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A NATIONAL FAMILY WEEKLY

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It's been an Eventful Year

by Don Aguiar.

AFTER ALL WE'VE BEEN through this year, wouldn't it be nice, even during a distanced Christmas season, to be able to talk about this whole year's experience with others, in a deep, satisfying way?

December for many of us is a month of boundless festivities. Whether we celebrate Christmas or another festivity close to our heart, COVID-19 will undoubtedly impact our plans in some way. We endeavour to show that you're not alone in the struggle to find different ways how to have better conversations, which I've learned from people wiser than myself this year. Whether it entails a Zoom call with relatives, caring for loved one, or merrymaking solo this article offers some much needed insights.

Approach with awe. C.S. Lewis once wrote that if you'd never met a human and suddenly encountered one, you'd be inclined to worship this creature. Every human being is a miracle, and you're superior in some way. **The people who have great conversations walk into the room expecting to be delighted by you and make you feel the beam of their affection and respect.** Lady Randolph Churchill once said that when sitting next to the statesman William Gladstone she thought he was the cleverest person in England, but when she sat next to Benjamin Disraeli she thought she was the cleverest person in England.

Ask elevating questions. All of us have developed a way of being that is our technique for getting through each day. But **some questions, startling as they seem at first, compel us to see ourselves from a higher vantage:** What crossroads are you at? What commitments have you made



that you no longer believe in? Who do you feel most grateful to have in your life? What problem did you used to have but now have licked? In what ways are you sliding backward? What would you do if you weren't afraid?

Ask open-ended questions. Many of us have a horrible tendency to ask questions that imply judgment: Where did you go to school? Or we ask yes/no questions: Did you have a good day? Which basically shut off interesting answers. **Better questions start with** "What was it like. . . ." or "Tell me about a time. . . ." or "How did you manage to cope while your wedding was postponed for a year?"

Make them authors, not witnesses. **The important part of people's lives is not what happened to them, but how they experienced what happened to them.** So many of the best conversations are not just a recitation of events. They involve going over and over an event, seeing it from wider perspectives coating it with new layers of emotion, transforming it, so that, say, an event that was very hard to live through is now very satisfying to remember.

Treat attention as all or nothing. Of course, we all have divided attention. In "You're Not Listening," Kate Murphy writes that introverts have more divided attention than others while in conversation because there's so much busyness going on in their own heads. But **in conversation it's best to act as if attention had an on/off switch with no dimmer.** Total focus. I have a friend who listens to conversations the way congregants listen to sermons in charismatic churches — with amen, and approbations. The effect is magnetic.

Don't fear the pause. Most of us stop listening to a comment about half-way through so we can be ready with a response. In Japan, Murphy writes, **businesspeople are more likely to hear the whole comment and then pause, sometimes eight seconds, before responding, which is twice as long a silence as Indian businesspeople conventionally tolerate.**

Keep the gem statement front and centre. **In the midst of many difficult conversations, there is what the mediator Adar Cohen calls the gem statement.** This is the comment that keeps the relationship together: "Even when we can't agree on Dad's medical care, I've never doubted your good intentions. I know you want the best for him." If you can both seize that gem statement it may point to a solution.

Find the disagreement under the disagreement. **In the Talmudic tradition when two people disagree about something, it's because there is some deeper philosophical or moral disagreement undergirding it.** Conversation then becomes a shared process of trying to dig down to the



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(Contd.. from p. 2)

underlying disagreement and then the underlying disagreement below that. There is no end. Conflict creates co-operative effort. As neuroscientist Lisa Feldman Barrett writes, "Being curious about your friend's experience is more important than being right."

The midwife model. Sometimes people talk to solve a person's problem. The Rev. Margaret Guenther wrote that a **good conversationalist in these cases is like a midwife, helping the other person give birth to her own child.** That means spending a lot of time patiently listening to the other person teach herself through her narration, bringing forth her unthought-of thoughts, sitting with an issue as it slowly changes under the pressure of joint attention. "To influence actions," neuroscientist Tali Sharot writes, "you need to give people a sense of control."

Deeper conversations help people become explicable to each other and themselves. You can't really know yourself until you know how you express yourself and find yourself in another's eyes. **Deeper conversation builds trust, the oxygen of society, exactly what we're missing right now.**

It's been an eventful year, to say

the least. Doubtless most of us have been glued to TV screens or scrolling on our phones to keep up with the ever developing news around the world to make sure we are up to date. But how many of us have stopped and wondered how harmful the 24-hour news cycle might be to our mental health?

"Humans need to be heard before they will listen," Amanda Ripley writes. It's been a rough year for all that, but this Christmas, the possibility of deep talk is still out there, even over Zoom.

However you're celebrating, I send you my very best wishes, and thank you for another year of reading my articles. It wouldn't be the same without you.

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Malaika in the red

Sir,

Over the past 8 months, we in the country, besides fighting the Corona virus on a war-footing, are also struggling hard against another type of virus which has crippled the economy and made life miserable for thousands who have lost their jobs and even their life savings in bank deposits and Co-operative societies. Among them is the well-known Malaika multi state co-op. society, having its head office in Goregaon Mumbai and several shops and establishments spread over Mumbai, Mangalore, and surrounding areas.

Things were running smoothly for the society for several years, and people's confidence kept increasing by the day with the blessings of the clergy and the opening of new shops and branches with attractive rates and advertisements in reputed Catholic magazines and weeklies. Then came Covid-19 and the pandemic, with lockdowns, curfews and shutting of shops of non-essential goods that dealt a severe blow to Malaika and the day-to-day functioning of its shops. Things started to get worse even after the opening of the shops, as monthly interests and repayment of matured Fixed Deposits came to an abrupt halt, and all communication with the head office and other shops shut by keeping landlines and mobiles shut.

Today, Malaika is in dire straits. All their shops have been sealed and FIRs filed at various police stations. Depositors are running from pillar to post without any hopes of getting a satisfactory and convincing reply from the owners or the office staff. Several others have approached the courts in the hope of retrieving their locked up

money. The whereabouts of the owners are not yet known even as there are rumours and videos which have gone viral on social media accusing the owners of fraud and calling for an urgent meeting of all depositors.

So, what do we do in such a case when the owners are not traceable, and there is no action plan or assurances to pay back depositors. On the other hand, approaching the courts and threatening legal action hardly seems to work in our country with a surfeit of cases in cold storage and it takes years before justice is meted out and cases settled.

All this calls for collective action and a joint meeting of depositors with the owners via video conferencing or some such thing. An action plan for the repayment of all depositors is the need of the hour. Payment to depositors can be spread over a couple of months and the money paid monthly in installments, so that it does not become too much of a burden for the owners and everyone is kept happy. The question is how sincere are the owners and whether the owners are agreeable to pay and when. Or, do they prefer to keep the pot boiling and delay payments on some pretext or the other.

This letter is written in the pious hope that the matter will soon be resolved in an amicable manner and in the true Christian spirit of justice and righteousness.

—A. F. Nazareth
Porvorim, Goa,

'MALAIKA' fails depositors

Regarding the sordid matter of "MALAIKA Multi-State Co-op Society Ltd" (MMSCS). Impressions of the public are confused and a feeling of overlooking the suffering of hand-to-mouth depositors/investors is real and vital. Hundreds of the Catholic community, in Mumbai, Mangalore, Goa and so on have lost their livelihood and their savings stashed away for a rainy day, from a few thousand rupees to even a crore in FDs, RDs and other forms of deposits, it is understood.

Indications of the bad picture would have surfaced earlier, to this trying year 2020. M/s. Malaika / MMSCS, Charman Mr. Gilbert Baptist, Directors, Auditors and staff, would have been aware of the situation ahead with regards to business and finance with more than Rs.400 crore at stake. Lockdown was a good opportunity to consolidate facts better and see the writing on the wall and initiate immediate damage control measures, also taking the investors into confidence and giving proper information. However, even to date when the whole business of MMSCS has crashed, all payouts ceased, forcing investors to clamour for legal actions; NO, repeat NO, legal/official information to the depositors on the reasons and difficulties of MMSCS's financial matters, with a suitable time bound retrieving strategy has been duly conveyed to all concerned.

After causing damage and displeasure, now very late in the day, when the Mumbai Courts have refused advance bail to Chairman of MMSCS and others, yet has not constituted any negotiation / redressal mechanism. Inappropriate, untenable, unauthentic letters asking for time and patience from the customers, in the dark for many months, are unacceptable. Mr. Gilbert and his Directors have failed badly and given rise to suspicion and angst among the customers by their own making. It is

(Contd.. on p. 7)



300-Anniv. of Passionists!

Love jihad

One is amused by the oxymoronic ring of the phrase, 'love jihad', which has recently been popularised by certain Hindutva groups in the country. The phrase is designed to denote a communal conspiracy in which Muslim boys marry Hindu girls after entrapping them in love affairs. There is nothing wrong if a Hindu girl decides to marry a Muslim boy, or vice versa. But rightwing groups with vested interests project any incident of a Muslim boy marrying a Hindu girl as part of a larger conspiracy aimed at converting Hindus to Islam. This leads to dramatic Hindu-Muslim polarisation, which the Hindutva groups take advantage of.

On the other hand, the government is trying to interfere in the personal freedom of individuals guaranteed in the Constitution. It is trying to solve a contrived problem with bad legislation for political gains of appealing to its Hindutva base. In reality, this law once passed will give outside parties, a handle to interfere in other people's personal affairs, with state sanction.

—*Jubel D'Cruz, Dombivili, Mumbai*

"Do we need bishops?"

In his article "Do we need bishops?" Chhotebhai though 'chhote' makes a

'badaa' question! congratulations!

But the same question can be asked about our MLAs and MPs. Do we really need them? do we need to spend such a huge amount of the

public money on their salaries, allowances and pensions? What do they really do or rather undo than do?

I am afraid when this letter is published someone may ask me too: Do we need priests and temple pujaris?

There are many such parasites we have to live with!

— *Fr Michael G. Vasai*

On choosing the right Covid-19 vaccine

While the race to produce and market the first successful Covid-19 vaccine continues, we in India may soon get the nod from the Centre for the use of a safe and effective vaccine after three Pharmaceutical giants viz Pfizer, Moderna and Oxford –Astra – Zenecaa have announced their plans to make the vaccine available by January-February 2021. Not far behind is the Russian 'Sputnik V' vaccine with an efficacy of around 95% and twice as cheap. While the Centre has yet to approve and finalise the modalities for the procurement of vaccine doses, it is likely that the choice may fall on Oxford vaccine which has offered a 50% cut in prices, even though the vaccine is only 70% effective, while that of Pfizer and Moderna stands at 95%. It is hoped that the issue of vaccine-choice and procurement, sails through smoothly without being politicised and stuck in red tape, which is often the case when important issues such as these are to be taken at the National level for the benefit of the people without the customary kick-backs.

—*A. F. Nazareth, Alto Porvorim, Goa*

Pope Francis sent a message to the Passionists on 19 Nov 2020 to mark their 300th - anniversary of their founding by St. Paul of the Cross in Italy on 21 Nov. 1720. The Jubilee theme: "Renewing our Mission: Gratitude, Prophecy & Hope"! – To begin on Sunday 22 Nov. 2020, and to end on 01 Jan. 2022. Their Patroness is the Mother of Sorrows and Our lady of Holy Hope! (Some excerpts of the Pope):

"Deepen your commitment to the 'crucified of our age'- poor, weak, oppressed, and those disregarded by many forms of injustices! Your mission could only be strengthened by an 'inner renewal'; arising from your personal relationship with the 'Crucified-Risen Lord'! – But, always remaining aware of the action of the Holy Spirit! You are asked to identify with new lifestyles in order to proclaim the 'Love of the Crucified One'; thus giving heart to your identity!"

The Jubilee year will include an International Congress on, "The Wisdom of the Cross in a Pluralistic World", on 21-24 Sept. 2021. St. Paul of the Cross, died in 1775 and was canonized in 1867 by Pope Pius IX. He wrote their Rule, "The Poor of Jesus"! They especially preach, "Chaplet of the Five Wounds", as a means to promote devotion to the 'Passion of Christ'!

There are 2,179 Passionists in 61 countries. The Passionist Foundation in India began in Kochi in March 1981. There are also 'Passionists Sisters'! The Passionists proclaim the 'Love of Jesus Crucified'! And walk with the 'crucified of today' (cf. Matthew 25:31-46).

—*Dr. Trevor Colaso, Memphis, TN. USA*

Do We Need Bishops?

In the light of the recent appointments of bishops and archbishops, this question may seem audacious. But it is not altogether without merit. Do we really need bishops, what is their role in our lives, and if at all we do need them, then who should decide on their appointments?

The role of the recently removed Papal Nuncio to India, Abp Giambattista Diquatro, even raises the question on the role or necessity of a Nuncio. In his letter from Rome in La Croix on 21st November, veteran Rome watcher Robert Mickens says that in the USA most Catholics would not even know the name of their bishop or that of the President of the Bishops' Conference. He could as easily say the same for India.

We have before us the recent removal from the clerical state (why insult us laity by calling it laicisation?) of a 90+ Cardinal Theodore McCarrick of Washington, the removal of the Finance Secretary of the Vatican Cardinal Bellucci, and the rap on the knuckles of another 90+ cardinal in Poland, makes one wonder how deep the rot is?

Here in India we have the suspension of the rape accused Franco Mulakkal of Jalandhar, and Bp Galela Prasad of Kadapa, followed by serious allegations of murder and womanising by Bp K.A. William of Mysuru, now being capped by serious allegations against the archbishop of Cuttack-Bhubaneswar by the priests of his own diocese. Are these instances just the tip of the iceberg?



by chhotebhai *



So far the only known cases of action taken against bishops in India are of Bp Willie Gomes of Poona some years ago, for having an illegitimate child; and Bp Isidore Fernandes of Allahabad, for the relatively minor act of ecclesiastical indiscipline in consecrating a Protestant bishop. The latter attracts an automatic *latae sententiae* excommunication (Can 1382)! Ironically, murder, rape or financial misappropriation are considered lesser offences! Convoluted logic.

The question then is relevant – do we need bishops at all? During the ongoing Corona pandemic even priests have begun to question the need for organised religion, Sunday obligations, sacramental life or what is sometimes described as Churchianity, as against Christianity.

Ask a common parishioner on the role

of a bishop, and pat comes the reply – to pat the children on their cheeks at Confirmation, inaugurate buildings or attend convent concerts. At most he is the one who gives dispensation from mixed marriages or oversees cases of marriage annulments. Does such a seemingly limited role merit the office of a bishop, with a ceremonial coat of arms, a flagstaff car and a residential palace like a medieval European princeling?

The Hindi word for bishop is Dharmadhyaksh, which literally means one who presides over religion. I find the term obnoxious. However, the word bishop is derived from the Greek word *episkopos* that literally means an overseer or a municipal inspector. By that etymology a bishop would be called a *safainayak* in Hindi. Not a very flattering definition. Small wonder then that they appropriated for themselves the pompous sounding word, Dharmadhyaksh.

Strangely, the word bishop is not found in the New Testament. Reference is often made to 1 Tim 3:1-7 and Tit 1:5-9. In both these texts the term used is “elder”, obviously a senior person. That is why the authoritative “Dictionary of the Bible” by Rev J McKenzie SJ states that “The institution of the monarchical episcopate, in which each church is governed by a single bishop, does not appear in the New Testament” (Pg 97). The equally authoritative Jerome Biblical Commentary, in reference to the aforementioned scripture texts says that these elders were presumed to be married with children and not prone



(Contd.. from p. 6)

to drinking, qualities that would make the Christian community attractive to outsiders (Pg 897). Such an elder was more like a person in charge of a house church. It would require a huge stretch of the imagination to compare the bishops of today with the elders envisaged in the New Testament.

The question therefore arises, is the office of bishop, as seen today, an essential part of Christianity that has got sanctified over time? If it is just a pious tradition then it needs to be re-examined in the light of modern society and societal groupings like a church. Have any of our theologians, with doctorates and licentiates from Rome got the guts to re-examine the office of bishop? They would be opening a Pandora's Box and closing their own doors for funding. So they choose to be mute spectators or abettors of a tradition that may have outlived its utility, at least in its present form.

Assuming that bishops are necessary let us examine contemporary church teaching about them. The Dogmatic Constitution of the Church states that the principal duty of a bishop is the preaching of the Gospel (LG No 25). The Decree on the Bishops' Pastoral Office in the Church describes a bishop as one "who stands in the midst of his people as one who serves" (CD No 16a). Many of us erroneously believe that the DD suffix bishops use stands for Doctor of Divinity. It actually stands for the Greek term *Doulos* Duli (Servant of the Servants). Small wonder then that bishops have now dropped this suffix.

Canon Law prescribes that a bishop should have exemplary holiness, charity, humility and simplicity (cf Can 387). It also lays down that he has legislative, executive and judicial powers (cf Can 391:2). This militates against the norms of modern society that is based on separation of powers. Canonically then, a bishop is a dictator, with all powers vested in him.

This calls for immediate change.

What about the selection of bishops? It is desirable that they have a doctorate or licentiate (cf Can 378:5). But Jesus, the son of man, the carpenter of Nazareth, did not have any formal degrees. Yet he spoke with authority, unlike religious leaders (cf Mat 7:29). At the age of 12 he could hold his own against the Doctors of the Law (cf Lk 2:41-50).

In Sunday sermons we are reminded of Jesus the Good Shepherd who "lays down his life for his sheep" (Jn 10:11), while the hireling runs away when faced with adversity (cf Jn 10:12). Sermons, however, are silent on what God says about the erring shepherds of Israel. Some quotes will suffice.

"Disaster is in store for the shepherds of Israel who feed themselves! Are not shepherds meant to feed a flock? Yet you have fed on milk, you have dressed yourselves in wool, you have sacrificed the fattest sheep ... You have failed to make weak sheep strong, or to care for the sick ones, or bandage the injured ones. You have failed to bring back strays or look for the lost. On the contrary you have ruled them cruelly and harshly" (Ez 34:2-4). Angry with his appointed shepherds God says, "The shepherds will stop feeding themselves, because I shall rescue my sheep from their mouths to stop them being food for them" (Ex 34:10). His final salvo is "I myself shall pasture my sheep" (Ez 34:15).

In the light of the above, neither the New nor the Old Testaments support the role of bishops as presently found in the church. They seem to have become redundant and irrelevant. Perhaps God itself will arise to care for its people.

* The writer is the Convenor of the Indian Catholic Forum

(Contd.. from p. 4)

negligence in communicating the financial failure in time to depositors, that has given cause for serious suspicion. Still they are beating around the bush and seem to be hiding away and shirking responsibility. This will not be acceptable anyway and anywhere.

Hundreds of people have fallen on bad times and have no means to live day to day. It's caused a pathetic situation and those who promoted and blessed Malaika have even basically NOT come forward to work out any kind of solution. It is not fair to say that "Water will be turned to wine", stones are hurled but caution is the key for all. Law of the land has to take its course, and the suffering depositors / investors have to seek immediate relief as best as possible. The whereabouts of the finances/assets are only known to the Malaika Management who are solely responsible and answerable to law. The Multi state cooperative authorities too must act earliest. Kindly take a proper and moral stand please. The best is hoped for as early as possible to avoid suffering of innocent people.

— *Ivan Saldanha-Shet, Mangalru.*

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St Anthony's M'lore opens modern facility for mentally challenged.

- Ivan Saldanha-Shet.

The 120 year old renowned St. Anthony Ashram on November 21, 2020 evening, opened and blessed the newly constructed modern 100 bed home for mentally challenged/ ill people. Most Rev Dr Peter Paul Saldanha the bishop of Mangalore, gave the lead for this humane and natural campus in Jeppu, Mangalore.

The Bishop in his message said that the service of St Anthony's during more than one hundred and twenty two years is a witness to God's love. We can't see God around us but we can experience God's love in the selfless service rendered to the humanity. St Anthony's Ashram has given that service to the society without expecting anything in return. The opening of the new modern facility for the mentally challenged / ill people is a sign of further commitment to the service of humanity, the Bishop said.

MLA Vedavyas Kamath, Mangalore South; Joylus D'Souza, the Chairman of Christain Development Fund, Karnataka Govt ; J.R. Lobo, former M.L.A.; Ivan D'Souza, former M.L.C. Jacinta Alfred, former Mayor and Corporator; Somshekar, Asst Director Tourism Dept; Bharat S. Corporator, Vani Mangala, Corporator of Panjina Mogaru were present and congratulated the Ashram administration for advancing the services to new heights.

St Anthony's Ashram, started on June 1898 at Milagres Church, the Institu-

tion has freely catered to the needs of last, least and lost of the society irrespective of caste and creed. At present there are 400 inmates in the des-



stitutes homes in this campus. Once a person is admitted to the Ashram all the needs of the inmate are taken care of free of charge. The admissions are made only if the person is a destitute. The Ashram completed 120 years of existence in 2018. On that occasion the Ashram decided to build a home



for the mentally ill people in memory of its 120 years of its service to the poor. The foundation stone was blessed by Most Rev. Dr Aloysius Pauld D'Souza on June 13, 2018.

On this joyful inauguration, Richard Rodrigues, Vailanakani Construction and Lawrence Cutinha the architect and the those who labored to put up building were honoured. Fr Onil D'Souza the director of the Institutes welcomed the dignitaries and presented a brief history of the Ashram. Fr Alban Rodrigues the administrator, Fr Roshan D'Souza the Asst director, other dignitaries and well-wishers of the Ashram were present on the occasion. This new facility is set to bring great good to suffering here in the future.

The newly constructed state-of-the-art facility is named as 'Our Lady of Miracles' as the origin of the Ashram took place in Milagres Church. The home has a capacity to accommodate 100 people, 50 men and 50

women. The home is well equipped to take care of the mentally ill people, to be addmitted on a case to case basis to help families have a better quality of life. The doctors from the department of Psychiatry of Fr Muller Medical College Hospital will be caring for the inmates. eek. Besides this a team four nurses, a counselor and ward maid will be available. The home also has a spacious hall to provide recreation facility to the patients. The solar panels fixed to the roof top of the building generates enough power to provide to the houses located inside the Ashram compound. Indeed this new block and facility will bring much relief to needy in the region and go a long way to reduce human sufferings. However, much expense has been incurred and the Corona Pandemic has created a tight situation and payments are still to be made. Give and you shall receive - May the genorosity of the community take the efforts of the Ashram forward.

Apostolic Exhortations, Encyclicals And Eco-Spirituality

Dr (Sr) Mudita Menona Sodder
RSCJ

Pope Benedict XVI was called the Green Pope in Newsweek in 2008, because in 2007 at a Youth Rally at Loreto he said, *Learn to sustain the Planet before it is too late*. He announced the **Seven New Social Sins that need repentance, the fourth sin being, Thou shall not pollute the Environment**. He thus set the stage for **Ecological Conversion**. Pope Francis took the name Francis, emulating St Francis of Assisi in his own life and is leading the Church and the world to ecological conversion by example, while the COVID 19 pandemic has put its seal on ecological conversion. Humans are now caught between the devil and the deep blue sea. Either we surrender to ecological conversion or die due to ecological degradation. The choice is ours.

For the past 60 years Holy Mother Church has been warning us against ecological degradation. Apostolic exhortations and encyclicals seemed to have no effect in reality. Only a few mystics were convinced about Eco-Spirituality and made it their way of life. On 11th April 1963, when the world was on the brink of a nuclear crisis, Pope John XXIII brought out the Encyclical *Pacem in Terris* (Peace on Earth). On 26th March 1967 Pope Paul VI spoke about the tragic consequences of unchecked human activity in *Populorum Progressio* (On the Development of Peoples). On 4th March 1979, spurred by ecological concern Pope John Paul II introduced the Encyclical *Redemptor Hominis* (The Redeemer of Man) calling for a change in life-style, models of production and consumption and the established structures of power which govern societies; and *Sollicitudo Rei Socialis*-The Social Concern on 30th December 1987.

Our 84 year old Pope Francis the man of poverty and of peace, who loves and protects creation, showed his concern for creation in his Apostolic Exhorta-

tion *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel) on 24th November 2013 and his Encyclical, *Laudato si* (Praise Be to You) on 24th May 2015 where he exhorts us to *Be Protectors of God's Gifts*. He announced his Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* (The Joy of Love) on 19th March 2016. Here the family includes the whole universe-Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam-The world is ONE family. On 19th March 2018 his Apostolic Exhortation *Gaudete et Exsultate* (Rejoice and be Glad) was a call to Holiness. On 2nd February 2020 he announced his Apostolic Exhortation *Querida Amazonia* (Beloved Amazon) and now his recent Encyclical *Fratelli Tutti* (All Brothers) on Fraternity and Social Friendship on 3rd October 2020 which challenges us to sisterhood (sorority) and brotherhood.

The Archdiocese of Mumbai, with HE Oswald Cardinal Gracias at the helm, has also gone out of its way to create commissions for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation. Bishop Allwyn D'Silva, chairperson of the CCBI Commission for Ecology, Fr Stephen Fernandes in charge of the CBCI Commission for Justice, Fr Joseph Gonsalves of FABC Human Development/Climate Change desk, with help from Fr Luke Rodrigues S.J (video on the Season of Creation), Shawna Nemesia Rebello, Fr Joshua D'Souza and others have brought out booklets, prayers, courses etc to enlighten the common Catholic to ecological concerns.

The Season of Creation from 1st September to 4th October 2020 with the theme, **The Jubilee for the Earth** celebrating the 5th anniversary of *Laudato si*, coupled with the pandemic and lockdown has heightened awareness to ecological conversion. Many Catholics and others globally and especially in India have awakened and are more conscious about ecological degradation. Thanks to the Archdiocese of Mumbai for bringing out the booklet-*Green Pathway Onward to a Greener Diocese*, the video on the *Season of Creation*, the E-booklet-Reflections

on *Aqua Fons Vitae* (Orientations on water), by the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, the On-Line Training on *Laudato Si Week 2020-Everything is Connected*, the Foundation Course for Eco-Ambassadors by CCBI and CBCI Commissions (in 2019 a Certificate Course for Eco-Ambassadors had been organized). Several parishes also did their bit for the Season of Creation e.g. St Peter's Parish, Bandra (Fr Frazer Mascarenhas S.J (Videos) and Fr Gerard Rodricks S.J (Papalparas), St Anthony's Parish, Malvani (Video). Individuals too pitched in with signature campaigns for stopping the EIA 2020, Nukkads/Patha Natyas (Street Plays), letters to the Editor/Authorities, articles in Newspapers and Magazines, talks on webinars etc. What's more, the lockdown gave a fillip to all of this! Aren't the pandemic and even the recession a blessing in disguise? **God does work in mysterious ways**. Eco-Spirituality is all about connecting and loving all God's creatures. It is living in now the present moment which has become a necessity by default! What more can we ask God for? It is a way of life that keeps body, mind and soul in sync. It has to do with relationships i.e. a triptych of relationships with God (faith) with other human beings and with creation (justice); and see to the well being of all.

The Ecological Conversion bug is in the air. Awareness is the first and most important step. Can anyone now stop the steps ahead? ADVENT IS A TIME OF WAITING WITH HOPE. ONLY A DECADE IS LEFT TO ALTER THE TRAJECTORY OF CATASTROPHIC CLIMATE CHANGE. LET US ALL MAKE BOLD DECISIONS IN OUR LIFE-STYLE TO SAVE THE PLANET DURING THIS ADVENT OF DEEP CRISIS!

Dr (Sr) Mudita Menona Sodder RSCJ has been the Co-ordinator of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) for her Province in India for the past nine years, and now promotes Eco-Spirituality as her full-time ministry.

Writing Is A Correction Course To Typing

Writing is good because whatever stresses are in life can be relieved by writing. You may not have a friend in your life, but the diary serves to be your best friend at times. One may write someday just to keep note of something, and feel the need to revise those years later. According to a study writing manually with hands with a pen makes children smarter and it also improves memory. We come across kids getting glued to various types of screens during digital learning, teachers now emphasise that children must receive at least minimum handwriting training for best learning memory.

The habit of writing regularly; the confidence to write like a master; tools and techniques; to help you write with impact; the ability to look at one's own writing critically and with the resolve to improve it; and an understanding of emerging market conditions and what it takes to succeed commercially as a writer. It appears that we have no choice but to juggle the right words into place and hope that they are not in the wrong order.

The use of pen and paper gives the brain hooks to hang your memories on. Writing by hand creates much more activity in the sensorimotor parts of the brain. A lot of senses are activated by pressing the pen on paper; seeing the letter you write and hearing the sound you make while writing. These sense experiences create contact between different parts of the brain and open the brain up for learning. We both learn better and remember better. The brain produces electrical impulses when it is active. The sensors in the electrodes are very sensitive and pick up the elec-

trical activity that takes place in the brain. The results showed that the brain of both young adults and children is much more active when writing by hand than when typing on a keyboard.

Pen is mightier than sword is true. In the days of android phones, email, and text messages, letter writing can seem hopelessly outdated. But it is an art worth bringing back, and not because of some misplaced sense of nostalgia either. The writing and reception of letters will always offer an experience that modern technology cannot touch. Twitter is effective for broadcasting what you are eating for lunch, and email is fantastic for quick exchanges on the most pertinent pieces of information.



Jayanthy Subramaniam



But when it comes to sharing one's true thoughts, sincere sympathies, ardent love, and deepest gratitude, words traveling along an invisible superhighway will never suffice.

Hand-written letters exuding warmth are giving way to electronic messages slowly. Anyway, the personal touch is lost when you send an email message. The world has been brought closer, but the pleasure of writing letters with pen and paper and the eagerness to receive the letters and our expectation of their arrival are gradually diminishing. We now think of the digital world not only robbed of the excitement of letter writing.

Steady stream of ideas should flow from the mind to express the views in an impressive way. Good language also plays a pivotal role. The subject preferred should be the current topic and that carries weight in the media in the recent past and people follow that particular event in a very big way.

Writing helps you reflect on your life and changes you are trying to make in your daily life. Thoughts and feelings are nebulous happenings in our mind holes, but writing forces us to crystallize those thoughts and put them in a logical order. Writing regularly makes you better at writing.



Congress is groping in the dark

The grand old party of India [GOP] which has seen many upheavals in its long and cherished history, is going through one of its worst crisis on two fronts - the deterioration in its electoral performance across India and secondly almost two dozen very senior Congressmen have literally revolted against the leadership. They are not openly attacking the Gandhi family, yet their utterances and actions seem to suggest otherwise. Never before was the Congress leadership questioned from within either covertly or overtly. It was a cardinal sin to make an attempt. Everybody was supposed to be obedient to the leadership even if it was not elected. The system resembled a King and his subject - sort of subservience.

Like the pandemic, in the second wave, top leaders of the Congress are more forthcoming now. Kapil Sibal, a week after the Bihar elections fiasco, openly questioned the silence on the outcome of the elections. He was obviously voicing the sentiments of others in the G-23. Soon after, another veteran Ghulam Nabi Azad exploded and dwelt on the '5 Star culture' prevailing in the organization. This he felt was the cause of disconnect with the masses. He stressed on the need to be on the field. A party which dominated the scene for decades and once winning more than 400 Lok Sabha seats barely exists today. It is neither a regional party nor a national party in the real sense. It is being treated as a pariah even by smaller parties and distancing themselves from the GOP. This is humiliating but who cares.

Rahul Gandhi has made it clear that he does not want to lead the party. What on earth is stopping the party from revamping the organization and moving ahead to elect a new leader through democratic means? The sycophants are vehemently preventing this as they will lose their clout. They have been handpicked for their undiluted loyalty from time to time. Sushilkumar Shinde as Home Minister in the past, Malikarjun Kharge and Adhir Chowdhury as LOPs in Parliament are some glaring examples. By asking the likes of Kapil Sibal to join another party or form a new outfit, Adhir has obviously expressed the views of the Gandhis otherwise he would have been pulled

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up. The Gandhis thrive on sycophancy.

For the Congress to be a viable opposition party, it needs to have a strong leader with a clear vision. He should be able to think ahead of times and not groping in the dark. If a leader turns back and sees no one following him then he is simply taking a walk in the park. Such a leader is a liability for the party. See how the BJP has its road map ready for Bengal, Tamil Nadu and even the 2022 BMC elections in Maharashtra, well ahead of time. That is what leadership is all about. The top leaders of BJP are moving all the time with its President planning a four month political tour of the country. You cannot win elections by stitching last moment alliances. You need to win back the trust of the people. Just see how fast Tejashwi {RJD} has 'evolved' as a leader in Bihar and showcased himself as a CM material.

The Congress party has millions of well wishers who stand disillusioned today with the lack of effective leadership to take on the mighty BJP which is going from strength to strength. Let us accept the fact that Rahul Gandhi is not a born leader but an accidental one – simply not good enough. Occasional outbursts against Narendra Modi can hardly elevate you to be a challenger. You need to prove your mettle and satisfy the nation that you can do better than your rival. Only the sycophants think Rahul can do it in the second innings. They may force Rahul to lead the party and he may 'reluctantly agree'. So we come back to square one. We may not entirely agree with the past American President Obama but he has assessed things as an independent observer. It is time the Gandhis and Vadras put the nation ahead of the family. Congress is not a Gandhi fiefdom, anyway.

Gang War in J & K?

One gang comprising leaders from the BJP and the RSS is calling the alliance in J & K a gang [group of gangsters]. The BJP is actually rattled that the PDP, the NC and others have come together to fight the first [DDC] elections post abrogation of article 370. The BJP calls it an unholy alliance simply because they have come together and yet found nothing wrong in aligning with the Muftis for the sake of power. The BJP and PDP



by Marshall Sequeira

had absolutely nothing in common mind you while the NC and PDP surely have the interests of the Kashmiri people at heart even if it is for their own rehabilitation or relevance.

Just because they have come together you cannot term them as a gang – a derogatory term. Only the BJP and the RSS can decide who are nationalists or otherwise. The irony of it is that the RSS insulted the national flag by refusing to hoist it for over 50 years and today behave like the guardians of the nation. RSS did not even support the freedom movement against the British but today they want to project themselves as pallbearers of Indian democracy. The alliance in J & K is a legitimate one fighting the elections constitutionally. It is their right. If the BJP thinks they are anti-nationals, surely it could have moved the court and debarred them from contesting. Faced with a real challenge, BJP is creating a false narrative about the Gupkar Gang. Don't all politicians, including from the BJP, have their own faults?

Actually, BJP is mighty scared that so many parties coming together could put them on the back foot should they win these elections handsomely. For the alliance, this is definitely a referendum against the abrogation of articles 370 and 35. For them this is a make-or-break election. If they succeed in this election, it could be a trailer for the larger battle when elections to the State assembly are announced once the region gets statehood. This is precisely the reason why the BJP [and RSS] is jittery and calling the alliance a 'gang' to defame them. With all their faults, they are the real stakeholders in J & K which the BJP will not accept. If the BJP is confident of 'sweeping' the polls, why are they showing signs of nervousness? These elections could send the J & K leaders into oblivion if they lose. Conversely, if they win it will show that the Kashmiri people have not 'accepted' the abrogation.



(Contd... from last issue)

The Supreme Court has failed to respond with the necessary alacrity, objectivity and judicial wisdom to strike down the UAPA (and with it the 2019 amendments) which infringes on the fundamental rights of citizens. The amendments allow the Centre to designate individuals as terrorists and to seize their properties. They are violative of the fundamental right to reputation and dignity which is a facet of the right to life and personal liberty guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution; besides several hundreds being incarcerated under the UAPA, there are others being charged and arrested under the archaic 'sedition' law and even on 'contempt of court'



BY FR. CEDRIC PRAKASH SJ

The dreaded UAPA shot into prominence with the arrest of sixteen of the most well-known human rights defenders and intellectuals of the country, in the Bhima-Koregaon conspiracy case; some of them have been languishing in jail for more than two years now! The sixteen jailed under the UAPA are Sudha Bharadwaj, Varavara Rao, Anand Teltumbde, Arun Ferreira, Vernon Gonsalves, Sudhir Dhawale, Shoma Sen, Surendra Gadling, Mahesh Raut, Rona Wilson, Gautam Navlakha, Hanybabu Tarayil and three members of the Kabir Kala Manch (Sagar Gorkhe, Ramesh Gaichor and Jyoti Jagtap). The sixteenth was the 83-year-old

Jesuit priest Fr Stan Swamy who was arrested on the night of 8 October from his centre in Ranchi and is today lodged in the Taloja jail.

In the last few years, there are several others, who have stood up for the Constitution and for the rights of the voiceless and the exploited, who have been harassed and hounded (in direct and subtle ways); fabricated cases foisted on them; charge-sheeted and arrested with bail applications denied to them on flimsy grounds; some are beaten up and even killed. These include human rights activists and academics; rationalists and media professionals (like Siddique Kappan who was on his way to investigate the Hathras case and Patricia Mukhim of Shillong); students and professors from the JNU, AMU, Jamia and other prestigious institutions; anti-CAA protestors and reputed organisations like Amnesty India; lawyers, former Government officials (like Sanjiv Bhatt) and others from civil society. The list is endless! Their only 'crime' is that, on behalf of the sub-alterns (the marginalised and the minorities), and for the sake of truth and justice, they have dared take on a fascist regime (which pretends to be a 'democracy') and in doing so, they also have to take on a corrupt and biased system which includes the judiciary and other vested interests.

Fr Stan Swamy is a case in point: he should never have been arrested, whatever the 'reason'. The only

'crime' he seems to have committed is to have accompanied the Adivasis in their struggle for their rights of 'jal-jungle-jameen' and particularly, for a life based on justice, dignity and equity! All that he was doing is guaranteed for all citizens in the Constitution. In doing so, he has naturally disturbed the nefarious deeds of powerful vested interests. He has been implicated in the Bhima Koregaon case, in which he was never involved. Today this feeble, aged citizen of India also suffers from Parkinson's disease; it is common knowledge that, Parkinson's is a debilitating disorder of the central nervous system that can cause involuntary tremors, or muscular spasms, which makes carrying out even everyday actions, such as drinking, difficult.

On 7 November, in a written submission made before the special court, the lawyers of Swamy moved the Special Court saying in Swamy's words, "I cannot hold a glass as my hands are unsteady due to Parkinson's and seeking permission that Swamy be allowed to use the sipper glass which he was using before his imprisonment. In a response that defies human compassion and logic the National Investigation Agency (NIA) sought twenty days to respond to Fr. Stan's plea; and the Special Court in a move which contradicts the very notion of jurisprudence, has fixed the next hearing for 26 November (which ironically is 'Constitution Day'). Could the court have granted Fr Stan's plea? Of course, it could have on multiple reasons. Earlier, Fr. Stan's application for health grounds was also rejected. Then there is the case of Varavara Rao, the aged and severely ailing poet who is in jail on similar grounds, who is still being denied bail. Fortunately, the High Court has recently permitted him to be admitted into a private hospital and that his relatives can visit him.

What takes the cake however, is the case of Arnab Goswami! He is well-known as the blue-eyed boy of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party



(Contd.. from p. 12)

(BJP), the editor-in-chief of Republic Media Network and the self-proclaimed 'idol' of Indian news television; his core competency seems to be spewing hate, venom and divisiveness against the minorities and all those who critique or take a stand against the ruling regime. Towards the end of October, he was arrested in a suicide abetment case; his arrest smacked of some kind of political vendetta. In some ways, it could have been challenged on its own merits!

But what took the nation by surprise, was the way the members of the BJP including high profile ministers came to the 'rescue' of Goswami! They tweeted and came out with public statements. A delegation went to meet the President of India. Their contention was that it was an assault to 'freedom of speech and expression'; there cannot be a statement further from the truth. Actually, Goswami should have been booked ages ago, precisely for misusing and abusing freedom of speech and expression and for creating enmity among various communities in the country

However, what shocked several concerned citizens of the country was the alacrity and the extremely selective manner with which the Apex Court responded to Goswami's application and the 'justification' in the accompanying order whilst granting him interim bail in record time!

In the order Justice DY Chandrachud correctly described the responsibility of the Apex Court saying, "*forget Arnab Goswami for a moment, we are a constitutional court... If we as a constitutional court do not lay down law and protect personal liberty, then who will?*" No one can ever contradict this profound statement. The irony of it is, does this statement apply to the thousands of other citizens (like Fr Stan Swamy and the others imprisoned in the Bhima -Koregaon conspiracy case, the anti-CAA protestors and others arrested under the UAPA) whose personal liberty is

denied? Is Goswami the only citizen in India whose 'personal liberty' is denied? The statement reeks of selectivity. Further Justice Chandrachud added that, "*If we don't interfere in this case today, we will walk on a path of destruction*" and that a clear message must be sent to high courts. He was indeed right on this point too! Perhaps Goswami's arrest, both in timing and manner, was in nature of political vendetta; what however is glaringly evident is that Apex Court on several counts, has not held itself to its own high standard in several other cases of citizen vs state, ranging from habeas corpus petitions in Kashmir, to detentions made on flimsy charges of sedition to the slapping of draconian laws on journalists for no other reason than that they were doing their job.

All this has naturally drawn a wave of protest and outrage from some of the leading citizens of the country. Excellent commentaries are being penned on what is happening to the judiciary. In a hard hitting op-ed 'Their Lordships and Masters' ('Indian Express' 18 November) leading social thinker Pratap Bhanu Mehta says, "*In political science literature there is a familiar term — democratic barbarism. Democratic barbarism is often sustained by a judicial barbarism. The term "barbarism" has several components. The first is the overwhelming appearance of arbitrariness in judicial decision-making. The application of law becomes so dependent on the arbitrary whims of individual judges that the rule of law or constitutional terms no longer have any meaning. The law becomes an instrument of oppression; or, at the very least, it aids and abets oppression...The Indian Supreme Court was never perfect. It has had its dark periods before. But the signs are that it is slipping into judicial barbarism in the senses described above. This phenomenon is not just a matter of individual judges or individual cases. It is now a systematic phenomenon with deep institutional roots. To be sure, not all judges succumb to this; there are still pockets of resistance in the system. There will also be instances of grand pronouncement of principles*

on behalf of liberty, an occasional relief granted to a deserving plaintiff, to preserve a thin veneer of respectability for the institution, while its daily practice continues to abet the rot". Mehta refers to all those languishing in prison (also to Stan Swamy) without being given the 'privileges' or 'rights' accorded to Goswami; he goes on to expound with clarity and dexterity the justification of his use of *judicial barbarism*

Dr B.R. Ambedkar was perhaps prophetic when he said, "*Will history repeat itself? It is this thought, which fills me with anxiety. This anxiety is deepened by the realisation of the fact that in addition to our old enemies in the form of castes and creeds, we are going to have many political parties with diverse and opposing political creeds. Will Indians place the country above their creed or above their country? I do not know, but this much is certain that if the parties place creed above country, our independence will be put in jeopardy a second time and probably be lost forever. This eventuality we all must resolutely guard against. We must be determined to defend our independence with the last drop of our blood!*" Today we need to pay heed to his words!

We can no longer sit in our comfort zones and allow the values enshrined in our Constitution to be destroyed by these anti-Constitutional elements! "**We, the People of India**", must rise as one people and realise that it is our Constitution. Our Constitution then is our only hope! Every citizen must then be concerned about what is happening to the Constitution of India. 'Constitution Day' is an appropriate one, to pledge that one needs to do all one can to safeguard and promote the spirit and sanctity of our Constitution!

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

Two Christmas Novenas!

In India there are nearly 32 million Christians or nearly 3% of the population of 1.3 billion (2011 census); whereas in the world as per 2015, there were 2.5 billion Christian adherents out of 7.5 billion, almost one-third. The largest group in India is the Catholic Church, which faith was introduced by St. Thomas the Apostle in 52 AD. But from the 15th century European colonizers brought the Christian faith! Regions with notable Christian communities are Nagaland (90%), Mizoram (90%), Meghalaya (85%), Manipur (41%), Arunachal (35%), Goa (25%), Kerala (20%), Tamil Nadu (7%). The first translation of any Christian Scripture in any Indian language was done in 'Konkani' in 1667 by Ignazio Arcamone, an Italian Jesuit!

Significance of a Novena! I

In Central and South America, the 9-day Christmas Novena starts on 12 December, the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe! Novena is a 9-day period of private/public intentions to obtain special graces and favors. Novena is derived from the Latin = Novem, meaning nine.

Acts of the Apostles recounts: "After the Apostles returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, they together with Mary devoted themselves to the Apostles' teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayers" (1:12; 14:46).

This 9-day festival of prayer was also performed by early Christian families as a mourning period upon the death of a loved one! The Romans also remembered their departed family members by holding an annual Novena (February 13-22) called, Parentalia Novemdialia! Here are two efficacious Christmas Novenas!

Saint Andrew Christmas Novena!

It begins on the feast of St. Andrew's (November 25) and concludes on the eve of Christmas; but it could start later too. It is over 100 years old, and is traditionally prayed 15 times daily; but which may be broken up to be recited on three occasions – five in the morning, afternoon, or late evening. It is short and sweet!

Make the 'Sign of the Cross', then say the 'Our Father'; finally recite: "Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary at midnight in Bethlehem, in piercing cold! In that hour, O My God, hear our/my prayer, and grant our/my desires (mention your intentions) through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His Blessed Mother! Amen!" End with the 'Gloria', and Sign of the Cross!

Usual Christmas Novena!

Begin with the Sign of the Cross; recite the 'Our Father'; and then start each day with the words: "O Good Lord Infant Jesus" – (OGLIJ):

"OGLIJ! You are the Incarnate Word of God! Your glory is incomparable! You came to us, stripping Yourself of Your Godhead, as a humble Child in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary! Your love for us/me is unsurpassed, and brings us/me to our/my knees in prayer and worship. Your Incarnation changed the world forever! We/I pray for these intentions (state your intentions here: See Day 1-9 below). May Your Holy Will be done in our/my life! We/I pray that the work of Your splendid salvation at Your first coming, begin to reach fulfillment in us/me! Amen!" Close with the 'Gloria' and the Sign of the Cross!

Day-1: "Grant us/me 'utter humility'! You are a model of perfect humility in Your Birth, Life Death and Resurrection! We/I pray through the 'continuous modesty' of the Blessed Vir-

gin Mary (BVM) for 'total humility' this Christmas!"

Day-2: "Fill us/me with 'abundant joy'! The birth of any child is a cause for joy; right from conception to natural death. We/I pray in union with the BVM for a 'lavish joy' this Christmas!"

Day-3: "Bestow on us/me the gift of 'complete faith'! We/I pray for this 'deep faith' in You through the 'anxious optimism' of the BVM this Christmas!"

Day-4: "Bring us/me this prospect of 'saving hope'! We/I pray for this 'redeeming hope' in You through the expectation of the BVM this Christmas!"

Day-5: "Inspire in us/me 'selfless love'! You humbled Yourself to become one of us in all things except sin. We/I pray for this 'self-sacrificing love' through the love of the BVM this Christmas!"

Day-6: "Encourage in us/me 'supreme peace'! You are the Prince of Peace O Jesus! We/I pray for this 'total peace' through the intervention of the BVM this Christmas!"

Day-7: "Enable us/me to 'forgive others'! O Jesus You forgave your enemies even from Your Cross! May Your 'Divine Mercy' which acted first through the BVM, enclose us/me this Christmas!"

Day-8: "Instill in us/me to be 'repulsed by sin'! You O Lord are Holy, but we are not. May we/I be 'repelled by sin' through the mediation of the Immaculate BVM this Christmas!"

Day-9: "Envelop us/me with Your 'Eternal Life'! You are the 'Bread of Life' - The Eucharist O Jesus! May we/I be sustained by Your 'everlasting life' through the intercession of the BVM this Christmas!"

—Dr. Trevor Colaso,
Memphis TN. USA.

Delhi Archdiocese gets recognition for ‘Star-shaped Church’

New Delhi: The Archdiocese of Delhi is being awarded for the “One and Only Star-Shaped Church” in the World by the Best of India Records.

The award was received by Archbishop Anil JT Couto of Delhi at the Archbishop House, on November 25.

The Morning Star Church opened to the public on October 10 in Najafgarh in the southwest district of Delhi.

It is a unique star-shaped church named ‘Morning Star’ as part of its eco-spirituality centre. The marvelously designed pentagon structure looks like a star from all five sides of the pentagon and from the top. It stands 52-feet tall with a 14-foot star-cross on it, said Fr. Stanley Kozhichira.

He also received an award for the concept of the church.

The design and concept are by Limca Record Holder Fr. Kozhichira and the architectural design by Ranjith John and Joel John.

Father Kozhichira had received Limca Book of Records for a play “Ars Ke Krantikari” he wrote and directed in 2012.

The concept was executed by Abraham Mathew of Ark Infratech and Joseph and James of JJ Infratech.

Best of India Records (BIR), published by IN-Cube Media, is a record book based in Delhi. It promotes excellence in every field by celebrating the unique and outstanding achievements of India and Indians.

BIR brings to the limelight the extraordinary and unique achievements of people, stories of their persever-



ance and passion to win.

It showcases the best of India in business, government, transport, communication, education, science, nature, agriculture, entertainment, arts, and sports.

—MattersIndia

“Reimagine Our Children’s Future”: 2-Hour Telethon!

SNDTV and UNICEF India were the broadcast implementation partners for a 2-Hour Telethon: “Reimagine Our Children’s Future”— To raise donations from businesses and individuals. It was announced on 19 November 2020; and the outline of the scheme was as follows:

To help protect our most vulnerable children affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Without immediate funding and key lifesaving interventions like healthcare, nutrition, and immunization, an additional 1,600 children could die in India daily over the next six months. With lockdowns being relaxed, things could improve, but would take a long time to normalize – during which time, the lives, education and the future of our children could be vastly impacted!

UNICEF India’s goal is to enable every child born to have the best start in life; in order to thrive and to develop his/her full potential. To achieve this, they use technical expertise with partners to tackle the root of several deeply entrenched structural challenges!

UNICEF India have spent over 70 years working to improve the lives of children and their families, through basic education! With some 450 staff members working in 17 States, they cover 90 percent of India’s child population! They also strive to sustain and to expand, clean water supply and sanitation. They thus constitute the largest field presence among UN Agencies!

Their programs thus plan to ‘respond, recover, respect and reimagine’ the true worth and talent of girls and boys. And if I may add: “For every child is made in the image of God” (cf. Genesis 1:27).

—Dr. Hazel Colaso,
Memphis, TN. USA

Wedding invitation

I was invited to a wedding, when I reached the hotel I found two doors written

1. Bride's guests
2. Groom's guests

I entered the one written Groom guests and found two more doors

1. Ladies
2. Men

I went through the one for men only to find two more doors

1. Guest with gift
2. Guest without gift

I went through the one written 'Guests without Gifts' and found myself outside the hotel through the back door. At the door was written "So in this time of hard economy you want to just come, eat and drink without any gift, no way". Bye!."

Job Interview

Interviewer: What is your name?

Candidate: M.P., sir.

Interviewer: In full please!

Candidate: Manoj Pandey.

Interviewer: And your father's name?

Candidate: M.P., sir.

Interviewer: What does that mean?

Candidate: Madan Pandey.

Interviewer: And your native place?

Candidate: M.P., sir.

Interviewer: What's that?

Candidate: Madhya Pradesh.

Interviewer: Ok. What are your qualifications?

Candidate: M.P.

Interviewer: (angrily) What is that?

Candidate: Matric Pass.

Interviewer: So why do you need a job?

Candidate: It is because of M.P., sir.

Interviewer: Meaning?

Candidate: Money Problem.

Interviewer: Would you explain yourself and stop wasting my time?

What's your personality like?

Candidate: M.P., sir.



Interviewer: What is that?

Candidate: Marvellous Personality.

Interviewer: Oh I see! I will get back to you.

Candidate: Sir, how was my M.P.?

Interviewer: And what's that again?

Candidate: My Performance.

Interviewer: I think you have M.P.

Candidate: Meaning?

Interviewer: Mental Problem.

— Sent by: Jubel D'Cruz,
Dombivili, Mumbai

Best Slogans used in Mumbai.

1. *Sign on a railway station at Dardar*:

Aana free, jaana free, pakde gaye to khaana free.

2. *Sign on a famous beauty parlor in Bandra* :

Don't whistle at the girl going out from here.

She may be your grandmother.

3. *Sign on a bulletin board at Churchgate*:

Success is relative, More the success, More the relatives.

4. *Sign at a barber's saloon in Juhu, Mumbai*:

We need your heads to run our business.

5. *A traffic slogan at Santacruz*:

Don't let your kids drive if they are not old enough or else they will never be old.

6. *THE BEST ONE BY INDIAN ARMED FORCES at Haji Ali Worli*:
It's God's responsibility to forgive the

terrorist organizations.

It's our responsibility to arrange the meeting between them & God.

Doctor: I do not understand the reason for your illness. It may be due to too much of intake of alcohol.

Patient: Never mind, doctor. I will come again for a check-up when you are normal.

— Sent by: Jubel D'Cruz

Did you hear about the race between the lettuce and the tomato?

The lettuce was "ahead" but the tomato was trying to "catch up."

What does the ocean do when it sees its friends?

Waves!

Why is Cinderella bad at soccer?

Because she runs away from the ball.

Why did the boy throw a clock out the window?

To see time fly.

A school student with 95% mark demands for equal education and job opportunity.



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Ingredients:

- 1 cup long grain basmati rice
- 2 cups water + extra for soaking
- 1 tbsp ghee
- 3 bay leaves
- 1-inch piece cinnamon stick
- 5 cloves
- 1 tbsp cumin seeds
- 2 green chillies, chopped finely
- 1 tsp salt
- 3 tbsp coriander chopped for topping

Method:

Wash the rice a few times, and then soak it in enough water so that it is completely soaked and has an inch of extra water on top. Soak the rice for at least 20 minutes.

When you are ready to cook, drain all the water from the rice and set the rice aside.

Heat ghee in a pot and add the whole spices and cumin seeds to it.

Once the cumin seeds start spluttering, add the chopped green chillies and drained rice to it. Saute the rice in the pan for two minutes on medium flame. This helps add more flavour to the rice.

Add two cups water and salt to the rice and mix well. Bring the rice to a quick boil, and then reduce the heat to a simmer. Cover and cook for approximately five to six minutes till all the water has evaporated and the rice is cooked through. Top with chopped coriander leaves and serve hot.



Amit Rane,
Pune

We all love eating Sorpotel

originally used offal and blood. In the Indian version, we use pork liver, heart and blood (depending on the family's inclination), and add pork with

Sorpotel is a dish made of pork that is tangy and spicy at the same time. It is a dish of Portuguese origin, now cooked by the East Indians of 'Aapli Mobai' and the Goans of Goa.

The sorpotel the Goans and the East Indians prepare is generally made using pork, but sometimes it also includes beef, mutton and chicken.

Sorpotel is not an everyday dish. Though originally intended to be made solely for Christmas and for weddings, it often appears at parties and other festivals too. It is very popular among Catholic households of both Goa and Mumbai, as well as food lovers who have had this dish at least once. Sorpotel is often made in huge quantities for festivals, weddings and birthday parties. Thus, the preparation for the dish begins several days in advance. This is a boon in disguise, as the sorpotel gets better as it grows older. The meat is marinated in vinegar and red chillies and allowed to fuse in their flavours for a considerable amount of time. Sorpotel is served with sannas, fugiyas, hand breads and chitiaps. It is also eaten with rice.

Sorpotel appears in different forms.

Some people like it with more vinegar,



others like it with big chunks of meat, while yet others insist that the pork has to be cut into tiny cubes. More than for any other reason, sorpotel appeals to me because of the East Indian heritage of my mother, Irene.



by Jubel D'Cruz

.My grandmother Mary Patel, inherited her recipe from her East Indian mother-in-law and eventually became famous for it among her social circle. She in turn, handed over the recipe to her daughters, including my mother. The dish has passed through numerous kitchens, and still bears the fragrance of lost times.

Sorpotel is a fiery, tangy dish that

lots of fat to it.

Vinegar is yet another important component. And of course, red chillies are used generously. But the resulting dish isn't mind-numbingly hot. It's a wonderful mix of tangy and spicy that actually tastes even better after a few days (The more you preserve it, the tastier it becomes). Some Goans also add a splash of feni to it in order to make it more tastier.

I love the sorpotel we East Indians make. My wife Shirley and my daughter Sweta have also learnt making sorpotel.

"Sorpotel Sorpotel Sorpotel, we all love eating sorpotel...". These are the words from the song titled 'Sorpotel' composed by my daughter Sweta which she recently sang for my niece's First Holy Communion ceremony on stage.

Yes, we all love eating sorpotel.
"Oh, how I love Sorpotel,
Oh, how I love Sorpotel,
Oh, how I love Sorpotel,
Because Sorpotel first loved me.
To me Sorpotel is wonderful,
To me Sorpotel is wonderful,
To me Sorpotel is wonderful,
Because Sorpotel first loved me."
(When I got a taste of it).



Terror Trail At Taj

Tracking Down Taj Attack- 26/11/2008



Tragedy struck on fateful 26/11/2008 night at various places in Mumbai city and the gunshots and terror attack continued till 27/11/2008 morning and it is history now. Lucky ones escaped Kasab and Company attack on that terror strike day. Even though it all started from VT Station and Camey Hospital and took to Taj Hotel and other places on the way. The audacious attack was the worst the country had witnessed in a long time. For the first time, extremists belonging to a Pakistan-based terror outfit engaged in active combat on Indian soil for more than 60 hours after navigating entry through the sea route using modern electronic gadgets. It was indeed a nightmarish experience. We witnessed one of the J & K type terror attacks and the Taj Hotel tragedy victims were made to die in the fear of a fiercely fought attack.



C.K. Subramaniam

The counter attack by the NSG commandos in response to the terror firing saw the terrorists hurled hand grenades and blew up the hotel rooms. We Mumbaikars pay homage to martyrs, who sacrificed their lives for the sake of the country and also to the innocent victims killed in the day long attacks. The terrorists broke open the hotel rooms in the Taj Hotel and killed the inmates mercilessly. The wait of the family members outside Taj Hotel on a November night waiting for the loved ones to return safe and sound proved futile in the end in many cases. Terror has sneaked up on us not once, like our US counterpart, but thrice 1992 riots, 2006 blasts and 2008 attacks; all caught Mumbai unawares. In short, for Mumbai to truly become India's commercial hub, the quality of life, quality of infrastructure, quality of se-

curity and attitude all needs to be improved vastly.

The writing is on the wall. We have seen terror strike in the Indian sub-continent and it has become universal and a permanent solution to the terrorism is the need of the hour. The Mumbai attack on 26/11 was a rejoinder for the world to be cautious from terror strikes. The terror strikes may lead to a more focused cooperation between India and the US to combat International terrorism.

In an organised attack on 26/11 saw the world in a state of stunned disbelief at the most audacious act of terrorism ever committed. In a devilishly brilliant plan designed for impact Ajmal Kasab was rooted through the sea to attack VT station and surrounding busy areas including the hospital to make heavy casualties on the ground. The sea route via Gateway of India helped to attack Taj Hotel late in the evening to create a stir and people ran out for cover in the two attacks and a similar one in the nearby buildings as well.

As a Navi Mumbaikar, I felt the heat of terror as we saw late Rajiv Saraswat as the victim of the Mumbai terror attack and we all bid a tearful farewell from the Millennium Towers, Sector 9 Sanpada and it was a very sad awakening for the residents here in a big housing complex. Saraswat was on an official visit at the Taj Hotel as he was representing HPCL and he was a member of the parliamentary committee, which held a conference at Taj Hotel room no 471. On November 26th, Saraswat was alone in the room after the meeting got over at around

9 PM, when the terrorists attacked the hotel at around 9.45 PM and took the inmates hostage. He was eager to come out of the room and passed on the message to his colleagues. At midnight, there were terrorists at his door, who fired indiscriminately towards him. He suffered bullet injuries on his hands but somehow managed to lock the door from inside. When the counter attack became fierce NSG Commandos in response to the terrorists firing, the terrorists hurled hand grenades and blew up the room in which Saraswat was staying. He sustained burns and succumbed to the burn injuries. The untimely death of Rajiv Saraswat like many other innocent victims of the mindless massacre is being deeply mourned by the entire country.

Although we have lived with terrorism for the past decade, the attacks are frightening that we know the scale of terror Pakistan terror outfits is capable of unleashing. The attacks has brought India with sledgehammer force about the danger of terrorism poses to our country in general and to the world in particular. India has stopped and realised the impending danger. It has been a tragic and rude awakening. The Indian response to terror strikes will dictate how the world tackle terrorism in the coming days. Revisiting the night of the Mumbai terror attack is a horrible history which saw coordinated shooting and bombing attacks in Mumbai at five major locations, killing 166 people and injuring over 300 people.

Royal Christian Family MATRIMONIALS - GROOMS

7113. POONA : Tamilian Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in December 1982), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 65 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working in Logistic Co. in **DUBAI**. Contact email : shantasam1955@gmail.com

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

7172. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in August 1992) Ht. 6' 1", Wt. 90 kgs, Fair, Edn. Graduate, Diploma in Social Communications in Sophia and then done a Fellowship with Piramal House of Leadership. Working with an NGO - sports foundation. Contact email : florencemendonca@rediffmail.com

7017. MUMBAI : Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in March 1981), Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 67 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBA working as a Administrator. Contact email : matheanil@gmail.com

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

7008. USA : Separated Roman Catholic, (Born in October 1983), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 62 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MD, MS, working as a Senior Engineer. Contact email : jesumary58@yahoo.com

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

Contact email : franky54@rediffmail.com

7007. AUSTRALIA : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in September 1977), Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 72 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., MBA in Aviation. working as a Froud Analist Banking in Australia. Contact email : gerald-white@hotmail.com

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

7005. DUBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in May 1986), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 50 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. BMS /CFA, working as a Head Treasury in Dubai. Contact email : matri3119@gmail.com

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

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

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

6996. MUMBAI : Tamilian Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in September

1990), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 75 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. BMS., M.Com., MBA in Marketing, working for L & T Infotech. Contact email : rodnidavid@gmail.com

7024. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in April 1980), Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. SSC / Diploma in Electricals, Having own Business. Contact email : jeny22_m@yahoo.co.in

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

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

7150. POONA : East Indian RC Divorcee, (Born in November 1960) Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 69 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Graduate Engineer from CWIT University of Pune, working as an Engineer. Contact email : joeskf@gmail.com

6994. AUSTRALIA : Mangalorean Roman Catholic divorcee, (Born in April 1959), Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 80 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Dip. ITI Course, working as a Technician. Contact email : ninearies21@gmail.com

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7178. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in November 1988), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 65 kgs, good looking, Fair Complexion, Edn. Bachelor's in Mass Media, working as a Content Writer. Contact email : jcdc0906@gmail.com

7177. PUNE : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in September 1991), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 60 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. Masters in Computer Applications. working for a Software MNC in Pune as a Tech Lead. Contact email : melitta88@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

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. Contact email : prislobo10@gmail.com

7143. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in April 1987), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 75 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.A. (Literature) working as a Sales & Marketing Manager. Contact email : irisedsouza@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

7142. MUMBAI : Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1981), Ht. 5'3", Wt. 62 kgs, Very Fair Complexion, Edn. MBA (HR) working as a HR Associate. Contact email : sunrays1227@gmail.com

7140. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in November 1991), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 63 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Graduation (BBI), working for a Private Bank as a Deputy Manager. Contact email : glendamisquith9@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

7138. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in

December 1984), Ht. 4' 11", Wt. 56 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A., working as an Executive Assistant (Secretary). Contact email : labinajena@gmail.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

7105. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in November 1991), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 62 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Sc., Microbiology, (Pursuing Ph.D.) Assistant Professor. Contact email : 1991divine@gmail.com

7139. MUMBAI : Maharashtrian Protestant Spinster, (Born in May 1993), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 47 kgs, Fair Complexion, good looking, Edn. B.Com., working as a Sr. Advisor in MNC. Contact email : shirley.jadhav@gmail.com

7109. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in June 1986), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 58 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBA, working as a Associate Consulant. Contact email : helendsz27@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

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Is the Indian Economy an Act Of God? With This Manuvaadi-Rambharose-Daivaadhi Spirituality We Shall Never be Able To Bring The Kingdom Of God In Our Midst. Call it Ram-rajya or whatever. How Long Shall We Invite Him 'Come, Lord Jesus'?

To Proclaim Liberty To The Captives



We are beginning the Advent season; He is coming to put things in order. Precisely at the first coming of his in Jerusalem looking at the situation, He declared as his manifesto: (Lk 4.16-19) “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the broken-hearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.”



Fr. Michael G. Vasai

That task is not yet fulfilled even after two thousand and more years after. Corona has spoilt a lot more. We cannot simply pray and hope that all will be done on 25th December miraculously. Millions of ‘captives’ in India are awaiting their liberation. The *adivasis* in Jharkhand are stripped of the means of their living: land, water and minerals. National and international industrialists are up-

rooting them and the government is spreading red carpet for the exploiters. Hence the *adivasis* react.

Lately the *adivasis* called *Pardhi* have come into focus. Award-winning photojournalist Sudharak Olwe travelled in Maharashtra to document the life and struggles of the *Pardhis*. The *Pardhi* tribe, literally meaning ‘hunters’, claim their roots to the hinterlands of the central Indian jungles. They were once considered the children of the forests, but their identity took a beating when they, along with



around 150 other tribes, were branded as a 'criminal tribe' by the British colonial government in 1871 for rebelling against the British Raj. For eighty years thereafter, they were booked under the Criminal Tribes Act and were segregated and forced to live in camps outside every village limits. They face extreme poverty, displacement and discrimination. The Act was finally repealed in 1952, and they were denotified. Hence while the rest of India celebrates its independence on August 15, these denotified tribes consider August 31 as their day of independence. But the denotification has meant little for these communities. The 'criminal' tag refuses to go away, making their integration in the society quite precarious. The moment someone announces oneself as Pardhi, he is suspected to be a robber. To erase that stigma and to get oneself educated and established in society with a good job or career is an awful task to accomplish! There are millions of such tribal people in Maharashtra and NGOs are working hard *To proclaim liberty to the captives.*

HOW LONG TO CHANT 'COME LORD, JESUS?'

In Marathi there is proverb: असेल माझा हरी तर देईल खाटल्यावरी (*asel maa-jhaa hari tar deil khaatlyaavari*)! More activism is required. When activists unite the adivasis and show them legal ways to assert themselves, adivasis are arrested and put into prison as Naxals! When activists like Fr. Stan Svami fight for their rescue, they are considered anti nationals and dragged at the age 83 into jail at Taloja as a Maoist! In the prison he asked for a straw for drinking water since he is a Parkinson patient; he was told to wait for 20 days till the court permits! At the same time Republican TV channel boss Mr. Arnab Goswami was

in jail; he asked for bail and The Supreme Court worked overnight and released him the next morning!

Is there justice for common man even in the Supreme Court? Judiciary is expected to be totally impartial. Some of the recent judgments on matters of national importance make every thinking and patriotic citizen to hang one's head down in shame. Fr. Cedric Prakash announces, "*Lady Justice Cries.*" Is every citizen assured of at least his just *roti-kapadaa-makaan*? Is this the kingdom of God really? Kingdom based on the values of truth, justice and love? Far from it! More activists like Yogendra Yadav, Ad. Prashant Bhushan, Arvind Kejriwal, Justice Chandrachud, Mr. Arun Ferreira and Vernon Gonsalves are required. The CBI should publish declarations often against unjust acts even by governments!

It is high time we try establishing the kingdom of God ourselves! It is possible; God himself has given us the power to achieve it. Once John the Baptist sent his disciples to Jesus to ask him, "Are you the one to come or we still have to wait for one?" (Mt. 11.3) And Jesus answered, "See what's happening before you! The dumb speak, the lame walk..." And then he said, "The kingdom of God is among you" (Lk 17.21). Whenever Jesus healed the sick, he always told them, "Your faith has healed." Our faith that works! He said to the disciple, "If

you believe, you will do greater wonders than me!" Jesus has given us the power to work wonders to bring about the kingdom of God within us. "Seek first the kingdom of God and all these things will be added to you" (Mt 6.33).

NOT SELF SUFFICIENCY BUT RELIANCE ON GOD

It is not revolt against God. (2 Corinthians 3:5) "*Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God.*" Self reliance is the result of trust in God. (Jeremiah 17:7-8) "*Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit.*" He makes us shout courageously (Philippians 4:13) "*I can do all things through him who strengthens me.*" (Romans 8:37) "*No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.*"

This is an adult faith; different from the childish faith. Now man has come of age. He has taken upon himself his own responsibility. He does not run to God in every need. And God is not sad that man does not come to him in every need; in fact he is proud that his child has come of age and is managing his life on his own, of course with

the strength and possibilities put in him! Indian economy is not an act of God, Corona is not sent by God. All is man's making and man has to manage it. Let us all put our efforts together and bring God's Kingdom sooner than later!

HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

Prayer to St. Expedite for solving a financial crisis



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(State Your Petition) _____
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Light and Guide in this situation so that I may live with peace, love, prosperity and abundance and in the Praise of God.

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—A Devotee

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Premium Rich Plum Cakes-Small Bar (15 Slices Each)
Coconut Bhaat Cake
EGGLESS CAKES. (350g Bars)
Vanilla-n-Cashewnut,
Chocolate
Plum Cake
Chocolate-n-Walnuts
Plum Cake- Round -500g



HOME-MADE KUSWAR
is prepared with fine
quality ingredients,
edible oil and in a clean
hygienic FSSAI Rules
compliant work-place.

**HOME-MADE
KUSWAR**
can be packed in
customized
attractive Gift
Wrapping for
corporates etc.

PRE-BOOK
your **KUSWAR**
by 8 Dec. 2020, and
have it home-delivered
between 18-22
December 2020.

Book on Phone - WhatsApp - Email

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