



FR

December 2015

AGNEL

SHRAM NEWS



Family
Life's Greatest Blessings

FR. AGNEL
ASHRAM

NEWS

December 2015

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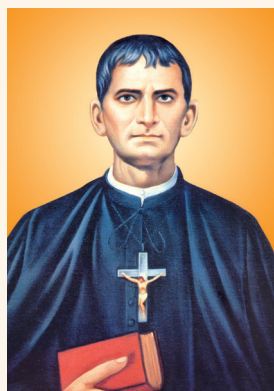
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N.B.

On Sunday 17th January all Masses and Novena Services will be held as on normal Sundays.

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Family – Life's Greatest Blessing

Often times it makes me wonder, what's in a family? What is so sacred about the family? What if there wasn't a family? As a Christian I seek answers and draw my inspiration from the words of the Bible found in the book of Genesis, *"God created humankind in his image, in the image of God He created them; male and female He created them. God blessed them saying, 'be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth'."* After the creation of the universe, it was the family that God first instituted and blessed it and gave them a precise mission to fill the earth and have a meaningful existence. God's love for the family did not stop at creation, it has continued all through history and very decisively at the first Christmas he once again expressed his immense love for the world that He got involved in a family. Once again He blessed the family with his presence. The wonder of Christmas invites me to set my gaze on the First Family, namely - Jesus, Mary and Joseph. A family that said a whole hearted 'Yes' to the designs of God; a family that immersed themselves in the lives of humanity at a risk of their own lives being snuffed out. Therefore, for me, the family is life's greatest blessing. It's not merely a collective noun but a verb; it's not just what we are, but it's something that we actively keep on making. Relationships happen, persons find meaningfulness, bonds are strengthened, joys and sorrows shared, encouragement and strength found in order to overcome a crisis, a grief, a loss, a depression. I'm sure we can assure one another in our family with these words "No matter what choices you make in life you are still family and I will always love you". Bereft of family, life is really very scary.

Each family is unique and creates its own set of values. While some families may have two parents, mother and father, some may have only one, while others may be blended because of death or divorce. No

matter what the composition of the family it is always advisable to give the children values before they are given valuables. Once again I draw inspiration from the Christian Scriptures - Among the Ten Commandments given by God, the fourth says this, *"Honor your father and mother, that your days may be prolonged and that it may go well with you"*. It is the first commandment with a promise. St. Paul writing to the Ephesians says, *"Parents, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord"*. Indeed honor, respect, trust, belongingness and above all love, are the threads that knit the family together. It is in the family that vocations are nourished and nurtured.

It is often said that a family that prays together stays together, but I would like to move beyond the realm of prayer and say that a family that dines together stays together. For in the act of dinning the family gathers, cooks, eats, prays, communicates, listens, loves, looks at each other and shares togetherness. It is one moment when the family comes fully alive. It is in this sharing of communion, that God comes as a guest, for He says, *"Where two or three are gathered in my name there I am in their midst"*. Divinity is discovered at Dinner.

Today, many families have to wrestle with a myriad of misfortunes – anxieties of a home, insecurity of a job, financial crisis, business losses, health, payment of fees for a child's education, children's careers, stress at workplace, migration, broken relationships, influence of technology, social media etc. In such anxious moments there's just one cry "Lord, when will you visit my family?" and ease my pain. Amidst the uncertainties of my life I hope, my family gets integrated into the world Family and I experience my Family as Life's greatest blessing.

-Fr. Victor Rebello

The Wonder of Christmas

-Bishop Bosco Penha

Why are we so happy at Christmas time? What is the underlying reason? It is because of the revelation of the True God vs. man-made images. Christmas tells us the startling facts about God's personality, specially his simplicity, humility, childlikeness and the desire to be close to us. This is truly joyful news. It is like having a new manager in a big company. The old one was cranky, strict, unfriendly, distant, discouraging. The new one is reputed to be friendly, understanding, positive, encouraging and loving. All this is a cause for hope and joy. So also the Images of God in the Old Testament were sometimes negative but Christmas reveals a totally different God.

What does Christmas tell us about our God? What is so wonderful and special about Him? The letter to the Hebrews tells us "In times past God spoke to our ancestors many times and in many ways through prophets but in these last days, He has spoken to us through His Son"(Heb 1:1). So to know God we have to go to Jesus and study Him. For this study the two privileged moments of the revelation in Christ are Christmas and the Cross. Here we focus on Christmas.

The revelation about God at Christmas is indeed startling. Yves Congar, the great theologian, one of the fathers of the Second Vatican Council, in an essay on Christmas, dramatized the event. Imagine the word goes round the world that on Christmas night God is going to come and meet us personally. We shall finally know what He is like. There is a buzz of excitement. Imagine the whole world gathered in front of a global stage, breathlessly waiting for the curtain to open at midnight. What shall we see? The excitement grows and reaches fever pitch as midnight approaches. Slowly the curtain opens. Everyone is craning their necks to see what appears on the stage. What will the Infinite, All Knowing, Omnipotent God look like? Then everyone gasps. And the cry goes out, "only a child in a manger". How disappointing!

David Sellery, in an article entitled "Miracle of Christmas" writes:

"You've got to be kidding. Do you really mean to tell me that the author of the big bang, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the Messiah, the Promised One is that helpless new born crying out there in a stable? Give me a break! Well, as it turns out, that is exactly why He is here.....to give us the biggest break of all time. It is Yahweh, Almighty God, in a pint size package, come to change the whole trajectory of human experience. That little bundle, a few minutes old, is here to preach and teach, to sanctify and ultimately to save us all. He is our ticket to eternal life."

As I look in amazement and wonder at that little babe, so lovely, sweet, innocent, fascinating, appealing, I ask myself: can I dare to pick Him up in my arms, to cover his little face with kisses? Can I hold my God, the Infinite, the Omniscient, the All-Powerful, Almighty God in my arms? I, a weak and sinful human being? And, as if sensing my doubts and hesitations, my diffidence, He suddenly opens his eyes, smiles at me and reaches out his little arms, like all babies, requesting me to carry Him. I gently pick Him up in my arms. He nettles his head on my shoulders and He whispers, "Hold me tight and never let me go. I love you so much and I always want to be close to you. I am your Emmanuel, God with you, always!"

I am full of joy, amazement, wonder, humble pride almost disbelief that I can hold my God in my arms. That is the greatness and wonder of our God, that being the Creator of Heaven and Earth. All-powerful, Infinite, He is also small, gentle loving, simple, humble, poor and childlike. Isn't that good news! And that, ultimately, for me, is the wonder of Christmas!

These reflections give us two important messages:

a) Our God is Infinite but He is also poor,
Contd. on pg 16

Family as a Verb

-Fr. Prabodh Bilung, sfx(Serves in the Mission of Jharkhand)

Pope Francis celebrated the closing Mass on October 25, 2015 on Bishops' Synod on the Family. At its conclusion he emphasized that the gathering of more than 200 bishops had been about recognizing that society is founded on the family and marriage as the permanent union of one man and one woman. Looking at our times when family values are at stake we wish to look at "family as verb." At the outset some might wonder what different things we are going to describe about the family. Nothing new, except reminding ourselves that the traditional values are to be preserved to keep the families, society and the world as enjoyable places. A VERB in English grammar is described as a word used to express an action or state. It expresses an act, occurrence, or mode of being. A verb denotes, we can say, being and doing. Our contention is that it is in the family we become what we are and our actions in the family shape us to be what we become.

At least in our country most of us come from families that are founded on traditional social and religious life-sustaining values. I come from the so-called tribal society in which family bonds have been traditionally very strong and where even country cousins are considered as brothers and sisters. However, things have changed dramatically over a period of few decades. What I recall of my 'formation days' (childhood days during which parents and whoever was worthy of forming a child like uncles and aunties) was that they were 'dominated' by my late mother who died at the age of only 48. One of her cousins, at that time told me that it is not good that a mother leaves the children motherless early. True, after my mother's death few of us, her children went a little haywire. After the death of my mother I was in one of our mission stations called Agharma. At home evening prayers stopped. Family unions were restricted to Christmas and many other things that make life less

enjoyable started taking place. I too was somehow party to this change. In the silent hours of night I used to ponder over the role my mother had played in shaping my thoughts and my being. Though in the course of time on account of my so-called 'intellectual growth' the values (especially being together at home at least for evening meals) she had imparted on me and my siblings became dormant, I find they are still there in the depth of my being and that often brings me back on the right track.

Whether or not one accepts, it is in the family that we get basic training of how to be good human beings. If the parents fail in their duty to impart this natural training, children become something that is painful to behold and endure. Being and doing in the family, therefore, is crucial to human formation. What could be the possible meaning of being and doing in our times? The time we are living is dominated by digital culture which too is very much responsible for disintegration of families. It does not allow a person, especially who is born with (earlier we used to say silver spoon) a mobile or mobile like device, to become a human being sensitive to his/her surrounding. We are constantly engaged in chatting to the persons who are miles away (sometimes thousands of miles) whereas neglecting the persons at home. The warmth, emanating from physical proximity is not felt. We must remember that we are the signs of the love of our parents. This reality in our time is at stake. We tend to look at ourselves merely as the products of the physical union of our parents. As we said that the word verb denotes one's being and doing, a family in that sense is a verb. It is there that we become what we do. Actions make a person what he/she is. In the course of time he/she is known by the deeds that make him/her. If our actions are influenced by the negative forces of

Contd. on page 15

Family - Be Fully Alive!

- Fr. Peter Fernandes, sfx

(Serves as Pastor in the Mission of Chicago)

What does it mean to be fully alive? Each culture describes prosperity and success differently. Indeed, it is a crucial question which each of us must answer in order to live properly and fully. People seem to be confused today, talking first about “I” “me” and “myself”. Self-fulfillment is the goal of our time. Yet if this search for the recipe of how to be fully alive is limited only to ‘a living person’, then no matter how much the individual achieves, the search will always fall short. Modern culture’s cult of man ought to be discarded because the human person is created for one purpose, that is, to know God, to love God, to serve and to be with God forever. St. Irenaeus, one of the second century saints, summarized the purpose of the human person beautifully, saying, “The glory of God is man fully alive.”

St. Thomas Aquinas points to people’s vision and mission through analogy. “Man fully alive” is actually rooted in the beatific vision, that is, heaven. A life of grace on earth is a reflection of that glory of heaven that the pilgrim people are called to joyfully radiate, because they have a certain hope of realizing it completely in heaven. With true knowledge and faith we need to recognize the truth that fullness of life of a person is the vision of God. This vision was made manifest to humankind in His Son, Jesus. The tragedy is that people have failed to recognize and comprehend this. St. Paul says, “None of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory” (1 Cor. 2/8). St. Paul’s faith led him to this profound understanding of being fully alive in mission: “It is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me” (Gal 2/20).

So to start a successful search, one has to realize that ‘my life is not about me’ but about Jesus Christ, by which ‘I become’ fully alive in mission. A person who is in a state of grace must adhere to the teachings of the gospel and live a life of justice and charity. It is a challenge to

accept the reality of our existence and to walk the path, demonstrating that we are fully conscious of the meaning and goal of life. Most people are swayed by modern culture. They have deviated from reason, truth and the teachings of the Lord found in the gospel and in the Catholic Church. How can men be fully alive? Unless men are willing to die over and over again to their own special interest, they cannot be fully alive. It is ironic and tragic that man prefers a shadow existence than the glory he might gain by denouncing false hopes and allowing Jesus to make a home with him. It is sad to realize that many people wish to go to Jesus or desire Jesus to come to them, but do not want to meet Christ on His terms, but on their own.

The mission entrusted to each person is first to be lived in a family, so that the whole family is fully alive. Indeed, a good family makes a better world. A child first learns the meaning and goal of life in a family. It is unfortunate and a cause of great concern that modern society is trying to redefine family in its own terms. The path secular society has taken is misleading humanity and divesting humans of their glory. Therefore, it is imperative to protect family for the sake of creating a better society, one that enhances the human family. St. John Paul II wrote about family, “The family has the mission to guard, reveal and communicate love.” The truth and beauty of the family remain to be communicated to every Christian family, even those that are fragile, wounded or broken. These families too may read the words of St. Paul with confidence: “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?” And they may find in that confidence a path of hope and healing to be fully alive. Pope Francis has cited the need for “Holy and loving families to protect the beauty and truth of the family in God’s plan and to be an example for other families.”

The whole of creation reveals the glory of God, the psalmist affirms: “The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

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Family Life Transformed by Technology

-Dr. (Mrs.) Srijia Unnikrishnan

(Principal – Fr. C. Rodrigues College of Engineering, Bandra, Mumbai)

As I started writing this article, one of the recent “Whatsapp” messages came to my mind. It was a cartoon. The mother is serving dinner and the children are busy with their electronic gadgets. The mother shouts, “If you don’t eat those vegetables, I am going to change the wi-fi password”. I was reminded of the days when my mother used to mention wild beasts and out of the world characters to feed me. No doubt, technology has changed our lives in many ways than one- with positives and negatives - more significantly in the recent past.

At the family level, changes brought about by technology adoption made significant changes as members of the same family migrated to different parts of the nation (even the world), joint family structure slowly changed to nuclear families. With Skype, Imo, social networking sites, smart phones and devices, distances shrank and ‘Keeping in touch’ with family and friends, 24 by 7, a reality. This has resulted in greater social and cultural integration. At the same time, young and old alike, got more glued to the electronic gadgets, at the cost of out-door physical activities and quality time spent with people around. As lamented, a person may be chatting with a ‘virtual friend’, miles apart, for hours together, while not knowing his immediate neighbor.

Technology has made teaching and learning much easier. On line admission for higher education has made the process faster, smoother and more transparent and saved parents and children the trouble of having to run from one institution to another. On line resources and solutions have simplified many tasks -implementation of school projects (homework for parents), tracking child’s progress in school/college, copying notes, preparation for qualifying examinations, use of travelling time to catch up on news, studies or any pending work etc.

Parents can now spend more quality time with their children as technology

has simplified household chores. Cooking today is much easier compared to the days of our parents and grand parents who used coal and firewood to cook. Processed food, cut vegetables, refrigerators, mixers, grinders, microwave ovens etc have reduced the time spent in kitchen. Washing machines have saved much of the time and efforts required for washing clothes. Even at the workfront, there is all round work simplification and productivity enhancement. In fact, some of the European countries are advocating four day working week. So, more time to spend with family, pursue hobbies and so forth.

Children spending time on computers, mobiles and social networking sites is no doubt a genuine concern of parents. Less attention in studies, lack of physical activity and effects on health, poor inter-personal relations with peers and family – these are some of the common complaints. Innocent kids being lured and duped by unscrupulous persons that they make friends with on line, is a serious problem for which parents need to take all precautions.

Technology has made detection and treatment of diseases faster and more effective. Information Technology has facilitated easy medical access to families – e-delivery of test reports, consultation with expert doctors across continents, checking availability of alternate and cheaper drugs etc. Advancements in the field of medical technology has reduced mortality risks and added quality years to lives. But, the other side of the coin is that senior members staying separate, find themselves lonely and unattended and take refuge in old age homes.

Managing finances is another area where technology has made a great impact. We don’t need to visit bank branches for regular transactions. ATMs provide cash round the clock anywhere, anytime. Electronic banking has made transfer of funds from one person to another faster,

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‘I Belong Therefore I Exist’ Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam

-Fr. Ivon D Almeida sfx,

(Teaches Indian Philosophy at Pilar Theological College, Goa)

1. Meaning

The phrase *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* means ‘*vasudha*’=the earth; ‘*eva*’=indeed is; and ‘*kutumbakam*’=family, therefore the words suggests ‘the entire world is one family’. The concept of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* originates from *Hitopadesha*. *Hitopadesha* is a collection of Sanskrit fables in prose and verse. According to the author of *Hitopadesha*, the main purpose of creating the *Hitopadesha* is to instruct young minds the philosophy of life in an easy way so that they are able to grow into responsible adults. The beautiful *subhashitam* (good saying) from *Hitopadesha* says अयं नजिः परो वेत गिणना लघुचेतसाम् । उदारचरतिनां तु वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम् ॥ (*ayam nijah paro veti gananaa laghuchetasaam, udaaracharitaam tu vasudhaiva kutumbakam*) which means the thought that one person is related to me and another is not, is that of the narrow-minded person. For the broadminded, however, the whole world is one family. (*Hitopadesha*: 1.3.71). The knowledge of this made Swami Vivekananda to address the gathering in Chicago as “Brothers and Sisters of America”

2. Divine at the root of Oneness

I believe that the world or entire cosmos is one unit. We can also arrive at a conclusion that we may all have a common origin. Hence, as human beings aware of the commonalities, we conclude that we have come from the same one origin, a mother and a father. The cosmos which also includes human beings are creations of creative acts of the Divine. So the origin of one family is traced to the Divine energy. One common origin also makes us interrelated and interdependent. We are interrelated with and interdependent on the moon, the sun, the rivers and the whole universe. The Divine creative energy what most call as *Paramatma* is one. This One Divine energy is the ultimate cause of oneness of

cosmos.

3. *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* is at the essence of India

In India we have been experiencing and appreciating this relationship ‘Cosmos as one family’ since ancient times. You may find yogis doing *surya namaskar*. People say *Ganga mayya* (mother ganga) and worship the Kailash Mountain. We call the city of Varanasi holy and pronounce cow as sacred mother. Is this all insane? May be in some one’s eyes, but sooner or later humanity is going to realize that this relationship is real.

In order to understand the whole meaning of this formula of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*, we have to examine inside of our consciousness. The consciousness is one such continuum. Quantum physics reveals that everything is related. The miles of ocean are mere interruptions on the surface; a mile or two deeper there is still the presence of earth surface. There may be peaks and valleys, but still they are all continuous. The *Rishis* in their deep meditation could see this eternal truth. We see ourselves as islands of existence but the *Upanishadic Rishis* saw individual human beings as one family. All the consciousness is a unit and we are peaks and valleys. Any act that contaminates this consciousness is *Adharma* and anything that purifies it is *Dharma*.

When one proclaims this statement of ‘*Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*,’ one talks about the relationship that is happening at the level of this consciousness. We find that we are related to each other by consciousness. In fact there is no two, there is just consciousness itself. Knowing this, one can proclaim and say, ‘*Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*.’

Agree or not, if we go deep to the core we are related to each other and also to the entire universe by consciousness.

Consciousness is one which has no plural there is just one and only Consciousness. If we are aware of this fact, we can confidently say from our roof top that we belong to, '*Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam.*'

4. Science and *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam.*

We observe that the digital world is a continuously growing world of servers and clients. The server is a big computer and the client is a small computer. And all the servers are serving the clients. The relationship between the server and the client is that of a mother and a child. The server is always serving the requests of the clients. The servers are not governing the clients.

We all act and interact with one another in some way every day. We are all a World Wide Web (WWW) of so many relationships. Often the understanding that the world is just one cosmic family seems and appears to be a distant possibility and a greatest challenge. The computer scientists and information technologists have been successful in tying all the computers and all the information of the whole world in one common thread called the network. This is where Scott McNealy of the Sun Microsystems has once said that the Network is the Computer. The computer network of the whole world has become one big computer. It has become a digital nervous system of the whole world. This has been made possible at the level of a machine but the same is possible at the level of all the human beings of the whole world.

Scientists have practically proved Quantum Entanglement. In a simple sense Quantum Entanglement means bringing two photons at the same level of behaviour. The behaviour of one automatically changes the behaviour of the other and in the process both come to attain the same state. This proves we are all interrelated. There is a Quantum Consciousness which connects all.

It is now after a scientific progress of 400 years that the scientists are of this view that the whole cosmos is an inter-connected oneness. The whole existence

is inter-woven and inter-twined. This is the result of quantum physics. Werner Heisenberg had called the Universe a participating Universe. That is, the Universe has a meaning only when we are interacting with the Universe. The insight of the quantum physics is that the whole existence is an unbroken wholeness. It is an inter-dependent, inter-twined, inter-woven, inter-related, and inter-connected Universe. We cannot live as separate islands. This is the discovery of the outer world and the outer science. The *Vedic* and *Upanishadic* sages, the *Buddhas*, the mystics and the Zen Masters have discovered this truth long back in the ancient past in their inner world.

5. Jesus and *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam.*

Jesus speaks of different types of relationships in Mk 3/35. When people informed him about his mother, brothers and relatives waiting to meet him, he defines the higher level of relationship which is based on 'Will of God'. Jesus says "Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother" (Mk 3/35). All those who do the Will of God according to Jesus are part of the '*Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam.*' All the other type of relationships including the blood relationship is considered not more important than one based on God and Will of God.

Jesus also says in St. John's Gospel "that they may all be one" (Jn 17/21). Jesus prays for Oneness of the entire cosmos. Jesus through his actions and words always promoted cosmos as one family. Due to selfishness and vested interest of human being discriminations and divisions have happened in the past and even today.

6. Conclusion

The *Vedic Rishis*, *Upanishads*, Jesus and modern science have seen the entire reality as inter-related and inter-dependent. Ancient Philosophers said 'I think therefore I exist', Consumerist say 'I consume therefore I exist', and we who believe in *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* say 'I belong therefore I exist.'

Lord, When Will You Visit My Family?

-Dr. Fr. P. Joseph Titus

(Teaches Scripture at St. Peters Pontifical College, Bangalore)

A prayerful reading of Genesis 18 :1-15, arouses in me a strong desire to see God visiting my family as he visited Abraham's family in his tent. A lectio divina (a prayerful reading of the Sacred Scripture) is broken down into the following five steps named in Latin as 1. Lectio (reading), (2) Meditatio (meditation), (3) Oratio (prayer), (4) Contemplatio (contemplation) and (5) Actio (action). Each of these steps together form a process by which we encounter God in his sacred word and respond to his grace.

And the LORD appeared unto him in the plains of Mamre: and he sat in the tent door in the heat of the day; 2 And he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, lo, three men stood by him: and when he saw them, he ran to meet them from the tent door, and bowed himself toward the ground, 3 And said, My LORD, if now I have found favour in thy sight, pass not away, I pray thee, from thy servant: 4 Let a little water, I pray you, be fetched, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree: 5 And I will fetch a morsel of bread, and comfort ye your hearts; after that ye shall pass on: for therefore are ye come to your servant. And they said, So do, as thou hast said. 6 And Abraham hastened into the tent unto Sarah, and said, Make ready quickly three measures of fine meal, knead it, and make cakes upon the hearth. 7 And Abraham ran unto the herd, and fetched a calf tender and good, and gave it unto a young man; and he hasted to dress it. 8 And he took butter, and milk, and the calf which he had dressed, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree, and they did eat. 9 And they said unto him, Where is Sarah thy wife? And he said, Behold, in the tent. 10 And he said, I will certainly return unto thee according to the time of life; and, lo, Sarah thy wife shall have a son. And Sarah heard it in the tent door, which was behind him. 11 Now Abraham and Sarah were old and well stricken in age; and it ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. 12 Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, After I am waxed old shall I have

pleasure, my lord being old also? 13 And the LORD said unto Abraham, Wherefore did Sarah laugh, saying, Shall I of a surety bear a child, which am old? 14 Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son. 15 Then Sarah denied, saying, I laughed not; for she was afraid. And he said, Nay; but thou didst laugh.

Lectio (Reading): What does the text say that I should understand?

God appears to Abraham at his home (v. 1). From Abraham's point of view, three men stand near him (v. 2). Abraham does not know these persons and their identity. God has assumed human form here, the other two are angelic attendants. Abraham's hospitality has several characteristics: It extends to strangers; it follows a certain protocol: seeing, running to meet, honoring, inviting, refreshing, preparing, and serving. Abraham gives of the best he has (a calf!), makes and serves food, remains available to them and concerned about their welfare, and accompanies them on their way (v. 16). Throughout their encounter, the Lord treated Abraham as His friend. He shared an intimate occasion with him—a common meal. This was a unique privilege for Abraham. He sat down at the table and ate with him. It is the only case before the incarnation in which God ate food set before Him.

Meditatio (Meditation): What does this text say to me, today, and to my life?

The reading of this episode raises in me questions such as - have I been visited by God like Abraham? When was the last time I welcomed a stranger in my house? Abraham took the risk to welcome a stranger, and he treats him like royalty. This passage is an invitation to consider how hospitable I am towards strangers? God can visit us at any time, in any place and in any circumstance or situation he chooses and through strangers. Do I see and welcome God who appears to me in the strangers I meet? I should be careful God could be visiting

me. Secondly, I learn from Genesis 18:14 that nothing is too hard for our Lord. I must trust Him especially in the difficult times. Whatever I need, God is able to supply it. The words of God speak as loudly to me today as they did to Abraham, "Is anything too difficult for the Lord?" What problems am I facing in life? Addictions? God can deliver me! Discouragement over an unbelieving spouse? God is faithful! A wayward child? Nothing is too hard for Him! Despair over debt or marital problems? Nothing is impossible for God. Do I see the importance of this passage for my everyday living? It applies to all those with families and those without them. It applies to anyone who feels they are in an impossible situation. Those facing infertility...is this problem too hard for the Lord? Those facing an overwhelming illness...God is able to meet your needs. Those who look at their rebellious children and feel they are "hopeless"...The problem may seem beyond you... it is not too hard for the Lord. Those who face old wounds that seem impossible to overcome...is this beyond God's power to mend? Those raised in dysfunctional homes... God can unravel the mess and heal the pain; those who look at the costs of a college education and say, "It is impossible." Do I really think it is impossible for the God of the Universe? Those who feel that their marriage is hopelessly over...the God who made you one can renew the love. The list could go on. The simple laughter of Abraham and Sarah reminds me that I often laugh when I should trust in God. I often throw my hands up in the air when I should be putting them together in prayer.

Oratio (Prayer): What can I say to the Lord in response to his word?

So, in response, my soul opens up to God in prayer. Lord, happy the home when you are there. When you were in the tent of Abraham, your presence and your words provided him with blessing and strength. I request you Lord like Abraham: "My lord, if now I have found favor in your sight, please do not pass your servant by". I am eager to encounter and experience you, O God. I want you to remain with me. "Pass me not, O gentle Savior, hear my humble cry; while on others thou art calling, do not pass me by. Thou the spring of all my comfort, more

than life to me, whom have I on earth beside thee? Whom in heaven but thee?" O God, I say honestly that I long for your appearing in my tent.

Contemplatio (Contemplation): What conversion of the mind, heart, and life is the Lord asking of me?

God is inviting me today to be more hospitable to the strangers, because as the NT commands, "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it" (Heb. 13:2). However, modern culture presents numerous challenges to the practice of hospitality toward others. Today we live increasingly isolated lives, seldom reaching out beyond a very close circle. We live in a self-protective age where parents must warn their children about strangers; who knows what might be lurking beneath a kind and gentle facade? Hence, we seldom move out toward strangers. Hospitality in the modern world is a risk. Secondly, God is asking me to trust him at all times, because nothing is impossible for him. God serves as the source of hope in situations where the way into the future seems entirely blocked off. God gives shape to possibilities when all around us seems impossible.

Actio (Action): What moves us after this prayerful reading of this scriptural passage to make our life a gift for others in charity?

This biblical episode involves not only hospitality toward humans, but also hospitality towards God. Hospitality towards God is not simply a spiritual matter, but a response of the whole self in the midst of the quite mundane affairs of everyday life. Although we are not always able to identify the presence of God in the midst of life, God assumes flesh and blood in the neighbor and in the stranger. The example of Abraham and Sarah shows that this work can be profoundly important as a service to God and humanity. Hence I must put my focus on welcoming the stranger, on the one that I don't know. Secondly, this beautiful episode affirms the active engagement of God in the midst of the problems of the daily life of humans. Such an image of God opens up the future rather than closing it down. This text calls me for total trust in God in all circumstances.

AGNEL HAPPENINGS

Fr. Agnel School, Greater Noida Annual Day Function

Our world, God's greatest creation, is made up of love. Today, this world is cringing in pain of being broken up by religion, caste, creed, language etc. With a vision of living as one human family despite the differences, Fr. Agnel School, Greater Noida celebrated its Annual Day on 7th November, 2015 proclaiming the theme 'Let's Walk Together'. Mr. Deepak Agarwal, the CEO of Greater Noida Authority graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. He motivated the children to be sincere, obedient and hard working. The Annual Function was inaugurated by the dignitaries from different religions by pouring Holy Water into one vessel signifying the unity of minds and hearts. The Chief Guest, parents and other

invited guests were welcomed by a Korean dance performance signifying global unity and oneness. The theme 'Let's walk together' was presented very beautifully through a dance drama which included mesmerising dance performances known as the Sadbhawana Dance. The choir group echoed the message of universal brotherhood, love and peace through their heart melting melodies like Different Colours and If Everyone Cared.

Rev. Fr. Bento, the Manager and Rev. Sr. Shamita, the Principal with their tireless efforts raised the program to a professional level. The Principal thanked the parents and guests for their presence. She appreciated the staff and students for their stupendous work.



The Chief Guest and Invitees



Korean Dance

Venerable Father Agnelo Punyatithi Celebrations

The 88th Death Anniversary of Venerable Fr. Agnel was celebrated on 20th November 2015 at Fr. Agnel Ashram Bandra, Mumbai. The theme for the day was "Christian families called to become witnesses of Jesus' love: Venerable Agnelo is an inspiration". Rt. Rev. Dr. Theodore Mascarenhas, Auxiliary Bishop of Ranchi Archdiocese was the Chief Celebrant. Nine Priests from the Bandra deanery joined in the concelebration. At the outset Bishop Theodore was welcomed in procession by the brass band of Fr. Agnel Bal Bhuvan boys. Master Nikhil of the Bal Bhuvan presented a floral bouquet to the Bishop. Fr. Nazareth the Superior introduced and

welcomed the Bishop. Then the children of Fr. Agnel Multipurpose School, Ambernath, enthralled the audience with their dance performances. In his homily Bishop Theodore spoke of the single mindedness in the pursuit of the love of God, Unity in the family and belongingness to the Family of God based on the adherence to the Word of God. He said that the Mother of Fr. Agnelo was the one who instilled in him these values and that today all Christian families are to draw inspiration from the life of Venerable Fr. Agnelo based on these values. The melodious student's choir of Fr. Agnel School enhanced the Eucharistic participation of the faithful.

The Saint Couple: Louis and Zelig Martin, Parents of St. Therese of the Child Jesus

-Fr. Victor Rebello, serves as Director Agnel Technical Education Complex, Bandra

18th October 2015 is a day to be remembered for on that day Pope Francis canonized the parents of the beloved St Therese of Lisieux. The Pope said, "The couple Louis and Zelig Martin practiced Christian service in the family creating day by day an environment of faith and love which nurtured the vocations of their daughters."

Louis Martin was born in Bordeaux on August 22, 1823. He completed his studies in Alencon and at the age of 20 he decided to become a watchmaker. A man of faith and great charity he felt a sense of calling to priesthood. In 1845, he set out to enter a Carthusian monastery where he had to take up the task to study Latin first which he tried but in the end gave up; whatever the reason, he saw that he did not have a vocation to the priesthood. He mastered and perfected his skill of watch making and rededicated himself to his work as a watch maker with diligence and honesty.

Zelig Guerin was born at Gandelain on December 23, 1831. Her family moved into the city of Alencon so that the second daughter could attend the Catholic school run by the Sacred Heart Sisters. She was a brilliant girl with deep faith. Alencon was a centre of lace making in France. Zelig became an expert in this accurate and detailed work and became very successful in this business venture. Like her sister Marie Louis, she too wanted to consecrate herself to the Lord but realized that she was not destined to be a nun.

Louis Martin and Zelig Guerin eventually met in Alencon and on July 13, 1858 were married. Thus began their remarkable voyage through life. It is interesting that the "married couple" decided to maintain perfect chastity in the beginning but after ten months they realized that, it was not really what God wanted and on the advice of a priest friend they changed their minds. God gifted them with nine children – seven girls and two boys. Zelig, like all mothers said, "We lived only for them, they were all our happiness". The Martins delight in their children turned to shock and sorrow

as tragedy mercilessly took their little ones – two boys and two girls. These tragedies intensified the love of Louis and Zelig for each other. They poured their affection on their surviving five daughters. Towards the end of 1876, Zelig developed lumps in her breasts and discovered that it was cancer. She died on August 28, 1877.

Louis, concerned for the motherless girls, moved to Lisieux where his brother in law stayed with his wife. For the sake of his children he left Alencon where he had many friends and where his wife was buried. But the most admirable work of Louis was the offering to God all his daughters and then of himself. He considered the offering of his children to the Lord as a very special grace granted to his family. The last years of the life of Louis saw health problems. He died peacefully on July 29, 1894.

We have seen the life story and situation of Louis and Zelig Martin – their sufferings, and joys; their faith and trust in God. They were a "picture of charitableness". They helped the sick and the dying, gave alms to beggars, ensured hospital care for the very ill and took in a child whose family could not look after him. There are a number of reasons why this couple is close to us and are inspirations to families of today. In the 19th century this couple faced challenges that we face in the 21st century – exemplary witness of conjugal love, child care, career excellence, managing a profitable business, caring for aging parents, educating children, forming their children in faith, finding time to pray and to be active in their parish.

The basis of their spirituality is found in God's will and love, discovered in their daily lives. Their love and trust in each other did not shake even when forced with abundant responsibilities and worries. The life story of Louis and Zelig teaches us today to find God's love and how to respond to that love. The bodies of this "Saint Couple" were exhumed and buried side by side near the apse of the Basilica of Lisieux. Over the graves are written the words of Therese: "God gave me a mother and a father more worthy of heaven than of earth".

To be a Teacher



My father died and my mother is working as a fisher woman. There is nobody to take care of me. I have two brothers. I am in the Balgram because my mother goes to work and there is nobody to take care of my studies. My mother also didn't study.

I'm very happy in this Balgram for I get to

study and learn many things and I have many friends. Mothers are very good and they take good care of me. Sometimes I miss my mummy but I'm happy with my cottage mother. At first when I came I was not having friends. Nobody liked me but my mother gave me lots of love like my sister and told me to come up in life. My hobbies are to help others and I like to play. I love to study. My ambition is to become a teacher.

(Ratnabai Chawan - Verna)

To become a Priest



My name is Ruben and I am studying in 4th Standard. My mummy is living in Bombay and my daddy is working here in Verna. We are three children. I came to this Balgram to study. My mummy admitted me here

when I was in 2nd Standard. My sister is also living in boarding but not here. My younger brother is with my mummy in Bombay. My parents admitted me here in Balgram because I was a naughty boy and my parents could not take care of me. During holidays my grandmother takes

care of me since my father goes to work to earn money. When I first came here I was really sad and used to cry a lot because I missed my family. My cottage mother was very understanding and loving and helped me to feel better and make a lot of friends. I am glad that I got the chance to stay in Balgram because here I can study and do many activities. When I came here I learned how to speak English and how to play Football. Football is my favourite sport and *the coach is teaching us many tricks. My talents are dancing, reading and sharing. In the future I want to become a priest.*

(Ruben Teixeira -Verna)

THE JOY OF GIVING



Letters from some Benefactors
and Friends of our Balbhavan
Children

Jaipaul Berchmans, Chennai

Please find enclosed a cheque of ₹2000/- for the benefit of your orphan boys. Kindly remember all of us in your daily prayers.

Flossy Saldanha, Mumbai

I enclose a cheque of ₹2000/- which is my donation for your orphanage. Kindly pray for the good health of my family members.

H. Mampara, U.S.A.

The attached cheque of \$25/- is for the maintenance of your orphans. Please request the children to pray for my family.

Ms. Celin Pathiyil, U.S.A.

I am enclosing a cheque of \$50/- towards the sponsorship of Noble DeSouza. I hope that he will do well in his studies and have a bright future. Please pray for our family, especially for my daughter to have a safe delivery of her child.

Furrokh R. Mehta, Mumbai

Enclosed is a cheque of ₹2000/-. This amount may be utilized for your charitable work, especially taking care of orphan boys. Please remember us in your prayers.

Family as a Verb

Contd. from pg 5

our time, we will become negative beings incapable of doing good.

In our time possibly what we lack is giving right things to others, especially our children. One of the free gifts God has given us is time. One of the common complaints we hear is that we have no time. Wrong. We get minimum of 24 hours a day. We cannot increase or decrease the quantity of time. What we can do is distribute that quantity reasonably and for our own well being. Why not give our children more time before giving them mobile and other modern gadgets that keep them away from us and us from them?

Mother Teresa had said that peace and

war begin in the family. So, Take care of your families. Human beings are born in the family which is the basic and the first school where a child learns to talk and walk, be good or to not so good or even bad and many other things that have lasting impact in one's being. If one learns how to love in the family of which peace is an expression, the same peace he/she will spread. If one learns hatred and bitterness in the family, the world will see more wars. As Christians and especially Catholics, if we could hold on to the teachings of the Church on family, perhaps the other aspects of life in the Church, aberrations in behavior of some of the clerics, religious indifference, etc. may change for the better. We are never late in making the verb more powerful and effective so that it does not become meaningless. May the Family be the Verb.

Family - Be Fully Alive!

Contd. from pg 6

Day after day they pour forth; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world" (Psalm 19/1). Man ought to see through the eyes of faith and reason, and sing the glories of God, for his own sake, so that he can be fully alive. Therefore, respect for creation and in particular respect for human life is paramount. But, because of greed and a false sense of

pride and power, men have caused great damage to nature, and in the process have impoverished their own lives. We cannot be fully alive, when we destroy and sully the glory of God in His creation. "Ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds of the air, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish of the sea inform you. Which of these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? In his hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind" (Job 12/7-10). Indeed, the glory of God is man fully alive.

Family Life Transformed by Technology

Contd. from pg 7

safer and more efficient. Gone are the days when children staying in hostels used to wait for days for the money order or mail transfer to reach. Using mobile phones, we can now transfer funds instantly.

Long term societal impact of the lifestyle changes brought about by the advancement of technology needs careful study. True, as humans, we look for greater comfort and fulfillment. Are, there flip sides to these developments? The term 'Couch potato' that was coined in the TV era is now more relevant with most tasks realizable at the finger tips - utility payments, funds management,

travel reservations, show bookings, online shopping with even virtual trials of dresses - the list increases almost on a daily basis. Reduced physical activities and changing food habits have raised health concerns. Lifestyle diseases like diabetes, hypertension, high cholesterol and even cancer have become rampant..

We need to find the right balance and use technology to our advantage with no compromise on the upkeep of our physical and mental health and in maintaining the family and societal framework where kids enjoy their childhood, the elderly are taken care of and the society at large remains connected and progressive.

A Well Knit and Happy Family

-P. A. D'Mello

It is said that a family that prays together stays together. This was indeed observed in Agnelo's family. The parents of Agnelo were virtuous people, imbued with the spirit of Christian charity. The family consisted of nine children, eight sons and a daughter. They lived a simple life and even had their doors open for children of the neighbourhood.

Agnelo's mother was well educated and took pains to ensure that the children were given the best of education, with priority to cultivation of virtues. She was blessed with intellectual talents, was a proficient musician, a good singer and she was also appreciated in the village for the art of embroidery and tailoring. Two of her children, Manuel affectionately called Manuelinho and Agnelo, became priests. Interestingly the two had been named after their deceased grand uncles, Manuel and Agnelo, who were priests.

The family atmosphere was conducive to the practice of virtue. An atmosphere where love surpassed all limitedness and shortcomings. His mother not only looked after the religious education of her own children, but welcomed at her house the other children of the village, teaching them catechism and preparing them to receive the Holy Sacraments. Agnelo naturally inherited his mother's apostolic spirit and early in life displayed an uncommon eagerness and interest in the study of Christian doctrine.

Love is a very important ingredient in man's life. This element can make great saints in the same way, that the lack of it can and has made great criminals. The love in the family, that sense of belonging and the joy that goes with it are what moulds the life of

children to make them successful and truly great citizens.

Agnelo did not enjoy the happiness of seeing his parents living for long. His father died when he was 11 years old and two years later his mother passed away leaving them complete orphans. However, they had laid good foundations and sown the seeds of love and faith in the hearts of the children. The family that prayed together, lived together even after the parents were no more, and grew to be very much united under the leadership of the eldest brother Fr. Manuelinho.

His mother on her deathbed had called the children around her and told them that the time had come for her to leave them. Then pointing to the picture of Our Lady of Sorrows that was hanging on the wall, she said: "My darling children I am about to leave you for good. Remember always, your true Mother is Our Lady. Turn to her in all your needs." The children grew up with this legacy. Regarding his caring and loving mother, we can say "It takes a saintly mother to produce a saintly son".

Agnelo had showed himself quite proficient in the mastery of Christian doctrine and was hence admitted to First Holy Communion at the age of eight which was unusual among children at that time. He made it a point to receive Holy Communion very frequently and to make his confession every Thursday. Parents of the village would always point out to Agnelo as a model boy saying "Look at him, what a good boy he is, humble and peace loving. Try to imitate him".

We may thus justly say that day after day, Agnelo was growing up not only in years but also in knowledge and piety before God and men.

The Wonder of Christmas - *Contd. from pg 4*

simple, gentle, childlike and we must become more and more like Him .

b) He wants to be very close to us: God has two aspects - transcendence and immanence. Transcendence - yes; but He is also immanent, closer to us than we are to ourselves. He left the Heavens to become a little child so that we could

carry Him, cuddle Him, kiss Him, hold Him close to us and never let Him go because He wants us to press Him to our hearts. He wants from us an intimate, close, loving relationship. He wants us to be together always!

Truly, we have a Great, Big, Wonderful God! ALLELUIA! Happy Christmas.



FR. AGNEL'S BLESSINGS

Successful Eye Operation

Mumbai: I was to undergo an eye operation. I was much worried and tensed. In distress, I entrusted myself to the protection and intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnelo and prayed for his healing touch. I am now very happy to inform you that through the blessing of Ven. Fr. Agnel my eye operation was successful. With sincere thanks I am sending an offering of Rs. 500/- to the Ashram fund.

-Agnes Naidu

Amicable Divorce Settlement

Nallasopara: My son had to divorce his wife within twenty days of his marriage as he came to know that she was having illicit relations with some other boy even after their marriage. In this unfortunate situation I entrusted myself to the powerful intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnelo and fervently prayed for an amicable settlement of this issue. I am now extremely happy to inform you that Fr. Agnelo heard my fervent plea as that girl and her parents mutually agreed for a peaceful settlement without taking the matter to court. Moreover they did not ask for alimony nor put any claim over his property. Our heartfelt thanks to Fr. Agnel with an offering of Rs. 500/-

-Kalpana J. Mehta

Secured Job in Australia

Mumbai: My daughter and son-in-law had migrated to Australia in search of better jobs. I was praying through the intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel to bless them with suitable jobs. Fr. Agnel heard my fervent plea as they are now blessed with a good job in Australia. As a token of my sincere thanks, here is an offering of Rs. 5000/- to the Ashram for its various charitable activities.

-Maurice Alvares

Health Restored

Goa: My wife had a tumour removed through surgery. After that we were blessed with three children, all delivered through caesarean section. Subsequent to this my wife again complained of pain in the abdomen. The sonography revealed

that the fibroid had enlarged and surgery was required. We then came to Pilar and prayed fervently to Ven. Fr. Agnelo and in faith drank water mixed with mud from his tomb. After some time she did a sonography which revealed that her condition was normal and no surgery was required. Our heartfelt gratitude to Ven. Agnelo and we pray for his early canonization.

-Camilo Fernandes

Blessed with a Suitable Job

New York: With the blessing of Ven. Fr. Agnelo I came to the US and was in search of a suitable job. Again, I sought the powerful intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnelo and I am very happy to inform you that I got a suitable job in the city. With a grateful heart we send an offering of Rs 3000/-.

-Lily Babu

Life Saved

Goa: My brother injured his head and hand in an accident. The doctors in the hospital said there was nothing to fear. He prescribed some medicine and discharged him. After sometime he became very serious and had to be admitted in the ICU. The doctor said an emergency operation was a must. At this moment I prayed to Ven. Fr. Agnelo to save him. I am happy and grateful to say that Ven. Fr. Agnelo heard my prayer. My brother was cured; our heartfelt gratitude to Fr. Agnelo.

-Conceicao Fernandes

Acquitted of False Criminal Case

Mangalore: There was a false criminal case filed against me in the Supreme Court. There was no genuine reason for the case and it was pending for a long time. In this predicament, I entreated myself to the powerful intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnelo and prayed for a favourable verdict. I am now very happy to inform you that the Supreme Court squashed the case and relieved me of all false allegations. As a token of my profound gratitude, I am sending an offering of Rs. 5000/- to Ven. Fr. Agnel's Fund.

-Michael Mascarenhas

Out of Their Bounty

Vepul Kaisav	Kolkata	50000	Riya Anu Francis	Kerala	1000	Rose Joseph	Kerala	500
Jayesh Patel	U.K.	50000	Rachel Thomas	Kerala	1000	Rajesh K.I.	Kerala	500
Divya Alex	U.K.	29784	R.Bennet	Chennai	1000	Peter Thampy	Kerala	500
Wellwisher	Mumbai	12570	N.T.Rossama	Kerala	1000	Patrick Pereira	Mah.	500
Mark Nunes	Mumbai	10000	Peter Hendricks	Pondicherry	1000	P.N.Abraham	Kerala	500
Jariben Modi	U.S.A.	6530	Peter Dabhi	Gujarat	1000	P.K.Vijapen	Kerala	500
Mary Fernandes	Mumbai	6200	P.J.Jose	Kerala	1000	R.T.Chacko	Chennai	500
Joseph D'Souza	U.A.E.	5500	Prof.K.J.Varkey	Kerala	1000	Noreen Assey	Karnataka	500
Nixon Pereira	Mah.	5000	P.A.Joseph	Kerala	1000	N. Vaghela	Gujarat	500
John Thomas	Vadodra	5000	M Mendonca	Moti Daman	1000	Mary Francis	Kerala	500
S. Fernandes	Mumbai	4000	M Fernandes	Delhi	1000	N.M.Amolik	Mah.	500
R.Lattayappan	Tamil Nadu	4000	M Rathod	Mumbai	1000	M D'Souza	Mah.	500
Wellwisher	Mumbai	3000	M.G.Antony	Kerala	1000	Midhun Joy	Kerala	500
Pia Lopes	Mah.	3000	L.N.Kamble	Mah.	1000	Mary James	Kerala	500
Lincy Thomas	Kerala	3000	K.S.Jayakumar	Kerala	1000	Manjula V.	Karnataka	500
Leela Philip	U. A.E.	3000	Jomy K.M.	U.P.	1000	Arthur Mendonca	Karnataka	500
Irudaya Nirmala	Tamil Nadu	3000	Johnson Joseph	Kerala	1000	M.Rajathi	Tamil Nadu	500
Jaya Alex	Kerala	2900	Jenny Baptist	Mumbai	1000	M.Paulose	Kerala	500
Wellwisher	U.A.E.	2550	Anu Mary	Kerala	1000	M.M.Joseph	Kerala	500
M.A.Alangavan	Chennai	2300	Jeffery Jerome	Kerala	1000	M.J Mary	Chennai	500
S. Mascarenhas	Ambernath	2000	Jacob J.	Kerala	1000	L George	Rajasthan	500
Suhita Inigo	Tamil Nadu	2000	J.Joseph	Tamil Nadu	1000	L Chacko	Kerala	500
Sebastian James	Kerala	2000	J.Jobai	Tamil Nadu	1000	A.Santhappan	Tamil Nadu	500
Sami Sebastian	Kerala	2000	Francis L.J.	Kerala	1000	L.Muller	A.Pradesh	500
Philomena Pinto	Karnataka	2000	Francis C.J.	Kerala	1000	K. Michael	Tamil Nadu	500
P.G.Varkey	Kerala	2000	F.G.Xavier	Kerala	1000	K. Joseph	Kerala	500
Mary Aruladhan	Tamil Nadu	2000	Dr.Thomas	Kerala	1000	Joyce James	Mumbai	500
Maria Anmol	Tamil Nadu	2000	Dr. C. Engles	Amritsar	1000	K.C.Annukutty	Kerala	500
Lionel Remedios	U.A.E.	2000	A Mattuthaamy	Kerala	1000	Joseph C.D.	Kerala	500
Jose Thomas	Kerala	2000	C.McFarland	DehraDun	1000	John Varghese	Kerala	500
John S.	Kerala	2000	C.G.Janardhavan	Chennai	1000	Jagadesh Centre	Mah.	500
J Berchmens	Chennai	2000	Bento Joseph	Kerala	1000	J.Vincent	Kerala	500
Furrokh Mehta	Mumbai	2000	Arul Stephen	Tamil Nadu	1000	Govind S.Khaira	Mah.	500
C Vanjare	Mah.	2000	A.Moses	Mumbai	1000	George Mathew	Kerala	500
C Arokiaswamy	Tamil Nadu	2000	A.Mittathuny	Kerala	1000	G.Veeramani	Chennai	500
Sebastian A.C.	Kerala	1500	A.C.Lee	Mumbai	1000	G.P.Dabhi	Gujarat	500
Rani Denniel	Tamil Nadu	1500	M Mendonca	Daman	800	G.Kavita Wesley	Chennai	500
Kiran Asher	Mumbai	1500	Sabloo Thomas	Kerala	750	Elsamma James	Kerala	500
K.M.Antony	Kerala	1500	M Fernandes	Delhi	700	Edwin David	Karnataka	500
Hiren Gala	Mah.	1500	Amitirose M.	Karnataka	700	E.David	Karnataka	500
Helen Almeida	Mumbai	1500	Sildan K.P.	Mumbai	600	Dr.Sarosh Lath	Daman	500
Dr.JamesPaul	Kerala	1500	M.V.Chavan	Pune	600	Thomas Philip	Karnataka	500
A. Jayasimhan	Mumbai	1500	Kuruvila K.	Kerala	600	Devasshri K.	Kerala	500
Mrs.Abela & Fly	Australia	1404	K Parmar	Gujarat	600	Denis Pereira	Kerala	500
V.Antony		1200	Joseph Cherian	Kerala	600	Dayana Salas	Kerala	500
Maya Hingorani	Mumbai	1100	Ujwala Amolik	Mah.	501	D.V.D.Silvia	Karnataka	500
Rajendra Parikh	Mumbai	1025	Z.M.Tadiavala	Gujarat	500	Brito Joseph	Kerala	500
Shobhana Suresh	Mumbai	1001	Vinay Thomas	Kerala	500	Bindhu Idiculla	Kerala	500
K.V.Karani	Mumbai	1001	Veronica B.Sathe	Mah.	500	B Koynder	Mumbai	500
V.S. Bilolikar	Mumbai	1000	Thomas Koshy	Kerala	500	Benjamin K.	Mumbai	500
Thressiamma D.	Kerala	1000	Monica D'Souza	Pune	500	B.F. Daminey	Mah.	500
T.N.Kurian	Kerala	1000	T.Agnel	Kerala	500	Abraham	Kerala	500
Sossamma A.	Kerala	1000	Surekha Arvand	Mah.	500	Anna D'Souza	Karnataka	500
S.Sebastian	Kerala	1000	Sarah Gomes	Kolkata	500	Allen James	Kerala	500
S.Mary	Chennai	1000	Sabu Philip	Kerala	500	Aleena John	Kerala	500
Rosily Joseph	Kerala	1000	S.Fernando	Chennai	500	Agnes Rebeiro	Chennai	500
						A.Pankajam	Tamil Nadu	500

VEN. FR. AGNELO'S 88TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS AT THE ASHRAM



Bishop Theodore being welcomed.



Bishop Theodore celebrating the Eucharist.



Welcome dance by students of Fr. Agnel Ambernath.



Devotees at Prayer

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Christmas Gifts from Santa



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*Wish all our Friends, Benefactors and Well-Wishers
A Very Happy and Holy Christmas
and Showers of God's Blessings for the
New Year 2016!*