



FR

December 2012

AGNEL

SHRAM NEWS

Ethical values

Good manners

Good mutual relations

Fellow feeling

Distress relief

Human relations

Transform The Child

Transform The Nation

NEWS

December 2012



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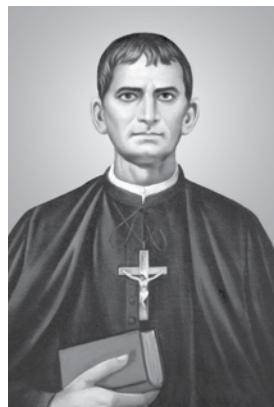
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**21st January
2013
VEN.FR.AGNEL
JAYANTI
at Fr.Agnel Ashram,
Bandra (W),
Mumbai – 400 050.**

**PROGRAMME
SPECIAL NOVENA SERVICE
From 12th to 20th January 2013**

Every Day

Morning : 7.00 a.m. & 7.30 a.m. : Holy Mass and Novena in English followed by blessing with the Relic.

Evening : 5.30 p.m. : Novena Service in Konkani, Marathi & Gujarati followed by blessing with the Relic. 6.00 p.m. : Holy Mass and Novena in English followed by blessing with the Relic.

N.B.

On Sunday 13th & 20th January all Masses and Novena Services will be held as on normal Sundays.

**21st January (Monday) : 144th Birth Anniversary
of Ven.Fr.Agnel**

Morning : Masses followed by Prayers for favours and blessings with the Relic at 6.30, 7.30, 8.00 in English and 10.30 in Tamil.

Evening : Solemn Concelebrated Mass will be held at 6.00 p.m. in the Ashram Compound followed by prayers for favours.



His Eminence
Telesphore P. Cardinal Toppo
Archbishop of RANCHI
will be the main Celebrant.

Thousands of devotees will participate in this Annual Novena and celebration. Over one lakh of favours, some of them truly miraculous such as cure of cancer, T.B., Paralysis etc. have been received through the powerful intercession of Ven.Fr.Agnel.

Favours obtained and petitions to be placed at the Shrine of Ven.Fr.Agnel may be sent to the following address :

Rev.Fr.Superior.

Fr.Agnel Ashram, Bandstand,

Bandra (West), Mumbai – 400 050.

Tel : 67114000

Bus No. : 211 : Special Bus Service to Ply From Bandra Railway Station to Fr.Agnel Ashram Gate.

The Babe born to bring glad tidings to the poor

One day as Jesus entered the temple, the book of prophet Isaiah was handed to him and he opened it to the place where it says: **"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; He has appointed me to preach the good news to the poor; He has sent me to heal the broken hearted and to announce that the captives shall be released and the blind shall see, that the down trodden shall be freed from their oppressors, and that God is ready to give blessings to all who come to Him"**(Lk4:19).

Somebody said "A life not lived for others is not a life." A true leader needs to have a servant's heart. Jesus described leadership entirely from a new perspective. Leaders and bosses often use people. But Jesus challenged society's norms. To Him greatness came from consuming his life for others. Serving in right spirit keeps us aware of others' need and stops us focusing on ourselves. Jesus taught that the more lowly service you give to others, the greater you are. Paul says... "Jesus did not demand and cling to His rights as God, but laid aside His mighty power and glory, taking the disguise of a slave and becoming like men(Phil:2:5). This is His supreme command: Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you"(Mt. 7:12).

Mahatma Gandhi said: "**The best way to affirm yourself is to loose yourself in the service of others**". "Love of God and service of men go hand in hand. Hold your life for the service of others. By doing service you purify your heart. Egoism, jealousy and the cancer of individuality is dissolved. Humility, tolerance, compassion and pure love are developed. You begin to feel the unity of life. You serve and you rule.

Swami Sivananda says about it: "The first step in the spiritual path is selfless service of humanity". Selfless service is the watchword along the road to



salvation. It prepares the aspirant for the attainment of cosmic consciousness or the life of oneness. By rendering humble service to the poor and the afflicted one can purify his heart.

When we decide to live for others, it enables us to get a rich harvest of peace, joy and prosperity. Indeed, we can find umpteen opportunities to offer such service. The

world is yourself. Love all, serve all, be kind to all, embrace all. Mother Teresa thus spoke about the underprivileged: "Each one of them is Jesus in disguise". Behold the image of the Lord in the poor, downtrodden and oppressed ones. When we seek out the miserable, we become servants of humanity. Cheer them up and bring them a ray of comfort.

Serve your parents, elders, teachers and even strangers. Feed the hungry. Clothe the naked. Educate the illiterate. The world is burning with misery and suffering. Every week visit a hospital. Sit by the side of a patient and speak a few words of encouragement. Smile awhile and tell him that you care for him. Collect some old clothes and distribute to the needy. Give a few rupees to the lame, the hungry mouths as you walk along the street. Go and serve a charitable institution daily for an hour. God has given you abundant gifts, make them fruitful by service. Utilize your energy, your intellect, your education or anything you have for those low-placed in life.

Let me conclude with the words of Mother Teresa: "**At the end of life we will not be judged by how many diplomas we have received, how much money we have made, how many great things we have done. We will be judged by how many people say; I was hungry and you gave me to eat, I was naked and you clothed me, I was homeless and you took me in**".

-Ubaldo Fernandes sfx.

Christmas

A Season For Spiritual Renewal

- Fr.F.Diniz

Day after day we hear of scams tumbling down from the closets of important persons holding responsible positions in the life of the nation. It leads us to believe that there must be many more skeletons in the cupboards of such persons waiting to be exposed creating thus a crisis of confidence in the minds of the people regarding the institutions manning the destinies of the nation. Such situations require a radical solution. The proposed Lok Pal Bill, as and when it is passed by parliament and properly implemented by the Government may stop many corrupt practices which are in vogue today. But it will be powerless to bring about a change of heart in the perpetrators of evil.

The Right to Education Bill has already become the Law of the country and has opened the doors of our schools for free and compulsory education to all children. So we hope that literacy in the country will shortly rise to hundred per cent. However, the question arises. Is our Education System geared to build up the moral character of our children or is it meant to impart merely the knowledge of subjects of arts, science and commerce?

The above reflections are very relevant on the occasion of Christmas which we celebrate during this month. It celebrates the coming of the Eternal Word of God into this world as a humble Son of Man in order to provide the world plagued with darkness of sin and of all sorts of moral turpitudes, with a radical cure to all its moral evils.

The question therefore, arises: Can we build up in our country an Education System which will help our young men and women to acquire a solid moral character? The greatest difficulty is

that the practice of moral character is often taken as a practice of a particular religion. As it is against the Law to enforce a particular religion as a part of school curriculum, the school authorities are reluctant to take moral education as a part of their syllabus.

It is true that there are some moral practices such as abstention from eating



pork or beef that are peculiar to particular religions. But on the whole principles and practices of sound morality are common to all religions. A concerted effort, therefore, is to be made to bring out text books which will strictly follow the norms by dealing only with the subjects concerning common principles of morality and avoid scrupulously those that are peculiar to particular religions.

Inculcating sound ethical values in the minds and hearts of our school children should be the main concern of educators. These values will be a shield that will protect them against all temptations of greed of money and power to which they will be exposed in their lives and to control their selfishness, anger, envy and other evil inclinations. With this in view the lessons in ethical values should be illustrated with the examples of great men and women who have excelled in the practice of these virtues. The dire consequences of not living according to those values should also be made clear to them.

Another aspect of sound moral life to be inculcated in the students is that of good manners with a view to enable them to build up genuine human relations with all they will have to deal with. This aspect is very important. Very often we meet people who are honest to the hilt, but lack in good manners and hence the ethical values they follow are of no avail

Contd. on pg 8

Better the people, better the nation

-P.K. Ravindranath

It is the primary duty of any great nation to ensure that its citizens are upright, moral, healthy in mind and body, endowed with humane qualities and patriotic. In 200 years of slavery no one paid heed to the need to bring up generation after generation of Indians as perfect human beings.

The British, the Portuguese and the French who occupied and ruled over various parts of the country were merely interested in promotion of trade and commerce, for their own benefit. They foisted on this country a system of education that merely produced clerks, supervisors and managers to run their establishments for them, as they provided cheap labour.

In the 65 years since Independence, we have done very little to change the system, except to tinker with it at the fringes. The current system does not take into account the need to create ideal citizens endowed with the best qualities of head and heart.

In its zeal to fall in line with the international community it went headlong into economic reforms, aimed at improving the standards of life of the people. This has further complicated matters, with the emergence of globalization. A huge affluent middle class grew up in the country, without the moorings of a sense of values, morality, ethical conduct or even a thought for a larger community of people groveling in poverty.

It also led to greed, avarice and the tendency to grab wealth and appropriate it for one's self, no matter what its source. This human tendency is at the root of all the corruption cases and scandals that one hears of constantly. They could have been checked if from

childhood students had been taught and trained to be ethical, moralistic and law-abiding.

Vitiated polities and flaws in the electoral system in the country further complicated matters, where an entire generation has grown up on a perverted value system, without fear of punishment and smug in their confidence that they will never be deprived of their ill-gotten wealth.



The social decadence we witness today emphasizes the need for urgent need to transform the educational system to help endow our children with qualities of head and heart appropriate for ideal, proud citizens of a great country.

Unlike most other countries of the world, India grew up in isolation free from fear of invasions, aggressions and occupation by other nations, protected along the north by the formidable Himalayas and in the south by the sea. Till man learnt to ride the waves and the rough seas, in big boats and ships, four centuries ago, we lived without fear.

It was this isolation and freedom that spawned a unique culture, based on the Upanishads and epics, with a distinct stamp of their own. The epics taught us to live up to the values of some of its heroes. Most of them had well-defined characters, with inherent qualities (and drawbacks).

Lord Macaulay's educational system changed all that. The present system has outlived its utility, since it pays little attention to formation of the character of students at the most formative stage of their lives.

Such a system is lacking in most schools, run by the government itself. They are generally under-staffed, ill-equipped

Contd. on pg 16

Christmas: what is our story?

-Leon Bent

Why did the Word, Jesus, become flesh? The fundamental and perennially valid answer to the question is: "For us, men and women, and for our salvation, he came down from heaven." St. John responds to the why of the Incarnation in this way: "God so loved the world that, he gave His only Son, so that, whoever should believe in him would not die but have eternal life" (Jn.3:16). This is a key passage of the Bible on which both, the Old and New testaments rest. Christmas, thus, is the supreme proof of God's "philanthropy," as Scripture calls it (cf. Titus 3:4).

This answer, though beautiful, is still not the most definitive one. For the Bible the most important thing is not that God be loved, but that God "loves" and loved us first (cf. 1 Jn.4:10, 19) So, what

should be our response to the message of Christmas? The Christmas carol "Adeste Fideles" says: "How can we not love one who has loved us first?"

There is much that we can do to celebrate and solemnize Christmas, but the truest and most profound way, is suggested to us by these words. A sincere thought of gratitude, a feeling of love for him who came to live among us, is the best gift we can give to the child Jesus, the most beautiful ornament in the manger.

To be authentic, love needs to be translated into concrete gestures. The simplest and most universal, when it is pure and innocent, is the kiss! (Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa). When we "kiss" the poor, the downtrodden, the broken-hearted, the wretched, the agonized and the bruised and bleeding neighbor, we meet the real Jesus, in the world of flesh and blood and words and deeds. We meet God where we meet man, a unique man, but all the same, a man, our brother, Jesus! The magnificent matter-of-factness of Christmas, is that God is not out there, or up there, or beyond. But, he is Emmanuel: God with us!

Let us kiss Jesus, then, as we desire to

kiss and cuddle all children just born. To kiss someone in this sense of the word, is to warm hearts in a real way, but it is also to touch the gold spot in someone's innermost core, even a stranger or an estranged person. It is enveloped in affirmation, in empathy, in solidarity, in encouragement, in a visit to the sick and dying, in spending time with the downcast, in empowering the marginalized. There are a thousand and one ways to "kiss" the "Child" Jesus this Christmas!

Christmas 2012 can be charged with a mystery of compassion and mercy so fruitful and healing that, the depths of our poor humanity, into which Jesus was born, can be transformed into a community in which saints live, move and have their being. This is the challenge

we are confronted with at Christmas! These are the most beautiful candles that one can light in one's crib this festive season!

This is our Yes to all the promises of God from the dawn of history, and the Amen to all the prayers of humanity. What is our story? Is there a story we share, so as to be a part of the one story: Jesus' coming? Who knows it, who tells it, who dare retell it? The Boy-Child Jesus Christ's life, death and resurrection become a story, a love story, when we become participants in its everyday unfolding.

May Christmas 2012 be for everyone a feast filled with light, where every individual on the face of the earth, is brought out of darkness into his marvelous light! May it be the prelude to an especially deep experience of grace and divine mercy, which will continue throughout the coming year, until Jesus' Second Coming, which is why Christmas is filled with such cheer, mirth, joy, bonhomie and festivity!

And, this gold nugget! Let us welcome the invitation of the angels who ceaselessly proclaim: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men and women of goodwill!"



Getting ready for the end of the world

-Ivan Arthur

I saw Raj go and embrace Uddhav right there against the arc lights. In the background, someone was humming Saare Jahan Se Achcha Hindostan Hamara. Some distance away, Kejriwal, Vadra, Gadkari, Hazare, Mr. and Mrs. Khushid, the Ambanis and the supposed Swiss gang were wet-cheeking each other while the humming got louder. On a large sized TV screen, Subramaniam was offering sweets to Sonia, Rahul and Chidambaram with tears streaming down every cheek. The humming was now accompanied by the sound of violins. I saw Mamata kissing Maya; Maya kissing Jaya, Jaya kissing Sheila, Sheila kissing Brinda, Brinda kissing Aishwarya, Aishwarya kissing Meena, my cousin, while coming slowly into focus was Karunanidhi, Kanimozhi, Yechuri, Lalu Prasad, Mulayam Singh, Nitish Kumar and the Patnaiks holding hands and singing Hum Hoge Kamyab in perfect unison.

My eye spied Fr. Emanuel, Maulana Ibrahim and Swami Agnivesh in conference together. Obama, Aung San Su Kyi, Putin, Netanyahu, Wen Jiabo and the Dalai Lama were doing a square dance round a huge bonfire of nuclear weapons. Dawood Ibrahim was surrendering to the Mumbai Police Chief. Money exchanged hands as policemen, sarpanches, judges, and other worthy figures gave back the bribes they had taken. Narendra Modi was seen garlanding Manmohan Singh. I saw the rich nations feeding the poor; school children in the Congo doing projects with happy faces.

Closer home, I saw Mrs. What's-her-name pick up the garbage she had thrown into her neighbour's garden, while our two other warring neighbours were having a quiet, friendly drink on the porch. Tony packed his air gun and kept it away. Ingrid threw away our mosquito

repellent and the rat trap. I actually saw the cat have a lively conversation with a mouse. A bee came and kissed me on my lips.

"What's happening?" I asked aloud.

"Don't you know? The world is going to end on the 21st of this month." Someone said. "Time to make amends."

I laughed out loud. Laughed and laughed.

I woke up laughing. Wife, Ingrid looked at me amused. "Good dream?" she asked.

"Yes. Good dream. About the end of the world." I told her.

"How can the end of the world be a good dream?" she seemed puzzled. Husband going crazy in his old age!

"Because the world ended a long time ago, don't you see?" I said.

"You're crazy," she declared, but as usual, waited for my explanation.

I told her and I am telling you. The world ended two millennia ago in a little manger in Bethlehem. The world of power and might was replaced by a world of compassion. The world of the commandment made way for the world of the Beatitudes; an eye for an eye became turn the other cheek. A new world had begun, a world of love and forgiveness. In the new world, the meek were going to inherit the land. The world as they knew it then had ended."

"What are you talking about?" my wife said. "Where are the Beatitudes today? Do the meek really inherit the land?"

"No they don't."

"So then, what are you talking about?"

"That's because the world ended again."

"When?"

"And again. And again."

"Are you talking about the World Wars?



JESUS VISITS THE NEW WORLD

The bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki? The tsunami? Or is it the new global warming?

"Oh no. Not all that! There is more to the world than earth, wind and fire; it is not just geology, botany and so much flesh and blood. What makes this globe a world is the way we are – our minds, our hearts and that non-thing called the spirit. The way man looks at man. The way man looks at woman. The way man looks at the earth. The way man looks at right and wrong. The way man looks at God. Every time that changes, the world ends and a new world is born. This earth is not one world. It is many."

"You are growing old, Mr. Arthur."

"The 21st of December marks the end of the Mayan calendar. According to Hindu eschatology, we are at the end of Kalyug, when Kalki will come on a white horse to destroy the world as it is. The prophesies of Ezekiel, Daniel, Jeremiah and St. Malachy; the Islamic predictions relating to Ya'juj and Ma'juj ..."

"Forget all that." Ingrid gets impatient with Bible thumping evangelists and other doomsday prophets. "Tell me. Is the world going to end on the 21st of December? I have got to decide whether to make the Christmas pudding, book our Mumbai tickets for the 1st of January

or whether we ought to withdraw every single paisa of our deposits and have a rollicking holiday from now until the 21st of December. We still have some time."

My wife thinks she is a realist although she's been married to me for the past 41 years. I pause to fold up my thoughts as neatly as I can for her.

"I was saying that all religions speak of the end of the world. The signs they mention have been present for the past two millennia at least. The world has constantly been ending. The prophecies have come true. Again and again."

"And so?"

"I hope the world ends. This world with its current view of justice, humanity, relationships, ethics, religion and God cannot continue as it is. I hope you agree. If Divinity does not send some major cataclysm on the 21st of December, we have to create one ourselves; within ourselves; a seismic upheaval of thought and feeling, of sensitivities and of consciousness itself. The world as we know it has to end. That crazy dream I started this thing with must come true."

"On the 21st of December?"

"Let's make it the 24th night. So the new world can begin on the 25th, like it did two millennia ago."

Christmas A Season For Spiritual Renewal- *Contd. from pg 4*

for them in their day to day life. People avoid them and they start losing faith in themselves despite the high ethical code of conduct which they practice in life. Broad mindedness, love for truth, compassion, a spirit of understanding and forgiveness and such other virtues which will help them for a successful career in life should also be made a part of their study syllabus.

The above suggestions offer only a long term solution to the problem of corruption. The plan of moral education

of youth if well implemented will take 10 to 15 years to produce its desired results. Meanwhile it is for each one of us to introspect and ask ourselves: Do I indulge in corrupt practices? Do I cooperate with others in such practices? What should I do to improve my life in this regard? Christmas is a propitious occasion for the renewal of our spiritual life. Let us pray that the small sacrifices that we make in this regard may serve to attain transformation in the life of our youth and of our entire nation.

Ven. Fr.Agnel's Punyatithi Observed

The 85th death anniversary (punyatithi) of Ven Fr.Agnel was observed with great fervor at Fr.Agnel Ashram, Bandra Mumbai on 20 November 2012 by the devotees of the Servant of God who flocked to his shrine in great numbers from all over Mumbai and other parts of Maharashtra and Gujarat. This was preceded by a Novena of preparation from 11 November 2012.

A solemn co-celebrated Eucharist was held in the compound of Agnel Ashram to mark this important occasion. The then Bishop of Jalandhar and now the Archbishop of Delhi, His Grace Dr.Anil Couto presided over the function. Archbishop Couto explained the great virtues that adorned Ven. Fr. Agnel's life, particularly his spirit of prayer and recollection, his tender compassion for the poor and suffering people and his great zeal for the salvation of souls.

Archbishop Couto was warmly received by the Agnel Ashram fathers and the people gathered for the occasion. A balbhawan boy felicitated him with a bouquet of flowers, Rev.Fr.F. Diniz, the

Superior of the Ashram welcomed the Bishop.

Fr. Superior also pointed out that Pope Benedict XVI had great regard to Bishop Couto in view of his singular zeal and enthusiasm in the apostolic work. Hence soon after his priestly ordination he was promoted as Auxiliary Bishop of Delhi and then Bishop of Jalandhar. Now with singular joy we can say that Ven. Fr.Agnel has given a special blessing to Bishop Couto, since within a week of his visit to Fr.Agnel's Shrine he has been appointed as Archbishop of Delhi.

Children from Fr.Agnel Multipurpose School, Ambernath performed an enchanting classical and prayer dance. A musical item put up by the scholastic brothers from Pune was also much appreciated. Also the liturgy during the Eucharist and choir singing was taken care by the same brothers with great perfection.

May Ven. Fr. Agnel bless and reward all our friends, benefactors and well-wishers who have given us significant support to make this occassion a success.

Liberty means responsibility. That is why most men dread it.

- George Bernard Shaw

MINI SPONSORSHIP SCHEME

The scheme offers the benefactors of Fr.Agnel Ashram an opportunity to share in their noble work of bringing up 600 orphan children in their Orphanages at : Bandra in Mumbai, Vashi in Navi Mumbai, Pune, Goa, Greater Noida.

You can become a Co-Sponsor of an orphan child by paying Rs.600 or more per year. You can pay the amount in monthly installments of Rs.50 or more. We also have the Full Sponsorship Scheme for members paying Rs.6000 or more per year. The amount also can be paid in monthly installments of Rs.500 .

Please contact : Rev.Fr.Superior.

Fr.Agnel Ashram,
Bandstand, Bandra (West),
Mumbai – 400 050.



CELEBRATING FR. AGNEL'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF VEN. FATHER AGNEL



Bishop A. Couto along with the concelebrants offers Eucharist.



Bishop receives an offering at the Eucharist



A musical piece presented by scholastic Brothers from Pune.



The Altar Boys



A view of the congregation at the punyathiti celebration

Melody
Eucharist

35TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY FR. AGNELO



Balbhavan Boys welcome Bishop Couto with the brass band.



Aarti to Bishop Couto



Fr. Agnel Multipurpose School (Ambernath) performs a prayer dance



And a classical dance by the children from the same school



ious singing by Rev. Brothers during the durist



Smartly dressed balbhavan children along with their Director Fr. V. Rebello.

AGNEL HAPPENINGS

Agnelites design Foldable Cycles

Addressing imminent environmental concerns, 'Ukti' – the two member team of Mr.Varad Patil and Mr.Ameya Ganapatye (B.E.Final Year, Mechanical) of Fr.C.R.I.T. Vashi, have designed a prize winning foldable bicycle at India's first ever Inventor Student Design Competition organized at IIT



Madras by Autodesk Inc., a leader in 3D design, engineering and entertainment software.

Over 1100 student teams from premier engineering Institutes including I.I.T.'s and N.I.I.T.'s submitted over 400 designs for a futuristic or innovative foldable / transformable vehicle using Autodesk products. Varad and Ameya's 'Ukti' Bicycle bagged the first prize of Rs.1,20,000 certificates



and, most significantly, an opportunity to participate in International events like Autodesk Panorama and World Skills International Competition. In fact, they just attended a fully sponsored four day boot camp at Singapore from November 5 – November 9, 2012. They described this training session as a "wonderful experience". Varad is one of two finalists from India for the World Skills International Competition to be held in Germany in June 2013.

Ameya and Varad have brought pride and glory not only to themselves and their families, but also to their college and their state. They have blazed the

trail for a better world and we hope many more students are inspired and encouraged by their example to follow in their footsteps and make this trail a highway to progress. They are seen here with Fr.Almeida.

An Agnelite for 5th Asian Air Gun Championship

Trisha Mukherjee shot to fame last year with her debut appearance at the national school games when she won the top honours in air gun competitions. Thanks to her coach, and Olympian, Suma Shirur.

Her mentor, Fr. Saturnino Almeida, managing director of Fr.Agnel Vashi who started the shooting range at Vashi where Trisha trains since 2009, has every reason to rejoice. Trisha, a class 8 student at Fr.Agnel Multipurpose

School, has qualified to represent India at the 5th Asian Air Gun Championships at Nanchang, China, to be held soon.

"I am elated to see my disciple making a mark on the international stage. She has immense potential," said a jubilant Shirur. Trisha is the youngest shooter to train at Fr.Agnel Sports Complex.

"She has been consistently shooting high scores due to which she qualified for the nationals last year and for the selection trials later. We are proud of her

progress," said Fr. Almeida.

At the second selection trials in Pune last month, she scored 393/400 and entered the finals in the open category.

Trisha has been encouraged to pursue her



Trisha flanked by Fr. S. Almeida and Suma Shirur

passion by Fr. Almeida. Her parents also have been very supportive. They have been sending her to various camps and competitions, thus boosting her self-confidence and giving her a wide exposure.

Inter School Sports Meet – 2012 Delhi & Noida

"You are never really playing an opponent. You are playing yourself, your own highest standards, and when you reach your limit that is real joy". The words of Arthur Ashe were borne in mind as F.A.S. Delhi and Noida celebrated the Inter-school Annual Sports meet. It was



and Noida marched past in perfect coordination and synchronisation.

The tradition of lighting the torch, which followed next, symbolized the start of sports events. Zonal level athletes and winners of various other awards, Praneet Purohit from F.A.S. (Noida) and

Ashbel Kurien of F.A.S. (Delhi) received the honour of bearing the torch.

The Chief Guest stressed the importance of sports and games in the life of a child. He congratulated the Agnel schools for the sterling work that they are rendering in the field of education.

FAS Noida lifted the winners' cup and their participants thrilled in the glory of victory.

-by Sreeja Kharola

*We wish all our
Dear Benefactors
A Happy and Holy
Christmas As well
as a Prosperous
New Year*

-Fr. Agnel Community and
Balbhavan Children



Fr.Agnelo's Cardinal Virtue - Justice

-P.A.D'Mello

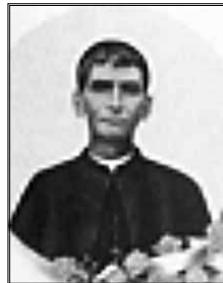
The virtue of Justice was strictly observed by Fr.Agnelo. As we know Justice is a virtue through which we give others their legitimate dues - to God what is God's, to Caesar what is Caesar's, to all our neighbors what is due to them and to our body and soul what is to be theirs according to the plan of God.

Agnelo not only sought to be scrupulously faithful to his duties towards God and his neighbors, but also how his love led him to sacrifice all his time, money, energy and health and his own life in order to satisfy the burning love of his heart.

To fulfill God's will and to pursue His interests was the supreme urge of his unsullied life. All his activity, sacrifices, penances and recollection of spirit cannot be explained if his duty and charity towards his creator and redeemer were not the constant goal of his life. The calmness he maintained, be it inward or outward, was the result of his duty of justice, love and gratitude fulfilled so constantly and faithfully.

It was due to that same consciousness that he shunned honours and praises and attributed all to God, the source of all good; that he was urged only by an urgent zeal, as shown in his preaching and in his way of life, to make God known, loved and glorified by all.

His love for his family was also inspired from his sentiments of justice and gratitude. Having left them to follow his vocation to a perfect way of life, still his affection for them was always warm. In his letters to his relatives we find manifest his deep interest and dedication for them. If he could not give them material goods, it was because the poor left him empty. Whatever extra he



had he would share with the needy to the point of depriving himself, he would not hesitate to ask his rich friends to help the poor. He would not feel ashamed to do it. It was a matter of justice.

Even small favors that he received from others drew from him sincere gratitude. He reputed himself unworthy of esteem or favor, and hence his sentiments of justice and gratitude were profoundly sincere.

Parish priests, professors and others who had in any way contributed to his education and formation, had an affectionate and grateful place in his heart and he prayed often for them.

His sense of justice also prevented him from criticizing others and from letting others do so, even truthfully.

In the pulpit he was trenchant against injustice, usury or fraud. It happened once that his nephew feigned illness to stay away from work. Fr.Agnelo took him severely to task and showed him the injustice he committed to the public funds by receiving salary without working for it; and he warned him that, if he persisted in playing truant, God was sure to send him the same illness that he had pretended.

Finally, he was just also towards himself. Knowing very well how the interests of the body and the spirit were opposed to each other and keeping in mind persistently the fleeting nature of the bodily good, he placed the spiritual and eternal goods above all else, so that he succeeded in subduing his body and reducing it to servitude under the spirit. He was convinced of the famous words of Our Lord "What does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and suffers the loss of his own soul?" (Mathew XVI, 26).

Justice is truth in action.

- Benjamin Disraeli

Year -Long NIOS' Silver Jubilee

The National Institute Of Open Schooling (NIOS) commemorating its Silver Jubilee in November - 2013 has planned a series of functions for one whole year, beginning November- 2012. The NIOS thus began by celebrating its 24th year of Foundation Day with lectures, speeches, cultural programmes and for the first time constituting Awards for meritorious and distinguished services rendered by Accredited Institutes, Accredited Vocational Institutes and Coordinators facilitating and supporting the NIOS in their respective fields of work. The Award of the above categories was in acknowledgement of a consistent and continuous evaluation done during the past five years throughout India. The function was celebrated on Friday, 23 November at the Mavlankar Auditorium, Delhi.

Our coordinator Mrs. Shubha Banerjee (Prerna- Fr. Agnel School, Gautam Nagar) was awarded the Best Coordinator Award-2012, through a panel of a competent committee from among all Regional Centres all over India.

'PRERNA' is an extension of Fr. Agnel School and is one of the oldest Study Centres initiated by Fr. Carvalho to reach out to those who cannot be reached through our regular school, due to various factors, including academic, social, financial, etc. and has lived up to the charism of the institution since 1992.

On the podium were the newly elected Minister for State Dr. Shashi Tharoor and Prof. M.B. Menon, vice-chancellor, Wawsan Open University, Penang, Malaysia.

The 2nd part of the programme was a lecture on the role of Study Centres and

teachers to facilitate the open schooling system.

Our former President, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam presided over the proceedings. He made all the teachers present in the hall take an oath of dedication and commitment towards this noble profession. Dr. Palam Raju the Union Minister for HRD and Director for Education, Dr. Bhattacharya suggested the NIOS be more purposeful and



student- friendly.

This was followed by a cultural presentation from children of several Study Centres of NIOS. The students of Fr. Agnel School too put up a fine drama-skit based on a true life incident of a girl who despite all odds could clear her X & XII classes from Fr. Agnel School and is now a successful lawyer in Lucknow. Soon after the Awards were presented by the Chairman, NIOS, Dr. S. S. Jena to the states of Delhi (2), Guwahati (1), Hyderabad (1), Kerala (1), Jharkhand (1) and Orissa (1). The award consisted of a gold-plated memento and a shawl. The vote of thanks was proposed by the NIOS spokesperson Dr. Khavare. The function culminated with a lavish dinner.

THE JOY IN GIVING

God loves
a
cheerful Giver!

Letters from some benefactors and friends of our
Balbhavan children

Teresa Aranha, Mumbai

Enclosed is a cheque of ₹10,000 for the benefit of your orphans. We pray for all the good works that you do. May God bless you. Please pray for my special intentions.

Deepak Mathew, U.S.A.

We enclose a cheque of \$100 for the charitable works that you do, especially taking care of orphan children. Please request the children to pray for us.

Veronica Fernandes, Goa

I am enclosing a cheque of ₹550 towards the sponsorship of my ward. Kindly pray for me and my family.

T.E. Lazar, Saudi Arabia

I am sending herewith a cheque of ₹2000 towards donation for the orphan children under your care. Kindly acknowledge receipt and pray for us.

K. Antony Varkey, Kerala

Kindly find enclosed a cheque of ₹6000 being my family's yearly contribution to meet the expenses of one orphan child under your care. Please remember us in your prayers.

William D'Costa, Abu Dhabi

Please find attached a cheque for ₹7000 ₹6000 towards full sponsorship and ₹1000 as a gift for our ward Mayur Sakrecha. We request you to keep us in your prayers. Our love to Mayur and all other children under your care.

When you learn teach, when you get, give.

- Maya Angelou

Children

Children, a gift of God, on earth nonpareil,
To make all our joys, more deeply feel;
With their tiny fists and their perfect tho' tiny toes,
 Making us forget all our woes
 And believe, that we in our arms,
 Are cradling a miracle-
 That nothing in this world so fickle
 Can hold a candle to.
 It is a pleasure to see them grow
Take their first steps and lisp out their first words;
Fulfilling to teach them the love and fear of God,
 Mingled with a sense of fun;
 And a reverence for the Word.
They keep our spirits up and make us laugh
 And help us face mockers that scoff
 At any hint of excellence.
All too soon, we have to cut off the apron strings,
 And to fly the nest, give them wings;
At peace, in the hope, that God in His mercy
 Will their paths oversee,
 So that goodness will grow
 Like ripples in the stream.

- Sandra Kay

Better The People, Better The Nation-

Contd. from pg 5

and oblivious of the need to produce ideal citizens out of young minds.

Private schools are somewhat better, but they too fail to produce desired results. World-wide we have acquired notoriety for being one of the most corrupt countries. If we have to shake off this tag, we need to transform the thinking and behavior of the coming generations and do it fast. Transformation of the nation into one of the greatest and most respected countries in the world starts with the transformation of individual citizens. It is only the education system that can bring up ideal citizens endowed with great qualities of head and heart.

I believe there are more instances of the abridgment of freedom of the people by gradual and silent encroachments of those in power than by violent and sudden usurpations.

- James Madison



FR. AGNEL'S BLESSINGS

SUCCESSFUL OPERATION

Vasai: My husband had a heart problem and the doctor advised an operation. We prayed to Ven.Fr.Agnel for his success. By the grace of Ven.Fr.Agnel my husband's heart operation was successful. In thanksgiving an offering of ₹200.

-Ruby Machado

SECURED JOB IN A BANK

Bhayander: I was attending Ven.Fr.Agnel's novena. Through his blessings I secured a good job in a Bank. My humble thanks offering of ₹1000.

-Roniva Dimekar

GIFT OF A BABY BOY

England: I was praying to Ven.Fr.Agnel for my son. I am happy to inform you that through his blessing my son and daughter-in-law have been blessed with a baby boy. In thanksgiving, an offering of 100 pounds.

-Pushpa Modi

SECURED GOOD JOB

Vasai: I was praying to Ven.Fr.Agnel. Through his intercession, I secured a good job in an I.T. Company. Herewith my thanks offering of ₹5000.

-Priyanka Lopes

RECOVERY FROM MEDICAL REACTION

Gujarat: My daughter had some allergy on her entire body due to some reaction of some medicine. She was taken for treatment of tonsils as per advice of doctor. She became completely inactive. I prayed to Ven.Fr.Agnel for his help. After 15 days she started recovering gradually. Now after 3 months she has fully recovered and has resumed her duty. In thanksgiving an offering of ₹100.

-K.M.Desai

GIFT OF A CHILD

Tamil Nadu: We were issueless even after six years of our marriage. One of our friends told us about Ven.Fr.Agnel's devotion and gave us Ven.Fr.Agnel's booklet. We started praying to Ven.Fr.Agnel. After a few days she came to know that she is expecting. Today we are happy to inform you that through his blessing we are blessed with a healthy baby

boy. In thanksgiving an offering of ₹250.

-Mr. & Mrs. Murugan G.

OPERATION AVERTED

Kalyan: My brother was seriously ill and he was admitted to a hospital and advised an operation. I started Ven.Fr.Agnel's novenas and pleaded with him that the operation may be averted. Through his blessing my brother has been cured of his illness without operation. My thanks offering of ₹51.

-Kavita Sarode

RECONCILIATION AFTER TEN YEARS

Kerala: My daughter was abandoned by her husband for the last ten years. As a result she suffered a nervous breakdown. Efforts for reconciliation did not bring any result. In despair, I started praying to Ven.Fr.Agnel and through his blessing my son-in-law came to our house and took our daughter with him. They are now leading a peaceful life and also my daughter has completely recovered from her illness. We are grateful to Ven.Fr.Agnel. In thanksgiving an offering of ₹100.

-Molly Jacob

SUCCESSFUL KIDNEY TRANSPLANT

Australia: My kidney had failed and I was in search of a suitable kidney donor. In despair, I sought the powerful intercession of Ven.Fr.Agnel and pleaded with him. I am now happy to say that by his blessing I have found a suitable kidney donor and the transplant too was successful. In thanksgiving an offering of ₹1057.

-Geraldine McMullen

CURED WITHOUT OPERATION

Trichur: I was suffering from a growth in my prostate gland and doctor advised a surgery. I and my family fervently prayed to Ven.Fr.Agnel continuously and my sister-in-law from Mumbai attended consecutive nine Sundays novena prayers at Fr. Agnel Ashram. Last week when the clinical test was conducted, the PSA report became normal and surgery was averted. In thanksgiving an offering of ₹501.

- P.A.Francis

Out of Their Bounty

P. Srivastava	Mumbai	35000	L.J. Ferns	England	4110	M.N. D'Cruz	Malaysia	1000
M.M. Bulbulia	Mumbai	30000	Joseph & Melini	Dubai	4000	S. Saldanha	Mangalore	1000
R.Z. Mannala	Sharjah	25000	J.J. D'Souza	Dubai	4000	T.K.M. Das	Mumbai	1000
A. D'Souza	Abu Dhabi	14000	A. Nero	Kerala	4000	T. Fernandes	Mumbai	1000
M.J. Tibrewala	Nashik	12000	S.L. Manilal	Mumbai	4000	T. Fernandes	Mumbai	1000
Dr.S.P. Lath	Daman	11111	N. Swamy	Mumbai	4000	S.V.S. Rama Rao	Mumbai	1000
H. Wilson	Australia	10000	M. D'Monte	Australia	3758	P.M. Pai	Mumbai	1000
M.D. Fernandes	Chennai	10000	B. Paul	Mumbai	3600	P. Braganza	Mumbai	1000
T. Aranha	Mumbai	10000	A.O. Joseph	Mumbai	3000	N.O. Bhatt	Mumbai	1000
M.J. Rodrigues	Vasai	10000	A.M. Olpadwala	Mumbai	3000	N.N. Sethna	Mumbai	1000
A. Augustine	Kerala	9000	A. D'Silva	Mumbai	3000	N. Shah	Mumbai	1000
S. Gandhi	U.K.	8439	D. Young	Canada	2984	J. S. Fernandes	Mumbai	1000
Lt.Col. Toms (R)	Pune	8000	J. Zecharias	U.S.A.	2617	H. Britto	Mumbai	1000
W.A. Dsilva	Mumbai	7500	T. George	Abu Dhabi	2500	F.M. Patel	Mumbai	1000
J. Fernandes	Bahrain	7000	J.M.Fong	Canada	2500	C. Parmeshwaran	Mumbai	1000
S. Gallagher	Ireland	6673	D. Pallikl	Chennai	2500	A.t. Daruwalla	Mumbai	1000
V. Grace	Kalyan	6000	R.A. Ujenia	England	2376	A.C. Leo	Mumbai	1000
K.A. Varkey	Kerala	6000	L. Johny	New Delhi	2350	A. Jagtiani	Mumbai	1000
T.J. Sequeira	Mangalore	6000	Subramaniam R.	Mumbai	2300	V.S. Bilolikar	Mumbai	1000
S. Menezes	Mumbai	6000	J.N. Correa	Mumbai	2100	M.A. John	Nadiad	1000
Fernandes	Mumbai	6000	N. Bhagat	Navsari	2001	P.J. Charles	Thane	1000
Baby & Molly	Qatar	6000	V.H. Solanki	Ahmedabad	2000	R. Chawan	Vasai	1000
L. Joseph	Kerala	5500	J. Kaviyal	Dubai	2000	J.D. Lam	Nashik	775
D. Mathew	U.S.A.	5397	V. Pijwala	Gujarat	2000	D. Welsh	England	713
W.A. Draper	U.S.A.	5240	K.F. Mathew	Kerala	2000	S. Babulal	Mumbai	701
A. Joseph	U.S.A.	5046	C.V. Abraham	Kerala	2000	P. Napoleon	U.K.	699
R.K. Holkar	U.S.A.	5029	Stanly & Lita	Mumbai	2000	M. Macaskill	Glasgow	689
J. Mathew	U.S.A.	5004	S. Shahnaz	Mumbai	2000	D. Louis	Bahrain	657
H. Z. Bharucha	Secunderabad	5001	F.R. Mehta	Mumbai	2000	A. Joy	U.S.A.	647
M. D'Souza	Abu Dhabi	5000	Mr. Mrs. George	New Delhi	2000	Lily Fernandes	Dahisar	600
Roy D. Muniz	Bhayandar	5000	J.A. Clarke	U.K.	1563	B. Stanly	Kerala	600
A. Ambo	Bhayandar	5000	J. Baldrey	U.K.	1560	Dr.M. Thomas	Kerala	550
S. D'Souza	Dubai	5000	G. McMullen	Australia	1524	H. Castellino	Bangalore	525
L. Remedios	Dubai	5000	A. Karunakar	Canada	1500	Jose T.K.	Kerala	501
T. Philipose	Kerala	5000	A. Reynolds	Australia	1386	R. Shirali	Mumbai	501
S.V. Malini	Kerala	5000	S.K. Skariah	U.S.A.	1227	M.J. Sheth	Mumbai	501
J. Puthur	Kerala	5000	D.M. Patel	U.S.A.	1082	M. Menezes	Vasai	501
P.C. Debnath	Koperkhairne	5000	T.D. Antony	Kerala	1001	P. Fernandes	Chennai	500
R. D'Souza	Kuwait	5000	N.F. Dandiwalla	Mumbai	1001	J. Jaipaul	Chennai	500
A. Raj	Kuwait	5000	S.R. Basner	Nashik	1001	G. Veeramani	Chennai	500
T. Peters	Malaysia	5000	S. Bondal	Pune	1001	R. Aranjo	Goa	500
A.S. Pillai	Malaysia	5000	P. Bahl	A.P.	1000	P. D'Costa	Karnataka	500
Techno Comm.	Mumbai	5000	J.I. Jadhav	Ahmedabad	1000	Grace Lobo	Karnataka	500
S.S. Agarwal	Mumbai	5000	P.M. Gaikwad	Jalna	1000	V.P. George	Kerala	500
S.J. D'Cruze	Mumbai	5000	V. Chacko	Kerala	1000	S. George	Kerala	500
R. D'Souza	Mumbai	5000	T. Joseph	Kerala	1000	A.K. Francis	Kerala	500
N.G. Minwalla	Mumbai	5000	S. Jacob	Kerala	1000	S. Gomes	Kolkata	500
M. D'Souza	Mumbai	5000	S. Duke	Kerala	1000	P.J. D'Almeida	Mangalore	500
L. D'Souza	Mumbai	5000	N. Simon	Kerala	1000	S. Furtado	Mumbai	500
J.M. Machado	Mumbai	5000	K.V. Antony	Kerala	1000	R. Commissariat	Mumbai	500
J.M. Chettiar	Mumbai	5000	J. Shaju	Kerala	1000	K.S. Rao	Mumbai	500
F. Quadros	Mumbai	5000	J. Joseph	Kerala	1000	F. Fernandes	Mumbai	500
A.M. Jadhav	Mumbai	5000	J. Joseph	Kerala	1000	F. Cordeiro	Mumbai	500
N. Sibin	Qatar	5000	C.C. Mathius	Kerala	1000	D.P. Srinivasa	Mumbai	500
M.S.P. Raj	T.N.	5000	A. Mathew	Kerala	1000	C. Mirinda	Mumbai	500
I.A. Samy	T.N.	5000	A. Geevarghese	Kerala	1000	A. D'Souza	Mumbai	500

First Annual Athletic meet at Greater Noida

Fr. Agnel School, Greater Noida conducted its first Annual Athletic Meet on 10 November 2012. The Chief Guest Shri Pankaj Sharma (Former National Hockey Player) graced the occasion and gave away the prizes.

The Athletic Meet began with School Flag Hoisting and lighting of the torch by the Chief Guest. P.T displays by the KG, Primary, Junior and Middle Schools were suitably appreciated with thunderous applause. For the holistic development of our students various races such as flower race, pick up the ball and folding the mat race, etc, brought out the enthusiasm of the primary school children.

Under the able guidance and leadership

of our Manager Fr. Bento Rodrigues and Principal Sr. Shilpa and great efforts of the teachers and students the Meet was a grand success.

The senior students put up a spectacular display of discipline and team work through the March Past. The squads were led by Captains and Vice Captains carrying their respective house flags. GREEN (Always Faster), YELLOW (Always Stronger), RED (Always Higher), BLUE which is calm and composed. It showed the physical stamina of the students in the form of relay race and other races.

The Meet ended with vote of thanks proposed by Deepak, the speaker of the school parliament.

AGNEL –COOPERATORS

You can join the Ashram Family by becoming a member of Agnel-Cooperators and enjoy the fruits of a Special Daily Mass offered at Fr. Agnel Ashram, Bandra for all the members. You will also enjoy the fruits of all the prayers and good works of the Agnel Ashram Fathers and entire Agnel Ashram Family.

Membership Fees:-

Ordinary Co-operators : Individual ₹.100

Family : ₹. 500

Benefactors : ₹. 1000

Patrons : ₹. 5000

Please contact : Rev. Fr. Superior. Fr. Agnel, Ashram, Band Stand, Bandra(W), Mumbai-400 050.

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BRANCH NO.1 (BANDRA)

Near Cardinal School, Subhash Nagar, Opp. Bank Of India, Bandra (East), Mumbai - 400 051

BRANCH NO.3 (SANTACRUZ)

Nr. Railway Station, Jucu Club, Opp. Yatri Hotel, Santacruz (East), Mumbai-400 05 5.

BRANCH NO.2 (KHAR)

Near Railway Opp. Shankar Mandir, Jawahar Nagar, Khar (E), Mumbai -400051.

BRANCH NO.4 (JOGESHWARI)

Opp. Railway Station, 4th Platform, Subhash Nagar, Behind, Satellite Park, Jogeshwari (East), Mumbai - 400 060.

BRANCH NO. 5 (MALAD)

Sainath Road, Behind Tel. Exchange Malad (W), Subway Road, Mumbai -400064

FRAGNEL'S SPORTS DAY AT NOIDA



Shri Pankaj Sharma (former national Hockey player), is welcomed with Love and Flowers



A Bouquet of love to Fr. Carvalho



Our chief guest Shri Sharma addresses the gathering



Our token of appreciation to the chief guest



How great! children turn work-out into fun.



Tiny tots, drills and music ... a perfect combo



Hats off to our smart Babies.



Three cheers for our unity.



Bravo! The winner takes it all



Curtain's down on the Sports Day