

THE SECULAR CITIZEN

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A NATIONAL FAMILY WEEKLY

Oh! Christians, Will you be United?

by Fr. Dr. M. D. Thomas

**Christian
Unity Week**

18-25 January has been marked in the calendar of the Christian community, world over, as 'Christian Unity Week'. This is also known as 'Unity Octave' or 'Week of Prayer for Christian Unity'. This week is specially scheduled for promoting unity among all the Christian communities of the world, major and minor, on various levels.

Prayer sessions, interactions, discussions, fellowship meals and collaborative ways of reaching out to the least and the lost are some of the major ways of celebrating this week. These programmes are intended to be planned in such a way that they involve persons from all Christian communities. Such events are supposed to be organized on the local, regional, national, continental and international levels, as well.

This noble tradition of promoting unity derives from the Second World Catholic Council of Vatican in the 60s of the 20th century, which struck a historic 'note of unity', both among the Christian communities and among all religious and social communities of the world. 'Nostra Aetate', meaning 'In our time', is the name of the significant document that motivated this fundamental awakening for 'a new way of being Christian'.

Accordingly, discriminating human beings in the name of ethnic origin, gender, language, caste, class, colour, creed, rite, tradition, ideology, community, culture, nationality, social customs, food habits, dress patterns, and the like, is a sheer violation of the Christian faith in God, the loving Father of all human beings and the entire creation. For that reason, sustaining fraternal relations leading to unity is the right way of being a Christian and staying united with all Christian communities, along with humans of all religious and social affiliations, is and has to be the real outcome of the radical realization mentioned above.

(Contd.. on p. 3)

**Christian
Unity Week**

America shamed by DON[onald]

The year 2021 dawned for America on a sad note. Never before – the beacon of democracy may have found itself in such a situation created by none other than the sitting President. America did not deserve the man – Donald Trump as President and the Americans [which include diehard supporters of the GOP] knew that the man with his whimsical ways would put the country either to shame or in trouble. His utterances and actions from time to time did not inspire any confidence in the Americans whose population comprises of people from across the world. To a great extent, the man was a fanatic with distinct leaning towards the white supremacists, particularly the radical lot of the likes of Proud Boys. His indifference to the genuine concerns of the Black community was bordering on aversion.

Trump's egregious hatred towards Muslims too was visible which manifested in debarment of all citizens from half a dozen Muslim countries from entering America without any exception. This was overturned by the judiciary like the slew of his other perfunctory executive orders from time to time. Either he did not seek the advice of his aides or he disregarded them using his "my way or the highway" approach. It was always believed that an American President is a de facto dictator during his term with the enormous powers that he enjoys. The outgoing President was on the verge of becoming one thanks to the sagacity and maturity of the electorate especially from the 'swing' states like Georgia, Pennsylvania and Michigan. His four year term was a highly turbulent one for America and the world at large.

The moment he realized that the power is slipping from his hands, he became restive. Every claim that he made was thrown out by the Courts but he was hell bent on overturning the verdict through any means, fair or foul and he did just that on that fateful day when the unruly mob literally took over the Capitol. This assault was a direct fall-out of the incitement by the losing President. Was it to replicate the forced overthrow of a government by white supremacists way back in 1898? It was sad to see the Senators ducking for cover. But an unfazed V.P. Mike Pence

VIEWS on NEWS

showing equanimity, not only denounced the happenings, he later continued with the business of the House and declared Joe Biden elected to seal Don's fate. Mike Pence deserves Oscar for his fearlessness and commitment to Constitution. Fearing impeachment, Trump condemned the violence though he had earlier thanked and praised them. Someone rightly wondered what would have happened on that fateful day if the rioters were armed with guns or IEDs. There could have been mayhem especially since hundreds of Senators were present. It reminds one of the attacks on the government in Myanmar [erst-while Burma] some decades ago where a number of ministers were shot. More recently there was an incident in Nepal where many royals were shot dead by one of the royals hoping to grab power.

Trump thinks that the near 50% who voted for him are 'his' ardent supporters. Americans vote for the party and not individuals and that is why, barring a couple of swing states, the vote pattern has generally remains the same. Only the white supremacists are with him. The Democrats have managed to impeach and shame Trump a second time. Now it is up to the Senate to take it forward and make him politically impotent for the sake of the nation. In the ultimate analysis, democracy in America which is not tenuous, has won but Americans will have to revisit the electoral laws to curtail the powers of a losing President and allow him to function only as a "Caretaker President" during the interim which is actually too long – over 75 days. It is astonishing that he has the powers to pardon himself which is weird. How on earth can you pardon yourself? Even the Pope cannot do that. Finally, the dubious role of some lawmakers of the Republican Party, in the assault on the Capitol, is being probed. If their complicity is proved, it will be disastrous for the credibility and future of the GOP.

Annual Budget

Everybody normally waits for the announcement of the annual budget with high hopes and expecting some goodies to make life a little more comfortable than what it has been thus far. This year the expectations are still higher what



by Marshall Sequeira

with financial, mental and social problems gifted to humanity through the Corona virus, thanks to China. Every segment of the Indian population is in need of some stimulus including senior citizens with fall in deposit rates. No matter what the Finance Minister dishes out, there is bound to be disappointment. For the FM, this year's exercise is tougher than any of the past budgets. Add to this is the call for free vaccines which by itself has a huge financial implication.

On the other hand, the Minister will have to resort to some jugglery. The revenues are woefully down during this year due to economic paralysis with almost everything remaining locked down in varying degrees depending on the spread of the deadly virus. The expenditure on the health infrastructure for the governments in all the states and the Centre must have been humongous and to that extent the governments' coffers stand badly depleted. The government at the Centre has already announced huge stimulus packages which are being released in tranches. All this is going to make the budget exercise a trying job. Yet, keeping the expectations in mind and assembly elections in key states, the government will endeavour to make it as friendly or as less painful as possible.

In the good old days, when taxes and import duties were very high, no new tax or duty was considered as a bonanza - no new burden. Smarter Finance Ministers reduced some Income tax rates and more than made up the lost revenue through indirect taxes which only tax experts could decipher reading between the lines some days later. While there is no such scope this time around when the taxes are already low, some visible benefits are likely to be announced. The fiscal deficit would have gone for a toss due to the pandemic and the government will have a ready excuse. Let's wait for the 'budget like never before' promised by the FM.

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In view of translating the above vision into a mission, the Catholic Church instituted in course of time Pontifical Council for Christian Unity at the international level, along with offices of Christian unity at the continental, national, state and diocesan levels. Most of the Christian communities in the world established units for Christian unity on different levels, too, like World Council of Churches, National Council of Churches in India and Evangelical Fellowship of India.

Now, as a matter of fact, Christian unity is grounded in sharing, one to another, three core realities of life -- the human and spiritual 'values' of Jesus the great Teacher and Master, the Bible as the sacred scripture of 'good news' and the 'faith' in being part of the large family of God the Father on earth. The 'filial experience' of God coupled with the 'fraternal expression' of being a sister or brother to every human being on earth is the pathway to Christian unity. And, Christian unity, in its turn, necessarily leads, and has to lead, to unity among all religious and social communities on earth, as well.

In addition, Jesus is like a tree and

all Christian communities are like the branches of that tree, just like the body having different parts perfectly blended together. Abiding by the tree and all its branches is the only way to draw the sap of life from the tree and to flourish as branches, in the spirit of sharing the divine and human life among them from the same source. 'Love' is the characteristic mark of being a Christian and without loving Christians of all communities, along with all other communities, no Christian can claim to love Jesus and God the Father, not at all. This is what John, a significant writer of the story of Jesus in the Bible, categorically affirmed, "Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen".

Furthermore, "Do to the other what you would have him or her do to you" is the universal golden rule set on top by Jesus Christ, the Messiah. Moreover, 'When you have loved other Christians, other believers and other human beings, you have already loved Jesus and God the Father', and definitely not otherwise. This is the golden sum and substance of a faith or life that is worth the name on this planet. This is what the late Pope John Paul

II illustrated on dialogical terms when he stated, as well, "By dialogue we open ourselves to one another, for as we open ourselves to one another, we open ourselves to God". Yet again, Pope Francis, the most brilliant papal leader of the modern times, through his latest encyclical 'Fratelli Tutti', has summarized Christian faith, and all faiths for that matter, to 'fraternity and social friendship' with every person.

Therefore, on the occasion of 'Christian Unity Week 2021', Christian believers in India and across the globe have a razor-sharp question right in front of them, 'Oh! Christians, will you rise above trivial private concerns and remain United?' A 'refresh', and even make a 'restart', is called for, in favour of maintaining brotherly, sisterly and friendly relations and fellowship with all Christian communities and people of all faiths, ideologies and cultures, in our country and in the entire world. One's faith has to be the vibrant source of motivation for contributing one's mite in making our country and the world society more harmonious than what they are today, by staying united with one and all.



Fr. Dr. M. D. Thomas

Karnataka - the Most Saffron state in South India.

by Don Aguiar.

Karnataka is the first state and only one so far from South India to accept a Communal and anti-minorities saffron party to power. And once in power even for a few months, the saffron party penetrates society, education, sector, and police.

For more than three decades, South Kanara has gained a reputation as the Sangh Parivar's laboratory. People unfamiliar with coastal Karnataka believe it is responsible for the growth of radical right-wing organisations like Hindu Yuva Sene, Bajrang Dal and Ram Sene, which propagate a form of divisive, hate-fuelled politics, using love jihad and gauraksha as instruments of coercion.

The Nagpur-born Rashtriya Swayam-sevak Sangathan (RSS) altered the local history of Coastal Karnataka in the manner in which oral narratives have been altered across Dakshin Kannada to fit narrative of religious forces and national religious narratives.

It began when Hedgewar sent an emissary to Mangalore, and a RSS shaka was born. It is the locus of origin for Hindutva in South Kanara, and describes one end of a long and ragged timeline that has scribbled its way to present day coastal Karnataka, which has transformed into a bastion of the Sangh.

The RSS, apart from organising programs for their national leaders like Golwalkar, was mainly strategizing on expansion. They hardly had any direct involvement in the freedom struggle. Some RSS leaders and cadre in the region participated individually. Under the leadership of RSS Mangalore head HV Sheshadri, his recruits started setting up shakhas in urban Mangalore and smaller towns like Udupi, Puttur and Karkala.

The year 1915 is significant in Indian political history because it was then that the word 'Hindu' was used and accepted as a political term to define those who were not Muslim, Christian, Jain, Sikh or Buddhist. Until the Akhil Bharatiya Hindu Mahasabha was formed, the Arya Samajis, for instance, referred to themselves as 'Aryans', the followers of the ancient Vedic faith.

The Arya Samaj picked up Hindu nationalism after Brahma Samaj failed to unite local communities. The Arya Samaj's activities complemented those of the Brahma Samaj. Their founder Dayanand Saraswati had devised a purification ceremony through which Muslims and Christians could be reconverted to Hinduism.

Golwalkar formed VHP and recruited Vishvesha Teertha of Pejavara mutt for Hindu groups to rally behind love-jihad, and for getting anti-Muslim sentiments to seep into local consciousness. Starting from 2005, the stories around how Muslims were indulging in love jihad to lure Hindu girls became a topic of conversation at almost every meeting of the Sangh in Dakshin Kannada. These activities were further fuelled when BJP came to power in 2008. The new born BJP had distanced itself from Sangh ahead of 1984 polls.

Despite the Sangh's best efforts, its politics had few takers in Coastal Karnataka as up until then — the Tulu identity was more powerful than the 'Hindu' identity. The support for Hindu mobilisation remained mostly in the urban areas and small towns of the region such as Mangaluru, Ullal, Udupi, Puttur, Sullia, Karkala, Moodabidre, Ujjire.

Economic, Political shifts created vacuum in Dakshin Kannada. Identity cri-

ses furthered Hindu Homogenisation. Only with the coming of the Sangh and its projects like 'Hindu Samajutsav' and 'Ittiga pooja' were these spaces revived to operate as another space from where the Sangh could further expand their base. Has the saffron power hit upon a winning formula of a Hindu identity governed by social engineering?

Under Deoras, Sangh widened its base in Dakshin Kannada, and ramped up support from lower castes. The Sangh, made its political entry into coastal Karnataka by winning the Municipal Corporation elections in Udupi. At 28, VS Acharya took charge as the youngest ever Municipal Commissioner. He later emerged as one of the most significant politicians for the BJP, going on to become the Home Minister of Karnataka in 2008.

RSS used religious festival to embed a sense of Hindu identity in locals, and widens its base and strengthen VHP after Hindu Samajotsav. The Hindu Samajotsava is a yearly show of strength of the Sangh Parivar in Coastal Karnataka. The first such rally was held in Mangalore in April 1981 when Alva was serving his term as the district president for the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP). The theme that year was 'unity of Hindus.' The programmes of the Sangh relied heavily on evoking a homogenising religious pride while appropriating local cultural symbols as Congress brand of 'Hindu-ness' fell flat.

The saffron party presently is behaving like prehistoric tribes that live in a wholly different reality determined to annihilate Christianity and the other religious communities and have started exercising power through governors or arm twisting in almost all states. They have forgotten that they are one people, one nation and part of a com-

(Contd.. on p. 14)



Atrocities against women सातच्या आत घरात!

It is shameful to note that National Commission for Women member Chandramukhi Devi, who Thursday visited the village where a 50-year-old woman was allegedly gangraped and abandoned outside her home in Uttar Pradesh's Badaun district, said, "The incident would not have happened had the woman not stepped out alone in the evening." The victim later died in hospital due to excessive bleeding.

This is a crime that has shamed humanity, yet Madam Chandramukhi Devi dictated terms to women, "I would also like to say that women should not, under the influence of anyone, step out untimely!"

We know the horrible situation in U.P. today regarding rapes and gang rapes and police atrocities on women. Raped victims are burnt within night without the knowledge of their families to destroy the evidences! Yet this CWC member instead of condemning the security lapses, rather tries to discipline women of 50 and curtail their freedom! All women's organisations should raise their voice against such an attitude in society. I am reminded of a refrain in Maharashtra to discipline girls, सातच्या आत घरात!

—Fr Michael G.
Vasai

On addressing people – legislator trust

deficit

Vice President Venkaiah Naidu has hit the nail on the head in his address to legislators in Goa with his statements : 1) "Legislators are supposed to empower the people and not themselves" 2: "There is a trust deficit in people's perception about legislators and legislatures which need to be addressed at the earliest". How very true indeed, especially in our tiny little state of Goa where elected representatives have turned crorepatris in a short time, with assets doubling after their tenure in office. Secondly , some of our elected members have shown their true colours in the last assembly elections by betraying the trust reposed in them by their voters and supporters, by switching loyalties and parties for personal gains. We need persons of integrity to represent us and not turncoats who indulge in double speak and sing a different tune overnight to safeguard their positions and keep their vote banks intact. Toppling of govts has been the favourite game of politicians in Goa, because of which, Goa has had 30 govts in the past 60 years of liberation, out of which only 3 completed their full term, 11, less than one year, and President's rule 5 times. Shameful to say the least.

Thirdly, how sensitive the Goa govt is to the needs of the people can be judged by the number of public protests and outcry we have had in recent months on important matters affecting the lives of many people with problems such as coal handling, double tracking, power transmission and the destruction of eco-sensitive areas, IITcampus sites, etc, Voices of dissent have been silenced , people beaten up, and FIRs filed against peaceful protesters. It is therefore important

that this trust deficit and lacuna between legislators and the people be addressed soon if Goa has to progress. Development is necessary , but not at the cost of the destruction of the environment and lives of the people. For this to happen, people need to be empowered and their needs met selflessly and without personal gains to our elected members.

— A. F. Nazareth,
Alto Porvorim, Goa

Saluting Healthcare Workers Sacrifices

With the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, the world has realised the worth of doctors who are in the front-line in the war against the deadly disease. And now, amid the Coronavirus pandemic, our healthcare workers, doctors, nurses and support staff who risk becoming infected themselves, are making extraordinary sacrifices to take care for the rest of us.

They do so, most infuriatingly, even as they have been put at a greater risk than necessary by the avoidable shortage of masks, face shields and other personal protective equipment. No doubt, they even risk their lives for saving the lives of hundreds and thousands of people all over the country and the world. It is true that they need the government's encouragement and proper facilities to work with zeal and zest in their everyday duties in their respective hospitals.

Also, since masks are mandatory to avoid getting infected with Coronavirus, some masked men are enjoying the liberty to rob the public even in broad daylight. The police must keep an eye on such anti-social elements.

—Jubel D'Cruz,
Mumbai.

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'Mangalore Today' Magazine in its 25th year

- Ivan Saldanha-Shet.

'Mangalore Today' is a popular monthly magazine that has caught the eye of selective readers widely, it's also a collector's item now. It calls for a review; as it has just entered its twenty-fifth year, launched on December 16, 1996. The silver milestone is worth recapturing.

Memories continuously blending with classic 'Brand Mangaluru', Kudla in Tulu, Mangaluru officially in Kannada, Manjarun in Sanskrit, Mangalapuram in Malayalam, Kodial in Konkani, Maikala in Beary, Kaudal in Urdu, Manjiloree in Arabic, and Mangalore generally, to each his own in this historical land. "Mangalore Today" is by resourceful and thoughtful people behind each and every aspect of this monthly magazine and journal. The only Illustrated English monthly magazine in the twin districts, for long - and now it is the oldest English monthly magazine in the market here, in this silver year 2021 AD.

For all the goodness here, gratitude is due to God Almighty, seasoned knowledgeable dedicated readers are ever happy to read this monthly and express the sentiments in their own ways driving the progress. The editorial, contributors and working team led by Publisher/Editor V U George, totally dependable and serious yet a flexible task force for the last 24 years motivating many. Even in the unprecedented lock down there has been practically no break even in the web site sphere and with the online version for three months and print version resumed from September 2020, a real courageous deed of the publisher/editor which very few print media publications have been able to match, with uninterrupted gripping contents, admirable indeed. The web site "www.mangaloretoday.com" systematically updated is worth the time to learn



about local/national/NRI/International news, views and current topics, do take a look, soon to be updated too. 'Mangalore Today' Website is a boon on a day to day basis and is highly popular.

To contribute to and gain from 'Mangalore Today', have been advertisers and commercial supporters, without whom efforts would not be fruitful. The print version alone, has a circulation of over 6000 in DK and Udupi including the copies circulated in Mumbai, Bangalore, the Middle East and other countries. We have, as per fair estimates, a readership that is overwhelming at present.

This is all just the tip of the proverbial iceberg, all said and done, this quality publication, with a generous quantity too, can not compare with most local publications, subscription wise (not even half of what it deserves), and / or any parameter. From early times cost wise, all means and considerations have been exerted to keep it bare nominal so it can be accessed by those in need, specially students and institutions, there has been a fair response from outside Mangalore that

is an encouraging factor, low cost with high quality still is an attractive matter for all. As 2021, the 25th year is now here, all look ahead positively even in times that are uncertain and difficult, the aim consistently will be to go on to the Golden Anniversary goal and into a golden future, with the blessings of the Almighty, followed by all within and without.

Mangalore in the last few years has changed to "Mangaluru" that is but a minor matter....But, looking at the changes of development that have come in, as is in most towns and cities in India, what is seen in the general outlook is very critical. Particularly with regards to nature and people growth. Prosperity, outer glitter and smartness may be one thing but it is not all, a lot is to be desired as of now. The "Smart City" outlook, spending crores after crores of rupees is definitely not a very pleasing development when results are absent. Let us hope the authorities concerned will pull up their socks, see the flaws and errors and draw up plans of correction and concern for a better Mangaluru sooner than later, and the shambles now seen will turn out into a better experience for our future citizens to come. The citizens of Mangaluru are making efforts to gain a mature role in the betterment and development of the city of Mangalore whose interest has always been at heart with all our dear people, the officials and the Governments at all times whatever the cause.

In its 25th anniversary commemorative issue, highlighted is the region's transformation, examined closely are the various facets that are graciously covered in this magazine in pace with its own development - thus this Magazine is symbol of the future.

(Contd.. on p. 9)

“THE JERUSALEM CODE” Released



Kanpur (16th January): “The Jerusalem Code”, the fifth book written by chhotebhai, Convenor of the Indian Catholic Forum, and former National President of the All India Catholic Union, was released at a Corona restricted function at the Mega Mall here.

The book that has about 400 pages, over 600 references and even more scripture quotes is an attempt at studying the past of the Church, analysing the present and making a realistic projection for the future . It was released by Dr Roshan Jacob IAS, Secretary cum Director, Mining, Govt. of U.P., before an ecumenical gathering.

The book goes back to the origins of the universe and the human race, the Garden of Eden, the Tower of Babel, the birth of the Church at Pentecost, and the persecution of the early church; till it mutated into Christendom. It looks at what is called the Dark Ages, the Reformation, Revolution and Renaissance, colonialism and missionary outreach, leading up to Vatican II; and then goes beyond to Vatican III and Jerusalem II. It studies the claim of the apostles Thomas and Bartholomew coming to India and even if Jesus was buried in Kashmir! It also looks at the apocalyptic prophecies of Malachy and Nostradamus.

It explores delicate issues like a celibate clergy, women priests, family planning, abortion, divorce and remarriage, pre-marital sex, papal infallibility and clericalism. It draws heavily on the Word of God and the teachings of the Second Vatican Council. While expressing divergent opinions on the one hand, it shows utmost respect for church teachings on the other. This is an honest attempt at the reform, renewal, demise and resurrection of the Church; constantly asking, “What is the Spirit saying to the churches?” (Rev 3:22). It has a surprise ending!

In his Foreword senior Jesuit theologian Rev Dr T.K. John SJ of Vidyajyoti, Delhi, describes the author as one inspired by St Francis of Assisi, as a radar or antenna of the church. He brackets him with erudite lay writers G.K. Chesterton and Hilaire Belloc of the last century.

Having known the author from the time she was posted in Kanpur as its District Magistrate, seven years ago, Dr Jacob, known in the bureaucracy for her honesty, courage and compassion, described chhotebhai as a true Catholic, in the original sense of being universal or all embracing. Though she had obviously not read the book, she was familiar with his writings which she said went beyond Christianity, as it was based on Christian love and its

emphasis on service.

Speaking of the Covid challenge she said that it made us question the utility or role of religion, when there was no access to Communion, Confession or even the clergy. Was religion just an external vestige or a burden? Of what use was religion if it did not give meaning and purpose to life? Institutional or organized religion was of no value if it was not backed by an individual faith that was manifest in actually reaching out to others and touching their lives.

Describing his motivation for writing the book chhotebhai said that he was challenged by the Da Vinci Code by Dan Brown that was a subtle attempt to demystify and deconstruct Christianity. It made many tall claims, but gave no references to verify them. In contrast he chose to write “The Jerusalem Code”, to strengthen Christian belief. That is why all the arguments were backed by references or scripture quotes.

In his invocation Rev Walter D’silva, Principal, St Aloysius’ School, said that St Paul had written to the Corinthians that we are all blessed with various gifts of the Holy Spirit for the building up of the Body of Christ, the Church. Rev Rolfie D’souza, Parish Priest, St Xavier’s Church, read the Gospel

(Contd.. on p. 9)

One Hundred Days in Prison: the reality of Fr. Stan Swamy

On 15 January 2021, Fr Stan Swamy completes one hundred days since he was taken into custody from his residence in Ranchi by the National Intelligence Agency (NIA) on 8 October 2020; he has since been incarcerated in the Talaja jail. Fr Stan has been charged under the draconian Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) with fifteen others for alleged involvement in the Bhima Koregaon violence which took place on 1 January 2018 and for participating in the Elgar Parishad, the previous day. The truth is that Fr Stan has never been anywhere near Bhima Koregaon; besides, he did not participate in the Elgar parishad. Fifteen others (all human rights defenders) have also been jailed with him on this fabricated case – some of them are languishing in jail for more than two years now. On the other hand, the actual perpetrators of the violence, who were originally named, have gone scot-free because of their close connections with the regime that rule the nation today.

The UAPA needs to be withdrawn immediately and unconditionally. On 25 November (the eve of India's 'Constitution Day') Justice A.P. Shah, the former Chairman of the Law Commission in an interview to Karan Thapar for *The Wire* (the interview went viral), referred to the Supreme Court April 2019 ruling in the *Zahoor Ahmad Shah Watali* case which says "that an accused must remain in custody throughout the period of trial" if he or she is charged under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and that "courts must presume every allegation made in the FIR to be correct and the burden rests on the accused to disprove the allegations", saying that this is a "complete negation of Article 21

which is the right to personal liberty". Justice Shah said that bail is the rule and jail the exception; now, it seems, the Supreme Court has made jail the rule and bail the exception. He added "it seems we are living in a state of undeclared emergency". He went on to add that today "courts lack humanity and fundamental concern for the human rights of the accused". In this connection he cited the example of Varavara Rao and Stan Swamy. He was particularly astounded by the decision of the NIA Court to require two weeks to decide whether Stan Swamy can be permitted a straw or sipper.



BY FR. CEDRIC PRAKASH SJ

Very strong statements indeed from one of the best-known jurists of the country.

To put matters in perspective, on 26 November Fr Stan Swamy's plea (by his lawyers) at a Special Court for a straw and a sipper cup which he needed as a Parkinson's Disease patient, was once again put-on hold till 4 December. The National Investigation (NIA) filed a reply on the petition of Fr. Swamy seeking the return of the straw and sipper confiscated during his arrest saying that the agency did not take them. Fr Stan finally received the straw sipper; but once again on 14 December his bail application was opposed by the NIA. Fr Stan's next hearing is scheduled for 12 January; the arguments are expected to continue for some more days; whether Fr Stan will be released on bail or not at this juncture, is anybody's guess!

In the meantime, thousands of citizens from all walks of life and from everywhere have condemned the illegal arrest of Fr Stan and demanded his immediate release. In a letter (dtd 18 December 2018) addressed to the Prime Minister, more than twenty European Parliamentarians say, "The

undersigned, Members of the European Parliament (MEP), would like to express our deep concern about the detention and imprisonment of 16 human rights defenders in connection with the Bhima Koregaon case under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) in relation to the incident that took place in India in December 2017. We would like to draw particular notice to the Jesuit priest Fr. Stan Swamy, arrested on October 8, 2020 in Ranchi.... The work he has been engaged in, has always been within the framework of the Indian Constitution and of democratic processes Fr. Stan Swamy is 83 years old and a sufferer of Parkinson's Disease...He is thus in a vulnerable physical state and especially because of his advanced age has been under medical observation and special diet. His captivity has in no doubt impaired his health for the last month and a half. We are deeply concerned about his health and well-being in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, and we urge you to release him immediately on humanitarian grounds". Strangely enough, in a rare coincidence, also scheduled for 12 January, is an EU-India Human Rights Dialogue where the case of Fr Stan is expected to figure prominently.

Recently a high-level human rights team of the UN which included the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders and the Special Rapporteur on minority issues, have made public a letter they had written to the Government of India expressing their concern over the "alleged arbitrary detention of human rights defender Stan Swamy". The letter which was sent to the Indian Government on 3 November 2020, was made public, because the Government has not replied to them within



(Contd.. from p. 8)

the mandated period of sixty days. The strongly-worded letter asked the Government to “provide information as to the factual and legal basis for the arrest of Mr Swamy on 8 October 2020” and also asked for information on the measures undertaken to “ensure that minority human rights defenders, and in particular human rights defenders working for the protection and promotion of the rights of persons belonging to minorities or scheduled castes and tribes in India, are able to carry out their legitimate work in a safe and enabling environment, without the fear of prosecution, intimidation, harassment and violence, in full respect of their civil and political rights, including in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic.”

Meanwhile an online petition addressed to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) asking for the release of Fr Stan has generated thousands of signatures from all over the world! On 15 January, the hundredth day of Fr. Stan’s imprisonment, several online programmes are being planned; one of them is being organized by the Peoples Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL) and the Jesuits together with several other major human rights networks and platforms in the country; the programme will focus on ‘the brutal face of the Indian State!’

Being imprisoned is no celebration! One thing however, is clear: that in the face of growing human rights violations and the systematic destruction of democratic principles – thanks to Fr Stan and the others languishing in jail- there is today a greater awakening among “we the people of India!”. The call then is to act together, expeditiously and with a sense of purpose – before all is lost for all!

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

(Contd.. from p. 7)

passage on faith having a firm foundation, while Kanpur Catholic Association (KCA) Secretary Agnes Peter read from Revelation on what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.

Book extracts were read by Ajay Singh of Christ Church and Coreen Anderson of St. Patrick’s Church. Ashley Fernandez, Vice Principal of Jaipuria School, compeered the release. Meera Noronha welcomed the gathering and KCA President Noel George gave the vote of thanks. The choir was led by Praveen Dungkung of St Patrick’s, while the guests were honoured with shawls and bouquets by Rachel Buck, Dr Anjali Bajpai and Shitika Pare. The final prayer was led by Rev Nitin Lal and the blessing was given by Rev Abhishekh Lyall, both of the Methodist English Church.

(Contd.. from p. 6)

The Konkani Catholic community are called upon to note that for over two decades, the magazine has given constant and rare coverage of the Christian community and faith history with deeply researched articles and dedicated coverage of Church institutions and events from time to time - open an issue of the magazine and 95% surety that you will find articles covering the Christian topics of institutions/community/diaspora/festivals. For this there is no better long standing English print periodical in this area.

Keeping all these positive and blessed thoughts of the nostalgic past, let us look back in the rear view mirror and cheer. At this juncture, stepping over the threshold of the 25th Silver Jubilee year 2020-2021visualize and feel free to share views and opinions on the future possibilities and potentials of the Magazine; in the Silver Jubilee year 2021 moving on to the Golden Era.

Prayer to St. Expedite for solving a financial crisis



I call forth the Power and the presence of **St. Expedite** in my time of financial trouble. I offer my body, heart, mind and soul upon your altar of light. I have faith and trust and complete confidence that you will be my strength in this time of need. Quickly come to my assistance.

(State Your Petition) _____
My financial need is urgent. Be my Light and Guide in this situation so that I may live with peace, love, prosperity and abundance and in the Praise of God.
Amen. (Promise Publication)

—Flavia,
Bandra

Thanksgiving

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be Praised Adored, Glorified and Loved today and everyday throughout the world, now and forever. Amen!!



Ask St. Clare for three favours two impossible and say nine Hail Marys and the above prayer for 9 days with a lighted candle and publish on the 9th day your request will be granted no matter how impossible it is

—Joyal Crasta,
Navi Mumbai

Patris Corde: Logic of Saint Joseph

In the Year of Saint Joseph -it's worthwhile to ponder on the Logic of Saint Joseph. His Logic is not based on the logic of the Mind and but on the logic of the Heart. Saint Joseph appears in the Gospel pages in the infant Jesus narratives in the first two Chapters of Saint Matthew and Saint Luke's Gospels. Never a word has been uttered by Saint Joseph in the Gospel pages, He is not a man of words but he is man of deeds: Silent, Just, Righteous, faithful, prayerful person. The logic of Saint Joseph is based on these above mentioned Virtues: Silence, Prayerfulness, Righteousness, Faithful, Just. In one Word it is the Logic of Lectio Divina: Logic of the Open to the Word of God in thinking, speaking, doing always in all time and in all places.

Pope Francis' Apostolic letter written to proclaim the Year of Saint Joseph entitled *Patris Corde* means with the Heart of the Father elucidates the logic of the Heart of Saint Joseph: Saint Joseph is a beloved father; a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father, a creatively courageous father, a working father, a father in the shadows.

Verily Saint Joseph can be said lesser known member of the Holy Family. Logic of Saint Joseph is based on the Openness to the Word of God: Lectio Divina. The four stages of Classical Lectio Divina is Lectio: Reading the Word of God; Oratio: Praying the Word of God; Meditatio: Meditating the Word of God and Contemplatio: Contemplating the Word of God.

Logic of the Heart for Saint Joseph commenced from Silence. First Language of God is silence, and the language of the World is the Sound of Noise. Word of God is better heard in the Silence of the Mind and Heart. Saint Joseph had the gift of Intelligence. Intelligence in Latin means in-



tus-leggere that means read the Word from within. In the Interior Silence like Mother Mary, Saint Joseph could read the Word of God from within in Sacred Silence. The logic of Heart begins with deep Silence.

The fruit of Silence is Prayer. Lectio Divina is the Source of Prayer for Christian life. Dietrich Bonhoeffer the Christian Theologian says: We are Silent in the first moments of day because our first words belong to God and again we are silent at the last moments of the day, because our last words of the day belongs to God. Every Jew before going retiring to bed at night utter a prayer of the Psalmist: Into thy hands I commend my Spirit. It is the same prayer, Jesus uttered at the moment of his death on the Cross. It must be the prayer that taught by Joseph and Mary to Child Jesus. No prayers have been recorded in the New Testament prayed by Saint Joseph. Like every Perfect Jew, the Book of Psalms was the prayer book of Saint Joseph –a few psalms were uttered during the different parts of day. Prayerful Joseph was the Guardian of the Holy Family.

Saint Joseph was Righteous before God. The best compliment that one can extend to a Jew to call me as the Son of Abraham. Rightly Saint Joseph can be called Son of Abraham. Son of Abraham means Man of Faith, Person

of Righteousness who said yes to the Will of God. He was obedient to the Will of Abba Father; Earthly Guardian to Jesus the Son of Man; Righteous before God and Man; he was a Person of holiness who did the will of God with serenity and peace; who excelled in works of mercy and service.

Saint Joseph is better remembered as Joseph the faithful. He was man of few words but many deeds. He was faithful Guardian to the Holy Family. He was faithful life-partner to Mother Mary. He was faithful to the Roman law so as to register his family in the General Census of his time; He was faithful the Jewish Religious law so as to present the Babe Jesus and Mary in the Temple.

Saint Joseph is a Just Man. Person of Justice who is ready and willing render what belongs God and what belongs to Caesar. Just Man is one who draws a credit line in relation to God and in relation to his family and in relation in the lives of the neighbors. Justice and honesty go hand in hand. When honesty goes for a holiday, then Justice is missing in the Society. Saint Joseph is a great model for us in our times to be persons of Justice and Honesty. These are no longer private virtues in our lives, they are public virtues in public avenues of the our Society.

Logic of Saint Joseph –as the logic of the Heart we can give a try in the Year of Saint Joseph. May Saint Joseph prayer for during the years of 2021.



**Fr. George
Olivera OFM
Cap, B'lore**

Laugh Out Louder During Lockdown

While you are stuck at home during the lockdown you tend to cut jokes to relieve tension. As even in times of darkness, one should not forget to laugh. So, sit back, enjoy the lockdown period releasing the stress in a most sensible way.

Clearly friends, life is bottled up. The genie has condensed to a thick layer of smoke and entered the bottle. The lid is screwed tightly and life is in a bind. Children no longer throng the lane. Temple bells ring no more. Vehicles are less on the road. The survival instinct has reduced life continuously prompting us to wait to live another day. Missing the munch munch and the daily dose of newspapers in your coffee table.

How are you coping with the trauma? The relationship between nature and civilisation remains as complicated as ever. While civilisation often draws from nature, Mother Nature is often hurt by the inroads of civilisation. That debate is better left for another day because of the urgency of the hour. Everyone is left to fend for oneself in compliance of social distance norms and with means available.

So friends, this lockout has generated fresh options for us. I would have missed them but for the bottled genie. Life is undefinable and coping is the only option we have. Who doesn't want to travel to a hill station in summer? Who doesn't want International flights to be operational soon? We are all waiting for the D-Day with baited breath when the nation will announce-Genie will be out of the bottle and Corona will take its place. Once bottled, it will be thrown in the deep sea never



Laughter is medicine

to be found again.

Laughter Yoga is like an aerobic exercise (cardio workout) which brings more oxygen to the body and brain which makes one feel more healthy and energetic. Laughter Yoga strengthens the immune system which not only prevents you from falling sick, but also helps to heal a variety of illnesses like hypertension, heart disease, diabetes, depression, arthritis, allergies, asthma, bronchitis, backache, fibromyalgia, migraine headaches, menstrual disorders, cancer and many others. Yoga has a special role to play in health matters and if we practice the art of yoga on a regular basis we can feel fit and fettle all the time.



C.K. Subramaniam

As a regular morning walker I feel the pulse of the people going around me as they wish me on the way. I first go through a park cum playground and as I enter an adjacent park I feel the newly laid walking track suits my style of walking. I never exert too much but at the same time try to walk briskly so as to sweat it out at the end of my morning routine. This has become a way of life. But at times you get much

more energy and enthusiasm to walk like a military man and it attracts others as well. In the sunny morning as I was walking stiff with my right and left legs going in a systematic way as I passed through my friends sitting at the Centre of the Park they did make a note of it. One among the friends, did notice and started shouting left - right, left-right and I kept up the spirit and walked according to his command. But I could not continue to do it for a longer time and my friend did

not stop his command. To overcome this act of military parade in a public park, I did turn and salute my friend while continuing to walk in the same style. Noticing my undue respect for him, he stopped his command of saying left-right and thereby I escaped being subjected to more upright steps till the end of the walking track. My other friends fell into laughter and appreciated my spontaneous way of making my presence felt without hurting them in any way.

Beaten with the Corona stick, we have become totally expressionless. It is in our nature to sprout and blossom; to reveal, revel and rejoice. Our gregarious instinct induces us to group together in fests and parties. All these instincts are in indefinite sabbatical. The creative spark fails to emerge from its captivity. The therapeutic value of laughter and jokes as stress management techniques may do wonders. Now, we are reduced to a single homogeneous kind of living by the rules.

Mankind will surely emerge triumphant and Science will not fail us. As of now, all we can do is a bit of sharing..

'400 passengers' and only '200 meals' were loaded on a Amritsar to Toronto flight.

The airline had bungled, and the crew was in a fix!

However, one smart flight attendant had an idea !!!

About 30 minutes into the flight she nervously announced:

"Ladies and Gentlemen, I don't know how this happened but we have 400 passengers on board and only 200 dinners!" _

"Anyone who is kind enough to give up his/her meal for someone else, will receive free unlimited liquor during the entire duration of the flight!" _

Her next announcement came 6 hours later :

"Ladies and Gentlemen, if anyone wants to change their minds, we still have 200 meals available!" _

Moral: People who drink have very big hearts!!!

New policy of WhatsApp in simple words

You are chatting romantically with your girlfriend on WhatsApp.

Then your wife opens her Facebook and she will be flooded with Ads from Divorce lawyers.

Wonderful Definitions

School: A place where parents pay and children play.

Life Insurance: A contract that keeps you poor all your life so that you can die rich.

Nurse: A person who wakes you up when you are fast asleep to give you sleeping pills.

Marriage: It's an agreement in which a man loses his bachelor's degree and a woman gains her master's degree.

Tears: The hydraulic force by which



masculine willpower is defeated by feminine waterpower.

Conference: The confusion of one man multiplied by the number present.

Conference Room: A place where everybody talks, nobody listens, and everybody disagrees later on.

Father: A banker provided by nature

Boss: Someone who is early when you are late and late when you are early

Politician: One who shakes your hand before elections and your confidence later on.

Hospital: An institution which holds your ills by pills and kills you by their bills.

Smile: A curve that can set a lot of things straight.

Office: A place where you can relax after your strenuous home life.

Yawn: The only time married men ever get to open their mouth.

Etc.: A sign to make others believe that you know more than you actually do.

Committee: Individuals who can do nothing individually and sit to decide that nothing can be done together.

— Contributed by: Jubel D'Cruz

What to wear

Doctor asked Dorab Bawa to cut down his drinking by three fourths....!

Smart Dorab Bawa stopped adding Soda

Dorab Bawa phones his doctor: Doctor, I have not gone out since the first lockdown started. Now I have important work in the market. What should I do?

Doctor: Don't worry. Just wear mask and hand gloves. It is sufficient. It will protect you from Corona.

Dorab follows the doctor's advice and goes out.

To his horror, others were wearing pant and shirt as well!!

After his Holy Trip to Jerusalem, Dorab Bawa was caught by customs for carrying liquor.

Customs Officer: "Sir, what is in the bag?"

Dorab Bawa: "Holy water from Jerusalem."

Customs (after smelling & tasting): "Don't lie sir. Its whisky.."

Dorab Bawa: "O Jesus, One more miracle."

Today is Dorab Bawa's girlfriend's birthday.

Dorab Bawa asked her, "Can I get you a diamond necklace, for your birthday?"

She said: "Nothing would please me more"

So he got her Nothing.

Dorab Bawa will always be grateful to his English teacher

Smart Drunk Mind

Last night Dorab Bawa was driving back home from a party. He was high and saw there was Police checking. Was scared at that very moment but then immediately got down from the driver seat and sat in the back seat.

After few minutes the Police Officer came and asked Dorab Bawa to move his car ahead for alcohol test. Dorab Bawa said: "My driver ran away seeing you."

The Police Officer replied: "Then you move your car ahead for the checking."

I said: "No sir, as a true Indian citizen I should not drive drunk."

Officer looked at Dorab Bawa got emotional and applauded him for his responsible behaviour..

He sent one constable to drive Dorab's car home.

Kaun kehta hai peene k baad dimag kaam nahi karta ?

A Farmer's Urgent Prayer

By Melvyn Brown

To sow the seed and plough the land,
Our basic rights take root.
And when the harvest sways with pride,
It's time to reap the fruit.

Out in the furrowed fields of carpet lie
The bread we toil for you.
The seasons come and seasons go,
We labor for our loved ones too.

And when the grains fill many sacks,
It's joy for them, not shame.
They live to earn a richer life,
And we must play their game.

We need no pity for our pain,
We give you fields of gold.
Just use compassion in our name,
To heal our precious fold.

How many stalemates to endure?
How many deaths to moan?
This is a winter of no mercy shown.
May God forgive His own.

DEDICATION

To farmers who are standing up for basic rights, to feed the nation and its children.

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Ingredients:

2 cups rice flour

1/2 tsp salt

3 cups grated coconut

2 cups powdered jaggery

2 tsp powdered green cardamom

6 tsp sesame oil

Method:

Step 1:

To prepare this recipe, take a pan and add grated coconut in it. Dry roast the coconut and keep it aside. Now, take another pan and add 1 cup water in it. Bring it to a boil. Then, add jaggery and allow it to dissolve. When the jaggery mixture starts to thicken, add the roasted coconut.

Step 2:

Mix well and bring the flame to medium-high. Then, add cardamom powder and stir well. After a few seconds, turn off the flame, remove and keep the mixture aside. Now to prepare the dough, add rice flour in a bowl and add some hot water in it. Add sesame oil and salt.

Step 3:

Stir the mixture till it is free of lumps. The dough should not be too tight. Now, take a portion of the dough and with the help of a rolling pin, shape them into small cups. Add a spoonful of the coconut-jaggery filling and close the edges of the dough by using your hands. Cover and then steam cook the modaks until done. Once done, transfer these little delights on a serving plate. Serve!



**Amit Rane,
Pune**

(Contd.. from p. 4)

mon humanity with a conscience.

This uncivil polarisation based on religion has brought about an "Age of Hatred" and a tragic divide. A system of deeper disease that India will have to live with if suitable action is not taken. This tribalism endangers the existence of democracy and secularism as these function under the basic rules of cooperation and mutual respect.

As Dr B. R. Ambedkar says - If Hindu Raj become a fact, it will no doubt be the greatest calamity for this country. It is a menace to liberty, equality and fraternity. It is incompatible with democracy. It must be stopped at any cost.

The Church in India will do well to note the rapid journey of Karnataka to being the most saffron state in south India, as well as the other Indian states and union territories that are inching closer to being the same as Karnataka as radical groups are using the police to clamp down on

Christian activities and use several ways to attack them, even including social boycotts and physical assaults.

Will the Church take the lead in Catholic Homogenisation which include economic and political requirements of their people or as is noticed by many that one of the tragedies of contemporary Catholicism is that the Church has become overly politicized. We're not talking about being political in the elevated sense of the word -- that is, committed to the ecclesial community as well as to the polis. Rather, the Church has become politicized in the sense that political divisions among its own members tend to dominate everything. They dominate not only the crafting of careful public statements, their reaction to their fellow clergy and laity by those who work in and for the Church, but also the very process of forming ideas, national views, worldviews and opinions. In the Catholic Church in India, it is seen that the structures of ecclesial conversation have all but broken down. How then will the Church lead and enforce solutions in safeguarding their institutions, property and their people?

Centro Studi Livatino!

The above Rosario Livatino Study Center was founded in 2015, and consists of groups of lawyers, judges, magistrates and university professors. It was inspired by the life and works of a young Catholic judge, Rosario Livatino! He was brutally murdered by the Sicilian mafia in 1990; but today his legal legacy lives on through the efforts of the above Center, dedicated to issues of life, family and religious freedom!

Other Pro-life activities that this Center promotes are: legal studies concerning the right to life from conception to natural death; hosting an academic conference in June 2021 on death in the framework of one's eternal destiny; and holding periodic workshopson topics such as euthanasia and constitutional reform.

Livatino at the age of 37 served as a judge! Before he was a public prosecutor in Sicily, dealing with criminal activity of the mafia throughout the 1980s. He confronted what the Italians called the "Tangentopoli", the corrupt system of mafia bribes and kickbacks given for public works contracts.

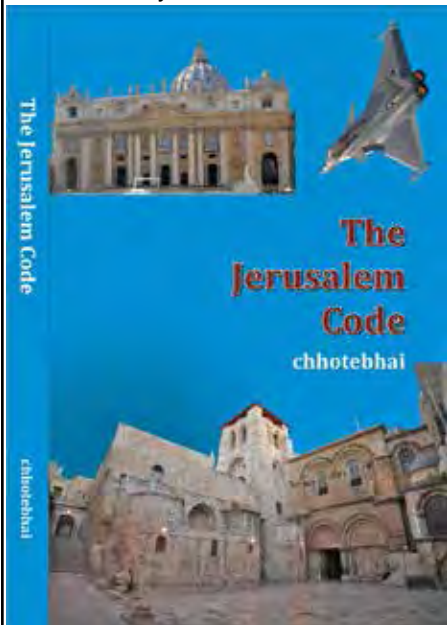
Today a plaque, "Martyr of Justice" marks the spot where Livatino was killed on the highway. Pope Francis on 22 December 2020, recognized this judge as a martyr assassinated in hatred for the faith! Livatino continues as an example for all those who carry out the demanding and complicated task of the judiciary, and for all those who work in the field of law.

The Pope also recalled that an annotation was found written in the margins of his notes – "STD", an acronym which stood for, "Sub Guardia Dei – Under God's Grace"!

—Dr. Trevor Colaso,
Memphis, TN. USA.

The Jerusalem Code

by Chhotebhai



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Confused with Whatsapps new Policy?

by Don Aguiar.

There's a lot of misunderstanding about privacy and security that's been articulated in many groups and especially on social media, as someone who is very particular about devices and accounts being secure let me dispel some of the myths.

What Whatsapp collects about each individual, there is nothing new in that, Whatsapp has always been doing that from the beginning, Whatsapp has info on your phone number, other people's phone numbers in your contacts, your status updates and when you were last online.

Since 2016 Whatsapp has been sharing that data with its parent company, Facebook. Whatsapp however has an option where a user can opt out of sharing the data with Facebook, have you ever exercised that option? Now the only thing that has changed is - that option won't be available anymore.

Post February 8th 2021 Whatsapp will be sharing everyone's data with Facebook, which is already the case with most people, except the people who have exercised the option of not sharing their Whatsapp data with Facebook that option won't exist anymore. So technically nothing will change, your info is already shared with Facebook since 2016 and that will continue.

The reason that Whatsapp is doing this is because Facebook wants to monetise their investments by targeted advertising and Facebook is doing this because phone manufacturers, especially Apple, are addressing privacy concerns and with Apple's iOS 14 update, Users have to give consent to being tracked by Facebook.

So for people who are troubled by this

there are other options like Telegram and Signal.

Telegram is a Russian app and its management is shrouded in secrecy, they keep changing their operational



headquarters. Telegram like Whatsapp is not an altruistic venture and they too want to monetise their investments and they are also building a platform for targeted advertising. Also Telegram is not completely end to end encrypted and they store all user data with their decryption keys on their servers. Telegram has been hacked many times most famously in Iran, where data about millions of accounts were stolen.

That leaves only Signal. Signal was founded by Brian Acton, one of the creators and founders of Whatsapp, after he sold Whatsapp to Facebook.

Signal is end to end encrypted and doesn't collect much data except your phone number... and your data is not saved on servers but your device. Signal is run by a non-profit organisation and doesn't want to monetise their investments. It is run by 'donations', because Signals working model is altruistic and their funding is based on donations only. There is serious doubt that they can scale up to manage much more than the users they already have. Running a messaging app requires lot of investments in technology, especially big servers.

Signal has about 40 million users now, and if more migrate there rapidly, their systems will crash and it has already happened in the past and I don't know how a non-profit messaging app can survive catering to hundreds of millions or a Billion users. Also Signal's data is not stored on a Server/Cloud but locally on your device, so every time you buy a new phone you will have to manually transfer your old Signal messages and data, and there is nothing much you can do if your phone crashes.

A situation like this gives influential people playing the stock market a handle

to take advantage of the loopholes and increase their wealth, so whether people have properly understood the pros and cons of the new whatsapps policy as well as the working and configuration of Telegram and Signal, have already started migrating to Signal because Elon Musk, the richest man in the world, recently tweeted that he recommends using Signal as an instant messaging app – instead of the incumbent WhatsApp. This was on account of WhatsApp updating its Privacy Policy.

Now look, Elon Musk has about 40 million followers on Twitter. When he says something, people listen. So yeah, Signal – the messaging app – saw a rise in downloads with over 1 lakh downloads in just 2 days. But something else happened too... and that was weird - The stock price of Signal Advance - an entirely unrelated Texas-based technology company - which works on healthcare and industrial applications – surged. The shares surged from 60 cents, before Musk's tweet on January 7, to \$8.30 on Friday – a surge of more than 1100%! Such is the weirdness of the stock market! And an upward rise and a big bonus for Signal. Will it be able to handle?

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

7084. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in May 1956), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 70 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. 9th std., working as a Machine Operator. Contact email : fern.gilbert54@gmail.com

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

7052. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in June 1977), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 72 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A., Retail Management, working as a General Manager. Contact email : albert.pinto2006@gmail.com

7049. CANADA : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in June 1986), Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 85 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. BE (Computer), working in CANADA in a Non IT Field Seeks a working girl in Canada and holding a PR Visa. Contact email : anniedrz@gmail.com

7050. LONAVLA : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in November 1985), Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 75 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. MBA., working. Contact email : dsouza_adrian@yahoo.co.in

7047. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in November

1982), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., C.S. in Process, having family business. Contact email : mail.soj@gmail.com

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

7041. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in July 1985), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. 10th Std., working as a Plant Operator. Contact email : ronnydsouza075@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

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

7039. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, Handicap - slight Scoliosis - taking treatment, spine slightly curved. (Born in September 1976), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 45 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A. Computer Prog. / Hair Designer, Having own business. Contact email : reginarodrigues634@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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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7160. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in September 1988), Ht. 5' 7", Fair Complexion, Edn. BMS, working as a Senior Merchandiser in a Global Retail Company in Dubai. Contact email : prislobo10@gmail.com

7190. BANGALORE : Tamilian Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in January 1990), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.E., Electronics and communications, working as a Technical Specialist. Contact email : jmj.lionofjudah@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

7178. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in November 1988), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 65 kgs, good looking, Fair Complexion, Edn. Bachelor's in Mass Media, working as a Content Writer. Contact email : jcdco906@gmail.com

7058. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in September 1987), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 55 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working back office. Contact email : venita_fernandes@rediffmail.com

7176. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in February 1996), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 48 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.A. B.Ed., Teacher by profession. Contact email : ektaseq@gmail.com

7055. U.K. : Tamilian Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in April 1988), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 62 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., working as a Staff Nurse in UK. Contact email : o365acc@gmail.com

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

7046. MUMBAI : East Indian Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in October 1986), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 54 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., / 7 Level German, working as Sr. Associate German a/cs. in Multinational Bank. Contact

email : fernweh.stan@gmail.com

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

7057. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1993), Ht. 5' 1", Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Masters, working as a Design Thinker. Contact email : louelladsouza10@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

7056. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1988), Ht. 4' 11", Wt. 51 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBA in HR, working HR Field. Contact email : nancyfernandes9@gmail.com

7094. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in June 1991), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 52 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, M.Com., working as a Business Analyst. Contact email : roschelle256@gmail.com

7053. MUMBAI : East Indian Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in June 1987), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 63 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., Home Science, working as a Jr. Officer in Bank. Contact email : ayesha18j@gmail.com

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A Young Martyr

(St. Jose Sanchez del Rio)

By Fr. F. M. Britto

We have heard of priests and nuns of ancient times martyred for their Christian faith. While today we have many youth who do not practice their faith, here is the story of a teenage boy of our time who sacrificed his life for Jesus. Jose Luis Sanchez del Rio has become today a powerful example of youth, bravery and faith.

As the third of four children, Jose was born on March 28, 1913 in Sahuayo, Michoacan, Mexico. His family affectionately called him Joselito. He attended school in his home town and later in Guadalajara, Jalisco. He was remarked as a “normal, healthy kid, with a joyful character.”

Mexican President Plutarco Elias Calles persecuted the Catholic Church from 1926 -1929. Calling it “Cristero War” (War for Christ the King), a grass-root resistance movement arose to defend the religious liberty by taking up the government forces.

In spite of government prohibition, the boy Jose took risks to attend the public worship, participated in the sacraments, attended catechism classes, took upon parish activities, regularly prayed the rosary with his family and publicly proclaimed himself a Catholic. Visiting once a Cristero martyr’s tomb, the young lad prayed that he too be granted to die for Christ the King.

Both his two elder brothers Macario and Miguel joined the Cristeros to fight against the government forces. But his mother refused the young Jose to join them and the rebel General Prudencio Mendonza too declined his enlistment. But since the boy went on insisting, his mother finally relented. The general allowed the 14 years old boy to do small works and finally to be the flag bearer of the troop. The cristeros nicknamed him Tarcisius after the early Christian saint who was martyred for protecting

the Eucharist from desecration.

During heavy fighting on Jan 25, 1928, General Guizar Morfin horse was killed and Jose gave him his horse, telling him, “Sir, you are more needed for this cause than I am. Take my horse and save yourself.” The general managed to escape.

Jose fired the enemy until he ran out of ammunition. The government troops captured the boy, beat and rebuked him while taking him to the town. They demanded him to renounce his faith under threat of death. But he refused. They imprisoned him in the sacristy of the local church of St. James the apostle, where he was baptized. He prayed the rosary in the jail and wrote an emotional letter to his mother, “Do not be worried about my death as this would make me suffer. Be courageous and send me your blessing, together with the blessing of my father.”

His godfather Rafael Picazo Sanchez tried to save the boy by offering him various enticements. But the boy refused these temptations, since he had to deny his faith to get these favours. The soldiers demanded a ransom of 5000 pesos. His father tried to raise that money to save him. But Jose rejected the offer saying, “My faith is not for sale.”

The soldiers again wanted him to relent by watching the hanging of another Cristero. But Jose encouraged him to face death, saying that they would soon meet in heaven. He declared that he too wanted to give his life to Jesus and so to go to heaven easily.

The irate soldiers tortured him by cutting the bottoms of his feet with a knife. The profusely bleeding Jose was forced to walk barefoot from the town to the cemetery of Sahuayo. He cried and moaned in pain. But he did not give in. The soldiers ordered him,



“Say ‘death to Christ the King’, we will spare your life.” But Jose shouted, “Long live Christ the king. Long live Holy Mary of Guadalupe.”

On the way the soldiers stabbed him with the bayonets. At the cemetery an angry military leader shot him twice in the head. Then they put the 14 years old dead boy’s body in a small grave and covered him with mud. It was night 11.30 on Feb 10, 1928, one month short of his 15th birthday.

His diocese started his sainthood proceedings on May 1, 1996. Pope John Paul II declared him a venerable on June 22, 2004. Pope Benedict XVI beatified him on Nov 20, 2005 through Cardinal Prefect of the Congregation for the Cause of Saints in Guadalajara, Mexico. During the beatification homily, Cardinal Jose Saraiva Martins said, “Jose should inspire us all, especially you young people, to be capable of giving witness to Christ in our daily lives.” Pope Francis canonized him a saint in Vatican on Oct 16, 2016, along with six others.

The remains of St. Jose Luis Sanchez del Rio are enshrined above a side altar in the church of St James the apostle in his hometown. His postulator Father Fidel Gonzalez Fernandez remarked, “I have seen hundreds of cases of martyrdom, but never of a martyr so young.” A film, “For greater Glory” was produced in 2012 portraying him and the Cristero War. Jose became the patron of the World Youth Day 2019.



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