

THE SECULAR CITIZEN

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A NATIONAL FAMILY WEEKLY

What's happening around us?

by Don Aguiar.

I have been reading the news over the past few days, and have been saddened to know that so many are desperately trying either to get medications for themselves or for other close friends/relatives. I hear the urgency/desperation and this has filled me and many others with a sense of gloominess. Even as I write this piece, some of my friends, relations, colleagues and their families are paying the price because of the government's incompetence in dealing with the COVID19 situation.

What's happening around us? People are waiting in ambulances or on streets to get a bed in a hospital. Even worse, critical patients have to gasp and gasp and gasp for breath for hours, before they get Oxygen support. Some of them die while waiting. Lifesaving drugs are unavailable and good Samaritans on social media platforms seem to be doing more than the government in helping the patients find these facilities. A prominent hospital in the national capital had to approach the High Court to get oxygen cylinders from the government to keep its patients alive. Hospitals have to tweet tagging the authorities to highlight how they are running short of Oxygen. States are fighting with each other claiming the Oxygen to be "theirs". This is the reality we are living in today.

The entire system has collapsed. Let there be no doubt about that. **More than this being a medical emergency, it's a humanitarian crisis that's unfolding right in front of our eyes. And what is being done?**

The government still blames the opposition and diverts attention from real issues, discuss overtly communal Hindu-Muslim stories. Despite the entire system being in shambles now, has the Press

or judiciary called out the central government for its inefficiency?

So here we are, a year on from the beginning of the pandemic. Countless infected people in India have been denied a chance to recover because the government hasn't built a system that will get them the medical supplies they need.

All this means India isn't set up to survive the Covid-19 waves that are bound to follow as they have elsewhere in the world. Blame who or what you want, the reality is India needs to assess how prepared it is for future surges. The Modi administration will have to do far more than just invoking unity without giving any solutions. While the people were expecting to gain strength from his address, the crux of his national address on Tuesday night was that "the crises is big, but you figure out your own way" don't depend on the Centre.

Negligence – individual to bureaucratic — is being blamed for the latest wave. That is true. It'll be even truer if India doesn't start to go back to the basics of building out its healthcare infrastructure. It's pointless being the pharmacy of the world when you can't heal your own people.

India has never been prepared for a public health emergency of the scale of Covid-19. No country has. But the government's dislocated priorities have left the nation particularly vulnerable. It is now running short of basic infrastructure including oxygen tanks, ventilators, antiviral medication and hospital beds, with hundreds of thousands of new infections being recorded every day. On Thursday, the country added 314,835 cases, the highest daily tally in the world since the pandemic began.

The country has never quite focused on its public

(Contd.. on p. 3)

'The Election Commission is singularly responsible for the second wave of Covid 19 and should probably be booked for murder'

WHAT NEXT?

The Election Commission is singularly responsible for the second wave of Covid 19 and should probably be booked for murder, the Madras High Court observed in last week in the sharpest criticism of crowded campaigns for the five state polls that continued in the middle of raging virus cases. The court has threatened to stop the counting of votes on Sunday 2nd May if a "blue-print" is not in place.



The Creator of Bengal Strain

It appears that winning the election in West Bengal by hook or crook was a BJP agenda but undertaken by the Election Commissioner, Sunil Arora. The program had to be arranged in eight phases to suit the busy schedule of the Prime Minister and the Home Minister. The home minister, Modi's man Amit Shah, more or less abandoned his cabinet duties and focused all his attention on Bengal for months. What did he achieve? Arundhati Roy observes, "He disseminated his party's murderous propaganda, pitted human against human in every little town and village." Geographically, West Bengal is a small state. The election could have taken place in a single day, and has done so in the past. But since it is new territory for the BJP, the party needed time to move its cadres, many of whom are not from Bengal, from constituency to constituency to oversee the voting. So like an obedient servant EC scheduled the elections spreading out over a month, lasting till 29th April! As the count of corona infections ticked up, the other political parties pleaded with you to rethink the election schedule. You refused and came down hard on the side of the BJP, and the campaign continued.



Fr. Michael G. Vasai

What next?

Common man wonders, 'What next after Madras High Court observation against E.C?' Who in particular will be booked for murder? Election commissioner Mr. Sunil Arora alone or the Home Minister Amit Shah who prompted -obliged him to do so? They would be charged with how many murders? Hundreds, thousands or in lakhs? Who has recorded the number? Are the government numbers trustworthy? Will the culprits be hanged? Will the hanging of one or a few persons assuage the grave crime? Nothing will happen, *Yar, bujurrigokaa ek baal bhi baakaa nahi homgaa!*

Already Sunil Arora has been moved out safely and Sushil Chandra has assumed charge as the 24th Chief Election Commissioner of India, on 12th April, 2021. By the time we are hoping the culprit to be hanged he may be appointed Governor of some state! The Election Commission of India (ECI) has moved the Madras High Court seeking directions to be issued to media houses to confine their reports to observations recorded in orders or judgments and to refrain from reporting on oral observations made during court proceedings. Of course, even though they are 'oral observations' they are made by the same judges, at

the very time of giving the judgement! Hence they do have weight!

As we congratulate the Madras High court for its historic observations, can we hope that the Supreme Court will go to its logical end in punishing the guilty? Justice Bobde is gone Ramana is in the seat; but the servile attitude continues to obsess the judiciary! These days High Courts (Being far from Delhi?) seem to be issuing justice to the common man; but the Supreme court is busy protecting the Central Government! Hence the Aam aadmi has to only keep guessing, 'What next?'

Consoling news! The Telegraph paper (1/5/21) declares: *It's best to state this simply: Narendra Modi needs to go. Amit Shah needs to go. Ajay Mohan Bisht aka Yogi Adityanath needs to go. The bunch of integrity-free incompetents Mr Modi has gathered around him as his ministers all need to go. In order for the country to launch the mammoth operation of recovery and repair needed for our survival, the departure of these people from positions of power needs to happen immediately — tomorrow is too late, yesterday would have been better.*

If this happens, the question 'What next?' evaporates into new freedom!

Inquilab zindabad

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(Contd.. from p. 1)

healthcare infrastructure — which is perpetually on the brink, making its apparent success holding down infection numbers last year remarkable. But the country is having no such luck with the enormous numbers emerging right now.

The unprecedented spread of the virus has been partly blamed on a more contagious variant that has emerged in India. Modi government has also been accused of failures of political leadership from the top, with lax attitudes emulated by state and local leaders from all parties and even health officials from across the country, which led many to falsely believe in recent months that India had defeated Covid-19 but now hospitals are running out of oxygen and bodies are stacking up in morgues.

Leadership from across the country did not adequately convey that this was an epidemic which had not gone away. Victory was declared prematurely and that ebullient mood was communicated across the country, especially by politicians who wanted to get the economy going and wanted to get back to campaigning. And that gave the virus a chance to rise again. Will humanity now have to pay for

one man's hunger for power?

Twitter and Facebook have become a devastating catalogue of hundreds of thousands of urgent pleas for help for finding beds, oxygen, plasma and remdesivir, a drug experimental used to treat Covid-19 patients, which remains in short supply in hospitals across the country.

The dead, meanwhile have continued to overload crematoriums and graveyards faster that they could be burned or buried. The Modi government literally has the blood of innocents on its hands, and yet, all they're still doing is filthy politics instead of taking responsibility.

The seriousness of the situation should have been realised months ago but instead the government was in denial mode and gave out messages that the virus was not that dangerous any more.

It is very apparent that the Judiciary and Press are not willing to hold the BJP government accountable for its mismanagement of COVID19 pandemic. When thousands of Indians are dying across the country, the least that is expected of the Judiciary and Press is to ask tough questions to the

government and show the ground reality as it is. Instead the Judiciary and Press chooses to find soft targets, engage in selective targeting of non-BJP governments and leaders and peddle BJP IT cell agenda.

Precious time where people's sufferings that could be brought to the notice of the government is being used to target the farmers, which obviously suits the BJP agenda. This is a classic example of how media is trying to divert the attention from real issues.

Instead of asking questions to Prime Minister Modi for his callous attitude and misgovernance, the Judiciary and Press are hell bent on saving his image and protect him from getting a bad name.

Now that the tsunami of cases has struck, the BJP is doing what it does best: covering up the truth. In states that it rules, evidence is mounting of a serious undercounting of both cases and deaths. Worse, it cannot bring itself to do the least that a sensible government would do: cancel mass gatherings. There is an election to be won by any and every means in West Bengal. And there is no way a party that swears by 'Hindutva' can afford

(Contd.. on p. 9)

Being part of the Solution

every day & night. He is making a difference.

The Corona pandemic is turning to be a terror monster in India and the whole world is shocked and folks in India are in fear and panic, as they are not getting proper response and support from the system and establishment as fact checks have proved. Those in power as per human nature, as usual are trying to corner the best facilities for themselves in our democratic and people's republic. Some judges in Delhi have requisitioned a 5 star hotel and are arranging to designate it and reserve it exclusively for judges and their dependents, sections of media have highlighted this suspect anomaly. This is seen if carefully and closely observed in any facility dealing with Corona / COVID 19, hospitals, quarantine centers or crematoriums. Now what about ordinary people who are handling the worst, what is their safeguard and guarantee? Consider :

The nurse who cleans, maintains and takes care of hundreds of patients. She puts her life to risk every time she steps in a Covid zone. She does it for a living, she gives life. She is making a difference.

The Ward boy who cleans the body, packs it, seals it and moves it up and down the corridors. That Xth Standard failed, that good for nothing boy has stepped up to give mankind some respectability. He is making a difference.

The Ambulance driver, who waits patiently for hours at the Hospital or at the Crematorium. That College drop out, has not gone home for over a week. Day and night, he eats, sleeps, drives the ambulance to take patients and dead bodies alike. He is making a difference.

That security guard at the Hospital who manages the arrival of all vehicles



and guides them to their spot fearlessly. He is a retired Military jawan who gives priority to the patients and their worried families. He is making a difference.

The Manager of the Crematorium looks exhausted, over a cup of coffee he tells me, I came in here yesterday at 7am and after 36hrs am still here. He sees hundreds of dead bodies and their families crying for their loss. Quietly he did his job for a living. He is making a difference.

The body handler at the crematorium treats everybody in the same way. He is exhausted, overworked and underpaid. Often we see him as good for nothing drunkard. This time, he is helping, bury & burn 30/50/70 dead



**Discipline without education
is better than education
without discipline** 🙏

The Constable on the road guiding the traffic for a smoother is now ensuring that we all wear masks to stop the Pandemic killing more of us. He is risking his life for us everyday. He can barely speak english or use a computer like me. He is making a difference.

The delivery boys. Youngsters who didn't do well in the Corporate world. They ferry around town in the hot sun or rain from one place to another delivering 20+ packages everyday for you and me. We don't smile or acknowledge his presence when collecting our Parcel. He is making a difference.

The Local vegetable vendors. He buys fresh vegetables and fruits everyday and brings them to my doorstep. All of us want the freshest, sweetest and nicest stuff from him. We bargain to no real gain with this village bum who everyday wakes up real early and gives my family stay healthy on his veggies. He is making a difference.

Definitely now, it's the common man that's making the difference, a real difference. He was always there, but we never noticed. Let's be part of the Solution and not the problem. Stay in. Mask up. Eat healthy. Keep distance. Maintain hygiene, don't panic be of help as far as possible.

It's very easy to sit in plush offices and Drawing rooms talking and criticising. Sometimes Govt.. sometimes opposition, sometimes doctors. Remember you have no control on others but you certainly have control on yourself. Be responsible, considerate, kind and do your part. It's an uninvited natural calamity. Together it can be dealt with. Let's uplift these warriors who are fighting our battle and motivate others. Stop spreading negativity, even if it's true.

— Compiled : *Ivan Saldanha-Shet.*



Covid vaccines must be free for all

The health ministry's vaccination policy of setting aside 50% of doses produced in the country for private hospitals and states from May 1, will hit the poor masses severely. Already there is an acute shortage of vaccines in many states and cities, including Mumbai and this move will make it even more difficult for the poor to get access to the vaccine. We must understand that the total current production of vaccines from the 2 facilities in the country, is around 2.7 million doses a day. Only limited quantities of vaccines can be imported. It is a given that there will be an acute shortage of vaccines for at least for 2 months. Add to this the rush of the 18+ category from May 1. I do not wish to sound pessimistic, but I clearly foresee chaotic scenes at vaccination centres in Mumbai and elsewhere, post May 1. Moreover if private hospitals are allowed to purchase the vaccine on their own, the possibility of corrupt practices will increase--- at least in some hospitals. People, as usual, will be willing to pay a premium, for jumping the long queues.

We must understand that India is a poor country. If you keep out the top 1% of population (who own half of the total wealth), our country is really very poor. I am of the opinion that the vaccine must be free for all, except for the top 1% of the population. But the govt needs money to fund this project. The rich must help. These wealthy folks are now reportedly flying to Dubai by their own or by chartered jets to get vaccinated there, as Dubai allows vaccination to those who have residency visas. Apparently these folks have a pred-

eliction for the Pfizer vaccine. They think nothing of spending tens of thousands of dollars for a trip to Dubai to take a vaccine costing as little as \$15. These are the rich Indians who holiday in the Maldives and other such exotic locales. They own properties in various countries. I also believe that they are good humans and will not mind paying back to the nation and the people who helped make them rich. I suggest that these folks be encouraged to take the vaccine (Pfizer or any other which may be imported) at some top end hospitals in India, for a donation card of Rs 50,000 per head (they pay much more for a days rent in some resorts abroad). I am very confident that they will willingly agree to this proposal and take pride in serving the nation.

Incidentally this 1% of population translates to 13 millions people including family members. This is only 1% of our population but is larger than the population of Greece, Portugal or Belgium! The revenue generated will be around Rs 65,000 cr, enough to vaccinate all people in the country free of cost.

—Prof Robert Castellino,
Mumbai

Country's health services crippled

It is a doomsday-like scenario prevailing in the country with a daily cataclysmic surge of over 3.5 lakh Covid positive cases. Switch on any Indian TV channel and what we witness are heart-rending and pathetic scenes in overcrowded hospitals of patients fighting for survival for want of oxygen, ventilators, and life-saving drugs which have disappeared from the pharmacies and sold in the

black market at high rates. Over 3000 people are dying everyday. Hospitals are running full, while a few have kept their doors shut and even sent home in-patients for want of oxygen. Long queues of ambulances are seen outside hospitals, as patients wait for hours to get admitted and some even dying in the process for lack of oxygen and timely treatment. An emergency-like situation has now arisen in the country, due to the collapse of our health services and hospitals crying out for help with their SOS for oxygen and the inability of people to help. Crematoria and burial grounds are full, with people waiting in line to cremate their loved ones.

It is a pity that the second Covid wave has caught the Centre off-guard and woefully unprepared, despite all the time in the world to plan, execute and stockpile adequate quantities of medicines, oxygen, ventilators and vaccines. We ought to have started this exercise long back when there were warning signs of the emergence of a second wave. However our priorities seemed to lie elsewhere. The price we are paying today is here for everyone to see. We have run out of vaccines at this critical stage, and many vaccine centres are forced to remain shut as a result. Thanks to the help offered by UK, US, Germany, Russia and Saudi Arabia for rushing supplies of oxygen, ventilators and life-saving medicines. We can now fight the pandemic unitedly.

— A. F. Nazareth,
Alto Porvorim, Goa

Lockdown in Goa a laughing matter

With the Covid positivity rate in Goa at an all time high of 51%, and the number of daily positive cases crossing 3000, we ought to have been in the midst of a 15-day lockdown by now, instead of the frivolous 4-5 day lockdown imposed by the dithering Goa govt. We would not have been in such a sorry predicament had

(Contd.. on p. 13)

Corona Stick Beaten with the Corona stick

The corona stick is to be beaten with a Corona stick. We have become expressionless with the second wave taking us by surprise. It is in our nature to sprout and blossom; to reveal, revel and rejoice. Our gregarious instinct induces us to group together in feasts and parties. All these instincts are in indefinite sabbatical. The creative spark fails to emerge from its captivity. The therapeutic value of laughter and jokes as stress management techniques fail to operate. Somebody had famously said, "There are two kinds of people; one makes rules and the other lives life". Now, we are reduced to a single homogeneous kind of living by the rules.

New thoughts, new ideas are emerging to take life out of the capsule. One of them is the value of sharing. Though it is not exactly new, it has gained a fresh dimension of newness. We are calling people to cheer them up as well as ourselves. Everyone is playing from inside to win the survival match. By-plays are not seen much. Even if they are, they have lost their former charm. In this troubled time, thoughts are no more small wells of wonder, they have all merged into the vast ocean of thoughtlessness.

Religion, as it is practiced, has become inconsequential. Though Durkheim considered religion to be non-rational mass acceptance, rationality itself is losing meaning. Faith often provided an escape route to gain composure and dodge the impossible task of decoding the mystery of nature. It also supported an economy for the priests, florists and all those small vendors selling the puja accessories. The whole edifice of religion has collapsed, at least temporarily.

A Yogi used to visit us every Monday to collect a small donation. For the last few weeks, his whereabouts are not known.

Mankind will surely emerge triumphant and Science will not fail us. As of now, all we can do is a bit of sharing. We are all waiting with a baited breath to see the end of a crisis. Once, the virus is bottled, we can throw it in the sea and look forward and phase our future for a better India.



C.K. Subramaniam

The sun, my shining star

Sun you are so beautiful and bright
Your sunshine is my morning delight
You are the selfless giver of light
You warm my day after a cold night.

As promised everyday you rise in the East
Nature celebrates this gift as a harvest feast
So generously you shine from up above
Filling us with your beautiful love.

Sun, you teach us all
To be kind to both great or small
I want to be like you, a shining star
A ray of hope in the lives of everyone near and far.

By Jual Rose Colaco
Age: 8 years. IV Std ,
St. Theresa's School.
Mangalore



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Stay Connected With The Holy Trinity

THE BIBLE has an immense and lengthy chronicle: from the divine act of Creation, "So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it because on it God rested from all his work which he had done in Creation," (Gen. 2:3); to the birth of his Son, "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel, which means, God with us," (Mat. 1:23); to the gift of the Holy Spirit, (Mk. 1:8). Scripture informs us that Peter, inspired by the Holy Spirit, spoke to the gathering at the home of Cornelius; and at one point in the meeting he said, "Truly I perceive that God shows no partiality." (Acts. 10:34).

Unhesitatingly and wholeheartedly Peter declared a truth about Jesus, Son of God and Redeemer; "in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him". (Acts 10:35) These were profoundly inspiring words to his listeners, who, despite their inner doubts were now changed and full of awe and belief.

This was, indeed, a time for bold, unshakable evangelization. Here began a ministry of immense personal sacrifice and dedication. Every disciple of Christ stayed connected to the Holy Trinity.

They all knew of that special day in the home of Cornelius when the

apostle Peter, brother of Andrew, had preached to them. He had been moved, stood firm in the mission he had set out to accomplish; when suddenly, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. "...the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles." (Acts 10: 44-15)

Peter is also known as Simon had taken upon himself the task to evangelize the Risen Lord and his new Christian Church. In the Acts of the Apostles Peter declares that, he commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that he is the one ordained by God to be judge of the living and the dead." (Acts. 10:42). Simon Peter had broadened his personal mandate with peace, love, forgiveness and humility.

A very beautiful example of his humility came when he was facing a group of people at the same home of Cornelius; "When Peter entered, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshipped him. But Peter lifted him up, saying, "stand up; I too am a man." (Acts 10:26)

The apostle and their followers would go out preaching into alien parts of the nation from their base in Jerusalem; they travelled to Joppea, Gadara, Arimathea and many places in Samaria, Judea and Galilee. Very often single-

handedly they spoke of the Word of God, performed miracles in His name and survived many dangers to their personal self.

In the gospel of John, we are reminded of what our Lord had said; "You did not choose me but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide; that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you." (Jn. 15:16)

This was an extremely powerful pledge to bear in one's heart, for courage and spiritual strength. With unwavering faith and humility Simon Peter refused to allow anyone to worship him. It's hardly surprising then, that this apostle was chosen to be the first Pope, the rock on whom Christ would build his Church. Jesus had said, "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven....." (Jn. 16:19) He then added, "Feed my sheep." (Jn. 21:17)

35 days have passed. Much has been said and much more is left to be said in the name of Jesus. We are now on the verge of the final closure with the Jewish Messiah's coming Ascension to his Father, in total fulfillment of the words of the prophets. To him all the prophet's bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name." (Acts 10:43)



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To Take The Bull By The Horns

For the past few months the 'exploits' of the prowling virus has been making news as nothing else has.



But with the steep rise in infections and the apparent shortage of vaccines (which the Centre strongly refutes), selective lockdowns, and especially night curfews, should see some semblance of order being restored.

With all efforts by the government to check the surge coming to a naught, it becomes difficult to understand how the nation is going to cope with the resurgent scourge which seems to be sweeping it in one devastating wave after the other.

It however appears that our politicians are in a class by themselves in that they seem to exempt themselves from whatever orders are passed for effective control of COVID-19.

With a tragedy seeming to unfold again as the country buckles down under the Tsunami-like effects of the raging virus, another lockdown will however hurt urban employment like nothing else.

Considering that people's inappropriate behavior towards COVID protocols has been cited as the main reason for the rise in coronavirus cases in some states, it would have been appropriate for the respective administrations to clamp down on those violating the safety norms.

Is the Coronavirus biased in its virulent approach that it makes clear cut distinctions between politicians and the aam aadmi while it tears across the country on its infecting spree!

Sections of labour getting anxious about the security of their livelihoods are but natural fallouts of this perceptivity. Migrant crisis to job cuts, the fear about lockdowns have come too soon.

The government too has got away with grand exhibitions of 'strict' implementation of the safety directives by carrying out random checks in markets and other public places.



by Pachu Menon

Having had adverse impacts both upon public health and upon economic activity in most national economies, the pandemic threatens to throw into disarray the efforts by governments worldwide to balance the health and economic effects on their coun-

tries.

Lockdowns slow the spread of the virus but harm the economy; while allowing people to go back to work benefits the economy but may lead to more infections.

Even without blanket nation-wide lockdown, job loss, food insecurity and economic vulnerability are once again a reality for millions of urban informal workers and daily wage earners.

However, if as has been suggested, 'lack of fear for the Coronavirus and pandemic fatigue' makes people behave irrationally, then it naturally implies that the administration has been inefficient in enforcing COVID-19 protocols.

It is indeed a typical dilemma for the governments!

Moreover, when the government absolves itself of all responsibility and merely resigns itself to providing testing facilities, hospitals, quarantine centers and vaccination; it is an indication of its disappointment at the general behavior of its people.

The manner in which flying-squads have been enforcing pandemic-related protocol in public places admonishing the erring public and collecting fines loses relevance the moment realization dawns that it is a mere target-oriented exercise entrusted to the enforcing agencies, including the police, to enhance the seriousness of the government in tackling the menace of the virus.

More so in India where the apprehensions of loss of livelihood of its citizens coupled with fears of the impact these enforced restrictions will have on the already bleeding economy has the government being pushed on to the back foot.

For, expecting people to act responsibly and take measures to control the spread of the virus is akin to chasing a forlorn hope.

This is precisely why many states have shown a marked reluctance towards imposing lockdowns and shutting down all activities.

Even with strict enforcement, when the public is seen openly flouting the COVID safety guidelines prescribed; the question of people's willingness in this matter does not arise at all!

When it is well known that the viral disease spreads mainly through exhaled aerosols produced through coughing,

(Contd.. on p. 9)

(Contd.. from p. 8)

breathing and talking; the abhorrence shown by people in general for wearing face-masks and maintaining social distancing in order to control the spread of the virus is quite mystifying.

As Goa's COVID woes pile up, it's time the state government decides to take the raging bull by its dangerous horns!

Meanwhile the government has once again preferred to downplay the argument over holding of elections of the Margao, Mapusa, Mormugao, Quepem and Sanguem municipal councils amid a surge in COVID cases; but the imposition of various restrictions including night curfew till the month end by the state government to fight the resurgence of the coronavirus pandemic in Goa has hardly bothered the public.

In any case, it does appear that 'crowds' are a factor that the Pramod Sawant-regime is not unduly worried about. Otherwise, the argument over the futility of holding the second phase of municipal council elections in such a precarious situation would have elicited some response from him.

Besides, the government's belated move to impose night curfew in an attempt to break the chain of transmission does not take this vital aspect of disease control into consideration at all.

To retard the unchecked run of the virus, safety guidelines need to be followed austerely. The secret to arresting the spread of the disease is to put restrictions on the movement of the people.

As so rightly said, with the situation being grim, the rising number of cases calls for strict enforcement of restrictions by the state government, and even imposing more stringent measures if need be.

However, when it is more than clear

(Contd.. from p. 3)

to now admit that it has been playing with the lives of Hindus in Haridwar.

Tirath Singh Rawat, the chief minister of Uttarakhand not only has allowed the Kumbh Mela at Haridwar to be held despite the new surge in COVID infections but has actually been reassuring Hindu pilgrims that they need not worry about being infected because Maa Ganga would keep them safe.

The result: hundreds of cases have emerged from Haridwar and there will be many more as infected pilgrims head home to villages and towns across north India. **And yet it is worth asking why Hindu chauvinists would want to willingly push Hindu believers into the jaws of death.**

How many dead bodies the government wants to see before turning around? Is the governments' privilege blinding them from seeing how people on ground are suffering? How much more blood does the government want on their hands?

The answer has been staring us

that the restrictions prescribed are intended to curb only crowd movement in the night, it makes the relevance of the order in normal circumstances more confusing.

Considering the steep rise in new COVID cases as well as the worrying mortality rate in the state, one would have thought that a more comprehensive approach to the whole issue would have been more apt.

It would however be foolish to continue underplaying the severity of the pandemic situation even at this stage where the daily spike in cases is touching a new high every other day.

in the face pretty much since 2016, when Narendra Modi plunged India down the disastrous rabbit hole of demonetisation. The fact is that the Prime Minister and his Sangh apparatchiks are quite simply the most incompetent and callous set of administrators India has ever seen since independence. So preoccupied has civil society been by the blatant communalism of the Modi regime, that nobody noticed their fascism comes with the vanity of everyone-for-self.

Never has the vanity of everyone-for-self been more blatant than in these times of Covid-19. Never has the dependence of every human being on all humanity been clearer. **The Indian drama illustrates the ravages of populism, wherever merchants of illusions prospering on inequalities manage to sell to voters their promises of salvation based in reality on nationalism and ignorance.**

The question now is what the voters of India will make of Narendra Modi's model of governance **as the difference between animals and humans is that animals would never let the dumbest of the heard lead them.** We the people require to stand up and speak out. If we don't do it now, history will never forgive us.

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Making Marriages Work

The Catholic Communication Centre of the Archdiocese of Bombay recently hosted an absorbing talk by Fr. Godfrey D'Sa, SDB, Director of Prafulta Centre for Psychological Wellness, on what makes marriages work according to Dr. John Gottman. This was a welcome talk in view of the strains that marriages face during the pandemic. I am sharing below some of the inputs.

Drs. John and Julie Gottman are founders of the Gottman Institute, a research based institute and are experts on relationships. They have studied over 3000 couples for several years to analyse which marriages succeed and which will end in divorce within six and eight years with 90% accuracy. What are the ingredients of a successful marriage?

Those with successful, intimate, flourishing and positive relationships are called Masters while those in relationships that are negative with the partners hurting each other's feelings are doomed for divorce and are termed Disasters by the Gottmans. Somewhere in the middle of the scale are those trapped in loveless marriages who stay married either to avoid criticism or for economic reasons.

A Master is kind, compliments his/her partner and is willing to make the relationship work. If perchance he has made a hurtful comment, he should make up with five times more positive outputs (a ratio of 5:1). After making up, the couple are drawn closer. It's a courtship that ends only with death. A Disaster in contrast expresses anger and hostility. With Dr. John Gottman's 'Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse', he is able to predict breakdown of relationships. Incidentally the apocalypse here is not the destruction of the world but of marriages. What are these four horsemen?

1. Criticism : This suggests that your partner is defective. Let's suppose that the husband comes home tired and keeps on talking about his tough day without asking his wife how her

day went. Disaster (the wife) will respond, 'So only you had a tough day? What about my day? You are a self centered idiot.' Not exactly words that are likely to foster a relationship. Master may say, 'Honey, I do realize that your day was tough but so was mine with the kids creating a racket and damaging my ear drums. I feel hurt that you didn't ask about my day.' Disaster focuses on attack while Master expresses herself in a matter of fact manner.

2. Defensiveness : When Disaster is tactfully criticized, he tries to ward off what he perceives is an attack either by expressing righteous indignation or acting like the innocent victim and whining. Master in contrast responds, 'Yes you made a good point. The song really didn't suit my voice. The next time I sing at a party I'll try to avoid same mistake. Thanks for your constructive criticism'. He accepts criticism gracefully.

3. Disrespect and Contempt : Disaster feels superior to her partner. Her response to his talking at length about his tough day could be, 'What a jerk you are. The way you talk one would imagine the Company would collapse without you. You just keep talking about yourself all the time.'

Master creates a culture of appreciation by action or words. 'You poor dear', while gently tousling her partner's hair, 'You really had a tough day. Let me make you a cooling drink.'

4. Stonewalling and emotional withdrawal from the conversation : Disaster ignores her partner as though he does not exist. This attitude is very hurtful and the husband comes out with all guns blazing to make an impact on his stone cold partner. He shouts and shakes her but she couldn't care less. This attitude of course is not great for his ego.

What are the alternatives for a successful relationship as suggested by the Gottmans?

A) Enhance your 'Love Maps': Love

maps are a person's inner psychological self, his or her internal world consisting of fears and aspirations. What are his or her stressors, hobbies, dreams. The partner asks open ended questions and thus enhances his or her love maps. 'What is bothering you about your work today? Do share with me.' 'What was life like when your father was posted in a small town?'

B) Inculcate fondness and admiration: Convey your appreciation in small ways. 'Thank you for doing the dishes today.' 'You sang so well at the function today. I am proud of you.' You are thereby increasing your emotional bank balance and that of your partner as well.

C) Make bids for emotional connect : Imagine you are looking out from your balcony and you see a fancy red car parked on the road. You say, 'Jasmine, come and see this fantastic car. It's just come into the market.' But Jasmine continues her work and doesn't bother to share your enthusiasm. In contrast you are watching football on TV. Jasmine is not interested in sports. But she comes and sits by your side, trying to understand the match and share your enthusiasm. She has made a bid for emotional connect. This is a 'positive sentiment over ride' in contrast to the 'negative sentiment over ride' of Disaster who is over enthusiastic about putting down her partner.

D) Masters bring repair to a relationship when the going is not good. They don't get defensive when attacked. Instead they step back, allow things to cool down and contritely say, 'I am sorry for what I said. Can we talk about it?' The approach is rational.

We are, after all, social animals. Compliments, small gifts, humour, treating your partner as if he or she was your best friend and love – all these are ingredients for a continuously evolving relationship. This type of relationship sustains, energises and motivates both partners. It is the basis of a happy family.

—Monica Fernandes

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—Gerald J. D'Souza & Family, Vasai

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tion so that I may live with peace, love, prosperity and abundance and in the Praise of God.

Amen. (Promise Publication)

—William Mascarenhas
Bandra

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There were two antennas who met on a roof and they fell in love and decided to get married. The ceremony was nothing fancy, but you could tell that they had a very strong connection.

Before you decide to make the commitment to marry a person, you should have them use a computer with a very slow internet connection so they can show you who they truly are.

An archaeologist is definitely the best husband a woman could ever have. The reason for this is because the older she gets, the more he will be interested in her.

Do you want to know why my husband and I will never ever need a marriage counselor? He majored in communications in college and I majored in theater. So he communicates with me a lot and I always make the effort to pretend to listen.

A girl asked her boyfriend if he would still love her after marriage. He replied, "that depends on what your husband will think."

A husband and wife are drinking wine at home. The wife says, "I love you." The husband asks if that is her or the wine talking. She replies, "It's me talking to the wine."

A man and women were getting married in a courthouse. As they were leaving the courtroom, the bride said to the groom, "Isn't it nice to be here when we're not being convicted of something?"

It is very important to have a woman who can cook, clean, and take care of the kids. And it is just as important to have a woman who can keep you happy in bed. And most of all, it is important that these two women never meet.

A woman made the decision to break off her recent engagement and her friend said, "what happened? I



thought it was love at first sight!" To which the woman replied, "but the second and third ones changed my mind."

A husband was throwing knives at his wife's photo and missing the target. All of a sudden, she called to ask what he was doing. His reply was, "I am missing you."

An employee is getting to know her new co-workers when the topic of her last job comes up. One co-worker asks why she left that job.

"It was something my boss said," the woman replied.

"Why? What did he say?" the co-worker asked.

"You're fired."

When my coworker answered his phone, the confused woman on the other end asked, "Who is this?"

"This is Steve. With whom did you wish to speak?"

After a pause: "Did you just say

whom?"

"Yes, I did."

The woman replied, "I have the wrong number," and hung up.

Yesterday at work, I saw someone being horribly inefficient and told him, "Dude that is definitely slowing you down." He replied, "Well yea it is, but I'm in the kitchen remodeling business so I'm supposed to be counter productive."

I went for an interview for an office job today. The interviewer told me I'd start on \$2,000 a month and then after 6 months I'd be on \$2,500 a month.

I told them I'd start in 6 months.

An employee goes to see his supervisor. "Boss," he says, "we're doing some heavy house-cleaning at home tomorrow, and my wife needs me to help with the attic and the garage, moving and hauling stuff." "Sorry, but we're short-handed," the boss replies. "I can't give you the day off." "Thanks, boss," says the employee. "I knew I could count on you!"

Some people say the glass is half full. Some people say the glass is half empty. Engineers say the glass is twice as big as necessary.

Now who is on Wheelchair?



West Bengal poll results

(Contd.. from p. 5)

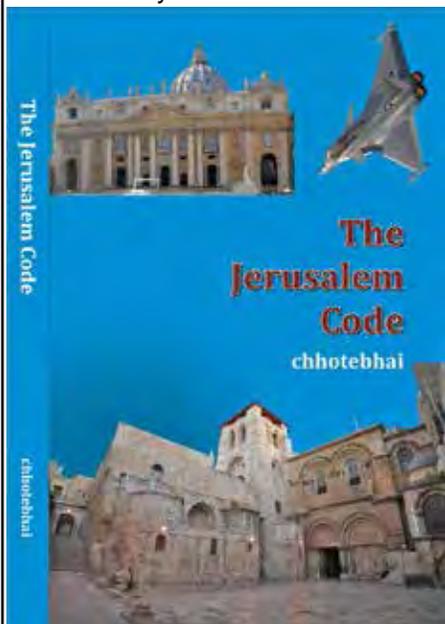
the Goa govt acted promptly and heeded the early warnings of the impending second wave, when Covid cases in Goa started to be on the upswing, a month back. Unfortunately, what mattered more was the state's dwindling economy which opened the floodgates of tourism, unchecked borders, and gay abandon on our beaches, with Covid protocol thrown to the winds, even as Casinos and night clubs continued to flourish and draw large crowds. And with restaurants allowed to remain open with 50% capacity, and our Municipal and fish markets exempted from the present lockdown, can we ever hope to break the virus transmission chain? Or, are we still waiting for the numbers to rise before tightening the screws?

—A. F. Nazareth,
Alto Porvorim, Goa

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Dal fry is a delicious lentil recipe that is made with tur dal (pigeon pea lentils), masoor dal, onions, tomatoes and spices. Relish this mouth-watering, mildly-spiced, creamy lentil dish with roti, naan or your favourite steamed rice.

Ingredients you need:

- Tur dal: 100 gms, masoor dal: 100 gms.
- 2 onions and three tomatoes, both finely chopped.
- Green chillies.
- Curry leaves.
- A pinch of asafoetida powder (hing).
- Coriander leaves.
- Kasuri methi (dry fenugreek leaves).
- You will also need ginger, mustard seeds, cumin seeds, turmeric powder, red chili powder, garam masala powder, cooking oil, lemon juice, and salt.

Method (How to make it):

1. Wash the lentils thoroughly in water.
2. After washing, pour it into a pressure cooker and toss in a pinch of turmeric powder and 2 cups of water.
3. Pressure cook for 8 minutes on medium heat, or until it is thoroughly cooked and completely soft. Once cooked, mash it with a spoon or wired whisk, then set aside.
4. Heat 2 to 3 tablespoons of oil in a pan. Once hot, add ½ teaspoon of mustard seeds.
5. When they crackle, add 1 teaspoon of cumin seeds and fry them for a few seconds or until they change colour.
6. With the mustard and cumin seeds still in the pan, add the chopped onions.
7. When the onions turn lightly browned, add in 1 teaspoon of ginger-garlic paste and stir to combine. Sauté the mixture for a few seconds or until the raw aroma of the ginger-garlic goes away on a low heat.
8. Finally, add in 10 to 12 curry leaves, 2 to 3 dry red chillies, and 1 to 2 green chillies. Stir to combine with the ginger-garlic paste mixture.
9. Mix well on a low heat, stirring to combine the flavours.
10. Add all the spice powders and mix again.
11. After mixing thoroughly, add the finely chopped tomatoes.
12. Stir together one more time and continue to sauté until the tomatoes become soft and pulpy. The oil should also start to leave the masala mixture, which is an indication that the onion-tomato base mixture is fully cooked.
13. Add your mashed lentils to the sautéed onion-tomato masala mixture in the pan.
14. Combine and mix everything evenly with the rest of the masala mixture.
15. Pour 1 to 1.5 cups water. You can adjust the consistency of the dal fry by adding more or less water.
16. Mix and stir thoroughly to get a smooth and even consistency.
17. Season with salt. Mix again.
18. Simmer for 5 to 6 minutes on a low to medium heat. Stir occasionally, so that the lentils do not stick at the bottom of the pan.
19. Add 1 teaspoon of crushed kasoori methi (dried fenugreek leaves) and sprinkle ½ teaspoon of garam masala powder.
20. Stir and simmer for 1 more minute.
21. Switch off the gas and add 3 tablespoons of chopped coriander leaves. You can also add 1 teaspoon of lemon juice for a little added freshness and tang.

Your dal fry is ready. Serve hot.



by Jubel D'Cruz

Angela Merkel:

A Paradigm of Good Governance

There are certain pieces of news, which one would like to happily render one's ears to, every time they reach one's years. Since they are pleasing to listen to, soothing to one's ears and hearts as well as edifying, they do not ever grow stale; instead, the freshness and relevance of the news, along with its motivating fibre, remains and the value of the news increases. One such news in the recent history of the world is that of 'Angela Merkel', Chancellor of Germany, whom Germany bid farewell to, a couple of months ago.

Angela Merkel made 'history' in the world as well as in Germany by being bid farewell to with 'six minutes of warm round of applause', along with a 'nation-wide standing ovation'. The whole country, with people on the streets, balconies and windows, applauded her in a spectacular and historic way, with no second. No wonder, Angela emerged as a singular exemplar of 'leadership and defense of humanity'.

A bird's eye view of the German world would be worth the while for having a deeper sight into the merit of Mrs Angela alongside her setting. German people are known for being hardworking, disciplined, punctual, truthful, logical, efficient, economical, sensible and humorous. They respect the privacy of the other, the structure and laws of society, keep a sense of 'order' in business culture and often spend their time practically about how a problem should be solved. Though they are individualized, they give due importance to family.

Further, Germany is the largest and the strongest economy in Europe as well as the fourth largest in the world. It is the largest exporter of high quality goods in Europe, like cars, machinery and pharmaceuticals, together

with chemical and electrical products. It has the highest share of industry in gross value among the G7 countries. The strongest sectors of vehicle construction, electrical industry, engineering and chemical industry and a GDP of 3.67 trillion USD in 2017 make Germany indisputably well off, as well.

Coming back to Mrs Merkel, the Germans elected her to lead 80 million Germans. She did so for 18 years, with 'competence, skill, dedication and sincerity', to the approval of one and all. She was hailed as 'The Lady of the World' and was described as 'equivalent of six million men'. She emerged as a major epitome of 'governance and good governance', unlike most politicians and rulers ever do, incredibly so.

Politicians in all places are mostly known for certain typical mindset and behavior, though with more or less degrees. They are extremely selfish and highhanded, tell lies, utter nonsense, stand for photo shots, assign their relatives and pets to government posts, make infallible claims, take top credits, advertize empty glories, make false promises, pretend to be gods, create sycophants, and the like, profusely so. But, 'Angela Merkel' chose to do none of these, for the noble reasons that guided her to leadership.

No wonder, the eighteen years of her leadership in the country recorded not a single lapse against her. She handed the party leadership position over to those after her, without any to-do about anything. The best part of all that she lived for during the eighteen years at the helm of affairs of the country was 'leaving Germany and its people on the top, in the best condition ever'. That was her remarkable merit. That itself is the definition of



Angela Merkel

'good governance', too.

Angela Merkel, as a 'silent and sober leader', chose to be what she was and chose to be what she wasn't, too. A former chemical physicist from East Germany, Angela was not attracted by fashion, lights, real estate, cars, yachts, private planes, and the like, not at all. She wore the 'same wardrobe' for eighteen years, noteworthy indeed. She was, in all probability, just one of her kinds in the history of the world. No surprise, 'God bless this silent leader', was the prayer that emanated from one and all during the ovation.

'I am a government employee and not a model', was her sharp response, when a journalist inquired 'whether she had no option other than wearing the same suit'. Again, when questioned by journalists whether housemaids do her household work or not, she informed them unassumingly that 'she and her husband together do their home-making'. She wondered why the journalists did not question her about the successes and failures in her government!

Mrs Merkel lived in an ordinary apartment before she was elected Chancellor of Germany and she continued to live there, like a regular citizen, unlike other dignitaries anywhere. She

(Contd.. on p. 15)

(Contd.. from p. 14)

did not feel the need of a villa, servants, swimming pools, gardens and other show-off amenities. That was the 'simplicity and modesty' she put on view for the people as 'qualities of a genuine and seasoned leader'. Her focus was not herself, but 'good governance' of her country and the wellbeing of the people who placed trust in her.

Obviously, 'governance' is 'the process of decision-making and the procedure of implementing those decisions'. It is the exercise of authority by political leaders for the well-being of the citizens of a certain country. It refers to 'structures and processes that are designed to ensure 'accountability, transparency, responsiveness, rule of law, stability, equity, inclusiveness, empowerment and broad-based participation'.

Further on, 'good governance' is the yardstick of 'integrity and efficiency' reflected in the 'proper, effective and sustainable utilization of resources', human and natural. It is the measure of satisfaction in the citizens of the respective country as beneficiaries of governance, in which public affairs, institutions and resources are administered in an ideal and ethical way, all for the needs of the society in hand, sensitively so.

In the light of the various dimensions of the 'leadership' of Angela Merkel and her Germany described above, it is our duty as well as Constitutional right as 'we the people' to pore over our self-styled leaders, in India and world over. It is indeed appalling to observe that a high percentage of them have 'criminal backgrounds', as the only certificate of eligibility for the post they hold. Not knowing 'the trade and the rule of the game', most of them literally miss the goal and end up making a complete mess of the business in hand. No wonder, the citizens are the hapless victims of the

'bad governance' they display therein.

Will our leaders stop or at least reduce telling 'lies' in public? Will our administrators refrain from making 'superlative and blank claims' and stop bluffing the people? Will our elected representatives renounce 'arrogance of power' and 'authoritarian politics' and realize that they are 'not anointed to rule over their people'? Will those in the governmental system ever become 'humble and capable' enough, so as to serve the people, who are placed in their hands by the respective Constitution of their land? These are some of the razor-sharp questions that are before all those who occupy the 'public space', the world over, as they are confronted by the 'mirror of good governance', which Angela Merkel lived for Germany and beyond.

While presenting an award of heartfelt 'salute and kudos' to Mrs Angela Merkel, the Emeritus Chancellor of Germany, for emerging as a 'paradigm of good governance', it is the ardent wish of the citizens of the human society, in India and beyond, 'may our leaders imbibe the 'ethical fibre' of governance and good governance', in favour of a world that is harmonious and better for the humans of the 21st century!

The author is Director of Institute of Harmony and Peace Studies, New Delhi, and has been committed to cross-cultural perspectives, interfaith relations, social ethics, constitutional values, 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. He could be contacted at 'mdthomas53@gmail.com'.

The Vaccine Conundrum

The difference between this generation and my generation is that while they study algebra, we studied arithmetic (in the 60s). In school we had addition, subtraction, multiplication, division and percentage problems, very little of algebra and even less of geometry. We could think, calculate and solve arithmetical problems unlike today's generation. Today they can solve complex concepts but not simple arithmetical problems. Here is a simple problem that we could solve in class IV.

Problem: The total production of vaccines is 27 lakh doses a day in the country. This production cannot be increased for the next 18-24 months. The country has already administered 1st dose to approximately 30-50 lakh senior citizens (60+) every day beginning March 1. (This was possible because the Serum Institute of India had started producing vaccines before phase 1 began in India and had stock on hand). The 60+ became eligible progressively for the 2nd dose after 6 weeks (i.e., from April 15).

Question: 1 How many senior citizens will have to be vaccinated for the 2nd dose from April 15 everyday? Answer: 30-50 lakhs every day.

Q2: How many doses will be available for 45+ category from April 15? Answer: Zero

Q3: How then are the 45+ being vaccinated
A3: Because tens of thousands of 60+ are unwilling to jostle with the crowds at vaccination centres for fear of being infected by the virus. Thus they will not be fully vaccinated defeating the very purpose of the vaccination programme.

Result :Total chaos if vaccinations are opened up for all.

The solution: (1.) Put on hold vaccination of 18+ category (2.) Prioritize 2nd dose for 60+ for a few weeks. (3.) Prioritize 2nd dose for 45+ from May 15. Thereafter move forward in a calibrated manner always factoring in the 2nd dose else there will be total chaos.

—Prof Robert Castellino
Mumbai

Royal Christian Family MATRIMONIALS - GROOMS

7212. MUMBAI : East Indian Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in February 1991), Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 70 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Bachelor of Arts, B.H.M.S., Luzern, Switzerland, working as a Restaurant Supervisor. Contact email : noellyn_p@hotmail.com

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

6996. MUMBAI : TAMILIAN Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in September 1990), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 75 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. BMS., M.Com., MBA in Marketing, working for L & T Infotech. Contact email : rodnidavid@gmail.com

7207. CHANDIGARH : Anglo Indian Catholic Divorcee, (Born in April 1972), Ht. 6' 1", Wt. 80 kgs, Very Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., MFC, MA English, Teacher by profession. Contact email : vishalsud81@gmail.com

7206. NEW DELHI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor (Born in October 1995), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 43 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.E. Computer Engineer, working as a Project Manager with Paytm. Contact email : dcosta.ria@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

6841 MUMBAI : Anglo Indian / Keralaite 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

6982. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in

September 1989), Ht. 172 cms, Wt. 68 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. C.A., working as a C.A., Contact email : jpereiranirrh@gmail.com

6424. MUMBAI : East Indian Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in October 1991), Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 65 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., well employed, working as Sr. Customer Care Executive. Contact email : gerardd754@gmail.com,

6228. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor (Born in December 1972). Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 65 kgs., Wheatish Complexion, Edn. S.S.C. A/C Tech. Course, working as a A/C Technician in Voltas. Contact email : lawrencedias321@gmail.com / Mob: 8291056939

7004. MUMBAI : TAMILIAN Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in August 1988), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 90 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.E. (Inst.) MBA, working as a Sales Engineer. Contact email : amarian1988@gmail.com OR 9967657806

6980. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in September 1987), Ht. 182 cms, Wt. 79 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. PGDBM, working as a Manager. Contact email : roystonpereira2007@gmail.com

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

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

7019. MUMBAI : TAMILIAN Roman

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

6973. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in June 1989), Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 80 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., Nautical Science, working as 2nd Officer in Merchant Ships. Contact email : meltondsouza@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

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

6979. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in March 1989), Ht. 162 cms, Wt. 74 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Office in Bank. Contact email : luton767@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

6971. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in December 1987), Ht. 6', Wt. 81 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.E. Electronics, working as a Tech. Lead, in Mysore. Seeks a graduate, tall, Mangalorean girl. Contact email : dsz.roshan@gmail.com

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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

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

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

7126. U.S.A. : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in January 1992) from Mumbai, Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 60 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.E. (Computers) from Mumbai, M.S. (Information Systems) from US. Possesses H1B visa and is working as a Technical Analyst with an MNC in USA.

Contact email : wilfyjoy1315@gmail.com or call +91 98603 02527 / + 91 9970172527

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

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

7095. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1992), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 55 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Com + Import Export Certificate Course, working as a Billing Assistant in Well known Hospital. Contact email : perpetuadias7@gmail.com

6831. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic 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 Roman Catholic 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

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

7082. MUMBAI : Tamilian Roman catholic Spinster, (Born in September 1985), Ht. 5', Wt. 50 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. 12th std., working

as a sales girl in Big Store. Contact email : susanmoses1385@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

7069. MUMBAI : Tamilian RC 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

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

7060. MUMBAI : East Indian RC 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

7162 MUMBAI : Mangalorean RC Spinster, (Born in September 1993), Ht. 5'5", Wt. 58 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A., working as a Secretary. Contact email : t.banze@rediffmail.com

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

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He too contracted that deadly virus

(St. Damien of Molokai)

By Fr. F. M. Britto

Serving the leprosy patients, this priest also contracted that deadly virus. Though he too then became an outcaste, his country honoured this rural man with the title “The Greatest Belgian.” Today a bronze figure of him stands tall in Statuary Hall at the US Capitol and thousands of persons and institutions are named after him.

Father Damien was born as Joseph De Veuster on Jan 3, 1840 in the village of Tremelo in Belgium as the youngest of seven children to corn merchant John Francis De Veuster and Anne Catherine Wouters. His brother Pamphile became a priest and his two sisters, nuns. The 13 years old Damien was forced to quit school to work in the family farm.

Though his father wanted him to pursue a commercial profession, Damien joined in his brother’s missionary religious congregation, the Fathers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary, at Louvain. At his religious profession on Oct 7, 1860, he took the name Damien after the fourth century physician-martyr. He longed to become a missionary like St. Francis Xavier. Since his brother-priest could not travel to Hawaii (US) due to sickness, Damien took his place.

Arriving in Honolulu on March 19, 1864, he got ordained a priest on May 21, 1864 and was assigned to serve the mission in Hawaii Island. Since leprosy was then highly contagious and incurable, Hawaiian King Kamehameha V ordered in 1865 the most serious cases to be moved to a settlement colony of Kalawao on the island of Molokai. Since the Royal Board of Health could not provide the quarantined people food and other supplies, the lepers had to care for themselves by growing crops, which became impractical for them.



Bishop Louis Desire Maigret of Honolulu felt the need to send priests to assist these lepers. Since it involved high risks, he asked for volunteer priests. Four priests, including Fr Damien volunteered. The bishop asked them to take turns. On May 10, 1873, the first volunteer, Fr Damien arrived at the settlement at Kalaupapa, where some 600 lepers lived. On arrival, the bishop introduced Fr Damien to the lepers as, “one who will be a father to you, and who loves you so much that he does not hesitate to become one of you; to live and die with you.”

With his compassion, Damien provided them spiritual, emotional and material comfort. He dressed their ulcers, made coffins and dug graves. He ate food with them by hand, shared pipes and lived with the lepers as equals. He comforted the dying and prayed at their graves. He addressed his flock, “We lepers”. He told them, “Turn all your thoughts and aspirations to heaven. Work hard to secure yourself a place there forever.”

Six months later Damien wrote to his brother in Europe, “I make myself a leper with the lepers to gain all to Jesus Christ.” He said, “I feel no disgust when I hear the confessions of those near their end, whose wounds are full of maggots.” He added, “No doctor; in fact as there is no cure, there seems no place for a doctor’s skill.” He also said, “Without the Blessed Sacrament, a position like mine would be intolerable.”

Due to the request of him and the lepers, the superiors allowed him to stay there. Establishing the parish of St Philomena, Fr Damien built a church, a school, and two orphanages. Creating leaders among them to serve them, he constructed chapels, houses, hospitals, roads, built a reservoir and organized farms.

He became internationally known. His example attracted many helpers to the colony. The Church of England sent him food, medicine, clothing and supplies. American Protestants raised for him large sums of money.

After 11 years of working in the colony, Damien realized in 1884 that he too had contracted leprosy. After serving them for 16 years, the 49 years old Fr Damien died of leprosy on April 15, 1889 and the world moaned his death.

As per his wish, he was laid to rest under the same pandanus tree, where he first slept upon his arrival in Molokai. King Leopold III of Belgium requested his body to be returned to his native land. He was then buried in Leuven, the historic University City, close to his village. After his beatification in June 1995, the remains of his right hand were returned to Hawaii and re-interred in his original grave in Molokai.

Pope Paul VI declared him Venerable on July 7, 1977; Pope John Paul II beatified him in Belgium on June 4, 1995 and Pope Benedict XVI canonised him on Oct 11, 2009. His feast day is celebrated on May 10 by the Universal Church, but in Hawaii it is celebrated on the day of his death, April 15.

Mahatma Gandhi remarked that Fr Damien’s work had inspired his social campaigns in India. He added, “The Catholic Church counts by the thousands those who after the example of Fr Damien have devoted themselves to the victims of leprosy. It is worthwhile to look for the source of such heroism.”

Pope Francis' Catechesis on "Prayer"!

by DR. TREVOR COLASO

World Day of Prayer (WDP) is a global ecumenical movement which welcomes all to join in prayer and action for peace and justice! Its motto is: "Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action"! It is celebrated in over 170 countries on the First Friday of March; but local WDP activities could be held throughout the year. (Although it is not connected with the Sacred Heart devotion, Catholic may take inspiration from it).

The WDP 2021 host country is Vanuatu, a South Pacific group of islands of 312,000 inhabitants. They view the 'coconut tree as their tree of life'; because all its parts are useful. Their theme adopted is: "Built on a Strong Foundation"! - (Matthew 7:24-27) – a wise person who built the house on rock!

The Church is a Great 'School of Prayer'!

Pope Francis on 14 April 2021, in his Wednesday general audience livestream said: *The Church is a great 'school of prayer'! The essential task of the Church is to teach people how to pray? And to transmit from generation to generation, the lamp of faith with the oil of prayer! So, I encourage Christians to ensure that personal prayer is a priority!

*The life of every Catholic parish should be marked by Liturgy (of the Eucharist) and community prayer, both of which are a 'great patrimony'! Draw strength from the inexhaustible well of Holy Mother Church; just as saints have done throughout history –Not with weapons of money and power, or of media communications, but with the weapons of prayer! These were communicated through monasteries, convents and hermitages, which played a stellar role in European civilization and culture. Without prayer the Church would become an empty shell and without anchor, losing its direction to evangelize. *Thus

in St.Luke's Gospel, Jesus poses a dramatic question: "When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth? (Lk 18:8) Or will He find only organizations, groups of entrepreneurs, all well organized for charity! But will He find genuine faith?

On the Importance of "Vocal Prayer"! Continuing his series on the training of prayer, Pope Francis on 21 April 2021, reflected on the importance of 'vocal prayer'!

*Prayer is a dialogue with God – a word, an invocation, hymn or poetry; wherein the Divine Word is incarnate in each person, which returns to God in prayer and thanksgiving. Words also act as our mothers, for they shape us! *We should all have the humility of 'elderly people', who in Church quietly recite the prayers they learnt in as children. They are often the great intercessors in parishes. They are the oaks that spread their branches to offer shade and comfort. *We should also learn from the perseverance of the Russian pilgrim who learnt the 'art of prayer' by repeating the same invocation again and again – "Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy on me a sinner" *We must not disregard vocal prayer. One might say, Ah! This is for children or for ignorant folks. But please, do not succumb to the pride of scorning vocal prayer! *The first human prayer has always been a vocal recitation; an essential element of Christian life! It is the simple prayer that Jesus taught: "Pray then like this - Our Father ..." (Matthew 6:9ff).

Further quotes on "Prayer" from Pope Francis!

*Miracles happen, but prayer is needed. Prayer that is courageous, struggling and persevering, not prayer that is a mere formality! *Our families need to ask for the gift of the Holy Spirit! Through the Spirit's intercession, may our homes become like the house of Martha and Mary, places where Jesus always finds a warm welcome.

*Let us ask ourselves: Are we open to Holy Spirit to enlighten us, to make us more sensitive to the things of God? Pray to the Holy Spirit for unity in the Church! *Let us not grow tired of knocking at God's door, knocking at the door of God's heart! Mother Mary prays together with the community of disciples as she did on Pentecost. This is the power of prayer! The power in God's mercy! *Intercede for the annual 'World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation' and even otherwise – This will offer individual believers and communities, opportunities to reaffirm their personal vocation to be stewards of creation. *Let us keep the flame of faith alive through the Sacraments, especially through Reconciliation, and ask God's forgiveness for sins against His creation; and work towards its preservation. *Support your priests with your prayers and love; so that they may be true shepherds after Christ's heart. They are after all human. *Vocations to the priesthood and the religious life are born in and from prayer. Only in prayer can they persevere and bear fruit. *Rosary is a 'school of prayer and of faith'! Ask Mary to join us. She supports us in the fight against the forces of evil. May each family rediscover this family prayer, in order to bring about harmony, forgiveness and peace. * The mystery of the Cross is a mystery of love! It can only be understood in prayer. And now weep, kneeling before the Cross! Consider Jesus' "Seven Words"; and prayer in the power of His Resurrection, to create a new life in you! *Prayer, humility and charity towards all are essential in the Christian life. They are the way towards holiness. *A good Catholic may meddle in politics, by offering oneself, always keeping the culture of life sacred, right from conception until natural death. So, pray for those who govern us. *Now I ask you a favor – To pray to the Lord to bless me. And also to bless your priests and Bishops!

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