



FR
AGNEL
SHRAM NEWS

December 2014



*May the Love, Joy, Peace and Hope
of Jesus be with you this Christmas
and through the year 2015!*

NEWS

December 2014



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Magazine Design by:
Darshana Sharma

Printed & Published by:

Fr. Francisco Diniz on behalf of Agnel Publications

Editor:

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Printed at:

S.B.M Printers

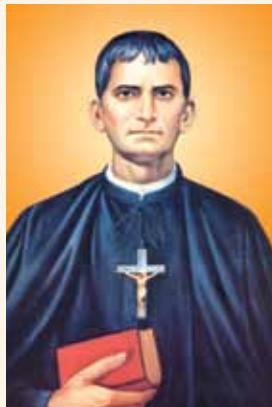
C-130, Ansa Industrial Estate, Andheri East, Mumbai -400072

Place of Publication:

Fr. Agnel Ashram, Bandstand, Bandra, Mumbai - 400 050.

Single Copy Price: Rs. 15

Annual Subscription: Rs. 150



**VEN. FR. AGNEL
JAYANTI on
21st January 2015
at Fr.Agnel Ashram,
Bandra (W),
Mumbai – 400 050.**

**PROGRAMME
SPECIAL NOVENA SERVICE
From 12th to 20th January 2015**

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 18th, January all Masses and Novena Services will be held as on normal Sundays.

**21st January (Wednesday) : 146th Birth Anniversary
of Ven.Fr.Agnel**

Morning : Masses followed by Prayers for Favours and Blessings with the Relic at 6.30, 7.15, 8.00 in English.

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



**RT. REV. ALEX DIAS SFX,
BISHOP OF PORT BLAIR 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 Prince of Peace

Isaiah who lived centuries ago prophesied the coming of a Saviour. For a Child will be born for us a Son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace (9:6). And the angel of the Lord who appeared to the Shepherds at Bethlehem had very exciting news. When they saw the Angel, the shepherds were terrified, but the message of the Angel brought them joy: "Do not be afraid. I bring the Good News that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord..." And the angels were singing "Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth peace to those on whom His favour rests".

Peace is shalom in Hebrew. The root meaning of shalom is to be whole or sound (nothing-broken-nothing-missing). It speaks of completeness, wholeness, welfare and peace. This, precisely, is the abundant life that the Saviour brought to the world (Jn. 10:10).

Pope Francis in his first message for World Day of Peace stressed: "In the heart of every man and woman there is the desire for a full life, including the irrepressible longing for Fraternity which draws us to fellowship with others and enables us to see them not as enemies or rivals, but as brothers and sisters to be accepted and embrace. Fraternity is an essential human quality for we are relational beings. A lively awareness of our relatedness helps us to look upon and treat each person as a true sister or brother; without fraternity it is impossible to build a just society

and solid and lasting peace. We should remember that fraternity is generally first learned in the family, thanks above all to the responsible and complementary roles of each of its members, particularly the father and the mother. The family is the wellspring of all fraternity, and as such it is the foundation and the first pathway to peace, since by its vocation, it is meant to spread its love to the world around it".



**No Jesus
No Peace
Know Jesus
Know Peace**

to fellowship with others, and enable us to look at them as our own brothers and sisters. And, indeed, Christ alone has an answer to our desire. This is God's marvelous plan. He chose to make us his special ones "Because you are precious in my sight and honored and I love you, I am giving up people in your place and nations in exchange for your life" (Is. 43:4).

Mahatma Gandhi said so truly: "The day the power of love overrules the love of power, the world will know peace." And this gold nugget from Gautama Buddha; "Do not be afraid to take a chance on peace, to teach peace, to live peace. Peace will be the last word of history." The most solemn promise Jesus made before leaving this world: "Peace I leave you, my Peace I give you". The Peace that Jesus offers us is beyond compare which this world cannot give us. The words of St. Paul in Colossians are very inspiring: "And let the Peace of Christ rule in your hearts to which, indeed, you were called in one body".

Ubaldo Fernandes sfx

Fr. Agnel – A Model Of The Eucharistic Attitude

*(Homily At The Mass On The Death Anniversary
of Fr. Agnel -20th Nov, 2014)*

-Bishop John Rodrigues



We have just heard the narration of institution of the Eucharist from Luke's Gospel. From that time right down the ages, as the Eucharist has been celebrated the

Church has experienced the limitless love of God – his desire to give and love and share ceaselessly. He is with us always. Today as we honour Fr Agnel we look to him as a model, who sought to live the meaning of the Eucharist and embody a Eucharistic attitude. We shall reflect on two characteristics of his Eucharistic devotion.

Firstly, Fr Agnel had great faith in the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. We are told that as a priest he would spend hours before the Blessed Sacrament. When he preached about the Eucharistic Lord his eyes radiated a heavenly glow. Just before breathing his last it was his earnest desire to be present for Benediction and be blessed by the Eucharistic Lord.

The First Reading from the Book of Deuteronomy tells us of the Bread of Presence (25:30). It was a reminder that God was present with them on their journey. In Jesus we encounter God in our midst. At the Last Supper when Jesus shared bread and wine with his disciples he was giving them not just a token reminder of himself but his real flesh and blood. This meant he was giving them his whole self as we see from references in the Old Testament that flesh meant the human person and blood signified life. Hence, he was giving his entire self, his whole person. We believe that Jesus is really, truly and substantially present in the Eucharist. We encounter the person of Jesus in the Eucharist. He is there for us and

his presence becomes meaningful for us when we open ourselves, when we converse with him, when we listen to him.

This is what Fr Agnel sought to do when he sat before the Blessed Sacrament. May we follow his example and grow in our faith that Jesus is really and personally present for us, and may we grow in our relationship with him.

A second characteristic of a Eucharistic attitude was described for us in the second reading from the Acts of the Apostles. We heard how the Christians gathered together and celebrated the Eucharistic meal "with glad and generous hearts." Their participation in the breaking of the bread led to generosity. In Fr Agnel's life too his Eucharistic joy was manifested in his desire to be generous and share with all whatever he had. He chose to live a life of austerity managing with the minimum. It was a sign of his radical following of the Gospel, of being completely detached from material things and relying totally on God. "It is not clothing that honours a man but virtue" are his words to a friend. He trusted in God's providence and generosity. The riches that he received he shared with others. As the Lord poured his love into his heart it overflowed to others. This is something he learnt from his pious mother. If he could not help someone who was materially in need, he would borrow from others to help those in need particularly the widows and orphans.

In the Eucharist we experience the goodness of the Lord to us. He gives himself totally to us. We are called to be generous and share with others what we receive. An illustration expresses this very well. In the Holy Land there are two great lakes – so big that they are called

Contd. to page 15

Christmas without Christ?

- Fr.F. Diniz

Christmas is a universal religious festival. 25th December 2014 is now at hand. For the last couple of Sundays we have heard the call of St. John the Baptist to "prepare the way of the Lord and make His path straight". It is a call for preparation for the celebration of the Birthday of Christ. How important is this celebration for us? Do we really take the call of St. John the Baptist seriously? For some, perhaps a mundane celebration is more important than that done in the true spirit of Christmas.

What is the main purpose of a Christmas Celebration? Let us remember that celebration of any mystery of Christ is meant to project the glory of Christ as the only Son of God. Even the celebration of the death of Christ is a prelude to his

glorious Resurrection. The fact is that the Christian Community took a long time to understand that the birth of Christ was also a manifestation of His glory as the Son of God.

It was only at the beginning of the 5th century A.D. that Christmas was universally accepted as a celebration of the manifestation of the glory of Christ as the Son of God, just as his Resurrection was. 25th December was also accepted as the date of the Birth of Jesus Christ. This was mostly due to the intervention of St. John Chrysostom who helped extend this custom to Europe, and thus, it became a common custom in most of the Eastern and Western Churches which prevails to this day.

It is interesting to know how this awareness of the manifestation of the glory of Christ on his birthday dawned on the Christian communities all over the world. It started with the celebration of Epiphany of the Lord on the 6th January. Guided by a star the Wise Men from a far Eastern country, came to Bethlehem to worship the newly born King of the Jews, and though they found him as a child of poor parents "they fell

down and worshipped him". This was taken by many Churches as a clear manifestation of the glory of Christ as the Son of God.

Then some of the Churches realized that the apparition of the Angel to the shepherds on the very night of the Nativity of Christ was also a manifestation of the glory of Christ and started celebrating the Birthday of Christ on 6th January together with Epiphany. Finally, the two feasts were separated and Christmas was fixed definitively on 25th December and

Epiphany continued on the 6th January. The celebration of Christmas was mainly a spiritual affair like any other feast of the Church.

It was in the first half of the 13th century A.D. that Christmas became a popular feast even more popular than

Easter due to the influence of St. Francis of Assisi. Popular expression of joy with the enactment of the scenes of Nativity and dramatics, because of which devotion got freely mixed up with fun.

There is now a trend to ignore the salutary messages of Christmas such as "Glory to God in the highest and peace to His people on earth". "A Saviour has been born for you who is Christ the Lord". "We have seen his star in the East and have come to worship him". The so-called people with a modern trend want to limit the celebration only to fun and frolic, often not of the innocent type. Let Christmas celebration be used as a prelude to the coming of the "Great One" as Rabindranath Tagore in one of his poems eloquently described:

"The Great One comes sending waves of joy in all directions

The grasses come alive, the birds sing sweeter, For the romance of His coming

Is so vibrant, so pervading, so stupendous...."

So we pray - Let Christmas be a true manifestation of the love glory of God.



Joy To The World

-Leon Bent

It is in silence that we begin to go deeper and deeper into that inner storehouse of joy. It is in silence that we go to the place where sound originates. Silence is stronger than words. Silence is a powerful environment for transformation.

Jesus was born on a "Silent Night, Holy Night!" Silence and holiness poured out like a fountain which cradled the infant Jesus. The four lyrics are a form of confession of faith, prophecy and praise an expression of joy and glory. The air is "hallelujah."

"Glory to God in the highest and peace to men of goodwill." This joyful news was an invitation for the lowly Shepherds, as they listened in the stillness of the night. Abraham Heschel says, "No words more magnificent have ever been uttered." These songs are charged with Spirit-power and contain the joyful celebration of belief in the event of salvation, and contain the Christmas Liturgy in embryonic form.

Then follows "The Magnificat," (Lk. 1:46-55) Mary's bitter-sweet canticle! Mary is "full of grace" and from this truth spring

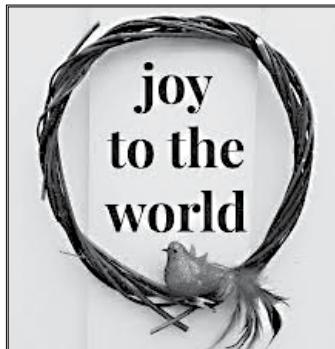
joy and exultation. "My spirit rejoices..." The joy of divine work, a joy of pure and gratuitous praise. Her song is full of fire, inspired by the Spirit. It is the Virgin's hymn of perfect purity. The latter half of the "The Magnificat" expresses in sharp forthrightness, Mary was so filled with God that, it led to the greatest rapture and incredible abandonment.

Thirdly, at Jesus' *Presentation in the Temple* (2:29-32), Simeon, moved by the Holy Spirit expressed delightfully that, Christ would be "a Light for the Gentiles and glory to his People, Israel."

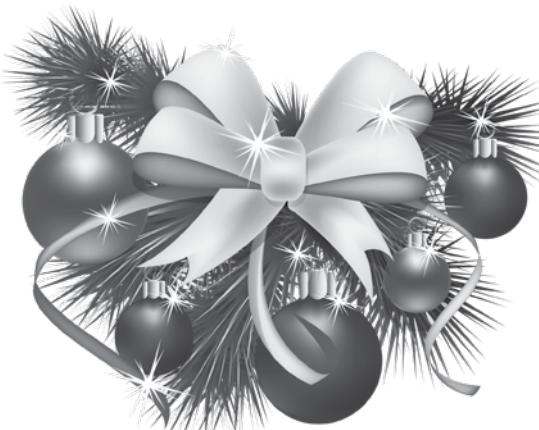
The fourth song, the canticle of Zechariah (Lk.67-79), is also known as "*Benedictus*."

Zechariah filled with the Spirit, sang a thanksgiving chant to God because He had been faithful to His promises (Jn.3:16), to send His Son to redeem man from the snares of sin and death.

To experience Jesus we must take the "Child" into our arms, and hold him close to our hearts. Christmas is not just the festivity of the joy of humans. It is also the exuberance of God's scintillating joy.



AGNEL ASHRAM COMMUNITY & Balbhavan Children



*Wish all our Friends,
Benefactors and Well-
Wishers A Very Happy
and Holy Christmas
and a Showers of God's
Blessings for the
New Year!*

Christmas: An Old Message with New Insights

-Fr. Jesuino Almeida

Christmas is around once again. We read the same Bible passages again, but, since we live every year in a new context, these passages lead us to new insights. The Word was made flesh in the poorest conditions. We can link these words with the reflexions of Swami Agnivesh, the well known activist and campaigner for the rights of the poor and disadvantaged, who said: "We find Jesus of Nazareth, the most relevant in the present-day situation. He never took up arms against his enemies. His response was love. That should inspire us. Through love we can win this war".

Augustine Kenjamala looks at the Jesus event from another angle: "The social impact of the Gospel of Jesus, as in the case of Ram Mohan Roy and the members of Brahma Samaj, Prarthna Samaj and other Samajes across the length and breadth of the country, is still attractive and meaningful. For Swami Vivekananda Jesus was the "Mukkta," and for M.K Gandhi he was the "Supreme Satyagrahi" and model of "Ahimsa". Gandhiji started

many of his meetings with the readings from the Gospel, Koran and Gita. Indian philosopher S.Radhakrishnan, the exponent of Neo – Hinduism, extolled Jesus as one who achieved mystical union with God, "I and the Father are one". Pandita Ramabai discovered in him a great liberator of women.

Missionaries are exhorted to imitate the servant model of Jesus. For example, Blessed Mother Teresa of Kolkata, whose birth centenary was celebrated all over the world by people of all religions or no religion, is the most loved, appreciated and esteemed missionary of the 20th century. When she started

her service to the poorest of the poor in the streets of Kolkata and was criticized for encouraging conversion to her faith, her answer was: "I do convert. I convert you to be a better Hindu, a better Muslim, a better Protestant and a better Sikh".

May these powerful leaders of other faiths and our own, motivate us to go still deeper into the message of Bethlehem?

THE JOY OF GIVING



Letters from some
Benefactors and Friends
of our Balbhavan
children

William & Dorothy D'Costa, Dubai

We enclose cheque for ₹.7000 towards the sponsorship of our ward Vinayak Parkar. We wish the Ashram and Vinayak all the very best. Please keep us in your prayers.

Paul D'Mello, Vasai

Kindly find enclosed a cheque of ₹.25,000 to be used for the benefit of the orphans under your care. May the Lord's mercy and goodness be with you and all the inmates of your Balbhavan. Please pray for our family.

Yul Remedios, Dubai

Attached is a draft for ₹.3232 for the Balbhavan boys. This is my thanksgiving offering to Ven.Fr.Agnel. Kindly remember us in your prayers.

Thresiamma Joseph, Angamally

I am sending a small gift of ₹.500 for the orphans in your Ashram. Please pray for me and my family. I have received many Blessings from Fr.Agnel and I am thankful for the same.

George Paul, Kollam

I have been in contact with your Ashram for the past few decades. I will now be retiring from service. As a token of my gratitude to Almighty God, I am sending a cheque for ₹.60,000 from my savings for the benefit of your orphans. Please request the orphans to pray for me and my family. Thanking you.

Bernard Doloi, Kolkata

Enclosed is a cheque for ₹.500 towards the sponsorship scheme. Kindly remember our family in your daily prayers. Thank you.

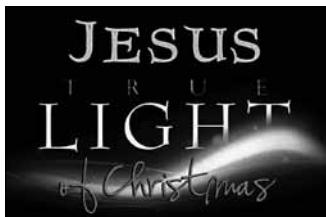
A Christmas of Light, Joy And Hope

-Fr.Nazareth Fernandes

Come the Season of Advent, and Christmas celebrations have already begun. This is the spirit of Christmas in the western world, where roads and streets, trees and fountains are grandiosely lighted and decorated, welcoming the very Season of Advent itself. To our minds, in the Orient, inebriated as we are with the spiritual ethos of penance during the Advent Season as a gesture of genuine preparation for Christmas, the western spirit sounds ridiculous. But the world over, whether in season or out of season, the month of December uplifts our joyful spirits, because Christmas is near.

What has the birth of Christ to offer humanity? Pope Francis in one of his reference to global affluent countries has this to say: "The promise was that when the glass was full, it would overflow, benefitting the poor. But what happens instead is that when the glass is full, it magically gets bigger... nothing ever comes out for the poor".

It was in such a context that Jesus came into our world to free us from selfishness and indifference and make us all sons and daughters of his Father. St. Paul in his



letter to the Galatians 4:4,5 clearly defines the mission of Jesus: "When the fullness of time was come, God sent his Son made of a woman, made under the law; that he might redeem them who were under the law; that we might receive adoption as sons". Thus the Son of God came to abolish the Old Covenant, and to establish a new one, - a Covenant of love, not of law.

If Christmas has any meaning for humanity it is one of Joy and Hope which can never deceive. Joy brings with it hope. For Jesus came down to give us hope – hope of eternal bliss with the Father. For Jesus took over our humanity and enlightened it with the reality of hope. Pope Francis reflecting on the present human condition has this to say: "Sometimes in our lives, tears are lenses we need to see Jesus with" – to see Jesus the hope of humanity!

Each one of us can make this Christmas meaningful by rejoicing in the birth of Jesus and sharing this joy and hope with the poor and the underprivileged through our acts of mercy, charity and a kind and gentle word to everyone, thus brightening up their lives. God bless us all with this grace and vision this Christmas.

Ven.Fr.Agnelo's 87th Death Anniversary celebrated at Pilar

Junk food has empowered us in all aspects of life, be it social or spiritual life. Focusing on the life of Fr.Agnelo, we need to nourish ourselves with spiritual food served through the Word of God and the Holy Eucharist. This was stressed by Rev. Francis Serrao Bishop of Shimoga Diocese, during the Eucharistic Celebration, to commemorate the 87th Death Anniversary of Ven.Fr.Agnelo at Pilar.

Bishop Serrao urged the faithful to seek



inner freedom as reflected in the life of Ven.Fr. Agnelo. "Let us pray that we may be detached from all things and persons, so that we are free for God," he concluded.

Present on the occasion was the Superior General of the Society of Pilar, Fr Francis Carvalho, Vice-Postulator for the cause of the beatification of Ven. Fr. Agnelo, Fr.Hillary Fernandes and other clergy. Thousands of devotees flooded the Pilar hillock.

Pio Esteves

AGNEL HAPPENINGS

Hyderabad Trip

Any outstation trip was organized by **Vidyankur school, Pune** to Hyderabad comprising 50 students along with 10 teachers. The trip was scheduled from 27th October 2014 to 31st October 2014.

On the first day the students visited the 'Golconda Fort' and learnt about its history. After a sumptuous lunch the students were taken to the N.T.R garden. The students enjoyed the train ride followed by a magnificent Lazer show.

On the second day the students visited the 'Ramoji Film City,' and saw the film shooting sets; Butterfly garden, Bird Sanctuary and also enjoyed the rain dance. The students also entertained



themselves with a special 'Diwali Fest' organized by Ramoji Film City.

On the next day they saw the 'Charminar' and later visited the 'Salarjung Museum' to see the historical weapons, pots, clothing, architecture etc.

In the Snow World they enjoyed playing in the snow and on snow slides.

The trip was a new experience for the students who learnt to be independent, responsible and got the opportunity to see the historical places of our country under the guidance of their teachers.

The memories of this trip will forever be embedded in the minds of all those who visited this wonderful city.

Verna-Goa Over 130 PCCE Students Placed in TOP MNCs

This year eight top Multinational Companies visited **Padre Conceição College of Engineering, Verna Goa** campus to recruit the BE and ME students across the four departments – Computer, Information Technology, Mechanical and Electronic and Telecommunications.

At the PCCE recruitment drive 97 % of the eligible students were placed.

- Infosys and Wipro Technologies were the first companies on Day One at PCCE and hired an impressive 78 students.

- Tech Mahindra, HSBC Software Development and Persistent System Ltd rolled out another 50 job offers.
- Companies such as IBM and Indus Valley Partners also offered 2 jobs each, while Mphasis is yet to declare their results.



Fr. Peter D'Souza, Director, Dr. L. C. Mesquita, Principal, Prof Niyan Marchon, Head of TPO along with some of the Placed students

- Most of the HR Managers stated that the 'conversion rates' of the students of PCCE, from the tests to the interviews, ranked among the best in the country! The training packages offered to students

Ven. Fr. Agnelo - A Saint of the Eucharist

November 20, 2014 was a red-letter day for thousands of devotees of Ven. Fr. Agnelo. People from all walks of life thronged Agnel Ashram, Bandra, from dawn to dusk to celebrate the 87th Death Anniversary of Ven. Fr. Agnelo. Rt. Rev John Rodrigues, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Bombay was the main celebrant of the Eucharist. The theme for the day was: "Ven. Fr. Agnelo- A Saint of the Eucharist" which highlighted aptly that the Eucharistic Lord was the center of his life. A group of Scholastics from Pune, organized a beautiful Liturgy for the Eucharist. They also sang melodious hymns in English, Hindi and Konkani during the Mass. Fr. Nazareth Fernandes, Director of the Balbhavan, coordinated the Programme.

Bishop John Rodrigues was given a very warm welcome by Rev. Fr. F. Diniz, the Superior of Fr. Agnel Ashram, Bandra. On behalf of the Balbhavan children, Master Adyta offered his Grace a bouquet of flowers. The Children of Fr. Agnel's Multipurpose School, Ambernath, under the direction of Ms. Antoinette Viegas and her team members, performed two very mellifluous dances, namely, a folk dance of Maharashtra LAVANI and a classical dance of North East India. The Function ended with a fellowship dinner for the VIP Guests.



Bishop John being received at Agnel Ashram, Bandra



Entrance procession Bishop John along with the Clergy



Aarti for the Main Celebrant



Bishop John delivers his Homily



Offertory Procession



Bp. John with Concelebrants at the Eucharist



Fr. Victor Proclaiming the word of GOD



A Choir comprising Pune Scholastic Brothers



Bishop John was all praises of the Ambernath Dance Troupe



A smiling Bishop John along with the Ambernath Troupe



A Dance of the North East



Lavani Folk Dance of Maharashtra

varied from company to company, from 3.3 lakhs to a whopping 6 lakhs. The Training and Placement Department conducted Aptitude Training in Logical, Quantitative, Verbal Reasoning and Intensive Soft

Skills for the students. With over 130 students placed at PCCE the college looks forward to continue the placements in core companies in January 2015.

Nestle Gastronomix 2014

Agnel Institute of Food Crafts and Culinary Sciences, Verna, Goa, organised an All-Goa Higher Secondary Competition for students in the Culinary Skills (Chef Com), Bakery and Patisserie Skills (Bake Com) and Bar Tending Skills (Bar Com). This competition known as Gastronomix is an annual culinary festival which was sponsored by Nestle Professional. One of the criteria for this Nestle Gastronomix Competition was the use of a Nestle product. The judges for the Chef Competition were Chef Marcus D'Souza, Chef Sujit Adulkar and Mr. Safson Rodrigues. The Judges of the Bakery Competition were Chef Ryan Furtado, Shruti Deva and Laxmi Kunkolienkar. The Judges of the Bar Competition were Mr. Bosco Miranda, Mrs. Harsha Assotikar and Mr. Rahul Madkaikar.

In the Chef Competition a total of 13 Higher Secondary Institute students participated and the winners were Ms. Dashmi Phaldessai from Deepvihar HSS, Vasco 1st Runners up Mr. Santosh Gaonkar from Shri Bhumika HSS Sattari and 2nd Runners up Savio Sequeira from Fr Agnel Multipurpose HSS, Verna.

In the Bakery Competition a total of 14 Higher Secondary Institutes students

participated and the winners were Ms. Joana Pereira from Deepvihar HSS, Vasco, 1st Runners up Mr. Sanzil Fortes from Mount Mary HSS Chinchinim, and 2nd Runners up Mr. Suraj Samant from Shri Bhumika HSS Sattari.

In the Bar(Mocktail) Competition a total of 12 Higher Secondary Institute students participated and the winners were Mr. Praveen Munde from St.Pope John XXIII HSS from Quepem, the 1st Runners up Mr. Richard Rodrigues from St. Theresa's HSS, Candolim and 2nd Runners up Mr. Sunil Mukri from Rosary HSS, Navelim.

The Chief Guest for the Prize distribution was Mr. Vikram Gupta the F&B Manager at Heritage Village Club, Arossim. The Guest of Honour was Mr. Kerman Shroff, Regional Sales Manager, Nestle Professional .

The Nestle Professional Team consisted of Mr. Shubomoy Banerjee, Mrs. Sushama Hiroji , Chef Sujit Adulkar and Achal Gupta who coordinated the event along with the Principal, Staff and Students of Agnel Institute of Food Crafts and Culinary Sciences, Agnel Ashram, Verna Goa.

See photos on Back Inside Cover

Vashi

Agnelites Shine in the National Basketball Tournament

Two hoopsters from Fr.Agnel Multipurpose School, Vashi, Ishita Surve and Darshana Deepak who are part of the Maharashtra State Basketball team,



have done their school and their city proud, by contributing significantly to the state team's winning streak in the National Tournament. The Maharashtra State

Basketball Team outperformed all their opponents at the recently concluded National Inter-School Basketball Tournament. The team defeated Tamil Nadu to clinch the gold medal. The Tournament conducted at Gotan in

Rajasthan, in the first week of November, saw the participation of several State Teams. Darshana and Ishita from Fr. Agnel School have started training for the National Championship which is to be conducted at Nashik in Maharashtra.

Ambernath

Agnelites on an Educational Trip

Agnelites of Ambernath, has always aimed to be more than a school. Arranging for educational trips, camps, and international tours has been the 'Agnel Mantra' to provide their students with an insight into the outside world .

This Diwali vacation, too, from 30th October to 6th November, the teachers and student had a great opportunity to destress and experience the culture, tradition and lifestyle of the northern states of Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.

The first destination was historic Delhi, the symbol of old and new India. The students were filled with awe at the sight of Rashtrapati Bhavan, Parliament House, India Gate, the massive Red Fort, the towering Qutab Minar and the Lotus Temple, a beautiful amalgamation of art, culture and spirituality.

The next destination - Jaipur (Pink

City) helped students experience first-hand, what the text books teach. The city is an exotic place with a riot of colours. All eyes feasted on the city Palace, Jantar Mantar – an astronomical Observatory, Hawa Mahal, Amer Fort and Jaigarh fort with great delight.

There was tremendous excitement in the air at the sight of the awesome Taj Mahal, the best piece of Mughal architecture, a monument of eternal love, Fatehpur Sikri and Agra Fort.

Finally all returned home with heavy hearts overwhelmed that, the trip had paved a new path to learning, and filled with a deep sense of gratitude toward the Management and Ma'am Antoinette for having provided them with an enjoyable experience of a lifetime.

See photos on Back Cover

Sports News

The flavor of enthusiasm and activity prevailed in **Vidyankur school, Pune** playground during the Diwali Vacation.

While others enjoyed holidays, sports persons practiced and participated in the ZP Football Matches (U-14). The boys'

and girls' team(U14)football secured 4th position among the 128 teams that participated. Sandip Pasalkar was chosen for the trials for District Level, Sakshi Garad has been chosen for State Selection Trials.

Sports Day 2014

Fr. Agnel School, Greater Noida held it's Sports Day on 8th November 2014. The event was a grand success, displaying vibrantly its theme 'Samanvayam' in all its forms. The Bees, "The Mascot" of the event, were telling and spreading an all important message, of the Spirit of A Team Work. The event was presided over by Mr.Madan Lal Sharma, one of the gems

of the World Cup winning Indian Cricket Team. He motivated the students citing examples from his own personal life in his address asking them to work hard sincerely without looking for rewards, monetary or otherwise. Fr.Carvalho, the Superior and Principal of Fr. Agnel Delhi and Mr.Rajan Suri, the Director, Galgotias University graced the occasion among other dignitaries, special guests

and almost full attendance of parents. The Sports Day was flagged off with the March Past where discipline, grace and coordination were remarkable among the children.

A vibrant Cultural show arrayed in varied colours and echoing the Indian Culture of Unity in Diversity was the highlight of the event. The Sports Drills were brilliantly told the meaning and significance of Samanvayam i.e. "Togetherness and Team Work". The Sports events comprised flat races, hurdles, relay etc. The students' enthusiasm, stamina and vigour were unsurpassable.

Blue House won the March Past Trophy while Yellow House emerged the Champion of the event bagging the most gold medals. The Management, Administration, Teachers, Students and helping Staff worked together as bees and made the event successful realizing the theme 'Samanvayam' in true sense as it won the appreciation from parents and the guests. Fr.Bento, the Manager of the School thanked Sr.Shamitha, the Principal, Staff and the Students for their hard work in making the event a success.

See photos on Back Inside Cover

Robotic Trick Competition

Fr. Agnel's Vidyankur School, Pune, participated in the 'National Robotics Competition' organized by "Think Labs."

The Competition was held on 22nd and 23 November 2014, at 'Euro School' Airoli, Navi Mumbai.

We, the Senior Team, were allotted the task of preparing an Auto Rescuer Robot. The Junior Groups were given the task to make a Tele Rescuer. Both (Junior and Senior) groups qualified for the Finals.

It was indeed a delightful moment for our School, as we excelled in the Robotics Competition in our very first attempt.



Senior Group Performing



Junior Group- Excellent completing task- sea saw bridge



Junior and Senior Group

We are proud to announce that our Junior Group Teams are in the Top 15 and the Senior Group teams are in top 25, out of 125 schools which qualified.

Remembering the First Catholic Mundari Tribal Converts

-Nirmala Carvalho

A pilgrimage was held to celebrate "the proclamation of the Gospel, the joy of faith and the joy of serving Christ," recalling the first converts of the Diocese of Jamshedpur (Jharkhand).

It was in this spirit that Fr. Lino Fernandes SFX, Pastor of Blessed Mother Teresa of Siadih, led his Mundari tribal communities to the Shrine of Our Lady of Khunpani Shrine, Chaibasa, to celebrate the Annual Feast of Khunpani Mata.

The celebration takes its name from the village of the same name. Here, on 8 November 1873, six tribal families were baptized, as the first Catholics in the area. "These people - said Fr. Fernandes to Asia News - came

from the poorest and most marginalized sections of society. In total freedom and absolute joy they asked to enter the Church, embracing the Catholic faith."



"Our parish - he explains - has been preparing for a long time, organizing prayer services and reciting the rosary together, including the Sacrament of Penance. As a Missionary Pilar Father, this pilgrimage to Khunpani Mata is an opportune time to, announce the Good News, to share with my Tribal People the Joy of the Gospel. It is Mary who draws all people to her, and through her and to her Son Jesus. She is the great intercessor and has great compassion for each of us".

Contd. from pg 4 Fr. Agnel – A Model Of The Eucharistic Attitude

seas – the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea. The Sea of Galilee has fish in its waters, plants and trees along its shores; there is life all around. The Dead Sea, as the name indicates, does not support life. There is no fish in its waters, the surroundings are barren. Both have the same source, the river Jordan. But the difference is that the Sea of Galilee has an outlet. All the water that it receives it pours out into the plains making the land fertile and the surroundings green. The Dead Sea on the other hand does not have an outlet. The water that it receives remains there and increases in salinity and so does not support life. The message is clear – generosity and sharing promotes growth and progress, selfishness leads to stagnation.

Let us, at this Mass, ask the Lord to strengthen our faith in his abiding presence in the Eucharist and may our celebration lead us to acts of generosity. May we take Fr Agnel as our model and spend time before the Blessed Sacrament and share what we have with others. May the celebrations of the Golden Jubilee of the Eucharistic Congress this year help us to appreciate the wonderful gift of the Eucharist that God has given us.

References:

- (i) *Ven. Fr. Agnelo De Souza - A Saint for India by Fr. A. Noronha*
- (ii) *Secrets to Share by Fr. Aloysius G. Rego (1984)*

At Christmas play and make good cheer, for Christmas comes but once a year.

~Thomas Tusser



FR. AGNEL'S BLESSINGS

HOUSE SECURED

Trichur (Kerala): I was desperately in search of a suitable house. But all my efforts were in vain. In despair I turned to Ven.Fr.Agnel and started his powerful Novena. Surprisingly on the 7th day of Novena I secured a suitable elegant house for our stay. My heartfelt thanks to Ven.Fr.Agnel with an offering of ₹.500.

-Sanjitha Johnson

BAD COMPANY GIVEN UP

London: My grandson had some trouble with the law as he had got into bad company. I prayed to Ven.Fr.Agnel for his help. Through his intercession my grandson was judged innocent and he gave up bad company. I have also received many other favours. In thanksgiving an offering of 30 Pounds.

-Althea Ferns

ACUTE PAIN CURED

Goa: Last one month I was suffering from acute pain in the lower abdomen and in the pelvic area to alarming proportions. It was a desperate situation in many ways. I could not take time off to visit a doctor due to work pressure, as my financial position was bad. I prayed to Ven.Fr.Agnel with deep faith. To my great surprise within 10 days the pain disappeared. I am grateful to Ven.Fr.Agnel with an offering of ₹.150.

-Rita Gonsalves

FRUITS OF NOVENA

Pune: I was wandering without a job for over two years after my studies. All my efforts were in vain. In my plight my father made the Sundays Novena to Ven.Fr.Agnel. Surprisingly on the 7th day of Novena I got a lucrative job with handsome payment. I am very grateful to Ven.Fr.Agnel with an offering of ₹.500.

-Lawrence Monteiro

SUCCESS IN COURT CASE

Kurla : There was a court case regarding our house for the last 7 years. I started praying to Ven.Fr.Agnel for help. Through his intercession the verdict came in our favour. We thank Ven.Fr.Agnel for this favour. In thanksgiving an offering of ₹.1,000.

-Lorraine D'Souza

CURED OF LEG PAIN

Vasai: I was suffering from leg pain. I started praying to Ven.Fr.Agnel. I am happy to say that through his intercession I was cured and I am alright now. In thanksgiving an offering of ₹.1,000.

-Treza Michael Ager

CURED OF SKIN DISEASE

Goa: My daughter was suffering from a rare skin disease and was taking treatment for about 20 years, but it was all in vain. Seeing no other solution I prayed to Ven.Fr.Agnel for his help. I am happy to say that through his blessing my daughter was cured. I thank Ven.Fr.Agnel for this great favour.

-Joaquim Fernandes

JOB SECURED

Navi Mumbai: My daughter is a nurse. She was trying to get a job abroad. I started praying to Ven.Fr.Agnel for her. I am happy to say that through his intercession she secured a job in Singapore. In thanksgiving an offering of ₹.500.

-Vasanthi P.

RELIEF FROM OBSTACLES & DIFFICULTIES

Andheri : I was praying to Ven.Fr.Agnel for his help. Through his intercession I was relieved from obstacles and difficulties. I thank Ven.Fr.Agnel. In thanksgiving an offering of ₹.100

- Purva Taneja

Hope to be a CBI Official



My name is Vijay Rashure. I was born on September 1st in 1995 in Karnataka. When our family shifted to Goa I was only 4 months old. My father was a Goan, and my mother was from Karnataka.

We lived in Margao. In our family most of them wanted a boy child and I was the first boy child. When I was 5 years old my mother send me to school. In our village most of the children uneducated and they left on the streets. Some had their parents but they were not taking care of them and the children started cheating and robbing. My mother thought that if her child follows them I would also not study after school I was destined to become like those children. When my mother saw me with them one day she decided to admit me in the Ashram. When I came to this Ashram I thought this to be a military Ashram, because I had seen groups of security at the gate and I told my mother I am going back home because I scared. My mother told me that this Ashram is only for small children. Then I was 7 years old. Mother Celia took care of me. I learned many things and I had improved my knowledge. I had also improved my behaviour, and I respect the people in my village and people respect me and my family. When I become big I want to earn good money. Even if my income is small I will give half of my income to this Ashram, and I pray to God for our benefactors, Pilar Fathers, Sr. Jennifer and all the staff members that they have good health and people respect them. My aim is to become CBI official.

-Vijay Rashure Verna, Goa

**My only Christmas dream
is peace for
all kids on
this planet**

~ Audrey Hepburn ~



I am so Happy in the Balgram



I am Velany. I am studying in 7th Standard in Fr. Agnel Multipurpose High School in Verna. I am 12 years old and residing in Arlem, Raia. I have two older brothers. My father is an alcoholic and has separated from the family 5 years ago. My mother went abroad work, leaving me and my 2 brothers with her mother who has heart problems. She was unable to care for us. Therefore my grandmother put me in Fr. Agnel Boarding in Verna, when I was in 5th Standard so that I could concentrate on studying and that made me really happy. My cottage Mother Philomena, helped me a lot with my studies and to find new friends here. I like this Balgram and I am happy to stay here but I don't like when other children tease me. My cottage mother is Philomena. She treats me like her own child. She always showed me the right path and also how to speak English. My hobby is to collect pictures of heroines. My talent is sharing my things with the other children. I am good at dancing, so my ambition is to become a dancer.

-Velany Colaco Verna, Goa

Blessed Are The Merciful

Shakespeare's heroine Portia, in her plea impassion'd.

Says of mercy that in heavenly realms is fashioned.

"It blesses him that gives, and him that takes:"

For mercy, like compassion is what makes

It seem like "the gentle rain from heaven"

To needy souls who hope

That mercy is with justice entwined.

Jesus Himself taught in the Sermon on the Mount.

"Blessed are the merciful,

For they shall obtain mercy."

Our blessings are endless, without count,

If our compassion too is bountiful:

For God always with kindly eyes sees

Every little act, even of small mercies;

That every man be merciful,

Whether or not he has pelf,

'Cause 'tis an "attribute of God Himself,"

Who looked on the Crucifixion of His Son -

"The ultimate act of mercy"

That paid the price for everyone.

- Sandra Kay

Out of Their Bounty

S. Bhatia	Dubai	100000	R. Sattayapan	T.N.	3000	M. Tuscano	Mumbai	1000
P. Srivastava	Mumbai	70000	A.M. Colaco	Vasai	3000	M. Sunny	Kerala	1000
T.R. Koshy	Mumbai	59637	M.A. Elamana	U.S.A.	2770	M. Rodrigues	Vasai	1000
Z. Joseph	U.A.E.	25000	Satish Joshi	Mumbai	2700	M. Rodricks	Mumbai	1000
C. Fernandes	Mumbai	25000	H. Binny	Australia	2685	Linus G. Velso	Vasai	1000
J.C. Fernandes	Mumbai	20000	S. Noronha	Mumbai	2500	L.G. Velso	Vasai	1000
M.L. D'Mello	Dubai	15000	M. D'Souza	Karnataka	2500	L. D'Souza	Mumbai	1000
Dr. Joyce Jones	Mumbai	15000	P. Mehta	Mumbai	2100	K. Varghese	Bangalore	1000
S.B. Naik	Mumbai	11000	Eugene Sealy	Canada	2059	K. Thomas	Vashi	1000
S. K. Rambia	Mumbai	11000	G. Baisane	Kalyan	2001	K. Narayanan	Mumbai	1000
T. Figueirado	Mumbai	10000	V.K.J. Samy	Mumbai	2000	J. Sarode	Khargar	1000
Sunil Rane	Nallasopara	10000	S.P. Koli	Thane	2000	J. Panchal	New Zealand	1000
N. Upadhyा	Mumbai	10000	S. Rane	Ahmednagar	2000	J. Alphanso	Mumbai	1000
Lily D'Souza	Mumbai	10000	S. Maria	Mumbai	2000	Ivy D'Sa	Mumbai	1000
John Barnes	Udupi	10000	S. Cyriac	Kerala	2000	Ishrani I. Churi	Mumbai	1000
Irene Pinto	Dubai	10000	R. Baria	Daman	2000	H. Prasad	Khargar	1000
Flory Macwan	Mumbai	10000	Prof. G. Varkey	Kerala	2000	H. Miranda	Karnataka	1000
Bella Fernandes	Mumbai	10000	Noel Pereira	Mumbai	2000	Greta D'Souza	Mumbai	1000
A. Rodricks	Vasai	10000	M. Fernandes	Goa	2000	G.T. Vaz	Pune	1000
M. Shiravi	Mumbai	9500	K. Thomas	Vashi	2000	F. Gonsalves	Vasai	1000
N.W. Lalwaney	Mumbai	6001	B.K. Raju	Hyderabad	2000	F. Elavia	Mumbai	1000
V. Chavan	Mumbai	6000	A. Menezes	Vasai	2000	E. Gonsalves	Vasai	1000
P. Fernandes	Mumbai	6000	B. Asani	Mumbai	1501	D. Silveira	Mumbai	1000
P. Fernandes	Mumbai	6000	Thomas Correa	Virar	1500	C. Coutinho	Vasai	1000
K. Malani	Mumbai	6000	S. Alice	Kerala	1500	B. Udeshi	Mumbai	1000
F. Creado	Mumbai	6000	M. Martin	Kerala	1500	Annie Joseph	Kerala	1000
M. Thomas	U.S.A.	5500	A. Jayasimhan	Mumbai	1500	Adil Elavia	Mumbai	1000
J.J. D'Souza	Dubai	5500	M.R. de Souza	London	1359	A. V. Almeida	Nallasopara	1000
Saly Abraham	Canada	5330	S. V. Skariah	U.S.A.	1316	A. Kelawala	Mumbai	1000
M.D. Mistry	U.K.	5040	K.S. Shah	Belgaum	1200	A. D'Souza	Mumbai	1000
T. Z. D'Souza	Mumbai	5000	M.S. Udeshi	Mumbai	1100	Dr. V.S. Bilolikar	Mumbai	1000
S. D'Sa	Mumbai	5000	S. Marvekar	Mumbai	1001	M. Macaskill	Glasgow	856
R. Savio	Mumbai	5000	K. Manek	Mumbai	1001	R. Joseph	Kerala	700
P. Rustomji	Mumbai	5000	W. D'Souza	Mumbai	1000	V. Victor	Kerala	500
P. Dias	Virar	5000	V. Lobo	Mumbai	1000	Thomas Raju	Kerala	500
Mary F. Pinto	Pune	5000	V. Joy	Kerala	1000	Sarah Gomes	Kolkata	500
M. D'Sa	Mumbai	5000	V. D'Souza	titwala	1000	S. Saldanha	Mangalore	500
L.V. Pereira	Dubai	5000	S. Rangunwala	Mumbai	1000	S. Hazarika	Assam	500
Gracy D'Souza	Mumbai	5000	S. John	Kerala	1000	R. Rosario	Dombivli	500
George Tauro	Mumbai	5000	S. Caszo	Mumbai	1000	R. Lobo	Mangalore	500
Gavin D'Souza	Mumbai	5000	Rusi Elevia	Mumbai	1000	R. Gomes	Mumbai	500
G. D'Souza	Mumbai	5000	Roy George	Kerala	1000	M. Nazarene	T.N.	500
Dr. Unnikrishnan	Mumbai	5000	Rita D'Cruz	Bihar	1000	M. D'Souza	Pune	500
Dr. Deepak Bhoir	Mumbai	5000	R. Zaman	Kolkata	1000	M. Antony	T.N.	500
A.T. Thomas	Mumbai	5000	R. D'Souza	Bangalore	1000	L. Jose	Kerala	500
A. Satra	Mumbai	5000	R. D'Souza	Mumbai	1000	K. Joseph	T.N.	500
Hiren Gala	Dombivli	4500	Pragna Pai	Mumbai	1000	Jessy Pinto	Kerala	500
S.J. Galvi	Silvassa	4000	P.D. Jose	Kerala	1000	J.B. Pinto	Kerala	500
B. Daga	Mumbai	4000	P. Ved	Mumbai	1000	J. Gandhi	Navsari	500
R. Christopher	Kheda	3500	P. Solanki	Ahmedabad	1000	G. Robertson	T.N.	500
P. Gonsalves	Virar	3500	P. Pereira	Vasai	1000	D. D'Cunha	Karnataka	500
D. Hamilton	Australia	3300	P. Carvalho	Vasai	1000	Charles Pereira	Mangalore	500
M.J. Lam	Nashik	3255	N. Kothari	Mumbai	1000	C.P. Jose	Kerala	500
T.V. Venkatesh	Mumbai	3000	N. Gonsalves	Nallasopara	1000	C.A. Jose	Nashik	500
S.R. Desai	Mumbai	3000	N. Gonsalves	Nallasopara	1000	A. Varghese	Kerala	500
S.A. Joe Lobo	Mumbai	3000	M.M. Manek	Mumbai	1000	A. Thomas	Kerala	500

Fr. Agnel School, Greater Noida Sports Day



Welcome Dance



Guard of Honour



Rainbow Drill



Fan Drill

Agnel Institute of Food Crafts and Culinary Sciences, Verna, Goa,



Awards distribution ceremony



CIBA building



Student at the bakery competition using whipped cream



HSS students preparing mocktails for the bar competition



HSS students active in the cooking competition

Regn. No. Publication R.N.9473/64
Date of Posting: 14th and 15th of every month
Single copy price Rs.15/-
Annual Subscription Rs.150/-

Regd. No. MH/MR/N/175/MBI/12-14
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Ambernath Agnelites on an Educational Trip to Delhi, Agra & Jaipur



Agnelites at Lotus temple



Perfect Pose



Dance Agnelites Dance



Jai ho..... Jaigarh



Magnificence Redefined



Energetic team of Agnelites



Monument of Love



Here we come to Delhi...