



FR

July 2017

AGNEL

SHRAM NEWS

Rejoice with your family in the
beautiful land of life.

-Albert Einstein



FR. AGNEL
ASHRAM

NEWS

July 2017

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Our Orphan Children need your Helping Hand



The scheme offers the Benefactors of Fr. Agnel Ashram an opportunity to share in our noble work of bringing up 800 orphan children in our Orphanages at : Bandra in Mumbai, Vashi in Navi Mumbai, Pune, Goa and Greater Noida.

- You can become a Co-Sponsor of an orphan child by paying ₹.1,200 or more per year. You can pay the amount in monthly installments of ₹.100 or more.
- We also have a Full Sponsorship Scheme for members paying ₹.9,000 or more per year. The amount also can be paid in monthly installments of ₹.750.

Please contact : Rev.Fr.Superior,
Fr. Agnel Ashram, Bandstand,
Bandra (W), Mumbai – 400 050.
Tel.: 022-67114000.

THE JOY OF GIVING

Become a
Cheerful Giver



Letters from some
Benefactors and
Friends of our
Balbhavan Children

Mariamamma Chacko, **Jabalpur**

I am sending a cheque of ₹.600 towards the sponsorship of Vinayak Shettiar. Hope he is doing well in his studies. Please pray for my family.

Zacharias Joseph, Sharjah

Please find enclosed a cheque of ₹.50,000 towards the expenses of the children in your Balbhuvan. Kindly pray for me and my family.

Maria Clara Vaz, Pune

I enclose a cheque of ₹.5000 as my Easter Gift for the orphan children. Kindly

remember me and my family in your daily prayers.

Deborah Thomson, **Chennai**

Kindly accept my contribution of ₹.1200 towards the sponsorship of my ward Master Hritik Sharma. I hope and pray that he is studying well and growing up to be a good responsible and loving child of Jesus. Kindly pray for us.

M.V. Fernandes, Bangalore

I am enclosing a cheque of ₹.1500 which you may use for the welfare of the orphans in your Ashram. Please remember my family in your prayers.

Seeking To Be True And Relevant.....

78 Years After.....

The greatest challenge faced by human organizations, that are not necessarily driven by their yearly balance sheets in the course of their history, is their ability to stay real and relevant rather than being compromised and irrelevant. Such non-profit driven organizations have either to choose to remain monolithic, unchanging and therefore fossilized or compromised; often thriving but irrelevant, or embrace change and decide to remain real and relevant.

Back in the late 1930s two young men, independently of each other, woke up to an idea to change the world. They nurtured this idea, weighed its challenges, for over 6 years and bounced it off other knowledgeable people, until it reached the critical mass of a driving force in their lives, raring to give it an action shape. They were driven by an internal force and a perspective of making a difference to their lives and to that of others.

In the first Book of the Bible, Genesis, Yahweh (God) calls Abraham to leave his country and his people and proceed to a land that He would show him. The Bible does not reveal any further dialogue between the two, but it is unlikely that there were no other exchanges. There must have been exchanges about what he needed to take along, what provisions were to be made for the journey, what precautions against marauders were required to be taken, etc. They are probably omitted because they are irrelevant to the issue.

Abraham followed and from what it appears did so willingly and confidently, and much as we may want to think otherwise, it happened because Abraham was himself toying with the idea of change and a desire to change the world. The rest is history of what we know as God's tryst with man.

These two young men were driven by their

disposition to make a difference to their lives and that of others and the inspiration they received confirmed, matured and gelled their personal vision into an action whose time had come. They were grappling with the emerging situation of a post colonial era where the nationalism and the awakening of an entire Nation to Freedom threw open a brand new opportunity for those to whom the call of the Gospel to be Light and Salt, was more than just a set of teachings of Jesus. They thought that their vast country, that was experiencing a beautiful romance with the soon to come liberation, needed another way of being communicated to, in a manner different from the from the colonial, domineering, superior position. Their perspective may have been limited but was surely different. It was different because it was making a statement of their identity as an Indian answer, "their" answer to the problem they faced of an ardent desire to "bring Christ to India", which in no way was disparaging to the nationalistic perspective of millions of our Countrymen.

They were pioneers in their perspective as well as their methods, plans and purposes. In a very clear contrast to what often happens with us, when we do not launch a project until we are assured of the financial resources, they went ahead like Abraham, undaunted about what might follow next. Their immediate introduction of the Indian languages, the magazine "India", and the launching of the seminary without even the funds to buy the next month's groceries for themselves were extraordinary acts of faith. And the rest is history that is not buried in the pages of time, but is evident from the Society's triumphant run for the next 50 years, which is indeed spectacular. The adventures of Sanguem, Nagar-Haveli, Punjab and Andamans, and in no small measure the Bandra Ashram, witness loud and clear to those gallant men

with extraordinary courage, commitment and the zeal of proclamation!

IN SEARCH OF RELEVANCE

78 years after those young men dared to see and launch that dream, we find ourselves at the crossroads of an entirely new situation which compels us to look for meaning and relevance to what they did and our response to the same.

In the last 78 years, the world had changed drastically, and some of those changes have affected that very dream that they saw and launched into, with such great courage. Among other things:

- i. The family unit has changed both as a basic unit of the society as well as of faith. The family is no longer, the only cradle of civilization, education and perception the kids are growing up with. The media is far more potent and far more influential than the family, and as a result to opt for the Lord's service, which came both naturally and as a result of a normal choice, is far more problematic. In the absence of a family environment that does not nurture faith as a standard way of life, a vocation for religious life is a rarity and most of the candidates if any, could only be considered ineligible after having been thoroughly tested, tried and molded into what is expected of them.
- ii. The vast opportunity that the economy has thrown open has fired the aspirations of young people towards seeking careers that feed the fantasy of a good life, that the media and world project as a sign of success. The call to religious life is entirely adversarial to that perspective unlike the former days when the call to priesthood/religious had a standing in Society. The very small families leave very little ground for options to the Gospel work, when other attractions abound.
- iii. The last quarter of the 19th century, the Vatican Council II, threw open a Pandora's box that radically changed the way religion and faith was understood. It brought forth the fact that faith is a response not a compliance of a set of practices, not an

adherence to a set of norms but primarily a relationship that implied, searching, knowing and responding. The Vatican II also highlighted the role of individual as the important element of true discipleship which was a clear departure from the existing pattern of justification by external observances.

- iv. This approach although, one of the best teachings of the Vatican II, let loose a whole range of theories and attitudes that shifted the focus from external compliance as a sign of internal adherence to an increased practice of the principle of "option" or internal adherence. This state of uncertainty that can best be described as an escapist approach, influenced dramatically both the faculty and leadership as well as the students of seminaries and institutes of formation that led to a steady and fatal decline of zeal, clarity among young men, whose external attitudes and observances hardly met the desired level of the traditionally expected enthusiasm of zeal and commitment of discipleship. The clearest sign if the rampant need to adopt and aspire to identify with the world in everything, making it appear that the calling of religious life has nothing to show and present to the world, but another version of what the world wants, a concept diametrically contrary to the Kingdom model that the Gospel presents and calls for.
- v. To all the above, was added the growing efforts by organizations to increase the ranks of its followers, at any cost, by recruiting members with little scrutiny and still less preparation that has led almost all religious groups grappling with major problems of increasing number of members who are both intellectually less capable and lacking in commitment required of men fired with the zeal to be heralds of the Gospel whose primary identity is to militate against the ways of the world, to the "narrow way", that demands substantive courage and enthusiasm and intellectual rigor to grapple with the complex realities of the mission. Although this is perhaps the worst malaise threat religious institutes are grappling

with, the religious leaderships of institutes are both unable and unwilling to stop the erosion because large numbers of members that hardly meet the desired commitment and attitude of vibrant discipleship are engaged in managing institutions, with little or no contribution to the primary goal of proclamation and witness.

- vi. The new perspective of the Church towards cultures and the need to uphold their values and significance to their peoples, and the consequent downplaying of the aggressive approach to evangelization too has played a role in the lowering of the thrust that the romance and the challenge of proclamation with its attitudinal positioning provided.
- vii. Finally and no less importantly the openly adversarial national policies towards Christianity and no less significantly against open proclamation and addition of new members to the Church, have caused a general lethargy towards pioneering approaches to make the Good News of the Gospel boldly and innovatively manifest in action and teachings, leading to an almost open acceptance of stagnation as a way of life. It appears that this has reduced the entire cycle of the apostolate of the religious members to the running of their institutions with little impact to their primary purpose of existence, to preach the Gospel to the world and be vibrant witnesses of the eschatological realities that our calling must represent.

LOST IN TRANSIT?

When we look back at the pioneers of Sanguem, Nagar-Haveli, Punjab, the Andamans and more recently the North East and no less in the launching of the Seminary and the Ashram in Bandra, to what has happened in the interim period, it almost appears that we are lost in transit.

The strength of those who launched those activities on which the present apostolate rests were men of a different kind. They were moved with passion, and they were intellectually strong enough to see with clarity what needed to be done, had out of the ordinary courage

to pursue it and a perseverance that would never let go. Leaving perhaps the intellectual element all the other activities are acquired and are indispensable sine qua non condition for anything that one wants to do, much more so the enterprise of making the Gospel known to the world.

In meetings and conversation around formation one often hears the language of “retaining and saving”. The real language should have been of filtering and let those who do not pass the strict norm of compliance and acceptability find another way, where the Lord calls them, because Jesus had clearly warned that “whoever puts his hand at the plough, must not look back”, or “if you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor and come follow me”, and even to an ordinary disciple “if you want to be my disciple, take up your cross and follow me”. The commitment to the Gospel requires that we climb and go through the crucible of a very rigid formation, that truly demands a lot from the future disciple and subjects him to the cross of surrender, compliance and if need be, purifying humiliation. Comfort and tolerance have always been bad indicators of good training, and the army education is perhaps a great indicator, when the soldier is required to be committed to defend his country, but even in order to belong there he is tested through a rigorous path of humiliation and stress, required of a man who has to give his all for what he is doing.

LOOKING HIGHER....

When we reach the most demanding part of a climbing a mountain top, the mountaineers ask only one question, how to reach the top, and the first thing that they do is to cast out everything that is not of essence to reach the top, including water, and even those members of the team who are weak lest their weakness delay or hamper their climb.

- i. A Society that looks forward with confidence, must first of all cast out what is a liability for its progress; it must have the courage to prune itself. The world is a large place and the need to be a witness and a herald of the Gospel will increase each day as the time passes.

- ii. It must radically recast its training and formation program to weed out those who are weak, non compliant, unwilling to embrace adversity and loss with a smile and courage.
- iii. Be surgical about correcting wrong that appears in any form and any level, because an unattended wound harms both the victim and the surroundings. Correction and Punishment are two different verticals and they are not necessary converging. Correction, controlled and supervised is a must, punishment may not always be necessary. Correction is more a personal need than an institutional requirement and because personally it does not happen, it must be institutionally administered.
- iv. Institutional positions are great opportunities for apostolic endeavor and they demand extraordinary courage for proclamation and witness, and this alone should be the criterion of eligibility and stability.
- v. Our founders responded to a particular situation of an emerging India and saw in it an opportunity and were inspired to respond to it, and they did. Our identity must have been that, a response of the sons of the Mother to their Bharat Mata. It is

not edifying when one hears disparaging remarks about our land. We may be as bad of worse than many, but our contribution for making it better begins with a vision that is positive and encouraging, since that is what the disciple is required to do.

All human organizations plateau at a certain level, but when one plateaus, that is another word for stagnation. Stagnation is the lack of drive to go forward, it is a temptation to fall back and be satisfied on what one has, to talk about “retaining and saving your trainees”, when the opposite should have been.

Our founders did not choose something that was easy, on the contrary they stood up to the authorities to choose a hard path, and the reason could only have been their passion and their trust in God. We pioneered that for many years wherever we worked....can't we do it again. The world needs men of substance who believe in themselves and can muster the courage to be what they believe. Belief is essential for generating the internal energy – belief must be refined, nurtured and practiced as an intoxicating drug that will stimulate our actions. That is what July 2, 2017 was to be.

-Jose Alarico Carvalho

Fr. Agnel Ashram - Bandra **MASSES and NOVENAS ON SUNDAYS**

MORNING			
TIME	MASS	TIME	NOVENA
07:00 a.m.	English	07:45 a.m.	English
08:00 a.m.	Konkani	08:45 a.m.	Konkani
09:30 a.m.	English	10:15 a.m.	English
TIME	NOVENA	TIME	MASS
10.30 a.m.	Tamil	11.00 a.m.	Tamil
EVENING			
TIME	NOVENA	TIME	MASS
03.00 p.m.	Gujarati & Marathi	03.30p.m.	Marathi
06:15 p.m.	English	06:30 p.m.	English
07:15 p.m.	English	07:30 p.m.	English

Weekdays Mass in English at 6.00 p.m.

Novena Prayers and kiss of Relic are held on every Saturday after 6.00 p.m. Mass Favours obtained, petitions and offerings may kindly be sent to :

Rev. Fr. Superior

Fr. Agnel Ashram

P.O. Box – 6656, Bandstand, Bandra (W),
Mumbai – 400 050.

Tel : 67114000.

Fax : 67114100.

Email : agnelashramnews@gmail.com

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Christ-Centred Family Unity and Autonomy

-Leon Bent

On July 26 the Roman Catholic Church commemorates the parents of the Virgin Mary, and grandparents of Jesus, Saints Joachim and Anne as “Parents’ Day.”

The family faces a crisis because it is being bludgeoned from all sides, leaving it wounded. God’s desire is that His people walk in unity, but we are usually more interested in being right than being one flesh. When Jesus uttered his final prayer for us, his primary desire was that “we should all be one”(John 17:11); it is being intimate and not “a thorn in one another’s flesh” (2 Cor.12:7-9).

The Synod on the Family

The Declaration concerning the Synod of the Family, in Rome, October, 24, 2015 emphasized, “Christ established that the unity of marriage would be definitive, both, for Christians and all humankind. This unity possesses an indissoluble character, such that the conjugal bond can never be broken, neither by the will of the two parties nor by any human authority: “What God hath joined together, let no man put asunder” (Mt. 19:6). In the case of the sacramental marriage of baptized persons, this unity and indissolubility are further explained by the fact that, it is the sign of Christ’s union with His Bride, the Mystical Body of Christ - the Church.” This sacred deposit of revealed truth has to be guarded by the Church faithfully and taught authoritatively, in its loving embrace, and the support of God’s mercy.

The Richness of Spirituality

Are the virtues of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience woven into the fabric of your family? Are you able to forgive one another as the Lord has forgiven you? Does love characterize who you are? Does the peace of Christ rule in your hearts? Are you thankful? Does the Word of Christ dwell in you richly as you express worship to Him with grateful hearts? Do you do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him? Perhaps these are questions that you, as a dearly loved family, should spend some

time discussing together. Take each of these questions, examine the roadblocks that keep you from answering “Yes!” wholeheartedly, and decide what changes need to be made so that unity is what others see in your family.

What is Family Autonomy?

Talk about Family Freedom and immediately a Red Flag goes up! Beware! Freedom is a dangerous word. If allowed to prevail naively in a family, it can lead each member to doing her/his own thing, be it right or wrong; the members can go berserk and drag the family to ruination, with its unity in tatters. A more apt word is “autonomy”, which leads to self-actualization, self-fulfillment. This creates an ambience for all the members to bloom and grow where they are planted, or attain “fullness of life welling up to eternal bliss” (cf. Jn.10:10): a life lived at a higher level in obedience to God’s will and reflecting His glory. True richness of life consists of plentiful-profound, unconditional love, joy, peace, and the rest of the fruits of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23).

To Bloom and Grow to One’s Fullness

Among the characteristics of a mature or complete personality listed by psychologists we find the following:

1. The ability to judge situations and people accurately;
2. Feeling at home with one self, with nature in general and with human nature; add to these spontaneity and creativity;
3. The aptitude to focus on authentic problems without being preoccupied with oneself; a good measure of detachment and independence;
4. Openness to learning new things, to wonder, be in awe and sublime joy; to looking at the world around us with new eyes;
5. To have basic feelings of identification, sympathy, and affection for others, in spite of occasional anger or impatience: “slow

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The Power of Faith

-Christine D'Sylva

St. Augustine said, "Faith is to believe what you do not see, the reward of this faith is to see what you believe."

During the time of Jesus, the headquarters of the Roman army in Judea was at Caesarea on the Mediterranean coast.

Centurions were legionaries who wore a special helmet and an ornate harness. They also carried a short vine wood staff as a symbol of rank. A centurion of the Roman army was a commander of 100 men. As Jesus entered into Capernaum, he was approached by a Roman Centurion whose favourite servant was dying.

The Centurion stood next to Jesus and said humbly, "Lord, I am not worthy for you to come under my roof. But only speak the word and my servant will be healed."

The centurion who had power and authority was aware that Jesus had both. He felt that all he needed was a word and the servant boy would be healed.

Jesus marveled at such faith and exclaimed that he had never seen such faith in all of Israel.

He then said, "It shall be done for you, as you have believed."

The servant boy was healed at that moment. Prayer is like the key to heaven but it is faith that unlocks the door. Our prayers are vital undoubtedly but without faith they do not carry much substance.

They become mere words said by rote but lack conviction.

Faith is essential for without faith, our prayers are never answered very easily. God loves a display of faith, it makes him pleased.

A man once said that if you do not at times ask God for the impossible, you are insulting him. This means that with faith all things are possible.

Of course, we must realise that God is a wise, understanding God who answers our prayers when we have faith in the best manner suitable for us. He can see ahead into the future and

gives us what is best for us in the long term. So, we must pray with faith for what we need, trusting that God will answer our prayers in the best possible manner that will lead to our long-term happiness.

If we place our trust in God, the impossible becomes possible and we feel that our prayers were answered in the best possible manner.

So today like the Roman Centurion, let us place our faith in God, trusting his will to give us the best possible solution to the problem we are facing. That is faith, a belief in God's will that will lead to our happiness.

To cite a simple example- A child longs for a box of candy and begs his mother. But instead she gives him some fruit for it is a healthier choice. If the child trusts his mother, he will realise that she is giving him what is beneficial to him in the long run, not what he is asking right now which will have detrimental effects on his teeth and health. Therefore, when we ask with faith, we must trust in God's divine will. Then that is true faith.

Or to cite another example- A woman prays for a certain guy to marry her. God can easily answer her prayers if she has faith and he probably will. But sometimes he refuses. Not because of the woman's lack of faith but because he knows that this particular guy will not be the best possible partner for her and will make her unhappy. If the woman is wise, she will accept God's plan, for with faith her prayers will be answered in a way that will lead to her happiness. Ultimately if she holds on with unwavering strong faith, God does provide for her the best possible husband who will bring her long-term happiness.

Thus, faith is an unwavering, unshakeable belief in God and his infinite goodness.

Let thy will be done must be the first prayer that we utter as we pray, then God can provide the best solution to our prayer.

Here's a story on faith that is touching for such faith, deep abiding faith is often showed by

Contd. to page 16

AGNEL HAPPENINGS



Agnelities Excel in S.S.C. 2017

There was great jubilation at **Fr. Agnel, Vashi**, as the SSC results came in online on 13th June 2017. This year too Agnel posted 100% results. Jeslyn Bijju stood first in the English Medium with 99.6% (498/500) and Fatima Maner with 98.4% (492/500) stood 2nd and Ruchika Prabhu with 97% (485/500) stood 3rd respectively.

In the Marathi Medium Section Nikita Jadhav with a score of 99.8% (499/500) bagged the highest percentage. Aditya Nikam with 96.2% (481/500) stood 2nd in the Marathi Medium Section and Omkar Yadav with 95.8% (479/500) stood third.

This year 295 students from the English Medium

Section and 59 students from the Marathi Medium Section took the SSC examination and all passed with excellent scores. Of these 261 students from English Medium and 44 students from Marathi Medium passed with distinction.

6 students with learning disabilities and 1 student with borderline intellectual functioning from English Medium and 6 students with learning disabilities from Marathi medium who took the SSC examination this year passed with flying colours.

Two autistic students Anand Boney (English Medium) and Jay Jadhav (Marathi Medium) scored 86% and 80.2%. Jay Jadhav scored a perfect 100/100 in Food Preservation.

Vaishali Kshirsagar (Marathi Medium) a child with Cerebral Palsy refused the help of a writer, wrote the examination herself and scored 87.2%.

See Photos on Back Inside

There was jubilation at **Fr. Agnel Multipurpose School and Jr. College, Vashi** as the HSC results came in. The pass percentage this year too is 100%.

Apurva Narvekar with 95.85% (623/650) stood first in the Science stream. Deepti Bhoir with 93.69% (609/650) stood 2nd and Vaibhav Wath with 93.38% (607/650) stood 3rd respectively.

In the Commerce stream Monalie Jain with a score of 93.54% (608/650) bagged the highest percentage. She is followed by Kritika Jaidhara with 90.62% (589/650) and Pranali Shetty with 90.46% (588/650).



Agnelities Excel in H.S.C. 2017

This year 151 students from the Science stream and 127 students from the Commerce stream took the HSC exams and all passed with excellent scores. 10 students with special needs who took the HSC examination this year passed with flying colours which includes 2 Autistic students - Sabarish Sriram with 78.77% and Aditya Rao with 71.69%. There were 15 students from Commerce stream and 7 students from Science stream in the Sports Category.

*You don't choose your family. They are God's gift to you, as you are to them.
-Desmond Tutu*

Congratulations

FR. AGNEL, BANDRA

S.S.C. TOPPERS OF 2017



*Desale Aatish
Navneet
84.20%*



*Baniya
Ravikumar
Rajeshkumar
83.40%*



*Shaikh Raja
Mohiuddin
82.40%*



*Baitha Rahul
Ahad
82.40%*

FR. AGNEL, VASHI

S.S.C. TOPPERS OF 2017 (ENGLISH MEDIUM)



*Jeslyn Bijju
99.6%*



*Maner Fatima
98.4%*



*Ruchika
Prabhu
97%*



*Nikita Jadhav
99.8%*



*Aditya Nikam
96.2%*



*Omkar Yadav
95.8%*

H.S.C. TOPPERS OF 2017 (COMMERCE)



*Monalie Jain
93.54%*



*Krithika
Jaidhara
90.62%*



*Pranali Shetty
90.46%.jpg*



*Apurva
Narvekar
95.85 %*



*Deepti Bhoir
93.69%*



*Vaibhav Wath
93.38%.jpg*

s to our Toppers

FR. AGNEL MULTIPURPOSE HIGH SCHOOL, VERNA, GOA

S.S.C. TOPPERS OF 2017



*Amanda Sweta
D'Souza
90.66%*



*Agnelo Diago
Fernandes
89.66%*



*Shanata
D'Costa
88.16%*



*Alvina
Cabral
87.83%*



*Mark
Menezes
87.3%*



*Swizzel
Santiago
86%*

H.S.C. TOPPERS OF 2017 (SCIENCE)



*Kavita
Kanwar
88%*



*Tejaswa P.
Naik
85%*



*Clyde Preston
D'Mello
85%*



*Joyston
Savio
Fernandes
86.6%*



*Alroy
Fernandes
85%*



*Sydney
Araujo
79%*

H.S.C. TOPPERS OF 2017 (VOCATIONAL COURSE)

FR. AGNEL, PUNE

S.S.C. TOPPERS OF 2017



*Sakshi Garad
95.8%*



*Atharva
Chandhere
94.5%*



*Sakshi Shitole
93.6%*

AGNELITES SHINING !!

The students of Fr. Agnel Multipurpose School & Jr. College ,Ambernath have brought great pride to their Alma Mater yet again with the shining SSC and HSC board results of 2017. The school and junior college have achieved 100% results.

215 students appeared for the SSC examination. 142 students secured Distinction, 69 First class and 4 Second class.

Ms. Sneha Tekwani	1st Position	96.20%
Ms. Kunika Verma &	2nd Position	94.80%
Ms. Aishwarya Mahajan		
Ms. Drisshia Anil &	3rd Position	93.80%
Ms. Simran Rohra		

38 students appeared for the HSC examination from the Science stream. 7 students secured Distinction, 19 First class and 12 Second class. The toppers bagged the top three coveted positions not only in the college but also in Ambernath region.

SCIENCE STREAM		
Ms. Disha Deepu	1st Position	91.08%
Mast. K. Shriraj Ramesh	2nd Position	87.69%
Mast. Ketan Tribhuwan	3rd Position	84.92%

34 students appeared for the HSC examination from the Commerce stream. 11 students secured Distinction, 20 First class and 3 Second class. The topper secured the 3rd Position in Ambernath region.

COMMERCE STREAM		
Mast. Sushant Belvarkar	1st Position	87.08%
Ms. Pooja Patil	2nd Position	86%
Mast. Mohd. Mustafa Sayed	3rd Position	83.54%

HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS

on behalf of the management of Fr. Agnel Multipurpose School & Jr. College , Ambernath to all the successful students and their parents and teachers!!



Madam Antoinette our star being felicitated with "Star Memento" by Rev. Fr. Ivon Almeida

“The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires.” William Arthur Ward.

Teaching is the noblest of all professions in the world. But very few can sustain themselves in

50 Glorious Years In Education : Madam Antoinette Viegas

this satisfying yet demanding career for long. Ms. Antoinette Viegas is one such extraordinary unsung hero of our times. Ms. Antoinette completed 50 years in Education on 12th June, 2017. She has achieved a milestone; no mean feat.....50 glorious, adventurous, arduous and dedicated years spent in imparting education and life lessons to innumerable students.

Ms Antoinette, fondly known as Madam Antoinette, started her teaching journey on 12th June 1967. She started working as a Science teacher in Fatima High School, Ambarnath West. Soon, her dedication, organizational skills and excellent teaching made management take notice of her and she was promoted as the Headmistress of the school. Fatima School was

nourished under the able guidance and fore sight of Madam Antoinette for 21 years. Soon after her retirement, she was entrusted with the job of nurturing another sapling in the field of education. Yes, it's none other than Fr. Agnel School, Ambarnath (West). It is She, together with the Fathers, who have been instrumental in providing Ambarnath with yet another institution which imparts quality education.

A programme was organized at Fr. Agnel Multipurpose School & Jr. College, Ambarnath (West), on 12th June 2017, to commemorate this great day. The ceremonial cake was cut at exact 11.30 am time at which Madam started her teaching career in 1967. Her colleagues from Fatima High School, some even her seniors, came all the way to wish their beloved Headmistress. One of her students, Mrs. Shola Rajachandran, a successful Communication and PR Specialist, too graced the occasion. She spoke at length about

the innovative teaching methods implemented by Madam at Fatima School. Fr. Ivon Almeida, Manager Fr. Agnel School, Ambarnath, presented Madam Antoinette with a "Star" memento and a shawl. Fr. Daniel Joy, priest from Fatima Church, Ambarnath, presented Madam with a memorable gift to mark the occasion.

Thousands of children under her tutorage have achieved success. Many are holding key positions at various prestigious firms. Her contribution towards society at large and education, in particular are commendable. She is an inspiring role model. Ambarnath, indeed is reaping the fruits of this excellent mentor.

Madam Antoinette, you are truly a hero..... Congratulations to you for completing 50 glorious years..... continue to shape the lives of your beloved children.....Salute to this great Teacher!

Investiture Ceremony in Fr. Agnel's Vidyankur School

“Leaders are not born, but are made by their experiences in life”. To inculcate the leadership qualities in students and to give them a feel of functioning of the administrative body, the school junior and senior parliament was installed at **Fr. Angel's Vidyankur School, Pune** in the investiture ceremony held on 15th and 16th June 2017.

The programme began with the Lighting of lamp followed by the prayer service seeking the Almighty's blessing. The students prayed for the Management, teaching, non-teaching Staff, Parents & themselves. The Director Fr. Tony Fernandes declared the theme for the academic year 2017-18. "BEING CLEAN, LIVING CLEAN". In his address he beautifully explained the theme and different aspects emphasizing

more on cleanliness and role of students in maintaining cleanliness.

The School witnessed a grand installation of both senior and junior parliament wherein the newly elected ministers and prefects took charge of their offices. The Principal administered the oath to the President Niwedita Tiwari, Senior Parliament and Chinmaya Malagi, Junior Parliament. Speaker Abhijeet Chattar, Senior Parliament and Vipashyana Pawar, Junior Parliament also took the oath from the Principal. The Director Fr. Tony Fernandes vested the President & Speaker with sashes and badges. The school council took the oath to live up to the expectations and work for the mission of the school. The ministry incharge teachers vested the badges and sashes to their ministers and prefects. Niwedita Tiwari and Chinmaya Malagi in their first speech as the President promised to live up to the expectation of the institution.

See Photos on Back Cover

Heartiest Congratulations

It was a happy day for four pairs of Agnel Twins who performed well.

- Ayush and Isha Shah - 96.6% & 96.2%
- Rhea and Priya Ganjekar - 92% & 92%
- Abhishek and Mahima Patnigere - 86% & 80.8%
- Hrithik and Rohit Raj - 68% & 79%

Spiritual Progress Begins with Acceptance of our Imperfections

If you listen carefully, you get to hear everything
you didn't want to hear in the first place.

-Sholom Aleichem

What are those things that we don't want to hear? Mainly, we don't want to hear disagreement from people who are important to us. We don't want to hear that our children are making choices we wouldn't make; we don't want to hear that our partner believes we are anything but perfect; we don't want to hear that our friend, our parent, our teacher, our boss sees anything in us to criticize.

Poor us! We know we aren't perfect, but we can't tolerate hearing it from someone else. Why should that be? We know other people

aren't perfect, either. Where did we get the idea that we're supposed to be error-free?

To accept our own imperfection is to make a giant step toward peace of mind. To accept that the world is full of people who disagree with us – some of whom even love us very much – is to begin to achieve maturity. Perhaps we think, or used to think, that we would be happy when we rubbed out our last traces of imperfection. That is not happiness; that is to become marble – hard, cold, and breakable.

"Every human being must be viewed according to what it is good for. For not one of us, no, not one, is perfect. And were we to love none who had imperfection, this world would be a desert for our love."

- Thomas Jefferson

(Christ Centered Family Unity & Autonomy - Contd. from pg 7)

to anger and rich in mercy, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness" (cf. Nehemiah 9:31; Exodus 34:6; Numbers 14:18; Psalm 86:5; Psalm 86...).

6. An affirming, appreciative and patient character structure, which respects any human being; fit to make personal decisions, and empowered to choose from various options.
7. And last but not the least, the ability to take one's own considered and responsible decisions with discernment in the power of the Holy Spirit and according to the Father's will.

Now, this gold nugget : Christian parents have good reason to treasure their autonomy, because by being free and mature

individuals they share in the creative power God entrusted to them; by relying on the Spirit in their heart they can enjoy the freedom of the children of God; by generously responding in love and dying to themselves, they can realize themselves in a transcending manner.

And, this final flourish: In its simplest sense, autonomy is about a person's ability to act on his or her Gospel values and Jesus' teachings. Jesus promises us an abundant life, in the now and eternally, something far better and greater than we can ever imagine, a concept reminiscent of 1 Corinthians 2:9: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him."

Saints Joachim and Anne

-P.A.D'Mello

On 26th July we observe the feast day of Saints Joachim and Anne. They are parents of the Virgin Mary. Information concerning their lives and names is found in the 2nd century ad Protoevangelium of James (First Gospel of St. James) and the 3rd century ad evangelium de nativitate Mariae (Gospel of the Nativity of Mary). According to these sources, Anne (Hebrew Hannah) was born in Bethlehem, Judea. She married Joachim and although they shared a wealthy and devout life at Nazareth, they eventually lamented their childlessness. Joachim reproached at the Temple for his sterility retreated into the countryside to pray, while Anne, grieved by his disappearance and her barrenness solemnly promised God that, if given a child, she would dedicate it to the Lord's service. Both received the vision of an angel, who announced that Anne would conceive and bear a most wondrous child.

The couple rejoiced at the birth of their daughter whom Anne named Mary. When the child was three years old, Joachim and Anne, in fulfillment of her divine promise brought Mary to the Temple at Jerusalem to consecrate her for special service to the Lord. We call this celebration the "Presentation of the Virgin Mary". It means that Mary was to play an important part in God's loving plan

for the world. This event became so important in Church Doctrine that by 1585 Pope Sixtus V included in the Western Church Calendar the liturgical feast of the Presentation of the Virgin Mary (Nov. 21).

The account of their lives startlingly parallels the Old Testament story of the barren Hannah and her conception of Samuel (1 Samuel 1). Anne's cult was fervent in the Eastern Church as early as the 4th century and in the early 8th century Pope Constantine probably introduced her devotion to Rome. Joachim's cult was introduced to the West in the 15th century.

The Protoevangelium became the foundation for establishing the liturgical feasts of the Nativity of the Virgin Mary (Sept. 8th) and the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (8th December). Many Churches, the first dating from the 6th century were built in Anne's honour. Anne's cult became extremely popular in the middle ages and influenced such theologians such as Jean de Gerson, Konrad Wimpinar and Johann Eck.

Anne is the patron of grandmothers, among many other things, and Joachim of grandfathers. They remind us to honour our own grandparents and to thank them for the blessings they have passed down to us in love.

Every best gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no change nor shadow of alteration.

(St. James 1:17)

little children.

There was a drought that seemed to continue for a long period of time.

A small community of farmers was in a quandary as to what to do. Rain was essential to keep the crops healthy and to sustain the town people's way of life.

As the problem became more acute, a local pastor called a prayer meeting to ask for rain.

Many people gathered to pray, however most were chatting and socialising with each other. The pastor noticed a little girl sitting quietly in the first row. Her face was beaming with excitement.

Next to her, poised and ready for use was a bright red umbrella.

The little girl's innocence and beauty made the pastor smile as he realised how much faith she possessed.

No one else had brought an umbrella. Everyone came to pray for rain. But the little girl had come with a surety that God would answer.

That of course is faith, a deep abiding trust in God.

In the Old Testament, we see how Abraham was saved mainly because of his faith and not because of his works.

Even though his wife Sarah was past the child bearing age, God gave them the gift of a child, a son named Isaac which means 'he laughs.' This was because Sarah was almost a hundred years old and had laughed when she heard she was to bear a son.

Yet, later He asks Abraham to sacrifice his only beloved son.

This of course would have been incredibly tough for any mortal, yet we are astonished to

find that Abraham has implicit trust in God. God had told Abraham to take Isaac to a mountain to sacrifice him. This however was just a test. Abraham on the mountain was ready to sacrifice his son to please God but an angel appeared to him and told him not to kill Isaac.

Then, Abraham saw a ram in the bushes. God had sent him a ram for the sacrifice. Abraham sacrificed the ram on the altar that he had made on the mountain.

He realised that God loved him and was only testing his faith.

There are numerous stories in the Bible about faith. Faith is believing what we cannot see, and trusting in God's will in our lives.

Here are some Bible verses on faith, Jesus said, "Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours."

Jesus also said, "Truly, I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, move from here to there and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

Hebrews 11:1, Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

Corinthians 1:24 For we live by faith, not by sight.

And a reminder that God tests our faith at times - James 1:3 Because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.

And let us conclude with Timothy 4:7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

This should be our motto in our Christian journey through the ups and downs of our lives, keeping our faith, trusting in God's divine plan for us.

OHANA means family.

Family means nobody gets left behind or forgotten.



Fr. AGNEL'S BLESSINGS

NUMEROUS BLESSINGS RECEIVED

Vasai: I am a staunch devotee of Ven. Fr.Agnel for the past many years. I have received numerous blessings from him. He has been a source of inspiration and courage in critical times in my life. As a token of my sincere thanks an offering of ₹.5000 to the Ashram. I pray for his early canonization.

-Aplan Patric D'Mello

SUCCESS IN MIGRATING ABROAD

Australia: Ven. Fr. Agnel has showered many blessings on me and my family. By his grace I was able to migrate to Australia and settle down in Sydney. As a token of thanks and gratitude I am sending an offering of ₹.10,000 to the Ashram for all its charitable works.

-Llewellyn D'Souza

RECOVERY FROM ILLNESS

Kuwait : I suddenly took ill with severe body ache and was unable to get up or even sit. On being taken to the hospital the tests showed that my diabetes, cholesterol and BP count had increased over the normal limit. I had to languish in the hospital and was treated with a lot of medication but there was little improvement. I prayed to Ven.Fr.Agnel to heal me so that I could resume my duties and eventually return home. I am happy to say that Ven.Fr.Agnel heard my prayers and I recovered from my illness and resumed work. On returning to Goa I visited Pilar to

thank Ven.Fr.Agnel for the favor granted and pray for his early beatification.

-Baltazar Ratos

NUMEROUS BLESSINGS RECEIVED

Trivandrum-Kerala: We are staunch devotees of Ven.Fr.Agnel and have received numerous favours and blessings through his heavenly intercession. With a grateful heart we make our offering of ₹.10,000 to the Ashram for its various charitable activities under the patronage of Ven.Fr.Agnel.

-Anita Easpen

GIFT OF TWO SONS

Chennai: We are firm devotees of Ven. Fr.Agnel. Through his blessing I got a good job in the Merchant Navy. I have also been blessed with two smart and intelligent sons. My grateful thanks to Ven.Fr.Agnel and I pray for his early beatification.

-David Kennedy & Cinita Aji

CURE FROM ACHE IN HAND

Loutolim-Goa: My husband had a severe ache in his hand and was unable to do much work. We consulted many doctors but this did not improve his condition. I then made a pilgrimage to Pilar and prayed fervently to Ven.Fr.Agnel. I am happy to say that Ven. Fr.Agnel heard my plea and my husband's hand is completely cured and he can go about his normal duties. I pray that Ven. Fr.Agnel may be raised to the Altar soon.

-Maria Rodrigues

Out of Their Bounty

N.J. Lopes	Vasai	50000	Mf. D'Souza	Mumbai	2010	P. Oberoi	Delhi	1000
T. Thomas	Mumbai	50000	C. G. D'Souza	Mira Road	2000	V.S. Bilolikar	Mumbai	1000
C. Kundanbala	U.K.	41275	S. Lorena	Mangalore	2000	D. Gonsalvez	Kerala	1000
P. Srivastava	Mumbai	35000	P.M. Rajeswari	Kerala	2000	S. Philip	Mumbai	1000
A.S. Baria	Mumbai	30000	J. Carneiro	Pune	2000	O. Fernandes	Mumbai	1000
Dr.C.M. Chavan	Silvassa	27,000	L. D'Cruz	Kerala	2000	M.M. Lopes	Vasai	1000
Joseph K.J.	Dubai	25000	Agnel Traders	Kerala	2000	D. Rao	Thane	1000
S. Saje	Al-Ain	25000	Lucy Pinto	Mumbai	2000	N.J. Rodrigues	Virar	1000
John P.M.	Kerala	25000	G. Marques	Goa	2000	Joseph E.F.	Mira Road	1000
C. Noronha	Silvassa	20000	J.L. D'Souza	Udupi	2000	R. Senapati	Mumbai	1000
J. D. Divecha	Mira Road	18000	A.J. Nadar	Virar	2000	B. Kaunder	Mumbai	1000
A. Augustine	Kerala	15500	B. Nayak	Vashi	2000	S. Francis	Kerala	1000
Lipsy George	Kerala	15000	L. D'Souza	Mira Road	2000	S. Muruges	Dharavi	1000
S.V. Sawant	Mumbai	15000	B. Antony	Kerala	2000	M. Fernandes	Dahisar	900
J.G. Gill	Mumbai	11000	B. Saldanha	Mangalore	2000	S. Babulal	Mumbai	700
Mini Sajeev	Kuwait	10000	Mascarenhas	Mumbai	2000	S. Natarajan	Dharavi	610
N.S. Nair	Nallasolpara	10000	Cyril D'Souza	Delhi	2000	N. D'Souza	Mumbai	600
Nigel & Malvika	Mumbai	10000	C.F. Rebello	Vasai	2000	M.J. Lam	Nasik	560
L. Corola	Mumbai	10000	G. Fernandes	Amravati	2000	R. Ananthan	Chennai	501
J.J. Lobo	Mumbai	10000	Kiran Asher	Mumbai	1500	M. Antonisamy	T.N.	500
V.O. Kaisar	Kolkata	10000	Rani Samson	T.N.	1500	G. Veeramani	Chennai	500
S. Randeria	Mumbai	10000	M.U. Fernandes	Bengaluru	1500	M.B. John	Kerala	500
J. Edwin	Mumbai	9200	A.J. Shah	Mumbai	1500	A. Elavia	Gujarat	500
T.F. Correia	Vasai	7500	A. Jayasimhan	Mumbai	1500	S.F. Variava	Mumbai	500
Chirag Dabhi	U.K.	6585	Irene Correa	Mangalore	1500	L.B. Clancy	Bangalore	500
M.J. D'Souza	Dubai	6000	George John	U.S.A.	1494	A. T. Elavia	Surat	500
M. Jacob	Kerala	6000	D. Thomson	Chennai	1200	P. Jonah	Kolkata	500
T.G. George	Mumbai	6000	J.J. Kennedy	Mumbai	1200	Manju Bhatia	Mumbai	500
A. Mistry	Thane	6000	A. P. Giri	Pune	1100	T. Joseph	Kerala	500
H. Gonadia	Mumbai	5111	Sonia Michael	Bangalore	1100	S.A. Shah	Mumbai	500
A.J. Pinheiro	Sharjah	5000	B.U. Devji	Diu	1100	L.Mangal	Delhi	500
Hugh & Colleen	Uttarakhand	5000	Sebastian A.C.	Kerala	1100	R. Araujo	Goa	500
Betty Joseph	Kerla	5000	j.P.Panchal	New Zealand	1025	M.Kumar	Mumbai	500
R. Radhakrishnan	T.N.	5000	Y.D. Mehta	Mumbai	1001	S.W. Miranda	Vasai	500
G.J. Gonsalves	Vasai	5000	T.R. Koshy	U.S.A.	1000	K.S. Rao	Mumbai	500
C.S. Gonsalves	Nallasopara	5000	E.V. Sebastian	Kerala	1000	Amal J. Vincent	Kerala	500
N.J. Merchant	Mumbai	5000	V. Varghese	Delhi	1000	L. B. Clancy	Bangalore	500
Z.A. Merchant	Mumbai	5000	L. Idnani	Mumbai	1000	S. Cazo	Mumbai	500
A.J. Lopes	Vasai	5000	Lala Jose	Kerala	1000	C. Braganza	Mumbai	500
W.E. D'Mello	Vasai	5000	V. Pais	Bangalore	1000	H. Doulat	Mumbai	500
F.M. Rodrigues	Vasai	5000	B. Dutt	Kolkata	1000	N.A. D'Souza	Mumbai	500
S.V.S. Rama Rao	Mumbai	5000	J. Berchmans	Chennai	1000	A. Patel	Mumbai	500
V.U. Daniel	Gujarat	5000	R. Zaman	Kolkata	1000	Daisy D'Cruz	Kerala	500
S. David	Mumbai	5000	A. Mathew	Kerala	1000	N.M. Amolik	Ahmednagar	500
S.A. Sheikh	Mumbai	5000	P.r. Mohite	Mumbai	1000	S. Fernando	Chennai	500
N. Pinto	Mumbai	5000	V.K. Pijwala	Gujarat	1000	G. Thachil	Kerala	400
Subramaniam R.	Mumbai	4500	P.A. Selvaraj	T.N.	1000	S. Acidwalla	Mumbai	400
A. George	New Delhi	4000	J. D'Souza	Mumbai	1000	D. Bastian	Kerala	400
L. Gracias	Goa	3500	Lilly D'Souza	Mumbai	1000	A. Xavier	Kerala	350
T. Chellaya	Malaysai	3372	M. Varghese	Ahmedabad	1000	A.V. Francis	T.N.	300
J.A. Saldanha	Mumbai	3000	L. G. Fernandes	Ahmedabad	1000	C. Jonah	Kolkata	300
T.F. D'Cunha	Mumbai	3000	A. George	Delhi	1000	Rani Louis	Kerala	300
S. D'Souza	Mumbai	3000	S. Joseph	Kerala	1000	C.P. Mathew	Kerala	300
Suzanne D'Souza	Mumbai	3000	V.K. Pijwala	Gujarat	1000	M. Fernandes	Mumbai	300
E. Cherian	Kerala	2400	Bulbul Dutt	Kolkata	1000	C.T. Mathew	T.N.	300
A. Fosberry	Bangalore	2250	F.H. Mistry	Mumbai	1000	C. D'Souza	Karnataka	300
			V.V. Sawant	Pune	1000			

DIFFERENTLY ABLED TOPPERS, VASHI

S.S.C. TOPPERS OF 2017



Vaishali Kshirsagar
87.2%



Anand Boney
86%



Jay Jadhav
80.2%

H.S.C. TOPPERS OF 2017



Sabarish Sriram
78.77%



Aditya Rao
71.69%

AGNELITES S.S.C & H.S.C TOPPERS SHINE, AMBERNATH



SSC March 2017 Toppers



HSC Commerce Toppers



HSC Science Toppers

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INVESTITURE CEREMONY IN FR. AGNEL'S VIDYANKUR SCHOOL



Junior President Chinmaya Malagi & Speaker Vipashyana Pawar along with Director Fr. Tony Fernandes and Principal Mrs.Minal Kasbey.



Senior President Niwedita Tiwari & Speaker Abhijeet Chattar along with Director Fr. Tony Fernandes and Principal Mrs.Minal Kasbey



Theme of the year 'BEING CLEAN LIVING CLEAN'