?

Johnny: It's because I saw one on daddy's lettuce, but now it's gone.

Coming Downstairs

Teddy came thundering down the stairs, much to his father's annoyance.

'Teddy,' he called, 'how many more times have I got to tell you to come down the stairs quietly? Now, go back up and come down like a civilised hu-



man being."

There was a silence, and Teddy reappeared in the front room.

"That's better," said his father. "Now will you always come down stairs like that?"

"Suits me," said Teddy. "I slid down the bannister."

Fifteenth Wedding Anniversary

A couple goes out to dinner to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. On the way home, she notices a tear in his eye and asks if he's getting sentimental because they're celebrating 50 wonderful years together. He replies, "No, I was thinking about the time before we got married. Your father threatened me with a shotgun and said he'd have me thrown in jail for 50 years if I didn't marry you. Tomorrow I would've been a free man!"

Have a laugh

Only in Mumbai,

Banana is Kela.
Single is Akela.
Tired is Thakela.
Bored is Pakela.
Stuck-up is Atkela.
Angry is Satkela.
Hung-up is Latkela.
Lost is Bhatkela.
Dead is Tapkela.
Dry is Sukela.
Hidden is Chupela.
Problem is Jhamela.
Drunk is Piyelaa.
The one coming is Aarelaa.
The one going is Jaarelaa.
And now everyone is
Corona se Darela.

— Contributed by: Jubel D'Cruz

Girl or boy?

A: Just look at that young person with the short hair and blue jeans. Is it a boy or a girl?

B: It's a girl. She's my daughter.

A: Oh, I'm sorry, sir. I didn't know that you were her father.

B: I'm not. I'm her mother.

Second language

A family of mice were surprised by a big cat. Father Mouse jumped and said, "Bow-wow!" The cat ran away. "What was that, Father?" asked Baby Mouse. "Well, son, that's why it's important to learn a second language."

To whom am I speaking?

Teacher (speaking on the phone): You say Michael has a cold and can't come to school today? To whom am I speaking?

Voice: This is my father.

Why didn't he get punished?

Teacher: "George Washington not only chopped down his father's cherry tree, but also admitted it. Now, Louie, do you know why his father didn't punish him?"

Louie: "Because George still had the axe in his hand."

You don't know your arithmetic

Teacher: "If you had one dollar and you asked your father for another, how many dollars would you have?"

Vincent: "One dollar."

Teacher: "You don't know your arithmetic."

Vincent: "You don't know my father."





Sweet potato Vegetable Cutlet

Ingredients:

2 large sweet potato (Boiled and mashed)
 10 bean, 2 carrots, 2 small radish (optional)
 and few green peas (All grated finely)
 Chilli powder
 Turmeric powder
 Jeera powder
 Chat masala
 Salt
 Ginger garlic paste
 5 green chillies
 1 onion
 Pinch of hing
 Maida diluted with water
 Bread crumbs of semolina

Method:

Boil and mash the sweet potatoes and keep aside. In a kadai put oil when it heats add finely cut green chillies and onions and fry well. Once the onion turns translucent add in all the veggies and keep frying until its cooked. Now add all the powders (As per as your preference) and saute it well. Now off the flame and wait for it to cool. Then add the sweet potato mix it well and shape it to cutlets. Dip it in maida mixture (3 spoons maida mixed it water to form a thin paste you could replace maida with egg) then coat it with bread crumbs or semolina and pan fry it till it is roasted on both the sides well.

Cutlets are ready.
 Serve it with pudina chutney or sauce.



by Sonal Lobo



Prawns Pulao

Ingredients:

Basmati Rice – 1 cup
 Prawns – 20-25 medium sized
 Oil – 2 tbsp
 Ghee – 2 tbsp
 Onions – 2 large sliced thinly
 Tomatoes – 2 large sliced
 Green Chillies – 2 chopped finely
 Ginger-Garlic Paste – 1 tbsp
 Chilli Powder – 2 tsp
 Coriander Powder -- 2 tsp
 Garam Masala Powder – 2 tsp
 Curd/Yogurt – 4 tbsp
 Salt to taste
 Coriander leaves – 4 tbsp finely chopped
 Mint leaves – 2 tbsp finely chopped

For Marinating Prawns:

Chilli Powder – 1 tsp
 Turmeric Powder – 1 tsp
 Ginger-Garlic Paste – 1 tsp



Sweta D'Cruz

Method:

Wash and soak rice for 15 minutes. Drain water and set aside. Start by cooking rice, bring lots of water to a boil, add salt to it and when it reaches a rolling boil, add in rice and cook for 8 to 10 minutes till the rice is 90 percent cooked. Drain water and set aside.
 Mix the prawns with the marination and set aside.
 Heat ghee and oil in a vessel in which you are going to make the pulao.
 Add in the prawns and cook on medium flame for 4 to 5 minutes. Remove it and set aside.
 In the same oil, add in the onions, chillies and saute till golden. Now remove half of the fried onions to a plate and set aside. In the remaining fried onions, add in the ginger-garlic paste and saute for a minute.
 Add in spice powders and mix well.
 Add in tomatoes and cook till mushy.
 Add in curd, salt, half of the coriander and mint leaves. Mix well. Cook till raw smell leaves away.
 Add in the prawns and toss well in the masala.
 Now layer the cooked rice, fried onions and coriander and mint leaves.
 Cover with a tight lid and put the vessel on very low heat for 5 minutes.
 Open and fluff lightly. Serve hot.



Parable for Our Troubled Times

(from Various Sources)

Messiah the Wounded Healer (From Jewish Tradition)

Rabbi Joshua ben Levi (who lived in the first half of the third century), while meditating near the tomb of Rabbi Shimon Bar Yohai, was visited by the Prophet Elijah. "When will the Messiah come?" asked Joshua. "Ask him," replied the Prophet. "The Messiah is at the gates of Rome, sitting among the poor, the sick and wretched. Like them, he changes the bindings of his wounds, but does so one wound at the time, in order to be ready at a moment's notice."

Then Joshua went to Rome and met the Messiah and greeted him, saying "peace upon thee, Master and Teacher" and the Messiah replied "peace upon thee, O son of Levi." Joshua then asked "When will you be coming?" and was told "Today!". Joshua went back to Elijah and was asked what the Messiah said. 'Peace upon thee, O son of Levi', Joshua replied, and Elijah told him that that meant that he and his father would have a place in the world to come. Joshua then said that the Messiah had not told him the truth, because he had promised to come today but had not. Elijah explained "This is what he said to thee, To- day, if ye will hear his voice", a reference to Psalms 95:7, making his coming conditional with the condition not fulfilled.

One or two lessons to discern the presence of God who comes even during our troubled times to guide, protect and heal us because God is the Wounded Healer for our day to day life.



**Fr. George
Olivera OFM
Cap, Mysore**

Listen to a story of Sri Ramakrishna (from Hindu Tradition)

A man said to his friend, "I have just seen a house fall down with a terrific crash." Now, the friend to whom he told this had received an English education. He said: "Just a minute. Let me look it up in the newspaper." He read the paper but could not find the news of a house falling down with a crash. Thereupon he said to his friend: "Well, I don't believe you. It isn't in the paper; so it is all false."

Some thing to learn from this story – even during the crisis times there are plenty of stories in the multi-media sources, but one has to be prudent believe right and to bracket what is fake news.

Parable from Soren Kierkegaard (from Christian Tradition)

What happens to those who try to warn the present age?

It happened that a fire broke out backstage in a theater. The clown came out to inform the public. They thought it was just a jest and applauded. He repeated his warning, they shouted even louder. So I think the world will come to an end amid general applause from all the wits, who believe that it is a joke. "A" in Either/Or, 1, p. 30 (SV II 30)

Outer world is not only the entire truth of the matter, inner world is as important not to be neglected during the crisis times.

Flat Bread (From Sufi Tradition)

The tax collector in Nasrudin's town was corrupt and accepted many

bribes. One day, the mayor asked the tax collector to present his records for examination.

Upon studying them and realizing that they were falsified, the mayor, infuriated with rage, shouted to the tax collector, "Not only are you fired, I also order you to eat these papers you have presented me while we all watch!"

So he did as he was ordered, while the court attendants watched in amazement as he ate all the paper. Soon the news of what had happened spread throughout the town.

About a week later, the mayor appointed Nasrudin as the town's new tax collector. When the mayor asked him to present his records the next week, Nasrudin handed him noon-eh-lavash (flat bread) with the records written on them.

The mayor asked, "Why did you write your records on noon-eh-lavash?" "Well," Nasrudin replied, "I saw what happened to the other guy, so I wrote these on bread just in case you would make me eat them as well." Corruption is everywhere from home to Cemetery. What matters is honesty all the time in and out of season.

Christian buddha (from Zen Buddhism)

One of master Gasan's monks visited the university in Tokyo. When he returned, he asked the master if he had ever read the Christian Bible. "No," Gasan replied, "Please read some of it to me." The monk opened the Bible to the Sermon on the Mount in St. Matthew, and began reading. After reading Christ's words about the



(Contd.. from p. 18)

lilies in the field, he paused. Master Gasan was silent for a long time.

"Yes," he finally said, "Whoever uttered these words is an enlightened being. What you have read to me is the essence of everything I have been trying to teach you here!"

There is goodness and kindness everywhere, open mind and open heart and open hands are needed to activate in our lives.

Hospitality to Our Neighbours (from the Tradition of the Desert Fathers)

There was an elder living at a place in the desert and, some considerable distance from him, another person: a Manichee who was a priest, or rather one of those whom they call priests. When he went to visit one of his coreligionists, nightfall overtook him at the place where the elder was. He was on the horns of a dilemma, wishing to knock, enter, and sleep at his place. But he knew the elder was aware that he was a Manichee and thought he would refuse to receive him. However, constrained by necessity, he knocked. When the elder opened the door, he recognized him and joyfully welcomed him in. He encouraged him to pray; he refreshed him and assigned him a place to sleep. Coming to himself in the night, the Manichee said in his astonishment, "How come he has no suspicion toward me? This is indeed a man of God." He came and fell at his feet, saying, "I am an orthodox from this day," and thus he remained with him.

Fear of the neighbours is the sickness of our modern times, reach out to the neighbour is the essence of Hospitality.

As someone has said –" Mysticism is the beginning of Religion and Politics is the end of the Religion.

(Contd.. from p. 5)

as 'Fama'. This is probably a tradition of the erstwhile Portugese rule in Goa. However, there is no misuse of the National flag. So, it appears that as there is no official church protocol to be observed on such occasions, it is left to the discretion of the parish priest to celebrate in a manner he feels appropriate.

—A. F. Nazareth,
Alto Porvorim, Goa.

Churches are gradually opening their doors

Much to the delight of parishioners, some churches have opened for Eucharistic celebrations in Goa and other places. All precautions are in place during these services. Social distancing, sanitisers, thermal thermometers to check fever, empty holy water fonts, sufficient volunteers and all SOPs are meticulously observed.

In most cases only 30-50 Parishioners are permitted inside the church at a time, even though the demand is understandably very high. Churches have adopted different methods of selecting the people who are invited to attend. I believe there should be

one standard method. All those who wish to attend mass should give their names to the Church authorities. These names must be written on slips of paper and put into a pot. Selection must be strictly by drawing of lots and was done by the Apostles to find a replacement for Judas who hanged himself. (It is believed that Barsabbas was the favourite, but Matthias' name was drawn. The apostles went with Matthias because they believed that it was God's choice). Subsequently, drawing of lots must continue till all names in the pot are exhausted. Thereafter the process can be repeated afresh.

In some churches senior citizens are not permitted because they are more susceptible to the virus. I'm a senior citizen and I'm not amused at the unsolicited concern for seniors citizens. Time and again we are reminded to refrain from going outdoors. But does anyone bother how we procure our food, or even if we are alive or dead in our homes? I believe that if churches are open then anyone who wishes to attend the services may be permitted as long as all necessary precautions are taken. Senior citizens may be requested to refrain from going to church. But they must not be barred. Age cannot be a deterrent in church.

—Prof Robert Castellino
Mumbai

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7102. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in August 1988), Ht. 6' 1", Wt. 95 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Masters, working for MNC. Contact email : am.pereira@rediffmail.com

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

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 Son seeks alliance from Mangalorean RC Spinster, educated, working in Mumbai. Reply with full details & photofraph to email : ID : vivian1548@gmail.com Mobile : 9096141335

7157. PUNE : Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in September 1990) Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 75 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBA (Marketing) & M.Com., working as a Senior Executive, Sales and Development. Contact email : amlahenry11@gmail.com

7101. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in April 1988), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 68 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Masters in Logistics doing part time MBA. Working as an Asst. Manager. Con-

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7151. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in May 1990) Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Masters in Marketing, Working as a Asst. Marketing Executive. Contact email : emanuelfindz90@gmail.com

7097. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in October 1991), Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 97 kgs, WheatishComplexion, Edn. B.Com., working as Sr. Account Recievable in private company. Contact email : dsouzadonald11@gmail.com

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

7025. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in May 1992), Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 56 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.E. (IT), working as a Software Developer. Contact email : kevin92ster@gmail.com

7019. MUMBAI : Tamilian Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in June 1981), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Customer Services. Contact email : dasvinod1@gmail.com

6986. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in March 1990), Ht. 160 cms, Wt. 66 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Graduate, working for MNC. Contact email : alwyn90lewis@yahoo.com

6906. ABUDHABI : Tamilian Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in July 1988), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 67 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Bachelor in Busi-

ness Admin., working as a Customer Support. Contact email : dvdleena@yahoo.co.in

5996. MUMBAI : RC Bachelor (Born in November 1974)/5'8", B.E., working in Senior position reputed IT firm. Seeks alliance from R.C. spinster educated good family background Pl. reply with photograph and details to keithcardozo@hotmail.com OR **9820338755**

6198. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic (Born in October 1969), Ht. 5' 10", Edn. B.Com., good personality, hailing from God fearing, cultured family, issueless, divorcee by mutual consent, working for Cruise Liner in U.S.A., as Security Supervisor, well settled in Mumbai, Seeks suitable match. Contact email : dsouzamalcolmneil@gmail.com. Phone/SMS 09480157258.

6507. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor (Hearing Impaired) (Born in September 1989), Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 62 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. HSC., Dip. in Computer Hardware. Working as a Cashier. Contact email : clifford9948@gmail.com OR 9920331773

6862. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in February 1983), Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 72 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., well settled working in Mumbai. Contact email : keith_peter1983@yahoo.co.in

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7160. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in September 1988), Ht. 5' 7", Fair Complexion, Edn. BMS, working as a Senior Merchandiser in a Global Retail Company in Dubai. She was born in Mumbai, schooled in Kuwait and last 5 years settled in Dubai. Seeks a tall, well spoken, independent man, with a good sense of humor, preferably based **ABROAD**. Contact email : prislobo10@gmail.com

7149 GUJRAT : Anglo Indian Catholic Spinster, (Born in July 1991), Ht. 5'2", Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBA, PGDM., working. Contact email : barnes.rufina@yahoo.com

7126. U.S.A. : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in January 1992) from Mumbai, Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 60 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.E. (Computers) from Mumbai, M.S. (Information Systems) from US. Possesses H1B visa and is working as a Technical Analyst with an MNC in USA. Contact email : wilfyjoy1315@gmail.com or call +91 98603 02527 / + 91 9970172527

7148 MUMBAI : Smart, goodlooking, Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in November 1993), Ht. 5'2", Wt. 40 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. H.S.C., having own business. Contact email : teresa.joseph.1993@gmail.com

7158 MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in August 1986), Ht. 5'1", Wt. 64 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A., working as a Patient Care Manager. Contact email : ceciliacookie@gmail.com

7128. MUMBAI : Affluent business family R.C. East Indian Spinster, (Born in 12-04-1988), Ht. 5' 2", very beautiful and pretty. Edn. MS General Surgeon, Doctor by profession. Contact email : drvd2019@gmail.com

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

7141. MUMBAI : Affluent business family Protestant Spinster, (Born in November 1995), Ht. 5', Wt. 55 kgs., Fair complexion, good looking, Edn., M. Pharma, Student. Contact email : saloni.1995naik@gmail.com

6741. MANGALORE : Mangalorean RC spinster, 26 years, 5' 3", Doctor, Qualification : MD. Very fair and beautiful. Belongs to an affluent business family. Email : sona68500@gmail.com

7137. MUMBAI : Karnataka Protestant Spinster, (Born in January 1996), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 54 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as an Accountant. Contact email : sujatareddy209@gmail.com

7156 MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in November 1993), Ht. 5'1", Wt. 65 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. MBA., working in an IT Company as an Executive Assistant. Contact email : mumbai.lavi@gmail.com

7134. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in April 1992), Ht. 5', Wt. 55 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Modification and Writer. Contact email : jacklinemascarenhas@gmail.com

7153 MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Divorcee, (Born in May 1987), Ht. 5'2", Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., IATA, Pursuing B.Ed., working as a Travael Consultant. Contact email : greshma.saldanha@gmail.com

7131. DUBAI : Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in September 1990), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 60 kgs, Tan Complexion, Edn.

T.Y. B.Com., working as a Manager. Contact email : rebecca.raj06@gmail.com

7123. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1987), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 58 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., CS., M.Sc., working as a Sr. Manager Programmer. Contact email : r.douza.co@gmail.com

6032 DUBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in April 1976), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 41 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A., working as a Secretary. Contact email : track_1976@yahoo.com OR 9730454857

6528. DUBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in April 1985) Ht. 5' 7", Beautiful and Fair Complexion, Edn. Masters in Health, Care (MHA), Employed as a Manager in MNC Dubai, is looking for a suitable alliance between the ages of 32 to 36 with a height 5' 10" and above. Kindly respond directly to the party by email : aara8185@gmail.com with your photograph.

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

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Looking for the Perfect Spouse?

Marriage is a covenant which cannot and should not be broken. It is a life-time commitment. Spouses exchange vows at the Altar.... I,, take you,, to be my lawfully wedded wife/husband....for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, until death do us part. I shall love and honour you all the days of my life..... **That seals the relationship between husband & wife.**

If you have listened to the Toast raised at wedding receptions, the Toast Master, after a few good words about the couple, would invariably, give a couple of tips as to how to make their marriage successful - ignoring small comments, forget & forgive the other's shortcomings, making little adjustments, compromise, etc., et. **Sane advice, one would say, right?**

Be that at it may, there are so couples today running to the courts for a separation, a divorce? And there in front of the public, tear their spouse along with the family to pieces, washing dirty linen public. And what are their grounds for seeking divorce? It could be dowry demands, harassment by in-laws, constant fights, arguments, physical violence, mental torture, and so many other reasons.

Recently however, the newspapers reported a weird case of a woman seeking divorce from her husband on the grounds that **he 'does not fight' with her, and he loves her 'too much'**. Now, who wouldn't want a spouse like that, one who would understand the other's feelings, etc.,

etc. A **"perfect" spouse**, one would say.

The woman goes on to say, **she could not digest her husband's "too much" love for her. The woman said she has never had a fight with her husband in the past 18 months and she was "fed up"! She said, she was feeling "suffocated" in such an environment!**

Just 18 months into marriage and see what they got themselves into! This is an incident which occurred somewhere in Uttar Pradesh in a 'Sharia' Court. The husband's response in this case however, was interesting. **He said that he does not think he has done anything wrong and "only wanted to be a perfect husband."**

Come to think of it, what is it that the spouse is really looking for in the other? Do they want life to be all goody, goody? Some probably feel fights result in Love growing stronger. **Looking for the "perfect" spouse? It seems couples are in a "catch-22" situation - damned if they do, damned if they don't!**



St Aloysius Institutions Mangalore gets new Rector



Rev Melwin Joseph Pinto (Sr) SJ, has been appointed as the new Rector of the prestigious group of institutions of St. Aloysius, Mangalore, by the Rev Jesuit General in Rome. In place of Rev Dionysius Vaz SJ., now appointed Jesuit Provincial Karnataka.

Fr. Melwin, Hails from Kadri/Bendur in the city, is a well known personality in the educational arena of this region, born December 1963 and ordained in April 1997. He has held several responsible multifaceted responsibilities hitherto, which led to his choice to the joy of all people of the area.

He is a highly educated and erudite priest with a compassionate, simple and pleasant personality appreciated everywhere he served. His early admired assignment was to establish St Joseph Indian Composite PU College, Bangalore as founder principal 1999-2007. A very significant service was 2012 to 2017 as Section Head at Vatican Radio. His last assignment in the city was as Director, Fatima Retreat House, Jeppu 2017-2019. Since then he has been in Trivandrum working on youth matters.

The news has gladdened the community and students at large at this critical time of Corona Pandemic. Rev Fr. Melwin is expected to assume office soon and a welcome awaits him too. Rev Fr Pinto expressly has requested prayers from all.

Worship Is The Song Of The Soul



Jesus replied to the devil,
“Scripture says: You shall
Worship the Lord your God
And serve him alone.”

There are two elements of worship: Celebration and Proclamation. The emphasis is on the spiritual side for lost souls and the saved people. It can well be that this truth



BY MELVYN BROWN

may be explained by the aspects worship takes as challenges. Worship includes witness. Here arises the question of understanding how powerful the pulse of worship is:

King David was always exuberant in song and praise when he worshipped God. In a psalm David states that the Lord “put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God.” When David sang to God it was because he felt the presence of God.

In the Gospel of John it is stated, “God is Spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and truth.” (Jn.4:24).

The power of worship is what I would profess to an unbelieving world. God expects us to worship him in prayer, penance and sacrifice.

When King David praised God before his people, they saw his joy before the Lord, and they became his witness. David’s singing was with power and grace, it was true worship. This was the vertical dimension of worship.

David sinned and confessed his sin asking God to forgive him. He did this often in the presence of his people in dramatic ways. King David said, “Many will see (that is, know of God’s presence) and fear, or revere and be awed by him, and put their trust in the Lord”.

Singing is a spiritual expression. Psalms were created to be sung. Singing is mentioned 68 times in the Psalms. I remember reading that the American poet, Henry Longfellow called the voice, ‘the organ of the soul.’ In this connection we should remember that “Worship is the song of the soul”.

The vertical dimension to worship is clearly shown as Celebration. The horizontal dimension is for proclamation. This is the reason why we have two challenges for believers in worship.

First, we come to celebrate the Holy Mass as devotees. Second, we are expected to tell others of our experience, which means to proclaim. And so, we learn of the two challenges in worship,

to celebrate and to proclaim.

As believers, worship is the formation of attitude and activity throughout our journey in life. At church and in service we worship publicly and corporately. When the people come together they come as witness. At this point I repeat, worship is witness for us to proclaim.

The spiritually lost souls are drawn back to Christ through worship. Those spiritually saved souls reach out to share their experience, and are called evangelists.

In 1922, Calvin Coolidge, US Republican president said: “It is only when men begin to worship that they begin to grow.”

The major mystery in prayer is a celebration and a proclamation to God in worship. The Eucharistic celebration is for you to be a witness to spread the Word of God after the service, to win souls.

Worship is to regain lost souls in bringing them back to Christ. And spiritually saved souls are sent to share Christ to the world.

The disciples were privileged to hear with the ear of faith, and to see with the eyes of faith, how Jesus felt about prayer and worship.

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