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A NATIONAL FAMILY WEEKLY

“It’s High Time....” - Surely!

By Ladislaus Louis D'Souza

An international webinar organized by Voices of Faith, a Rome-based international network, on 10 July 2021 opened a can of worms concerning mind-boggling issues until recently shoved under the rug for obvious reasons. Occasioned by the publication of an 86-page book entitled *It's High Time: Women Religious Speak Up on Gender Justice in the Indian Church*, written by a three-member team led by Sister Hazel D'Lima DHM, the event had around 370 nuns, priests and lay people from India, Italy, Germany and several English-speaking countries participating.

A 13 July 2021 report on the event in Matters India by Sister Lissy Maruthanakuzhy of the Daughters of Saint Paul, a media related congregation, highlights various forms of “hierarchical exploitation” through the “findings of a Conference of Religious India survey conducted among the leaders of the women religious” in India.

Noted lay woman-theologian Astrid Lobo Gajiwala, who moderated the webinar, hailed the book as a “landmark document,” emphasizing that “for the first time, we have hard data that cannot be discounted. Indian Women religious have courageously called out the exploitation they experience in the church.” Given the calibre and credibility of both the writers of the said book and the organizers of the webinar, the numerous economic, spiritual and sexual problems of use, abuse and misuse that have surfaced as discussed below, must needs be earnestly taken serious note of by all concerned –

***Clericalism** – over-exercise of priestly power and domination can be demeaning to the laity in general and to women religious in particular. Sample this brazen statement from a priest to a parishioner: “O! So you got permission from your doctor to come to Church and receive Holy Communion, eh!?!”

***Sacramental blackmail** – instances of Mass not

being celebrated at convents even for months or the Blessed Sacrament taken away from the chapel are common, verbal abuse both in-person as well as off-the-pulpit being part of the harassment.

***Sexual abuse** – too huge a phenomenon to need an explanation! Both clergy and women religious need to introspect in terms of the evidently growing level of intimacy between priests/brothers and women in general, and women religious in particular. With lay-folk today increasingly observant and discerning, it is absurd to justify such liaisons by taking refuge behind the sanctimonious relationships between the likes of Francis and Clare d'Assisi. Add to the sordid bishop-nun rape drama being played out on the national scene the assertions of sexual misconduct by the defrocked Lucy Kalapura, as also the coyness displayed by starstruck nuns, and you have a recipe for disaster! ***Property wrangles** - land becoming a “bone of contention” in the church, religious are forced to take their disputes with dioceses to civil courts.

***Low wages** - women religious considered of lesser worth than other lay-folk in relation to parish service, despite being qualified and equal in work output: paltry sum for full-time service; nuns working in the Sacristy or preparing for the Liturgy gratis; some 47 of 174 dioceses in India identified as paying nuns wages non-commensurate with their work, the hierarchy considering them as mere “collaborators” in the church's mission....

Actually, the very practice of employing nuns in parishes is absurd. Each religious congregation/secular institute has its own charism and apostolate within the framework of which a nun is expected to give of herself in service to the Church. Where then does the concept of nuns sidetracking their mission in favour of working—whether paid or unpaid—in parishes come from? Could this be the result of clerical mistrust of laypersons as against a safer bet in entrusting certain tasks to nuns? Perhaps, on the one hand, nuns them-

(Contd.. on p. 3)

BSY booted out?

I like politicians because they are honest people - always speaking the truth and if you feel they lie then something is wrong with the listeners who do not read their entire speech – so say their Spokespersons. The latest one to speak the truth is the ousted Karnataka Chief Minister B.S.Yediyurappa [BSY] who kept on iterating and reiterating that he was resigning on his 'own' volition and that there was no pressure whatsoever from the top [BJP hates the term High Command]. If he was acting on his own why was he waiting for a go ahead from Delhi? When you, with a magnanimous heart, decide to go [as a goodwill gesture to let a younger leader take over] you should be rejoicing and not sulk and shed those tears for all to see. The moment Delhi said "Go" he met the Governor and resigned.

Some BJP leader said that unlike the Congress which struggled to appoint Siddhu as Punjab Congress Chief amidst public opposition by Captain Amarinder Singh, BJP could engineer the change without any murmur [at least publicly]. If that was the case why did it take so long? At whose behest did the Lingayat Seers put pressure on the BJP leadership rather overtly and say that BSY should not be 'removed'? Why was the son of the CM sitting in Delhi if not to negotiate the terms of transition and immunity for BSY? At the moment the Congress leadership is weak and cannot exert pressure on any CM. But it cannot be forgotten that when Indira Gandhi was in total command no Congressman could dare to go against her diktat. Today, the BJP is almost in that position with Narendra Modi at the helm [BJP Chief hardly matters]. He needs to take orders from the duo before he opens his mouth.

Finally, there is a change in the leadership in Karnataka with Bommai taking over as the new CM who is 61. If the wrong [appointing BSY when he was over 75] was being rectified, not too long ago BJP projected Mr Sreedhaaran as the CM face for Kerala at the age of 89. That much for principles! In the early years of its formation, the BJP could say it was a party with a difference but once the Modi and Shah took over the reins of the party, it has become as authoritarian. Elsewhere CMs are changed easily but BSY [like Yogi in UP] was a hard nut to crack.

VIEWS on NEWS

BSY knows his strength with the open support of his community and its seers – something that the leadership could not have ignored. While he was grooming his son to take over in due course, his attempt was foiled midway but knowing BSY he would have ensured that his son is taken care of by the leadership perhaps with a role in Delhi. BSY would not have agreed to step down leaving his heirs at the mercy of those in authority. He is too shrewd a politician. Leaving BJP is not an option for him with vultures [enforcement agencies] waiting to hound him and the leadership must have warned him.

BJP boasted of being a party that allows MLAs to choose their leader. It seems now they have learnt the art from Congress. The name of Bommai was finalized in Delhi and the observers, they say, carried the name in a sealed envelope and at the MLAs meet the name was read out saying "this is the choice of the BJP leadership". Can anyone dare to oppose then. The ousted CM is forced to propose the name of the CM decided by the leadership. Bommai is supposed to be very close to BSY whom he visited before the swearing-in ceremony. That shows how much clout BSY continues to exercise in Karnataka politics. Incidentally, if BSY's hands were clean he would have continued to be the CM. That's for sure. The discontent in BJP ranks is slowly but surely showing with MLAs in Karnataka leveling corruption charges openly. By the way some 75 MPs, reportedly upset at being ignored during cabinet reshuffle, abstained from parliamentary committee meeting? Disciplined party?

Passing the buck

This Modi government has excelled in the art of shifting the blame and washing its hands of all wrong doing. When it came to vaccine shortage there was hue and cry with state after state clamouring for vaccine doses, procurement of which was exclusively in the domain of the central government. Yet, the government found ways and means to divert the blame on the states for mishandling. The blame was shifted to the States [read non-BJP ones] saying they mismanaged the whole exercise.



by Marshall Sequeira

One can manage things if you first ensure steady and uninterrupted supply of vaccines in a planned manner. You have to remember that each state in turn has to distribute the stock down the line to all the districts, towns etc. While some wastage was inevitable, too much was made of it as if the entire supply was wasted. State after state reported shortage and that included BJP ruled states as well. Out of exasperation some of the states demanded a larger say in the procurement when the Modi government allowed them to place direct order with the suppliers. This did not work well and the matter came before the court and it pulled up the Modi government for mismanagement. The Modi government was asked to centralize the procurement. Mr Modi went public saying the states wanted to procure directly so they were allowed [no mention of central government's mismanagement]. Now that they want the center to handle it, Modi government will once again handle the matter. This is called passing the buck.

Finally, when the question of deaths of Covid patients for want of oxygen came up in Parliament the Minister declared that as per the data 'submitted' by the states and the UTs, no death due to shortage of oxygen was reported. It has now transpired that the format for providing data of deaths [Covid related] was provided by the Health Ministry which provided two columns – one death due to Covid and the other death due to co-morbidities. NDA- NO DATA AVAILABLE! Migrant labour – they say NDA; SMEs number – again NDA; that is the safest way to wriggle out of the situation. If you do not collect data, it won't be there. This NDA government has decided not to collect data so the question of sharing will not arise. Sometimes you feel there are good brains in the BJP. No wonder then, despite BJP majority being in the majority, they call themselves 'NDA' government.

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(Contd.. from p. 1)

selves need to understand better the importance of their own charism-driven mission; on the other, our parishes need to look more conscientiously at employing lay-folk other than nuns.

***Lack of clerical understanding** and respect for women religious and their mission and of a sense of shared planning and execution of tasks in the church's mission makes the functioning of women religious difficult.

***Importance of ongoing formation** – amazingly, all spiritual and emotional growth is said to cease once a candidate enters the convent. This brings to the fore the question of 'formation':

What sort of formation do young recruits to both priestly and religious life get, especially considering the diversity of the individual backgrounds each vocation comes from?

Significantly, Sister Noella de Souza of the Missionaries of Christ Jesus, a member of the survey team, strongly recommends that "we should train our young sisters in legal and human rights, theology, feminist theology, prophetic call and mission" (MI

10.07.2021). Further, apart from being taught relevant church documents, rising trends in spirituality and religious life demand an integral interpretation of the Bible. Karl Barth, 20th century Swiss Reformed Theologian, advises young theologians to "take the Bible and take your newspaper, and read both, but interpret newspapers from the Bible."



by Ladislaus Louis D'Souza

Noella feels that religious congregations should motivate their young to think critically and to face uncomfortable and exploitative pastoral situations with equanimity. She also avers that "we need to conscientize our sisters and the hierarchy and be firm that we shall decide our own future and our involvement in the Indian church by and for ourselves. We are adult enough to manage ourselves."

Sister Hazel D'Lima, citing her own experience as Superior General [SG] of the Society of the Daughters of the Heart of Mary, insists that one doesn't have to say 'yes' to everything. An Apostolic Visitor, sent to the Society for reasons she wasn't told of, was to scrutinize her governance of the congregation, she deferring everything to

him, which of course she refrained from! Resultantly summoned to the dicastery in Rome several times for lengthy questioning, Hazel proudly claims, "I did not engage any lawyer but honestly answered whatever I was asked to clarify. I suffered a lot through it, but in the end I not only completed my term as SG but was elected for a second term."

According to Noella, the survey didn't go down well with the bishops, further clarifying that later, the CRI executive committee, developing cold feet withheld consent for its publication. What ensured its eventual publication was legal counsel that it could and should indeed be printed and its findings shared with all respondents to the survey (including bishops).

"I have sat in silence as individual sisters wept through telling their stories," said Brother Philip Pinto, former Superior General of the Christian Brothers, and webinar panelist who penned the book's Preface. "Enough! **It's high time....** This is now the call for action....! Women religious of our time cannot allow a church in dire need of reform to continue in its broken state. They must speak up!"

Maximilian Kolbe: “Patron Saint Of Our Difficult Century

“ - Pope St. John Paul II

Fr. Kolbe, Feast 14 August

Saint Maximilian Kolbe, a Franciscan friar was executed with a deadly injection at Auschwitz, Germany, by Hitler’s prison guards on 14 August 1941. He offered his life in exchange for a condemned prisoner who had a wife and children.

“There is no greater love than this, to give one’s life for one’s friends.” (Jn.15:13).

When God created the human race He formed the idea of Family, to bring together man and woman in love and commitment, to procreate and continue humankind. Family is the cornerstone of society and a major concern of the Lord and the Church. Friar Kolbe supported the sanctity and values of family, the reason why he decided to make the sacrifice of his life for the condemned prisoner who had been chosen to die, because three inmates had escaped earlier.

At Fr. Kolbe’s canonization on October 10, 1982 Pope John Paul II said: “Maximilian did not die but gave his life....for his brother.”

The Polish priest had come forward that day and declared to the prison guard, “I am a Catholic priest from Poland; I would like to take his place because he has a wife and children.”



BY MELVYN BROWN

The Pontiff, during the solemn canonization service went on to say that Fr. Kolbe is “The Patron Saint of Our Difficult Century.”

Kolbe was also declared by the Holy Father as the “Martyr of Charity”.

From very young, Maximilian had great devotion to the Virgin Mary. Around 1906 he had a vision of the Mother of God. This incident was preserved in his note book:

“She came to me holding two crowns, one white, the other red. She asked me if I was willing to accept either of these crowns. The white one meant that I should persevere in purity and the red that I should become a martyr. I said that I would accept them both.”

Maximilian Kolbe was born in Poland on January 8, 1894. As a young missionary priest he came to Kerala, India in 1932. A few years later he had to leave the missions of East Asia because the German invasion was sweeping across Europe, the start of World War II had begun.

The Polish Franciscan friar is one of the ten martyrs of the 20th century. His statue can be seen on the Great West Door of Westminster Abbey, London.

In 1907 Maximilian along with his older brother Francis enrolled with the Conventual Franciscans minor seminary in Lwow. By the year 1910 he was permitted to join the novitiate and was asked to pick a religious name, and he chose, Maximilian. His first vow was taken in 1911, and the final vows in 1914, adding the name Mary as his Confirmation name.

1915. Kolbe received a doctorate in philosophy at Rome. At the Pontifical University of Saint Bonaventure, he earned a doctorate in theology in 1919. About this time he was involved in the consecration and entrustment to Mary.

Through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, Kolbe worked for the conversion of the Freemasons, and sinners in the Catholic Church. He took the



initiative to add the prayer of the Miraculous Medal to his concerned association the “Militra Immaculate”. He made great efforts to promote veneration to the Virgin Mother of God. He was strongly against the leftist and the communist movements.

1918. Kolbe was ordained a Catholic priest. He spread devotion for the veneration of the Immaculate Virgin Mary.

Maximilian Kolbe took his missionary apostolate to Japan in 1930. By 1931 he founded the Franciscan monastery constructed on a mountain. When America dropped the Atom bomb in Nagasaki, the monastery survived, it was built on the other side of the mountain and was protected from the impact of the blast.

1932. The Polish friar left Japan for the missions

in Malabar, India. A year later Kolbe returned to Poland in 1936.

The outbreak of world War 11 was a bleak chapter in world history as the German forces raced across Europe. The Franciscans organized a hospital and several charity centers. Fr. Kolbe was arrested and released on 8 December, 1939. The aid he had set up providing shelter to refugees from Greater Poland helped in saving the lives of 2,000 Jews who hid in the Niepokalanow friary.

1941. Kolbe and four other priests were arrested by the Gestapo and put in prison. On 28 May Kolbe was sent to Auschwitz as “prisoner 16670”. On 14 August Maximilian Kolbe was killed by prison guards with a lethal injection. His body was cremated on 15 August, feast of the Assumption of Mary.



Thus sang the caged bird, Stan Swamy from his prison cell

"What is happening to me is not something unique that is happening to me alone. It is a broader process that is taking place all over the country. We are all aware how prominent intellectuals, lawyers writers, poets, activists, students, leaders, they are all put into jail because they have expressed their dissent or raised questions about the ruling powers of India. We are part of the process. In a way I am happy to be part of this process. I am not a silent spectator, but part of the game and ready to pay the price whatever be it for the crime I have not committed." Thus sang the caged bird, Stan Swamy before paying the biggest price by his own life.

Yes, Stan Swamy, the martyr is no more. He attained his martyrdom on July 5, 2021. His voice has been silenced forever.

More importantly, countless number of tribals, Dalits and the poor and marginalized people too have lost their voice because he was 'their' voice. In Stan Swamy they had found a saviour. Now the poor are left poorer in his absence.

Fr. Stan Swamy once said, "If I do

not speak for the poor and exploited, then I am not true to myself".

Fr. Stan Swamy's death is nothing but a cold-blooded murder.

Fr. Stan Swamy was a man of God. In him, the Dalits had found a saviour.

—Jubel D'Cruz,
Dombivili, Mumbai

Outrage on Goa beach

What happened on that fateful night a week ago on Benaullim beach, when two young girls were gang-raped by four youths after posing as policemen, is both a heinous crime and a blot on the Goa govt's poor security arrangements and inability to safeguard the weaker sex from rapacious wolves of prey. Goa being a favourite tourist destination, where thousands of tourists flock to our beaches, it is the duty of the Goa govt to maintain and ensure round-the-clock safety at these tourist places as well as for the tourists. We can't expect parents to stop their daughters from enjoying themselves by keeping them caged up at home, besides warning them to shun late-night partying. We have rape taking place in Goa even during the day. Goa's image as a safe tourist destination has already been tarnished with the number of rape cases on the rise in recent times. We need to safeguard our beaches as well as our 'betis'. We

cannot continue acting like the proverbial ostrich, thinking that all is well. It is time for the Goa govt to act now to redeem its sagging morale and reputation. Times have changed, and Goa is not the same as it was a few decades ago when people slept in their homes, with doors and windows open. The irony of it all is, that our 'betis' were safer then, than today.

—A. F. Nazareth,
Alto Porvorim, Goa

Politics - dirty business?

There was a very informative, insightful report in the Herald-Goa (17 July), on the state of politics in Goa. Looking at it from a larger perspective, it applies to all other states in the country.

The report seeks to sensitise citizens about their responsibility towards the nation. The title of the report, **Choose the right people, Herald will back you**, was apt. The Herald has taken up the responsibility of creating awareness among the people, raising some very valid points worth considering. Yes, it is our collective responsibility to reach the messages of key issues to the people. Further, the reports rightly states, **if the arteries of information, read awareness, are choked the issues that matter to the people will get choked, leading to a heart attack.** Considering the situation around us, it seems like the people are already choked and have suffered a massive heart attack.

Politics is not dirty business, It is the people, read politicians, who make it dirty. But, is it just the politicians who are to blame for this? Is it not the citizens themselves who must take part of the blame? It is said that politics has become dirty because the so-called good people have kept out. So, the reality is, you cannot clap with one hand, it takes two to tango. **We need to combine forces, that's the need of the hour! Kudos to the Herald for this great initiative.**

—Melville X. D'Souza
Orlem, Malad West

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How do you define today's media and journalism?

In the olden days, a newsroom conjured up an image of a fading, old building, with a fan crankily spinning overhead in a hall with stacks of paper scattered on the desk as the editorial staff struggled to meet the deadline. The look of the newsroom may have changed, but the enthusiasm that comes with doing an interesting story has not. This is what keeps journalists on the go. Beyond recognising a good story, having all round knowledge and looking for facts, today's journalists need to communicate their stories effectively using various mass media tools.

Journalists' roles have evolved in the past half century, from writing stories on a typewriter to editing on a computer; and from jotting down everything on paper to having recording devices at their disposal. Recent years have seen the burgeoning of journals and newer platforms of mass communication. In fact, with the onslaught of technology and other inventions associated with the Internet, getting acquainted with application development and other new media tools is necessitated.

This makes it all the more important for journalists to not only have all round knowledge, but to also update their skills in the face of changes in technology that have made sweeping changes to business models of newspapers. Newsroom integration is another of the major consequences of these changes. In mid -2013, Network 18 said that they would set up an integrated newsroom, consisting of its leading broadcast and digital news outlets in the business media space.

Data mining is one area that will expand hugely. It will be indispensable for all journalists to have digital skills. The Indian print media is taking baby



steps in this direction. All the newspapers have websites, and most are optimised for handheld devices. The shift away from paper to online will accelerate, and journalists who have multimedia skills will have an advantage over those who gambled that print will be around for another decade or two. Many different genres in journalism have been explored in recent decades. Today's journalists come from diverse backgrounds both in terms of intellectual disciplines as well as socio-economic backgrounds. Earlier, reportage was limited to government, politics and Parliament. There was hardly any coverage of development, environment and business, which are widely written about today. And now, freelancers have a field day in reporting facts and figures in the best way possible.

Business news is given significant weightage in the leading dailies, which in addition to having a business segment in the main edition bring out a separate business newspaper. In the coming years, journalists who have the ability to understand business and at the same time straddle the world of politics, government and Parliament will do better than those who only know politics. Integrity of a journalist plays a crucial role in how a story is communicated to the masses. Jour-

nalists have a strong role in influencing the culture of an organisation, especially addressing some of its approaches to doing stories, some of which may be ruining journalism. It won't happen unless individual journalists take a stand.

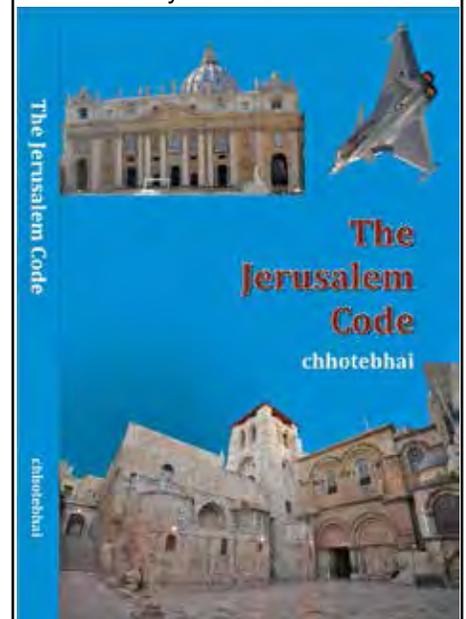
Most news that appears in newspapers is already known to the reader because of easy access to television and the Internet. So, how do you add value and make the report or subject look different? Investigative journalism is what distinguishes a newspaper or television channel — when news has become a commodity. For instance, you could look at farmer deaths in Maharashtra. You can probe the issue to find out the cause by going to the village, see how other people are coping, and what is being done to address the larger problem. It is not an easy task to manage a news media with all the requirements in the present day modern media world. There lies the real essence of news reporting.



C.K. Subramaniam

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Social Media can mislead faithful

- Ivan Saldanha-Shet.

People of all ages are buffs of Social Media today. It definitely has positive aspects and advantages aplenty. But, don't ignore the many negative aspects that are unscrupulously surreptitiously targeting to mislead the gullible users especially in groups - many get easily carried away, both mature and immature people, vulnerable adults and young. The misleading spin information and such may be planted with full knowledge that it is mischievous or through 'forwards'; often no resistance or objections come from administrators and members swallow the bait and remain silent due to various considerations and the damage can be huge often by 'brainwashing' and giving wrong ideas to the gullible common readers on all kinds of topics, specially sensitive beliefs.

Many instances can be given, readers



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here are predominantly Roman Catholic, so give you a brief example of a matter concerned with the church. On a WhatsApp group with many Catholics of Mumbai and Kanara, a post by someone calling himself "Fr. xxxx" (names better disclosed here to avoid any hurt) posted an image and video of a "Bishop" whose name he failed to disclose even on request. The video said to be in a known Mumbai catholic church, showed the 'Bishop' in full mass regalia, mitre and crosier at the altar rails welcoming a 'Priest' in full mass vestments, and 'purifying' his hands with what looked like 'holy oil' on cotton, then embracing each other and leading to the mass table, video ends there. One image shows the 'Bishop & Priest' holding up a testimonial. The post says that Fr.YYYY is being received back into the 'Church' after he was 'married' last month! Now for normal Roman Catholics this is a myth and even in the last 75 years of my life I never heard such stories. On this day no reaction came and only one person questioned if this was possible as Marriage for priests in the Catholic Church is prohibited and requested to clarify the position and circumstances; next day a couple of members protested.

The so called 'Fr.XXXX' clarified later in a message that 'It's called Ecumenical Catholic Church....priest who is married can function....I can start my own Church without the slavery

of Bishops...don't require bishops or popes to preach christ....I think of a trully biblical catholic church. I have experienced a lot in the RCC, I just think of a dozen people to begin with. The high-handed attitude of Catholic church, it is self destruction'.

Analysing the post that day it is evident that many would be confused and misled that such a thing can exist in the church and the impact is damaging and unpredictable....Later 'Fr. xxxx' said that he was a retired priest and living on his ancestral property in Coastal Karnataka. Request to identify the Bishop in the picture received no response. There is possibly a frustrated/depressed person here and can cause chaos among viewers. At this point the group administrator demanded that the discussion be closed.

The vital cause to write here is to warn that such elements are on the rise everywhere in these uncertain times, so beware, be informed and never fail to question when you feel there is a fault. Church authorities need to be watchful, monitor and prevent such misleading attempts by vested interests to confuse, dilute and put one on the wrong path in vital matters. There are grave and serious dangers to damage and confuse with wrong beliefs, discredit and side track the vulnerable innocent faithful.

Thanksgiving

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



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

—G. N. P,
Goa

Pegasus Spyware - What are we to Make of It.?

by Don Aguiar.

Fresh revelations about India's ruling regime by a collaborative investigation into Israeli "cyber-intelligence" company NSO Group show the country is rapidly slipping into a nightmare under its watch. The summer of dying (Covid-19) is quickly morphing into what looks very much like a summer of spying.

The Pegasus scandal has now created an uproar in the monsoon session of parliament. The opposition has demanded that the Home Minister step down. Mody's ruling party comfortable with its brute majority is on the defensive in parliament busy denying the latest revelations when it should have been the most worried about allegations that phones in India were hacked.

Democracy is undermined by such invasions of privacy, so it is the government which must investigate them as according to the latest findings, the

majority of the 1,000 phone numbers on a leaked list of 50,000 numbers are from eleven countries including India.

Stuck with a government where Loyalty is just a Tattoo. Love is just a Quote AND Lying is the New Truth. This denial partly explains why it is sharing space on the Pegasus list with ten other "not free" and "partly free" countries — Mexico, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Hungary, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Morocco, Rwanda and Togo according to the ranking brought out by Freedom House, a US organisation.

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FI152024 Age 29
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As far as the Modi Government is concerned any attempt to come out with the truth is a conspiracy against India. As if the opposition and citizens demanding a probe were spied on are simply actors who lay down spitefully in the shallows. There has to be something treasonous about a foreign corporation servicing and maintaining a spy network that is monitoring a country's private citizens on behalf of that country's government.

India is the world's largest democracy, presently takes political prisoners and recently got clubbed with several of these countries on other lists that rank them very low on religious freedom and democracy indices.

To be less free than before is like saying that nobody must question or critique the government even if the economy tanks, impulsive policies replace deliberation and mismanagement is rife in economic and social life. If people are not allowed to protest, they may be better off in other countries that are equally or more repressive. It amounts to admitting that countries with better power and water supply, roads and buildings, or those that are cleaner or more secure, but where citizens cannot speak against the regime, are better off than India. In other words, it gives people a false choice between comfort and freedom.

Over the years some of us have become scholars of the sinister lengths to which the Modi government will go to entrap those it considers enemies and its more than simple surveillance. U.N. experts declared the terrorism charges brought against Indian activists to be a "pretext to silence human rights defenders." Still, they remain imprisoned.

What are we to make of Pegasus Spyware? To cynically dismiss it as

(Contd.. on p. 9)

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(Contd.. from p. 8)

a new technology iteration of an age-old game in which rulers have always spied on the ruled would be a serious mistake. This is no ordinary spying. Our mobile phones are our most intimate self. They have become extensions of our brains and bodies. Illegal surveillance through mobile phones is not new in India. Most Indian activist know that. **The technology cannot be rolled back, technology is not going anywhere... it's going to be cheaper, it is going to be more effective, it is going to be more available.**

However for us to cede to governments and corporations the legal right to invade and take over our phones is to voluntarily submit ourselves to being violated. Spyware such a Pegasus puts not just the user of each infected phone but the entire social circle of their friends, families and colleagues at political, social and economic risk.

We will have to migrate back to the old world in which we are not controlled and dominated by our intimate enemy – our mobile phones. We have to try to rebuild our lives, struggles and social movements outside the asphyxiating realms of digital surveillance. **We must dislodge the regimes that are deploying it against us. We must do everything we can to prose open their grip on the levers of power, everything we can to mend all that they have broken, and take back all they have stolen. If we do nothing,**

we sort of sleepwalk into a total surveillance state where we have both a super state that has unlimited capacity to apply force with an unlimited ability to know and target and that's a very dangerous combination.... That asymmetry can only lead in one direction. Malignancy. And the end of Democracy. This is the direction of the future if we remain silent and docile.

The cruelty with which India treats its critics speaks to the alarming deterioration of what is often celebrated as one of the world's foremost democracies. It feels much worse now because India has a record and reputation of

being a flawed but working multi-ethnic democracy, which is being erased by Mr Modi brute backing of his bhakts and the Indian bhakt media who are those citizens who cheer him wildly as their freedom gets taken away, their purses get emptied and their future is hollowed out. No shortage of such people in these polarised times in India, but reality will bite sooner than you think.

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Happy and humbled to be a Jesuit!

A thirteen- fourteen-year-old has many dreams! That's an impressionable age; at the cusp of finishing school. It is also a time when one tastes a different kind of 'freedom': to go for camps with boys of your own age (not with one's family). Such camps and outings were always enjoyed to the hilt. The ones however, which still remain etched in my memory are the 'mission camps' to the Jesuit missions in Maharashtra and Gujarat. Being a 'Bombay Boy', a trip to the rural areas was a very special experience: the silence and simplicity of the villages were a marked difference from the hustle and bustle of a big city; on the other hand, the warmth and hospitality of the locals despite their abject poverty always meant much. Then there were the Jesuits (several Spaniards among them) who had given up every comfort which could have been theirs, to live a life identifying with the local people: sharing their joys and sorrows, building bridges, educating them to a more dignified and equitable life. Can't help looking back and say that today, I am happy and humbled to be a Jesuit!



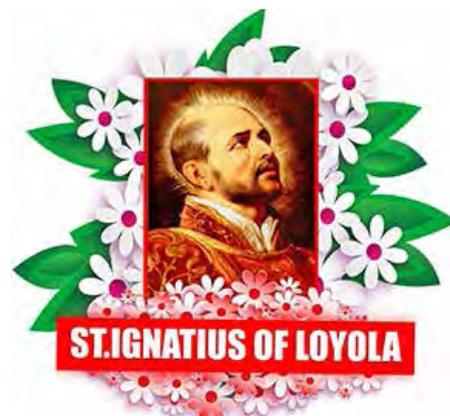
BY FR. CEDRIC PRAKASH SJ

Then there were the College years: it was a joy and pride to be a Xavierite, particularly as it entered its Centenary Year. St. Xavier's College, Bombay has always been special, most alumni will vouch for that! Four memorable years: the classroom was just one arena for education but there were many more: a whole range of co-curricular activities that helped one to grow. Then there were the Jesuits of the college – all stalwarts in their own right. In the College Social Service League – one was provided with ample opportunity to reach out to the slum-dwellers in Dharavi or the Adivasis of Talasari. There was the influx of refugees into West Bengal in the wake of the war of liberation in East Pakistan and of

course, the Xavierites went all the way to Salt Lake City to serve the displaced. I will never forget that Spanish Jesuit who after tough class hours would go to be with the street urchins in VT or Churchgate or Bombay Central Railway Stations-, encouraging some of them to find some security and safety in the 'Snehasadan' Home in Andheri. These were great human beings – who transcended narrow confines, that is why I am happy and humbled to be a Jesuit!

The years in the AICUF (All India Catholic University Federation) were also special: first as a member and then for a year as a full-timer in Madras. AICUF, a student movement has shaped several National leaders – both women and men committed to the task of nation-building and serving the poor and underprivileged, the exploited and the excluded of the country. The intellectual, spiritual and social formation one received in the AICUF was tremendous. The Directors, Advisers, Chaplains at that time, were mostly Jesuits: they mentored and guided, challenged and guided the young students who looked up to them. Those were the years when we had the watershed moments: first in Poonamallee and then in Goa. In both places as youth, we had the hunger and thirst to see a new India. Our basic pledge was *"We were born in an unjust society and we are determined not to leave it as we have found it"* We launched 'Project Know India' encouraging youth like us, to spend at least a year among the less privileged in the villages and slums of India. Some did so; it was a transformative experience for them. All thanks to the vision and the commitment of the Jesuits; that is why I say without hesitation that I am happy and humbled to be a Jesuit!

The defining programmes at that time



were the ones on social awareness. These opened our eyes and hearts to what was happening around us. We had opportunities to do social analysis: to see and understand in an objective and studied manner the painful realities that gripped so many in society. Many questions: why are only some children able to access quality education? Why are there so many child labourers in the country? Why do the poor, become poorer and the rich, richer? Why are there no adequate health care facilities in the remote tribal areas? Why do people have to leave their villages to eke out an existence in the cities? Why are the Adivasis deprived of their natural habitat: *jal, jungle aur jameen*? Who profits from their impoverishment? Above all, what would Jesus do if he were around today? Such questions and many more relevant ones, challenged us: made us look at our own lives in comparison to the vast majority. Deprivation and injustice were their lot; we had to conscientize ourselves and others to be the change we want to see. Many of these programmes were conducted at the Jesuit Indian Social Institute in Bangalore. The ability 'to see' things differently and to have the motivation to do something about it were certainly because of the Jesuits and that is why I am happy and humbled to be a Jesuit!

From the early sixties, the Church has been responding in a contextual and meaningful way to the women and

(Contd.. on p. 11)

men of our times. The Second Vatican Council had a fundamental question *what does it mean to be the Church of God in the modern world?* The path-breaking Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the modern world 'Gaudium et Spes', was an apt response to what St. Pope John XXIII envisaged as the sum and substance of a historic intervention. Earlier, in his Encyclical 'Pacem in Terris' he underlined the inviolability of human rights and the four non-negotiables of Truth, Justice, Charity and Liberty, which are prerequisites for sustainable peace; with that profound statement *"There is a saying of St. Augustine which has particular relevance in this context: "Take away justice, and what are kingdoms but mighty bands of robbers."* Fifty years ago in 1971, the Synod of Bishops declared, *"even though it is not for us to elaborate a very profound analysis of the situation of the world, we have nevertheless been able to perceive the serious injustices which are building around the world of men a network of domination, oppression and abuses which stifle freedom and which keep the greater part of humanity from sharing in the building up of a more just and more fraternal world."* I entered the Society of Jesus in 1974, just before the pathbreaking 32nd General Congregation of the Jesuits which unequivocally stated that *"the mission of the Society of Jesus today is the service of faith, of which the promotion of justice is an absolute requirement. For reconciliation with God demands the reconciliation of people with one another"*; that is why I am happy and humbled to be a Jesuit!

Since the earliest days of my formation, in keeping with the faith-justice mandate of the Jesuits, and together with my companions, I was exposed to the grim realities which ordinary people experience all the time. These included being with displaced slum-dwellers and helping in their rehabilitation in the construction of low-cost houses; manual work in watershed programmes in the Adivasi heartland; working as an ordinary labourer with

Adivasis, in the preliminary work on the Narmada Dam (the Adivasis were exploited by powerful contractors and given a pittance for their hard work). Such engagements continued all through my life as a Jesuit, because the person and message of Jesus, the teachings of the Church and the directives of the Jesuits were clear and unambiguous: to take sides with the poor and the oppressed, the marginalised and the minorities, the excluded and the exploited, all who are vulnerable and suffering. It has always been a stand for human rights, justice, reconciliation and peace; a stand for the values enshrined in our Constitution and the democratic rights of every single citizen. It has certainly meant being on the wrong side of the powerful, vested interests, of the lustful lobbies (sometimes even those whom you regard as 'friends') who have no qualms of conscience of keeping the poor impoverished, even as they amass huge fortunes. It has meant taking on those who have kept people divided in the name of religion, through divisive policies, hate speeches and nefarious communal misdeeds. It has meant standing up to those who want to destroy the sacred pluralistic fabric of the country and sell the nation for their own profiteering. The journey has not been easy -but I am happy and humbled to be a Jesuit!

In 1986, *The Mission*, a powerful British drama film was released. The film is about the experiences of a Jesuit missionary in 18th-century South America. It is about the stand which the Spanish Jesuits take to protect the identity of a remote South American tribe (the Guarani Indian people, an indigenous people of the Amazon). It is intertwined in the political pressures of a colonial power, the predatory racism of European settlers who are basically pro-slavery and the pragmatic needs of the Jesuits (and Church) of that time. *The Mission* is based on historical facts surrounding the 1750 Treaty of Madrid in which Spain ceded part of its territories in Paraguay to Portugal, mainly the areas where the Jesuits had their missions. There is an important subtext to the movie: the

impending suppression of the Society of Jesus in most parts of Western Europe (beginning in 1759, formalised in 1773 and which ended only in 1814). The film portrays the resilience of the Guarani people despite all odds and the efforts of the Jesuits to accompany them in order to protect their rights, their customs and above all from being swallowed in the lucrative slave-market of that time. The film deals with bureaucratic hassles, political and religious machinations, intrigue, greed for power and profits among other human frailties; however, at the same time it also focuses on the challenges and hostilities that one must face when one attempts to take on the system, the powers (vested interests). Above all, it is a film about "mission", what it entails when disciples of Jesus actually demonstrate that unflinching prophetic courage to go forth to the peripheries. The film truly makes me happy and humbled to be a Jesuit!

It is an Ignatian Year: the 500th anniversary of the conversion of St Ignatius following the painful event when his legs were shattered by a cannonball on 20 May 152, as he defended the citadel of Pamplona from the French. Announcing the Ignatian Year, the Jesuit Superior General Fr Arturo Sosa writes, *"the Universal Apostolic Preferences (2019-2029) have confirmed the call to our personal, community and institutional conversion, which is necessary for our greater spiritual and apostolic freedom and adaptability. Let us take this opportunity to let God transform our life-mission according to his will"*. He adds *"the Ignatian year 2021-2022 will therefore be for us a privileged occasion to hear the cry of the poor, the excluded, and those whose dignity has not been respected, in all the diverse social and cultural circumstances in which we live and work. It is a listening which moves our hearts and compels us to draw closer to the poor, to walk with them in seeking justice and reconciliation"*. Reason enough for me to be happy and humbled to be a Jesuit today

When a shoddy article written by a

A man enters a wine Shop and asks the seller:

"Which brand of whiskey would you advise me for my 25th wedding anniversary?"

Wine Seller:

"Sir, it totally depends on whether you want to celebrate

or
want to forget !"

Magical Mumbai....

After taking 2nd dose of Covid19 Vaccine, you can travel to Dubai....
But you can't travel in Mumbai Local Train...

And everyone can travel in crowded BEST BUS without any vaccine proof....

Corona doesn't come in crowded bus.. Baat ho gayi hai usse..

RUNNING BUS IS INCOME FOR STATE GOVERNMENT & STOPPING TRAIN TRAVEL IS LOSS FOR CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

Ye Public hai ye sab jaanti hai...

Not Easy to be a Teacher !!

TEACHER : Ramu is climbing a tree to pick some mangoes. (Begin the sentence with Mangoes)

Student : Mangoes, Ramu is coming to pick you

Definitely Not Easy to be a Teacher !!

TEACHER : What do you call mosquitoes in your language?

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

TEACHER : How can we keep our school clean?

Student: By staying at home.



English Grammar class.

Teacher: What's the difference between "He cleans the plate" and "the plate is cleaned by him."

Student: In first sentence 'HE' is not married, but in second sentence 'He' is married....

Teacher asks a student -

" Please Translate the following sentence in Hindi."

"There was a fine line between Amitabh and Jaya."

Student translates in Hindi-
" Amitabh Aur Jaya Ke Beech Ek Mast Rekha Thi"

The ultimate & the most encouraging logic in English Grammar:-

'If more than one mouse is mice, then more than one Spouse is Spice.'

A young Arab boy asks his dad "what are you wearing on your head?"

The father said: "Why, my son, it is a 'chechia.' In the desert it protects our heads from the intense heat of the sun."

"And what is the long flowing robe you are wearing?" asked the boy.

"Oh, my son!" exclaimed the father "It is very simple. This is a 'djbellah.' As I have told you, in the desert it is not only very hot, but the sand is always blowing. My djbellah protects my entire body."

The son then asked: "But Father,

what about those ugly shoes you have on your feet?"

"These are 'babouches' my son," the father replied. You must understand that although the desert sands are very beautiful, they are also extremely hot. These babouches keep us from burning our feet."

Son asks "what is that black tent mom and sister are wearing ?"

Father : " It's called a burkha , it helps the hot desert sand from hitting the face and body during a sandstorm" .

"So tell me then," added the boy.

"Yes, my son..."

"Why are we living in Birmingham and still wearing all this shit?"

Chad: Why do magicians do so well in school?

Josh: I don't know. Why?

Chad: They're good at trick questions.

Stevie: Hey, Mom, I got a hundred in school today!

Mom: That's great. What in?

Stevie: A 40 in Reading and a 60 in Spelling.

Teacher: Donald, what is the chemical formula for water?

Donald: H-I-J-K-L-M-N-O.

Teacher: What are you talking about?

Donald: Yesterday you said it was H to O.

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(Contd.. from p. 11)

so-called 'alumnus', replete with falsehood and half-truths, divisive and manipulative in nature, is brought to my notice, I really do not wonder! In an India, where 'godified' media rules the roost, where crony capitalists spinelessly toe the line of a fascist regime, where justice and truth are conveniently sacrificed at the altar of injustice and 'feku-isms', where the poor are at the receiving end of a rotten and inhuman system – such trash is on expected lines. Labelling a Jesuit, a Marxist??? Marx must be smirking! Almost like saying that if you use a plane, you become American or if you sit in a train in India, you becoming a British! Fr Stan Swamy gave his life for the Adivasis in their struggle for a more humane, just and dignified life; denigrating in any way, this Prophet and Martyr, is just pathetic -the handiwork of someone who is unable to digest the plain truth! Above all, playing one against the other of the same family is an age-old trick. (*"Father, you were so nice, not like the Jesuits of today!"*). Jesuits do not easily fall prey to such gimmicks; in spite of differences, we know there is a strong bond among us: a union of hearts and minds based on the vision of Ignatius of Loyola and entrusted with a mission today! We also have a Jesuit in Pope Francis who in his Encyclical 'Fratelli Tutti' emphasises that, *"the Church is a home with open doors, because she is a mother. And in imitation of Mary, the mother of Jesus, we want to be a Church that serves, that leaves home and goes forth from its places of worship, goes forth from its sacristies, in order to accompany life, to sustain hope, to be the sign of unity... to build bridges, to break down walls, to sow seeds of reconciliation."* Need we say more?

As we celebrate St Ignatius Loyola: the fire that lit other fires- I say from the very depth of my being, that: ***I am really happy and humbled to be a Jesuit!***

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

Ingredients:

2 cups unsalted butter, plus more for greasing pan
2 cups walnut halves
260 gms unsweetened chocolate, chopped or broken into small pieces
3 eggs
1 tsp salt
3 cups sugar
1 tbsp vanilla extract
2 cups unbleached all-purpose flour

Method:

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Butter a 14x9 inch glass baking tray. If using walnuts, spread on a baking sheet and toast in oven until fragrant and lightly browned for 8 to 10 minutes. Let it cool.
Melt butter in a small vessel over low heat. Remove from the heat, add chocolate and cover the vessel until the chocolate is melted for about 10 minutes.
In a mixing bowl, whisk the eggs, salt, sugar and vanilla just until thick, creamy and beginning to lighten in colour.
Whisk the butter and chocolate until smooth, then mix into the sugar-egg mixture just until well combined. Using a spatula, fold in the flour, using as few strokes as possible, until it disappears.
Fold in the walnuts. Spread the batter evenly in the baking pan.
Bake for about 25 minutes, checking after 22 minutes to avoid over-baking. When the tip of a knife inserted in the center comes out with moist crumbs, but not liquid, remove brownies from the oven. Allow to cool to room temperature, then cover and leave in the pan for several hours or overnight before cutting into squares.
Store in an airtight container.



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Wheel Around The World To Meet Environmental Concerns

The hullabaloo over the Paris accord still echoes. Delhi chokes, there is high air pollution in Bengaluru, various diseases due to air pollution are about, there is talk of the revival of the odd and even formula for car licence plates to be allowed on the road, clampdown on new diesel vehicles, and so on. The public is in a state of panic. One of the promising and viable solutions to address some of these environmental concerns is the use of biodiesel. Bicycle riding uses minimal fossil fuels and is a pollution-free mode of transport. Bikes reduce the need to build, service and dispose of cars. Bicycle riding conserves roadway and residential space, thereby providing opportunities for less concrete and more plant life in urban areas

Cycling can lead to benefits of \$1.8 trillion, or 1.6 per cent of India's GDP for 2015-16, says a new study. In the study, 'Benefits of Cycling in India: An Economic, Environmental and Social Assessment' by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), it was estimated that if bicycles were to substitute two-and four-wheelers used for short trips, it can result in an annual benefit of \$1.8 trillion. Additionally, cities should plan city-wide bicycle sharing schemes instead of only focusing on specific locations. In order to increase the share of cycling among choice users, the aforementioned measures have to be supplemented by regulations on the use of private motorised vehicles, such as congestion and parking pricing and pollution tax.

The study, released recently, also revealed the benefits that can be realised by providing safe cycling infrastructure and conducting awareness campaigns. Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation (NMMC) kick started the



Public Bicycle Sharing system in the hope of encouraging intra-city travel and at the same time the initiative is aimed at reducing the city's carbon footprint. The cycling project at Nerul's Jewel of Navi Mumbai in sector 26, Mini seashore, opposite to Fortis Hospital and now introduced in Sector 9 in Sanpada just in front of Lad Master Sitaram Udyan and it is a success. The number of cycles available for hire has increased in the last couple of days, and it reveals its significant success in this corridor. In order to further reduce our city's carbon footprints, cycling is the best option available and NMMC has taken the initiative rather seriously to provide the facility to more Centres in the satellite city.



Jayanthy Subramaniam

Rent a cycle scheme is becoming highly popular and the same was introduced during school vacation to bring it to the fore. Both the young and the old avail of the facility. Again, both men and women go in for a cycle scheme with great pleasure. The roads in Navi Mumbai are wide enough and a cycle track can be provided to make the scheme a meaningful one. Besides Yulu Bikes, another private company has also shown interest in starting the rent-a-cycle scheme in other parts of the city. To use this facility, citizens

will have to download a mobile app to rent the cycles. The payment will be through mobile wallets like paytm and PayPal and Googlepay. The Yulu Bikes are charging a nominal rent of Rs.10 for half an hour of cycling.

This is a good initiative by NMMC, but dedicated cycle lanes are a must for this cycle plan to succeed more in the city. This is a good concept in view of public health as well as a better option of transportation for going to nearby places and avoiding traffic jams by avoiding bigger vehicles. As per the plan, the cycle track will be 7.5 km long and it will run parallel to Palm Beach Road from Belapur to Sanpada, near Vashi. This will be first-of-its-kind to have a fence for the safety of cyclists. It will also have resting places between small distances and that is a bonus for cyclists. At present, many cyclists use the Palm Beach Road for cycling. However, it is not safe as the road is famous among motorists, leaving or entering the city and it is highly risky.

The Energy and Resources Institute's (TERI) report from 2018, Benefits of Cycling in India, estimates that 50% of Indians walk or cycle to work (excluding agriculture and household industries). In urban areas, after walking, workers are most dependent on two-wheelers. It estimates India can save \$ 27 billion in fuel and \$ 241 billion due to reduced air pollution if 50 % of two-wheeler and four-wheeler trips within eight kilometres are substituted by cycle journeys. If bicycles were to substitute the two-and four-wheelers used for short-distance trips, it can result in an annual benefit of \$1.8 trillion.

India's the world's diabetic capital. More than a 100 million are affected by obesity. This can all be reduced if people switch to cycling. The endorphins, a cycle-ride helps release, is good for your mental health. But can India redesign its cities to accommodate cyclists?

Father of Migrants

(Bl. Michael Joseph McGivney)

By Fr F. M. Britto

His personal sufferings as an immigrant motivated him to relieve other migrants' pains and wanted them to lead a better life. His belonging to a large family and had to earn as a youngster to support his family, gave him a compassionate heart.

Michael Joseph McGivney was born to Irish immigrant parents, Patrick and Mary McGivney on August 12, 1852 at Waterbury, Connecticut, United States. Out of their 13 children, six of them died in infancy. His father worked as moulder in a local brass mill. But the 13 years old boy, who studied in a local district school, had to leave the school to work in a brass mill to support his family.

The 16 years old Michael then entered the Saint Hyacinthe Seminary at Quebec, Canada. But after his father's untimely death, as the eldest son, the 21 years old Michael had to leave the seminary to help raise his younger siblings at home. Later he resumed his priestly studies at St. Mary's Seminary, Baltimore, Maryland, and was ordained a priest on December 22, 1877.

Appointed as assistant parish priest in the small town of New Haven, Connecticut, Father Michael noticed the sufferings of the immigrant families. Many migrant families were struggling to assimilate into the American economy. The social setting in Connecticut was outright hostile towards Catholics. Their poverty, lack of education and allegiance to the pope brought them discrimination.

Often the man of the family, the sole earner, died due to the nature of the immigrants' hard manual labour. To provide financial assistance to their widows and her children, the 30 years old priest founded the Knights of Columbus (KC) on March 29, 1882, along with a small group of parishioners. He

named it after Columbus, the most celebrated Catholic figure at that time.

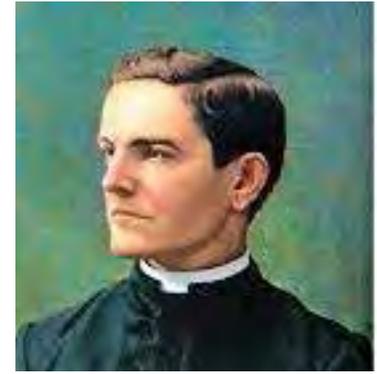
Fr Michael wanted to make the church the centre of their community life. Many anti-Catholic societies had then become popular that lured them away from their faith. To give them a common brotherhood, many were also looking for societies to belong. The four principles of the KC became charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism.

As a man of the people, Fr. Michael took great efforts to better their living condition. Wanting them, especially the youth, to know and live their faith, he preached to them clear and effective sermons. He also organised outings for the youth and baseball games. He also regularly visited the prisoners. His real desire was to lead them to holiness. His motivation came from his great faith in Jesus and His Gospel.

"Originally Fr McGivney had intended this programme for his parish, but quickly other priests recognized the value of what he had created, and other councils started growing," says Christopher Foley, Colorado State Deputy of the KC. "His vision is still transforming people's lives throughout the world."

The organization gradually brought hope in the suffering, acceptance amidst rejection and unity amidst division. The small group that grew up in his parish, spread gradually to whole US and soon to countries such as Canada, Philippines, Poland, Cuba, Ukraine, South Korea etc. It grew as one of the world's largest Catholic fraternal organizations.

KC became one of the first groups to recruit blood donors during the 1937 Great Depression. Besides supplying a wide range of insurance benefits, the organization has been also active in war-relief, educational, religious, and social-welfare programmes. Its headquarters is now in New Haven, Conn, US.



In 2020 KC had reached to two million members, with 15,100 councils, donating \$187 million and 77 million man-hours to charity. They serve people regardless of their nationality, religion or race. Though originally it was intended to serve the widows and orphans, now it cares people at all stages of life. The order has also worked hard to defend the sanctity of life. Supreme Knight Carl Anderson remarked, "The strength of the Knights of Columbus today is a testament to his (Fr. Michael's) timeless vision, his holiness, and his ideals."

In the seven years he served as the assistant parish priest at New Haven, Fr Michael was known for his tireless work among his parishioners. The 32 years old priest was then transferred as parish priest to St Thomas Church in Thomaston in 1884.

Due to the 1889-90 pandemic, Fr Michael contracted pneumonia and the 38 years young priest died there on August 14, 1890, on the eve of the Assumption. But his legacy continues.

Declaring him a Venerable on March 15, 2008, Pope Benedict XVI remarked of Fr Michael as "a key figure in the impressive growth of the Church in US." Pope Francis proclaimed him a Blessed on May 27, 2020. On behalf of the Pope, Cardinal Joseph William Tobin of Newark celebrated the beatification Mass on Oct 31, 2020 at St Joseph's cathedral in Hartford, Connecticut.

Bishop Frank Caggiano of Connecticut then remarked, "Fr. Michael McGivney is an example to today's priests. He inspires us to get out there and meet the poor where they live, be among them."

Royal Christian Family MATRIMONIALS - GROOMS

7226. CANADA : Canadian Citizen Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in August 1990), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 59 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.Sc., in Environmental Science and in Energy Management postgraduate degrees from the University of Toronto. Working for a reputed company as Energy Management Analyst in Toronto. Contact email : francisper@gmail.com

7185. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in October 1984) Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 72 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com. working for Bank. Contact email : shaun.neo00.outlook.com

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

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

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

7047. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in November 1982), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., C.S. in Process, having family business. Contact email : mail.soj@gmail.com

7045. CANADA : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Divorcee, (Born in September 1985), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 68

kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., Hotel Management, having permanent Resident. Contact email : bmathias88@gmail.com

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

7040. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in October 1991), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 65 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.C.A., MBA Pursuing, working as a GIS Analyst in MNC. Contact email : ronaldpereira1210@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

7025. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Ro-

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

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

7019. MUMBAI : Tamilian Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in June 1981), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Customer Services. Contact email : dasvinod1@gmail.com

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

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

7144. POONA : Goan RC Bachelor, (Born in October 1985) Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Hotel Management Graduate, working as an Executive. Contact email : merrolmenezes@gmail.com

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

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Royal Christian Family MATRIMONIALS - BRIDES

7235. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in September 1991), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 100 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Sc., Asst. Professor by profession. Contact email : joelhs18@gmail.com

7234. MANGALORE : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in November 1993), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 60 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. MBBS, MD (ongoing), Doctor by profession. Contact email : samaddy2013@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

7217. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in June 1995), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 77 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A., & Post Graduate Diploma in Event Management, working in an reputed Multinational Company. Contact email : naseemdmello786@gmail.com

7205. NEW DELHI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1996), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 38 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. BDS, Bachelor in Dental Surgery, woking as a Dental Doctor in **PUNE**. Contact email : mariadcosta0505@gmail.com

7215. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in November 1996), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 54 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. BMS, CWM, pursuing CFA Level 2, working as a Operations Analyst in Limited Company. Contact email : rachel.serrao96@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.

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

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 : drvvd2019@gmail.com

7182. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in October 1992), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 72 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., C.A., working as Asst. Manager in TATA Company. Contact : email : matrimonialp27@gmail.com

7195. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in May 1990), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 57 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.Com., well settled. Contact email : melinda.522@gmail.com OR Mob.: 9820561036

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

7194. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in July 1989), Ht. 5' 1", Wt. 55 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.B.A. (HR), HR by profession. Contact email : dsouza.elvina3@gmail.com

7190. BANGALORE : Tamilian Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in January 1990), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.E., Elec-

tronics and communications, working as a Technical Specialist. Contact email : jmj.lionofjudah@gmail.com

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

7193. MUMBAI : East Indian Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in August 1990), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 50 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A., M.A., B.Ed., working as a Teacher in **DUBAI**. Contact email : marina.rodrigues1954@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

7179. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in May 1994), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 45 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. Bachelor of Pharmacy, working in an MNC as a Project Lead. Contact email : lin.r80@yahoo.com

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

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Light of the World

Matthew 5:14-16 14"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. 15Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

It's not easy to follow this precept as we are often mired in our own problems – real or perceived. We are often selfish and think of our own gratification. Yet we are called to go beyond our comfort zones in order to reach out to others.

Jesus spread light through action and words. The Sermon on the Mount is a classic lesson on how we could spread light. Jesus literally brought light into the world of the blind when he healed them. He taught us how to be compassionate.

A friend recently sent me this beautiful Sufi parable which tells of the Sun and the Cave changing places as the Sun had no concept of darkness and the Cave had never seen light. During its sojourn in the cave, the Sun's rays immediately lit up every nook and cranny of the cave and banished darkness.

The Sun's rays in the cave stand for spreading positivity and happiness no matter what one's circumstances are. In contrast the Cave reflects people who are full of negativity, irrational fears and unhappiness. During the course of our lives we may have the good fortune of coming across people whose main purpose of living seems to be the spreading of sunshine. They are truly an inspiration to us.

Baba Amte spread happiness by his work of rehabilitating and empowering leprosy patients. Mother Teresa dedicated her life to the uplift of the down-

trodden and brought a smile to dying destitute by treating them with love and dignity. Princess Diana had an unhappy childhood and marriage. She suffered from eating disorders and yet she was, according to the New York Times "a breath of fresh air." During her 1989 trip to New York, she spontaneously hugged a seven year old child suffering from AIDS – an action unthinkable in those days. She donned protective equipment and went across a landmine field in Angola, thus highlighting the need for clearing landmines all over the world.

There are many unsung individuals who spread cheer during these pandemic times. Doctors, nurses and the staff of hospitals, our police many of whom have lost their lives to Covid contracted during their work, those



by **Monica Fernandes**

who have distributed food parcels, and our gallant soldiers braving the icy winds and snow so that we are able to carry on with our lives.

"Thy loving kindness is sweeter than wine", goes the hymn. Verily there is a science behind "loving kindness". Research shows that practicing kindness with love has a profound effect on a person's attitude and health. The staff of Mayo Clinic, Rochester, USA conducted a study and put forth some simple ways of boosting our kindness quotient. "I've been searching for ways to heal myself, and I've found that kindness is the best way." – Lady Gaga

The first is Loving Kindness Meditation (LKM). Here the individual contemplates on warm, tender thoughts of a loved one. It was found that people who practiced LKM for as little as one hour a week felt "love, contentment and joy" during their interaction with others. They suffered less pain. During these pandemic times, our movements are restricted. Yet there are ways to enhance our loving kindness by expressing appreciation of a

friend's achievement, help someone even in a small way, smile more often, forward humorous messages, phone someone who is recently bereaved or lonely, give financial help to NGOs who are arranging rations. If one is a good singer, perhaps one could record a song and send it to a friend. Kindness is contagious and there's nothing like spreading good cheer. My friend lives fairly close to a hospital. Whenever she hears an ambulance siren, she stops whatever she is doing and says a short prayer for the patient being rushed to hospital and his/her family.

There are several artistes who are spreading kindness by free performances on line. Doctors are providing valuable tips to take care of our health. Psychologists are using their knowledge to address the psychological needs of others. Magazines are being shared via the internet. Chefs are sharing recipes. We are grateful to these experts who are doing their bit during difficult times.

Another suggestion made by the staff of Mayo Clinic is to be consciously grateful, even for small pleasures. Researchers state that gratitude improves sleep, lessens fatigue and depression, and boosts confidence. For it is only when we are happy that we are able to spread happiness.

I remember that as a girl guide during my school days, we were instructed to do one good deed a day. Easier said than done! But it is never too late to start and the time to do so is NOW. Incidentally, acts of kindness are good for us for they release the feel good hormone Oxytocin.

I was struck by the wisdom of Jesus words to be the light of the world in our own little ways for we are not only helping others, but ourselves too. We could choose to be in the sunshine in the cave.

I conclude with the words of Barbara De Angelis. "Love and kindness are never wasted. They always make a difference. They bless the one who receives them, and they bless you, the giver."

Cherishing our Freedom

Life Threatening Coronavirus

It's around a year & a half since the coronavirus first struck mankind. The virus has killed thousands & thousands of people across the world. Lakhs of people have lost their jobs, several business establishments have either downsized or closed down. Some have imposed salary cuts, also cut down on perks, incentives, etc. **A large number of people have fallen victim to COVID-19 and have passed away during the course of the year, devastating entire families.** The whole scenario seems very depressing.

Is it here to stay?

It seems as though the coronavirus is here to stay. In fact, the third wave is threatening to swallow the human race. Covid 19 has snatched away the freedom of so many people, so many of our loved ones, our near & dear ones. And we talk of Freedom? Oh what a feeling one gets when we utter the word. Freedom - such a nice word! And here we are, threatened by the coronavirus. Is the coronavirus here to destroy our peace?

Loving Freedom

Who does not love freedom? Surely, everybody does! Haven't you seen a little baby trying to wriggle itself out of the towel that he is wrapped in? How, little children want to be free to run around all over the place. How youngsters want the freedom to choose their friends, to wear what they like, to do what they please. How, married couples want the freedom to live their lives, on their own terms.

Free as the birds

Look at the birds in the sky. How they love their freedom, flying around freely, knowing well that nobody can take their freedom away. Isn't that a lovely feeling? Oh yes, we envy them. **There is a nice song from the George Baker selection, called, Paloma Blanca which comes to mind at this moment.** I'd like to reproduce part of the song here below :

When the sun shines on the mountain

And the night is on the run

It's a new day

It's a new way

And I fly up to the sun

I can feel the morning sunlight

I can smell the new-mown hay

I can hear God's voice is calling

For my golden sky light way

Una paloma blanca

I'm just a bird in the sky

Una paloma blanca

Over the mountains I fly

No one can take my freedom away

How free are you?

Can we also say to ourselves, I'm just a bird in the sky, and that no one can take my freedom away? But, that is not the way it is. On a personal note, **at a certain event, there was a Karaoke singing competition, and me & my spouse signed up for the 'Duet' category.** The song - you guessed it! **Paloma Blanca**, one of our favourite songs, and we bagged the prize too! Little did I know however, that it would be her swansong, so to say - just a couple of months later, she flew away

to her heavenly abode, succumbing to Covid. **Did she hear God's voice calling her**, I don't know. **No one can take my freedom away**, are the words in the song but Covid had its way, taking away my spouse's freedom. **She has travelled on her golden sky light way.** With her passing away, Covid seems to have taken away my freedom as

well. **As I look around me, I realise that Covid had indeed taken away not just the freedom of my spouse or my freedom, but of several others as well.** A number of friends & relatives have lost their spouses, their mothers & fathers, sisters & brothers. Covid has snatched away the freedom of many a loved one, our friends and dear & dear ones, quite a few known faces from the neighborhood. Covid-19 has snatched away freedom from thousands of our fellowmen. **What Freedom, then?**

Celebrating Freedom

Against this depressing scenario of

Covid wreaking havoc in the world, we are called to celebrate our country's independence Day - 15th of August, the day we gained freedom from foreign rule. A day when we should be rejoicing and celebrating our freedom. But that is not to be. Covid has put a lid on our social life putting an end to all celebrations, parties, events, etc.

So what freedom are we talking about even as we celebrate our independence day on the 15th of August?

And we ask ourselves, what Freedom? What celebration?

Our daily life disrupted

Our daily life has been disrupted. Covid has stopped us from attending our place of work. Covid has taken away that excitement of attending school/college students. Covid has restricted our morning or evening walks. Covid has robbed us of our entertainment time. Businesses have suffered, jobs have been lost. In general, Covid has robbed all sections of society of their freedom at different levels. With so many restrictions on our movement, can we still sing? **I'm just a bird in the sky and no one can take my freedom away.**

What Freedom?

So, where do we stand? We have our freedom but we cannot make use of that freedom. Our country gained freedom, we have our passports but we cannot travel freely to another country. The aircrafts can fly over the mountain but we cannot be in there. Where are we heading, we wonder. In the days, weeks, months, years to come, we now need to tread carefully. We cannot now take our freedom for granted. We need to be prepared, for we do not know when our freedom would be snatched away from us, from our loved ones. We need to ask ourselves, are we taking our freedom for granted?

I came across this quote which seems quite appropriate - **"It is easy to take liberty for granted, when you have never had it taken from you"**. So let's cherish our freedom before it is snatched away from us. **We would then not find ourselves saying, 'What Freedom?'**



Melville X.
D'Souza
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