

THE SECULAR CITIZEN

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A NATIONAL FAMILY WEEKLY

An Open Letter To The President Of The Republic Of India

By Ladislaus Louis D'Souza

Dear Mister President,

As a law-abiding Senior Citizen of *until-recently-free* India, I have a simple and straightforward question to ask: As chief custodian of the Constitution of India, is Your Excellency really serious about giving the country 'good governance'? If so, what sort of good governance is this that includes on the one hand, the declaration of the 25th of December as 'good governance day' in celebration of the birthday of the Late Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee overriding the Birthday of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Founder of one the world's greatest religions and, on the other, giving a free hand to the numerous vandals masquerading as 'vigilantes' to do as they please—lynch individuals of minority communities to death on the mere suspicion of selling or buying or eating beef, harass and intimidate hapless religious women on long-distance train journeys, wrongfully accusing them of conversions, unduly replacing historic mosques with temples and suchlike? **Have these self-styled protectors of the holy cow and the Hindu religion nothing better to do than indulge in such cheap though dangerous rhetoric?** What sort of men are they in the first place to dare threaten women whether young or old? And this in a country that prides itself in observing 'Raksha-bandhan'!

Desperately needed: Probity in governance

Mister President, perhaps it may not have as yet

occurred to you that you urgently need a Prime Minister [PM] who can head a government made up of conscientious ministers whose only aim for being in power ought to be unfailing vigilance about the welfare of every single individual in the country. The genial gentleman with the white mane that you have as 'PM', not having a family of his own, apparently lacks a deep understanding of the basic needs of a family and **who has come to power on the twin-promise of bringing back all the Indian money supposedly stashed away in Swiss Banks and depositing a minimum of INR 15 lacs in the bank account of every single citizen!** Has Your Excellency cared to ask Mister PM as to when he intends fulfilling his election promise, please? Or could it be that, unbeknown to the general populace, he did after all manage to retrieve amounts of money from the Swiss Banks so huge that he felt that Indians, being Indians, wouldn't mind him embarking on massive construction projects like the Ram Mandir at Ayodhya and a swanky new Parliament House in Delhi? **Of course, as far as the new Parliament House is concerned, it is common knowledge that Your Excellency's government is hell-bent on re-writing Indian history by literally replacing the existing structure with a building that would be indicative of a pretence at the non-existence of British legacy!** As for the Ram Mandir, it is amazing that Your Excellency's government has considered it expedient to spend millions on providing Ram with a fanciful temple when billions of His very devotees continue to lan-

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UNEMPLOYMENT OFFICE



When Vivo IPL 2021 Comes Around



The fondness for throwing off the shackles of bondage has had mankind rising in rebellion against authoritarian forces time and again.

If the restrictions imposed have been any indication of the 'authoritarianism' during the pandemic, the manner in which people have brazenly violated the Standard Operating Procedures speaks for the 'feel free' nature which as a 'public attribute' has only worsened the overall scenario.

Pandemic or no pandemic, people have just not been able to suppress their proclivity for enjoying life to the hilt.

Between 9th April and 30th May, the most elite league in the world will be keeping cricket fans twiddling their thumbs, biting their nails and scratching their heads in hesitant expectancy as they watch their favourite teams vying for the coveted trophy.

The VIVO IPL 2021 will be all about the new, bold and confident spirit of India as the nation picks itself up after a year of uncertainties brought about by the scourge of the virus.



by Pachu Menon

Not that the dreaded menace is on the verge of annihilation! On the contrary, the frequent fluctuation in the intensity of infections that is being witnessed in the country these days is becoming all the more alarming.

Understanding that it is entertainment amidst these tense times that has kept the populace invigorated and enabled it to combat the pandemic blues, it has been the attempts to innovate and re-define various entertainment modes by farsighted entrepreneurs that have won the day for the people.

While Amazon Prime Video and scores of such other streaming services helped people overcome the morosity of not getting to watch new film releases in the cozy confines of theaters by bringing exclusive originals, blockbuster movies and regional films straight into their drawing rooms through Television sets; organizers of various sporting events also adapted similar methods to ensure the continuity of leagues and series without any interruptions whatsoever.

These endeavours not only ensured that the safety protocols in view of the CRORNA-19 pandemic were taken care of but for the public the entertainment quotient too was maintained at an all-time high and the events went on to become spectacular successes.

But the game of Cricket seems to raise visions of a mass violation of all safety procedures laid down with masses thronging the match venues in gay abandon!

After the indifference shown by the public and officials towards COVID-19 safety norms during India's tour of Australia in the series Down Under, it was expected that the home series against the visiting England team would

experience similar spectator tumults.

And the Indian public did not disappoint!

Cricket mania In India scales unparalleled frenzy as is evident from the interest that even a lowly-placed tournament generates. In fact cricket is part of the great Indian culture and unites countrymen like nothing else does. Even the pandemic failed to douse the flames of infatuation for the game.

It is however surprising to note that

when initially packing stadiums in the cricket-mad nation was a non-starter due to the country's failure to stem the coronavirus surge and entailed shifting the venue to the Middle-East destination; then what has brought about a sudden change in the pandemic perceptions to have the stadium bursting at the seams with spectators during the first two T-20 Internationals with the visiting English cricket team in Ahmedabad!

With the love for the game crossing hysterical levels, Cricket has come to symbolize an obsession for the nation.

Even when the COVID-19 pandemic took a big toll on sports, from cancellation of Wimbledon to the postponement of Tokyo Olympics, Cricket's marquee event, the Indian Premium League, in its thirteenth edition, was shifted to the United Arab Emirates so as not to disappoint fans.

When a nation thinks of 'alternatives' to satiate the cricketing fixations of its citizens, it gives one an inkling of the craze the game generates in the country.

Hence, it was indeed a prudent decision to have the Gujarat Cricket Association, in the wake of sudden spurt in COVID-19 cases in Ahmedabad, organize the remaining T20 International Matches between India and England at Narendra Modi Stadium behind closed doors without audience.

The Pune ODIs too follow the same pattern!

The Hero Indian Super League 2020-21 season which concluded in Margao

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guish on the streets with nothing in their bellies, on their backs and over their heds, counting their days to death in destitution.

The obvious effects of unemployment...

Another question I would like to ask Your Excellency is: What do all these vigilantes and kar-sevaks do for a living? While India's citizenry by and large, poor and rich alike, sweat it out to make ends meet, though each at a different level, these rascals go about creating havoc across the length and breadth of the country. Who is it that feeds them for free just for making a nuisance of themselves in the name of protecting Ram dharma and their dear Gau-Ma-ta—Your Excellency's government? If so, why should the money of the conscientious tax-payer be squandered on rowdy elements who contribute nothing to the government's kitty? Isn't it a shame, Mister President, that after more than seven long decades of Independence we still have thugs who depend on such largesse? Such thuggery ought to be instantly nipped in the bud by having its practitioners summarily dispatched to guard our



by Ladislaus L. D'Souza

country's borders whereby neither China nor Pakistan would dare encroach on any more land belonging to the country, instead of allowing them to roam scot-free troubling innocent women! If not, Your Excellency's government could well have them wear bangles!

Frankly, it may be emphasized here that what the country needs today is not a globetrotting PM but one who has guts to put a stop to the unrest that is steadily rising on the home front. We need a CEO of the calibre of Barrister Abdul Rahman Antulay who, one of the first things he did on becoming Chief Minister of Maharashtra in 1980 was to bundle off all the slum-dwellers of Bombay into lorries to far off open landscapes on the outskirts of the city in a bid to rid 'maximum city' of the eyesore that slums had by then become. Who knows the good guy might have rightfully fulfilled his ambition hadn't some foolish NGO gone to court to have all those scums of society brought back on to the city's thoroughfares with greater vengeance to become what has emerged the hottest vote-banks for successive governments in return for sops like the Slum Redevelopment

Housing Schemes that are gobbling up valuable space visible anywhere and everywhere, gamely turning the megapolis into *slumbai* aka Mumbai!

A converted India!?!

By the way, Mister President, just why is the political party that has formed Your Excellency's Government both at the Centre and in certain states of the Indian Union, so afraid of Christ, Christians and Christianity? What is the logic the proponents of Hindutva use to affirm with such vengeance that Christians are doing nothing but converting people from Hinduism to Christianity? They keep making allegations and resorting to histrionics like passing anti-conversion laws even though the country's Constitution guarantees the free and fair practice and propagation of the faith of one's choice. Do such actions befit the stature of a ruling party? **Has the thought ever crossed Your Excellency's mind that if the allegations were true India would have by now been a totally Christian country?**

Manav dharma, the need of the hour!

It is obvious that Your Excellency's

(Contd.. on p. 5)

Nine Months To Christmas!

Readers would want to pack me off to the loony bin. Here we are in the midst of Holy Week and I am dreaming of Christmas! Am I nuts?

There is a famous book, "Nine days to Christmas" by Aurora Labastida and Marie Hall Ets, published in 1960. It is also the subject of a popular Christmas carol. But why nine months? I am writing this on 25th March, exactly 9 months before Christmas. Going by the common perception that the gestation period of a child in the womb is 9 months, it works backwards to put 25th March as the day that Jesus was conceived in his mother's womb. It is commonly known as the Feast of the Annunciation.

Let's get things straight. Had there been no Annunciation, there would have been no incarnation, no Christmas, no Holy Week, and thereby no redemption. I believe that the Annunciation is a far greater event than Christmas, the latter being the natural progression of the former. We therefore need to spend a little more time to reflect on the significance of this day and its relevance in our daily lives.

The events of the Annunciation are encapsulated in the Angelus, which Catholics earlier recited three times a day, whenever the church bells chimed. The bells may have stopped chiming but nobody has stopped us from reciting this beautiful prayer, if we want to. I'll be frank. It is my favourite prayer, even more meaningful than the Our Father. I say this because it is an interactive prayer, a dialogue between God and (Wo)man, while the Our Father is a monologue.

If this shocks you, so be it. I do my best to pray (not recite) the Angelus every morning, precisely because of this dialogue, of God coming to me time and again, and seeking my voluntary response.

When I became a major in 1969 I was initiated into the Legion of Mary, an experience that I cherish to this day. (Incidentally, my father was the first Indian Legion Envoy, appointed at Madras in 1944). The Legion always celebrated the Annunciation with great fervour, which is why I probably still have that devotion.

Of the four Gospels, it is only Luke's that records the Annunciation (Lk1:26-38). I find the text of The New Jerusalem Bible a faithful translation, devoid of paraphrase, hence will be quoting from it. Most of us would be guilty of being dismissive of the Annunciation. Even in popular Catholic piety we find far more importance given to other Marian feasts like the Immaculate Conception (8th December), the Nativity of Mary (8th September) and the Assumption (15th August). Perhaps we take the Annunciation for granted, which is to our spiritual detriment. Some reflection is called for.

The angel Gabriel begins the dialogue with these words "Rejoice, you who enjoy God's favour, the Lord is with you" (Lk 1:28). So this is a joyous occasion (a feast). It was also God's favour (gift), not something earned. Even the gift required a response. Mary being human (not super human as we would like to believe) is deeply disturbed (v29), and "asked herself what this greeting could mean" (v30). Notice that her response was an internal reflection, and not an external query.

Sensing her confusion the angel tells her not to be afraid as she has "won

God's favour" (v31). This now indicates that she has earned the gift, obviously because of her virtuousness. It is indicative of the depth of her spirituality. God did not choose any woman. He chose the one whom he found capable of shouldering the great responsibility being thrust upon her at a tender age.

The angel then explains the message telling her that her son "will be called Son of the Most High" (v 32). He would have "the throne of his ancestor David, he will rule over the House of Jacob forever and his reign will have no end" (v 33). "Your child will be holy and will be called Son of God" (v 35).

Imagine, for a moment, if one of us were told that our offspring would be a king, president or prime minister. Would not our heads swell with pride? We would be strutting all over the stage, safe in the knowledge of what was to come. Look at some of our bishops, school principals and parish priests who believe that they are the chosen ones. Humility seems to be at a premium.

But God's chosen can never be proud. That is why when visiting her cousin Elizabeth, Mary says that "he has looked upon the humiliation of his servant" (v 47). These words are pregnant with meaning (pun intended). Later, in his public ministry, Jesus would also say "Learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart" (Mat 11:29). If there is one big take away from the Annunciation it is humility; imperative in an ego driven world.

If we carefully observe Jesus' behaviour we find that the one thing he could not tolerate was religious self-righteousness or hypocrisy. And the great virtue that runs its course though the New Testament is humility. Some quotes would suffice.

"The one who makes himself as little

(Contd.. on p. 9)



by chhotebhai *



Interesting Contents

I read the articles mentioned in the magazine concerning religion as well as social issues. It is very interesting and thought provoking.

—Thomas Joseph, Ghatkopar

Fighting the pandemic - together!

We are into another year of this unprecedented pandemic and we seem to be none the wiser in understanding this Novel coronavirus. Recently, a joint WHO-China study, involving chinese scientists & international experts has spelt out several theories as to how this unprecedented coronavirus found its way into the world. The world is still searching for answers.

From the very beginning, experts all over the world seemed to be at a loss as to the source or the origin of this Novel coronavirus, the manner in which it is transmitted, whether it is contagious, whether it is a virus in the first place. **Conflicting, contradictory reports have been doing the rounds from time to time leading to confusion in the mind of the man on the street.**

So, are we heading somewhere with regard to this life threatening virus? In this gloomy atmosphere, it is therefore heartening to know that world leaders have come together to co-operate and face what is perhaps, the biggest challenge before

the global community today. Seriously, come to think of it, this war against the current pandemic is indeed the 'Third World War', a pandemic in which all nations have been affected. **Therefore, the recent international treaty, floated by leaders of more than two dozen countries, the European Union and the World Health Organization to protect the world from pandemics, comes perhaps, as a step in the right direction.** More international cooperation is the need of the hour. It's time we put an end to this culture of hate, violence, jealousy, ego, etc., that has gripped the world today. **In the midst of this uncertain atmosphere however, can we not see the 'Hand of God' at play? God alone knows what is happening in the world today. Needless to say, we need to seek God's Hand of cooperation in this fight against the pandemic.**

—Melville X. D'Souza, Orlem, Malad West..

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government lacks the will to reign in the indiscipline that has brought the country's economy to a horrible low, with money being spent on people and projects the common man has no use for and the rich have no need of. Indeed, it ill behoves the Central Government to defy the Constitution of the country and to pretend to favour and pamper the majority community, brazenly riding roughshod over the interests, needs and security of the country's minorities and the poor! Those concerned obviously lack the spirit of *manavata* (humanism) that is known to be deeply ingrained in the masses across Bharatmata and so fail to recognize the reality of the situation so astutely bared by renowned journalist P.J. Philip whose Open Letter to your Home Minister has long gone viral!

Mister President, Would that Your Excellency cracked the whip so as to have the government instantly take punitive action against those who harass minority communities, threaten their women and create a fear psychosis all over the country the way never known to exist before precisely with the evil aim of making India a Hindu Rashtra! Proof of the Central Government's inaction is evident from the fact that though the nuns' harassment incident took place on 19 March, no arrests whatsoever have been made till date. Au contraire, your Railway Minister has had the temerity to give the incident a totally different hue by claiming that what actually happened was nothing more than a rightful investigation taking place on a complaint received by the police. Et tu Piyush Goyal??? Suffice it to say that **Christ loves India and India needs Christ!**

Long Live INDIA! Long reign supreme the country's CONSTITUTION!

Yours Sincerely,
A Dutiful Citizen of India

Romero's Prophetic Courage Needed

-*Fr Cedric Prakash SJ

Even a cursory glance at the realities which grip India today, will make one realise how grim the situation is. On every global parameter, from the happiness index to the freedom one; from democracy to economic indicators, the country has plummeted miserably and as never before. Untruth and injustice, divisiveness and discrimination, exploitation and exclusion have become the 'new normal'! Migrants and minorities, farmers and women, Dalits and Adivasis are at the receiving end of a system which is uncaring and openly supports those who toe their line and indulge in spewing hate. Freedom of religion, of speech and expression are now a rarity. Human rights defenders like Fr Stan Swamy are denigrated, hounded, incarcerated and even killed. Truth and Justice are conveniently sacrificed for petty political gains; those whose primary duty is to propagate and protect these basics, like the judiciary and other Constitutional bodies, are frightened to take a stand and have abdicated their responsibility. Politicians of another party are bought up or blackmailed to come over to the ruling party. It has never been so bad!

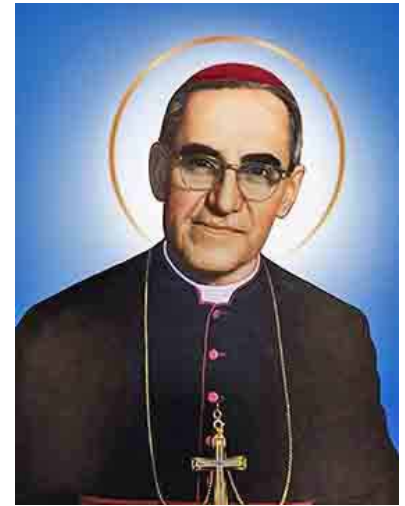
On 24 March 1980, Archbishop Oscar Romero was brutally gunned down whilst celebrating the Eucharist in his native El Salvador. He was known as a fiercely outspoken critic of his Government, the military and of the right-wing elements of his country, for their continued oppression and exploitation of the poor. There has never been any doubt about who was responsible for his death. He visibly and vocally took sides with the poor, the marginalised and the victims of injustices. His martyrdom spontaneously made him a 'Saint' for millions of them. It was estimated that more than 250,000 were present at his funeral as a sign of

gratitude to the man who did so much for them and whom they deeply loved.

A few moments before he was assassinated Romero said in his homily, *"many do not understand, and they think Christianity should not get involved in such things (taking a stand for truth and justice). But, to the contrary, you have just heard Christ's Gospel, that one must not love oneself so much as to avoid getting involved in the risks of life which history demands of us, that those who would avoid the danger will lose their life, while those who out of love for Christ give themselves to the service of others will live, like the grain of wheat that dies, but only apparently. If it did not die, it would remain alone. The harvest comes about because it dies, allows itself to be sacrificed in the earth and destroyed. Only by destroying itself does it produce the harvest"*.

The day before (23 March) he was killed, Romero gave a powerful sermon, which was broadcast over radio, that appealed to the soldiers to disobey their superiors. He said, *"In the name of God, in the name of this suffering people whose cries rise to Heaven more loudly each day, I implore you, I beg you, I order you in the name of God: Stop the repression!"* That appeal was his death sentence.

Romero was known to be fairly 'conservative' as a young priest and even in his early years as a bishop. He was afraid to rock the boat and preferred to maintain the 'status quo'. He never wanted to be on the wrong side of the powerful and the elite of El Salvador. He had however a good friend in Jesuit Fr Rutilio Grande. The latter left no stone unturned to work on justice issues, to highlight the plight of the exploited and to make their struggles his own. Besides, Grande did not hesitate to take up cudgels against the power-



ful and other vested interests. On 12 March 1977, Grande was killed by the military junta. Only three weeks earlier, Romero was appointed Archbishop of San Salvador. Grande's death came as a terrible shock to Romero. Presiding over Rutilio's funeral, Romero said, *"the government should not consider a priest who takes a stand for social justice as a politician or a subversive element when he is fulfilling his mission in the politics of the common good."* Adding emphatically, *"Anyone who attacks one of my priests, attacks me. If they killed Rutilio for doing what he did, then I too have to walk the same path"*. The death of his dear friend was a turning point in the life of Romero. From that day onwards, he wholeheartedly worked for the rights of the poor, until his own murder, three years later.

Pope Francis canonised Romero on 14 October 2018. In his homily at the Canonisation ceremony, Pope Francis praised Romero for leaving *"the security of the world, even his own safety, in order to live his life according to the Gospel, close to the poor and to his people, with a heart drawn to Jesus and his brothers and sisters"*. He went on to add, *"Let us ask for the grace always to leave things behind for love of the Lord: to leave behind wealth, the yearning for status and power, structures that are no longer adequate for proclaiming the Gospel, those weights that slow down our mission, the strings that tie us to the world"*. Over

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the years Pope Francis has consistently highlighted the prophetic courage of Romero as “a father, a friend, and a brother and who should serve as a yardstick for all”.

On December 21, 2010, the United Nations General Assembly, in a fitting tribute to Oscar Romero proclaimed 24 March annually as **the International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims.**

- to honour the memory of victims of gross and systematic human rights violations and promote the importance of the right to truth and justice;
- to pay tribute to those who have devoted their lives to, and lost their lives in the struggle to promote and protect human rights for all;
- to recognise, the important work and values of Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero of El Salvador, who was assassinated on 24 March 1980, after denouncing violations of the human rights of the most vulnerable populations and defending the principles of protecting lives, promoting human dignity and opposition to all forms of violence.

Today, India desperately needs the prophetic courage of Romero. From across the spectrum political, religious and social, leaders are afraid of taking a stand against the powers that simply crush others. Those who call themselves ‘disciples’ of Jesus have no qualms of conscience to hobnob with fascist and fundamentalists, who brazenly destroy the sanctity of the Constitution and the pluralistic fabric of the country. It is easier for these ‘disciples’ to indulge in a politics of convenience and compromise: to support ‘love jihad’; not to take on the UP Government and police, if religious sisters are harassed and hounded out of a train; not to call for the revocation of the CAA amendments, the UAPA and sedition laws; not to openly show that you are supporting the farmers protests or for that matter, what is happening in Kashmir. In short, if it means, by taking a stand for truth and justice, you have to take on the ruling regime, then it is a

(Contd.. from p. 2)

on 13th March was however a study in sharp contrast!

As a sporting event that kick-started on 20 November last year and involved eleven teams competing for the coveted title, the organizers put in place stringent health and safety protocols to conduct the major live sports event in the country amid the pandemic.

With fans marking ‘virtual attendance’ for its entire duration, the tournament held behind closed doors in Goa has however scripted a success story of its own.

In fact the BCCI President and ATK Mohun Bagan co-owner Sourav Ganguly has commented that the uninterrupted conduct of the seventh season of the ISL is a new benchmark for the Indian sports industry.

And in comparison to cricket, football comes a distant second in popularity in India!

Yet, while the organizers of ISL are to be commended for their judiciousness for hosting the tournament in strict adherence to safety proto-

cols during the pandemic, the BCCI needs to be chided for their thoughtlessness!

With the IPL just around the corner, let us sincerely hope that the cautiousness shown in restricting spectator attendance will be strictly adhered to for all the matches.

If the ISL could be a huge success with barren spectator stands, one can’t see a similar ‘format’ preventing the IPL from becoming a resounding success as well!

Carried away by the popular show of ‘solidarity’ shown by people for crowding around venues hosting various events, and with a marked administrative indifference shown towards this trespass, one shudders to think of the consequences.

For, if we Indians are given a choice between risking a COVID-19 infection and forgoing the excitement of a game of cricket, the former would win hands down!

That’s what cricket is all about for a nation of 1.37 billion!

clear ‘no-no’! Surely dear Saint Romero, as he looks down from heaven, will be wondering why the disciples of Jesus in India are not faithful to the Gospel of Jesus.

On the day when we celebrate the memory of this great saint, let his challenging words on his own reality, a few days before his assassination, awaken us to respond to our context today: *“I will not tire of declaring that if we really want an effective end to violence, we must remove the violence that lies at the root of all violence: structural violence, social injustice, exclusion of citizens from the management of the country, repression. All this is what constitutes the primal cause, from which the rest flows naturally”.* Are we listening and paying heed to those

prophetic words? Yes, we urgently need the Prophetic Courage of Saint Oscar Romero!!

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Nothing Else but Truth Can Save India's Democracy

by Don Aguiar.



ON SATURDAY MORNING I was sitting in the kitchen with my wife, Lorraine, who was stirring her Cream of Wheat, when out of nowhere she surprised me with a question: "Is not lying one of the Ten Commandments?"

I had to stop and think for a second myself, before answering: "Yes, thou shalt not bear false witness." The fact that the two of us even momentarily struggled over that question is, for me, the worst legacy of the Narendra Modi prime ministership.

You remember the old joke? Moses comes down from Mount Sinai and tells the children of Israel: "Children, I have good news and bad news. The good news is that I bargained him down to 10. The bad news is that adultery is still in."

Well, I've got bad news and worse news: We're now down to nine.

Yes, these are historic seven years — where even one of the Ten Commandments got erased. Lying has been normalized at a scale we've never seen before. Hence Lorraine's question. I am not sure how we reverse it, but we'd better — and fast.

People who do not share truths, can't defeat unemployment, can't defend the Constitution and can't turn the page after taking over as prime minister and promising corruption free and better days. The war for truth is now the war to preserve our democracy.

"According to a 19th century legend, the Truth and the Lie meet one day. The Lie says to the Truth: "It's a marvellous day today"! The Truth looks up to the skies and sighs, for the day was really beautiful.

They spend a lot of time together, ul-

timately arriving beside a well. The Lie tells the Truth: "The water is very nice, let's take a bath together!" The Truth, once again suspicious, tests the water and discovers that it indeed is very nice. They undress and start bathing. Suddenly, the Lie comes out of the water, puts on the clothes of the Truth and runs away. The furious Truth comes out of the well and runs everywhere to find the Lie and to get her clothes back. The World, seeing the Truth naked, turns its gaze away, with contempt and rage.

The poor Truth returns to the well and disappears forever, hiding therein, its shame. Since then, the Lie travels around the world, dressed as the Truth, satisfying the needs of society, because, the World, in any case, harbours no wish to meet the naked Truth.

It is impossible to maintain a free society when leaders and news purveyors feel at liberty to spread lies without sanction. Without truth there is no agreed-upon path forward, and without trust there is no way to go down that path together.

But our hole now is so deep, because the only commandment Prime Minister Modi did believe in was the Eleventh: "Thou shalt not get caught." Lately, though, Modi and many around him stopped believing even in that — they don't seem to care about being caught.

They know, as the saying goes, that their lies are already halfway around the world before the truth has laced up its shoes. That's all they care about.

The truth binds you, and Modi never wanted to be bound — not in what he tells to our nation and neighbouring countries that he sold tea as his parents were poor. His parents could not afford to take his childhood pictures in studio. He was balswayamsevak of

RSS. He left home at the age of 17. He travelled around India for two years. At the age of 20, in 1961, he took part in Satyagraha for Bangladesh Freedom. He begged for livelihood for 35 years. He had India's first digital camera. He did not have purse because he did not have money. He had radio to listen to Rabindrasangeet at 5 am. He used to wear short kurta because he did not have money. He had personal dhobi. He had email access in 1988... He travelled in Himalayas like a sadhu. He passed MA in entire political science. He was underground during emergency. He travelled by air in 1977. He was out of Gujarat for 32 years. When he returned, his job was to sweep clean BJP office and make morning tea for others. He travelled to USA and had a photograph in front of White House in 1990s. His age presently is 70.

This man deserves some credit. And it nearly worked. Modi proved over seven years that you could lie multiple times a day — multiple times a minute — and not just win election but win re-election.

We have to ensure that the likes of him never again appear in Indian politics.

Because Modi not only liberated himself from truth, he liberated others to tell their lies or spread his — and reap the benefits. His party's elders do not care, as long as he keeps the base energized and voting saffron. Republic News didn't care, as long as he kept its viewers glued to the channel and its ratings high. Major social networks only barely cared, as long he kept their users online and their numbers growing. Many of his voters — even yogi's, baba's, etc. — did not care, as long as he appointed nationalists judges. They are pro-nationalist, but not always pro-truth.

(Contd.. on p. 9)

(Contd.. from p. 8)

Israeli Bedouin expert Clinton Bailey tells the story about a Bedouin chief who discovered one day that his favourite turkey had been stolen. He called his sons together and told them: "Boys, we are in great danger now. My turkey's been stolen. Find my turkey." His boys just laughed and said, "Father, what do you need that turkey for?" and they ignored him.

Then a few weeks later his camel was stolen. And the chief told his sons, "Find my turkey." A few weeks later the chief's horse was stolen. His sons shrugged, and the chief repeated, "Find my turkey."

Finally, a few weeks later his daughter was abducted, at which point he gathered his sons and declared: "It's all because of the turkey! When they saw that they could take my turkey, we lost everything."

And do you know what our turkey was? Our Secular Democratic Constitution. When Modi was allowed to spread this lie — that India belongs to the Hindutva Brigade and those following other religions were therefore ineligible for Indian citizenship — he realized he could get away with anything.

Sure, Modi eventually will pursue this one up, but once he saw how easily he could steal our turkey — the truth — he just kept doing it, until he stole the soul of the BJP.

And, on being re-elected, he has stolen the soul of this nation.

He and his collaborators are now making a bid to use the Big Lie to destroy our secular democracy by delegitimizing one of its greatest constitutional guarantees ever — when a record number of citizens came out to protest, CAA and others, and their protest were illegitimately broken and protesters arrested.

The issue of the erosion of democracy is a serious matter, with the passage of bills such as the Citizenship Amend-

ment Act (CAA), the three anti farmer laws and the vast sums of money that have now suffocated the voices of the hundreds of millions of impoverished Indian voters as examples of the problem; the issue of warfare is significant, with the Indian government participating in the highly destabilising Quadri-lateral Security Dialogue with Australia, Japan, and the United States.

We're seeing an epidemic of lying in India. In fact, it's gotten so bad that I wish we would hear more preaching on the Eighth Commandment. You know, the one that tells us not to bear false witness against our neighbour. The most alarming symptom of this epidemic is the spread of the "Big Lie".

But more fundamentally his whole prime ministership legitimates and instrumentalized habitual lying as a political tool. The more often lies are circulated, the more distrust grows. In the absence of truth, the door is thrown open to conspiracy theories and fantasy.

The problem is the sinking feeling that we have drifted into a disorienting "post-truth environment" where the difference between fact and fiction no longer matters.

It's vital that every reputable news organization — especially television, Facebook and Twitter — adopt this Rule. If any official utters an obvious falsehood or fact-free allegation, the interview should be immediately terminated. If critics scream "censorship," just shout back "truth."

At the same time, we need to require every KV, Convent and Private school in India to include digital civics — how to determine and crosscheck if something you read on the internet is true — in their curriculum. You should not be able to graduate without it.

We need to restore the stigma to lying and liars before it is too late. We need to hunt for truth, fight for truth and mercilessly discredit the forces of disinformation. It is the freedom battle of our generation.

(Contd.. from p. 4)

as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of Heaven" (Mat 18:4). "Anyone who humbles himself will be raised up" (Mat 23:12). Of Jesus St Paul writes, "He was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross" (Phi 2:8). St James says "God opposes the proud but he accords his favour to the humble" (Jas 4:7). And again "Humble yourselves before the Lord and he will lift you up" (Jas 4:10). St Peter adds, "Humility towards one another must be the garment you all wear constantly, because God opposes..." (1 Pet 5:5). "Bow down, then, before the power of God now, so that he may raise you up in due time" (1 Pet 5:6).

Coming back to the Annunciation, it did not render Mary wonderstruck or withdrawn. We read that she "went quickly as she could into the hill country to a town in Judah" (v 39). Her humility spurred her into action. And proclamation. Her cousin Elizabeth testified "Look, the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy" (v 44) The significance of this event should not be lost on us.

The sequence is - the Word came to Mary - it was incarnated in her - she took the incarnated word to Elizabeth - and in turn it was incarnated in John the Baptist. This why Mary is called the Queen of the Apostles. She was the first evangelist; she proclaimed the word incarnated in her.

Today missiologists tell us that our mission is not so much of proclaiming the Word, than conveying to others the Word of God incarnated in me. I cannot give to others what I do not have. So on this day and time of the Annunciation let us celebrate it as the greatest Marian feast, the greatest interaction between God and (Wo) man since the Garden of Eden. May Jesus and his Mother Mary give us the grace of humility this Holy Week.

In our overenthusiastic devotion to St. Joseph this year, keeping the youth in mind, let us not forget the rational understanding of faith.

A Saint Of Great Power With God!

On 8 December 2020 Pope Francis declared the year 2021-22 to be dedicated as the year of Saint Joseph. This is to Mark 150th year since Pope Pius IX declared Saint Joseph as the Patron of the Catholic Church. He is in fact a great model of faith in God and a powerful intercessor for the people of all walks but specially for families. Saint Teresa of Avila said, "Though you have recourse to many saints as your intercessors, go especially to Saint Joseph for he has great power with God."

St. Theresa, Doctor of the Church make me raise questions: Do saints have 'influence', *Washilaa* with God; some less some more? Are there different departments in God's Kingdom in which only certain saints have power to handle things? For example St. Anthony of Padua is powerful in the field of lost things and St. Joseph in family matters? We Indians are fed up with the corrupt practices in government and other offices! There is a talk of a Home Minister demanding 100 crores as recovery of *Haptaas* a month from his police officer! As a result there is no hope better life for the poor and downtrodden people. It will be frustrating to find such *Haptaa Wasuli* up there in heaven too, after living an honest and arduous life on earth!

Looking at life after death scientifically these are human ways of understanding it. We imagine God like a king. He cannot rule the whole universe alone. Specially now that man has made it complicated with digitalization. Therefore he makes different departments and appoints different saints as incharge of them (Cf. Mt 25:21)!

Why do we honour saints?

It is with two aims; one is to understand their sanctity and be guided by them

St. Joseph's year (1)



in our spiritual life and secondly that they intercede for us with God. The intercession needs to be understood correctly. We worship Christ as God's Son; we love the saints and martyrs as the Lord's disciples and imitators, and rightly so because of their matchless devotion towards their king and master. May we also be their companions and fellow disciples (Cfr. CCC 499)!



Fr. Michael G. Vasai

With their great love for fellow beings they cannot remain silent in heaven. St. Dominic while dying, said to his brothers, "Do not weep, for I shall be more useful to you after my death and I shall help you then more effectively than during my life." St. Therese of Lisieux said, "I want to spend my heaven in doing good on earth."

It is for the communion with the saints that we desire their life together than just use them for our demands with God. "It is not merely by the title of example that we cherish the memory of those in heaven; we seek, rather, that by this devotion to the exercise of fraternal charity the union of the whole Church in the Spirit may be strengthened. Exactly as Christian communion among our fellow pilgrims brings us closer to Christ, so our communion with the saints joins us to Christ, from whom as from its fountain and head issues all grace, and the life of the People of God itself" (CCC 498)

"Being more closely united to Christ, those who dwell in heaven fix the whole

Church more firmly in holiness.... They do not cease to intercede with the Father for us, as they proffer the merits which they acquired on earth through the one mediator between God and men, Christ Jesus.... So by their fraternal concern is our weakness greatly helped." (LG 49; cf. 1 Tim 2:5.)

Hence even great saints like Joseph will not use their 'power with God' to favour those who honour them with flowers and gifts and neglect those who do not call on them!

More rational way of understanding

At the elementary stage of our spiritual life we need this human way of understanding God's Kingdom and heaven; but adult human mind (Our youth?) discard all mythical ideas. God is present to even atoms; so he does not need any angels to send messages to human beings on earth. He is all powerful and does not need any saints to be his departmental heads, *Kaarbhaaris*! Why to have intercessors (*Middle men, dalaals*)? Christ invites us directly, "Come to me all you who labour and are burdened and I shall give you rest! (Mt. 11.28). Short-cuts are not always the best but Jesus himself suggests a short cut to Himself why go through saints and even Mary? I am making a little bold statement: It is only because we have not become that friendly and intimate with Jesus that we while away our time and energy with devotions to saints and Mary! The time should come when we grow intimate with Jesus himself and avoid complications of the intermediaries. Well our this worldly experience of the loss of time and complications in using influence in government offices or otherwise should prompt us to avoid such problems in our spiritual life.

Ultimately reaching Jesus is to be one

(Contd.. on p. 11)

with him! Jesus said, *"I am the vine you are the branches; as branches cannot live and give fruit separated from the vine."* (Cfr. Jn 15. 4-5). Perhaps sometimes it is true that the saints are separating us from Christ! God forbid! Catholic theologian Patricia A. Sullivan warns in an article in *Theological Studies*, *"... saints should not be built up in a way that brings down God."* Saint Augustine had famously said, *"... we pray not to instruct God but to get our will in line with God's."* Sullivan warns away *"... from the dictionary meanings of "intercession" as "intervention, mediation, arbitration, negotiation", all of which sound like we are dealing with a hostile or unfriendly God, whom we need to manipulate to get what we need. Such is not the meaning of the hapax legomenon in the New Testament of the word for intercession..."*

When we ask a saint to intercede for us, what is happening at a deeper level is that we are taking refuge in the all-enfolding community of the redeemed, approaching God thru saintly symbols of Christ's victory and of our hope. Saints want always what God wants, what is best for us whether we pray for it or not. They are in a perpetual attitude of praise for God's love and care, to which we join ourselves, praying, more precisely, with them rather than to them. The value of our petitions is that they turn us in confidence toward the God who loves us, allowing God's work to be more effective in us, and thru us in others. It would be anathema to ask God to try any harder to do good. By invocation of a saint *"we take refuge in faith in the all-enfolding community of all the redeemed,"* where *"each is responsible for all"*.

Saint Teresa of Avila does not want our separation from God to happen. What she means is that Joseph is such a great model of living a holy life that we imitate him very closely and reach God; and after becoming one with God what else do we need? All our needs will be fulfilled! We shall experience the state of Nirvaana! After all Joseph himself did not get what he asked for

Fight Fire With Caution

Firefighters keep reminding people that fire is a good servant but a bad master, and the blaze that engulfed a private COVID-19 hospital in Mumbai's Bhandup area comes as a reminder of how true that axiom is. At least nine people died as flames and smoke spread through the facility housed in a mall. Coming soon after the fire that snuffed out the lives of infants in Bhandara, again in Maharashtra, the tragedy focuses attention on the failure to make fire safety a systemic imperative in public buildings. There is no clarity on where the inferno originated, and whether the hospital housed in a commercial building under 'extraordinary circumstances' for COVID-19 patients was equipped for the purpose.



Jayanthy Subramaniam

The majority of patients were evacuated and admitted to other hospitals. A solatium for the families of the victims has been announced by the State government, and predictable promises to investigate the incident have been made. But These steps, though welcome, do little to change the image of decrepitude that marks policies on public safety in the country, and the generally ineffectual nature of inspections and certifications.

Fire may be an accident, but the idea of protocols is to prevent it from having a devastating effect on lives and property. It should be pointed out that after a fire in Rajkot last November, the Supreme Court took suo motu cognisance of the incident and issued directions, one of which was to task an officer with fire safety for each COVID-19 hospital. States have only themselves to blame, if their officers ignore such guidelines, and avoidable fires claim lives.

Hospital fires are a distinct entity in the literature on safety, since the presence of incapacitated patients, oxygen-sufused environments, plenty of air-con-

ditioning and lack of sufficient physical space creates a devastating combination when disaster strikes. The National Disaster Management Guidelines of 2016 issued by the NDMA address these characteristics, with recommendations on infrastructural and systemic improvements — from comparative to ultimate safety — to reduce the risk of deadly fires. Yet, it is clear that even some of the basic recommendations, such as the availability of open space to move patients in an emergency, are beyond the scope of legacy buildings created for other purposes.

What is feasible is for experts to assess the quality of infrastructure, specifically electrical installations, ensuring the retrofitting of structures with flame retardant materials and triaging of patients to reduce crowding. Recurring infernos should also convince States that they must create scientifically designed public health facilities that meet the needs of populous cities, reversing the policy of leaving this crucial function largely to for-profit entities where the imperative to cure is often pitted against cost and profit concerns.

It was rather unfortunate that the Hospital mishap saw nearly 9 patients lost their life in fire. Current statistics of deaths and injuries, in relation to fires proves to be alarming and increasing more frequently. Given these rates and information, it is only fitting to know the importance of fire prevention and tips. Congested areas in Mumbai create chaos when a fire accident occurs and prevent the fire engine entering narrow lanes to extinguish the fire. Fire Audit on high rise buildings and more so in hospitals and other places should be done periodically to get the best feedback and minimise major fire. The State Government should issue proper guidelines to high rise buildings in the city.

in times of troubles for the Holy Family! God suddenly asked,

JOSEPH, GET UP AND PROCEED TO EGYPT WITH MARY AND THE CHILD!

Easter Jokes

1. What do you call the Easter bunny the day after Easter?
A. Eggshasted
2. What happened when the Easter bunny met the rabbit of his dreams?
A. They lived hoppily ever after
3. What do you call a rabbit that tells good jokes?
A. A funny bunny
4. Why shouldn't you tell an Easter egg a joke?
A. Because it might crack up

5. What is the best way to send a letter to the Easter bunny?
A. Hare mail
6. How do you know that the Easter bunny liked his trip?
A. Because he said it was egg-cellent
7. How does the Easter bunny travel on vacations?
A. On hare planes

8. What do you call a rabbit comedian?
A. A funny bunny
9. How do rabbits stay cool during the summer?
A. With hare conditioning
10. Which side of the Easter bunny has the most fur?
A. The outside
11. What do you say to the Easter bunny on his birthday?
A. Hoppy birthday
12. Where did the Easter bunny go for a new tail?
A. To a retail store
13. Why couldn't the Easter egg family watch TV?
A. Because their cable was scrambled
14. What do you call a mischievous egg?
A. A practical yolker
15. Why was the father Easter egg so strict?
A. Because he was hard-boiled
16. What type of movie is about water fowl?
A. A duckumentary

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



Conversation between Joseph of Arimathea & Pontius Pilate.

Pilate : "Joseph, I don't understand. You're the richest man in the region; you have made this brand new tomb for you and your family; and now you're giving it to Jesus?"

Joseph responded : "It's just for the weekend, he won't stay longer!"

Happy Resurrection

Who rocked the jar ?

If you collect 100 black ants and 100 red ants and put them in a glass jar nothing will happen, but if you take the jar, shake it violently and leave it on the table, the ants will start killing each other.

Reds believe that black is the enemy while black believes that red is the enemy when the real enemy is the person who shook the jar.

The same is true in society.

Men vs Women
Left vs Right
Rich vs poor
Faith vs Science
Gossip, rumors, etc ...

Before we fight each other, we must ask ourselves:

Who rocked the jar ?

At the age of 65, my Grandma started walking 5 miles a day. She's 92 now. We have no idea where she is.

*My grandma had cataract surgery on both eyes
I was on the phone with my grandpa asking how she was feeling.*

Gpa: She's recovering really well, she can see much clearer. She's pretty happy with the results.

Me: That's good, no side effects?

Gpa: There is one troubling side effect

Me: What? Is she okay?

Gpa: Yah, she's fine, but she can actually see me now.

While shopping in a food store, two nuns happened to pass by the beer cooler. One nun said to the other, "Wouldn't a nice cool beer or two taste wonderful on a hot summer evening?"

The second nun answered "Indeed it would Sister, but I wouldn't feel comfortable buying beer as I am certain that it would cause a scene at the checkout counter."

"I can handle that without a problem" she replied as she picked up a six pack and headed for the checkout.

The cashier had a surprised look on his face when the two nuns arrived with a six pack of beer.

"We use beer for washing our hair" the nun said, "A shampoo, of sorts, if you will."

Without blinking an eye, the cashier reached under the counter, pulled out a package of pretzel sticks and placed them in the bag with the beer. He then looked the nun straight in the eye, smiled and said "The curlers are on the house."

You wanna hear about something ironic? My grandma's zodiac sign was Cancer. She was killed... by a giant crab.

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Thanksgiving

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

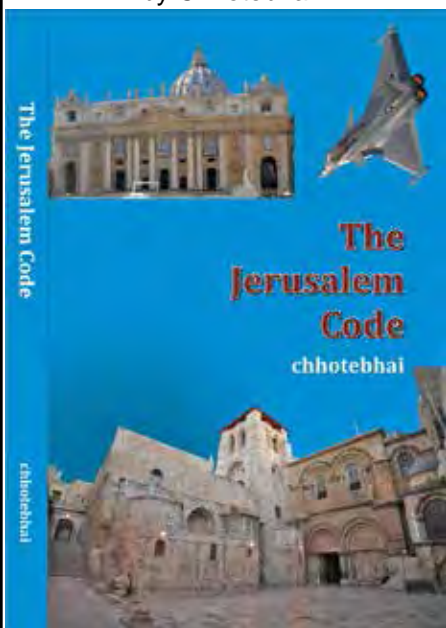


Ask St. Clare for three favours two impossible and say nine Hail Marys and the above prayer for 9 days with a lighted candle and publish on the 9th day your request will be granted no matter how impossible it is

—Felix P, Navi Mumbai

The Jerusalem Code

by Chhotebhai



For your copy in Mumbai - Mangalore
Contact: Tel.: +91 9820485389

Strawberry Shortcake

Ingredients:

100 gms sugar
1/4 cup shortening
1 egg
1 tsp vanilla essence
1/4 tsp salt
2 cups all-purpose flour
2 tsp baking powder
1/2 cup whole milk
1 cup heavy whipping cream, whipped
2 quarts fresh strawberries, sliced



Method:

In a bowl, cream sugar and shortening. Add egg and vanilla essence; beat well. Combine dry ingredients and add alternately with milk to the creamed mixture. Spread in a greased 9-inches square baking pan. Bake at 350° for 20-25 minutes. Cool on wire rack.

Cut into nine servings. Split each serving horizontally and fill it with whipped cream and strawberries. Replace top of cake; garnish with a dollop of whipped cream and more berries. Serve immediately.



by Jubel D'Cruz

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90 year old Canada Mangalorean's gift to Konkani

- Ivan Saldanha Shet.

It is often heard from people overseas of Mangalore roots, and even in Mumbai and so on, especially from younger ones that there is no systematic way to speak Konkani through English. It may be too much for these folk to read Kannada and other scripts used for Konkani. This elaborate book, in English "Teach Yourself Konkani - "KonKanKit" by 90 year old Canada based intellectual and author Dr. Mohan Prabhu (Born in Mangalore on January 17, 1931; Name at birth: Michael Antony Castelino, lived in Bombay between 1947-1965), to promote Konkani among overseas Konkani expatriates/diaspora all around the world. The author is a scholar who has many books on general and law matters to his credit, this sole work here is really from deep down from his soul, love for his native land and language.

It is on record that Konkani dialect is used by 42 groups of speakers, generally in 5 scripts. In India it is one among 22 official languages recognized and listed in the 8th schedule of the constitution, where several prominent languages are yet to be included. A commercial and/or sales interest is totally absent in this book of 500 plus pages painstakingly, practically and systematically produced. Words do not suffice to admire Dr. Mohan, at an advanced age, with many technical handicaps.

This book, the author very courageously says, "Its sole objective is to promote Konkani, to new generations of the diaspora, perhaps also to those settled in other parts of India, for those who know English only. I have always loved Konkani that I picked up by ear on my mother's lap, spoke it in my childhood and till we lived in Bombay from 1947 and I moved on to the USA in 1965 with my bride." The editor

of the book is Sri Pundalik Prabhu, a Konkana from Ujire and the author's close friend who has lived in Canada as long as the author.

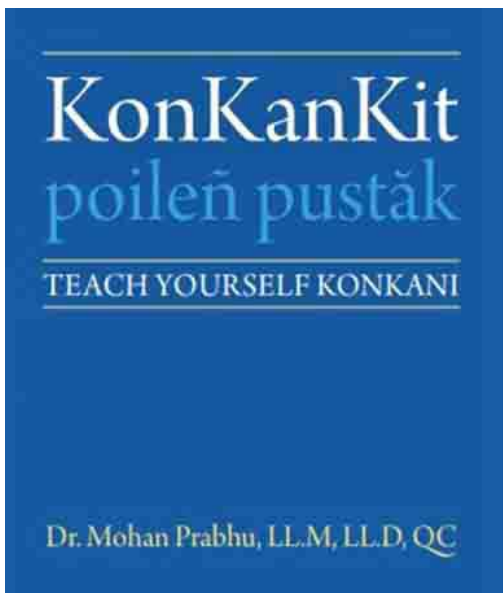
The Unique Author : Dr. Mohan Prabhu's credentials: earned, BA, MA, LL.B (Bombay), LL.M (London), LL.D (Ottawa), QC (Canada)... After completing high school at St. Aloysius College in 1947, on the eve of India's Independence, he joined the world of work in Mumbai and while employed, he gained academic degrees (BA, LL.B. and MA) from the University of Bombay. In 1960 he moved to London where, while working at Unilever Ltd., he bagged the LL.M. degree with Distinction from the University of London. He also earned a doctorate in Law (LL.D.) from the University of Ottawa.



Dr. Mohan Prabhu

Mumbai) 56 years ago on April 25, 1965 at the well known St. Michael's Church, Mahim. This couple has prominent roots in Mangalore and their ancestors are on record to have been among the captives in srirangapatna from 1784 to 1799. They have three children, Fiona Rita (54) only daughter, family physician at Texas Tech Health Centre in Lubbock, TX; Leighton Peter (53), investment specialist and e-commerce businessman ("roving", currently in Ottawa), elder son and Clifton Michael (50), younger son, US and Canadian lawyer, now general counsel at a French bank in New York.

Indeed this great work for the love of Konkani "**Teach Yourself Konkani - KonKanKit**" will be a boon to overseas Konkani people and the culture in a very new and unique way. The sole objective of KonKanKit is to promote and spread Konkani to keep it alive and vibrant by attracting and encouraging new speakers around the world. The interested folk can use the book to privately learn and guide people overseas in far away lands, to know Konkani better. Self published by the author and printed in Ottawa at the University of Ottawa, where the author has had a lot of admiration over many years. Get to know how to get your FREE soft copy of the book and fulfil your wish, a long dream to learn your mother tongue KONKANI. Contact of the author : email : mohan.prabhu@outlook.com OR Editor: Sri Ujre Pundalik Prabhu : oujre34@gmail.com.



Mohan Prabhu was called to the Legal Bar in four jurisdictions: India (Advocate, Maharashtra), London (Barrister, Lincoln's Inn), Saskatchewan and Ontario (Barrister and Solicitor). He was awarded the rank of Queen's Counsel in 1990.

Dr. Mohan married his wife Clareen D'Souza Mudarth in Bombay (now

Realizing the Right to Health for All

The 07th day of April marks the celebration of 'World Health Day'. This celebration was launched under the patronage of World Health Organization, which was founded in 1948. The idea of the day was mooted in its first World Health Assembly in 1948 and the celebration took effect in 1950.

The 'World Health Day' is one of 11 official global health campaigns that are marked by World Health Organization. World Tuberculosis Day, World Immunization Week, World Malaria Day, World AIDS Day, World Patient Safety Day and World Hepatitis Day are a few among them. The 'World Health Day' remains the most fundamental and inclusive of all of them, too.

The purpose of 'World Health Day' was primarily to mark the founding of World Health Organization. In course of time, the 'World Health day' was intended to invite the attention of the entire world towards 'good health' and a longer span of life for the humans. Accordingly, the day emerged as a major health awareness day at the global level.

The 'World Health Day' is acknowledged by various governments and non-governmental organizations across the world. On this day, a variety of activities are organized all over the world, on the international, continental, national, regional and local levels, in view of translating the intention of the day in to a reality. The activities are oriented to extend beyond the day itself and to contribute to lasting results for health at the global level. The 'World Health Day' is an opportunity to focus attention on the important public health issues that affect the international community. On the occasion of this day, the World Health Organization evolves a different theme

every year, to highlight a priority area of public health concern in the world, like mental health, maternal and child care and climate change.

By way of schemes and programmes, several health promotional activities get underway, especially those that put one's own life at risk, in view of protecting the health of the larger community. Different themes and concerns are taken up and suggested to the world, year by year, for research and necessary action on diverse levels.



Fr. Dr. M. D. Thomas

The day is further intended to recognize the vital and unparalleled contribution of doctors, nurses, midwives and other health workers in keeping the world healthy. One of the vital areas that have been traditionally highlighted is the 'role of nurses and midwives in providing health care' around the world. The World Nursing Report underlines optimizing the contributions of the nursery workforce, too.

Coming to the concept of health proper, as we know too well, health is not merely the absence of disease or infirmity, but is the environmental, physical, mental, emotional, social and spiritual wellbeing. Raising awareness about good health, both personal and public, along with its wide range of importance in life, is vital to life, beyond description. Therefore, whatsoever that can be done for ensuring good health is highly worth the while, definitely so.

Having positive thinking, connecting with other people, making and maintaining good relationships with them are essentially important for the mental health and social wellbeing as human beings. Being purposeful and active keeps one physically and mentally fit, too. Making informed decisions to this effect is necessary for not only

having sustainable habits in life, but also for the overall spiritual health and wellness.

In addition, health, wellness and wellbeing would mean 'being at ease, hale and hearty and happy. Having job satisfaction and a sense of fulfillment as well as being productive and contributive, manifestly, adds to good health and wellbeing. Needless to state that environmental and financial state of affairs are fundamental to attaining the higher states of sustainable health and wellbeing.

In addition to having sustainable habits for physical and mental health, along with the outdoor environment, the social environment has to be made sustainable. Thoughts, feelings, attitudes, words and deeds that cause bad will, hatred, discrimination, division and disharmony among individuals, institutions, communities and nations have to be watched over, obviously so.

Instead, positive thinking, good will, love, service, understanding, fellowship and partnership have to pick up the pace in the human society. I am sure, such an elevated, humane and divine mindset, without doubt, is geared towards making a society that is much richer with good health and wellbeing. The 'world health day' is a golden opportunity to speed up towards such worthwhile days for the humans on earth.

The author is Director, Institute of Harmony and Peace Studies, New Delhi, and has been committed to interfaith relations, national integration and social harmony, for the past over 40 years.

He contributes to the above cause through lectures, articles, video messages, conferences, social interactions, views at TV channels, and the like.

Royal Christian Family MATRIMONIALS - GROOMS

7032. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in November 1977), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 72 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. Degree in Electronics and Telecommunications, working as Telecom Engineer. Contact email : franky54@rediffmail.com

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

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

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

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

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 : jesusmary58@yahoo.com

7025. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in May 1992), Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 56 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.E. (IT), working as a Software Developer. Contact email : kevin92ster@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

6856. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in September 1973), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 67 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. MBA, working as a HR. Contact email : clifforddsilva@yahoo.co.in

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

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

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

6841 MUMBAI : Anglo Indian / Keralite Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in May 1991), Ht. 170 cms, Wt. 78 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.Com., working as a Sales Executive. Contact email : mrsannieroy@yahoo.co.in

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

6198. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic (Born in October 1969), Ht. 5' 10", Edn. B.Com., good personality, hailing from God fearing, cultured family, issueless, divorcee by mutual consent, working for Cruise Liner in U.S.A., as Security Supervisor, well settled in Mumbai, Seeks suitable match. Contact email :

dsouzamalcolmneil@gmail.com. Phone/SMS 09480157258.

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

Royal Christian Family MATRIMONIALS - BRIDES

7209. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in October 1986), Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 100 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.A., & PG HR, working as a Trainer. Contact email : sweetroan17@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, Singa-lore) working as a Senior Manager of Corporate Communications in **SINGA-PORE**. Contact email : mafern.2121@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

eva_hpereira@rediffmail.com

7128. MUMBAI : Affluent business family R.C. East Indian Spinster, (Born in 12-04-1988), Ht. 5' 2", very beautiful and pretty. Edn. MS General Surgeon, Doctor by profession. Contact email : drvd2019@gmail.com

7070. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in March 1992), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 48 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Com., CS., working as a Company Secretary in Private Firm. Contact email :

smile9920@outlook.com

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

7126. U.S.A. : Mangalorean RC 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

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

perpetualdias7@gmail.com

6831. MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC Spinster, (Born in April 1991), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 54 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as an Senior Associate in Insurance Company. Contact

email :

denisdsouza854@gmail.com

7064. MUMBAI : Goan RC Spinster, (Born in May 1988), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 50 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBA, working for Private Company as an Accounts Executive. Contact email : cecrc19@gmail.com

7066. MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC 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

6504. KUWAIT : Mangalorean RC Spinster (Born in June 1980), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 58 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., Computer, Finance, Banking Marketing Course & Airlines Course completed, employed as a Travel Co-ordinator in Kuwait. Contact Email : lucy777p@gmail.com Tel: 00965-60402765 / 9867308911

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

6528. DUBAI : Mangalorean RC Spinster, (Born in April 1985) Ht. 5' 7", Beautiful and Fair Complexion, Edn. Masters in Health, Care (MHA), Employed as a Manager in MNC Dubai, is looking for a suitable alliance between the ages of 32 to 36 with a height 5' 10" and above. Kindly respond directly to the party by email : aara8185@gmail.com with your photograph.

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Vaccine For Easter 2021

Dr (Sr) Mudita Menona Sodder RSCJ

informs us that there are two resurrections. First is the waking up in this life and the second is entering eternal life. ***I am the Resurrection and the Life (Jn11:25)***. How do we experience the many forms of death we witness in the midst of our lives especially now during the pandemic-failures, isolation, injustice, incarceration? Resurrection is a response to the age-old fear of the human species, the fear of death and the issue of immortality. When we surrender our fear of death at the feet of Christ, we enter eternal life NOW rather than after death.

Our Collective Responsibility for all on the Planet will be the best and most effective vaccine for this Easter and for the future. Perhaps the Lord is using COVID-19 to prepare us for this future. According to C Otto Scharmer, “**Leaders make the Future**”. Empowerment is about **ALL** being capacitated to be leaders and **NOT** leaving it to **ONE** or a **FEW**. Crisis of unforeseen proportions like the present pandemic is bound to result in disruption and chaos. So the call this Easter is to lead from the emerging future. Pope Francis tells us that sometimes uprooting can be healing or result in a radical makeover. It gives one the opportunity to dream, develop new ideas, and think out-of-the-box creatively, or even just pray in our own unique ways.

When one is sent off the soccer field and put on the bench, everything turns around. During the present coronavirus lockdown, our habits, our reflexive behaviours, the reference points of our existence that take shape over time, will have turned on their head and we will all have learned to live life anew. Important things need time. Change is organic. There are limits we have to work within. We have to keep our eyes on the horizon at all times as Jesus did. We have to see the big in little things. We have to train our eyes to see the new growth of tender fresh leaves that sprout after a harsh pruning. This demands that we be vigilant at all times. Luke 11: 25, reminds us that when the house is swept and put in order, temptations will come in a **BIG WAY**.

We thus need to prepare ourselves well in advance to overcome such temptations. Purification challenges us to develop patience, tolerance, understanding, the ability to forgive and to inculcate a fresh empathy for the poor and the powerless. This in turn calls us to silence and solitude.

Silence and solitude often increases our capacity for prayer and connecting with God and with God’s help we will be able to overcome the temptations we experience along the way. Making time to read good inspirational books, biographies, autobiographies, listening to music, indulging in meaningful and creative hobbies will help us to prepare ourselves for the emerging future. Equipped with these skills each



of us can then emerge as a leader making the future.

Suffering is part of the cross that each of us has to carry. We come into this world through the anguish of birth pangs and leave this world gasping and struggling to breathe. Pain and suffering, like pleasure and happiness are two sides of the same coin. If pain and suffering changes us, we come out better i.e. transformed. But if we dig in, we dig our own grave and bury ourselves i.e. we come out worse, angry, bitter, cursing all those around, except our self.

When we listen, contemplate, speak to Jesus as we would speak to a close friend, then we will automatically take collective responsibility for all God’s creatures and this will lead to personal transformation. The power of prayer to change reality and to change our hearts is unfathomable. **Can we give it a try this Easter?** St Thomas Aquinas

When we live creatively, we are empowered by the **Divine Spirit**. Everything in the universe lives and dies just as we too live and die each day. We die to ourselves and rise to a concern for others, just as we witness life and contentment even in the face of despair and tribulation. **Perhaps**, the Lord is challenging us this Easter to look beyond the obvious. Jesus’ resurrection has ensured that we all have eternal life, but **we need to live our present life to the fullest**. God has entrusted each of us with a mission and we cannot rest till God’s kingdom of justice, love and peace becomes a reality on earth.

We want to be **New Samaritans of the third millennium**. We want to be people of change, people of the future, energized by gratitude, humour, laughter, generosity and unconditional love. We want the consciences of citizens, of the Church, of law makers and of all those who call themselves followers of Christ, to be the good news of our redemption made known to all. **How are we agents of resurrection for others as they move from death to new life? How can we live fully, even when death in any of its forms visits us, as in the present COVID-19 crisis? Are we living a life of expansion, curiosity and deeper consciousness?** We are a celebrating people and **ALLELUIA** is our name. **HAPPY EASTER!**

Journey with Joseph

those who feed the hungry, clothe the naked and care for the needy!

On hearing this narration, my own experience that had receded into a distant memory, appeared in a new light, begging to be shared with you. It was the peak season for travelers.

On 9 December 2020, Pope Francis announced that the year from 8 December 2020 till 8th December 2021 would be dedicated to St. Joseph, husband of Mother Mary and the earthly father of Jesus Christ. The celebration of St. Joseph as the patron of the universal church and a call to focus on his intercession for mankind is particularly relevant at this time of turmoil and uncertainty in the world. Due to the pandemic raging across countries, human frailty and mortality are in the limelight as never before! It is time to look upon St. Joseph who has lived in the shadow of Jesus and Mary, as the protector of our families and a powerful ally in heaven.

The beautiful online presentation named 'Journey with Joseph', launched by the St. Paul Fathers of Bandra is a daily dose of 30 Holy minutes that presents St. Joseph as our very own unsung hero!

The daily Adoration conducted and live streamed online showcases St. Joseph as the patron of every aspect of human life, of persons from different walks of life. To hear that this protector of the Holy Family had faced problems and challenges which we do today, greatly endears him to us as a saint very much within our reach. It is so rewarding to hear that he has not abandoned human families through the struggles and disasters of life, but journeys with us as a guide and protector.



by Vera Alvares

If we examine our lives, we find some strange occurrences where unknown people have reached out to help us at crucial times. Do we believe it was St. Joseph helping us to prevail through our desperation without losing our faith in God?

The first testimony as narrated by a man of God comes during a discourse



on 'Joseph, the patron of travelers'. It is from a religious community. The members of this religious order of sisters, committed to caring for the aged people in their homes, witness the assistance of St. Joseph in securing alms for their wards. The poor sisters go out to collect the resources needed to run their homes, from generous people. They speak of dark days when they receive nothing and have to return home empty-handed.

But sometimes, suddenly a stranger appears from nowhere to approach them and at the end of this pleasant encounter, they have their coffers full! Helplessness turns to hope, tears turn to joy at the promise of another day's bread on the tables of the poor! Who is this stranger who comes as different people in different places just at that desperate moment? The dear sisters attribute this miracle to St. Joseph, who walks with them on this journey of mercy and selfless service. How often have we heard such testimonies to the generosity of God from

I was alone on that trip going to another city to answer a sudden plea for help from my sick mother. After an overnight journey, the train reached my destination in the early morning hours. As it streamed into the familiar station, I realized we were moving towards a newly constructed platform under an ill-constructed narrow over bridge. Momentarily I felt fearful that I might not be able to lug my heavy bags filled with medical supplies up that steep stairway in order to reach the rented vehicle on the other side.

My efforts to locate one of the luggage carriers were in vain, they were all engrossed in big groups of travelers with numerous bags to earn a quick tidy sum. I was becoming desperate. The platform was nearly empty when I felt a presence at my side, a tall stranger smiling down at me. In just a couple of words, he reassured me that he was an Indian Airforce personnel and before I could protest, picked up my bags and was marching up the steep stairway. On the other side, with my bags safely at my feet, I opened my mouth to thank him and offer him a ride to his home, but he had vanished just as swiftly as he had appeared!

Though this incident left me perplexed I assured myself that there are generous people around to make this world a better place for you and for me. Is this your belief too?

Let this year of St. Joseph move the earthly father of our Lord Jesus from the shadows into the limelight he so richly deserves! May the peace and joy of the Risen Lord be with you always!

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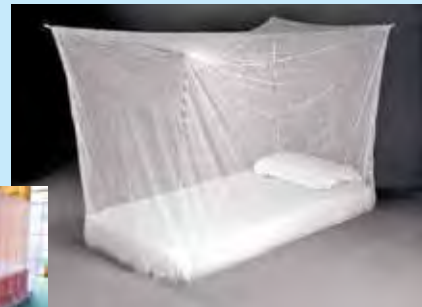
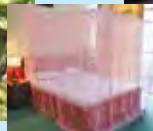
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