

CHARISM & PASSION

If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one. -Mother Teresa



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THE **JOY** OF GIVING



Letters from some Benefactors and Friends of our Balbhavan Children

Alick A. Lisboa, Vasai

Herewith a cheque of ₹.2000 for the maintenance and education of the orphans under your care. Please pray for our family.

Veronica Fernandes, Goa

I am sending a cheque of ₹.1050 towards the sponsorship scheme for orphans in your Balbhuvan. Kindly remember us in your prayers.

Ravindra Prasad, Kalyan

Kindly accept this donation of ₹.5000 for your Balbhuvan children. Please request the children to pray for our family.

Sosamma Sage, Al-Ain

I am enclosing a cheque of ₹.30,000 as my humble gift for your orphans. Please pray for me and my family, especially for my two daughters that they do well in their exams and have good careers.

Honey Wilson, Australia

I am sending a donation of ₹.2000 for the children in your Balbhuvan. I pray for their wellbeing and that they do well in their studies. Kindly remember me and my family in your prayers.

CHARISM AND PASSION!!!

History bears witness to thousands of individuals who challenged the circumstances to make a difference to others. Even as I write there are 100s of extraordinarily courageous men and women who dare death each moment of their lives because the aim they have in mind is beckoning them to defy both death and life. Unlike what most of us think, for those daring young men and women, success is something far more different from money, fame or even the joy of achieving a goal – it is more than that, it is a response to a calling.

Mountaineers, who hang on the steep side of the mountain by a peg, on a foothold in a wedge, each moment of their climb, defying both death and life as none of which concerns them, baffle me for what they do and more specially why they do it. Even when they tell us that they enjoy doing it, what exactly are they saying!

Sailors who traverse the oceans, without sight of land or humans, or even birds that could convey them the hope of a land, who defy night and day, cold and heat, for months on end, sometimes even without enough drinking water, I wonder what drives them and why. To think that breaking a record alone, drives them would be unfair to their courage, determination, tenacity and the unimaginable magnitude of their struggles.

Differently abled individuals, who have limited ability to use their limbs, deaf or blind, individuals who are victims of deprivation and poverty or even constrained by human circumstances, who defy the odds, are heroes in their own right, and to describe that courage, tenacity and perseverance is a difficult task. Their triumphs are different from the celluloid heroes, cricket or football idols, who achieve instant idol status.

Nelson Mandela, Mahatma Gandhi, Aung San Su Kyi, and men and women who in our contemporary world stand up against injustice or oppression and are ready to be chastised for it, defy true understanding. Saint Mother Teresa, Saint Francis of Assisi, St. Francis Xavier and scores of other saints whose lives challenge our understanding too, belong to the same category, although we may be tempted to put them in another category (faith) from those I have mentioned above. All of them are extraordinary individuals.

Their energy and drive come from inside them – from Passion. Passion does not thrive on any immediate goal, it needs a far more robust stimulant – one that does not end and does not fade. It is far more potent that words can describe and does not exhaust itself easily, and it drives you on, and on, and on.

We must not mistake passion with obsession that drives the terrorists or fanatics led by revenge or a narrow objective. Passion is a superior attribute and comes out of a far more internally motivated process that allows to see reality differently.

Our love for our Country, or patriotism cannot be generated from outside, through our enforced respect to our flag or other symbols and not certainly from laws enforcing the same through actions or belief systems. If patriotism is to be driven by passion it must be made of nobler stuff. It arises out of our very clear vision of a Country, its people, its aspirations and the true wellbeing of all its people and a strong urge to belong, to defend and to serve. Passion therefore always leads for a positive goal, nobler objective and even purer methods.

In the religious arena we often end up describing passionate, difficult of understanding strivings of people as faith. Faith it is, but a faith that creates a passion, it is an individual or group's vision of reality so clearly specific and different that only he or they are able to see it as no one else. We have often described such a calling "CHARISM" with little effort to understand it. Charism cannot be given, cannot be imposed – because if it is any of those, it cannot be called Charism.

The term **charisma**; pl. charismata, adj. charismatic) has two senses: (1) compelling attractiveness or charm that can inspire devotion in others, (2) a divinely conferred power or talent. As regards sense 1, scholars in political science, psychology, and management reserve the term for a type of leadership that is extraordinary; in this field, the term "charisma" is used to describe a particular type of leader who uses "values-based, symbolic, and emotion-laden leader. "For some theological usages the term is rendered *charism*, with a meaning the same as sense 2. Since the 1950s, the term has become widely used, with varying meanings, in religion, the social sciences, the media, and throughout Western societies. (Wiki).

The Church, following its use in western literature used it to describe the drive and the passion that Founders of religious groups had, to establish against all odds, societies and associations which had a clearly defined aim. For all the Founders the "aim" was always very clear, although the means and methods were adopted in the context. The Charism of the Founders truly is "divinely conferred power or talent" which has also been called in the "Second Vatican Council" "primigenia inspiration" (literally translated - the inspiration received at the beginning). Whichever way understood, the legitimacy of the Charism is its divine inspiration, therefore not given, added or even suggested by anyone, including by the Church.

For that self same reason, the Law of the Church "Canon Law" clearly states that the Foundation of a religious society or association, takes place from the moment that the "original members who share the charism" consent to it. No recognition is required and even when such a recognition is extended by the Church it in no way adds to its legitimacy or existence.

Throughout history such "Charisms" appeared and as a result have given to the Church the multiple diversity of societies and associations that make the Church what it is today. The Church as it has already been established has no role in the establishment of such societies or associations, its role at the most remains in stating that such a society is acceptable to the Church (ecclesiastically), i.e. has nothing contrary to the teachings of the Church, or at a later stage to give it a status in the various organizational structures, by what is called "canonical erection".

This rare elevation of the "Founders" of

Societies or Associations "to individuals in their own right in the Church, reflect the fundamental principle taken from the civil law of "freedom of individuals for an association" which also forms the right of any private or public association in the Civil law. The supremacy of the "consent among individuals" as a juridical act itself is a highly progressive view in the Teachings of the Church which is often not given its due and as a result genuine Charism, that is truly "divinely granted grace or talent" is muzzled or even killed.

Individuals driven by Charism always defy understanding and even compliance. Jesus challenged the prevailing laws to give a higher understanding which did not find acceptance with the prevailing dispensation. Most founders of major religious societies suffered the same fate – the inability of being understood, as what those individuals perceived was beyond the perception that the authority had.

The dilemma that authorities often face is how to deal with a perception, an idea or a teaching that appears contrary to its known belief system but is propounded by individuals who demonstrated in themselves an extraordinary level of commitment to the Church and its teachings! Whereas the authority genuinely desires to uphold discipline or compliance it needs to be flexible enough to discern the "divine talent/ grace" that individuals might have received.

Far greater harm is done, when efforts are made to rope in and restrict ideas and actions of Charism-led individuals and give them a different orientation. The damage thus caused is not only a restriction to the "divinely inspired grace/talent" but it deprives the followers of the element of "Passion" that the "Charism " is synonymous with.

The slow death of and slide of authentic religious movements happened as a result of an undue interference by the authority to 'modify" the Charism to its own perception or by the attempt of the followers to change it for extraneous reasons. Therefore the Vatican II strictly forbids religious institutes to refrain from tampering with the original Charism (initially generated inspiration) since such a move would remove from that institute its most vital element – Passion to live its goals and find relevance in changing times. The widely felt discomfort, nay even a sense of loss and a bleak look of the future that most religious groups are tackling today, is primarily because religious societies/congregations of men and women have no audacity to place the "passion/ charism" of the founders as the core element of its identity, energy and growth and as a result, the indispensable factor for driving progress. This is visible in the lowering the standard of conduct and compliance and attitude that our places of formation have fallen victims to, by well meaning formators because they fail to inject the clarity and depth of the Founders' passion and Charism, and what it demands of its followers. There is a mistaken understanding between what is licentiousness and liberal attitude. The former is disregard to the rules of what has been proven and established as true, acceptable and to be followed, whereas the latter is about being more considerate when he or she fails - in this case one makes allowance to one's weaknesses and does not change the goal posts, whereas in the former the goal post is changed, because the keeper is too lazy to keep the goal.

Our solutions that we provide specially in our formations processes are in polar opposition to what is needed in reality. Can a climber, because the going is difficult, let loose his grip on the mountain wedge? Can a solo sailor because he is overcome with the urge to sleep, let go its sail? Can a religious person, whose Founders wanted the Society to be driven by its desire to preach to Gospel which demands both mental discipline and tenacity of commitment, including the ability to live a life, that is symbolic of the realities that he preaches, make peace with mediocrity or seek relevance by adopting the ways of the society around him and lower his guard, about how he needs to be formed? If they (the mountaineer and the solo) can't though for material gains, how can we!!! The only way out, is the way of the Passion/Charism of the Founders - the "Divinely given talent or grace". This Passion/Charism is legitimate by its own right and not by the approval of an ecclesiastical authority.

-Fr. Jose Alarico Carvalho

God Will Recompense You a Thousand Times

-Janina Gomes

All of us have been wronged at some time or the other, some more often, others occasionally. We do get stymied after the experience. As a result we feel and become small, like Lilliputians, no longer able to take on the world. But for all the evil we experience and suffer, God will recompense us a thousand times.

Yahweh makes a way where there is no way. Suddenly we see that seen from another perspective, no experience of ours has gone waste. God uses them all, including mistakes in a way we would never have imagined. Years and years of a barren life in the desert of human experience are changed in the twinkling of an eye and we slowly realize that it was all a part of God's plan.

There are some who might never see the bigger picture. They block the flow of grace that makes us resilient people. And, yes, God recompenses us a thousand times. He makes flowers bloom even on dry, parched ground. God is a God of infinite mercy, but justice precedes that mercy, and is an important aspect of mercy. For those who listen to what God is telling us, every tear will be wiped away. I remember listening to a tape by Dr. Taub, in which he said that if we take one step towards God, he will take a thousand steps towards us. By human measure and thinking, this seems a tall order. But, as a contemporary man of God, Jean Vanier says, everything is possible, for with God nothing is impossible. Without him we would surely fail. But with him all things find a perfect end. That is the kind of faith we should have.

Droughts and floods, storms, tsunamis, many man- made disasters will make us more creative solution finders. We are meant to be stewards of creation and not its destroyers. Climate change is a direct result of the way we have squandered nature's resources to lead comfortable lives, which are not sustainable.

Many break downs in civil society are the result of an inequitable distribution of wealth and a squandering of nature's limited and precious resources. Violence which results from some always licking off the cream and the majority not having the basic minimum to live on is a way of wronging others, leaving them with little hope.

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Matrimonial Holiness

- Lorraine & Leon Bent

Marriage is "a gift" from God and there is a great urgency to safeguard this gift (Amoris Laetitia/ The Joy of Love, 61). God's primary goal for marriage is holiness. That's why we call it Holy or Sacred Matrimony. God's highest priority in each of our lives is to make us more like his Son Jesus (Romans 8:29). Marriage is one way in which God develops the character of Jesus within us. In total agreement with Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI [Encyclical Letter Deus Caritas Est (2005)], Pope Francis writes that God's way of loving becomes the measure of human love.

If you have left your first love, God, go back to the basics. Get back to Bible study. Get back to fellowship. Get back to worship. Get back on your knees in prayer. In Scripture, we hear from Christ. In fellowship, we share Christ. At the Lord's Table, we commune with Christ. In prayer, we talk to Christ. This spiritual foundation invariably brings us back to Christ. When married lovers have Jesus as the Third Partner, they are caught up in an intimate, eternal whirl of the Triune God in a communion of love (cf. AL 11).

Christ is the Centre of Marriage

There is no doubt that the passionate devotion to family, the love which bound Eddie and Zita, for example, in holy matrimony, the Catholic care and upbringing of eight children, and fidelity to each other, which they maintained throughout their lives, is a testimony to their saintliness. Their home, whether an imperial palace or a simple, damp, poverty-laden cottage or even a tiny shanty-love-nest, was filled with a spirit of prayer, humility, mutual sacrifice, love, and a commitment to duty in fulfilling their state in life. Christ was the center of their nuptial alliance. For this reason, it seems appropriate to call this couple a model of Catholic marriage and family life.

How the Faith-Vision of Couples is Nourished

The Eucharist is one of the central ways in which this faith-vision of marriage is nourished. Here, the couple is drawn into Jesus' death and resurrection as the pattern of human existence. The vowed twosome come to understand that one dies many little deaths in loving another human being. The central symbolism of the Eucharist is that of sharing, giving the best of oneself to bring vibrancy to others. In speaking of the call of the whole church to holiness, the Second Vatican Council says that if love, "as good seed, is to grow and bring forth fruit in the soul, each one of the faithful must willingly hear the Word of God . . . each couple must frequently partake in the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, and in liturgical rites" (cf. AL 318, 324).

The practice of love necessarily draws Christians into the Paschal Mystery of Christ. In light of this mystery a couple can come to view the discomfort of change as an invitation and opportunity, forcing the lovers out of old patterns into new life in Jesus.

Gift-Giving in a Marriage

Commitment to growth includes willingness to deal with differences in a marriage. Those who marry are unique individuals; when they live in a close relationship, conflict is inevitable. Whether differences center on furniture arrangements in the living room, money management, or the selection of a vacation spot, they provide one of the principal occasions for gift-giving in a marriage. Differences frequently require understanding, and compromise, a letting go which is the path to greater unity. When couples approach differences in a spirit of Christian love, these inconsistencies can lead to greater understanding, trust, closeness and oneness. On the way, however, one may be asked to lay down one's life for one's spouse. The Cross is the corner-stone of an intimate marriage. No doubting this fact!

Unity Whatever the Price

Unity is the key word for matrimonial couples. We achieve this unbreakable bonding only when we love as Jesus has mandated: "to love as he loves" (Jn.13:34; 15:12; cf. 17: 21-23) - to give up our lives for one another. The mutual love that generates unity is radical. It entails agonizing pain; dying a dreadful death, metaphorically. When you live the poignant, profound words of Jesus: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me" (Mt.27: 46) and his horrific feeling of abandonment during the Agony in the Garden (Lk.22:42; cf.Mk.14:32-36; cf. Mt.18:20) go on to say, "Into your hands I commend my spirit" (Ps.31:5; Lk.23:46). Unity is a gift from God, but it is also the fruit of living as authentic Christians. However, there is no true expression of Christian life without the Cross (amplified: Chiara Lubich, Living City, Focolare Newsletter India, July-Sept., 2016).

The love that is present and being created is a sign and share in what Christ is doing in a marriage. What Christ came to redeem is the pain and struggle, the distance and emptiness, the frustration and hopelessness in the love between husband and wife. So we need not despair when we become aware of our repeated failures to communicate well because of our pride and selfishness. When a man and a woman covenant their loyalty to one another, God also covenants allegiance to both of them; and God's faithfulness gives them the courage and empowerment to embark on, and persist in, this challenging adventure of devoted passion.

The call to love within Christian marriage necessarily involves a commitment to growth. Fidelity is not simply staying with someone. It includes a willingness to grow all the time and to be with our partner as he or she grows.

Sacraments and Grace

Sacraments give the grace they signify. As sacrament to one another, husband and wife become revelation and grace for each other. Each is an important, perhaps, the most important channel of grace for the other, for grace includes God's unmerited graciousness to human beings and the transforming effect which that favor has on us when we are open to it. The mercy of God touches married lives both, as comfort and as challenge and each of these aspects produces enrichment. When couples experience joy, fun and frolic together, they sense God's grace as consolation. Similarly, when close living challenges marriage partners to be less anxious about things or to change spending patterns, they are experiencing God's grace as challenge.

To be more specific, the Sacramental Grace of Matrimony:

Perfects the natural love of husband and wife; elevates this love to a supernatural level which far surpasses mere mental and physical compatibility; gives to marital love a sanctifying quality, making it an instrument for growth in holiness and marriage a path to sainthood; imparts conscientiousness in the begetting and rearing of children; gives prudence in the innumerable problems of family life; enables husband and wife to adjust to one another's shortcomings and to bear with one another's faults.

This is only a little of what the grace of Matrimony will accomplish for those who, by their cooperation, give God a chance to show what he can do: Make the impossible, possible (Lk.18:27)!

A Couple's Sexual Relationship is Sacramental

Sacramentality includes a couple's sexual relationship. Christian theologians have concentrated chiefly on questions of sexual morality, and have not fully developed the idea that sexual love can mediate the experience of God. But for many married couples sex is one of the places where human love is most powerfully spoken. In and through the bodily love of one's spouse, one experiences the wonder of God's creation. Sex is for them the word of God incarnate, making visible and tangible the otherwise invisible communion, osmosis, gentleness, devotion, tenderness, presence, availability and fidelity of God's love. The healing of married love reaches us through the medium of our bodies, and sex can be a deep experience of the unity we seek to create in our togetherness. As a profound experience of knowing and being known, and being loved in the midst of this intimate knowledge, sexual relating reveals the unconditional love of God for us (cf. AL 74). Pope Francis quotes Pope Leo the Great saying it is a "Nuptial Mystery."

Married Couples are Sacraments to the World

Besides being grace and revelation for one another, married couples and their families are also sacraments to the world. They must be aware of the larger human community in all their decisions about money, possessions, time, and energy. This stewardship - concern for others is shown in many ways. The family life-style can reveal the Gospel values of simplicity, meekness, humility, and generosity. By opening their home to others, they can live out the New Testament concern for welcome and hospitality. Church and community call for service and ministry. In addition, the pattern of their relationship itself is a sacrament, revealing to other couples the meaning of faithful love and visible witness for Jesus' sake. Whatever forms are chosen, a couple's ["self-actualization" (Abraham Maslow) and "individuation" (Carl Jung)] development demands involvement in the Contd. on pg 8

Recommendations of Fr. Agnelo

-P. A. D'Mello

n our January 2017 issue of Agnel Ashram News, we had given the "Sayings or Maxims of Fr. Agnelo". We would now like to add a few of the Recommendations from his writings. Fr. Agnelo was a pastor of souls and helped the students of the Archdiocesan Major Seminary with counseling, confessions, instructions etc. Several witnesses in the process of canonisation have deposed that Fr. Agnelo's words have made lasting impression on them and changed their lives. Here are some of them:

- 1. He recommended to the Seminarians the daily reading of a Chapter of the Imitation of Christ.
- 2. He urged them to continue to receive the Sacrament of Eucharist when at home, during vacations, because during those days the devil tempts us more.
- 3. He advised them to have special devotion to the Sorrows of Mary, because this devotion is most pleasing to Our Lady and through it we take part in her loneliness.

- 4. To those who were tempted against faith, he used to advise to ask Our Lord a lively faith like that of the martyrs and Divines of the Church.
- 5. In order to put up with the defects of others, he used to recommend to see the good they do.
- 6. With the parishioners he insisted that they should never work on Sundays or days of obligation without necessity, for God never abandons those who are faithful to their religious duties.
- 7. To the penitent who found it very difficult to put in practice the advice given by Fr. Agnelo, he recommended to recite, on such occasions, the following ejaculation: "Jesus, I cannot do it, please you do it, please you do it for me," and he added that such prayers are very pleasing to Jesus.
- 8. To those who were about to marry he used to recommend a general confession of their life in order to receive abundant graces from that sacrament and that the married life may not turn into a Calvary in a few days.

Matrimonial Holiness - Contd. from pg 7

larger human struggles for justice, compassion and mercy.

Making the Ordinary Extraordinary

A married couple must believe that God is serious about this life if they are to live out the Sacrament of Matrimony. There is no ideal of Christian love free from visits from in-laws, noisy family meals, sex, paying bills, conflicts and watching TV. Everything about one's partner can be a sacrament of God's creative and healing love: her or his body, freedom, autonomy, feelings, work, play, or prayer. Christian couples experience God's love in their matrimonial love for one another, and also God's call in the challenge of their familiar interface and God's creativity in the gift of their children.

Jesus' message is that Christian love is lived out in the very midst of these daily details: "Do simple tasks with great love" (St. Mother Teresa). Conjugal lovers can find God in the idiosyncrasies and ordinariness of family life and work, with its joys and sorrows, its little deaths and glorious resurrections. It is there that the grace, surprise, compassion, reconciliation, miracles and healing of God appear. Nowhere is this message as apparent as in Jesus' parables. In stories like those of the lost son (Luke 15:11-32), the mustard seed (Luke 13:18-19), and the vineyard laborers (Matt. 20:1-16), we find people dealing with very mundane events of life. This gives "couple love" immense pastoral outreach and wide-ranging witness and evangelizing power.

And, this final flourish! Jesus tells us that it is in the midst of ordinary human events that husband and wife find God's warm embrace. Although married life appears prosaic and humdrum, it is the kind of milieu in which Jesus obeyed the Father, and is also the context for a 'vowed' pair's maturity in Christian holiness. Pope Francis says, "The spirituality of family (married) love is made up of thousands of small but real gestures" (AL 315).

Now, this gold nugget: When sanctity pervades one's marriage it is likened to the Wedding Feast of the (spotless, white-as-snow) Bride and the Lamb of God (cf. Rev. 21:2-9). Husband and wife too, similarly, will enjoy "peak experiences" now, and eternal bliss, in the hereafter!

AGNEL HAPPENINGS

148th Agnel Jayanthi Celebration at Bandra, Mumbai

The 148th Agnel Jayanthi was celebrated on 21st January, 2017, at Fr.Agnel Ashram, Bandra, with great devotion, love and with a sense of gratitude by the devotees of Ven. Fr. Agnelo, of all castes and creeds and status. A nine-day preparatory Novena and Masses were organized with specific themes for each day, centered on the logo theme: "Fr. Agnelo - a Refuge to the Weak and the Lowly", meaningfully elucidating the life of Fr. Agnelo which has become the source of refuge to thousands of people in need of his divine intervention.

The Jayanthi day saw thousands of devotees filing past the Samaadhi to pray for his intercessory blessings. Many of them, specially devotees from other faiths, came with flowers, garlands, light decorations etc. to make the shrine truly reverberating with the spiritual aroma of Fr. Agnel. Others, as part of thanksgiving offered Prasad and snacks to the devotees for the blessings and favours received.

The evening Solemn Con-celebrated Eucharist was presided by Most Reverend Percival Fernandez, Emeritus Auxiliary Bishop of Mumbai, highlighting the spiritual aura of Fr. Agnelo experienced by his devotees. Many priests of Bandra Deanery concelebrated the Eucharist. The beautiful melodious choir from Fr. Agnel's Vashi under the baton of Bro. Jossley, gave a spiritual fillip to the solemnity. Devotees were spellbound by the solemn liturgical celebration under the direction of Fr. Tony Fernandes, Fr. Dilip Donke and Mr. Simson. In the end Fr. Dilip thanked all those who contributed towards making the Jayanthi a joyful and spirit-filled experience.

The Solemn concelebration was preceded by a short spiritual-cultural programme with two spiritual songs rendered by Fr. Agnel's, Vashi, a beautifully choreographed peacock dance, a unique one for that staged by Fr. Agnel's, Ambernath and, a beautiful prayer dance presented by Fr. Agnel Primary, Bandra.

The Bishop was escorted to the venue to the rhythm of drums, saxophones, clarinets and trumpets by the Fr. Agnel Balbhuvan children, Bandra, solemnly rendering the traditional, "Oh when the saints, go marching..." The programme was compered by Fr. Valerian D'Souza.

All Bandra Crib Contest – 2016



The first ever All Bandra Crib Competition organized by Bandra Buzz, to encourage locals create cribs during Christmas 2016 – was a hit. There were 27 online entries, with almost all having reasonably good standards. Judges (from out of Bandra, for un-biased decisions) found it hard to select the 8 winners – and then choose the 3 winners from among them, for cash prizes. The balance 5 winners got consolation prizes. Interestingly, many contestants told

148th Agnel Jaya at Fr.Agnel Ash



The entrance procession-Bishop Percival Fernandez along with Clergy



A Balbhuvan child welcomes Bishop Percival Fernandez with a bouquet of flowers



Bishop Percival Fernandez celebrating the Eucharist



Spiritual Song's by students of Fr. Agnel, Vashi



Peacock dance performed by students of Fr.Agnel, Ambernath



Fr.Agnel S

nthi Celebration

ram, Bandra





Audience watches the programme with rapt attention



Welcome speech by Fr.Nazareth Fernandes, Superior







Fr.Agnel Jayanthi programme compered by Fr. Valerian D'Souza, Director



School, Vashi, Choir



A Prayer dance performed by Fr. Agnel Primary school, Bandra

us that people from all communities had helped towards making cribs – as a team effort. There were secular scenes – without any parallel. Hence, this crib contest has created community connect – like no other. And... the winners are: 1st Prize – ₹. 15,000 : Zodiac FC Boys, Rajan – Theme: Come be an Angel of the Lord; **2nd Prize** – **₹.10,000 : Fr. Agnel Bal Bhuvan, Bandstand** – **Theme: Christ the Refugee,** Now our Refuge 3rd Prize - ₹.5,000 : New Kantwadi Group, Off

Industrial visit of MMS Batch 2016-18

On 23rd January 2017, the students of MMS (Batch 2016-18) of Fr.Agnel Business School (Fr. C. Rodrigues institute of management studies), Vashi, Navi Mumbai went to Reliable Auto tech, Chakan, Pune as a part of an industrial visit.

Reliable auto tech is into the manufacturing of the various parts of tractors and cars. Their major clients include Volkswagen, Fiat and many others. The manufacturing plant is spread across 10 acres area.

Mr. Vilas Pawar, the plant head, briefed the students about the company and its products. After his introductory session, the students



Director Rev. Fr. Victor Rebello, Asst. Director, Rev. Fr.Seby Rodricks and Rev. Fr. Patrick along with staff

Perry Cross Road – Theme: Hope for all.

At the prize - awarding ceremony One of the sponsors – Felix Sequeira told the audience, how he was very enthusiastic when he was young – to make a crib, star & an old man effigy. But finance was hard to find. Today, with God's grace – he is proud to be able to sponsor, so that others get that boost to do something that they like to do.



were taken for a plant tour. The students were accompanied by the engineers working in the plant, who explained them about various manufacturing process.

It was indeed a good learning experience for all MMS students as they could see, understand and get to learn a lot about the different processes in the manufacturing plant.

Agnel Utsav 2017 at Fr. Agnel Technical Education Complex, Verna , Goa

Agnel Utsav 2017 was organized by Fr.Agnel Technical Education Complex, Verna, Goa for all staff members (teaching and non teaching) on 20th January 2017 in the complex Auditorium.

The staff of the following Institutes were a part of Agnel Utsav 2017

- 1. Padre Conceicao College of Engineering
- 2. Agnel Institute of Technology & Design
- 3. Agnel Polytechnic and Agnel I.T.I.
- 4. Agnel Institute of Food Crafts and Culinary Sciences
- 5. Centre for Incubation and Business Acceleration

- 6. Agnel Vocational Training Institute
- 7. Fr. Agnel Multipurpose Higher Secondary School
- 8. Fr. Agnel Multipurpose High school, Primary and Pre Primary School
- 9. Konseisanv Balgram
- 10. Agnel Charities

This event is an annual staff get together and this was the third consecutive year where all staff of ATEC got together and celebrated this event. Agnel Utsav 2017 began with our Eucharistic celebration celebrated in the Complex Chapel by Our Director Rev. Fr. Victor Rebello, Asst. Director, Rev. Fr.Seby Rodricks and Rev. Fr. Patrick. After the holy mass all the staff gathered in the auditorium for some assorted snacks and beverages. Then our very own comperes Ms. Aditi from PCCE and Mr. Ralph from the Agnel School organized games along with the Agnel Utsav Committee for all staff gathered.

The Balbhawan Day on 14th January, 2017, at Fr.Agnel, Greater Noida, began with the usual discussion on the weather... will it be warm & sunny or bone chilling cold? The air was also filled with anticipation... what is the magic that Fr. Bento is going to unravel to us this time?!!

The day turned out to be bright and sunny and all who gathered at Balbhawan thanked God for a beautiful day. Now the attention shifted to the stage and the children began their cultural program with the prayer dance followed by the welcome address. The limelight moved to the choir and then began one of the most glorious musical the Agnel Family ever witnessed – Jesus Christ, Super Star!! The singers and the musicians kept the audience mesmerized as they sang one magnificent number after another. The well wishers, benefactors, friends and teachers who had gathered there that morning watched in stupefied amazement. Can this be for real?!!!

The musical was punctuated by little jokes that have become the signature style of the children of the Balbhawan. Fr. Carvalho thanked everyone for being a part of this beautiful love story that we fondly call the Balbhawan. We are witness here of the power of God's Love. He Fr. Victor Rebello gave the opening address and mentioned that it was a great occasion for staff of this large complex to interact with one another and have a great time and subsequently Fr. Victor requested all staff to join in the animated song " Its me that builds the Community". Then Goa's most popular Live Band "ARCHIES" led by Mr. Antonio Nunes sang latest songs and kept the crowd entertained. Staff were involved in group dancing and many of the staff members received novelty prizes.

A buffet lunch was organized for all staff members and a take away gift of a pen with "AGNEL UTSAV 2017" printed was given to each staff member. A total of 510 staff members attended Agnel Utsav 2017. All the staff members complimented Agnel Utsav Committee for organizing this event and suggested that similar event to be organized for the coming year 2018.

The Power of Music

said that this is an invitation to look deep into our lives and find the source of divinity so that we can reach out to other lives and make them beautiful.

Fr. Bento orchestrated this symphony. For him Music is that thing that fuels his energy and connects him to the Divine. It is that magical thing that binds him inextricably to his children at the Balbhawan. Every child has been touched by his love for music and we were witness to the almost tangible power of music as the children sang and danced.

It was heart-warming to listen to Fr. Bento as he read out the achievements of the children. So many of them have moved out into the world, carrying with them the music of Divine Love. Some have got married, some even bought homes and the Balbhawan has seven grandchildren. Amazing!! The power of Music will carry on from one generation to the next and they will take the message to the world... as Fr. Carvalho said: God loves us and will hold us in the palm of his hands. What a morning it was!!! May they continue to be swept by the all embracing Power of Music. **Fr. Agnel Multipurpose School & Jr. College, Ambernath** celebrated 16 glorious years in Ambernath on their Annual Day on 07 and 08 Jan 2017.

Most Rev.Bishop Theodore Mascarenhas SFX, Secretary General CBCI was the Chief Guest on o7th January 2017. He enlightened the gathering of parents encouraging them to help the children to grow in unity, undivided by religion and language. Felicitating the students of Std. VIII to XII for their Academic Excellence, he also released the first edition of the school magazine, "Agnel Prism".

On o8th January 2017, Mrs.VijayaVaithilingam, Vice Principal, Fr. Agnel School, Vashi was invited as the Chief Guest. Mr. B.Wagh, Senior Police Inspector of Ambernath Police Station presided over the function as the Guest of Honour. They gave away the prizes for Academic Excellence to the students of the Pre-Primary Section to Std. VII. Mrs.VijayaVaithilingam addressed the audience stressing the importance of holistic learning for the all-round development of every child.

16 Glorious Years at Agnels

A short, colourful skit depicting the importance of changing seasons to human life was presented by the tiny tots of the Pre- Primary Section.

The theme for the Annual Day "You Raise Me Up" was showcased in a dance- drama - musical extravaganza which drove home lessons of courage, faith, love and hope through the magical tale of a young girl's search for her lost and defeated parents. With the blessings of her parents and loving guardians and friends, young Samaira conquers all evil powers to reunite with her loved ones.

The musical was scripted & directed by Mr. Anderson D 'Çunha and Ms. Fiona D'Monty. A whopping total of 1000 students put their best foot forward on stage, after days of rehearsals.

The exhilarating celebration was a treat for the soul giving students of all ages a chance to explore their hidden talents.

Press Release

Fr. C. Rodrigues Institute of Technology, Vashi, under the patronage of Rev. Fr. S. Almeida (Managing Director) and Rev. Dr. Ivon D'Almeida (Asst. Director), and leadership of Dr. S.M. Khot (Principal) and Dr. Nitesh P. Yelve (Conference Chair and Dean, PG Studies), organized its2nd Biennial International Conference on Nascent Technologies in Engineering (ICNTE 2017) in its campus on January 27-28, 2017. Fr. C. Rodrigues Institute of Technology was established in 1994 with the aim of providing quality technical education in addition to inculcating moral values in its students. Apart from academic excellence, the Institute is also reputed for its extensive facilities that have led to it being awarded an "A" grade by the Directorate of Technical Education, Maharashtra (INDIA) right from its inception. The Institute has, within a short span of time, established itself as a leading engineering college in the Mumbai University.

ICNTE 2017 was organized with the objective of bringing together practitioners in the forefront of technologies, from different parts

of the world, to share their research findings. Similar to ICNTE 2015, this Conference was also technically co-sponsored by IEEE and had technical support from ISTE, ISHRAE, CSI, and IETE. The major financial sponsors of this Conference were BRNS, TCS, CSIR, Jamboree Solutions, FRAMES, and San Instruments. The research papers were invited from a diverse variety of engineering fields segregated in 13 distinct Tracks. The Conference received a wide response of 322 papers from authors in India and abroad. The papers were reviewed by experts from eminent technical institutes, industries, and research centres like IIT, BARC, TCS, etc. The final acceptance had been based on the plagiarism count and reviewers' suggestions which were based mainly on the relevance of topic and quality of manuscript. Out of 322 received papers, 114 papers had been selected for presenting in the Conference and would be sent to the IEEE Xplore for publication.

The Inaugural Function of ICNTE 2017 was graced by the august presence of Prof. Sandip Trivedi, Director (Tata Institute of Fundamental Research) as the Chief Guest, Dr. J.N. Tiwari, Former Executive Director (OCL INDIA) as the Guest of Honour and Key Note Speaker, Dr. S.K. Ukarande, Former Dean (FOT, Mumbai University), and Dr. Rollin Fernandes, Former Principal (Fr.CRIT, Vashi).



Shah, Mr. Chhagan Charan, and Ms. Jyoti Deshmukh. The participants who earned the Young Researcher Award are Mr. Mahesh Shewale, Mr. Ajay Kumar Yadav, Mr. Ashish

Dr. Sunil Kumar Kopparapu, Principal Scientist (TCS) and Head (TCS Mumbai Innovation Laboratory) presided as the Chief Guest at the Valedictory Function of the Conference. The representatives of various Professional Bodies such as IETE (Dr. S.S. Mande), ISHRAE (Mr. SanjayVerma), CSI (Mr. Ajit Joshi) and FRAMES (Mr. Manish Punjabi) were also invited for the Valedictory Function. Few papers were selected after meticulous evaluation based on various technical parameters, for Best Paper and Young Researcher Awards. The recipients of Best Paper Award are Mr. Mahesh Shewale, Mr. Nitin Chavan, Mr. Ajay Kumar Yadav, Mr. Ashish Nilangekar, Ms. Nandini Nag, Dr. Milind Nilangekar, and Ms. Jyoti Deshmukh.

The Conference was highly appreciated by the Participants, Session Chairs, and Dignitaries for its smooth execution, hospitality and notable standard. The thrust of the ICNTE 2017 was not on the quantity but on the quality of the research work, which was very well seen through the presentations made in the Conference. The Institute is hopeful that the information disseminated through the technical interactions during ICNTE 2017, will expose the newcomers and knowledge seekers in various engineering fields to the advancements in latest technologies.

God Will Recompense You a Thousand Times - Contd. from pg 5

Even the way we sometimes treat others or the way others treat us causes immense pain and hardship. But, God has a way of intervening when things get really out of hand. His power is another kind of power, as He has demonstrated time and again in human history. In His way of doing things He does not strip people of their dignity. On the contrary He empowers us to build a brave new world.

He brings relief to people with wounded psyches. Years of exploitation and manipulation leave their mark on the victims who must struggle on a daily basis. But God promises us that in the end, we will be successful in overcoming evil and that the forces of good are overwhelmingly a part of the universe. will find that even though sometimes we have to compromise, we will still be able to overcome the most difficult of situations. We are all linked to this web of goodness. Those who choose the path of destruction are creatures of despair and not of hope.

A friend once reminded me that the kind of religion she was interested in was the kind that we have when the chips are down. If we hearken to God's call, we will be able to overcome. All the wrongs we have suffered at the hands of others will be healed.

"Then when we take one step towards God, he will take a thousand steps towards us". He will recompense us a thousand times. We will then see things differently. Will we and will we not take up this challenge ?

If we align ourselves with the forces of good, we



Fr. AGNEL'S BLESSINGS

MULTIPLE FAVOURS

Saudi Arabia : By the grace of Ven.Fr.Agnel my son did well in his MBA and received high marks. My Visa for Staff Nurse was renewed for one more year. With profound gratitude an offering of ₹.10,000 to Agnel Ashram. -Catherine Jose

CURED OF T.B. AND TENSION

Bhayander : I was suffering from Lymph Node T.B. for quite some time. Terrible cough had deteriorated my health very badly. I lost hope of returning to normal life. Following severe T.B. I was also down with anxieties and high tension. In this plight I tearfully prayed to Ven.Fr.Agnel for his healing touch. I am now happy to say that through the powerful intercession of Ven.Fr.Agnel I am cured of T.B. and all other ailments. Today I have come with my family to the Ashram to give our thanks offering of

₹.5000. -Nancy D'Souza

CURED OF HEART PROBLEM

Margao-Goa: I was not keeping well and was unable to get up or sit without help. I went to the Doctors and had the required tests done. The test indicated that there were live nodes beneath the heart and that

they could be malignant. My daughter hired a car and brought me to Pilar. With great faith we put forth our prayer to Ven. Fr. Agnel for my healing. I am now quite alright and thankful to Ven.Fr. Agnel for hearing my prayers and pray for his early beatification. -Maria Fernandes

SUCCESSFUL MARRIED LIFE

Kerala: I am a firm devotee of Ven.Fr.Agnel since my childhood. By his heavenly intercession I had a bright academic career, got a good job and a suitable life partner. This year I am celebrating my Silver Jubilee Wedding Anniversary. As a token of my love and happiness I am sending an offering of ₹.2000 to the Ashram. -Paulose Varghese

SHOWER OF BLESSINGS

Kanyakumari: I am a staunch devotee of Ven. Fr. Agnel since my school days. By his powerful intercession I had a bright academic career. I am now a Professor in a reputed College. I have also received many other favours and blessings of Ven.Fr.Agnel. As a token of my happiness and gratitude an offering of ₹.5000 to the Ashram. -Prof. V. Poulene

GIFT OF A CHILD

Arpora-Goa: We did not have any children for many years. I then came to Pilar and put forward my prayers for a child to Ven. Fr. Agnelo. I am happy to say that Ven. Fr. Agnelo heard our prayers and we have been blessed with a bonny boy. He is now five years old. However, he used to get sick now then and we were much concerned. Again I approached Ven.Fr.Agnelo to heal him. My child is now fine and healthy. I pray that Ven.Fr.Agnelo may soon receive the honours of the altar. -Verodiana Rodrigues

CURED OF HAIR DISORDER

Santacruz: My son was having spike type hair style and it gave him a strange look. Barbers and hair specialists said that being inborn by nature, it could not be rectified.

I was very upset on this matter. With great faith in Ven. Fr. Agnel I applied the blessed oil brought from the Ashram on my son's hair. Miraculously it became normal hair and today I have brought him to the Ashram to give my thanks offering of ₹.100to Fr. Agnel.

-Lizzia Silveira

Leading Our Youth to Mary

-Leon Bent

The Catholic Church teaches that by a free decision of God, the Blessed Virgin Mary was elevated to become the Mother of His Son Jesus Christ, and Jesus' worthy associate in redeeming mankind. She was prepared for this role by being preserved by God's grace from all sin, original and personal, throughout her life, and was rewarded at the end of her life for her cooperation with God's plan by being taken up, body and soul, into Heaven, where she reigns with her Son as Queen of the Heaven and the Universe, and from where she distributes to men all the graces which, with, through and under her Son, she helped to merit on Calvary.

On Calvary Mary received, as it were, a "second annunciation" when Jesus said: "Woman, behold, your son!" (Jn. 19:26) and "from that hour the disciple took her to his own home (Jn. 19:27). Beyond the material aspect, it evokes the spiritual dimension of this welcome and of the new bond established between Mary and John, and now, between you, dear youth, and Mary.

My dear young people, you are more or less the same age as John and have the same desire

to be with Jesus. Today, it is you whom Jesus expressly asks to receive Mary "into your home" and welcome her "as your Mother"; to learn how she "kept all those treasures, pondering them in her heart" (Lk. 2:19). She will discharge her ministry as a Mother-most-dear and train and mould you until Christ is fully formed in you (cf. Rosarium Virginis Mariae, n. 15).

To recite the Rosary means to learn to gaze on Jesus with his Mother's eyes, and to love Jesus with his Mother's heart. This prayer will help you to be strong in your faith, constant in charity, joyful and persevering in hope

Through prayer and meditation on the mysteries, Mary leads you safely towards her Son! No one apart from Christ can give you true happiness. By following the example of Mary, you should also give Him your unconditional "Yes".

May Mary guide every step you take, and may she lead you to her loving Son, Jesus! AMEN!

Youth is a defining time when you can develop patterns of virtue that will help you take the necessary steps toward eternal life.

The Saga of Lourdes

-Arthur D'Mello

The Eleventh of February, eighteen fifty eight, A Day when Heaven opened its gate, Down to earth, the Blessed Virgin came, To Lourdes in France, only to proclaim, The Glory of God.

A girl of fourteen, earlier tending sheep, Which partly paid for her family's upkeep, Since their fortunes had become a cropper, Bernadette was wood gathering for their supper, Yet hailing the Glory of God.

To the roar of wind, a sudden bright light, A lovely young girl came into sight, In white with blue cincture, Rosary on arm, Yellow rose on each foot, radiating charm, In the Glory of God.

In local dialect the Lady's simple bequest, Was for Bernadette to come oft on request, When she acquiesced on February 18 was told, Of a perennial spring, of graces manifold, All for the Glory of God. A week later, Bernadette located the place, Drank as told, washed herself and her face, On March second, the Lady her willed, Call priests in procession, the Chapel to build, For the Glory of God.

The feast of the Annunciation, March twenty eight, "I'm the Immaculate Conception", the lady did state, Throughout emphasis to do penance and pray, For the conversion of sinners, day after day, All for the Glory of God.

In 1958, Rome promulgated the Decree, The Immaculate Conception, a Dogma would be, Miracles have been wrought and continue yet, Though only some have had them vet, It's the Glory of God.

Since the Apparitions, now even more so, Pilgrims come singly and in groups galore, To pray and pay homage to the Queen, Who our prayers hosts to God between, For the Glory of God.

Out of Their Bounty

K. Vaz P. Srivastava A. Augustine M. Raymond J. Berchmans P.M. Raiyan **R.V.** Fernandes H. Nachia C. Gonsalves J. Fernandes S. Gujar B.V. Asani P. Mistry V. Chavan J. D'Souza W. D'Costa Reginald A. R. Chintan V.M. V.S. Aditva D. Creado Jose T.K. V. Manancherril G. Sebastian K.P. Joy E. Sequeira T.K.M. Das H. Patel F. Fernandes R.L. Barot R. Natalwalla A. J. DeSouza A.N. Colaso B.S. D'Silva Tony Paul M. Mistry V.R. Barot Usha N. D. Shresing D. Monsurate J.A. Saldanha L.F. D'Souza A. Fernandes S. Chathli B. Sequeira D.J. Pereira G.D. Vora M. Cicily V.P. Khurana Joe Jacob E.I. Thomas A. Pinto F. Saldanha Savio D'Souza H. Dias Sonia Lopes

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V. D'Souza M. D'Souza F. Bhada M. Bidlan A.S. Rodrigues S. Inigo S. Gandhi R. Joseph J. Donatius P. D'Costa M. Don Bosco K. Manekii K.K. Daruwala V.S. Kamat V. Kadam J Fernandes S. Kailasnath M.S. Lucien A. Cruz A. Sumesh P. Prithiveeraj V.K. Pijwala K.J. Jose S.J. Rangoonwala Mumbai M. Fernandes V.S. Bilolikar A. Jayasimhan Joy M.D. Leela John S. Sebastian J.Jose K.A. Joseph S. Kamble A.G. Stephen M. Shaji M. Fernandes N.T. Xavier R. Mendonca L.J. Dias K.J. Rukadikar J.M. Asha T.N. Baria Charlie Xavier A.P. Gomes Annia Joseph A. Mittathany T. Joseph J.M. Augustine Dr.E. Engles P. Hendricks R. Jacob A. Kuriakose Antony A.K. R. Johnson D. B. Wadekar J.E. Colaco Vasai

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M.V. Dadachanji Mumbai 600 Bhavander 600 Kolkata 600 Dahisar 501 Mumbai 501 Airoli 501 Virar 501 Chennai 500 Bangalore 500 Mumbai 500 Bangalore 500 Matilda D'Silva Kerala 500 Kerala 500 T.N. 500 Mangalore 500 Mumbai 500 Vasai 500 Mumbai 500 Vasai 500 Mumbai 500 Pune 500 Vasai 500 Vasai 500 Vasai 500 Dubai 500 Mumbai 500 Mumbai 500 500 Gujarat Mumbai 500 Mumbai 500 Kharghar 500 Mumbai 500 Mumbai 500 Pune 500 Sawantwadi 500 Mumbai 500 Kerala 500 Dr. Sarosh Lath Daman 500 T.N. 500 Kerala 500 Karnataka 500 Ahmednagar 500 Chennai 500 Kerala 400 Kerala 400 400 Pune Gujarat 301 Keraa 300 Mumbai 300 Kerala 300 Kerala 300 Valsad 300 T.N. 300 S. Mistry Pune 300 M.A. Swamy Thane 300 T.N. 300 S. Joseph

A. Pashana

M. d'Souza

940

625

600

600

Annual Day celebration at Fr. Agnel Multipurpose School & Jr.College, Ambernath



Welcome Dance



Release of the Magazine "Agnel Prism"



Preprimary Toppers



The Golden Carnates & Forest Fairy.



Agnel Choir singing Melodies



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Bal-Bhawan-Choir



Cultural Programme - with Prayer dance followed with song of Jesus Christ, Super Star