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Blended Learning Is The New Normal

Blended learning is a term which has gained prominence in education over the past decade and is once again in the spotlight due to the recent COVID-19 pandemic. Put simply, blended learning is typically a delivery method of education which combines face-to-face delivery with technology-powered online learning.

A recent survey has found that the pandemic significantly affected income and enrolments in most private schools. While “uberisation” can help address such financial and operational challenges, a hybrid model that blends offline and online teaching is another solution. A silver lining: Some ed-tech companies have come up with interesting innovations.

Behind this shift is a fundamental rethinking of the business model of teaching and learning. The rise of online learning marked the first phase of disruptive innovation relative to traditional classes. In offering offline, networked experiences, blended schools can ultimately evolve from a model that has closed students off from the outside world to one in which students have unprecedented opportunities to connect with experts and mentors. A few examples illustrate this profound shift in architecture.

Blended-learning schools that are pursuing facilitated network learning models mix and match online content with offline learning experiences. In turn, these models are opening up the possibility for students to forge relationships beyond school as we know it. Blended learning is helping to unshackle schools from the one-teacher one-classroom model and usher in more creative and diverse in-

(Contd.. on p. 3)

International Women's Day – Let's Dream Big, Achieve Big

This year, the UN theme of the International Women's Day on 8th March is, "Women in Leadership: Achieving an Equal Future in a COVID-19 World." Although the theme celebrates the tremendous efforts taken by women towards recovery from the COVID-19 which was very evident and exemplary, it also focuses on the importance of women leadership in shaping a more equal and promising future. Through this theme, the 'UN Women' seek for effective participation and decision making rights for women in all areas of life through empowerment of women and girls. Despite several socio-economic barriers over the centuries, women have fought their way out to emerge as winners and contributors in almost every

segment of life. They are slowly and steadily breaking the glass ceiling to take charge and occupy leadership positions in all sectors to leverage their immense potential. International women's day signifies and celebrates women and their valuable contribution to their families, society, nation and the world at large.

Women are an important pillar of society. They have been bestowed upon the capability of playing multiple roles such as mother, wife, sister, daughter, friend and a professional in her respective role at work place. Speaking from my own personal experience, I believe that every woman has the power to transform society. God has

created women with a special plan and purpose and am grateful to our Lord Jesus Christ for His continual grace in fulfilling the vision to reach out to the children of our nation and to the poor and needy of the society.

Although women bring along essential knowledge, skills, resources and ex-

perience, they need to be empowered and encouraged. Steve Maraboli has wonderfully said, **"The empowered woman is powerful beyond measure and beautiful beyond description."** Indeed, the presence of women leadership is gradually reflected in entrepreneurship, administration, education, engineering, health, etc. at regional, national, and global levels. We have a recent example of Dr. Swati Mohan, an Indian American scientist, who played a pivotal role in the landing of the historic Mars Perseverance Rover. It is fascinating to witness women achieving new milestones. Empowered women are becoming the change makers and social transformers.

Over the centuries, women trailblazers and pioneers have added to human knowledge and skill in every field. While this international day reminds us about millions of women across the globe who have no proper access to education, health care and equal opportunities, it also exhorts us to encourage the leader within each of us. I congratulate every woman changing lives as she plays diverse roles effectively. Today, let us connect with all women to inspire them and celebrate the special gift of womanhood with an assurance that the future is bright, equal, safe and rewarding. Let us make the best of our abilities to collaborate, connect, empathize, listen, nurture, and communicate to achieve big in our lives for the betterment of our society.

Wish you a
very Happy Women's Day!

Grace Pinto, Managing Director,
Ryan Group of Institutions
RONIDA



99, Perin Nariman Street, Fort, Mumbai - 400 001.

Mobile: +91 9820485389 / 9820473103

E-mail : secular@sezariworld.com / seculardivo@gmail.com

Website: www.sezariworld.com

Editor: LAWRENCE COELHO

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structional approaches. Beyond just restructuring the classroom, blended-learning models are starting to open up new connections and diversify students' networks. This has huge potential to address not just achievement gaps, but opportunity gaps.

Over the years, we've seen many blended-learning classrooms leverage software to differentiate and personalize learning pathways with greater precision and flexibility. Blended learning can be an engine that accelerates data-driven instruction to new heights. But a less-talked-about phenomenon is the possibility of blended learning multiplying the sources of content and experiences students turn to, including adults and experts beyond the four walls of the classroom. In these models school is not just a building anymore and teachers are not the only adults with whom students can learn.

Transition from face-to-face to a virtual world should be carefully planned and demonstrate a balance of asynchronous and synchronous

activities. This balance will provide students with an opportunity to work with their peers, as well as independently. One way of identifying this balance is to ask students for their preferences and consider individual circumstances such as childcare, health issues or other commitments and constraints.

How education providers choose to combine these two elements will depend on a number of factors such as the level of study, student profile, infrastructure and course content. However, it has become generally accepted that optimised blended learning occurs when technology is used to consume content that aids developing knowledge and understanding, while face-to-face class time is used to open up more student engagement with the material, or to zone in on problem areas.

The COVID-19 situation has affected many aspects of education such as teaching, learning, assessments and student support, and blended learning has become more topical than ever. Schools, colleges and universities find themselves urgently seeking solutions to the challenges around

adhering to social distancing. Despite the challenges, the current situation is an opportunity for education providers to fully embrace modern best practices and new technologies, even if this means breaking out of the comfort zone. This is where blended learning can assist with these challenges. In its normal mode, blended learning essentially aims to reduce the amount of time students need to spend on site. At a larger scale this then inevitably leads to a reduction in overall students on site at any given time.

The new norm we find ourselves in looks set to remain for a good while yet. In that time, new adopters of blended learning will be encouraged to find ways of making it work for them, not only for the next few months but for the foreseeable future. Many providers may find that blended learning is not only necessary to survival, but an essential delivery method for long-term success.

—Jayanthi Subramaniam

Falling in the Eyes of Jesus

What is it that comes to mind when we broach the subject of 'falls'? We all fear when we hear of a fall. A large number of patients are admitted in hospitals on account of a fall which had led to fracture, a head or hip or a knee injury or so many other ruptures. Recovering from such injuries is of course, a painful and a long process, putting so many others to inconvenience. That is as far as physical falls go. There are however other falls which we need to direct our attention to.

Adam & Eve had fallen from the grace of God by eating off the forbidden fruit. No, there were no physical injuries. Rather, they were more worried that they were without any clothing and they went about stitching together some sort of covering. They had fallen into sin, they had broken God's Heart and had fallen in His eyes.

What about us, have we also suffered from a fall at some stage and suffered physical injuries? We may get healed of those injuries in due course. However, **we need to worry more about those falls we suffer in our spiritual lives.** Of course, we are all sinners, have fallen into sin and have taken short of the glory of God.

In the Scriptures we read of several people who had fallen in the eyes of God and they rose up from their fall. While on the way to Calvary, Jesus fell three times. Was it Jesus who had fallen? Or was it all those people who had lined the streets to watch the drama? Yes, it was they who had fallen in the eyes of Jesus, of God? But there was one woman, Veronica, who must have realised that, and decided to rise, and wading through the crowds and the soldiers, she wiped the face of Jesus. **Veronica rose up from that**

fall and was rewarded with the imprint of Jesus' face.

At the court of Pontius Pilate, it was Pontius Pilate who had fallen in the eyes of Jesus. He had, in a way, also fallen into sin. He could have prevented the arrest & persecution of Jesus as he was a man in a high position, but did not have the courage of his convictions. He could not rise from that fall and rescue Jesus.

There was that Samaritan woman at the well, who was leading an immoral life. In her conversation with Jesus she realised what she was doing, that **she has fallen into sin, fallen in the eyes of God and decided to rise from her immoral life.**



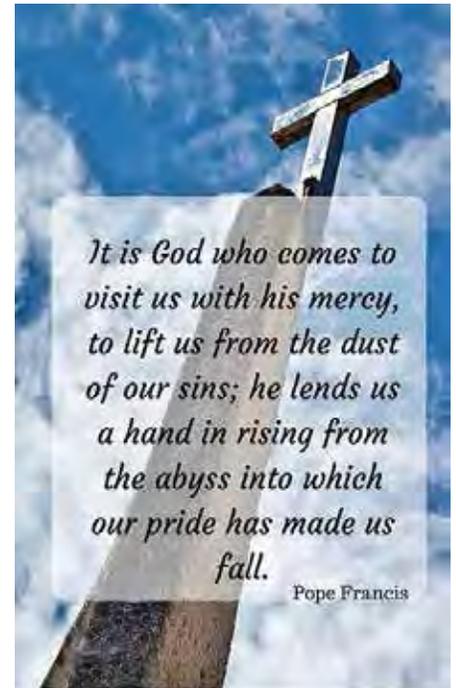
**Melville X. D'Souza
- Orlem, Malad West**

Zacchaeus the tax-collector had been cheating people, collecting more than he was entitled to. He had become rich through unethical means but had become poor in the eyes of God. He had fallen into sin, in the eyes of

the people and of God. **He decided to rise and make amends for his misdeeds.**

Mary Magdalene was caught in the act of adultery. She was a sinner, having fallen in the eyes of the people around her and as per the Law of Moses, such woman were to be stoned to death. But when nobody was willing to stone her, she realised her sin. **She rose from that fall and she followed Jesus.**

There were two thieves who were crucified alongwith Jesus. Both had fallen in the eyes of God, they were paying for their sins. But one of them realised his fall and asked Jesus for forgive-



ness. **He had risen from sin, he has risen from that fall, and Jesus assures him of a place in Heaven.**

Where do we stand? Do we see ourselves in the person of Mary Magdalene, or that woman at the well, Zacchaeus or that robber on the cross? Perhaps not, but we have surely fallen in the eyes of Jesus. If Mary Magdalene, that woman, the robber, Zacchaeus could be lifted up by Jesus when they had fallen, will he not lift us up as well? Jesus promised us salvation when he took up that cross and walked upto Calvary. We are not perfect, we all have into sin. Confucius the philosopher says, **"our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall"**. Recovering from a physical fall is often a painful process, entailing sacrifices and extra effort. So also, recovering from spiritual falls calls for sacrifice and repentance. **Jesus is right there where you have fallen. He has his arms outstretched, with the promise of Easter! He is calling us to rise up with Him to a New Life. He is just a step away. The question is, are we willing to hold His hand and rise?**



Jerusalem: South African song and dancel

Of late , and much to the surprise of many, a song and dance titled 'Jerusalem' has gone viral on social media and spread like wild fire, even to the gates of a few monasteries and convents, where cloistered nuns and priests are seen in their element, dancing to the South African song 'Jerusalem' to cheer people and lift up their spirits during the pandemic. The song, produced by South African DJ Master KG and sung by South African vocalist Nomcebo , is based on the gospel hymn 'Jerusalem my home' in which the singer is expressing the human longing for a better place to live, by vaguely referring to the promise of the utopian city of God--the New Jerusalem city, in St John's Revelation. South Africans sing it to celebrate their culture and heritage, rejoicing also for having gone through terrible times during the pandemic. However, it was only after the Angolan dance group to South Africa recorded their dance to the tune of Jerusalem that the video became a global hit and a world dance-craze. Millions of copies of the song are sold all over the world. And though the script is in Zulu, there are also English translations of the same.

Due to the song's religious theme in which the singer in the opening verse asks God to guide her, walk with her and not to abandon her, the song is played in some Protestant churches abroad after the weekly Sunday service to inspire the faithful. The same could also be done in our churches after the parish mass which I am sure will help increase

people's spirituality and also bring them together.

—A. F. Nazareth,
Alto Porvorim, Goa

Catholics Matter In India

Set between the rivers Tigres and Eupharates, Iraq (which was earlier known as Mesopotamia), is acknowledged as the cradle of civilization. Biblical scholars place the Garden of Eden between these two rivers. Pope Francis will be visiting this historically important country, March 5-8.

As is well known, the Pope is the head of the Vatican State and as per established protocol he can agree to visit a country only after he receives an official invitation from the State. Recently, the Holy Father visited Bangladesh and Myanmar bordering India, both with very small Catholic populations. Iraq too has only 0.3 million Catholics compared to India's 20 million Catholics. Our Catholic population is the 17th largest in the world , ahead of Canada, Australia, Holland and 150 plus countries. We need to convince our govt that Catholics matter. Our schools and colleges have touched the lives of the poorest to the richest in the land . Many ministers, top politicians and bureaucrats have passed through the hallowed corridors of our educational institutions. On several occasions they have acknowledged their debt to their Alma mater. This goodwill of the alumni must be leveraged by our Catholic leaders and legislators in the Centre and the states. Cutting across party affiliations they must take up matters of importance concerning our faith with these friendly officials. An invita-

tion to the Holy Father to visit India, is one such matter that needs to be taken up.

— Prof Robert Castellino
Orlem

The clergy must lead by example

The number of Covid-19 cases is on the rise in Maharashtra, with Pune and Mumbai recording over 1,000 cases everyday. The 2nd wave seems to be knocking at our doors. We must not let down our guard but adhere meticulously to the norms of social distancing and wearing the mask. The mask is not a fashion statement. It is now an indispensable part of our attire and must be worn properly. I believe the clergy must lead by example.

During the Lenten mission in our parish, the guest preacher, Fr Joe Gonsalves, walked up to the altar to celebrate the Eucharist, wearing a mask. He then removed the mask to celebrate the mass. After the last blessing he made it a point to don the mask once again, before leaving the altar. The mass was being live streamed and there was nobody in church. But the preacher was making a statement . A strong statement in favour of using the mask. This seemingly insignificant act was not lost on the large number of parishioners who were watching the online mass. It sent out a strong message to all the parishioners. Thank you Fr Joe. Priests are role models for parishioners and must lead by example by wearing the mask at all times.

I feel, as far as possible masses should not be concelebrated as social distancing is virtually impossible in a restricted area. And since most of the masses during the pandemic are live streamed any act of commission of omission can be easily detected immediately or at a later date, as it is recorded. If however masses are concelebrated the co-celebrant must wear a mask and must be seen to be maintaining social distancing.

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Merely exhorting the faithful to wear masks or maintain social distancing is not enough. The online mass gives the clergy an opportunity to practise what is being preached from the altar itself.

—Prof Robert Castellino
Orlem Malad.

Has the CJI understood the meaning of 'seduction', 'rape', and 'marriage'?

While hearing the bail request of a government employee, a bench headed by CJI Bobde recently told the man, one Mohit Subhash Chavan, "If you want to marry we can help you. If not, you lose your job and go to jail. You seduced the girl, raped her." The chief justice continued, while staying the man's arrest for one month.

The action of CJI is not only illegal but it is totally immoral! As a reaction a group of more than 4,000 women's rights activists, progressive groups and concerned citizens have written an open letter to Chief Justice of India S.A. Bobde, saying that he must resign for asking a rapist to marry his school going victim and justifying marital rape in the Supreme Court.

Did justice bobde ask first the girl's consent to get married? Without her consent how did he proceed to settle the marriage? Shameful! CJI appears to be in a counselling session with the rapist! The information has come out in the hearing that Mohit Chavan had asked the victim to get married and the girl had refused. So therefore was she raped? If that is the case it is man's ego which is hurt. Is that sufficient reason to rape? The event raises many questions and makes the case messy! The whole world will laugh at our SC. No wonder former chief Justice Gogoi said there is no justice delivered through our legal system! The 400 activist women

are right in demanding immediate resignation of CJI Bobade!

—Fr. Michael G
Vasai

'Ensure masses continue during the pandemic'

With reference to A F Nazareth's letter titled : Withdrawing Sunday mass dispensation in The Secular Citizen dated 7 March, 2021 since only 50 people are allowed to attend mass in a church all churches must extra masses on both Saturdays and Sundays and must have CCTV displays in their church compounds , halls , basements and car parks and masses must also be held in school halls , classrooms and compounds and car parks and in building compounds etc or let people attend masses in their cars and bikes etc in open spaces like fields and maidans etc especially during Good Friday and the midnight mass on Holy Saturday or midnight Christmas mass

Holy communion must be dispensed with automatic host dispensing machines and besides these alternatives online masses must continue as they are very safest bet despite the fact that holy communion during online masses is received spiritually and not physically but holy communion must be given to terminally sick and physically disabled people where they reside by eucharistic ministers , priests and nuns or a special day must be set aside once a month for them to attend masses with different timings to accommodate 50 people per mass by being brought to the church by volunteers.

In these ways we can ensure masses continue during the pandemic .

—Peter Castellino

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Our Lady of Flowers!

NASA's 2020 Mars expedition with its Perseverance Rover landed on the planet on 18 February 2021 after a 7-month trip. However, many are unaware that Our Lady also travelled under the title, 'Nuestra Senora de Flores' – Our lady of Flowers, patron saint of Alora, Spain. This devotion originated following the conquest of Granada by Spanish troops in January 1492.

NASA had selected Inscriptions for 150,000 Plates for the Rover to carry. Air Force Sergeant, Francisco Jose Fernandez revealed: "Thegoal wasthat when aliens find the Rover, it would be exciting to know that Our Lady of Flowers would be adorned between the valleys and deserts of Mars – Indeed, a photo of Our Lady's Boarding Pass!"

Some time back, Astronaut Mike Hopkins was on the International Space Station in 2013 for 24 weeks. Being a devout Catholic, how was he to receive the Eucharist, "The Bread of Life"? (John 6:35, 48). So, he obtained special permission from his local Bishop to carry 6 Consecrated Hosts (which he divided into six pieces), to consume once a week in space. He commented: "The view from space has a deep impact on one's faith. When you see this fragile Earth from this vantage point, and see all the natural beauty that exists, it is hard not to realize that there has to be a Higher Power Who created all this!"

And if I, the author this letter may add, Christ's consoling words: "Why are you anxious about your clothing? Consider the lilies (flowers) of the field, how the grow...? (Matthew 6:28).

—Dr. Trevor Colaso,
Memphis, TN. USA.

Work Culture Would Change

The new normal requires enterprises to have a complete re-look at the way they plan and execute their back-to-office plans. How thoroughly does your enterprise understand its employees and processes? Are there adequate information on their pain points, culture and needs? Have the bottlenecks, unnecessary manual steps and compliance weak spots been identified? Are the opportunities for workflow automation visible? A complete assessment of your workplace environment is the key!

Workplace spirituality is a novel concept with potentially strong relevance to the well being of individuals, organisations and societies. The common problems faced by most of the corporates are stress, absenteeism, organisational politics, absence of team work and so on. Large numbers have been struggling with anxiety, depression and lack of motivation. Going back to work will trigger a huge range of emotions. Many with existing health conditions are reluctant to regroup until vaccines are dished out. Work is worship and we Indians just touch the entrance of the office before starting the work in the right earnest.



C.K. Subramaniam

The spontaneous and unannounced mass remote working trial shone a blinding spotlight on unprepared businesses. When the tide goes out you see who's lost their swimming trunks, who's been working out and who's wearing their wife's knickers all will come in open. IT teams were flooded with requests to configure remote systems. Hardware sold out. Software took some getting used to, but all in all the imposed home office project has generally been hailed as a huge step forward for the workplace. This is largely dependent on the worker's home situation and individual roles of course. Some staff are not permitted



to access sensitive data externally, not all jobs can be done remotely especially from the Banking sector where the client's details are to be kept secret and not revealed outside.

Social distancing will be the part and parcel of future working in India. This sets new limits on workplace capacity: bums on seats. Facility managers and consultants are frantically re planning offices, reducing numbers and marking out spacing with sticky tape. More needs to be done, but a return to desk cubicles isn't the answer. The uniqueness of the current situation is that nobody has a definitive answer for how to work through the post lock down / pre-vaccine period. Management must engage with employees to agree a way – and be prepared to change tactics if needed.

Employer responses to staff fears will come under the microscope. The big losers in the next 12-18 months will be firms that ignore corona concerns raised by their team, dismiss home office requests and fail to consider staff anxiety. Businesses with short term views will lose out to long term

strategists. Now is the time to buy loyalty with empathy to retain your best assets. It is time to enhance trust among people with an increased disconnectedness. Moreover, motivated organisational culture leading to better organisational performance in future. At the same time there should be job satisfaction. We should cultivate a renewed community sense and positive outlook for maximum output.

Management should be visible with regular team meetings to deal with problems and concerns. Human emotion, empathy, open minded communication and understanding have to take the lead. Employees with fears and anxieties should be supported in order to feel safe at work. Businesses need to be flexible with their staff. The office does not represent work itself, presenteeism is dead. The uniqueness of the current situation is that nobody has a definitive answer for how to work through the post lock down / pre-vaccine period. Management must engage with employees to agree a way and be prepared to change tactics if needed. There lies the real success in the post Coronavirus scenario.

Unless The Grain Dies Comes New Life

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Jesus Christ by his life and works taught us to live and serve God in obedience. The medieval theologian Peter Abelard pioneered the idea that Jesus was the greatest teacher as an example of perfect love and service to the Father. Abelard believed that in imitating Christ's love humankind would receive God's favor. St. John in his gospel quotes Jesus: "Whoever wants to serve me, let him follow me; and wherever I am, there shall my servant be also..." (John.12:26).

Around A.D. 57, the Apostle Paul wrote the New Testament book Romans. He was serving Christ, referring to himself as "a servant of Jesus Christ... set apart for the gospel of God who in "the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, through the Holy Spirit."

Let us examine the words of St. Paul: "whom I serve... to our own faith, belief and trust in Christ, to be converted and renewed in the spirit of Good News." Let us also at this hour of Lent proclaim the holiness and goodness coming from our Lord and heavenly Father.

When we turn to Christ, we receive God's recognition. The Spirit of the Lord is in the temple of our heart. We must radiate the light of the Son: his suffering, death and resurrection for our redemption. Holy week will draw us nearer to the Lord, and Lent as we have seen contains the bedrock of Christian values to guide us in prayer, fasting, penance and sacrifice.

Lent has shown us the methods to enrich our spiritual lives and to serve Christ. This is the Fifth Sunday of the Holy Season, reminding us in the words of Jesus: "the hour has come for the Son of man to be glorified." (Jn. 12:23)

David was the writer of the Psalms. In this week's Prayer and Contrition we

discover an insight from his words of repentance when David cries out to God to have mercy on him: "O God, in your love, in your great compassion blot out my sin." (Ps.51:3).

The Catholic faithful should turn to the Savior and ask the spirit of God to assist us in integrating our small efforts to serve His Son in the greater matrix of salvation.

Jesus asked the Father to save him from dying before his time (premature death). His prayer was heard because of his desire to serve and obey God. "He became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him" (Heb. 5:9) from the reading of this Sunday. "Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered." (Heb. 5:8).



BY MELVYN BROWN

St. John in his gospel informs us that Jesus went to Jerusalem for the Festival . Jesus found a donkey and sat upon it, as Scripture says: "do not fear the city of Zion! See your King is coming sitting on the colt of a donkey! (John 12:14).

Lent helps us to be guided by the Spirit. Service to Christ imposes a constant renewal of self-denial and self-control. Should we desire to serve Christ, we must be obedient to his voice.

Jesus exhorts His chosen ones in their soul, and the faithful respond to his invitation to serve in the Lord. "Come, follow me."

The wonderful thing the Jewish Messiah does is to forgive our sins, and cleans our soul; this is the message in the Sacrament of Penance. A good confession during lent is to work for Christ and renew our "spirit from within". It is a proper preparation for Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil.

We should tell ourselves: that by the Holy Suffering of Jesus we are redeemed. The absolution of the priest in the confessional helps us to a surge of joy: "I absolve you from sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen"

Next week will be Palm Sunday. The chief priests and the scribes were plotting and searching ways to arrest Christ and kill him. "It was now two days before the Passover and the feast of Unleavened Bread" .This is a big moment in the Lenten season and I will bring you closer to the Lord in his passion leading to his death and resurrection.

By serving Christ in your own special way will bring a blessing from our Heavenly Father. It is said in the gospel of St. John: "Now, sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be cast down. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all people to myself." With these words Jesus referred to the kind of death he was to die. (John.12: 20-33).

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Bethany Mangalore Releases Documentary on Founder

—Compiled : Ivan Saldanha-Shet.

Bethany Sisters of Mangalore founded in 1921 are in their centenary year marking the great impact in all their wide spread institutions. As a part of the centenary, a documentary film, titled 'On Wings of Love' was released on March 4, 2021 at Bendur, Mangalore on the life and the mission of the Founder, Servant of God Raymond Francis Camillus Mascarenhas and the progress of the Congregation he founded. Mgr Raymond F C Mascarenhas was ordained 121 years ago on March 4, 1900 at the Rosario Cathedral.

The release programme was presided over by Sr Rose Celine BS, the Superior General, this Documentary aims at giving a clear glimpse of the origins, growth, call of the Servant of God Raymond F C Mascarenhas, as a priest, his ideals to be a compassionate pastor and his priestly ministry. His deep trust in the providence, prayer life; Word of God. His pastoral work for the poor, sick, rural people, women and children in Kanara, his leadership in the parish, diocese, society, in education field, social service, financial service, as a literary figure, as an orator, as a missionary, a lover of the nature, the opportunities created for women and girl children for education and leadership are some aspects highlighted. The docu-



mentary produced by the Bethany Generalate, Mangalore was directed, videographed and scripted by Fr Edwin Vas SVD, Head of the Communication Department, Ishvani Kendra, Pune. It was coordinated by Sr Jyoti BS, Covener for Centenary Media and Publicity Committee, supported by the Generalate and the Sisters of the Bethany Congregation.

Impressively depicted is the founding of an indigenous religious congregation of women in Mangalore diocese - The Congregation of the Sisters of the Little Flower of Bethany, Bendur Mangalore, South Kanara, Karnataka; on July 16, 1921 with the four pioneering members: Mother Martha, Sr Clare, Sr Gertrude and Sr Lourdes, all teachers of St Sebastian's Primary School, Bendur, Mangalore. The docu-

mentary brings to the fore the Suffering, poverty, criticism, the Founder and the Sisters faced. Expansion to Kerala, North Karnataka and the missionary work in Belgaum missions. The birth and growth of the congregation in Karnataka, Kerala, Goa, North and North East India, Europe - Italy, Germany, France, Africa - North West Africa - Mauritania, Senegal, South East Africa - Tanzania, Asia - Nepal are informative. Glimpses of the various activities of the Sisters - Prayer and Adoration, Pastoral, Educational, Social Service in the villages - poor, differently able, handicapped, girl children, women, old age homes, hospitals, clinics, frontier ministries - Safe Migration, Anti-human Trafficking, Aids/HIV, drug addicts, alcoholics, prisoners and Collaborative ministries with the dioceses, other religious men and women, lay people are heart wrenching to note.

The present Membership is 1380 Sisters from 21 States of India and from South East Africa - Tanzania . They are present in 26 States of India in 50 Dioceses and outside India in three Continents - 9 countries and 12 dioceses i.e. Asia - India, Nepal, Europe-Vatican, Italy, Germany, France, Africa - Mauritania, Senegal, Tanzania. The work and effort of the Bethany congregation world wide today is admirable and set on a growth trajectory.





by Peter Castellino

The primitive church called Holy Saturday Great or Grand Saturday, Holy Saturday, the Angelic Night, the Vigil of Easter, Easter Eve, Easter Even and Black Saturday or the Saturday before Easter and White Saturday etc and unlike Maundy Thursday it is a day of joy intermingled with sadness and the close of the Lenten and penitential season and the beginning of the Paschal time ie one of rejoicing and on this day Pontius Pilate the Roman Governor instructed guards to be posted at Jesus's tomb to prevent his followers from removing his body from the tomb to claim that he had risen from the dead.

The early church permitted severe fasting- Constit Asport VII, 23 and in St Irenanius's it was observed for forty hours before Easter with general abstinence.

Easter vigil night has undergone a strange displacement and in the first six or seven centuries ceremonies progressed the night for the Alleluia to coincide with the day and moment of the Resurrection and in the eighteenth century were held on Saturday afternoon and then on Saturday thus advancing the solemnity for a whole day -previously it was held late at night and the vigil opened with the blessing of the new fire, lighting of lamps, candles and the paschal candle but the symbolism was lost when advanced from twilight to broad daylight.

St Cyril of Jerusalem spoke of this day as broad as day and Constantine the Great added unprecedented splendor to its brilliance with lamps and enormous torches with basilicas, private houses, streets and public squares resplendent with light symbolic of the Risen Christ and the assembled faithful participated in common prayer, singing of hymns and reading of the scriptures commented on by bishops and priests.

Easter vigil was devoted to catechumens' baptisms in several important churches and on Holy Saturday following St John Chrysostain's deposition from the Holy See of Constantinople there were 3000 catechumens whose meeting of people in the night with occasional abuses which the clergy were powerless to handle unless they were conducted in daylight.

Rabanus Maurus a ninth century ecclesastical writer - De cleric Instit, 1128 gives a detailed account of the Holy Saturday ceremony:

The congregation remained silent in the church awaiting the dawn of Resurrection in psalm reading and chants listening to the lesson's readers rite identical to the primitive church solemnized at the same hours as the faithful worldwide had not consented to anticipate the Easter Vigil and only in the Middle Ages was uniformity on this point established.

Discussions about the meaning behind the rituals, prayers and symbols were all part of the Easter vigil occur during

the services with some churches holding large baptism services on this day.

Holy Saturday is called Judas's Day in Mexico where people burn Judas's Iscariot's effigies ie the person who betrayed Judas for 30 pieces of silver and street vendors sell this effigy of Judas Iscariot ranging in height and making him look as ugly as possible and children's effigies of him are stuffed with candy and hung in patios at people's homes and others in the streets or on lampposts and firecrackers are attached to these effigies and ignited as soon as the Mass of the Glory is over and children scramble for the candy in the effigies after they explode.

The Czech custom on White Saturday is to rattle the keys and burn out Judas by burning the last of the holy oil before the church door and in Poland food and Easter baskets are blessed and worldwide children spend time colouring eggs on Holy Saturday before Easter Saturday.

In Australia Holy Saturday is called Easter Saturday and is a public holiday and also in Belize, Chile, El Salvador, Hong Kong, Macau, Nigargica, Panama, Papa New Guinea, Somoa, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, Zambia and Zimbabwe and is not a national holiday in Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Paschal candle of white wax symbolizes leading people out of darkness into the Easter vigil celebration is marked with a cross, an alpha and omega-the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet symbolizing that Jesus Christ has and will always be with humanity and is with humanity according to Christian belief.

In English Holy Saturday is called Holy Saturday, in Chinese Sheng Zhou ri, in Czech Bela Sobota, in Dutch Stille Zaterdag, in French Samedi saint, in German Karsarristay, in Hindi Eater Saturday in Norwegian and Norwegian saysnorsk Paskeafter in Serbian Latin Vallika seebors in Shoruses Sebade Sento and Swedish Paskajton.

Thus we see the importance of Holy Saturday.

Women, Dreamers Of A New Day!

Sister (Dr) Mudita Menona Sodder RSCJ

Tradition has it that a woman's place is in the home. But today, a woman's home is the whole wide world! Women are not just dreamers of a new day, they are world shapers and change makers. Women are wisdom figures who seek more by asking questions that open up new doors and avenues. They are constantly searching for solutions to major and complex problems. They find answers and succeed by sheer hard work and perseverance.

Women today are everywhere. They not only attend to the hearth and give birth, they are also tenders of the Earth, who watch the rhythms of the moon and kneel in prayerful gratitude to the Creator! Women understand the interconnectedness of all of God's creatures more easily because of the umbilical connection between mother and child; and because of the miracle as well as the pain of bringing forth new life, the lifeline between Creator and Creation so to say! As mothers, women are endowed with the divine qualities of forgiveness, unconditional love, compassion, sensitivity and courage - all feminine traits. A woman's commitment is total in comparison with that of men.

Pope Benedict XVI tells women, "The world offers you comfort, but you were not made for comfort; you were made for greatness." When things seem most pointless, women can be most fruitful. Throughout history strong women have continued humanity, literally birthing it, raising the next generation, enduring all kinds of hardships and struggles, influencing much in the world, both in the lead and behind the scenes. Women learn on the job. They allow their hearts to guide them and bring about a holistic transformation.

The status of women in India has been subject to many great changes over the past few millennia. From equal

status with men in all fields in ancient times, to crimes against women registering a shocking rise, the world has sure deviated on to the wrong path! Women were said to have been educated in the early Vedic period, marrying at a mature age, and they were free to select their husband. There were several women sages and seers like Gargi and Maitreyi who were respected as epitomes of intellectual and spiritual attainment. It was around 500 BC that the status of women began to decline. They began to face confinement and restrictions. And it was around the 6th century that the practice of child marriage started. Women's position in society further deteriorated during the medieval period what with *Sati*, ban on widow remarriage, the practice of the *pardah*, the *devadasi* system, polygamy etc becoming rampant.

In spite of all this, some women have excelled in the fields of politics, literature, education and religion - e.g. Razia Sultana who ruled Delhi, Chand Bibi of Ahmednagar, Jhansi ki Rani etc. Today women are taking up all kinds of professions. What's more, they are even doing better than their male counterparts, e.g. flying fighter jets, commanding army battalions, managing multinational companies, leading the country, directing educational institutions and what have you! Indeed! Women are constantly making a mark in education, sports, politics, media, art and culture, service sectors, science and technology, their competence as doctors, dancers, scientists, engineers, professors, teachers, poets, preachers, weavers, carpenters, singers and journalists beyond compare! Our very own Indira Gandhi was the world's longest serving woman Prime Minister!

Over the years, female activity has consolidated a sense of unity over issues such as female infanticide, gender bias, women's health and female literacy, with anti-liquor campaigns

being held and the triple *talaq* system coming to be openly questioned. New women-oriented NGO's and self-help groups like the Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) have mushroomed. Today thirty-three percent reservations for women in Parliament and State legislatures are ensured.

With the exception of Kerala, the Lakshadweep Islands and Mizoram, the female literacy rate in all other states of the Indian Union is lower than that of male literacy. In most Indian families, women do not get a share of the parental property. Be it molestation and sexual harassment in the workplace, dowry related domestic violence, suicide or murder, there exists a higher incidence of crimes against women in India. India registers a third of all child marriages in the world. Female infanticide and sex selective abortions continue. Many women in India have little or no control over their reproductivity. In India, the figure for female sterilization is 39%, almost twice as much as the worldwide figure and women are still under represented in governance and decision making positions.

Unfortunately, even religious leaders still look upon women as inferior to men, treat them with disrespect and often consider them as a commodity or easy workforce or cheap or even free labour to maintain and care for their places of commerce and religious worship. They even have the audacity to use the whip of religious laws and the drug of rituals to silence those who cry for justice and rights.

The truth is, **women are indeed treasures!** With *Choose to Challenge* as its theme, will International Women's Day 2021 enable us, both men and women, to merely look at women as DREAMERS OF A NEW DAY? Or will we, to a man, rise to the challenge to **VALUE THEM as living sacrifices, bringing hope and smiles to the world around rather than wait for time to tell!?!**



When I was in class 5th, I used to ask a lot of questions.

One day, I asked my English teacher, "Why do we ignore some letters in pronunciation eg., the letter Hin Hour, Honour.etc.?????"

My English teacher said, " We are not ignoring them, they're considered silent."

I was even more confused hearing this.

During the lunch break, my teacher gave me her packed lunch and asked me to heat it in the Cafeteria.

I ate all the food and returned her the empty container.

My English teacher: What happened? I told you to go and heat my food and you are returning me an empty container?

I replied, "Madam, I thought 'H' was silent.

Teacher: What do you call mosquitoes in your language?

Shirley: We don't call them, they come on their own.

Teacher: Name the nation, people hate the most.

Shweta: Exami-nation.

Teacher: One day our country will be corruption free. What tense is that?

Ameena: Future impossible tense, Miss.

--- Contributed by: Jubel D'Cruz, Dombivili, Mumbai

What is the difference between an Ordinary Thief and a Political Thief ?..

1.The 'Ordinary Thief' steals your money, bag, watch, gold chain etc. But, The 'Political Thief' steals your future, career, education, health and business!

2. The hilarious part is: .. The 'Ordinary Thief' will choose

whom to rob. But, you yourself choose the 'Political Thief' to rob you.

3. The most ironic one: .. Police will chase and nab the 'Ordinary Thief.' But, Police will look after and protect the 'Political Thief!'

That's the travesty and irony of our current society! And, we blindly say we are not blind!

4. The stupid part of the whole issue is that we insult and fight the 'Ordinary Thief' but we Fight each other for the 'Political Thief'

"I spent an hour in the bank with my dad, as he had to transfer some money. I couldn't resist myself and asked...

"Dad, why don't we activate your internet banking?"

"Why would I do that?" He asked...

"Well, then you wont have to spend an hour here for things like transfer.

You can even do your shopping online. Everything will be so easy!"

I was so excited about initiating him into the world of Net banking.

He asked "If I do that, I wont have to step out of the house?"

"Yes, yes"! I said. I told him how even grocery can be delivered at door now and how amazon delivers everything!

His answer left me tongue-tied.

He said "Since I entered this bank today, I have met four of my friends,

I have chatted a while with the staff who know me very well by now.

You know I am alone...this is the company that I need. I like to get ready and come to the bank. I have enough time, it is the physical touch that I crave.

Two years back I got sick, The store owner from whom I buy fruits, came to see me and sat by my bedside and cried.

When your Mom fell down few days back while on her morning walk. Our local grocer saw her and immediately got his car to rush her home as he knows where I live.

Would I have that 'human' touch if everything became online?

Why would I want everything delivered to me and force me to interact with just my computer?

I like to know the person that I'm dealing with and not just the 'seller'. It creates bonds of Relationships.

Does Amazon deliver all this as well?"

Technology isn't life.. Spend time with people .. Not with devices.

Thanksgiving



Thank you St. JUDE For Favour received sorry for the Delay

From : Mr. Lobo

Chicken Soup for Souls!

Chicken Soup for the Soul book series has become a healthy staple for readers of all faiths, with a taste for literacy comfort food! It is an escape from the stresses of the world; and its happy endings lift the soul, impressing upon our minds that God leads us to beautiful moments!

Sophia Institute Press has licensed with Chicken Soup company to produce Christian and many specifically Catholic stories from the 250-plus titles. The latest in the series of four Books is Chicken Soup for the Soul: Everyday Catholicism: Hearing God's Answers in Our Lives! – There are chapters on God's love, providence, prayers, miracles, healings, petitions, thanksgiving and angels among us.

It had been co-authored by LeAnn Thieman. She was once a nurse who helped rescue 300 babies in the Vietnam Orphan Airlift in 1975, as Saigon was falling to the communists. After her 'Operation Babylift', the story was featured in Chicken Soup for Mother's Soul. In fact, LeAnn has also co-authored 11 Chicken Soup titles!

These stories from everyday people are glimpses of 'faith-in-action'! They are short and move quickly, so it is an easy Book to dive, and yet difficult to put down; since there is always the temptation for just one more!

One nice feature is that at the back of the Books there are short biographies of the contributors listing blogs, and often including their e-mails. This adds a very personal touch to the stories that give witness to God Who indeed answers our prayers! So, let's say cheers to Chicken Soup!

—Dr. Hazel Colaso,
Memphis, TN. USA.



Ingredients:

- 1 cup carrots, cut into tiny cubes or slices
- Salt as needed
- 6 tbsp oil
- 1 tbsp ginger, finely chopped
- 1 tbsp garlic, finely chopped
- 1 tsp turmeric powder
- 1 tsp methi seeds
- 1 tsp mustard seeds
- 1 tsp red chilli powder
- 2 tbsp lemon juice or vinegar

Method:

1. Dry roast the methi seeds on a low flame until aromatic.
2. As soon as they begin to change to a dark colour, switch off the gas and add mustard seeds.
3. Cool them and powder.
4. Rinse carrots and ginger thoroughly and peel them.
4. Chop them into fine slices or tiny cubes and set aside.
5. Pour oil into a pan and heat it.
6. When the oil turns hot, add the chopped carrots, ginger and garlic and toss. Put off the gas flame.
7. Add the rest of the ingredients, except lemon juice (or vinegar) and mix well.
8. Cool it and then add the lemon juice or vinegar.
9. Store the pickle in a clean, dry airtight glass jar. Refrigerate and use.



by Jubel D'Cruz

The Modi Government is determined to implement its “One Nation, (only) One Thought” policy

by Don Aguiar

Does the prime minister even know, or care about, the *raison d'être* of a university? In its truest meaning, a university regards knowledge as a universal asset commonly owned, treasured, shared, used and augmented by the entire human-kind. Knowledge is neither created by, nor belongs to, any single country or community. Reasonable regulations and restrictions by national governments on how it is learnt, taught and applied are of course understandable and necessary. But free, open and democratic societies abhor the idea of imprisoning knowledge within what Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore reproachfully called the “narrow domestic walls” of exclusive nation-states. Therefore, Indian universities must enjoy the highest possible degree of self-governance and freedom to conduct their educational activities in regular interaction with their counterparts abroad. **The best judges of how this ought to be done are not unqualified and unaccountable bureaucrats, but those who lead our universities and the faculty and students that teach and study in them.** It is an outright insult to India's university fraternity that an “administrative” boss in a government office is given the power not only to

approve the webinars planned and conducted by them, but also to vet and veto the list of international participants.

This is the latest the Narendra Modi's government has launched what can only be described as a mini “surgical strike” on academic freedom in Indian universities, IITs, IIMs and other such

online/virtual Conferences, Seminars, Training, etc.’ It is the biggest attack in the history of independent India on the autonomy of our universities. **When it is fully enforced — and let there be no doubts over the government's resolve to be iron-handed when it comes to restricting people's democratic rights — India will find itself in the company of dictatorial regimes around the world that despise liberty of thought and muzzle freedom of expression in their institutions of higher learning.**

As per the new guidelines, all “central educational institutions, publicly-funded universities” — this category will naturally include affiliated colleges — “and organisations owned and controlled by the Government of India / State Government” will now have to get prior approval from the ministry of external affairs if they want to hold online international conferences or seminars on subjects related to “security of State, Border, Northeast states, UT of J&K, Ladakh or any other issues which are clearly/purely related to India's internal matter/s”.

Furthermore, they will require approval from the appropriate “administrative secretary for the event as well as for the list of participants”. They will also



educational institutions. The academic community — vice chancellors, teachers, scientists, researchers, students, members of university senates, managements of affiliated colleges and India's intelligentsia in general — will soon see the wreckage and wonder how this could happen in democratic India.

The mini “surgical strike” has come in the form of an “office memorandum” on January 15 from an undersecretary, the junior-most bureaucrat in the Ministry of Education, and is innocuously titled ‘Revised Guidelines for holding

(Contd.. on p. 15)

(Contd.. from p. 14)

have to get prior permission from the MEA for “events involving sensitive subjects (political, scientific, technical, commercial, personal) with provisions for sharing of data in any form”. After the event — the organisers will have to share the link with the MEA. In “Old India”, the government couldn’t send police into a university campus without permission of the vice chancellor. Welcome to “New India”, where the babus in MEA and the ministries of education and home affairs are empowered to do ubiquitous thought policing.

Isn’t it shocking how the mandarins in the MEA have empowered themselves to withhold permission for academic events on any subject that they can interpret as “sensitive” or “related to India’s internal matter/s”? The subject could be democracy, secularism, socialism (three preambular pillars of India’s Constitution), media freedom, human rights violations, atrocities on women, rights of refugees and migrant workers, tribal rights, caste system, wealth disparities, literary and cultural freedoms, nuclear disarmament, peace and cooperation in South Asia, India-China boundary dispute, demilitarisation of oceans and outer space — indeed, anything embarrassing to the ruling party. Similarly, they can say no if a university or a college wants to invite international participants who are either from “hostile countries” or are known to have ideas opposed to the BJP. The government will justify this in the name of protecting “national interests”. But isn’t it an arrogant and undemocratic assumption that bureaucrats alone know how to safeguard India’s “national interests” and that it is dangerous to trust the academic fraternity in this regard?

Even those with a nodding acquaintance with the academia know that India’s knowledge of its own “internal matters” has been enriched by foreign scholars, just as Indian intellectuals have contributed immensely to knowledge about the rest of the world. In this world-

wide co-creation and exchange of knowledge, there are bound to be differences and even serious disagreements. Except in authoritarian regimes, academics are not expected to endorse the thinking of the government and the ruling party either on domestic matters or foreign policy. Which is why universities in free societies have evolved a consensus that dialogue and unfettered search for truth based on respect for diverse, even dissenting, thoughts is the life-breath of higher education. By bulldozing this consensus — and by mounting similar efforts to curb press freedom — the BJP government has let the world know that it is determined to implement its “One Nation, (only) One Thought” policy.

The government’s new order constrains our universities (also independent think tanks and NGOs) in other ways, too. Unlike their western counterparts, they are severely underfunded. They can neither organise many international conferences, nor send their faculty to participate in such events abroad. The recent boom in webinars has, hence, come as a big boon to them. It saves travel and hospitality costs and also overcomes the

hassles of getting visas for invitees from “unfriendly” countries. Moreover, such events can be easily, and more frequently, organised even by institutions in rural and remote areas. Disturbingly, the government wants to curtail these major benefits of the digital revolution to millions of our teachers, students and scientists.

By issuing this diktat without consulting states, the central government has also given yet another example of its contempt for the Constitutional powers of states. After all, central universities (54) are far outnumbered by state universities (418), to which almost all the nearly 38,500 colleges are affiliated. Sooner rather than later, the diktat will also become applicable to private (370) and deemed (125) universities.

Instilling conformism and fear in society, and subjugating democratic institutions, has become the hallmark of the functioning of the Modi government. After the media, judiciary, election commission, anti-corruption and investigative agencies, now our universities too have been ordered to fall in line. **Will our proud, freedom-loving and self-respecting academic community succumb? It must not.**

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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

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

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

7133. MUMBAI : Goan RC Hand-some 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 : trinidadfranco@gmail.com

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

7114. GOA : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in January 1973), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 70 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. 12th + Dip. in Technical Field, working as a Projectionst in KUWAIT. Contact email : hilarylobo48@gmail.com

6508. MUMBAI : Mangalorean

Roman Catholic Bachelor (Born in October 1986), Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 80 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.E.. working as a Asst. Manager in German Company. Seeks a tall, well educated homely Mangalorean girl. Contact email : colind.3010@gmail.com

7110. MUMBAI : Goan + East Indian Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in December 1984), Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 85 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc. IT, working as a Server Engineer. Contact email : fernandes.raymond@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.

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

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

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

7196. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor (Born in March 1981), Ht. 6', Wt. 80 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., HR Professional. Contact email : denstun@hotmail.comS

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

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

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 Operater. Contact email : ronnydsouza075@gmail.com

7164. MANGALORE : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in May 1984) Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 65 kgs, Fair, Edn. ITI Course, working as a Techincian. Contact email : rajesh.ds215@gmail.com

6531. POONA : Tamilian Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in May 1975), Ht. 6', Fair Complexion, Handsome, Edn. M.Com., Having well established business. Contact email : tony137@rediffmail.com

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

7146. MUMBAI : East Indian RC Bachelor, (Born in July 1988) Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 79 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.E. (Mech), + PG course in Finance, working as a Asst. Manager in MNC. Contact email : lenin.pdsouza@gmail.com

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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

7199. BANGALORE : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in January 1990), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 53 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. Master's in Mass Communications (NTU, Singalore) working as a Senior Manager of Corporate Communications in **SINGAPORE**. Contact email : mafern.2121@gmail.com

7192. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1988), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 63 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A., Diploma in Interior Design (MDID), working as a Sales Professional in the Private Sector. Contact email : especiosa.dias@legrand.co.in

7200. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Divorcee, (Born in November 1966), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 70 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, good looking, Edn. B.A., Contact email : sylviaprithvi@gmail.com

7167 MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in October 1987), Ht. 5' 4", Fair Complexion, Edn. BMS. M.Com., and MBA, working as a Business Analyst. Contact email : soulmateforlife2019@gmail.com

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

7163 MUMBAI : Tamilian Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December

1991), Ht. 5'3", Wt. 41 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., PGDM in HR working as a Receptionist. Contact email : dafrin1991@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

7161 MUMBAI : Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in July 1986), Ht. 5'6", Wt. 62 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc. Science, Masters in Mass Media, working as a Asst. Accounts Director. Contact email : padmarrao@gmail.com

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

7147 MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in July 1992), Ht. 5'4", Wt. 65 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. MBA Finance, working as a Fund Accountant. Contact email : stefasha09@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

7145 MUMBAI : East Indian Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1992), Ht. 4'11", Wt. 50 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.Sc., Lecturer by profession. Contact email : andrea210358@gmail.com

7066. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in June

1987), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 78 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.E., (EXTC) M.S. (International Business Management), working as a Consulting Manager. Contact email :

l2018anselm@yahoo.com

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

7191. BANGALORE : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in April 1991), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 57 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.S (Electrical Engineering in US), M.S in Robotics Engineering, working as a Software for a reputed Company in **New York**. Contact email : alfnan@yahoo.com

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

7181. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Divorcee, issueless (Born in April 1974), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Com., working as a H.R. Contact email : roopaferns@yahoo.co.in

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

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Straight Talk

Decoding chhotebhai's 'THE JERUSALEM CODE'

-*Fr. Cedric Prakash SJ

Decoding is never child's play! But when one is entrusted with the task of sifting and sieving the past, present and future, the fact from the fiction, the possibility from the impossibility, the probability from the improbability, the simple from the complex, then one is not merely decoding but in actuality, developing a new code as complicated and essential as one's DNA!

'The Jerusalem Code' is exactly that: a significant attempt to give the Church (particularly in India) a new code which prompts for a more sincere examination of conscience and deeper commitment; for reform and renewal. The author himself puts it succinctly in the Preface saying, *"This book is an honest attempt to study the life and mission of the church in the Past and present, and to present a vision of the church of the Future"*.

chhotebhai (who begins his name with a small letter 'c') is no stranger to Scripture, Theology, Church History and to the Catholic Church at large; he is an erudite scholar grounded in painstaking research. 'The Jerusalem Code' is his fifth book; besides he has also authored hundreds of articles on a whole range of subjects. chhotebhai is a former National President of the All-India Catholic Union and a former Director of the International Council of Catholic Men; all his writings therefore are naturally shaped with the deep experience and rich expertise he has garnered through his involvement in various institutions and fora, both within and outside the Church. He believes in 'Straight Talk' which sometimes also gets him into controversy.

'The Jerusalem Code' is no 'Da Vinci Code' but in a very different way, as-gripping! It is a ready reckoner for those who would like to have a glimpse of the Church's past and a more studied understanding of the present. The

final section which delves into the 'Future' is perhaps the most fascinating: it takes the reader on a heady roller-coaster ride of what could be the Church of the future. Yes, there are fantasies (and the author has the right to fantasize); but the nine chapters here cannot be wished away, because in the light of today's realities, they do make plenty of earthy sense and are pregnant with possibilities of a very different tomorrow.

The 356-page 'tome' (if it can be referred to as one) weaves delicately into a host of sensitive issues like papal infallibility, clericalism, celibate clergy, women priests, divorce and remarriage. There is certainly no ready-made, black and white answers to several of the issues which the author touches upon; however, the very fact that he does refer to some contentious matters, makes a concerned person reflect a bit more on these issues and see how best they should be addressed today.

In a fairly 'general' work like this, when many issues are addressed, some seemingly important ones are left out. This is to be expected. The author never makes a defense of trying to address all issues that are at stake. chhotebhai takes legitimate pride of his devotion to St Francis of Assisi, to being a kind of a Franciscan himself (changing his name to 'chhotebhai' meaning 'friar minor' or 'little brother') and of his unabashed delight of Pope Francis' papacy and teaching (including the fact that the Pope is named after Francis of Assisi). Throughout the book, chhotebhai makes no effort to hide his proclivity to Franciscan spirituality and to Ignatian spirituality; the book is heavily referenced to Jesuit authors, examples and to a typical Jesuit way of proceeding which includes 'the discernment of spirits' to 'the prophetic role of the laity'

Very symbolically, chhotebhai completed writing the manuscript of his

book on 4 October 2020, the Feast of St Francis of Assisi. On that very day Pope Francis gave to the world his latest Encyclical 'Fratelli Tutti'; on hindsight, chhotebhai could have perhaps added another Final Chapter to his book with the title 'Past, Present, Future' with some key insights from the radical and transformative message of 'Fratelli Tutti'. This would certainly have qualitatively enhanced the direction which 'The Jerusalem Code' provides.

That apart, chhotebhai, through his pathbreaking book, has done a great service to the Church in India. There is today a lamentable decline of serious reading in Church circles, leave alone scholarship. Many tend to get overwhelmed with superficial communication and instant 'education'. Given its contents (both facts and fiction, his-story and her-story) 'The Jerusalem Code' is like a breath of fresh air; a must-read for all: particularly Bishops, priests and religious, for those in formation and for all laity. Eminent Theologian Rev Dr. T.K. John SJ in the 'Foreword' to the book, appropriately defines chhotebhai's role *"In the area of religion we have believers with a heightened sense of the right order established by God who are concerned with the full compliance with the divine plan for the human family. God's plan and initiatives are for the welfare of God's people. God's ambassadors are expected to facilitate compliance with the divine plan for the people"*

'The Jerusalem Code' does exactly that! It is straight talk with an old code in a new idiom; very similar to God's command to St Francis of Assisi, *"Go and Repair my Church!"*

*The Book can be ordered from:
INDIAN CATHOLIC FORUM
Mega Mall, 3rd Floor, Noronha Crossing,
63/2C The Mall, Kanpur-208001
Email: noronha.kp@gmail.com
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Waiting On The Wings For Women's Day Celebrations

International Women's Day, originally called International Working Women's Day, is celebrated on March 8 every year. We are hoping to get further benefits for both working women as well as housewives of this nation, which we respect women all the time. The Panchsheel of Nari Sushakti is paving way of exhibiting the talent of women entrepreneurs, sports women, Women achievers, talent search of women, women coming to the fore from the lowest strata of society and climb a top spot and that includes climbing Mount Everest at the age of 13. It is a different women's world and wish to share their momentary joy and celebrate womanhood with fun and enthusiasm and honour them at an appropriate time of the year.

First and the foremost is women's sense of self worth, which goes a long way in building confidence among women of this generation. Women are not caged parrots as in olden days and they are free to go around and achieve things in various fields with confidence and conviction. Women rule the roost in the offices, companies and at the same time make our dream come true in our household as well. Women are confident and they will to work and achieve targets in the stipulated time. Women's day brings out the best of the best in a world dominated by men. There is double speak on celebrating this special day.

The purpose of this article is not to dampen a woman's spirit but to give the pride of place for them. I am not saying that you stop celebrating this special day. All I am saying is that this Women's Day, look around you. Do you see or know someone who needs help? A woman who is probably not as



lucky as you? Lend her a hand, help her out. If that is not feasible, because I know a lot of such women are just not ready to come out of the situation, then lend them a shoulder or an ear. And when they are ready, they will let you know. It will prove far more satisfying than getting that designer handbag at dirt cheap price. Women at the workplace should be respected all the time and need not be given testing times for getting their favour.



Jayanthi Subramaniam

We generally propagate the need for equal access to opportunities and resources to women. Despite all the efforts taken in an Independent India, women suffer in silence. India still has a high number of female foeticide, in some places it gets worse—a new born baby girl's neck is snapped so that the burden in the family is destroyed forever. Her ordeal does not end there, often one hears of marriages stalled or turning sour owing to dowry or due to the lack of it. Domestic violence, verbal abuse, cruelty are all sometimes just a part of the lives of so many women in our country. Leaders should find ways and means to make a much easier way of survival for women without harming them in any way.

Women should be given the power to regulate and control their own lives in a respectable manner. It is time to give respect and take respect from the better half rather than fighting for trivial

matters. Money plays the villain. But women work as the watchdogs, take prudent decisions by saving money for the rainy days and keep a cool composure during both rain and shine. Women transact online to invest in shares and help the family during financial difficulties. Even without a sound educational background they manage accounts better than men.

Women come out in open without fear and their ability to contribute to more social and economic order surprises all including men. Despite all their attributes to society, the researchers at the Michigan University found that 10% of the women surveyed had experienced the most severe form of harassment in the male-dominated environments. We had a woman Prime Minister and a President in the past but the outlook on women hasn't changed much. Leave alone the accolades, awards and felicitations on this day, let also have a broader outlook in dealing with women issues in the days to come and celebrate womanhood in the best way possible in a competitive world where there is no difference between men and women.

To tackle the realities of workplace bias, business leaders need to embrace an innovative proven approach-changing mechanic rather than mindsets to design bias out and equity in, and harness the collective intelligence of their employees. Accelerating gender equality matters now more than ever, with the pandemic hitting women harder. It's time to act—failure to do so threatens to push the gender equality timeline by more than 50 years.

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