

# THE SECULAR CITIZEN

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A NATIONAL FAMILY WEEKLY

## The Era of High Fertility is ending Leading to Declining World Population

by Don Aguiar.

All over the world, countries are confronting population stagnation and a fertility bust, a dizzying reversal unmatched in recorded history that will make first-birthday parties a rarer sight than funerals, and empty homes a common eyesore.

Maternity wards are already shutting down in Italy. Ghost cities are appearing in north eastern China. Universities in South Korea cannot find enough students, and in Germany, hundreds of thousands of properties have been razed, with the land turned into parks.

Like an avalanche, the demographic forces — pushing toward more deaths than births — seem to be expanding and accelerating. Although some countries continue to see their populations grow, especially in Africa, fertility rates are falling nearly everywhere else. Demographers now predict that before the latter half of the century or possibly much earlier, the global population will enter a sustained decline for the first time.

A planet with fewer people could ease pressure on resources, slow the destructive impact of climate change and reduce household burdens for women. But the census announcements this month from China and the United States, showed the slowest rates of population growth in decades for both countries, also point to hard-to-fathom adjustments.

**The strain of longer lives and low fertility, leading to fewer workers and more retirees, threatens to upend how societies are organized — around the notion that a surplus of young people will drive economies and help pay for the old. It may also**

**require a reconceptualization of family and nation. Imagine entire regions where everyone is 70 or older. Imagine Covid-19 pandemic wiping out part or entire families and governments requiring to lay out huge bonuses for immigrants and mothers with lots of children.**

A paradigm shift is necessary. Countries need to learn to live with and adapt to decline. As nearly everywhere else, the era of high fertility is ending. As women have gained more access to education and contraception and as the anxieties associated with having children intensify, more parents are delaying pregnancy, and fewer babies are being born. Even in countries long associated with rapid growth, such as India and Mexico, birth rates are falling toward or are already below the replacement rate of 2.1 children per family.

The change, once it starts, decline (just like growth) spirals exponentially. With fewer births, fewer girls grow up to have children, and if they have smaller families than their parents did — which is happening in dozens of countries — the drop starts to look like a rock thrown off a cliff. It becomes a cyclical mechanism. It's demographic momentum.

**In a speech this month during a conference on Italy's birth rate crisis, Pope Francis said the "demographic winter" was still "cold and dark."**

More people in more countries may soon be searching for their own metaphors. Birth projections often shift based on how governments and families respond, but according to projections by an international team of scientists published last year in *The Lancet*, 183 countries and territories — out of 195 —

(Contd.. on p. 3)

## Mukul Roy's Fealty Switch

One time right hand man of Mamata Banerjee had decided to desert her sometime in 2017 in the wake of the CBI heat for his alleged involvement in the Sharada chit fund scam with other senior TMC leaders. He was suspended from TMC for 6 years after a sting operation which showed his direct involvement in the scam. Though those who were named termed the allegation as political vendetta by the BJP to get a foot-hold in Bengal, Mukul Roy realized that if he has to 'insulate' himself from possible harassment and eventual arrest, BJP was the best bet. So he decides to join the saffron party where he was welcome. Now a Sena MLA has openly suggested to the CM Uddhavji to align with BJP so that leaders him could be insulated from harassment – not a flattering comment for the BJP. Ironically, the BJP has not reacted.

Roy must have been guided by other leaders of different parties who had abandoned their respective outfits and sought 'asylum' in the BJP which among other things guaranteed immunity from arrests. Here Mukul Roy must have bargained hard and got an assurance that the CBI will not touch him barring routine questioning etc for public consumption. Being a senior leader of the TMC, BJP made him National Vice President – a prestigious post hoping that he will be instrumental in turning the tide in favour of the BJP in the assembly elections when held to dislodge the well entrenched Mamata Didi as she is affectionately called by the people of Bengal. He was virtual No. 2 in the TMC and had proven skills in elections. He is said to be instrumental in getting the likes of Suvendu Adhikari and others to join the BJP – something which gave confidence to that party and dreamt of capturing power in Bengal. They put the best leaders to campaign including Modi, Shah and Nadda not counting others like Yogi of UP.

Roy's equation with Adhikari when both were in TMC wasn't great. Roy had kept his option open. If BJP won, he could stake claim for Chief Ministership of Bengal in which case he could continue to remain in that party but the results were disastrous and naturally his value diminished for the BJP. Some other TMC leaders involved in the Sharada scam were arrested by the CBI and there was the usual reaction why

## VIEWSON NEWS

Roy was spared. The BJP talks about the CBI being the caged parrot during the UPA regime but it seems it is also a 'trained' parrot to do its BJP's bidding. The BJP was at pains to explain how an 'independent' CBI decides whom to arrest. Hats off to the CBI!

With Mukul Roy back in favour in the TMC, the BJP will go all out to keep the TMC on tenterhooks. As it is the Governor of Bengal is seen by the TMC as an agent of BJP who has been given the responsibility to hit out at the TMC government. He has been giving statements and even appears on television which normally a constitutional authority does not indulge in. In fact all the Governors in non-BJP states are at loggerheads with the Chief Ministers. This is not a good sign for the Federal structure of the country. In the past, under the UPA there were a number of states ruled by the opposition and there were occasional confrontations but not the on-going tussle over each and every issue at present – be it Delhi, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Kerala. Tamil Nadu's woes will begin now. The BJP is not crowning itself in glory with these on-going CM-Governor boxing matches. As far as Mukul Roy is concerned he can eat the cake and have it. He is back in TMC where he always belonged and he has immunity from arrest. If the BJP tries to now arrest him it will be seen as plain vendetta. With other elected leaders wanting to rejoin the TMC, the BJP is back to square one.

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## Nominees in Housing Societies

In 2019, the Maharashtra Government amended the M.C.S. Act 1960 to introduce some 'Housing societies-specific' chapter which has some far reaching implications for the nominees of deceased members of a society. It took some time for these changes to come to public knowledge since it was done through amendments in the M.C.S. Act 1960 [which encompasses the entire gamut of cooperative movement in the state] and not by changes in the Model Bye-laws. Any changes in M.C.S. Act over-ride the Bye-laws and therefore it is incumbent on societies to adhere to these new rules. With the introduction of section 154B[13] a nominee of a deceased member can be enrolled as a



by Marshall Sequeira

full-fledged member of the society only if he or she produces any one of the four specified testamentary documents such as a Will, Succession certificate, Legal Heir-ship certificate or a Document of Family arrangement.

If no such document is produced, a nominee is to be admitted as a PROVISIONAL member which by implication will give such a member practically no powers. Obviously, s/he cannot create third party interest in the property. Though it is not clear as yet, such a member cannot enter into Leave and Licence agreement or nominate anybody in turn. Such a member can attend meetings and vote. There is contradiction on whether such a member can be a member of the Managing Committee. The role of a provisional member is therefore that of a caretaker till the legal heirs come on board with any one of the Testamentary documents and decide who will finally be a full-fledged member of the society.

A Will needs to be probated which is an expensive affair and some legal persons say that Succession certificate does not cover immovable property. Nobody has been able to give a definite answer as to where one is required to go for Legal Heir-ship Certificate. The only other easy option is a document of Family arrangement among all the legal heirs. Whether this needs to be registered is also unclear. The real problem is with sole legal heir. Being alone, he or she cannot enter into a Family arrangement. The government needs to come with some solution to these problems. With nobody clear on how exactly to go about, there is a sense of insecurity among the nominees who are mostly the legal heirs of the deceased person. Even the legal fraternity is not very clear on the issue. Unfortunately, this new amendment has left many issues unresolved though it has brought clarity in many other aspects of Housing society governance. Unfortunately, the government is famous for creating complications.

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will have fertility rates below replacement level by 2100.

Their model shows an especially sharp decline for China, with its population expected to fall from 1.41 billion now to about 730 million in 2100. If that happens, the population pyramid would essentially flip. Instead of a base of young workers supporting a narrower band of retirees, China would have as many 85-year-olds as 18-year-olds.

Many countries are beginning to accept the need to adapt, not just resist. South Korea is pushing for universities to merge. In Japan, where adult diapers now outsell ones for babies, municipalities have been consolidated as towns age and shrink. In Sweden, some cities have shifted resources from schools to elder care. And almost everywhere, older people are being asked to keep working. Germany, which previously raised its retirement age to 67, is now considering a bump to 69.

In Eastern Europe, migration from the region has compounded depopulation, and in parts of Asia, the "demographic time bomb" that first

became a subject of debate a few decades ago has finally gone off.

Growth is a challenge, as is decline. Demographers warn against seeing population decline as simply a cause for alarm. Many women are having fewer children because that is what they want. Smaller populations could lead to higher wages, more equal societies, lower carbon emissions and a higher quality of life for the smaller numbers of children who are born.

**But, there is no such thing as destiny. We ourselves shape our lives. The challenges ahead are still an impasse; there is little sign of wage growth in shrinking countries, and there is no guarantee that a smaller population means less stress on the environment.**

The needs of young people most intimate decisions about childbearing are being shaped by factors both positive (more work opportunities for women) and negative (gender inequality and high living costs).

Surveys in many countries show that young people would like to be having more children but face too many obstacles.

'Shalini P tells a common story. She left her small hometown in northern Kerala to find better job opportunities. Now 37, she lives with her boyfriend in Mumbai and has put her desire to have children on hold. She is afraid her salary of less than INR 20,000 a month would not be enough for a family, and her parents still live where she grew up. "I don't have anyone here who could help me," she said. "Thinking of having a child now would make me gasp in shock."

**Many demographers argue that the current moment may look to future historians like a period of transition or gestation, when humans either did or did not figure out how to make the world more hospitable — enough for people to build the families that they want.**

# 'Religious Divide' Leaving India in Shatters!

**A** couple of weeks ago, a Professor who is towards 80 years of life sent me a message on whatsapp, hailing in superlative terms the age-old principle of 'religious harmony' in India. While he was all praises for the tradition he has been part of, he was full of abuses for other traditions, especially the so called non-indic religions in origin, holding them responsible for almost all the ills of the country today, strangely so.

I was taken in a spur of shock, realizing the embarrassing mess in which a professor at this age was in. I had the freedom to communicate to him that his professorship has not gifted him the 'wisdom of life' necessary for being unbiased, realistic and truthful. I also frankly wrote to him that going down to the grave with 'half truths and full lies' would fail one's life, and therefore, something needed being done.

Let us leave the professor aside. Of late all the more, there are millions and millions of people, literate and illiterate alike, who opt to live in a fool's paradise. 'Idiocy' is dear to them. They prefer to be in the dark, because there is a lot of scope for playing 'hide and seek'. Coming face-to-face with the light of truth is challenging, hurting and bothersome. Because it calls for action and it might disturb one's comfort zone.

It is true that our land has survived fairly well to this day as 'one India', in spite of the large range of diversities in philosophy, religion, dynasty, chore and culture that came in at times. The 'self-proclaimed patriots', along with the parroted professors and idiots are never tired of defining India in terms of 'non-violence, tolerance, peaceful co-

existence, unity in diversity, vasudhaiv kutumbakam', and the like.

But, as a matter of fact, it is too obvious that bull-strong policies and callous practices of 'polarization, discrimination, division, hatred, massacre', and the like, have been in craze in the mainstream tradition of the land, from time immemorial. An enlightened and honest citizen of India can never afford to close his or her eyes against such blatant and steep violation of the 'sense of harmony' in social life.



**Fr. Dr. M. D. Thomas**

India is known for religious traditions, major and minor, existing in India for decades of centuries. Places of worship of all religions almost compete with each other in their tallness, ambience, golden appeal, financial resources in cash and kind, ritual systems, political bargain and domesticating people. But, it is a matter of utter shame that much of it has not carved 'good human beings' out of the vigorous believers.

No wonder, 'unethical, illegal, illogical, inhuman, ungodly and characterless ways' are rampant in social life, of late in particular. Believers seem to be too much preoccupied with protecting the professed doctrines about God, even by alleging 'blasphemy' and 'wounding the religious sentiments', anomalously so. But, 'crimes against human beings and humanity' do not seem to worry the religionists, ironically so.

The sectarian hostility, hate speeches, hate crimes, cow issues, mob-lynching, love marriages, anti-conversion laws, communal riots, and the like, have to be considered in this context. Even though a complete statistics would be next to impossible, it can be affirmed with certitude that there

is a major spike in the unfortunate incidents. Minority groups and persons of certain castes are seen to be the victims.

Anti-Sikh riots in 1984, anti-Muslims riot of Gujarat in 2002, burning of Graham Steins and his children in Mayurbhanj-Orissa in 1999 and anti-Christian riot of Kandhamal-Orissa in 2008 are 'high profile massacres' of the recent Indian history of world importance. These instances are to be understood as 'crimes against humanity and divinity' in one shot and they challenge what 'religion' really stands for.

Besides, Akhlaq of Dadri, Pehlu Khan of Alwar, Mazlum Ansari of Jharkhand, Junaid Khan of Hariyana, Palghar mob-lynching, Dimapur mob lynching, Christian Nuns being de-boarded from train at Jhansi, ejecting several dalits from horseback, etc are proofs positive for brutal behaviour in the name of religion, caste and sect. They not only defeat the entire utility of religion, but also betray all signs of a sane society.

'Environmental Pollution' is a pricking matter of concern in the modern days. But, the 'public space' is increasingly getting 'socially polluted' by 'filthy hate speeches', which 'polarize and divide' the country in terms of majority-minority, high-low castes and casteless, eastern-western medicine, aryan-draavidian, indic and non-indic religions, etc. This 'social pollution' from responsible quarters is tragic, awfully so.

Discrimination, polarization, division, hatred, violence, riots, lynching and carnage are sharp violations of the 'Constitution of India', may they be by religious-political quarters or by the populace. Violating communities in

(Contd.. on p. 6)



## Looking for a political revolution?

Recently, the Goa port's minister, Michael Lobo, called for a revolution in Goa. Yes, he couldn't have put it better. Indeed that is the need of the hour. The state requires a political revolution. But, I would go a step further and say, why only Goa, in fact, all states in the country need a political revolution. Why, even at the centre, we need a political revolution, we need a revolution in the entire country. There is no doubt that today, politics has hit the bottom, it has hit dirt. It used to be said politics is dirty, but I think today politics has become mucky and getting muckier by the day. That is the reality!

The minister rightly states, "if all 40 MLAs do good work, then Goa will see a revolution". Looking at the larger picture, if all 500 odd Lok Sabha members do good work, the entire nation will see a revolution. The political scenario in the country today is really disgusting with everyone wanting to grab power. A political revolution is imminent. We need someone to lead the revolution. We have had enough games being played out in the political arena. The citizens of this country deserve better. It is said, 'you can fool some people some of the time, you cannot fool all the people all the time'.

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

## Why no local trains for the general public?

Even after three months of the

second lockdown in Maharashtra, the government is mum on restarting local trains for the general public. There is absolutely no information or announcement to common man. People have lost their jobs and have nothing to eat.

Its time the government care for the difficulties of common man experienced since several months.

— Jubel D'Cruz,  
Dombivili, Mumbai

## No Place for Disobedience in Convent

The Indian Express reports that the Kerala's rebel Catholic nun Lucy Kalapura had been dismissed from her congregation in May 2019 on charges of violation of the vows of obedience and poverty. But she never vacated the convent and appealed to Rome. Now the highest judicial authority, the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura rejected her appeal against the dismissal. She now says she will not vacate but seek justice in Indian legal system.

1 She became a nun of her own will without any force or coercion taking the vow of obedience, poverty and chastity.

2. She had a record of disobedience and deeds against life of poverty. She was warned many times. Yet she was not willing to get reconciled with her promises in her Vows.

3 She makes it appear that she has a mission to correct the existing rules and procedures and even faith of the congregations, the priests and the religious. We do not know what she has done towards this end except accusing some persons or congregation.

4 we do not know what status she

thinks for a nun in a convent — that is whether she considers herself an employee of a concern or a volunteer in the congregation without being accountable for her activities, even if they are against the Congregation or the Church instructions, orders and guidance.

As a lay person I feel for the difficult situation she faces. I advise you dear "daughter Lucy" to become more humble like Christ who climbed down to wash the dirty feet of his boys and converse with that humble Jesus. It is not Pope, Bishop, Superior, or Courts that can give you Peace and contentment but Only Lord Jesus. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

—Kalappura C. Thomas,  
Mumbai.

## Hardhitting Article

Thanks ... I liked the hard-hitting Article by Fr. Cedric Prakash S.J. I read it with my heart burning for justice!

—Leon Bent,  
Mumbai

## Third wave paranoia

Even as we are witnessing the petering out of the second Covid -19 wave in the country at an encouraging rate, there is still a fear lurking in the minds of many over an imminent and more deadly third wave. Alarm bells have started to ring in Maharashtra after the Covid-19 task force has predicted a third wave in 2-4 weeks in the state, with more than double the number of cases in the second wave. These predictions however are not backed by scientific or medical findings, and are more speculative in nature, based on the happenings in the U. K. where a third wave is in the offing, a few weeks after the ebbing out of the second wave. On the flip side, countries like France and Israel have permitted their residents to roam

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the name of creed, caste, food tastes, dress habits, ideology, culture, social traditions, etc, would mean defying the 'Constitutional ethos and ethics' and that is a crime of 'anti-national' status.

The very idea of 'hindutva' and majoritarian hegemony collides with the idea of 'religious harmony' or 'sarv-dharm sadbhaav', which is beached on the 'secular character' ensured by the Constitution. If religion is anything worth the while, how could it approve the maneuvering of atrocities by the majority community on the minority groups, even if by fringe elements? It is a major anomaly in our great land.

In addition, it is too tragic to observe the complicity, indifference or vote-utility mindset of the state in targeting individuals with different views and engaging in spiteful political hate speech, yet being legally and ethically off the hook. The 'religious split' of the country is further proved by the 'self-styled protectors' of the nation, cow or whatever, by way of vigilantism, jayshiram mock-up and mobocracy.

'Religious divide' is the worst of all

tragedies of the human world. Religion is intended to elevate the humans to an ethical and spiritual world, till they reach God. But, unfortunately, religion has been and is the cause of division, war, hatred and the like. It is like 'fence eating up the harvest' or the 'shepherd plundering his own sheep'. It is the 'greatest scandal' in the world. 'Could it be otherwise' is the question.

Is not this 'religious divide' leaving our dear India in shatters? Can this be ever justified by 'the great human and divine values of freedom, equality, justice, fraternity, secularism, democracy', and the like? Will this prickly state of affairs allow India to fly toward 'development', 'vishwaguru' and 'superpower'? Can this anomaly ever help our country evolve 'spirituality' out of the religions in India?

I believe, the brutal havoc caused by 'hate speech, sectarian violence, vigilantism, sexual atrocities', etc. and the tragic consequence of 'religious divide' require being treated effectively. Inventive, strategic, institutional, crossbreed and sustained efforts have to be envisaged and pursued in view of taking India out of this chaotic junk and lead to greater heights of 'harmony and peace among religions and in social life'.

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*The author is Director of Institute of Harmony and Peace Studies, New Delhi, and has been committed to cross-cultural perspectives, inter-faith relations, social ethics, constitutional values, national integration and social harmony, for the past over 40 years. He pursues the above mission through lectures, articles, video messages, conferences, social interactions, views at TV channels, and the like. He could be contacted at 'mdthomas53@gmail.com'.*



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freely in public without face masks or observing social distancing. The question then is for how long are we in India going to live in fear with the new normal of masking, social distancing, curfews and lockdowns even when the vaccination drive in every state is in full swing, and more people are being immunized, unlike that in the first wave. It is time we slowly unlock ourselves and return to our old way of doing things without making excuses of the pandemic, but with caution.

—A. F. Nazareth,  
Alto Porvorim, Goa

## On misleading sermons

As mentioned in my earlier letter, I enjoy hearing the daily televised mass of the Redemptorist fathers of the church of our Lady of Perpetual Succour (OLPS), Chembur. Of particular note are the sermons which, besides being edifying and soul-lifting, succinctly sum up the true essence and meaning of the 'Word of God' in the day's readings and gospel. However, I was taken aback when in the sermon of Sunday June 20, the preacher referred to 'Job' as a prophet, when the 'Book of Job' refers to Job as "a blameless and upright man who feared God and shunned evil". Secondly, a fortnight back, one of their star preachers went overboard presumably by calling St. Paul before his conversion, as a persecutor and murderer of Christians. The word 'murderer' however does not appear anywhere in the Acts of the Apostles, except that Paul was a persecutor of Christians and part of the conspiracy in stoning Stephen to death (Acts 7: 58). It is also not clear how Paul persecuted the Christians in Jerusalem, but that Paul went from house to house, dragged out the believers, both men and women and threw them into jail" (Acts, 8: 3). Is it therefore right to refer to Paul as a murderer instead of a persecutor?.

—A. F. Nazareth,  
Alto Porvorim, Goa

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# Time To Keep Virtual Romance Active And Alive

**T**he lockdown should not keep you from forming meaningful connections with other people. Even with coronavirus as a constant third wheel, people are taking to online dating in order to keep their love-lives alive. Humans have an innate need to communicate and connect, and the coronavirus pandemic has really been a kick in the gut of our social lives.

Even the loners among us are now beginning to crave contact, missing people we hate is something almost everyone is experiencing, and those unfortunate ones of us who are single and living alone since the past few months have definitely lost their minds from the loneliness and boredom. However, we live in times of technological advancement, so the lockdown should not keep you from forming romantic and platonic connections with other people, albeit virtually. Even with coronavirus and social distancing playing third wheel, people are taking to online dating in hopes of finding love and companionship.

As all of us have now accepted that 'staying in' is the new normal, and long-distance has been established as the romance. With the world in a state of total lockdown due to the coronavirus pandemic, people are bringing creativity even on online dating platforms. We cannot and should not meet anyone in person, but with virtual dates, many have found another human being who would like to get to know them better.

They are trying to forge a deeper bond or spend quality time together with virtual dates. But, you can only stare at each other's eyes on Zoom for a finite amount of time and nothing. Talk for hours sweet nothing and get satisfied in the present circumstances. But date nights are a real thing and there are plenty of ways to spice things up, with



very little effort or money. If you live somewhere where you can still get outside, do it. Now. Trust us—being cooped up inside for days on end with your significant other will take a toll on even the happiest of couples. A little fresh air and some quality time together away from screens and the couch will do you both a world of good.



C.K. Subramaniam

Social distancing calls for staying around six feet away from people. But just because there's an outbreak doesn't mean you need to walk around with a pole protecting you from your favorite person.

If your partner gets sick, you should stay home, too. Staying in to care for them will also protect the people you'd interact with outside your home. With the proper safety measures in place, that can be very good for relationships. Perhaps this experience is giving us the opportunity to experience other things.

The guys seem to just want to either play head games or hook up. They are constantly thinking there is a prettier woman out there. We have always hoped that our digital tools would create connections, not conflict. We have a chance to make it happen. There is no use sugarcoating the virus, which has already had devastating consequences for people all over

the world, and may get much worse in the months ahead. There will be more lives lost, businesses closed and communities thrown into financial hardship. Nobody is arguing that what is coming will be fun, easy or anything remotely approaching normal for a very long time.

We agree to do something more interactive for our next date, but without breaking quarantine this time. Instead, we will settle back into our online relationship if it is interesting and not taxing and teasing during the pandemic. You may come across some difficulties during your courtship period, whether it is network issues, technical glitches or moments of awkwardness, it is important to remain calm and confident. Everyone appreciates someone who can take charge and be responsible. Maintaining a sense of humour when things go wrong is an especially attractive quality. It will also help in your relationship if you are direct about what you want, expect and what you can give.

The internet can be a tricky place, you will find people living very different lives from you and with physical interaction improbable right now, it is best that you be yourself when conversing with others. After all you deserve someone who will love and appreciate you for what you are, and the middle of a pandemic is really not the best time for mind games.

The key to any successful relationship is honesty and if you mean to take things forward it is best to start off on the right foot. You deserve a person who respects and accommodates your boundaries. Even for simple things like exchanging phone numbers or talking over video calls. Go with what makes you feel comfortable in that moment, and the person who is right for you will move in harmony with you. Rushing into matters of the heart can have disastrous consequences.

# Hello ... Can You Hear Me?

“Ciao, questo e` Papa Francesco” (Hello, this is Pope Francis calling).

“Aap jis number ko call kar rahe hain, vah kaphi samay se network coverage se bahar hai” (The number you are calling has been out of the network area for some time)!

Pope Francis was desperately trying to get through to the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI) Secretariat; without success. He asked one of his Indian aides why that was so. The aide replied that it was because the number was part of the BSNL network. The Pope was curious to know what the acronym stood for. The aide mischievously replied, “*Bhai sahab nahin lagta*” (Brother it doesn't work), a meme on the Government owned telecom network.

Jokes apart, is Pope Francis actually getting through to India? Is his message coming across? The indices are to the contrary. Has any bishop in India written a pastoral letter on papal documents like *Vos Estis Lux Mundi* (promulgated on 7/5/19), regarding clerical sexual abuse; *Fratelli Tutti* (3/10/20) on universal brotherhood and the environment; the *Motu Proprio* (30/4/21) on changes to the juridical procedures for the trial of prelates; or *Pascite gregem Dei* (1/6/21) on revision of Canon Law on penal provisions for various offences by church personnel?

What about Francis' visit to the Dicastery of the Congregation of the Clergy in May 2015? Referring to priests fathering children he had said that it was an automatic reason for dispensation; as such a person “must fulfil his natural obligations as a father towards his child. It is not enough to give money to financially support the child. It needs to be educated, formed and accompanied by his or her parents”. This categorical statement was conveyed to Abp Filipe Neri Ferrao, the CCBI (Latin Rite) Pres-

ident in a letter dt 24/10/2019, signed by the then Prefect of the Congregation, Cardinal Beniamino Stella.

Has any parish priest ever delivered a sermon on any of these promulgations? There is a plethora of YouTube channels and online programmes in these pandemic times. They are full of pious platitudes, but there is no enlightenment on contemporary church teachings, especially in the Francis era. Perhaps these worthies presume that the laity is like dumb sheep (cattle class) that are best left to wallow in their own ignorance.

How many of us here in India are aware of the pot being stirred across the Atlantic, from Germany to the USA? Are we aware that Pope Francis is trying to

make the church less Roman, and more catholic (universal)? He had the Amazonian Synod in 2019 that unfortunately turned out to be a damp squib; perhaps because the conservatives in North America prevailed over the liberals from South America. Despite that, last year Francis appointed Cardinal Fridolin

Besungu OFM Cap of the Democratic Republic of Congo to his small inner circle of advisors. Other members are Cardinal Oswald Gracias from India, Luis Tagle from the Philippines and Reinhard Marx from Germany. This month he was chosen South Korean Bp Lazarus You Heung-sik to head the Congregation of the Clergy till now headed by Italian Cardinal Stella. Notice that none of these are Romans (Italians), and just one is a European.

Writing in *La Croix International* on 18/6/21 veteran Vaticanista, Robert Mickens, predicts that the “Church Implosion is right on schedule”. He says that Francis' push for synodality (walking together) has further opened the doors for a process that will allow for the “deconstruction of a long out dated and anachronistic church structure”. Notice his choice of words. An explosion is from an external force, while an im-

pllosion is from within. Deconstruction again is very different from destruction.

Mickens says that in its existing structure the Catholic Church is the “last monarchy in the West ... an anachronism ... This outdated model no longer incarnates the lived experience of the believers who live in participative and representative democracies”. So there is a mismatch between the “rulers” and the “subjects”.

He adds that “Most important decisions are made almost exclusively by a celibate male clergy, and whose bishops are held to little or no accountability, is unsustainable in a world where patriarchal and monarchical societies are ceding rights and duties to those who are not part of the nobility, the clergy or one specific gender”. Readers may recall my oft repeated statement that “Celibate old males in boardrooms should not decide what young couples do in their bedrooms”.

To keep this old boy's club together Mickens says that for priestly vocations the emphasis has been on celibacy and docility. This has “resulted in lowered standards of intellectual, psychological and personal acumen” and by default “a shallower pool of talent for bishops”. Most lay persons would agree with this assessment that can have and already has had, damaging consequences for the future health and vitality of the church.

Lest he sound alarmist Mickens clarifies that he is not talking of the demise of the Catholic Church. “God is not dead and the Holy Spirit will never leave Christ's faithful” he asserts. Rather it is “about the crumbling of the present governing and organizational structure, which mirrors certain features of the Roman Empire”.

He goes on to say “Francis is effectively laying the foundation for the deconstruction of the current model ... His goal is to make the structures and mentality of the Church more reflective of the Gospel and the person of Jesus ... He is creating a large and indispensable

(Contd.. on p. 9)



by chhotebhai \*

(Contd.. from p. 8)

forum for all voices to be heard through the classic, but too often forgotten, process of discernment” (a Jesuit forte). In many ways he is echoing the call of Jeremiah. “I have put my words in your mouth. Look, today I have set you over the nations and kingdoms, to uproot and to knock down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant” (Jer 1:10). And again, “Prophets and priests roam the country at their wits end”(Jer 14:17).

Now back to Germany and the USA. Earlier this month Cardinal Marx of Munich and Freising submitted his resignation to Pope Francis, assuming responsibility for his inability to curtail clerical sex abuse. Ironically, he was in the forefront of Francis’ campaign against this huge blot on the church. Many hailed Marx for his humility and pragmatism. Others said that he was abandoning a sinking ship.

I was one of those who did not expect Francis to accept Marx’s resignation. Firstly, he was not responsible for what others had done. It was a situation that he had inherited and fought against. Secondly, as a close confidante of Francis, it would have been seen as an act of surrender to the lobby that oppose Francis’s reform agenda. Germany, like Australia, was one of the few countries that had adopted the synodal path, as the way forward. Of this Marx had earlier said “The church is at a dead end. Change is possible only if we take the synodal path”. The German Synod has 230 members, including lay representatives from the Central Committee of German Catholics. Topics for the Synod include power structures and participation in the Church, sexuality and partnerships, priestly existence today (notice the choice of words) and women’s ministries and offices in the Church.

There was too much at stake for Francis to accept Marx’s resignation. To the contrary he responded by saying that the whole church is in crisis because of abuse. It cannot have a “head in the sand” (ostrich like) policy. He reminded Marx of St Peter’s first interaction with Jesus. Sensing his own inadequacy he had blurted out “Depart from me a sinner”. Jesus’ response was “Feed my sheep”, the same command he gave

to Peter at the Ascension. Peter is my favourite biblical character. He is so human and yet so forthright, ideal for Christian discipleship!

It is for this reason that Mickens, again writing in *La Croix*, says that “Marx is one of the most energetic and forceful proponents of ecclesial reform through synodality, a process of wide ranging consultation of the church members that Francis is trying to make constitutive of Catholicism”.

Now to the other end of the spectrum, across the Atlantic, in the USA. The roots go back to the time that Abp Vignano was the Nuncio. He had then levelled serious allegations against Pope Francis that were subsequently disproved. He had the backing of several American bishops, the conservative lobby that were against Francis’ reformist agenda. Many of us in India, whose only experience of the USA is through Hollywood movies, think of American society as liberal. The election of Donald Trump in 2016 proved quite the contrary, that the majority of Americans were illiberal, intolerant, racist and even mysonigistic. As with the BJP in India, Trump appealed to those same sentiments for his re-election campaign in 2020. This was compounded by the fact that his opponent, Joe Biden, was a practicing devout Catholic. The problem arose because the Democratic Party, to which Biden belonged, was pro-abortion. Trump then prevailed upon the pro-life lobby among the American hierarchy to support him on this one point agenda.

It is in this context that we must see the attempt this month by the American bishops’ conference to pass a motion to deny Holy Communion to Biden. This threatened to cause a schism in the Catholic Church in the USA. The charge against Biden was led by the President of the bishops’ conference, Abp Jose Gomez of Los Angeles; whom Francis had repeatedly passed over in his selection of cardinals.

This denial of communion is actually heretical, based on the Jansenist heresy. Its name is derived from Bishop Cornelius Jansen of Ypres in the seventeenth century. He believed that the “church constituted only of saints”. So Commu-

nion was a reward for being good. This dangerous teaching was condemned by Popes Pius VI, Urban VIII, Innocent X and Alexander VIII.

It is also contrary to the ecclesiology of Vatican II. The Dogmatic Constitution of the Church describes itself as an “initial budding forth” (LG 5), not something in full bloom. It again describes itself as a “pilgrim” (LG 8) not something that has reached its destination. It clearly admits that the “Church embraces sinners sin her bosom” (Ibid).

So who is in error – Abp Gomez or Pope Francis? The answer is obvious. That is why Francis had to intervene, warning the American bishops that they were in serious error. It was left to the Papal Nuncio, Abp Christophe Pierre to tell them that “Holy Communion is not merely a thing to be received, but Christ himself, a person to be encountered”. Writing in the *National Catholic Reporter*, Christopher White commented that church “unity should be based on encounter and dialogue, not merely on doctrinal or juridical unity.”

Where do the bishops of India stand? Have they answered Papa Francesco’s phone call? Have they heeded his call for a synodal, participative, transparent and accountable church? Or are they, with their medieval European Coats of Arms and honorifics like Eminence/Excellency still stuck in the Middle Ages, or worse still, the Dark Ages of Church History?

Till recently the Indian hierarchy and even the Nunciature were notorious for their ominous silences. However, in the very recent past I have had a few members of the hierarchy responding to my articles and correspondence. So all is not lost. As the poet Alexander Pope said “Hope springs eternal in the human breast”. He was an eighteenth century English poet, not a pope!

Maybe the CBCI will pick up the receiver the next time they hear “Ciao, questo e` Papa Francesco”. Perhaps they could begin by changing their telecom service provider!!

• The writer has expressed these thoughts in greater detail in his latest book *The Jerusalem Code*.

## World Blood Donor Day!

On June 14, communities celebrate World Blood Donor Day! For 2021 the slogan is: "Donate Blood and Keep the World Beating"! – To raise awareness of the need for safe blood and blood products as a life-saving gift!

Pope Francis in a tweet said, "I sincerely thank the volunteers, and I encourage them to continue their noble work, bearing witness to the values of generosity and gratuitousness!"

According to the World Health Organization (WHO) – A country should be able to collect blood which should be equivalent to one percent of its population. WHO also stressed:

"Safe blood and their products are a critical aspect of public healthcare. They save millions of lives through keeping patient's hearts beating, thus ensuring their wellbeing! But blood shortages now are particularly acute in developing countries!"

"This 'Day' also calls for an opportunity to action by governments and national health authorities to provide for adequate resources; and to put in place systems and infrastructure facilities, to increase the collection of blood especially from voluntary unpaid blood donors." (I personally know this situation, as I had worked in the K.E.M. Hospital Blood Bank, Parel, Mumbai, as a Resident Pathologist).

Donating blood is indeed a unique gesture of what Lord Jesus did at His 'Last Supper' – And consummated at His Crucifixion through the shedding of His precious Blood: "My Blood of the covenant, poured out for the forgiveness of sins. // Greater love has no one than this, to lay down one's life for friends – and you are my friends" (Matthew 26:27-28 // John 15: 13-14).

—Dr. Trevor Colaso,  
Vienna, VA. USA.

## 51 Inspirational Stories

By F.M. Britto

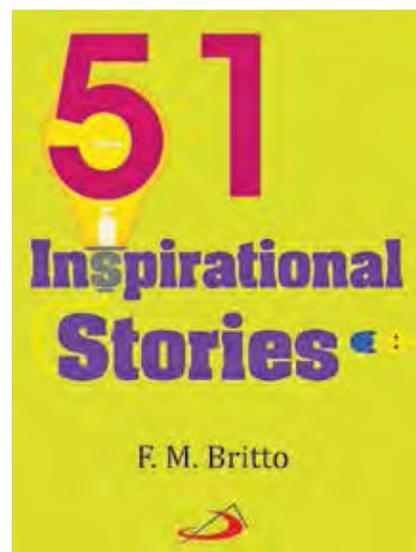
Reviewed by  
Ladislav Louis D'Souza

BETTER YOURSELF BOOKS, Bandra, Mumbai – ISBN 978-81-7108-923-9 – pp 176 / Rs 180/-

Everybody loves a good story! And why - precisely because the goodness of a story lies in the fact that besides entertaining, its narration often helps bring out a moral from the many lessons that life is constantly teaching us day in and day out. Amazingly, the best lessons one learns is from apparently insignificant, commonplace happenings around us, which is what makes the 51 INSPIRATIONAL STORIES in this book so significant!

It may be pointed out that the subjects of Britto's stories are straight out of the ordinary, springing off the streets of India's innumerable villages, towns and cities into his consciousness so to say! He thus weaves stories that, enhanced with personal life experiences, cannot help but inspire the reader to good action. As seen from the titles listed in the 'Contents', most of these stories are based on facts backed by his personal interactions [as a priest of the Archdiocese of Raipur] with the marginalized in some of the poorest regions of the country.

Simple and straightforward in style, devoid of redundant trivia, these stories concern the visually blind achieving much in life with their kind of 'vision', those outright poor making it big in more ways than one, and so on! Readers will thus find themselves being least bothered about details such as the names of persons and places which have been changed for obvious reasons. It is the value summarized in a quote at the end of each story that brings alive a virtue sometimes long forgotten that can ultimately ben-



efit the reader each time the book is opened.

The avowed objective of the author in writing 51 INSPIRATIONAL STORIES and that of BETTER YOURSELF BOOKS [ST PAUL'S] in publishing it is commendably manifold: firstly, to initiate in the life of the reader the formation of an uplifting story encompassing life's lessons; secondly, to help readers share life's experiences, especially in the context of the unhealthy situation prevalent today in the country and in the world at large; and thirdly, to foster the spread of goodness and positivity all around that only a good, soul-stirring story can!

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# The Winter Of Motherhood Has Arrived

One aspect of the obligation to protect life and defend it from any hostile intrusion is to confront the malignant foe as service to God and our neighbor.

Covid-19 is our primary obligation today to combat the invisible enemy, and save the institution of marriage and motherhood. It is our Christian responsibility to support Pro-Life and to help prepare young people to consider the fulfillment of their love in a church wedding.

Shrinking populations are becoming a lifestyle in European, American and British societies. The only place you might hear of population 'explosions' as it had been in the past is in The Far East, India, The Middle East, Third World and SAARC Countries.

**The winter of Motherhood has set in across the world: millions of young lives are being sacrificed on the altars of hate, violence and greed. Marriages in the recent past had been a healthy sign of parish and community life. Today, the church and her people are dying because of a man-made virus created in a lab in China.**



BY MELVYN BROWN

Women in the EU are actually desperate to have their freedom from domestic routine, and the aching hours of being a working-mother to unruly children (ever since society went on a rampage to promote the word 'child-abuse') Did you know a child today can prosecute his parents, or any one on the grounds of being slapped or chastised? "Spare the rod and spoil the child" is a long

lost trend of culture.

Today, the trend is to spawn a society of "child-rule" and "love-hate", a very new millennium phenomenon over which mothers abroad are in a conundrum.

Now, in 2021 the winter of motherhood has come. Being childless, for women seems a legitimate option. Women don't mind having children when in their late 30s and 40s. In Europe many couples are childless. The college educated women in America is growing rapidly and they are objecting to motherhood.

The social corset is blown and young mothers are only in the 15 percent (1995). Japan's National Institute for Population Research states "the birth-rate in Japan stands at a dismal 2.25 per women, a record 56 percent of 30-year-old women are still childless.

Countries like Italy, Greece and Spain that were once synonymous with the word 'fruitful', have the lowest birth rate in Europe. The only tightknit clans are those of old generations. "Because my biological clock is ticking," said a woman in her late 30s. "I want a marriage based on love, not for money and security."

The backlash of motherhood is increasing in talks on sanctions against being childless. These talks have been openly discussed from Berlin to Moscow. In Russia, says a Census Bureau, the birth-rate had dropped from 2.3 in the 1980s to 1.3 present days. In Japan one-child mini family is becoming a new image of the country.

Society in Europe should try to persuade women to have children early. After the age of 45 their fertility drops rapidly. Keeping women's eggs viable longer than 40-45years of age is a

problem. In India we Christians emphasise on low birth-rates as the acceptable social norm, not any longer if we, as a community are to survive in the future.

However, the power of religion helps women rush into "arranged" marriages from 15 years or earlier in the villages. In urban areas of large cities the age group from 19-23 years (also through 'arranged' marriage). The dramatic depopulation of Europe could be a hidden blessing to Asian countries scrambling to go abroad in their quest for quiet, peaceful, organised and disciplined life, not any longer. Covid-19 has destroyed man's vision, hope and plans worldwide.

The backlash to motherhood is only the tip of the iceberg. The winter storms on Motherhood must be taken seriously. Single parenting and adoption is a moving ice field across the European continent, North and South America.

**The Jerusalem Code**  
by Chhotebhai

**The Jerusalem Code**  
chhotebhai

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

## Egg-cellent Jokes

1. What do you call an egg who likes to go on safari?  
A. An eggs-plorer!
2. Why was the egg late for school?  
A. He didn't study for the eggs-am.
3. Where do Eskimos keep their eggs?  
A. Inside an egg-loo!
4. What do you call a scared egg?  
A. Terri-fried!
5. Why did the new egg feel so good?  
A. Because he just got laid.
6. What did the doctor tell the chicken with high cholesterol?  
A. Try to lay off eggs for a while.
7. What do you call a smart omelet?  
A. An egg head!
8. How do chickens stay fit?  
A. They eggs-ercise!
9. Why did the eggs go to school?  
A. So that they could become egg-ucated.

--- Sent by: Jubel D'Cruz

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Tell a woman she's beautiful a hundred times and she won't believe you. Tell a woman she's fat once and she will remember it for the rest of her life because elephants never forget.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Depression

Business Interview With Depression  
Inside my brain...

Me: So... You're new?

Depression: (I don't know who he is yet) mHMMMmmm!

Me: Well what are your skills?

Depression: Oh, taking control and leading... You know...

Me: What are you trying out for?

Depression: Oh, Vice Leader of Negative Thoughts.

Me: Well we do need someone over there- for somewhat reason nobody wanted that job...

Me: How did you know about us?

Depression: Oh- I knew because of Anxiety, you know, we're friends!

Me: Interesting... (Still has no idea about Anxiety and it's problemos)

Me: Well I think you're signed up! I'll give you the job!



Depression: tHaNKS :)

### AND THATS HOW MY LIFE GOT DESTROYED

\*\*\*\*\*

There's a plane going down over the desert with only 3 parachutes on board. There are four people on-board, the smartest man in the world, the best doctor in the world, an old priest, and a young nerd. The doctor says, "People need me for my medical skills." grabs the first parachute pack, and jumps. The smartest man in the world says, "People need me for my intelligence." grabs a pack, and jumps. The old priest says, "I have lived a long and happy life. You take the last chute." The nerd says, "Don't worry. There are enough chutes for the both of us. The smartest man in the world just grabbed my backpack."

\*\*\*\*\*

Give a man a plane ticket and he'll fly for a day. Push a man from a plane and he'll fly for the rest of his life.

\*\*\*\*\*

One night a girl said to her family "Goodnight Mommy, Goodnight Daddy, Goodnight Grandma, Goodbye Grandpa. the next morning her grandpa died. That night she said "Goodnight mommy, Goodnight daddy, Goodbye Grandma. the next morning the grandma died. The dad started to fear for his life because he was next. That night the girl said "Goodnight mommy, Goodbye daddy. the next morning the dad woke up and he was perfectly fine but when he went into the kitchen he saw his wife crying. when he asked her whats wrong she said "The Mail Man died".

\*\*\*\*\*

My teacher gave us an assignment and one of the questions was "What do you want to be when you

grow up?" I answered "Happy". The teacher said I didn't understand the test, I said to her that she didn't understand life

\*\*\*\*\*

Teacher: People with Depression never get anywhere in life. Student 1: My mom has depression, but she died. Student 2: My sister has depression and she's going to Therapy. Student 3: My Dad Has depression, and he's Doing REALLY Well

\*\*\*\*\*

Little Johnny was sitting in class, and he was behind a girl called Sally. The teacher asks the class, "Who created the Earth?" And Little Johnny pokes Sally in the back with his sharpened pencil, and she jumps and says, "MY GOD!" And the teacher says, "Yes, Sally, God did create the Earth." Sally sits down. Then, the teacher asks, "Where do you go after you live a good life?" and Little Johnny pokes Sally again, and she jumps up and says, "HEAVENS TO BETSY!" And the teacher says, "Yes Sally. You will go to heaven after you live a good life." Sally sits down, knowing full well Little Johnny was poking her. Sally gave Little Johnny an angry glare, and she turns around. And then, the teacher asks the class, "What did Eve say to Adam after their 77th child?" and Little Johnny pokes Sally HARDER this time in the back, and Sally jumps, turns around and says, "If you stick that thing in me one more time, I swear I'm gonna lose it!" And the teacher faints.

\*\*\*\*\*

In what ways do nuns and hoes have something in common?

They both worship on their knees. They are both creatures of habit. They both take vows of poverty and obedience. Once chosen, neither can leave the life. They both swallow their hosts.

\*\*\*\*\*

A man in conversation with his friend says that his wife is on a 3-week diet. The friend curiously asks, how much has she lost? The man replies, "her life."

\*\*\*\*\*

## How the East Indians got their name

The Portuguese arrived in India in 1498 and began evangelizing the local population. They converted the people of north Konkan---Bombay, Bassein , Thane etc and called them : "Portuguese Christians". Later, the East India Co came to India in 1600 as traders , mainly in spices. Spices were important since they were used as preservatives, especially for meat, as there were no refrigerators. In 1661 the Portuguese gave Bombay as dowry to the British after King Charles II of England married princess Catherine of Portugal. A little later, in 1668 Bombay was given to the East India Co for an annual rent of £10.

By virtue of being Catholics, the local converts in Bombay who were known as Portuguese Christians, were given preference in jobs by the British. With the advent of the railways and steam ships, immigrants from Goa began coming to Bombay for jobs. They lived in clubs known as kudds. At one time there were around 450 kudds , one for each village in Goa. These kudds were situated mainly in Dhobi Talao, Mazagoan and Chira Bazaar .These immigrants from Goa were also called 'Portuguese Christians'. They too got preferential treatment for jobs.

The local Bombay Portuguese Christians wanted to distinguish themselves as the sons of the soil, from the Goan Portuguese Christians, so that they don't lose out to the Goan immigrants in jobs. So during the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Coronation of Queen Victoria in 1887 they made a request to the Empress for them to be known as East Indians. It is not known if Her Majesty acceded to their request but from that time (1887) they have called themselves East Indians. They chose the name East Indian to show their loyalty to the crown and the East India Co.

—Prof Robert Castellino  
Malad Mumbai



### Ingredients:

2 litres milk  
3 cup water  
2 cups sugar  
2 tbsp all purpose flour  
1 tsp rose water  
2 tsp powdered green cardamom  
3 tbsp lime juice

### Method:

Making rasgullas is a child's play if you know the right steps and almost everyone can make this delicious mithai.

Take a heavy-bottomed pan and add two litres of full-cream milk to it.

When it comes to a boil, reduce the flame and add the lemon juice.

Your milk may take a while to curdle and you may require to add a little more lemon juice.

Once the milk starts curdling, keep the flame low and allow it to boil for a few more minutes so that the whey and chhena separates.

Switch off the gas. At this point, you can clearly see the green whey and the paneer or chhena which will separate from the water and stand out as small chunks.

Allow the hot liquid to cool for 10 to 15 minutes. Now take a muslin cloth or a large strainer and strain away from the whey. Wash it in running water to remove the smell of the lemon. You can store this whey and use it in soups and stews or curries. It is very nutritious. Many people also like to drink it by adding a little salt or sugar.

Tie it in the muslin cloth once the chhena cools a bit, squeeze away extra water and allow it to hang for some time. Do not refrigerate or it will make the chhena rubbery. This process may take 3 to 4 hours.

Heat water in a pan. When it comes to a boil, add sugar and allow it to simmer on a low flame. After 10 minutes, check the syrup by taking a drop of it in a spoon. If it is of one string consistency, your syrup is ready. Add the juice of half a lemon. This will prevent the syrup from granulating later. Also, add gulab jal and cardamom powder. Switch off the gas.

Take the chhena from the muslin cloth and keep rubbing portions of it from your hand. At this point, you can add the flour. You have to rub it enough so that it becomes completely smooth and starts releasing a little oil. Once your chhena is smooth enough and much lighter in texture, make smooth round balls and keep aside.

Meanwhile heat the sugar syrup again till it reaches a boiling point. Make sure you make small balls as they will swell up once they absorb the syrup. Add the rasgullas one by one in the syrup ensuring there is enough space in the pan. Boil for 8 minutes on a low flame. Do not stir. Now cover the pan and allow it to simmer on a low flame for 6 minutes. When you remove the lid, you will be delighted to see that the rasgullas have swelled up and are looking beautiful. Switch off the flame and allow it to cool.

The rasgullas can be enjoyed warm or cold. You can also relish them topped with fruits or ice cream.



Sweta D'Cruz

# The Cry For Justice



**A**isha Sultana, a native of Lakshadweep's Chetlat island, is today one of India's visible faces in the cry for justice! She is a well-known actor and director and an activist. Lakshadweep, a Union Territory, is an archipelago of 36 islands in the Arabian Sea: a paradise with pristine beauty. Its 70,000-strong population is predominantly Muslim (with smaller percentages of Hindus and Christians); although the people of Lakshadweep have strong ties with Kerala (the nearest place to the Indian mainland), they have a distinct social and cultural identity.

Recently, the current administrator (a hard-line politician of the ruling party) introduced a slew of draft legislation, which has sparked widespread protests not only in Lakshadweep but all over the country. The proposed policies are clearly anti-people and unjust, bound to have a wide-ranging impact on the islands: on the lives and livelihoods of Lakshadweep's residents. A land development plan gives the administrator vast powers to take over land and relocate people, and provides for stringent penalties for those who resist. The plan allows for mining and exploitation of mineral resources in the islands. Under the new rules, the slaughter of cows and transport of beef products has been made an offense. The Prevention of Anti-Social Activities (PASA) Regulation provides for detention of a person without any public disclosure for a period of up to a year. The legislations are clearly designed to help the crony capitalist friends of the ruling regime!

During a debate on a Malayalam news channel recently, Sultana blamed the administrator for the surge in coronavirus cases in the Union Territory. She said the Centre was using him as a "bio-weapon" against the people of Lakshadweep. A case of sedition was

filed against her with the complainant accusing her of "anti-national comments" and "tarnishing the patriotic image of the central government". Aisha has plenty of support coming her way with many saying that the filmmaker was only speaking for the rights of the people on the islands and about the administrator's "unscientific, irresponsible draconian decisions". On 17 June, the Kerala High Court granted her interim bail if she is arrested but also directed her to appear before the police in Lakshadweep for interrogation.

Then we have the case of the three anti-CAA student activists: Natasha Narwal and Devangana Kalita, from the JNU (members of women's rights group Pinjra Tod), and Jamia Millia Islamia student Asif Iqbal Tanha; all three of them were languishing in jail for more than a year, incarcerated under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA). On 15 June, the Delhi High Court granted bail to the three of them.

The Court order was a singular blow for freedom of speech and expression and the right to dissent. Among other things the order said, "*In its anxiety to suppress dissent, in the mind of the State, the line between constitutionally guaranteed right to protest and terrorist activity seems to be getting somewhat blurred*" ... "*If this mindset gains traction, it would be a sad day for democracy.*" The court also said there was a "*complete lack of any specific, factual allegations... other than those spun by mere grandiloquence*" and "*(such serious sections) must be applied in a just and fair way, lest it unjustly ropes within its ambit persons whom the Legislature never intended to punish.*"

The court said that in establishing a prima facie case under the UAPA provisions, there have to be "specific or particularised" allegations. It notes

that the prosecution has only made inferences about three activists, using "hyperbolic verbiage." Adding, "*Allegations relating to inflammatory speeches, organising of chakka jaam, instigating women to protest and to stock-pile various articles and other similar allegations, in our view, at worst, are evidence that the appellant participated in organising protests, but we can discern no specific or particularised allegation, much less any material to bear-out the allegation, that the appellant incited violence, what to talk of committing a terrorist act or a conspiracy or act preparatory to the commission of a terrorist act as understood in the UAPA.*"

At the core of the High Court judgement are two principles fleshed out in assertive language. Primarily, unless the ingredients of the UAPA are clearly made out in the conduct of the accused, protest and dissent cannot be outlawed by labelling them as a terrorist act. Secondly, UAPA can be applied only in exceptional circumstances. The draconian law cannot be invoked for crimes that do not fall under these exceptions, however egregious they might be; by establishing these principles and making several other crucial points, the Court has managed to put important fetters on the abuse of the UAPA provisions.

The Delhi Police (directly controlled by the Central Government) however, are unhappy with this judgement. They delayed releasing the three activists on bail, for more than two days and of course, they challenged the validity of the judgement in the Supreme Court. On 18 June, in their prayer, the Delhi Police wanted the Apex Court to stay the High Court order because they felt that it virtually records the acquittal of the accused and others would

(Contd.. on p. 15)



BY FR. CEDRIC PRAKASH  
SJ

(Contd.. from p. 14)

seek bail using this as precedent. The Supreme Court however, upheld the Delhi High Court's order granting the three activists bail. It also added that the Court's verdict of bail for the three - charged with conspiracy under strict anti-terror law UAPA - could not be used as precedent for future cases. What was indeed 'surprising' was the comment of the Supreme Court saying that the verdict of the Delhi High Court was 'surprising!' It agreed, however, to examine the legal aspects of the High Court verdict, and said the case would be taken up next month. Some of the recent blatantly biased pronouncements by the Apex Court make most concerned citizens wince!!

The UAPA is draconian and anti-Constitutional. It has been used selectively to crush voices of dissent and throttle those who take up cudgels on behalf of those crying out for justice: the Dalits and the Adivasis, the migrant workers and the slum-dwellers, the excluded and the exploited. We see it the case of Fr Stan Swamy and the fifteen others incarcerated in the Bhima-Koregaon conspiracy case. There are hundreds in jail today, like Umar Khalid and Siddique Kappan, under the UAPA, not because they are terrorists but because they dared to take on a corrupt and fascist regime. There is absolutely no doubt about that. Journalists and academics, as we saw in the case of Sulabh Shrivastava in UP, are killed because they demonstrated the courage to confront the mafia.

The nation is fuming just now as more than a hundred thousand residents of the Khori village on the Delhi-Haryana border under the jurisdiction of the Faridabad Municipal Corporation, are being evicted from their homes following a Supreme Court order of 7 June. The order said that the Khori basti is an encroachment on the Aravalli Forest land and so deemed it fit to order the municipal corporation to undertake evictions using force if needed. The vast majority of the Khori residents are ordinary workers of the NCR. They perform a range of services that are essential for the Capital. The early

residents were quarry workers who got stuck in a vicious cycle of debt to the quarry contractors. Over the years, urban poor who have been displaced from various bastis in Delhi to make way for urban development projects have also settled here. A large group also comprises low-income families who have migrated from the neighbouring states in search of jobs. It is true that the land of Khori Gaon officially belongs to the government; but these residents have been sold little parcels of land by dubious land dealers through power of attorney documents. The houses they have built are their entire life's savings. Over the years they have spent their meagre resources to obtain water and electricity services. Among the one hundred thousand to be displaced are apparently more than 5,000 pregnant and lactating women and over 20,000 minors.

Ordinary people: casual workers, daily wage earners, migrant workers, the unemployed bear the brunt of an inhuman and unjust system which caters to the whims and fancies, the profiteering of a few privileged elite! An important report 'No Country for Workers' released on 16 June highlights this painful reality. The report by the Stranded Workers Action Network (SWAN) focuses on the 'COVID-19 Second Wave, Local Lockdowns and Migrant Worker distress in India'. The Report states that 92 percent of India's workforce faces historic and unprecedented crisis and it relays the struggles of workers in their own words, the limited action taken by the central and state governments to arrest the continuing and alarming level of distress. Mainstream media today has conveniently obliterated the ongoing farmer's pro-

test. It is more than seven months now and the farmers are unrelenting. They are clear, that despite all the difficulties and the suffering that they have to go through the three anti-farmer laws must be repealed totally and unconditionally by the Government!

There are the so-called 'love jihad' laws which are patently unconstitutional, which deny an adult citizen the freedom to marry the person of his/her choice and for that matter also to embrace the religion of his/her choice. Already on 18 June a first arrest was made in Gujarat under the amended law which came into effect on 15 June. Also, in Gujarat the rights of minorities to administer their educational institutions are systematically being abrogated.

From Aisha Sultana to Natasha, Devangana Kalita and Asif I; from Khori to Lakshadweep; from the Bihar jail to Taloja jail: from Fr Stan to Umar; from the BK16 to the other UAPA incarcerated; from Sulabh to Siddique; from the farmers to the workers; from the unemployed to the refugees; from the minorities to the marginalised; from the caregivers to the academics; from the toolkits to brazen headlines; from rising costs to lack of vaccines - the cries for justice in India, have never been so shrill and clear! Every section of the country is today saying 'enough is enough! There is a blatant and insensitive lack of political will to adhere to the tenets of the Constitution, to democratic values and the fundamental rights of all citizens. Until the time that becomes a reality, the nation will continue to cry for justice!

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

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# Royal Christian Family MATRIMONIALS - GROOMS

**7184. U.K. :** Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in April 1990) Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn.B.Com., working as a Credit Control in Private company in U.K. Contact email : troyt007@gmail.com

**7102. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in August 1988), Ht. 6' 1", Wt. 95 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Masters, working for MNC. Contact email : am.pereira@rediffmail.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 : shaun.neo00.outlook.com

**7101. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in April 1988), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 68 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Masters in Logistics doing part time MBA. Working as an Asst. Manager. Contact email : gracion.moras@gmail.com

**7155. MUMBAI:** Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in March 1980) Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 67 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. 12th std., having own business well settled. Contact email : mendoncajeson@gmail.com

**7100. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in March 1987), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 52 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. H.S.C., working as a Event Coordinator. Contact email : celeseinepereira@gmail.com

**7216. MUMBAI :** Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in October 1988), Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 70 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBA, HR speacialization, Profession : Lead Recruiter. Contact email : willujames310@gmail.com

**7097. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in October 1991), Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 97 kgs, WheatishComplexion, Edn. B.Com., working as Sr. Account Recievable

in private company. Contact email : dsouzadonald11@gmail.com

**7218. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in November 1988), Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 68 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., Aviation, working as a Commercial Pilot. 1st Officer. Contact email : dcostajess@gmail.com

**7099. USA :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in March 1988), Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 82 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Sc.,working as a Computer Engineer in USA. Contact email : willatauro@gmail.com

**7220. MUMBAI :** Anglo Indian Roman Catholic Divorcee, (Born in May 1978), Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 76 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. MBA PGDM, working as a HR. Contact email : rodrigesmargaret69@gmail.com

**7068. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in June 1983), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 58 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. HSC, working as a Customer Service. Contact email : cynthiadalmeida83@gmail.com

**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

**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

**7203. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Ro-

man Catholic Bachelor, (Born in October 1985), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn.B.E. MBA, working for International Company. Contact email :

delphinempinto@gmail.com

**7202. MUMBAI :** Keralite Syrian Catholic Bachelor (Born in May 1973), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 73 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A., English Literature, Profession : Consultant Administration. Left Hand & Leg is weak due to earlier motor bike accident. Contact Email :

josephmullakara1973@gmail.com

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

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

clifford9948@gmail.com OR 9920331773

**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 : shaun.neo00.outlook.com

**7184. U.K. :** Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in April 1990) Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Credit Control in Private company in U.K. Contact email : troyt007@gmail.com

**7183. MUMBAI :** East Indian RC Bachelor, (Born in February 1991) Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 86 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. PGDM and BMS., working as a Relationship Manager. Contact email : ritadhawan10@gmail.com

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# Royal Christian Family MATRIMONIALS - BRIDES

**7066. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in June 1987), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 78 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.E., (EXTC) M.S. (International Business Management), working as a Consulting Manager. Contact email :

l2018anselm@yahoo.com

**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

**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

**7208. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in March 1987), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 78 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. BE, IT, working as Product Marketing for an e-commerce beauty Company. Contact email : temp123fab@gmail.com email : l2018anselm@yahoo.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

**7214. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in October 1986), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 52 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. CA CFA Ms Finance M.Com., working as a Senior Manager. Contact email : rfernandes020@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

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

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

**7197. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in April 1995), Ht. 5' 1", Wt. 55 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Graduate & pursuing MBA in Hotel and Tourism, working as a Travel Executive in Sharp Travel Private Limited. Contact email : joseph.monteiro84@yahoo.com, Mob. : 9869860580.

**7201. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in November 1992), Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 55 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.E. in Electronics & Com. working as a Business Analyst. Contact email : ggd\_oman@yahoo.com

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

**7198. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in January 1994), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 52 kgs, Fair Complexion, smart and good looking, Edn. MBA, PGDM, working as a Financial Analyst, Amazon. Contact email :

nicmacjac@gmail.com

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

**7173 BANGALORE :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1989), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 65 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. Bachelor of Engineering in EEE, working as a Sr. Engineer. Contact email : clara.kalare@gmail.com

**7106. AHMEDNAGAR :** Goan Roman Catholic Divorcee, (Born in January 1986), Ht. 5' 3", Fair Complexion, Edn. High School, Contact email : anthonyfernandes9850@gmail.com

**7170 MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in August 1996), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 80 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. Graduate, working for Bank. Contact email : jenniferdmello25@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

**7162 MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic 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

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# Frenzied Consumption

**T**he Greek singer Nana Mouskouri belted out, "Life was simple then. It will never come again...." Her words are so true. Our lives are becoming increasingly more complicated and stressful and we have ourselves to blame for we are getting addicted to material goods. "Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's needs, but not every man's greed" said Mahatma Gandhi. These words come to mind as we are faced with severe climatic changes due to global warming brought on by our obsession with more.

The Industrial Revolution which took place in Europe (1760-1840) was the first of momentous social changes. This Revolution spread throughout the world with colonialism. It was the harbinger of many life changing inventions including the digital revolution. With technology came economic progress which was good but also a population shift from rural to urban areas. The chasm between the rich and the poor widened. Cities became the breeding ground of disease and crime. The entire social fabric of cooperation was jettisoned and replaced by the abrasive fabric of fierce competition. Today ambition coupled with individualism is loosening the hold of restraining factors such as the family and a value system based on the common good. We could become obsessed with achievement at the cost of the well being of others.

Continuous technological changes brought about the mass production of goods. With the spread of communication, our lives have benefitted but these changes have also brought social, economic, spiritual and ecological upheavals in their wake to our detriment. Many gigantic conglomerates are products of modernity where humanity has to take a back seat to profits. The pied piper of consumer-

ism plays a merry tune which has us mesmerized and leads to destruction of a sustainable eco system.

The thinking now is, "I am not satisfied with what I have. I want more" – a better mobile phone, a faster computer, more clothes, designer shoes and bags, expensive holidays. The list is endless. As our increasing desires are fulfilled, our expectations likewise increase. Advertisements and the media are fooling us into believing that our desires are our needs. We are victims of fads. Easy loans which make easy money for lending institutions give us a feeling that we can live beyond our means provided our greed for consumer goods is satisfied immediately. We temporarily forget the stress we have to go through to repay our debt in monthly installments.



by **Monica Fernandes**

One such example is that of parents who have less time for their children because they are busy making money to buy a bigger house and a bigger car which they have been brainwashed into believing are needed for their survival. The pervasive culture of MORE translates gnawing into and destroying the very roots of our existence – our trees, our reserves of oil, our clean rivers and seas, our earth.

We have been sold the illusion that we can consume without restraint. But that is not really so. Earth's resources, which have taken centuries to accumulate, are not infinite. Secondly, they are not ours to deplete for they have been provided by a great and generous God and we are trustees of His exuberant creation. They are there for us to enjoy and use – not misuse.

Alas! We are too quick to blame others for the current state of affairs. Let us look into our own lives and see where we are going wrong and how we can remedy the situation. I judged

a friend who daily uses her washing machine for even a few clothes, thereby using electricity which in turn affects the environment. And then I realized that her clothes were mainly made of natural fibers such as cotton, linen and silk whereas I do have a lot of clothes made of artificial fiber. I could improve my consumption patterns in respect of my future buying of garments.

There is this rich young mother who happily mouths the usual jargon about doing her bit for the environment. Yet she goes around in a huge SUV, has a designer wardrobe and lives in a huge five bedroom house which is air conditioned twenty four hours a day. She feels that these luxuries are her entitlement.

What are we actually doing to be worthy trustees of shrinking resources? Do we really require such a huge wardrobe? Perhaps we could distribute to others who are in need. Are we recycling? Are we planting more trees or having potted plants in our balconies? Do we really need to subscribe to getting hard copies of newspapers and magazines when we could subscribe to getting them on line?

Coming to individualism, have bright students become so focused on their own grades that they have no time to spend coaching a friend who is less intelligent? What it boils down to is I, me, myself the center of the universe or is I, me, myself a part of society with a meaningful role to perform?

Revolutions such as the French revolution which resulted in so much bloodshed are a result of chasms between the rich and the poor. Let us not forget that society, like the human body, is made up of many individuals and when some parts of society prosper while others languish, this causes the gradual breakdown of the society as a whole. Let us shed our complacency and do our bit for a better world today for at this rate, our tomorrows are numbered.

# The Beauty of Marriage!

**Drs. Hazel & Trevor Colaso**



The 'Pope Video' for June 2021 about the 'Sacrament of Matrimony' arrives at a very opportune moment. Pope Francis on 19 March 2021 has convoked a special year dedicated to all 'Families' to end on 26 June 2022, with the motto - "Family Love: A Vocation and a Path to Holiness"! This coincides with the fifth anniversary of his Encyclical, "Amoris Laetitia (AL) – see below:

## **Pope's June 2021 Intention!**

"Let us pray for young people who are preparing for 'marriage' with the support of the Christian community – That they may grow in love, generosity, faithfulness and patience! Because a great deal of patience is necessary in order to love. But it is worth it!"

"Is it true, what some people say – that young people don't want to get married, especially during these difficult times (COVID-19)? Yet, getting married and sharing one's life is something beautiful!"

"It's a demanding journey, at times difficult, and at times complicated; but it is worth making the effort. And on this life-journey, the husband and wife are not alone, for Lord Jesus accompanies them!"

"Marriage isn't a 'social act'! It is a vocation that is born from the heart; it is a conscious decision for the rest of one's life, and it requires specific preparation!"

"Please, never forget this: God has a dream for us – 'love'! And asks us to make it His Own dream!"

## **Amoris Laetitia (AL)! Briefs:**

The opening phrase of AL declares: "The Christian proclamation on the 'family' is good news indeed" (1)

It is based on the beauty and joy of family life (19 March 2016)! AL focusses on 'three key issue': \*To place the family at the center of attention for the Church and society! \*So that every family may feel the presence of the Holy Family of Nazareth in their home! \*In order to fill the small domestic communities with sincere, generous and genuine love!

Pope Francis shares 'ten vital points' from AL for married couples:

\*Be Detached! \*Ask forgiveness! \*Rejoice Always! \*Be Confident! \*Cultivate Love! \*Choose Kindness! \*Reject Arrogance! \*Heal Envy! \*Service Attitude! \*Practice Patience!

But AL also reveals 'five disturbing trends'! \*The percentage of marriage is diminishing in many countries! \*This decrease is accompanied by an increase at the age at which couples marry! \*The percentage of children born outside of marriage has increased in almost all countries of the OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development! \*Single parent families have increased in many nations in recent decades! \*More than half of marriages end in separation and/or divorce!

AL concludes: "Marriage is a precious sign! For when a couple celebrate the Sacrament of Matrimony, God is 'mirrored' in them. He impresses in them His Own features, and the indelible character of His Triune Love! Marriage is thus the 'Icon of God's Love' for us!" (121).

Succinct Notes on Three Phenomena!

1. World Marriage Day (WMD)! It is sponsored by the Worldwide Marriage Encounter associated with the Catholic movement and is observed on the Second Sunday of February. It salutes their faithfulness, sacrifice and joy in daily married life! St. John Paul II in 1993 gave WMD his Apostolic Blessing!

The USCCB's theme for 2021 is, "To Have! To Hold! To Honor!" The Catholic supported Knights of Columbus for WMD 2021 have themed: "FAMILY – (F)ather (A)nd (M)other (I) (L)ove (Y)ou!"

2. Saat Pher!- The 'Seven Circumambulation' around the sacred fire; and is one of the important modes of a Hindu Marriage! The bride & groom make 'seven vows and pray' accordingly for: \*Nourishing, Pure Food! \*Spiritual, Physical and Mental Health! \*Creating Good Wealth! \*Love, Respect and Trust between Families! \*Heroic and Noble Children! \*Peaceful and Long Life! \*Loyal Companionship! The couple also petition for harmony and the wellbeing of the world!

3. Greco-Roman Monogamy! This grounded well for early Christianity (33-

324). And had principally arisen from the egalitarianism – the equality in fundamental worth and moral status of all humans; which in turn perpetuated this ideal in Western culture constructed upon a host of artistic, philosophic, literary, and legal themes and traditions! Marriage & Love in the New Testament!

The Catholic Church has elevated marriage to the Sacrament of Matrimony, just as God intended in His Divine plan to become "one flesh" (Genesis 2:18; 24). Further, the NT offers valuable wisdom and advice:

\*Jesus replied, "Have you not read that God from the beginning created them male and female. Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two become one flesh! So what God has joined let no one separate" (Matthew 19:4-6).

\*Husbands love your wives, just as Christ loved the Church and gave Himself up for her. This mystery is so profound, that it refers to Christ and the Church" (Ephesians 5:25;32).

\*Above all, put on love, which binds everything in perfect harmony. Wives submit to your husbands as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. // \*Treat them in an understanding way, showing honor to them as the weaker vessel; since they also are heirs to the grace of life! (Colossians 3:14; 18-19 // 1 Peter 3:7).

\*Let marriage be held in honor by all; and let the marriage bed be undefiled – For God will judge the sexually immoral and the adulterous (Hebrews 13:4).

\*Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God! Whoever loves, has been born of God; but anyone who does not love, does not know God – For God is Love! (1 John 4:7-8).

## **Catechism of the Catholic Church Concludes:**

"The matrimonial covenant established between a man and a woman, is a partnership directed towards the whole of life; and is ordered towards the good of the spouses, and the procreation and education of children. It has been raised by Christ to the dignity of a Sacrament" (Article:1601).

## MONTH'S MIND



BORN  
20-02-1935



DIED  
27-05-2021

### Dulcine D'leema

W/o. Late Philip Neri D'leema  
Co-Founder and Trustee of St Joseph's Education Society  
St Joseph's High School - Malad (East)  
St. Jude's High School - Malad (West)

Eternal Rest Grant Unto her and let  
Perpetual light shine upon her

Will Be Missed And Remembered Always...

*Deeply Mourned by :*

Daughter/Son-in-law : Adly/Henry Alva

Son/Daughter-in-law : Stanley/Claret D'leema

GC/O : Oscar/Moira, Alvin/Amrita, Christopher and Sheldon

GG Son : Yohaon

Family Members

Management, Staff and Students of  
St. Joseph's High School, Malad (East)  
St. Jude's High School, Malad (West)

*Month's Mind mass will be held on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2021 at 10.30 am  
Online : at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Orlem, Malad (West)*