

THE SECULAR CITIZEN

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Will the New Year 2021 Be Better?

—Don Aguiar.

An eventful year has come to an end – and it is time to look forward to the New Year 2021. Having seen so many challenges in 2020, we wish you, serenity and optimism for the New Year. Stay healthy, stay in touch with your loved ones and allow yourself lots of hope & anticipation, so that you have many opportunities to catch-up in 2021.

Will 2021 be better? I don't know, if I knew when stuff hit bottom, I would be making a killing at the stock market. I can only hope that 2021 will be better, in which case there will be lot of good things to look forward to, for there is nothing more exhilarating than a rebound up. And what if it gets worse? Well 2020 would have given you good practice.

2020 was a bleak year for individual freedom. Governments across the world fought the Covid-19 pandemic through liberty-quashing lockdowns. As the year drew to a close, night curfew was back in Maharashtra and uncertainty persist over the spread of coronavirus. There is no uncertainty however on the fact that overwhelming state power is now intruding into and controlling our lives and has reigned supreme in many ways.

Use of state power can also be seen in the way farm bills of 2020 have been passed. Whatever the merit of the bills, the manner in which they were pushed through in the pandemic has created a trust deficit. A top down centralising approach tends to rob the reforms agenda of grassroots connect and create fears of even greater – not lesser - state control.

Lakhs of citizens from December 2020 are braving the winter chill

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Message of Pope Francis to Christian Young People

by Joseph M. Dias, S.J.

With great affection, Pope Francis, addresses his Apostolic Exhortation, *Christus Vivit* (Christ is Alive) of 25th March 2019, to all Christian young people. He says that he intends to remind them of certain convictions born of our faith, and at the same time to encourage them to grow in holiness and commitment to their personal vocation. The whole Church ought to become aware of the problems faced by our youth due to the prevailing confusion brought about by conflicting ideas, ideologies and values in today's world, largely under the influence of the mesmerizing mass media. In such a situation, the young need reliable guidance to find their way ahead and lead a meaningful life. The best compass they can access to navigate their journey through the perplexing problems and challenges they face, are the life and teachings of the God-Man, Jesus Christ, who continues to dwell amongst us and speak to us through the teachings of the Catholic Church. Youth are naturally motivated best by inspiring role-models. The role-model, par excellence, which the Church must always present to the world, in season and out of season, according to Pope Francis, is "Jesus Christ, the companion and friend of youth, whom it is always possible to encounter in the Church."

Millions of young people today are living in war-torn regions -- their lives, hopes and aspirations completely shattered by bombings, killings and terror on all sides. Who will give them hope and courage to rebuild their lives and their lands? Due to the ravages of armed conflicts, natural disasters, grinding poverty, discrimination (on the basis of race, colour, caste, sex, religion, culture), and injustice, millions are uprooted and forced to flee from their native lands and risk facing all kinds of dangers: rejection, uncertainty, and even death around every



corner. Children are separated from their parents, sold into slavery, suffer untold hardships and are barely able to survive. The plight of young girls and women, in such circumstances, is most pathetic. What future do they have? Who will liberate these youngsters from despair and helplessness, when they are bought and sold as sex-slaves and even mutilated for their body-parts and vital organs in our cruel and heartless world? Many children are snatched away from their families and compelled to wield deadly weapons to fight other people's wars, not knowing why they are fighting and risking their own innocent lives.

Those who live in the few advanced nations too are constantly being dragged into harmful and destructive ideologies, unleashed by powerful forces which manipulate the mass media for their own ends. Crass materialism is enslaving vast numbers of youth in the affluent countries, where a consumer society treats human beings as mere commodities -- valued only for what they can produce -- and there is no place for the sick, the old, the handicapped and the unwanted, who cannot compete with the rest of society. The media revolution is making millions of young people slaves of pornography, wasteful messaging, and addiction to cell phones and computers. What sort of a world are we preparing for the next generation? Can we reverse this trend and build a more humane society, in which people

have time for others, care for each other and can find a worthwhile ideal which will help them lead a happy, meaningful life, where every individual is respected and valued for what he or she is -- a child of God endowed with respect, dignity and a unique place in the plan of God?

In his encyclical letter, Pope Francis presents our youth with some outstanding examples of young men and women, who attained great heights of sanctity and lived satisfying and inspiring lives, because they encountered Jesus Christ in their childhood years and surrendered totally to Him. Among these, we find well-known names like, Joan of Arc, Dominic Savio, Francis of Assisi, Therese of the Child Jesus, Kateri Tekakwitha (a young native of North America), and a few others from a variety of backgrounds in different parts of the world. We could add here, the name of Blessed Carlo Acutis, a teenager of our time, who was born in 1991 and passed away in 2006, at the tender age of 15 years. He was loved and admired by all those around him, a talented musician, and recognized by experts as a wizard with computers. From the day of his First Holy Communion, he never missed going to Holy Mass and receiving the Lord daily, praying long hours before the Blessed Sacrament and reciting the Rosary every day. Through this intimacy with the Lord Jesus, he realized that, "Our goal must be the infinite and not the finite. The Infinity is our homeland. We are always expected in Heaven...the Eucharist is my highway to Heaven." Having faced the same problems that our youngsters face today, in all their diverse forms, these youthful heroes and heroines of the Church can be a powerful source of inspiration to the young from every background and circumstance in our world of today.

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to protest at Delhi's Singhu border. Citizens are in uproar. 2020 saw the apogee of state power. This trend needs to be reversed in 2021: a robust democracy is about We the people, not us the bloated state.

2020 had been a great leveller. Almost each of us were brought down to our knees in prayers. We believe now that, a supernatural force exists which runs the world. All those intangible things, which we took for granted, had become very valuable and all material things that we were proud to possess had suddenly lost its Sheen, no matter the price we paid, or will pay for it. With all the popular festivals being celebrated on an extremely subdued note, there has been an amazing parity in the way we all look at life. It has shown that all the things that shine are virtually a flash in the pan and the things that we value are things that we can actually beget on ourselves. Wealth has probably taken a backseat and we value Health and Peace as Prosperity.

For many - and perhaps even yourself - Christmas 2020 beckoned a great amount of INTANGIBLE EQUALITY that most of us have been uncon-

sciously craving for which had been so different from so many before. Ongoing COVID-19 restrictions in some parts of the world had prevented family gatherings. The way in which we are able to celebrate Christmas looked different but the Saviour of the world whom we celebrate each year remains the same no matter what.

The Supposed BIRTH CELEBRATION of The SUPREME, no matter the FAITH WE FOLLOW, with typical FLASHES FOR SO LONG, HAS NOW CHANGED TO MODERATION. WE HAVE ALL LEARNED in 2020 TO LIVE IN LIMITS, SHARE TO THE OPTIMUM, BECOME MORE ACCOMMODATING, TOLERANT AND GENEROUS and with that have moved on to a new year 2021, as we continue to fight for family, faith, life and liberty.

Rules had being rewritten in 2020 and we learnt that many things once undertaken outside the home can be done equally well inside it. Shopping, education, healthcare, work. Though this year has been hard, we end it with a renewed sense of possibility. Buried in the stress and strain of Covid-19 are opportunities for renewal. This moment is akin to walking on a bridge, but it is a special bridge, because we

are not simply waiting to see what is on the other side. Instead we have a hand in building our destination -To a new beginning in 2021.

When you look back on this past year, don't think of the pain you felt. Think of the strength you gained, and appreciate how far you have come. You've been through a lot, but you've grown a lot too. Give yourself credit for your resilience, and step forward into the New Year 2021 with grace.

Amid 2021's daunting challenges and visible signs of socioeconomic distress, wish we in sharply polarised India could share Angela Merkel's optimistic view of politics. "So one has to try to find compromises with mutual respect, but also with a clear opinion. That's politics - always looking to find a common way forward."

I am filled with gratitude for all that did not go wrong. And for the learnings gleaned from unpleasant experiences. I am also full of compassion and empathy for those who suffered and are still suffering. Let's hope that 2021 will unveil a new and promising chapter in our lives and enable us to deal ably with challenges.

Resilience Should Be The New Normal

2021 begins the new decade. Through the power of the Holy Spirit the keyword for the next ten years should be “Resilience”. The spirit of humanity can overcome the catastrophe, the horrible dilemma of fear and the feeling of hopelessness as it compounds the plight of everyman. Your trust in the Holy Spirit will carry you through this exigency.

It is only in Christ that we can enter the newness of life with resilience, to recover from the phobia which truly cripples the faithful, the human being who awaits the gifts to come.



BY MELVYN BROWN

Bram Stoker, author of Dracula, said: “It is really wonderful how much resilience there is in human nature, let any outstanding cause, no matter what, be removed in any way, even by death, and we fly back to first principles of hope and enjoyment.”

Can resilience be developed in any way? It can in three basic mantras, Challenge, Commitment and Control. Resilience has many other paths for development. The first would be to control tension and stress by taking care to exercise. You must be strong physically, emotionally and in confrontations. It then becomes easy to meet with challenges. The human strength to condition and control a problem is in your hands.

Resilience is to recover faster in the hour of a tough situation. The English author, Angela Duckworth, wrote, “Enthusiasm is common. Endurance is rare.” There is much to gain in that sentence when resilience is put to the test. Endurance, I believe, comes from the spirit of resilience, the inner power to overcome. A failure is never the end, only the beginning to a person empowered by resilience, the ability to

rise above lost ground.

When saint Paul was arrested by the Romans for spreading the Word of God, he was imprisoned in a dungeon. Paul used the situation to write gospel letters found in the New Testament, considered by the Catholic Church as Jewels in the arena of Scripture. After denying having known Christ, saint Peter went on to become the First Pope, the Vicar of Christ on earth.

There are noticeably six measures of Resilience. The **FIRST is to begin with an honest trust and belief in the act of being able to cope with a problem.**

The SECOND would be to have the courage to stay close and connected to forms of encouragement and support.

The THIRD measure is to feel at ease when you speak about your troubles and success.

The FOURTH is to be charitable and to be of assistance to others.

The FIFTH measure should be to activate and motivate your emotions.

The SIXTH skill would be to cultivate an impression of survivorship.

Robert Jordan in his book, The Fires of Heaven, said: “The oak fought the wind and was broken, the willow bent when it must and survived.” From those lines we understand that humanity, by a quick reaction of intelligent thought may override any storm easily.

Pope Francis recently stated, that men and women could make a difference in ordinary life. His call to for-

give and bear witness is only possible when we cultivate resilience. “To bear witness to Jesus right where we live and everywhere,” said the pontiff, is possible.

“Resilience is accepting your new reality, even if it’s less good than the one you had before. You can fight it, you can do nothing but scream about what you’ve lost, or you can accept that and try to put together something that’s good.” –Elizabeth Edwards. Resilience can help you to return good for evil, or give love for hatred.

The stones of hatred used in places where demands are made in a rage of violence by hurling stones, does no one any good. Shower the enemy with flowers in return. It will make the opposition turn back from throwing stones. You can win if you have cultivated resilience, the art to recover quickly from a bad time.

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Revisit Gospel

The season of Advent is upon us. It will lead upto the Christmas season which ends on January 6. As Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, one would do well to revisit the four parts of the Holy Bible, known as the Gospels. The Gospel of St. Luke tells us the most about Jesus' birth, and the Gospel of St. Matthew tells us another part of the story. The Gospel of St. John tells us that Jesus Christ came from God to bring His Word or message to all. The Gospel according to St. Mark describes Jesus' adult life, introducing it with the words, "The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God....". Mark tells of John the Baptist who predicts the coming of a man more powerful than himself. As Boney M. sang, "And man will live for evermore because of Christmas day" (meaning, Christ's birth).

Advent gives us a vision of our lives as Christians and shows us the possibilities of life.

—*Jubel D'Cruz,
Dombivili, Mumbai*

Banking scenario grim

Covid-19 has not only taken a toll of millions of lives in the country, but also eaten into the vitals of the country's economy, causing a nationwide slowdown in economic activity, rendering lakhs of people jobless and threatening the livelihood of several others. Millions as a result are facing a bleak and uncertain future, especially the senior citizens who now have to manage on the meagre interest rates on their Fixed

Deposits in private and public sector banks, which are now down to rock bottom level. To make matters worse, a few private and Co-operative banks are placed under RBI moratorium on all banking transactions, including withdrawals by depositors. The situation is so bad that depositors who are facing hardships in their day to day living because of financial constraints, are also unable to withdraw from their Fixed deposits in times of emergencies. A few private and Co-operative banks are also fighting for survival and now luring their clients by offering attractive fixed deposit interest rates to replenish their depleted reserves. The bait is too difficult to resist, but the fear of RBI sanctions and overnight closure of private and Co-operative banks continues to loom large over depositors, who now have become wiser and prefer to play safe by investing in public sector banks even at rock bottom interest rates or keep their money safely at home. The entire banking system in the country has become so unsafe and dicey, that no one can be sure which bank is safe and what will be the fate of their life savings when one wakes up in the morning.

—*A. F. Nazareth,
Alto Porvorim, Goa*

Should have explained the Situation

With reference to Malaika failures, allow me to refer to your last issue and matter published in this regard. Under the name of 'A F Noronha, Goa', the writer has very rightly pointed out that Malaika and its key operators flourished and grew by the blessings of Churchmen and certain media build

up. I am not aware if this person is an investor or not, or if she/he is aware of the deep distress and depression that the collapse of this Malaika has caused to unsuspecting simple people, mostly elder members, who invested their savings in this organisation and are now in penury practically.

It is most astonishing and distressing that Malaika Chairman Mr. Gilbert Baptist and Directors, over the whole of year 2020, made no move to officially and in terms of law, inform and explain the true situation and present a preventive plan, which is very morally and professionally wrong and suspect.

Under the circumstances, and considering that 99% of investors / depositors are from the Konkani Catholic population of Mumbai, Mangaluru, Goa and overseas, it is positively called for that the Church authorities and the concerned media publishers, who have stood by and now silent/not visible, should immediately intervene and form a suitable platform to resolve this sordid matter which reflects badly on the community. Urgently needed that the matter is defused by recognised community and Church leaders. The fact that so far these have made no apparent move does not reflect well. This is an appeal on behalf of the suffering investors, particularly in Mangalore who are facing untold and serious hardship and stress.

It may be noted that as of today, Mumbai dailies have published that 3 directors have been taken into custody and remanded till December 8, on refusal of bail by the Supreme court. This fact surely calls for a face saving action by social/community leaders in Mumbai and Mangalore; and the sympathizers of Malaika. Also, the Govt. Body issuing the approval to run the firm should duly investigate and intervene. No, doubt that those who have initiated legal action will gladly consider a fair and early resolution.

—*Ivan Saldanha-Shet,
Mangaluru.*

(Contd.. on p. 11)

NEW YEAR 2021 Needs a 4th King

- Ivan Saldanha-Shet.

NEW YEAR 2021 has brought a sense of hope to people all over, 2020 was overshadowed by the Corona Pandemic and it's continuing chaos. Every continent of the world is plagued by serious trouble and pain with the future very confused. Matters, seen and unseen, are a mess of despair all around. Ordinary people have lost faith and recourse to God in different ways according to their inspirations and will, in a very positive manner. Apart from world powers, religious leaders of all categories, instead of facing facts and reaching out in a more concrete/rational manner to deprived and suffering; are all plans for rituals, celebrations and mean enjoyment - truth, empathy and justice are lost. The Birth of JESUS CHRIST over 2000 years ago brought hope and promise to humankind according to the Christian scriptures. **NEW YEAR 2021**, is sure to pose a challenge and the needs are unclear. Deeper consideration and better direction and action are needed. Pope Francis says, "culture of care" is the compass to reach peace in the world and has chosen a relevant theme, "A Culture of Care as a Path to Peace", on the occasion of the celebration of 54th World Day of Peace on January 1, 2021.

The Fourth King :

Have you heard and understood the 'Fourth King'? Maybe there lies a better answer? In the mountains of ancient Persia, lived Artaban, whose study of the planets and the stars led him to predict the birth of a King of Kings. He acquired lustrous pearls, flawless rubies and many precious gifts — which he intended to carry as tribute to the Divine Babe. He then set out for Jerusalem where he had arranged to meet up with other wise men, or Magi, to find the newborn King.

This fourth king, Artaban, who lost the

star and did not reach the hallowed spot in Bethlehem along with the three kings; is now more relevant and noteworthy. Legend says more than three Kings started out, guided by the star. The Kings steadily followed the star and three are said to have reached the Divine Babe for the 'Epiphany' in Bethlehem. But, a fourth King did not



reach in time - why what was his significant fault and when did he manage to reach?

Like the good Samaritan in the Bible, our 4th King, was at heart a very considerate and sensitive person, he lost sight of his purpose due to his sense of righteousness, justice and failed to follow the star with his wise companions, he stopped quite early in the expedition to help some sick persons, aged people, suffering fallen folk of all kinds....and tarried with them. So, what happened to him....may be not different from what is happening to ordinary 'people of good will' everywhere today.

Modern commercialism, consumerism and morality has far removed 'Christmas' and it's focus 'Christ' for the good of humankind. With no positive recourse, the marginalized, suffering and deprived are in deep unrelieved pain and suffering; while the powerful, lacking integrity in many spheres of life, are richly feasting and celebrat-

ing. Few of 'Good Will' strive in the futility of welfare of the poor and marginalised. Prayer and ritual is largely on the lips and gestures and very rarely in mind, action and heart. Reflecting on the 'FOURTH KING' and what he faced and experienced perhaps may give humans a better direction and path to bring peace, joy and happiness in abundance for more needy people. God does not always do the needful he inspires and equips people living on earth to achieve good by goodwill largely.

The 4th King - Artaban - 33 years later :

YES, he managed to reach Jerusalem 33 years later, weak, and worn, unrecognizable as a KING at an advanced age of 70 plus years, and asked for JESUS the CHRIST. All around him was silence and they pointed to an unrecognisable dirty man bathed in blood with deep bleeding wounds, carrying a heavy cross like a criminal. It was a thunderbolt to him. His mind gave way when he saw that the man was being crucified, he lost consciousness and collapsed at 'Calvary' in agony and in a coma. After 3 days he slowly gains consciousness and is told that JESUS of Nazareth was RISEN. Full of Joy, hope and wonder, he sees the Risen Christ standing near him and from his gaze realises the message radiated to him alone "Worthy King, you have followed my will unceasingly and paid me homage and worship since the day I was born. You have done well the will of my Heavenly Father, God Supreme; your gifts have truly pleased me every step of your way." He was immediately well and strong and the LORD promised him, as all faithful and good are assured "You will be with me and receive your great reward".

Let this Artaban, the 4th King that we now know, be a model even to those who can not act or participate in a



Another Year to Live!

*"Another fresh new year is here...
Another year to live!
To banish worry, doubt, and fear,
To love and laugh and give!
....."*

As the old Year, grown weary and wrinkled after three sixty five days of living dangerously, prepared to hand over to the young and unsullied new one, it had words of advice to offer him. "Learn from my failures, I was a slave to the greed of mankind and now I shall go free to find peace and leave the strife behind." The New Year with a wreath of fresh blooms on his golden curls, a happy smile of anticipation playing gently at the corner of his mouth and his blue eyes dancing merrily in his innocent face, failed to gather the underlying meaning in the old guy's words. His look of askance was indeed comical.

(Contd.. from p. 6)

vilifying manner, not be ostracised and judged in the absence of understanding or the lack of it. All other 'Kings' may conform to and/or bow to the ease of the majority and forget the desire and demands of the Supreme justice and seek 'acceptance' of the unawakened.

The Fourth King could well be the inspiration that needs to fill all 'people of Good will' in this difficult situation of 2020/2021 to change the self centeredness destroying the universe and humanity. Only a renewing change of the human at all levels and goodness and integrity of the higher order will spell a future that is true and a solace to all everywhere. Let the real JOY of this renewed meaningful CHRISTMAS, spread and fill all humans in heart and spirit to radiate all the good possible to make the NEW YEAR 2021, really Blessed in all manner. Do not fear and hesitate to be a 4th King.

The fading Year, in an effort to convey to his successor the possibility of the wheel of time spinning out of his young hands, continued. "Look at the scars and burns on me. When men, driven by their evil ambitions and blinded by their own interpretation of truth and justice, turn destroyers of souls and minds, they scorch all that gets in their way. The rhythm of life gets disrupted giving way to chaos and pain." The fresh-faced youth waiting for his turn at the helm of time was bewildered. Just one night away was the beginning of his reign and he was raring to launch himself into his destiny.



by Vera Alvares

"No old Father. That is not what I see for mankind. I have brought a huge hamper of goodies for the human race, which will restore its hope of a better tomorrow and trust in the goodness of all men. I have three sixty five dawns filled with the colours of joy and peace and the same number of sunsets hued with the glory of faith, hope and charity. It will be a time of undisturbed quiet and harmony. There will be new gladness in the sunny air and wisdom and understanding in every heart. I have gifts galore that can convey love and fraternity to all. And I know all this shall not be wasted!" blurted out the New Year in one breath. His own determination to turn the tide of terror in the world had lent his fair face a glow of confidence and it shone radiantly.

The old grizzled senior did not answer but his enigmatic smile said it all. "Is it not what I had felt and said with the same amount of confidence all those long and weary three sixty five days ago?" he told himself. How things had turned out to be so different, he had lost control of the destiny of mankind and now he was happy it was coming to an end, this nightmare of hatred and suffering! But his next words did not reflect his cynicism, "Yes, maybe you

will change the destiny of the world, my best wishes to you. And now I will seek the balm of that much needed slumber. May the Lord of eternity go with you lad!" He wearily took the next step towards eternity.....

Take a close look at the treasury of gifts the New Year has for us.

"I am the New Year. I am an unspoiled page in your book of time.

I am your next chance at the art of living. I am your opportunity to practice what you have learned about life during the last twelve months.....

I am your opportunity to renew your allegiance to Him who said, "Behold, I

make all things new."

- **Bible Illustrator**

The Holy Father guides us into a renewal of our allegiance to HIM. With the Apostolic Letter "Patris corde" ("With a Father's Heart") issued on 8th December 2020, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Pope Francis celebrates the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. The Pope has proclaimed "Year of Saint Joseph" from 8 December 2020, to 8 December 2021! Another year to live and to love, laugh and to give!

"Even through Joseph's fears, God's will, his history and his plan were at work. Joseph, then, teaches us that faith in God includes believing that he can work even through our fears, our frailties and our weaknesses. He also teaches us that amid the tempests of life, we must never be afraid to let the Lord steer our course. At times, we want to be in complete control, yet God always sees the bigger picture. "

I wish you love, laughter and blessings!

Goa Congress And The 'Girish' Stalemate

Apparently, the Congress in Goa has been doing everything but enhancing its reputation as a strong Opposition to the BJP. By aiding defections, no doubt the Saffron party has shrunk opposition space in an unseemly way. But the Congress too has been grossly guilty of not anticipating these ruses thus failing it keep its flock together.

Electoral disasters have hence been a natural consequence! But for the Congress, staying out of power for such a considerable period of time has been a mind-boggling adversity. Naturally, a pall of gloom has descended on the party headquarters in Goa.



by Pachu Menon

All-India Congress Committee in-charge of Goa Dinesh Gundu Rao was in the state for a two-day visit with the aim of reorganizing the party following a thorough analysis of its rout in the recent Zilla panchayat polls.

In the event of any debacle, the search for a scapegoat to pin the blame on continues to this day unabashedly. In modern day parlance 'witch-hunting' is a term one usually associates with this abominable practice indulged in by political parties to keep a clean slate.

The resignation of Girish Chodankar as the Goa Pradesh Congress Committee Chief is one such instance that necessarily needs to be seen from this perspective!

Let us for once understand that the Congress in Goa is today a political dispensation that fails to justify its stature as the grand-old party of the country.

Mutilated beyond recognition, the party in Goa is virtually gasping for breath. Seriously in need of rehabilitation, efforts were to be made to revive the fortunes of the party in a gradual

and phased manner.

But the Congress has been guilty of behaving as if things were normal and believing that the series of setbacks it has been suffering ever since the saffron-wave swept the state, and the nation, is a just a temporary phase in its 'glorious' existence and would seemingly have no bearing on its electoral fortunes.

An occasional victory for its candidates here and there only accentuated the complacency!

Although the senior leaders would not want to admit it, the infighting that has infested the party has had a cancerous effect. The blame-game within the party continues as if there is no end to it.

Quick to take to the media, senior party members have made a mockery of themselves by going public with their views on the affairs of the party. The 'seniors versus political novices in the party' argument that has preoccupied some of the leaders in the state is drawing unnecessary attention for the frivolity of the whole issue.

Besides, the young brigade bemoaning the domineering attitude of many of the senior leaders and a spate of resignations by minority leaders in the party throws a big question mark over the democratic functioning in the party.

The saffron-blitzkrieg has made the Congress in the state politically inconsequential in the present order of things. As good as a fledgling in the state's political scenario, the Congress has to literally claw its way back into recognition. Only a united effort will help sustain the momentum!

Unfortunately the grand-old-party has today become a refuge for aspirants who have no qualms in deserting the

party for greener pastures, as and when the opportunities present themselves!

The fact that over a third of the present ruling in the state constitutes of the turncoats who have ambled over to the 'opposition' bears testimony to this unhealthy trend that has come to characterize politics in Goa today.

Coming back to Girish Chodankar!

How is it that as the President of the party, he feels obliged to put in his papers citing reasons of poor showing by the Congress in the ZP polls! Have the decisions been entirely his own that senior leaders in the party are baying for his blood for the humiliating defeat!

The same exercise was repeated earlier in 2019 when several office bearers including Goa unit Chief Girish Chodankar resigned on June 28 taking the responsibility for the Lok Sabha poll debacle of the Congress in Goa.

This came about after the resignation of Rahul Gandhi as the Congress President owning total responsibility for the party's overwhelming defeat in the 2019 general elections.

However, the mass resignation by several office-bearers who were of the opinion that it was the collective responsibility of all the leaders who were in the front and were responsible for leading the party in their respective states and hence had no moral right to continue in the top posts did sound a sincere gesture!

Besides, these resignations were effected to give a free hand to Rahul Gandhi to restructure the party at all levels.

That nothing much was heard about the resignation and Girish continued as the Congress Chief in Goa says a lot for the indecisiveness in the party!



What the Congress requires today are leaders with exceptional organizational skills who can revitalize the party.

If one of the stalwarts does take over as the President of the GPCC, the simmering dissent within its ranks and leadership will come to haunt the Congress in Goa before long. For it is well-known that none of the Congress-leaders in the state see eye-to-eye with one another.

Basically it is not the 'Girish' factor that has unsettled the Congress in Goa! It is the blame-game that is costing the party dear.

As so rightly observed by the party's Goa desk in-charge, Congress needs to focus on regaining the trust of Goans before seeking their mandate to form a government in the state.

Rather than show resentment over the results in the elections, it is necessary that the party bigwigs think of strengthening the party at the grassroots level. It is not the leadership issue that the party should be bothering about right now!

If the Congress in Goa is to be resurrected, youngsters should be promoted to stellar positions in the party. With the mantle of leadership falling squarely on young and emerging leaders, the seniors in the party could guide them in managing the affairs of the party. It is a collective responsibility.

Setbacks should always serve to motivate strong comebacks!

St. Joseph the Just Man!

by Dr. TREVOR COLASO

In the past 150 years, nearly every Pope has taken steps to further devotion to St. Joseph (SJ)! Pope Pius IX on 08 December 1870 proclaimed SJ as "Patron of the Universal Church"! And Pope Pius XII in 1955, instituted the feast of "Saint Joseph the Worker" on 01 May!

Pope St. John Paul II in his Apostolic Exhortation, "TheGuardian of the Redeemer", calls St. Joseph a "just man, unwilling to put Mary to shame" (Matthew 1:19). It means that he was law-abiding, righteousness, and a man of integrity and virtue, for all humanity to imitate!

SJ personally transformed or transfigured the 7 cardinal vices of pride, greed, lust, envy, gluttony, wrath and sloth; into the capital virtues of humility, love, chastity, gratitude, temperance, patience and diligence - through his beneficial behavior as a most honorable husband and self-sacrificing spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary!

Patris Corde – With a Father's Heart!

Pope Francis in his above Apostolic Letter dated 08 December has now proclaimed a "Year of Saint Joseph", from 08 December 2020 to 08 December 2021. He describes SJ as a tender and loving husband; an obedient and accepting father; a creative and courageous being; and a working dad in the shadows. (Some excerpts):

"SJ has helped us see more clearly the importance of ordinary people, who far from the limelight, exercise patience and offer hope! SJ 'concretely' expressed his fatherhood through an offering of love, placed at the service of Mary and the Messiah!"

"SJ by his obedience (fiat), taught Jesus the will of the Heavenly Father! As an accepting father, SJ accepted Mary unconditionally – an important gesture today, where psychological, verbal and domestic violence towards women is so evident!"

"SJ is courageously and firmly proactive; because with the Holy Spirit's gift of fortitude, SJ is able to tolerate life with all its contradictions, frustrations, and distresses!"

"SJ is the special patron of those forced to leave their native lands, because of wars, persecutions and poverty. He is the guardian of the Church, the Body of Christ!"

"SJ was a carpenter who earned an honest living. He teaches us the value, dignity and joy to eat bread, the fruit of one's labor ... Work is also a means of partaking in the work of salvation; a resource to develop our talents and put them at the service of the Church, and fra-

ternal communion; by cooperating with God as cocreators!"

"SJ is the earthly shadow of the Heavenly Father; and instructs us in the care of children and raise them to be responsible citizens!"

"SJ is described as a most chaste husband, the exact opposite of domineering possessiveness; a service with servility; and a charity with a welfare mentality!"

Acronyms for Saint Joseph!

Below are Scriptural Exhortations to inspire and activate!

J-Just man: "God has shown us what good is required – To be 'just', to love mercy, and to walk humbly with Your God" (Micah 6:8). Are we unbiased, open-minded and equitable to our spouses and children, even if they are females and daughters?

O-Obedient one: "Through Christ we have received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the 'obedience' that comes from faith in His name" // This is love: that we walk in 'obedience' to God's commands. (Romans 1:5 //2 John 1:6). Ask ourselves, are we obedient to God's Ten Commandments and to the teachings of the Catholic Church on marriage, contraception and family life?

S-Silent person: "The 'quite' words of the wise are more to be heeded than the shouts of a ruler" (Ecclesiastes 9:17). There are no words of SJ recorded in the Bible. Do we listen to the Sunday Readings to stimulate us? Do we spend time before the Eucharistic? Do we use our speech for gossiping or backbiting? Or do we utilize our time to building up the Body of the Church?

E-Exemplary character: "If I Your Lord and Teacher have washed your feet, you also ought to do likewise. For I have given you an 'example' ... If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them" (John 13:13-17). What examples are we demonstrating to our spouses and to our kids? Do we teach them the essentials of our Catholic faith? Are we living the vocation as leader of the family?

P-Patron devout: "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord, says the Spirit; that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them" (Revelation 14:13). Ask SJ to protect your family from immorality on TV, mobiles and media. SJ is also the Patron Saint for a happy death. Pray to him for a peaceful journey!

H-Helper always: "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms" (1 Peter 4:10). The Holy family worked as a TEAM – Together Everyone Achieves More!

It Was A Friendship, Mom, A Pure Emotion.

(Contd.. from last issue)

A CHRISTMAS STORY

erty. That's how they planned a week's holiday in Gopur.

It was 24th December, the last day of their stay in Gopur. In the morning Prashant sat with Vilas and all property matters were settled in an hour's time. Prashant showed a stamped paper document signed by Mother. The house was kept for Prashant and ten guntas of the land was awarded to Vilas! Meena was there to watch the transaction. Prashant made them feel at home and coaxed them to stay for the Christmas night. And they did stay because of the warmth they felt.

It became 6 in the evening. The village was noisy with crackers and bright with Christmas stars and lighting. Vilas was sitting in the hall. Just then, Prashant came there, lit a lamp in front of the framed photo of mother; stood with joined hands for a few seconds and went into the kitchen. He could not help wiping his eyes as he moved away. But that action moved Vilas' heart. Mother used to stand in the same manner before Daddy's photo every evening, with both of us. One day there was nothing to eat in the house. Mom was praying the rosary with both us. And Uncle Madhav came in. He had come with bread and butter!

The past scene let loose his emotions for his mother. He looked at her face brightened by the lamp. He noticed a book on the photo stand. That must be Mummy's Krist purana; she used to read it daily in the night ... Out of curiosity, he picked it up. It was mother's diary. Vilas was shocked. "When did Mummy write all these pages daily?" He asked himself. "After the children went to bed? ..." He opened it at random. It was 16th December 1985. The entry was addressed to Madhav. Vilas, for a moment, felt ants crawling over his body.... He felt like closing it with a slam. But ... He went on reading-

"I was hesitating to come today."

"How sad! Why?"

"I just wanted to apply some balm on your forehead, Sonia, I am sorry for..."

"Stop! You are not to say, 'sorry' to me." With the words she put her hand on his mouth and reclined on his chest.

Just then Vilas appeared at the door. Mummy was shocked, Somehow she uttered, "Vilas, you are back from the office? .. So early? What's the matter...?"

Vilas was boiling with anger. He could not digest the love scene. He fired all his salvos on Mummy.

"Who gave the gold chain you are wearing on your birthday?"

"Uncle."

"And the sari you wore?"

"That's Prashant had bought with his first salary."

"Where did you go with uncle in the evening?"

"Oh! You are questioning me like a judge! I had gone to Dad's grave."

"Meena calls all these yarns!"

"You too? If it was not for uncle, Vilas, I would have been dead when you were just five!"

"I have heard enough of your sacrifices. Stop this nonsense at once!"

"....."

"Mummy, Uncle, no one understands my predicament. Meena left the house

for more than six months now. Do you know why? She abhors your relationship...Dada does not consider this a serious matter. I am sick of hearing rotten remarks in my friends' circle. All right Mummy, I have to make a choice between Meena and you..."

Vilas spoke very rudely and gave an ultimatum. Uncle intervened but he too got the final shot. Vilas told him directly, "Uncle, that's enough now. How long are you going to keep us indebted to you? Dada and I are both settled now. Why can't you leave us in peace? I am sorry to say, your paternalism in this house is unwanted now! Agreed you have saved our lives

in our dire need; but so can't continue doing Arati to you all our life!" And receiving no reply he concluded, "Alright... I am leaving the house!"



Fr. Michael G. Vasai

"Wait, Vilas." Madhav was resolved, "In that case, I promise, I shall never step in this house!" But Mummy could only cry and fall at the feet of Uncle.

Vilas walked out of the house.

Vilas left the house and began to live in a flat in the city booked by Meena herself. She could easily get it as she was working in the Mantralaya. "Mom should have sacrificed the relationship to save my marriage," Vilas thought to himself. It is ten years ago now. Since then he never saw the face of his Mummy. Last year she died. He did not attend her funeral. He was ashamed of her. This year Meena reminded him of the share of the house and property. It was her plan to come to her mother's place for Christmas and confront Prashant on the division of the property. She was afraid Prashant might swallow up the prop-

(Contd.. on p. 11)

(Contd.. from p. 10)

Dear Uncle Madhav,

I am sorry! Today you took my hand in yours to kiss and I pulled it away! Will you forgive me? ... So far we have never betrayed the trust our children have placed in us. Uncle, when my husband died, I was only 25. I was totally broken. At the burial ground itself, before all the relatives present, I fell in your arms and cried bitterly! I never felt anything wrong in it.

But today.... You are my supporter ... and even my friend. But we have observed the Lakshman-rekha. I long for your weekly visits. I always find them too short. Please, forgive me and do not stop coming ..your visits ..I live on them" Sonia.

The entry was a great revelation to Vilas. He said to himself.

"It was a friendship then. It was a pure emotion. Oh no! It saw too much evil in it.

Vilas turned the page of the diary, and began to read...

24th December 1985.

Dear Uncle,

Today it was a Christmas celebration; but it all got spoiled!..... You asked my pardon! How could you? I prevented you by putting my hand on your lips. Vilas saw us!... Vilas has left me. But you too? You did not even look behind once as you walked away ...! I remained sitting at the door till evening when Prashant came back from the office. Will you never come back? ...if so how can I live?-Sonia.

Mummy did not live long after that separation. As Vilas turned the page, he murmured I never understood you, Mummy ... sorry! But the next page was blank and the next one too ... and

the rest of the diary. `Dada!', Vilas shouted. He was so loud that everyone in the house rushed to the hall. "Why Dada, tell me. Why is there no

entry in this diary after 24th December 1985? Mother never wrote anything further? ...

"No, Vilas... Your accusation was a heartrending blow to her. You left, and Uncle too stopped visiting us ... How could Mummy live? Vilas, can there never be love without sex? Can there never be touch without lust?"

"O God, I am sorry!" Vilas broke down. "Dada, I misunderstood Mummy. I killed her because of my prejudice! Mummy, forgive me. He cried bitterly and loud. But Prashant just stood there; unmoved, as if unconcerned. Holding his hands Vilas cried out, "Hold me, Dada, hold me close to you..."

Prashant raised his arms mechanically and placed them on his back but there was no life, no warmth in his touch! The wound was deep. The loss was great. Prashant had lost in mummy's memory... Did St. Joseph not love Mary without sex? Did he not touch her in their entire married life, without lust? And yet Mary never lost her virginity! ...

It was midnight. The village dogs were crying. Even foxes were heard in a distance. The lamp before mother's photo was burning dimly but unwaveringly. Just then the Church bell rang to announce the birth of Jesus, the reconciler, the wonderful counsellor, mighty God, eternal Father, Prince of Peace!...

But Dada's hands were not gripping around Vilas yet ...

(Contd.. from p. 5)

Ringing out the old

As we prepare to usher in the new year 2021, there is a feeling of uncertainty as we keep wondering what is in store for us in the year ahead .Will it be different from the present year or will it be a mixed bag of sadness, misfortune, hope and joy? The year 2020 has been a disastrous one, unprecedented in living memory, that has taught us to live with the new normal in a world turned upside down by the killer corona virus. Will 2021 also turn out to be the same or will we be witnessing a new springtime of hope and joy in our badly battered world. The possibilities are numerous. At the end of every year, It is customary to ring out the old and ring in the new by making and burning an effigy of the old man, meant to symbolize the unwanted baggage of troubles, misfortunes and sinfulness we have carried during the year. Let us hope that we will also be able to include Covid -19 in this year's unwanted baggage of misfortunes, to eliminate it once and for all, so that we all awaken to a happy and prosperous new year and a new normal, free of the burden of facial masks, social distancing, sanitizing, hand washing, and the scourge of Covid -19 and its mutating strains.

— A. F. Nazareth,
Alto Porvorim, Goa

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A woman took an afternoon nap on New Year's Eve. When she woke up, she told her husband, "I just dreamed that you gave me a diamond ring for a New Year's present. What do you think it all means?" He replied, "Aha, you'll know tonight!" At midnight, her husband handed her a small gift-wrapped present. Excited, she opened it quickly, but was even more surprised: In it was a book titled 'The Meaning of Dreams.'

Q: Teacher: Didn't I tell you to stand at the end of the line?

A: Student: I tried but there was someone already there!

Why should you stand on just your left foot during the New Year's Eve countdown? So you start the New Year on the right foot.

Did you hear about the guy who started fixing breakfast at midnight on Dec. 31? He wanted to make a New Year's toast!

Remember you can reset your resolutions on January 14th (Orthodox New Year) and January 25th (Chinese New Year). After that, even I can't help you.

Patient - Doctor, doctor! My son has swallowed my pen, what should I do?
 Doctor - Use a pencil till I get there.

Why does Santa take presents to children around the world? Because the presents won't take themselves!

Teacher: Johnny. If I give you two rabbits and two rabbits and another two rabbits, how many rabbits have you got?

Little Johnny: Seven!

Teacher: No, listen carefully again. If I give you two rabbits and two rabbits and another two rabbits, how many rabbits have you got?

Little Johnny: Seven!

Teacher: (Sigh) Let's try this another



way. If I give you two apples and two apples and another two apples, how many apples have you got?

Little Johnny: Six.

Teacher: Good. Now if I give you two rabbits and two rabbits and another two rabbits, how many rabbits have you got?

Little Johnny: Seven!

Teacher: How on earth do you work out that three lots of two rabbits is seven?

Little Johnny: I've already got a rabbit!

During a visit to the Leipzig Trade Fair a filthy rich oil sheik heard that there was a car with a delivery time of over ten years. Since Rolls Royce usually delivered more quickly than that, he thought it must be quite an exceptional car, which he would certainly have to have in his collection. Sight unseen, he made a request to order this Trabant. In Zwickau they were aware of this great honour, and the potential PR coup, so they immediately changed the running "Five-Year Plan" and arranged to send him the very next car off the line. The car reached the Emirates in a matter of weeks, instead of years. The happy oil sheik immediately called his friends together, opened the container, and exclaimed in surprise: "Gosh! They may have incredibly long delivery times, but at least they send you a plastic model in advance — and the best thing is you can even drive it!"

CEO Advice

Morris had just been hired as the new CEO of a large high-tech corporation. The CEO who was stepping down met with him privately and presented him with three numbered envelopes....#1,#2,#3. "Open these if you

run up against a problem you don't think you can solve," the departing CEO said.

Well, things went along pretty smoothly, but six months later, sales took a downturn and Morris was really catching a lot of heat. About at his wit's end, he remembered the envelopes. He went to his drawer and took out the first envelope. The message read, "Blame your predecessor."

Morris, the new CEO called a press conference and tactfully laid the blame at the feet of the previous CEO. Satisfied with his comments, the press -- and Wall Street -- responded positively, sales began to pick up and the problem was soon behind him.

About a year later, the company was again experiencing a slight dip in sales, combined with serious product problems. Having learned from his previous experience, the CEO quickly opened the second envelope. The message read, "Reorganize." This he did, and the company quickly rebounded.

After several consecutive profitable quarters, the company once again fell on difficult times. Morris went to his office, closed the door and opened the third envelope.

The message said, ..."Prepare three envelopes.

The Shopkeeper

A shopkeeper goes to the police to say that he has been robbed. A shoplifter came into his shop, he says, opened a packet of biscuits and ate some of them. Then the man just walked out without paying.

The police find the man and bring him in.

"I've done nothing wrong," he says. "The packet said `25 per cent extra for free, so I just ate the ones that didn't cost anything".

Burning Of The Old Man In Mumbai On New Year's Eve

By Peter Castellino

Bombay's Old Man / Old Man Gloom/ Grand Daddy a stuffed figure/ effigy sitting in a chair all alone with his favourite drink and a cigarette/ ci-



gar dangling from his lips or stitched to them and made from borrowed clothes overlooking the society building where he lives is burnt at midnight marking the ringing out of the old and the ringing in of the new and the death birth chain originated in Santa Fe , New Mexico in 1924 or from an infant born on January 1 turning old in a year 's and going away at the year's end carrying the burden of the year or from Guy Fawkes the 16th century Grand Daddy or Old Man is a custom also followed on the Konkan Coast from Bombay to Goa.

The lighting of the Old Man thus symbolizes the burning of all the sorrows and grievances of the old year .

Catholic enclaves of Byculla , Mazagaon , Dhobi Talao , Bandra , Mahim , Andheri had an effigy propped up before New Year's Eve with children taking a bag around for old clothes and contributions for their afters party with song and dance held after Midnight Mass when the figure

Ingredients:

5 tbsp cooking oil
6 cloves
1 star anise
20 black peppercorns
3-inch piece cinnamon stick
2 tsp cumin seeds
6 garlic cloves, minced
2-inch piece ginger, peeled and grated
5 tbsp vinegar
1 tbsp red chili powder
2 onions, thinly sliced
1 tsp salt
1 tsp sugar
Puree of 400 gms tomatoes
1 kg sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into 1-inch chunks



Method:

1. Heat 1 tbsp of the oil in a large frying pan over medium heat. Once hot, add the cloves, star anise, peppercorns, cinnamon stick and cumin seeds. Fry for 2 minutes or until fragrant and toasted. Remove from the heat.
2. Place the spices in a spice grinder and grind them to a powder. Add in the garlic, ginger and vinegar, Grind again until the mixture forms a smooth paste. Remove to a bowl and stir in the chili powder.
3. Place the remaining oil in the same pan that you used to toast the spices. Add in the onions and saute for 15 minutes or until browned and caramelized. Add in the spice paste, salt, and sugar. Saute for a few minutes so that everything is well combined. Add in the tomatoes pulp along with 1 cup of water. Put a lid on the pan and cook for 5 minutes. Add in the sweet potatoes.
4. Bring to a boil and then lower the heat and simmer. Cook for 20 minutes or until the sweet potatoes are completely tender. Serve with yogurt and rice.

— Jubel, Shirley, Sweta D'Cruz,
Dombivili, Mumbai



was set alight with rock salt and fireworks and later miss shapen men with paper masks or miss shapen Kasabs have replaced the Old Man who was shifted to new quarters or discarded.

At Teyuka Mansion Lalbaug's 12 nearby chawls and all buidings had their Old Man hanging it out for display 5 days before New Year stuffed with burrowed tailor's cloth scraps.

BPT Quarters Carnac Bunder children kept the tradition alive for 10 years and after the Old Man was burnt women sold Puri Bhaji , Vada Pavs and soft drinks for Rs 20 to Rs 25 per head.

On PD D' Mello Road the Old Man

had a Santa Claus made by slum dwellers and tied next to trees or lamp posts in 2s and 3 s but on in Carnac Bridge there were 6 of them .

IC Colony Borivali West children prefer to watch TV and the Old Man there was made by slum dwellers and there were 10 of them but now one cannot find even one of them - they were paraded in the streets.

In Marol only 1 Old Man was spotted and in Mazagaon attempts to revive the custom ended in failure .

Thus ends another tradition - but the past is a guide to the future and must not be ignored.

(Contd.. from p. 2)

Friendship with the Lord Jesus Christ is the best way forward for our children and teenagers, wherever they are, says Pope Francis in his encyclical. "No matter how much you live the experience of these years of your youth, you will never know their deepest and fullest meaning unless you encounter each day your best friend, the friend who is Jesus", writes the Pope. Friendship is one of God's most precious gifts to human beings. It is indeed a special grace of the Creator. "Friendship is so important that Jesus calls himself a friend: 'I do not call you servants any longer, but I call you friends' (Jn 15,15). Friendship with Jesus cannot be broken. He never leaves us, even though at times it appears that he keeps silent", adds Pope Francis. Talking to Jesus, as a friend talks to a friend, is the key to go forward in life. How many of our young people are brought up to live in friendship with Jesus? How many spend even a few moments with him in silence and prayer, when they have all the time in the world for entertainment and wasteful viewing of purposeless programs put out by the media, 24 x 7? Does not addiction to such activities only leave them restless and disoriented? Instead, would not some quality time spent, every day, in solitude, amidst the verdant gardens, hills and valleys or in a quiet chapel nearby, relishing the awesome Mystery 'in which we live and move and have our being', be the healthy tonic they need, bring peace of mind, a right orientation, and unfold the purpose of life, which all are so desperately seeking?

Youth who choose Jesus as their role-model and friend will soon discover that he is truly "The Way, the Truth and the Life", as he himself says to the Apostle Thomas (Jn 14,6). In whatever situation we find ourselves, whether in bondage to poverty, injustice, moral evils or deceptive ideologies, Jesus will show us the way forward to liberate ourselves and others. What is the real truth about our present situation? Jesus will reveal it to us, as it really is, and help us to see through the illusions of false promises and attractive deceptions. "The truth will make you free" (Jn

8,32), he says in John's gospel. What sort of life are we living? Is this the kind of life fit for children of God – mired in misery, mindless violence, deprivation of human rights, restlessness, uncertainty, fear, anxiety, hatred and empty illusions? Jesus assures us, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly" (Jn 10,10). It is he who has the wisdom and power to enlighten and help us to overcome all obstacles and struggle with courage to improve our present situation, however miserable and hopeless it might seem. In the New Testament and the Holy Eucharist we have his real presence amongst us to lead us to the fullness of life. "Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest," he assures us (Mt. 11,28).

Pope Francis ends his inspiring encyclical letter with the words: "Jesus is walking in our midst, as he did in Galilee. He walks through our streets, and he quietly stops and looks into our eyes. His call is attractive and intriguing. Yet today, the stress and quick pace of a world constantly bombarding us with stimuli can leave no room for that interior silence in which we can perceive Jesus' gaze and hear his call. In the meantime, many attractively packaged offers will come your way. They may seem appealing and exciting, although in time they will only leave you feeling empty, weary and alone... It is better to seek out that calm and quiet that enable you to reflect, pray, look more clearly at the world around you, and then, with Jesus, come to recognize the vocation that is yours in this world." A true, daily encounter with the Risen Lord Jesus, living in our midst (in the Eucharist, the Bible and the People of God), is the God-given answer to all the problems we face today -- especially for our young people seeking a brighter future and a worthwhile goal in life, which must essentially transcend this transitory and passing world of ours, and lead us beyond – to our ultimate end, the Creator Himself, as the great philosopher and Doctor of the Church, St. Augustine says, "Our hearts were made for you, O God, and they are restless until they rest in you."

Life Styling & Kim

NEW YEAR,
NEW LOOKS
(PART 1)

MONOCHROME LOOK:

The word "monochromatic" breaks down into two words: "mono" meaning single and "chromatic" meaning colour. A monochromatic look in makeup would consist of one colour for the eyes and the lips.

1. Basic Browns:

This colour works effectively on indian skin tone for smokey eye look. It adds a natural warmth to your face.

2. Radiant Reds:

If you're looking for a fun bold look for christmas, red is the answer! The excitement and energy in this colour will make you stand out.

3. Pretty Pinks:

Pink monochromes, will give you a flushed and fresh look.

(Tip: Applying blush and highlighter makes a monochrome look, look less raw, more finished)

Follow me on Instagram:

—*Kimberly Linhares*

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New Year Resolutions- 20-Twenty One Dreams And Aspirations

1. Nothing is impossible" We can achieve something different from others. If you are a sportsman then you can take defeat and victory in the same spirit. Happiness happens to those who seek it. Winning is a habit as far as sports is concerned. Yes; you go for a winning mode, then only you can finish as a hard fought loser.

2. Don't think of today- Think about tomorrow and the day after. Stitch in time saves nine. Try to plug the loopholes and feel success in life. Saving is a very good habit and cultivate the same for rainy days. Small drops make an ocean true. Nationalised Banks are there to keep your small savings and that sum grow and double to help you at the time of need.

3. Don't be Selfish: Live and let others also live. Metro city Mumbai is helping so many people to start their career and become rich in record time. Thus so many people are coming to the Business capital to make their living more comfortable.

4, Learn to leave bad habits-The year 2021 is the best opportune moment to leave bad habits. Cigarette smoking is injurious to health as per the statutory warning message. However, so many people taste smoking and spoil their health in the process. Chewing Gutka and Tobacco and drinking habits can also be done away with grit and determination in the New Year.

5. Teaching is a good hobby-Inculcate the knowledge available with you to others Teachers play a very crucial role in imparting knowledge. We forget the teachers once we get a good living. Cricketers are helped



by coaches; but once they become superstars they forget the role of the coaches in bringing their career to limelight. Music teachers bring melody in the voice of the wards.

6. Respect Elders: Express gratitude to your parents, teachers and the patients. At one time or other we may also lie down with an ailment and we need the help of others.



C.K. Subramaniam

7. Try fast methods: be a sport and try to finish your work as early as possible and accept more work and help others and the institution. If your Institution grow, then you will also grow simultaneously.

8. Work is Worship: Play a key role in your sphere of work. If you are in retail Banking introduce new products in the New Year. You must think that you are the backbone and shoulder additional responsibilities.

9. Patient Listening; Listen to what others say. Improve their views and make a successful suggestion. Give credit to the team members also instead of poking your nose alone.

10. Have Concern for others: Instead of thinking about you always give some attention towards poor, down-trodden people. After all you live to help others and that attitude is a great virtue.

11. Control your anger. People may irritate you with unwanted comments; but try to maintain composure and do a world of good to your institution and give attention to family values and traditions. After all anger will come and go but the name and fame you attained will also go with your anger.

12. Try to be a fitness freak- The retirement age of Government employees was increased from 58 to 60 and hence, try to fit with healthy habits.

13. Develop good Character" Our life span is short. During our time try to develop good character and try to adopt them in day to day life as well. After all, your character reflects your mind. Apply patience and perseverance to achieve your objectives and don't take hasty decisions and never look for short cuts to success.

14. Compliment People: Give respect and take respect. Appreciate a good song. Compliment a good knock by a batsman and encourage him. Stop talking discouraging words.

15. Aim of your life: In the best interest of your family you wish to have loving parents and loving children. After all, you will become old one day and your sons will have to look after you, the same way you looked after your parents. The love and affection is passed on from forefathers to our father, father to son etc.

If you are able to get what is required for your life with the above good thinking you can lead a peaceful living for which, you maintain robust health, work with honesty and sincerity, have faith in God and that will give you peace of mind and try to instill confidence in your children because the future of India is in the hands of present children. We wish You A Happy New Year 2021

Royal Christian Family MATRIMONIALS - GROOMS

7185. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in October 1984) Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 72 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working for Bank. Contact email : spydee321@gmail.com

7164. MANGALORE : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in May 1984) Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 65 kgs, Fair, Edn. ITI Course, working as a Technician. Contact email : rajesh.dsz15@gmail.com

7180. U.K. : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in September 1982) Ht. 6', Wt. 77 kgs, Fair, Edn. Chartered Accountant, Profession : Director Insurance Company. Contact email : russ_dsouza@yahoo.com

7159. MUMBAI : Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in September 1982) Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 65 kgs, Ethical, Healthy, Simple, Sober, Wheatish, B.E. Software Engineer, works @ Mumbai, 9224335003, mariosofttech@gmail.com

7104. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in August 1975), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 95 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. H.S.C., working as a Office Assistant. Contact email : agnelo.nazareth1975@gmail.com

7175. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in July 1989) Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 74 kgs, Wheatish, Edn. B.Sc (H.C.M.) Hotel and Catering Management, 2nd Photographer/Merchandise Sales Dept., Contact email : osbertagneloalmeida@gmail.com

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

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

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

7152. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in December 1989) Ht. 6', Wt. 70 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., having business. Contact email : emi_dalmeida@yahoo.com

6434. MUMBAI : East Indian Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in November 1978), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 50 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. MD, MS., Doctor by profession. Contact email : rayanvincent@rediffmail.com

7168. USA : US Citizen Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in June 1985) Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 73 kgs, Fair, Edn. M.Sc., working for a Global Pharmaceutical Company. Contact email : lspinto84@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. Contact email : gracian.moras@gmail.com

7165. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in October 1979) Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 63 kgs, Fair, Edn. B.Com., Post Graduation in Supply chain & Ship Management, working as an E-commerce online support. Contact email : examiner4@yahoo.com

7112. MUMBAI : Converted Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in October 1970), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 80 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., & Masters in International Journalism (UK). Looking for a bride below the age of 42 years (below 40 - 42 years) who is willing to raise a family. Contact by email : decemberwedding08@yahoo.com

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

7136. HYDERABAD : Anglo Indian RC Bachelor, (Born in July 1988) Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 80 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Post Graduate, having own business. Contact email : phillipctocher@gmail.com

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

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

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* Members are requested to inform us when they are settled, so that publication of their details can be discontinued.

If not settled within a year, renew your membership atleast two months in advance to continue the service uninterrupted.

Royal Christian Family MATRIMONIALS - BRIDES

7081. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in April 1993), 5' 3", Wt. 55 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Masters of Dentistry (MDS), Dental Surgeon, Doctor by profession. Contact email : carlferns93@gmail.com

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

6860 MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in October 1991), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 55 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.M.M. (Mass Media), working for IT in MNC. Contact email : lgp1891@gmail.com

7186. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in July 1991), Ht. 5' 1", Wt. 40 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., working for an MNC. Contact email : dyna911@gmail.com

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

7095. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1992), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 55 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Com + Import Export Certificate Course, working as a Billing Assistant in Well known Hospital. Contact email : perpetualdias7@gmail.com

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

7089. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in January 1978), Ht. 5', Wt. 70 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.A., Government employee. Contact email : celinefernandes2014@gmail.com

7103. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Divorcee (Separated), (Born in October 1989), Ht. 5', Wt. 62 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a HR. Contact email : mail2tinafernandes@gmail.com

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

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

7087. DUBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in July 1983), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 64 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Customer Support in Dubai. Contact : escatravasso@gmail.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

7060. MUMBAI : East Indian Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in February 1983), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 50 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., Diploma in Finance from NMIMS, Diploma in B, Self employed. Contact email : vianneyde2k@yahoo.com

7086. MUMBAI : Mangalorean

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

7080. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in July 1991), 5' 5", Wt. 78 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Com., working as an Accountant. Contact email : fernandesronita25@gmail.com

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

7076. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in May 1975), 5' 7", Wt. 55 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., MBA., working as a Senior Executive. Contact email : tednvir@gmail.com

7085. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in January 1989), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 47 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. MCA. working as a Banking service professional in private sector. Contact email : dorinbaretto27@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

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Daring Nun

(Bl. Sara Salkahazi)

By Fr. F. M. Britto

As a fun-loving child, she played more with boys; as a youth, she became a chain-smoker; and as adult, an atheist. Though unwillingly nuns admitted this formerly engaged lady into their religious congregation, on the following year they refused the renewal of her religious vows. Today Sara Salkahazi is venerated as a Blessed and is on her way to the Altar.

As the second child of three children to affluent Leopold and Klotild, Sara was born in Kassa, Hungary (now Kosice, Slovakia) on May 11, 1899. When she was two, her father died. Since the German origin family had owned Hotel Salkahaz in Kassa, they could maintain their social status. Playing more with boys, the intelligent, high-spirited Sara was strong willed, a mind of her own but with deep social sensitivity.

Earning an elementary school teacher's degree, she taught the children for a year. To become aware of the poor people's problems, she worked as a bookbinder's apprentice and then in a millinery shop. Becoming a journalist, Sara edited the official paper of the National Christian Socialist Party of Slovakia, focusing on women's social problems. Far from being devout, she even flirted with atheism. She was engaged to be married, but she broke off the engagement.

When the 30 years old Sara went to join the new Congregation of the Sisters of Social Service, they were reluctant to accept this chain-smoking professional journalist. Finally they took her in 1929 and on the following Pentecost Sara professed her first vows. Assigned at the Catholic Charities Office in Kosice, she supervised charity works, managed a religious bookstore, published the periodical Catholic Women and even cooked for the inmates. All these works burnt her out at the end of

the day.

Her sisters misunderstood her enthusiasm as a show off. Doubting her vocation, on the following year the superiors refused her to renew the vows or wear the religious habit. The deeply hurt Sara considered leaving. Yet she decided to remain faithful to the One who called her. After a year they allowed her to renew and she made her final vows in 1940, taking as her motto: "Here I am; send me" (Isaiah 6:8).

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of Slovakia requested her to organize the various Catholic women's groups into a National Catholic Women's Association. As the national director of the Catholic Working Girls' Movement, she had under her nearly 10,000 members in 230 local groups in 15 dioceses nationwide. Sara built the first Hungarian college for working women near Lake Balaton.

Despite dangerous circumstance, she dared to provide safe shelter to Jews hunted by the Hungarian Nazi Party, providing them food, cheer and training courses. But betrayed by a woman working in the house, the Hungarian pro-Nazi Arrow Cross Party took these Jews as prisoners. Sara was not in the house then. At noon she was returning on foot with another sister from another Girls' Home. She saw from far the armed Nazis standing in front of the house. Though she could have fled, she dared to proceed and owned the responsibility by introducing herself as the in-charge of the home.

As the captors led her out, she stepped into the chapel to quickly pray before the Crucified Christ. That cold night on Dec 27, 1944 they lined up the 45 years old Sister Sara, her friend, one Christian and four Jewish women on the bank of the Danube River. Sara knelt down to pray. Stripping them naked, the Nazis shot them dead and tossed their bodies into the freezing River. Her body was never recovered.



Bl. Sara Salkahazi

She had thus saved nearly hundred Jews from the Nazis. She became the first martyr of that Religious Congregation founded in 1923. Though the Congregation had saved nearly 1000 Jews, no other nun was harmed. Remembering her martyrdom and saving hundreds of the persecuted Jews, every year on that night the nuns, accompanied by many devotees and Jews, take a candle march on that spot.

Pope Benedict XVI declared Sister Sara a Blessed on September 17, 2006. Hers was the first beatification to take place in Hungary nearly after 1000 years. When she gets canonised, Sara Salkahazi will become the first non-royal Hungarian female saint.

At the Beatification Mass, Jewish Rabbi Josef Schweitzer spoke of Sara, "I know from personal experience how dangerous and heroic it was in those times to help Jews and save them from death. Originating in her faith, she kept the commandment of love until death."

The national director of the Anti-Defamation League, Abraham H. Foxman, who had been earlier saved from a holocaust by his Polish Catholic nanny, remarked, "It is unfortunate that there are not many individuals like Sister Sara. But her example must be held up to demonstrate how lives can be saved when good people take action to confront evil."

Happy New Year, 2021

New Year is celebrated all over the world with great fun and enthusiasm. It is a special day for people as this day is the beginning of the new year and they welcome the upcoming year in their way. People start the preparations for the new year celebration many days in advance. They buy new clothes, gifts and many other new things from the market.

Champagne toasts and countdown parties on New Year's Eve is famously known for its rowdy, fun-filled festivities honouring the start of the new calendar, and is one of the most celebrated holidays around the world. But did you know that the start of the New Year wasn't always celebrated on January 1, or that it was first commemorated with a festival lasting a total of 11 days?

Despite the countless New Year's Eve parties you've attended and the million resolutions you've made (but not kept) every year, there are probably a lot of New Year's history facts you don't know — particularly when it comes to how the holiday's most famous traditions first started. So before you ring in 2021 with a glass of champagne, take a look back at the fascinating history behind the holiday.

According to history, the earliest recorded celebration to honour the new year is believed to date back some 4,000 years — in 2,000 B.C. — to ancient Babylon. For these Mesopotamians, the beginning of the New Year was heralded by the first new moon after the vernal equinox — which took place around late March — and was celebrated with a huge 11-day festival called Akitu, which involved a different ritual on each of its days. The holiday celebrated the mythical victory of the sky god Marduk over the sea goddess Tiamat, and also involved the act of either crowning a new king or allowing the old king to continue his rule. Either way, this 11-day festival would probably have put our current New Year's Eve parties to shame.

Though the date of New Year's Day is obvious to us now, the holiday wasn't always celebrated on January 1. Throughout time, different cultures and civilisations typically welcomed the New Year during a significant astronomical or agricultural event — like the Romans who celebrated in March, following their lunar cycle — until 46 B.C., when the emperor Julius Caesar introduced the Julian calendar. Honouring the month's namesake

Lions Clubs International (District 3231-A2) Celebrated Christmas 2020



Lions District 3231-A2 organised 'Christmas Celebration 2020' on 19th Dec. 2020 at Ramada Hotel, Mahape Navi Mumbai. It was organised under the Chairmanship of PMJF Lion Trevor Martis of Lions Club of Kanjur Marg. Rev. Fr. Felix D'Souza was the Special Guest and delivered the Christmas message.

Chief Guest for the occasion was Dist. Governor PMJF Rakesh Chaumal. The program was co-ordinated by Lion William Sequeira and Lion Jude Lobo. Keeping Corona in mind only 125 Lions were participated.



Janus — the Roman god of beginnings whose two faces allowed him to look simultaneously into the past and the future — Caesar instituted January 1 as the first day of the year. On this newly-dated holiday, the Romans celebrated not only by offering sacrifices to Janus, but also by exchanging gifts, attending parties, and decorating their homes with laurel branches.

Today, New Year is celebrated in different ways all around the world — but in many countries, the holiday starts on the evening of December 31 and continues well into the early hours of January 1. Typical New Year's traditions range from

enjoying foods thought to bestow good luck to making resolutions for the coming year — a practice that's actually thought to have originated from the ancient Babylonians. And what about that age-old tradition of kissing your loved one at the stroke of midnight?

Many of us have forgotten that New Year is not only a time for revelry but also for reflection.

The burning of the effigy at the stroke of midnight on New Year's Eve signifies the end of the old year and the beginning of a new one.

— Jubel D'Cruz

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