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A NATIONAL FAMILY WEEKLY

THE CHOICE IS YOURS to be or not to be VACCINATED

by Don Aguiar

Have been reading about the vaccine in almost every newspaper including a dozen professional newspapers.

When COVID was running amok and spreading like wild fire every one of us were praying for a vaccine.... As early as possible. Even now it's in its 2nd peak in many countries like USA & UK. But suddenly we hear from almost every Whatsapp university certified specialist question the speed with which some vaccine was approved. I guess that's basic human nature where in when we are starving we might eat anything but when the same hungry person is given a choice then he forgets the hunger and starts analysing which of the choice is better. The human mind always wants more, isn't it!!

Suddenly everyone knows about phase 2 or phase 3 vaccine trials and starts comparing the efficacy rates, complications incidence and ADI.... adverse drug events . Such information is purely in research scientific domain but unfortunately today it's become Whatsapp time pass.

Whether you WANT to be vaccinated or NOT is purely YOUR CHOICE. That's the only FACT that you need to know. Everything else is relative.

Your choice doesn't depend on the vaccine its effectiveness or side effects but on your assessment of your RISK OF DYING FROM COVID. If you feel fairly comfortable with the assessment that you will not DIE OF COVID THEN YOU DONT NEED ANY VACCINE. Every medicine you and your family have taken so far INCLUDING YOUR PARACETAMOL has so many side effects including irreversible KIDNEY FAILURE. Every antibiotic you have taken could've caused Allergic reaction that could have killed you. Every anaesthesia that someone in your family had before surgery could have caused complications like Paralysis of the breathing leading to death.

Mind you THESE ARE COMPLICATIONS KNOWN TO DOCTORS FOR SO MANY YEARS.... yet they chose to give you these treat-

(Contd.. on p. 3)



2020 - Problems plenty

2020 must be the only year in recent history that the world would like to forget in a hurry. People had made a lot of resolutions coupled with expectations as 2020 unfolded. China is the father of the Corona Virus. The first Corona case was detected in India in late January and within a couple of months the whole world was in a state of turmoil and panic depending on the severity of the impact. The epidemic declared as a pandemic by the World Health Organization [WHO] in March which confirmed worst fears bringing bitter memories of the Spanish Flu where millions died in India and China alone. The Virus began to claim victims and soon the figures galloped into millions with sizable number of fatalities. With health services over-stretched, there was gloom and helplessness all over.

By mid-March India too pressed the panic button and the nation observed a Janata curfew at the behest of the Prime Minister with a couple of days' notice. Then, in a sort of night coup, the Prime Minister declared a complete nationwide lockdown from 25th March with no notice – This upset the people no end. What followed was complete chaos with people, particularly the elderly, running out of essentials and even medicines. Though pharmacies and other groceries were allowed to function on a restricted scale, they soon ran out of stocks as there were no arrangements for replenishment of the depleted stocks. Those were harrowing days with people buying even the outdated products with no other option. With no trains migrant workers were the most affected with no jobs and no shelter. They preferred to walk hundreds and even thousands of miles under trying conditions to reach their homes in UP, MP, Bihar etc. With the world virtually at a standstill with no economic activity, the future looked bleak. There was despondency and gloom except in America which paid a heavy price for Trump's intransience and obduracy with three lakh deaths. He not only lost the re-election but also credibility.

People felt that they are in Nazi concentration camps with all movements restricted to just going out to buy your essentials. The economy took the worst hit with every sector bearing the

IEWS on NEWS

brunt barring may be the manufacturers of sanitizers and soaps. Hand washing became the new norm. No touching, no shaking hands, no contact with other humans and even objects. Soon gloves were used as an additional safety measure. This was followed by masks making everybody look like apes. Everything and everybody suddenly became untouchable. This new protocol was given a respectable nomenclature – social distancing which everybody followed for a few months but soon the Corona fatigue set in and people became lax and even irresponsible so much so that the authorities had to impose fines and other deterrents to discipline the erring lot. Months later the restrictions were relaxed in a calibrated fashion. The Work from Home culture is here to stay. It's a new corporate narrative.

Is 2020 to be really blamed and hated so much so that everybody was waiting for its end? Not really. The year gone by, is not a politician to retaliate. Frankly, a politician would have said that the virus problem was a baggage of the year 2019 which is why it was called Covid-19 and not Covid-20. The year 2020 only bore the brunt of it and has been maligned and hated. There is hope at the end of the tunnel though with the encouraging reports on the vaccine. There was something to learn from this calamity. It taught mankind what life really is. It also brought home the point that man has not conquered the world. Pandemic also gave us Indians a ready excuse for non-performance/delay. It is hoped that after a 'stress' of 2020 humanity will be spared from the 'strain' in 2021. While hoping the word 'positive' is not longer negative, here's wishing all Secular readers a Happy New Year 2021.

Rajinikant – retired hurt?

The mega superstar from the South, who is a demi God for his millions of fans, had been contemplating joining politics and replicate the change brought about by another mega star of yester-years - MGR a few decades back. He was extremely popular as a CM after he broke away from the DMK to form AIDMK. The late Jayalalitha inherited his legacy and ruled Tamil Nadu until her death. With another stalwart



by Marshall Sequeira

Karunanidhi no longer on the scene, the likes of Kamal Hassan and Rajinikant saw this as an opportune time to fill that space. While Hassan, with his known opposition to the BJP, took the lead and formed his own party, Rajinikant said he would announce his plans on the New Year day. People had been waiting for this. BJP too welcomed the idea hoping that with the mega star's leaning towards the saffron brigade, he could counter Kamal Hassan who also is a popular figure.

At present, the two Dravidian parties do not have any leader of eminence from the filmy world and therefore are handicapped. This is one state where the influence of film stars plays a very crucial role in politics and therefore these two parties were worried about these two stars joining politics. They were jittery as Rajinikant had declared that he would keep Dravidian parties at bay. The DMK and AIDMK realize the impact the stars can have on the electorate. Rattled, the DMK ridiculed Rajinikant.

The BJP had already declared that they would go with the AIDMK in the next assembly elections. But the moment Rajinikant said that he will have no truck with either of the two Dravidian parties, the BJP found itself cornered. Having already announced a tie-up with the AIDMK, the superstar would remain away from that outfit. The party was in a catch-22 situation and tried to find ways to get out of the arrangement by saying that AIDMK first loots and then distributes money to the people hoping that the AIDMK will break the alliance. But suddenly Rajinikant dropped a bombshell saying he is not entering politics. Now the BJP is neither here nor there. Having created a rift with AIDMK relations between them may not be the same. To what extent this will have a bearing on the outcome of the elections, only time will tell. The Megastar has retired hurt even without facing a single ball.

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ments. More importantly any child who got the measles vaccine could have become permanently a VEG-ETABLE DUE TO A CONDITION called SUB ACUTE SCLEROSING PAN ENCEPHALITIS- SSPE ... yet your Paediatrician gave your precious children this vaccine.

Nobody thinks twice about taking chemotherapy for cancer or blood thinners or aspirin to prevent cardiac disease. These drugs can and do cause far worse complications than any vaccine. Suddenly people read something on WhatsApp and think they have become super specialist docs. People are alive and well today because your parents gave you polio and small pox and other vaccines without asking questions.

Does it sound intriguing to you that your own trusted doctor gave you something that could've potentially killed or paralysed you permanently? Wake up people. No medicine is 100% safe.

Every treatment offered by your doctor is done in EXTREME GOOD FAITH to make you better. Doctors operate on a principal of RISK VERSUS BENEFIT. If the potential benefit

outweighs the risk considerably then they give this in good faith. The reason they follow this approach is that they are NOT GOD, and they are still very far from giving 100% safe treatment for EVERY DISEASE.

Coming back to the safety of the COVID VACCINES...

ALL THE VACCINES HAVE BEEN APPROVED ON AN EMERGENCY USE AUTHORISATION ONLY.

This means that the scientific community have not had ADEQUATE TIME to analyse the safety and effectiveness of all these currently available vaccines. In spite of the best of their Efforts Knowledge and Resources. So it's up to you to realise whether YOU ARE IN AN EMERGENCY OR NOT.

All governments around the world know that YOU ARE IN AN EMERGENCY that's why you are offered THE OPTION FOR VACCINE. How did the government know that? Is by looking at the millions of deaths caused by COVID IN just ONE year.

If you in your WHATSAPP UNIVERSITY EDUCATED PHD MIND feel that you are not in any emergency then you deny yourself that vaccine. But

you take that extra risk which your neighbours hasn't taken. That's the bottom line.

Is the vaccine the solution for this COVID pandemic?

Any vaccine including all the COVID vaccines are A PART OF THE SOLUTION. No vaccine can protect against any disease 100% of the time. This is from experience with viral infections like POLIO, MEASLES, and INFLUENZA AND HIV. COVID vaccines are presently labelled preventive and not curative which means that you take the vaccine when you are ok to prevent from getting COVID. If you have COVID the vaccine cannot cure you.

A good N95 mask worn with 6 feet social distancing and hand hygiene can protect you 100% from COVID.

Unfortunately we are tired of following the above after 1 year of trial. The most difficult thing to implement is the 6 feet SOCIAL DISTANCING because we are SOCIAL ANIMALS. We like to meet with fellow humans all the time. We cannot live in isolation or lockdown for much longer not because of the economic impact but more so due the MENTAL DIS-

(Contd.. on p. 4)

Road to be named after Cardinal Valerian Gracias

(Contd.. from p. 3)

TRESS THAT IS CAUSED BY SOCIAL DISTANCING.

The vaccine is an easier way of attaining the HERD IMMUNITY than the natural infection caused by corona virus. Any COVID vaccine is safer than getting infected with the virus and fighting for survival in an ICU with a ventilator in your throat. A vaccine is an additional safety like a helmet for a 2 wheeler bike rider but has to be used with safe driving practice. The best helmet cannot save you if you are a rash driver but can protect your head from an accidental fall. Look at the COVID vaccine as an additional safety measure along with MASKS, SOCIAL DISTANCING AND HAND HYGIENE, not as a replacement. This we have to accept until the world develops HERD IMMUNITY from COVID just like SMALL POX OR POLIO.

If you feel you are a safe DRIVER WHO DOES NOT NEED A HELMET AND CAN STRICTLY FOLLOW THE 3 important steps - mask, 6 feet distancing & Hand hygiene- that will 100% protect you, then you probably can stay away from the vaccine until you are convinced. But that's a decision ONLY YOU HAVE TO TAKE, not look for advice and VALIDATION from WHATSAPP UNIVERSITY.

A herd immunity is the only SURE SHOT WAY TO ELIMINATE COVID from the world we live in. The reality is each one of us is part of this herd & it's in each one of our hands to help reach the herd immunity as soon as possible.

Either get infected or get vaccinated.... or stay forever in a bubble distanced from other people. THE CHOICE IS YOURS.

There will always be a doubt when something new is introduced. It is the duty of the experts to convince rather than ridicule/be rude to the one that doubts. In today's world the good, the bad and the ugly are available on the internet which causes confusion.

The road from the highway at Dramapur leading towards St. Joseph's Church, Dramapur and the interior village will be officially named after late Cardinal Valerian Gracias by Fr. Freddy J Da Costa Memorial Trust on 12th January 2021 at 4.00 pm, in commemoration of Cardinal Valerian's 68th anniversary of anointment to the College of Cardinals. The unveiling of the road plaque at the hands of Hon. Minister for Waste Management, Science and Technology, Shri Michael Lobo will follow its blessing by the parish priest, Rev. Fr. Victor Viegas in the distinguished presence of Local



MLA and Hon. Minister for Water Resources, Fisheries and Metrology, Shri Filipe Nery Rodrigues, Eminent Goan and Ex-Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Shri Tomazinho Cardozo, Rev. Fr. Wilfred Fernandes, SJ, great grand nephew of the late Cardinal, Smt. Sanjana Chari, Sarpanch of Dramapur-Sirlim Panchayat, Bro. Eusebio Miranda SFX, Editor of 'Vauraddeancho Ixtt' and Shri Cyriaco Dias, Eminent Tiatr Personality.

Hailing from Goa's Dramapur village in Salcette, Valerian Gracias was born to José and Carlota in Karachi on October 23, 1900. He became the

first Indian to be anointed Cardinal on January 12, 1953.

On completion of formal studies at St. Patrick's High School, Karachi, Valerian entered the seminary in Mangalore and later pursued his studies in Kandy, Ceylon and Rome, Italy. He was ordained a priest in Kandy in October 1926, for the Archdiocese of Bombay. After serving as a secretary to the Archbishop of Bombay and as the Chancellor of the Archdiocese, Gracias became the first Indian Rector of the pro-cathedral of the Holy Name in Bombay in 1941. Appointed Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Bombay in 1946, he became the first Indian Archbishop of Bombay on December 4, 1950.

He was awarded the Padma Vibhushan in 1966.

Cardinal Gracias breathed his last on September 11, 1978 at the age of 78. His mortal remains lie interred in front of the Altar of Our Lady of Lourdes in the Holy Name Cathedral, Wodehouse Road, Bombay.

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Testing the Corona Vaccine

Roll up your sleeves, read the headlines of a newspaper (The Free Press Journal - 4 January 2021). Finally, we have a vaccine, or is it? Two vaccines have been given the nod to roll out in the country. The authorities are hopeful, rather confident that the vaccines would be effective. The Editorial in the same newspaper states, don't undermine faith in the vaccine. The All India Drug Action Network (AIDAN) says that the regulator, in the interest of transparency and public welfare, should share the ratio rationale behind the decision along with the disclosure of the data, evidence and information reviewed by the Subject Expert Committee (SEC). The general public themselves are rather apprehensive of these vaccines. A couple of people with whom I met, said they would rather wait for a few more months before taking a decision. Apparently, all does not seem to be well as far as the vaccine goes. So, how do we get over this situation?

Without getting into any sort of controversy, **would it help if some of those celebrities who were in the forefront in the fight against COVID-19, would come forward and take the vaccine themselves?** This would perhaps help reinforce public faith in these vaccines.

While on the subject, I was chatting with a friend, and he made a point which I thought was valid. Illnesses like cancer, AIDS, etc., have been around for quite many years now and we have been but been able to really find a vaccine for these illnesses. Why, even a common cold as the name suggests, is 'common' and yet we are unable to find a permanent so-

lution. **On the other hand, COVID-19 which has made its appearance just around a year ago and we have been successful in developing several vaccines in such a short time? Something to think about, perhaps?**

Well, at the end of the day, it is the Lord's will which shall prevail. The world was moving too fast and man was destroying God's creation, so we needed that 'pause' button to bring man to his senses. When the Lord speaks we need to listen!

—Melville X. D'Souza
Orlem, Malad West

Strengthen democracy - with a strong and impartial media

With reference to the article titled : Tough Time Ahead In 2021 20-20 Tough Time BY MR C K SUBRAMANIAM in THE SECULAR CITIZEN dated MONDAY , JANUARY 4 , 2021 - SUNDAY , JANUARY 10 , 2021 the function of the media is to entertain , inform and educate the people and it is considered linked to the legal system and educational system too.

Politics and journalism are two separate faces of the same coin and are linked to each other on the issue of leadership and thus cannot be separated.

Media must draw a clear line between ads and themselves and balance them equally to prevent the commercialization of the media and politicians must be kept at an arm's length to prevent them from making the media their mouthpiece or appendage.

Magazines and newspapers take great pride as a management issue in conveniently and proudly abolishing their letter column or reducing the number of letters carried by them or by publishing letters sent to them on Facebook and other net sites and must remember that the letter space is sacred space and benefits them too because they can use points from both published and unpublished letters for their research.

All these problems must be addressed through de-commercialization seminars held regularly once a year.

Prizes and consolation prizes must be given weekly for good letters to encourage good journalism and similarly spot prizes must be given for a similar purpose for good letters too .

Hence the need and necessity to strengthen democracy - with a strong media that acts as the voice of the people of various issues and lets them express their opinions creatively , non -violently , fearlessly and fairly to ensure that they are heard and respected .

— Peter Castellino,
Mumbai

Receiving communion in the hand

Of late we have been witnessing an encouraging transformation and a return to the old form of worship in our churches which have opened their doors to one and all, leaving it to the discretion and responsibility of parents to bring their children below the age of 10. Thermal screening at the entrance, hand-sanitizing ,wearing of face mask, and social distancing are strictly observed in accordance with the stipulated SOPs. Secondly, with the outbreak of Covid-19, holy communion is distributed only in the hand and not on the tongue of the recipient, as in earlier years. However, it is

(Contd.. on p. 9)

Caring is an Essence of Peace!

Another year has just begun: with a fervent prayer in the hearts and on the lips of millions across the globe- a prayer for the healing, a prayer for peace! The world has never witnessed a 'brokenness', as it is witnessing today. COVID-19 has wreaked havoc and taken a toll on lives of an unimaginable number everywhere. To top it all (whilst there is certainly plenty of good and caring taking place all over by the 'good Samaritans' of our time) added to the spate of natural and man-made disasters in the past year, what has come to fore is the manner by which certain regimes (like in India) have unleashed systematic brutalization of their people whilst using the pandemic as a cover!

Every year on 8 December (since it was first begun in 1968), the Pope gives a message for the 'World Day of Peace' which is observed by the Catholic Church on the very first day of the year (in India we also observe this day on 30 January, the anniversary of the martyrdom of Mahatma Gandhi the father of our Nation! This year, Pope Francis focuses on '**A Culture of Care as a Path to Peace**'; he has addressed it to 'Heads of State and Government, leaders of International Organizations, spiritual leaders and followers of the different religions, and to men and women of good will'. In the opening para of this message Pope Francis makes his intent clear, "to all I offer my best wishes that the coming year will enable humanity to advance on the path of fraternity, justice and peace between individuals, communities, peoples and nations". For sustainable peace, 'caring' is therefore a *sine qua non*! Pope Francis writes, "The culture of care calls for a common, supportive and inclusive commitment to protecting and promoting the dignity and good of all, a willingness to show care and compassion, to work for reconciliation and healing, and to advance mutual

respect and acceptance. As such, it represents a privileged path to peace"

Pope Francis has crafted his message in nine carefully laid out but inter-related segments. He begins with an 'Introduction' (already been referred to, above); he devotes a significant para to the pandemic COVID-19 and pays tribute to all those who have responded as care-givers in various ways. But he sets his message in a more painful reality that grips our world today, when he says, "we have also seen a surge in various forms of nationalism, racism and xenophobia, and wars and conflicts that bring only death and destruction in their wake. These and other events that marked humanity's path this past year have taught us how important it is to care for one another and for creation in our efforts to build a more fraternal society". There is nothing sentimental or sanctimonious in his message he is direct in highlighting the sufferings of world today, which is the lot of India too!



BY FR. CEDRIC PRAKASH SJ

In the following three segments Pope Francis deals with. 'God the Creator, the source of our human vocation to care'; 'God the Creator, a model of care' and 'Care in the ministry of Jesus'. Pope Francis emphasises that It is God who first

takes care of humanity and from this derives the supreme dignity of the latter in the order of creation. He therefore speaks of "God's plan" for creation, an expression that recalls the now disused expressions "natural moral law" and "teleological order of nature". Above all, care is incarnated by Jesus Christ and has as its summit His Death and Resurrection: "Jesus seals His care for us by offering Himself on the cross and thus freeing us from the slavery of sin and death". In this way the message, while also addressing many contingent social problems, maintains a truly Christian perspective, recalling certain truths of the dogmatic as well as the pastoral tradition. These important as-

pects of his message need to be taken note of - particularly by Christian fundamentalists who rant and rave whenever Pope Francis contextualises spirituality in an attempt to make Christianity more relevant to our world of today.

In the subsequent segment he presents what he calls 'A culture of care in the life of Jesus' followers' stating that "The needs of the times called forth new efforts in the service of Christian charity. History records innumerable examples of practical works of mercy... The Church's work among the poor was to a great extent highly organized. There arose many institutions for the relief of every human need: hospitals, poor houses, orphanages, foundling homes, shelters for travelers ..."

Pope Francis in his ardent desire for universal peace does not stop at the charity/benefactor approach which has long been the strength of the Church's outreach. That definitely has a place. His message goes beyond the traditional as he delves on *The principles of the Church's social doctrine as the basis for a culture of care and inter-linking it with Care as promotion of the dignity and rights of each person; Care for the common good; Care through solidarity and Care and protection of creation; A careful discipleship reading of this segment could easily be an 'examination of conscience' for all those who call themselves disciples of Jesus and particularly for the Church in India. How visible and vocal have we been when the human rights of our sisters and brothers are exploited and denied in our country? It is true the arrest of Fr Stan Swamy on 8 October has brought about an awakening in some sections of the Church. This is good and important - but is it enough? What about the others who have been incarcerated for more than two years now under the draconian UAPA? Has the Church officially spoken about the plight of the farmers or the migrant workers? How does one understand the concept of*



(Contd.. from p. 6)

'solidarity'? Then there is the care for creation: in this 'Laudato Si' year why does the Church fight shy of taking a stand against those who destroy the environment- for example the Mollem issue in Goa? Fr Stan took on the powerful mining mafia in Jharkhand on behalf of the Adivasis and he is paying today!

In the seventh segment Pope Francis gives us, gives the world. A *compass pointing to a common path*. One would need to meditate on his opening para in its totality, *"At a time dominated by a culture of waste, faced with growing inequalities both within and between nations, I urge government leaders and those of international organizations, business leaders, scientists, communicators and educators, to take up these principles as a "compass" capable of pointing out a common direction and ensuring "a more humane future" in the process of globalization. This will enable us to esteem the value and dignity of every person, to act together in solidarity for the common good, and to bring relief to those suffering from poverty, disease, slavery, armed conflicts, and discrimination. I ask everyone to take this compass in hand and to become a prophetic witness of the culture of care, working to overcome the many existing social inequalities. This can only come about through a wide-spread and meaningful involvement on the part of women, in the family and in every social, political and institutional sphere"*. This compass is about caring for peace!

This whole segment is like a 'do-it-now' if one really is interested in peace. In sum and substance, it is like the essence of Pope Francis' social teaching over the years. He reserves his best when he takes on the military industrial establishment saying, *"how many resources are spent on weaponry, especially nuclear weapons, that could be used for more significant priorities such as ensuring the safety of individuals, the promotion of peace and integral human development, the fight against poverty, and the provision of health care. Global problems like the present Covid-19 pandemic and climate*

change have only made these challenges all the more evident. What a courageous decision it would be to "establish a 'Global Fund' with the money spent on weapons and other military expenditures, in order to permanently eliminate hunger and contribute to the development of the poorest countries"!

This is not the first time that he has taken on the 'culture of death' industry. But will the Church in India take a cue from his message and come out with a pastoral on the growing militarisation of the country; the amount of wasteful expenditure on arms and ammunition and particularly the legitimisation of corruption in several of the arms deals? *Educating for a culture of care* then becomes an important dynamic in ensuring that caring is foundational to peace. Pope Francis stresses on the need for this education saying, *"Promoting a culture of care calls for a process of education. The "compass" of social principles can prove useful and reliable in a variety of interrelated contexts"*; the contexts for him include the family, schools and universities, communications media, religious leaders, all those engaged in public service and in international organizations, both governmental and non-governmental. In this segment Pope Francis quoted a speech by Pope Paul VI given in 1969 to the Ugandan Parliament *"have no fear of the Church; she honors you, she educates honest and loyal citizens for you, she does not foment rivalries and divisions, she seeks to promote healthy liberty, social justice, and peace. If she has any preference at all, it is for the poor, for the education of little ones and of the people, for the care of the suffering and abandoned."* An invitation to look into Catholic education in India today.

His conclusion *'There can be no peace without a culture of care'* in the ninth and last segment is an apparent non-negotiable; in his typical 'Gospel -without- compromise' attitude Pope Francis asserts, *"at a time like this, when the barque of humanity, tossed by the storm of the current crisis, struggles to advance towards a calmer and more serene horizon, the "rudder" of human dignity and the "compass" of fundamental social principles can enable*

us together to steer a sure course. As Christians, we should always look to Our Lady, Star of the Sea and Mother of Hope. May we work together to advance towards a new horizon of love and peace, of fraternity and solidarity, of mutual support and acceptance. May we never yield to the temptation to disregard others, especially those in greatest need, and to look the other way; instead, may we strive daily, in concrete and practical ways, "to form a community composed of brothers and sisters who accept and care for one another".

Pope Francis' World Day of Peace 2021 message has several quotations from his latest path breaking encyclical, *"Fratelli tutti,"* and he echoes many of the themes presented in it. His underlying assumption is that 'caring is an essence of peace!' We have just entered a new year: what we need to ask ourselves is whether we are prepared to internalise the powerful message for peace given to us by our Holy Father? Are we ready to share it: to preach about it; translate it into the vernacular and write about it? Above all do we have the courage to accept his challenge and the premise that caring is peace?

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

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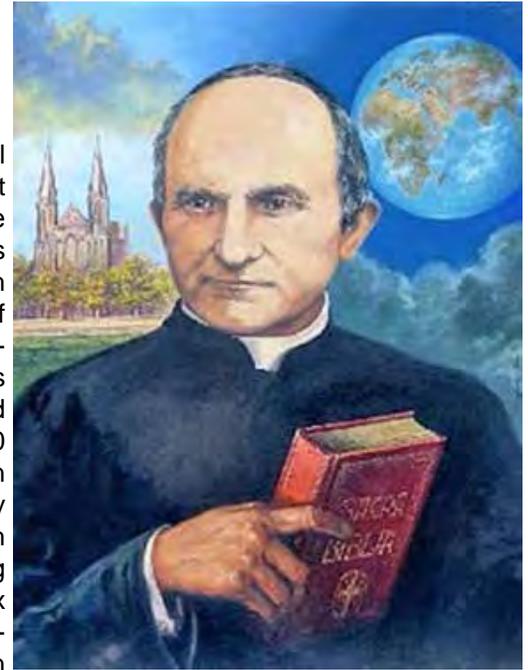
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Tough Time Once Again



On 15th January our mother Church commemorates the feast of St. Arnold Janseen. Nobody ever imagined that a man who was said to be a fool by his bishop would be able to found three missionary congregations namely, SVD, SSPS and SSPSAP in order to spread the word of God wherever it has not been preached so far or insufficiently preached. Arnold was born on 5th November 1837 in Goch, a small city in Germany to Gerhard Janssen and Anna Katharina. As a young man, Arnold developed an early interest in the natural sciences. He went on to study in this field and became a high school teacher. Subsequently, he went on to study Theology and was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Muenster, Germany on August 15th 1861. Mission is the proclamation of an experience of God. Little by little, he also became more aware of the spiritual needs of people beyond the limits of his own Diocese, developing deep concern for the Universal mission of the church. He decided to dedicate his life to awake in the German church its missionary responsibility. In 1873, he established "The Little Messenger of the Sacred Heart" wherein he wrote, "Is there not anyone among you in the whole of Germany who feels called to devote himself to the missionary cause?" An abrupt response came from Bishop Raimondi, "No Mission seminary in Germany? found one by yourself?"



**Br. Justin Arokia Raj SVD
Bhopal**

One side Arnold began to discern about founding a missionary congregation, on the other side there was the threat of *Kulturkampf* from 1872 to 1878. *Kulturkampf* was the conflict that took place between the government of the Kingdom of Prussia led by Otto Van Bismark and the Roman Catholic Church led by Pope Pius IX. The main issues were the battle for modern civilization which was a series of anti-Catholic law, and clerical con-

trol of education and ecclesiastical appointments. In simple terms, it was the conflict between the State and the Church. As consequences of this, German catholic church was faced with the expulsion of priests and religious and the imprisonment of many bishops. This *Kulturkampf* which oppressed and persecuted Catholic Church 150 years back seems to have been in a way repeated by the ruling party of our country in our time. Church in India also has been undergoing the tough times for almost last six years now. Sufferings and persecutions are the hallmark of Christian life. We, as the children of God, are happy to accept all kinds of sufferings and persecutions because our Divine Master Jesus himself underwent all these things and died on the cross. As laity, religious, priests, and brothers what really matter is how we respond to those brethren who are persecuting us and with what values we are going to rebuild the humanity that has been distorted by religious intolerance, exclusiveness, majoritism, Polarization in terms of religions, languages etc...

So, I would like to put forth some basic values which would helpful in rebuilding the humanity once again.

Love:

Love which can't be substituted by anything else always takes the top place. That is what we see in the Gospel of St. Mark we see Jesus saying that love your neighbor as yourself and he goes beyond saying that there is no other greater commandment than this. But often we fail to identify who are all our neighbors. To this radical question, Jesus himself gives the best epitome in the gospel of St. Luke in the narration of the Good Samaritan. Our neighbors can be anyone including those people who belong to other religions, even those who are against our Catholic Church, who are uttering vehemently that India is only for Hin-

dus, who are polarizing our country in the name of religion. If we go with an adage of tit for tat, our entire country would loose the greatest heritage of the unity in diversity. After having identified our neighbors, let us spread our love among them. Thus, the hardened hearts may be melted gradually like wax and they may provide way for peace and harmony.

Sharing:

It is one of the basic Christian values. All Gospels narrate the incident of Jesus feeding the multitude but only the Gospel of St. John portrays the boy who had five loaves and two fish. The boy's small sharing could feed the hunger with Jesus' marvelous intervention. Sharing is always good. But it is important to make sure that with whom we are sharing what we have. Most of the time, we look for our publicity and appreciations. As a result, we are not able to reach out to the needy and destitute. If we really focus on the love with which we are going to share what we have we will be able to find out the needy irrespective of their religions, languages etc... This is cheerful giving which God loves.

Unity:

As children of God, we are all united with God irrespective of our indifference and by the grace of the Holy Spirit



(Contd.. from p. 5)

not understood as to why the hands of the recipients are sanitized once again before receiving the sacred host from the priest/Eucharistic minister. Is it out of respect and reverence for the Host or to safeguard the giver. This is something uncalled for when there is no physical contact between the giver and receiver in the process. Moreover, this is done in only a few churches and not the norm in all churches and Archdioceses.

— A. F. Nazareth,

(Contd.. from p. 8)

we are united among ourselves. Often, we tend to think that it is enough for us to be united with our Christian community alone. As a result, we fail to extend our web of relationship with those people who belong to other religions, denominations etc... Moreover, when we encounter an atheist we tend to look at him as an alien or as if he has committed a grave sin. These are naked realities of life. We need to cross over these kinds of barriers. In the Gospel of St. John, we see Jesus famous prayer for his disciples, "That may all be one" which means that we, as human beings are one before the eyes of God. The Christian unity is to be united with all irrespective of differences in creed, nationality etc... Invariably, we find that the above mentioned values are found in all religious holy scriptures. Usually, when we speak of holy scriptures there are two kinds problems arising in this present scenario. One is that we often remain as readers of the text rather than the practitioners of the text. The second one is growing relativism. Each one is interpreting the text in his/her own ways. As a result, we face the emergence of Fundamentalism in our country. According to Plato, something is beautiful when there is harmony among the parts. In the same way, our country becomes more beautiful than ever when there is harmony among its citizens and religions.

Alto Porvorim, Goa.

USA - A Democracy under Assault!

So finally the political drama in the United States of America seems to have come to an end, with Joe Biden's win being confirmed as the new President. But, the controversy that followed over the counting of votes was a real disgrace!

The champions of Democracy, the United States of America (USA) have made a mockery of Democracy, a nation which stands by its democratic principles. Supporters of the losing party scaling the walls at Capitol Hill, taking over the Speaker's Chair, resorting to rioting, violence, etc., is indeed a disgusting sight. Several lives have been lost in the scuffle. As Joe Biden sadly stated, "**American democracy was under unprecedented assault**". The world watched with dismay at the rampage that occurred at Capitol Hill. USA had become the butt off all jokes with a meme on Iraq sending peace-

keepers to Washington if required. The Democratic image of USA has been shattered, the world's greatest democracy has been brought down to it's knees. Subverting Democratic process anywhere in the world, whether it is USA, or other Democratic countries is definitely not a good sign.

It is believed that America is the world's strongest country and nobody can destroy America. A message circulating on Whatsapp says, '**America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we lose our freedom it will be because we destroyed ourselves.**' This quote has been attributed to Abraham Lincoln which is not true but, the message is very clear. Democracies the world over need to draw some lessons from this incident. **Those in power ought to be fair to their people and safeguard the country from internal strife in order to tackle the dangers from outside. One hopes wiser counsel would prevail upon the political class.**

— Melville X. D'Souza
Orlem, Malad West



Church of N. S. da Gloria, Mazagon, Bombay. Built by Franciscans, 1596. Rebuilt in 1810, and replaced in 1913 by the Gloria Church, Byculla.

The original Gloria Church in Byculla, Nossa Senhora da Glória, was built in 1632 at the foot of the Mazagaon hill. This Franciscan church was funded by the De Souza e Lima family, who owned the Mazagaon island which they procured from the King of Portugal in 1572. The old church was demolished in 1911.

The Archbishop Raphy I Know

by *chhotebhai*

Normally, when a new bishop or archbishop is appointed, we are presented with a “dry run” of when the person was born, his family history, educational background, posts held, etc. Since I am not “normal” I shall stray from the straight and narrow to share my personal experiences of Bp Raphy Manjaly who was installed as the Archbishop of Agra on 7th January.

I first met Raphy when he was about 20 years old, studying in St Joseph’s Regional Seminary, Allahabad to become a priest for Agra diocese. At that time he was experiencing a vocational crisis for two reasons – one external and the other internal. The external one was that his then Archbishop Dominic Athaide believed that unless a seminarian could play the piano he could not be a good priest! Whacko isn’t it? The second reason was the writings of theologians like Bultman who in their attempt to demythologise Jesus, were actually destroying the faith of innocent seminar-ians like Raphy.

Abp Athaide sent Raphy for guidance to Fr Augustine Deenabandu OFM Cap of Jyotiniketan Ashram, Bareilly; which is where we met. Outgoing Abp Albert D’souza made a specific reference to this in his Nunc Dimittus speech of how all of us met together. The point here is that Raphy did not gloss over his doubts. Like the sinking Peter, he had a crisis of faith, and again like Peter, he called out to the Lord to save him. I see this as a positive development in his faith journey. Our faith needs to be challenged, so that we may emerge stronger.

Shortly after, the two of us set off on a Gospel journey in a neighbouring district, to visit some Punjabi Catholic farm workers who had settled in the remote Terai region. We were accompanied by the catechist Garibdas, with his harmonium, on the one cycle that held all our meagre belongings. One night when we were sleeping in a hut Garibdas boldly said that as an obedient “servant” he would do anything that he was told to!

I shamelessly told him to go bathe in the stream alongside, on that cold winter night. He did so. I felt ashamed of myself, and promptly followed him into the freezing water. The family whose



hut we were sharing were so poor that they did not have any extra bedding. So like two drowned rats, we had to ward off the bitter cold by covering ourselves with paddy straw.

I feel that this was another important lesson in the life of the young Raphy. Don’t ask others to do what you yourself are not prepared to do. I am sure that the gospel journey, in extreme poverty, would also have impacted his faith for the future.

Many years later when he was on the faculty of the seminary in Allahabad I went to visit him. While having breakfast, I asked him who the new rector was. Bashfully lowering his eyes, he told me that he himself was the rector. This was typical of the man. He did not take pride in office. It was these striking qualities of humility and simplicity that endeared him to many. He still has the boyish grin on his face that he had when we first met about 40 years ago.

Two very recent incidences also reflect his nature and character. During the lockdown last year the Ministry of Health had laid down strict rules for re-opening churches, including giving a signed dec-

laration of compliance to the local police, so much so that religious leaders, not just Christians, were hesitant to re-open places of worship. I approached Bp Raphy, then my bishop of Allahabad. Through the good offices of Dr Roshan Jacob IAS, we got an appointment with the Chief Secretary of U.P. Bp Raphy asked me to prepare the memorandum. No other bishop from U.P. accompanied us to get the much needed clarification from the Government.

Shortly after he was appointed to the Pontifical Council for Interfaith Dialogue; and in that context told me about a complaint that he had received from a young Muslim in the Gulf, about the bishops in Kerala coming out against “love Jihad”. Here again Bp Raphy shared the correspondence with me, and encouraged me to write to that aggrieved person. I am sharing these most recent instances as an indication

of what kind of person Abp Raphy is – one who trusts others and delegates responsibility. He had no ego problems in joining a lay initiative like mine.

During the installation ceremony a recorded interview was screened. When asked about his future plans he said that had no pre-conceived ideas, and was not in favour of a top to bottom approach. He believed in spiritual discernment with one ear tuned to promptings of the Holy Spirit, and the other ear to the ground.

After being bishop of Varanasi and then Allahabad he was now returning to his parent diocese of Agra. He called it a homecoming and quoted the Lord telling the prophet Jeremiah that he would guide and protect him on his return to the homeland. Abp Raphy also quoted Salesian counsellor Rev Joe Mannath who had said to him that whatever he was, it was due to the faith of his parents.

Raphy was one of seven siblings born to M.V. Chacko and Catherine of Trichy diocese in Kerala. At the tender age of 15 he came to Agra, and later did his



doctorate from the Agelicum University, Rome.

Because of Covid restrictions the installation was held in the hall of St Peter's College with mandatory masks and proper social distancing. The Eucharistic service was devoid of ostentation, with about 20 archbishops and bishops attending, together with the acting Nuncio, Rev Robert Murphy and priests from his former dioceses of Varanasi and Allahabad. I was deeply touched when Bp Francis Kallist of Meerut referred to my recent article "Do we need Bishops" in his homily. The service was in Hindi ably compeered by two local vocations – Revs Moon Lazarus and Amit George, healthy signs for an emergent local church

After the installation, lunch was served to all in common. I was happy to see that, because so often in church functions, the lowly laity is packed off to another section for their food.

This installation and smooth transition of office took place on the same day that Donald Trump and his supporters were brazenly attacking the seat of governance in Washington, with a grim reluctance to accept defeat. It was therefore even more pleasant to see the cordiality evident between the outgoing Abp Albert D'souza and the incoming one. I say this because even though Abp Albert proffered his resignation at the mandatory age of 75, he was fit and fine enough to have gone on for another ten years. When the world is engulfed in power struggles it is a joy and solace to see a humble and smooth transition.

Abp Raphy has a dual role to play. His metropolitan region encompasses the States of U.P., Rajasthan, Uttarakhand and even a segment of M.P. Three of these States have belligerent BJP Govts that have recently enacted severe anti-conversion laws. Secondly, as a member of the Pontifical Council for Inter-Religious Dialogue, he has another onerous task cut out for him. He needs all our prayers and support, and I personally hope and pray that as the Lord's chosen one, he will rise to the occasion, as he has the requisite qualities of spirit, mind and heart. Having known him for over 40 years I make bold to say so.

Making Mole Out Of Mountain On Economic Front

Life always presents challenges. 2020 was one such year of the century where it brought all our activities to a standstill. Despite this, we all learned to adjust to a new norm of life and sailed through it without realising how fast time has gone by. The danger is not another democratic breakdown but anarchy settling in our economic progress. The country's development will cloud India's economic and political future. Prime Minister Modi can weather the storm using a strategy of attrition. It is good to start a new year after the global devastation on the economy caused by the pandemic.

Gross revenues from the Goods and Services Tax (GST) hit a record high in December 2020, with collections of ₹1,15,174 crore, 12% higher than a year ago and 9.7% greater than the previous month's inflows. The world has seen a big reboot. Some large economies have emerged as the clear winners in the pandemic crisis. Where do you think India will move and evolve in the very near term and in the first half of 2021?

A large country like ours cannot survive on surfaces alone. Services must ride on top of manufacturing or agriculture, not imports or trade. We cannot be serving each other without making something tangible. Overall the foundation of the Indian economy is strong and with bold budget projections, it should bounce back on track to its previous growth levels.

What we underestimated was the impact the government's direct support to the poor, providing free grains and easy access to credit, had on the economy. In hindsight it infused a strong momentum to the economy. Government tried to avoid fiscal defi-

cit in its books, pushing banks to absorb the impact of this credit. It did of course, commit itself to stand guarantee to this credit. It remains how this unfolds. One cannot, however, not appreciate how this worked out. It now provides a greater flexibility to deal with the impact.

Now the case of GST collection during the last 3 months exceeding Rs.1.00 lakh crore itself is a very good signal how the economic revival is taking place. As regards the services sector the growth is there, albeit, not at an expected rate. Most of the leading Tech companies show better results despite the lockdown being prolonged more than the expected period. Another major facilitating factor is the role played by the RBI to put in the desired monetary policy measures that helped growth of money supply. The collection for December is the highest in the current financial year and is the third consecutive month of crossing the Rs 1 lakh crore mark. In October and November, the collections were at Rs 1.05 lakh crore and Rs 1.04 lakh crore.



C.K. Subramaniam

On the other side when you look at the development side again, we need to take this into account that there is a lot of consolidation. The larger players who are listed and some of the larger unlisted ones are benefiting thanks to some very aggressive marketing programmes and the ability to invest in marketing and sales. Results are forthcoming and the carping critics of our economic progress have to eat their words in the new year.

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Winston Churchill took a taxi one day and went to BBC office for an interview. On reaching there, he asked the taxi driver to wait for 40 min till he got back! But the driver apologized and said "I can't, I have to go home to listen to Winston Churchill's interview" Churchill smiled and gave him £ 10 instead of £ 1 without disclosing his identity.

Driver pocketed the money & said "Sir, I will wait for an hour, let Churchill go to hell"

A Teacher asked her 6th-grade class "How many of them were RaGa fans."

Not really knowing what a RaGa fan is, but wanting to be liked by the teacher, all the kids raised their hands except for little Hardiek Pawar ...

The teacher asked Little Hardiek why he has decided to be different... again.

Little Hardiek said, "Because I'm not a RaGa fan."

The teacher asked, "Why aren't you a fan of RaGa?"

Hardiek said, "Because I'm a BJP supporter."

The teacher asked him why he was a BJP supporter. Hardiek answered, "Well, my mom is a BJP supporter and my Dad is a BJP supporter, so I am a BJP supporter."

Annoyed by the answer, the teacher asked, "If Your Mom was a Moron, and your Dad was an Idiot, what would that make you?" _

With a big smile, Hardiek replied, "That would make me a RaGa fan".

Voilance - who is responsible!

If you collect 100 black ants and 100 red ants and put them in a glass jar nothing will happen, but if you take



the jar, shake it violently and leave it on the table, the ants will start killing each other.

Reds believe that black is the enemy while black believes that red is the enemy when the real enemy is the person who shook the jar. The same is true in society.

- Men vs Women
- White vs Black
- Left vs Right
- Rich vs poor
- Hindus vs Muslims
- Catholics vs Protestants
- Faith vs Science
- Gossip, rumors, etc ...

Before we fight each other, we must ask ourselves:

Who rocked the jar?

The right to remain silent

A man in an interrogation room says, "I'm not saying a word without my lawyer present."

"You are the lawyer." said the policeman.

"Exactly, so where's my present?" replied the lawyer.

Things paralegals say?

It's on the Reminder List I sent you Monday.

It's on the Nag list I sent you Tuesday.

It's on the PLEASE list I sent you Wednesday.

It's on the URGENT list I sent you Thursday.

It's on the THIS IS GOING TO BLOW UP IN YOUR FACE list I sent you Friday.

A teacher is teaching a class and she sees that Johnny isn't paying attention, so she asks him, "If there are three ducks sitting on a fence, and you shoot one, how many are left?" Johnny says, "None." The teacher asks, "Why?" Johnny says, "Because the shot scared them all off." The teacher says, "No, two, but I like how you're thinking." Johnny asks the teacher, "If you see three women walking out of an ice cream parlor, one is licking her ice cream, one is sucking her ice cream, and one is biting her ice cream, which one is married?" The teacher says, "The one sucking her ice cream." Johnny says, "No, the one with the wedding ring, but I like how you're thinking!"

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

A panda walks into a bar, sits down, and orders a sandwich. He eats, pulls out a gun, and shoots the waiter dead. As the panda stands up to go, the bartender shouts, "Hey! Where are you going? You just shot my waiter and you didn't pay for the food!" The panda yells back, "Hey man, I'm a panda. Look it up!" The bartender opens his dictionary to panda, "A tree climbing mammal of Asian origin, characterized by distinct black and white coloring. Eats, shoots, and leaves."

A disciple went to his master and said, "I have served you faithfully for ten years. Now I have a wish: give me something to eat which will never end." His master said, "Here, have some chewing gum."

Did you hear the joke about the butter?

I do not think I should tell you because you might spread it around...

“Let Us Dream”!

“Let Us Dream”, written in collaboration with his biographer Austen Ivereigh, Pope Francis explains why and how we could make the world safer, fairer, and healthier for all people, especially for the elderly!

“One sad sign for our times is the exclusion and the isolation of the elderly. A significant number of all COVID-19 deaths have been in the elderly! I often went to such homes in Buenos Aires where caregivers did amazing jobs in spite of so many obstacles. Many of the residents hadn’t been seen by their relatives for at least six months. The abandonment of the elderly is an enormous injustice!”

“Scripture tells us that the elderly are our roots, our sustenance! The prophet Joel hears God’s promise to pour out His Spirit to renew His people: ‘Your sons and daughters shall prophesize, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions!’” (2:28).

“Yes! The future shall be born from the conjunction of the young and the old! A tree separated from its roots does not flower or fruit, but withers – The elderly deprived of the visions of the young, and the young deprived of the dreams of the old, is a society that dries up, and becomes sterile!”

“How do we welcome the elderly back into our families, and restore their dignity and contact with the young? Do we feel the promptings of the Spirit? How do we offer them our friendship? The elderly had lived out the ‘Beatitudes’! They have ‘hungered and thirsted for righteousness!’” (cf. Matthew 5:6).

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

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Bombil Chutney

Ingredients:

- 8 dried bombils (cut into small pieces)
- 2 onions
- 1 tomato
- 3 tbsp coriander leaves
- 6 cloves garlic
- 3 green chillies
- 1 tsp red chilli powder
- 1 tsp turmeric powder
- 1 tsp coriander powder
- 1 tsp cumin powder
- Salt as needed
- 2 tbsp oil

Method:

1. Clean, wash and shallow fry the bombils till they turn golden and crispy.
2. Remove from the oil and keep aside.
3. Meanwhile, chop the tomato and onions, crush garlic and green chilli together.
4. Take oil, add onions and cook till golden in colour.
5. To this, add crushed garlic and green chillies and saute for 30 seconds.
6. Add tomato and cook till they are cooked. To this, add the dry masalas.
7. Cook till the oil separates. Add coriander leaves and fried bombils (Bombay Ducks).
8. Cover and cook for two minutes. Serve with roti, dal-rice or khichdi.



—Sweta D'Cruz and Amit Rane

M'lore City's ever young 'Uncle Joe' is 99 years young.

- Ivan Saldanha-Shet.

He is a well known popular chief traffic warden seen regularly keeping law and order on the busy Mangaluru city roads; traffic hot spots and busy areas of Hampankatta and the city are his hangouts with a dedicated team. Ramrod straight and in his smart star spangled uniform, has now entered his 100th year - he always has a smile and a wave for those who follow traffic rules adequately, and for those who don't he has stern but kind suggestions for their own good, and has saved many sad situations.

Joseph (Joe) Gonsalves, is a name known to most people in Mangalore since long; With New Year 2021, this admirable gentleman turned 99 years, born on January 1, 1921. He has seen a century and many many greats pass by and his contribution to countless causes and his city, country and world is beyond calculation. Even at this ripe age, that few people see, and most far younger dread to think of JOE GONSALVES, as he is better known, is actively contributing to the city and

community at large. No amount of words can admire, appreciate and felicitate this 'HERO' of Mangalore who is well loved by those of all ages. At 99 years old he, at this point in time, is all eager for 100th birthday on January 1, 2022 and many blessings and good wishes are assured to him.

Yoga has been a big part of his life, he keeps consistently motivating many. What is more surprising is that he drives himself, as he has done for ages, thus proving that age is not a barrier. In September 2015, Joe was appointed 'chief traffic warden' of the city. Quite interestingly, Joe has over 80 years of experience behind the wheel, driving not only in the city of Mangaluru but also in countries like England, United States and Canada. In Mangalore city one never fails to see his white car emblazoned with red letters "Chief Traffic Warden" cruising at peak traffic hours, the very presence instills order for drivers and pedestrians of the roads; fear is not the key, but the concern of this stalwart. Age is never an excuse even now at 99 years. Hurrah! He is a role model for all who think about social responsibility. His request to all, especially young people, that they should join this squad in large numbers or other civic action. Superman Joe, at what is considered too old an age, is fully skilled and uses WhatsApp, email, YouTube on his smart phone, something amazing.

Ever cheerful Hero forever : A



long time resident of Falnir in the city, following his education, young Joe Gonsalves joined the British firm J.L Morison, rising from a management trainee to General Sales Manager. He then served as executive director of an incorporated company. His tenure with the companies took him to the four major cities of India and to the UK, where he honed his marketing skills at the Institute of Marketing, London, of which he is an elected member. Following retirement, he has been on the board of directors of educational institutions and charitable organizations, and was one of the founder-directors of the St Aloysius Alumni Association of North America – a continent which he continued to visit every year (till the onset of the pandemic). And as a nonagenarian he ventured on a new profession – that of head traffic warden, Mangalore!

Joe and his wife Irene were one of the few Mangalore couples to jointly live into their 90s. At the time of Irene's death in 2017 they had been married over 67 years. Indeed with the NEW YEAR 2021, people and admirers of mangalore have a great motivation to cheer Joe Gonsalves, this great ever young active hero of the city, an inspiration and concrete example to people decades younger. All wish this HERO well and Blessings of the Supreme Creator who is the provider of all needs. Hurrah from Secular Citizen Weekly, Mumbai to JOE GONSALVES ...on to 'Target 100'.



Kerala Church declares interfaith marriage invalid

Kochi: A marriage between a Catholic woman and a Muslim man in Kerala has been declared “invalid” by an enquiry commission of the Syro-Malabar Church.

Cardinal George Alencherry, head of the Oriental Church, had ordered the probe by a three-member commission after a section of his people questioned the clergy “encouraging” mixed marriages.

“The commission collected details from the priests and bishops of Irinjalkkuda and Ernakulam-Angamaly archdiocese and submitted a report to the major archbishop. It stated that the marriage did not follow Canon law and was hence invalid,” says a press note from the Church December 31.

The wedding was held on November 9 at St Joseph Church in Kochi’s Kadavanthra and the ceremony was attended by Emeritus Bishop Mathew Vaniakizhakkel of Satna.

A photograph of the couple with the bishop, published in a newspaper, drew criticism from certain sections of Catholics in Ernakulam-Angamaly archdiocese.

The commission’s report to the cardinal found the marriage invalid on grounds of “serious lapses” by the parish priest and the bishop, who could now be censured.

Earlier, the Syro-Malabar Church had courted controversy after it set rules to ensure that interfaith marriages are held strictly following the canon laws. After the latest controversy, the Church had said that it would prepare a set of protocols and send to bishops to ensure that the interfaith marriages are solemnized in the Catholic way.

The Church had also asked its bishops to treat inter-faith marriages as “disparity of cult marriages” but conduct them in the proper Catholic way. According to the guidelines, the Church will not mix wedding ceremonies with practices of other communities and religions for interfaith marriages.

Bishop Vaniakizhakkel later regretted attending the marriage and creating confusion among the faithful.

“I attended the mixed marriage because of my close association with the bride’s family. However, I regret attending it,” the 74-year-old Vincentian prelate explained in a letter.

The bishop’s “exemplary step” of regret reportedly brought “great relief” to the traditional faithful in the archdiocese. Bishops normally do not attend mixed marriages.

Only in special cases, the Church allows a Catholic to marry a member of another faith, who does not want to be baptized. However, such marriages are not considered sacrament even if conducted inside a church, the website explains. Only marriages between two Catholics are treated as sacrament.

The Church laws also stipulate that mixed marriages should be simple without gaiety if held inside a church.
—Matters India

' Social change must ensure-quick and effective social justice '

With reference to the article titled : Will Goa See The Rise Of A New Front by Pachu Menon in The Secular Citizen dated of 4th Jan. 2021 in a democracy people get the leaders they well and truly deserve.

Hence for effective social change there has to be a cultural revolution and a cleansing movement by a non-political leader to cleanse society off all the very many deep -rooted problems it is facing and by debating these issues both on -line and off-line.

Electoral reforms like permitting the voter to nominate , select and vote on the spot for a non - registered political party and political leader or do the very same for a non-nominated candidate instead of merely pressing the NOTA button and wasting his vote must be introduced.

Hold referendums separately too but during elections on all important issues and let people briefly list their grievances in a grievance poll also held separately but during referendums.

De-registering political parties that do not hold regular party elections must be used to coax them to creatively introduce a good second and third line party leadership with older leaders acting as mentor leaders .

Two - thirds of all ie the centre

and state's upper houses ie both the centre must be directly elected by the people and states without an upper house must re-instate them.

The PM deputy PM , CM deputy CM must face an on-line and off-line debate and must be elected by political party leaders and workers throughout the country and state respectively for only two five year terms besides being elected by all the members of the newly elected house and the opposition must also elect a shadow leader and cabinet both at the centre and the states and ineffective , communal and corrupt political leaders must be recalled through a right to recall law that is enacted as quickly as possible.

Other reforms worth introducing are making a good political leader of a non-ruling party a minister and nominating an eminent person as a lower house or upper house MP or MLA and making him a minister and nominating non - ethnic racial minorities like Anglo-Indians ,Mistis / Mulatoes / Indo - Portuguese, Chinese , Siddhis , Jews , Armenians and Persians etc too as lower house or upper house MPs and MLAs .

Thus social change must ensure - effective and quick social justice .

— Peter Castellino

Royal Christian Family MATRIMONIALS - GROOMS

7188. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor (Hearing Impaired) (Born in September 1989), Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 62 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. HSC., Dip. in Computer Hardware. Working as a Cashier. Contact email : clifford9948@gmail.com OR 9920331773

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

7129. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in June 1987), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 60 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working in Back Office. Contact email : roshan7687@gmail.com

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

6664 MUMBAI : Mangalorean R.C. Bachelor (Born in December 1982) Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 68 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., A.C.A., LLB., C.A. by Profession. Contact email: saldanha_ryan@yahoo.com OR 9820670158.

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**

7079. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in December 1962), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 67 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., Inter

MBA, working as a Manager. Contact email : archielewis.al@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

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

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

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

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

6915. DUBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in January 1988), Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 80 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., MBA, CS, working as a Accountant. Contact email : marriageproposalseeker@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

6888. AMRITSAR : Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in March 1990), Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 77 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Hotel Management (Diploma) in Singapore, working as a Captain. Contact email : shephalivancet0@gmail.com

7119. KUWAIT : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in November 1989), Ht. 6', Wt. 78 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. F.Y. B.Com. + 2 yrs Hotel Management Diploma. working in Kuwait. Contact email : fernandes.clayton@rocketmail.com

7135. U.S.A. : Mangalorean RC Bachelor, (Born in June 1990) Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.E. in Electronics & Telecommunication (EXTC), working as a Senior Software Engineer. Contact email : ryandcunha01@gmail.com

7133. MUMBAI : Goan RC Handsome Bachelor, (Born in February 1977) Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 78 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., PG, MBA, working as a Sr. Manager in US IT Company. Contact email : trinidadefranco@gmail.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

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7189. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in July 1993), Ht. 4' 9", Wt. 40 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A. B.Ed., Teacher by profession. Contact email : dacruz_luelle@yahoo.in

7182. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in October 1992), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 72 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., C.A., working as Asst. Manager in TATA Company. Contact : email : matrimonialp27@gmail.com

6033.ABU-DHABI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in May 1979), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 58 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.A. Eng., Literature, working as a Copy Editor. **Contact email : barretto.lorraine@gmail.com OR 9730454857**

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

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

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

6528. DUBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in April

1985) Ht. 5' 7", Beautiful and Fair Complexion, Edn. Masters in Health, Care (MHA), Employed as a Manager in MNC Dubai, is looking for a suitable alliance height 5' 10" and above. Kindly respond directly to the party by email : aara8185@gmail.com with your photograph.

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

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

6642 MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Divorcee, (Born in September 1979), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 65 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Customer Service professional. Contact email : sav_mon@yahoo.com Tel.No. 8291001606

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

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

6504. KUWAIT : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster (Born in June 1980),

Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 58 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., Computer, Finance, Banking Marketing Course & Airlines Course completed, employed as a Travel Co-ordinator in Kuwait. Contact Email : lucy777p@gmail.com Tel: 00965-60402765 / 9867308911

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

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

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

7108. MUMBAI : East Indian Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1990), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 58 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Sc. (Aviation), Ae SI (Part), AME (Aircraft Maintenance Engineer), working as a Aircraft Maintenance Engineer. Contact email : lucyann.alvares@yahoo.com

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

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The greatest missionary produced by the third world (St. Joseph Vaz)

By Fr F. M. Britto

An Indian is the first saint of Sri Lanka, since he died there. He was the first non-European missionary there and he revived the extinct Catholic Faith. Due to his efforts, today the Catholics there form six percent of the total population, having ten dioceses and served by local clergy. He is also the apostle of Karnataka and a patron saint of Goa and Daman archdiocese. While beatifying him there, Pope John Paul II remarked of St. Joseph Vaz as “the greatest missionary produced by the third world.”

As the third of six children, Joseph Vaz was born on April 21, 1651 in Benaulim, Goa, of Portuguese Empire. His parents Cristovao Vaz and Maria de Miranda were devout Catholics. During his elementary school in Sancoale, he learned Portuguese, Latin in Benaulim and did his college studies at the Jesuit College of St. Paul. After his philosophy and theology at the Dominicans' academy of St. Thomas Aquinas in Goa city, he was ordained a priest in 1676.

Hearing the distressful situation in Ceylon (now known as Sri Lanka), Vaz offered to go there as a missionary. The Portuguese missionaries had entered into the Buddhist dominated island in 1505 and had spread the Catholic Faith there, establishing 415 churches and chapels. But the Dutch protestant Calvinists, entering Sri Lanka in 1637, wiped out the Catholic Faith by 1658. They also feared that the Catholics would support the Portuguese regime. Expelling all the 120 Catholic missionaries, they forbade Catholic priests' entry there, forcing the Catholics to accept their denomination.

But Vaz was asked to go to Kanara (Karnataka) instead, due to the explosive situation created between the Portuguese Padroado and Latin Propaganda Fidei. As the superior of the

Kanara mission, Vaz visited villages in Mangalore and other areas. Working there for four years (1681-1684), to keep alive their faith, he constructed a large number of small huts for the Catholics to gather and recite their prayers. In the absence of priests, he provided them lay leaders, catechists and schools. He reconstructed the Rosario cathedral in Mangalore and cared the downtrodden.

Allowed to return to Goa in 1684, he joined a group of priests of the archdiocese, who had decided to live together as a religious community. Formally this was erected on Sept 25, 1685 as Congregation of the Oratory of St. Philip Neri and Vaz was elected the first superior of the community.

He was allowed to proceed to his dreamland Ceylon in 1686. Disguised as labourers, he landed Jaffna in 1687 with his servant John. Since Catholic priests were banned by the Dutch authorities, they travelled as mendicants begging from house to house, trying to identify the Catholics' houses, wearing a large Rosary around their necks. Spotting Catholics' houses in the process, he ministered to them at night.

But two years later in 1689, while he was celebrating the Christmas Mass, the Dutch arrested him and 300 Catholics. Vaz fled from Jaffna to Kandy. But King Vimaladharmasuriya II of Kandy imprisoned him there.

There was a prolonged draught in Kandy and all the religious ceremonies proved no effect. So in 1696 King Suriya asked Vaz to come and intercede to Jesus. Erecting an altar opposite to the palace, Vaz prayed to God to glorify His Name. Rain fell down in abundance. Believing in the power of Jesus, the king allowed him to preach and to get more missionaries too. It also brought many conversions.

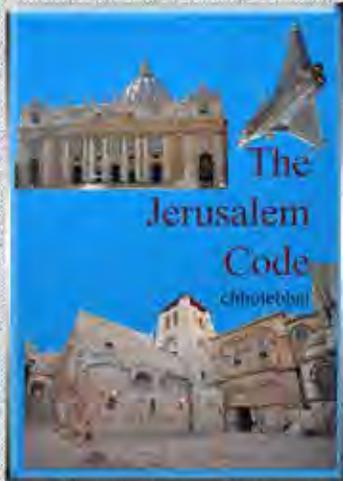


Three missionaries from Goa arrived in 1697 to assist him and to inform him that Vaz had been appointed the Vicar General of Ceylon. Small pox broke out in Kandy and lasted for a year in 1697-98. The missionaries' service among them, irrespective of creed, convinced the king to allow more missionaries there.

With the arrival of more missionaries in 1705, remaining in Kandy Vaz began to reorganize his work in eight districts, each led by a priest. He also wrote catechism and prayers in Tamil and Sinhalese, encouraging his conferrers to compose hymns to sustain the Catholics' faith. In 1707 he successfully organised the first Catholics' public resistance against the Dutch government demanding freedom to practise their religion. He humbly declined the offer made to him in 1705 to be the bishop and first Vicar Apostolic of Ceylon, preferring to be a simple missionary. That's why he is often depicted with a mitre beside him.

After 24 years of strenuous missionary work in Ceylon, the 59 years old Vaz fell ill and died at Kandy on Jan 16, 1711. He left a legacy of inculturated church, 70,000 Catholics, 15 churches, 400 chapels, besides innumerable schools and hospitals across the island.

Jesuit Bishop Francisco de Vasconcellos of Cochin, under whose jurisdiction Ceylon then fell, recommended Vatican in 1737 to consider his beatification. On January 21, 1995 Vaz was beatified in Colombo, the capital of Sri Lanka, by Pope John Paul II. And Pope Francis canonized him there on January 14, 2015, becoming the first saint to have been beatified and canonized there.



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