



FR

March 2017

AGNEL

SHRAM NEWS



**The Challenge
to follow Christ**

FR. AGNEL
ASHRAM

NEWS

March 2017

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Happy Easter to you.

Christ has Truly Risen! Alleluia!

He Has Destroyed Sin & Death, and given us a share in His Resurrection

Dear Friends And Benefactors,

We are deeply grateful to you for your generous contributions, during the last many years towards our orphan children. As you may know we have five orphanages located at Bandra, Vashi, Delhi, Pune and Goa where we have over eight hundred orphans under our care. Besides we take care of many more children in the villages providing them education facilities and teaching them various skills. Your continuous support lights up their hope with a feeling that you really care for them.

May the Risen Lord shower on you and all your dear ones his choicest Blessings.
Yours Sincerely in the Lord,

(Fr. Nazareth Fernandes)
Superior



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The Future of Religious Life As We See It Today

The Vatican Council II was the greatest Council that one could think of, considering that it was convened at the crossroads of world civilizations and the social and political pressures and counter pressures that existed. The idea itself of convening a Council only shortly after being elected by Pope JOHN XXIII who had apparently nothing in him that made him worthy of the task he had undertaken, was the greatest surprise. He must have been a strong and passionate believer that Jesus guides the Church, or else he could not have taken this firm step to grapple a situation which few would even dare to touch.

The world was caught into a serious maelstrom. The aftermath of the World War II had created two big worlds, the haves and the have-nots and others who were insignificantly in between. The Church too was caught in the same socio-economic cauldron. More and more countries were taking intensely nationalistic turns and were caught primarily into the power of the two dominating power blocks, and the Church with its western tinge was no longer welcome, as it carried with it the colonizers' strong body scent.

The third world was being openly exploited and multilateral bodies were hardly making any efforts for a more equitable international governance regime since the Big powers were holding the Multilateral bodies like the United Nations and the World Bank as their own private agencies.

There was a massive movement of priests and religious leaving for greener pastures and the vocations too were dwindling. Monasteries and seminaries particularly in the West were scantily populated, because as a result of the Second World War there was a lull in population growth and men and women had to work, to build up after the devastation of the war in 1939-1945.

Theologians became bolder and expressed their ideas more openly and without fear or favour of the powers to be, led by stalwarts like Hans Kung, Bernard Haring, Karl Rahner and a host

of South American liberation theologians who questioned the very fundamentals of a Church that was clearly aligned with the powerful like Allende, Somoza, etc. It was an open war with the Church, led from the front including the idea of legitimacy of the use of violence as a just means to fight oppression in all its forms.

The idea of the individual and his freedom had come to stay and nothing could uproot the firm stand it had taken in the hearts and minds of men and women. Priests asked to be given permission to marry, Nuns demanded the right to be ordained priests, and the shopping list was endless. The representation of the Local churches too threw up interesting persons who represented various opposing views, so the Hall of the Council was already reeling under the onslaught of fresh thought and ideas and they would not be muzzled.

The best thing that the Council did was to document the theological and the social thinking of the Church without any "definitions" and "anathemas"(condemnations) that Councils were known to do, as their primary teachings. Retrospectively seen, it becomes evident that this approach was the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, because had it taken a turn to the right there would have been disastrous consequences.

Coming to the specific sector of religious life, the Vatican Council's document "*Perfectae Caritatis*" (of perfect love) was a brilliant piece of work with a sound theology and offering the challenge of a life lived with commitment to the Gospel, as a witness, as well as a leaven, and a sign of the world to come. The contemporaries of the Vatican II relished the documents as that was the Bible of religious life and many times more beautiful than the "*Exercicio de Perfeicao*" of Afonso Rodrigo and the "*Imitation of Christ*" that barely provided the intellectual and spiritual elixir that the documents of the VAT. II provided. We were so prolific in the reading of the Vat II documents that we quoted them all over the place, right from *Lumen Gentium*,

Gaudium et Spes, *Apostolicam Actuositatem*, *Ad Gentes*, etc. Almost everyone possessed the entire compendium of documents, published by America Press and owned it as a precious treasure.

The Vat. II documents provided a solid doctrinal foundation to the belief system of a religious and the spiritual aspect of his calling. There were no laws involved. Subsequent documents for renewal such as *Evangelica Testificatio* and *Nostra Aetate*, proposed a renewal of the Constitutions and return to the sources, to the primordial inspiration. Religious Societies and Congregations spent years and loads of money to renew their Constitutions and enact new laws (Constitutions and Directory) in the new format.

What the Vat. II had done was to give religious calling a solid theological base of a personal response to God's call, much like Mary's "I am the handmaid of the Lord", and the joy of a proactive response. It was a paradigm shift from a juridico-structural understanding of religious vocation and one's surrender to the norms of the religious association one belonged to, to a psycho-pedagogical understanding of the calling that would create an internal drive for challenge and to be challenged. One enjoyed his religious calling not because the vows bound him to it, but because of the decision he had made as an individual to serve the Lord completely and freely, and the follow-up would be the "Magnificat" of Mary. This theology highlighted the individual role, and his freedom to be a sign of salvation to the world.

Another very important document, *Ad Gentes* threw up the challenge of evangelization as a real and present challenge and the leadership of religious organizations went into a recruiting spree, little caring about real empowering of the spirit of the recruits. This period also coincided with rapid growth of the economy and new opportunities in the world of work, which attracted more young men and women from the upper middle and middle class to have a share of the economic pie, leaving the second perimeter of the society, the lower middle class and below to join the ranks of the religious groups. They came loaded with personal aspirations of upward social mobility.

What followed was a complete reversal, of the individual as the pivot around which the religious calling gyrated, and thus began the

slide: removal of the clerical habit, introduction of partying and celebrations, unedifying conversation all in the name of being relevant to the world, and *muchas cosas mas*.

The most important point was missed that the core of the teaching of the Vat. II was empowering the spirit and not create new laws. Religious houses of formations, seminaries, Theologates and Philosophates lacked the all important thrust of the Vat II, that religious life was a calling that needed a response in the spirit which laws could never even remotely replace it. In order to cater to the large number of recruits the systems were relaxed, intellectual rigor came to a halt and the seminaries were throwing hordes of young people into the world who knew to sing and play music well, make presentations, with little or no preparation of that inner drive that the Vat.II spoke about.

As a consequence the conciliar understanding of religious life as a surrender to God's will and therefore a ready availability to serve, with little personal comfort was replaced by the genie of the "individual" whose likes and dislikes, preferences, etc, needed to be factored. The primacy of the individual's surrender to God's calling and joy of consecration in the religious life gave way to the surrender to this new genie called individual, was complete!

Since the formation houses were either manned by people of the pre-Conciliar era or post conciliar era, they missed the most important part which was and still remains the core of the religious vocation. The only stress was the primacy of the individual that formees lapped up, without understanding that the primacy of the individual is to be perceived not as freedom to act as one wants to, but as an earnest appeal to individual religious that his faithfulness to the call of Jesus has to be driven by an inner force to respond to God's call.

The result was disastrous. When you elevate the individual as the supreme criterion of all that he must be and must do, without reference to the fact that the individual has already surrendered his individuality in a personal response to Jesus, the consequences would be disastrous. The other understanding of the religious vocation, was that he is called to be a multi tasker, who would work the world, by his expertise in music, games, singing and dancing and lately ability to use the computer. It was an awful combination

of the minimalism with modernism with little allowance for anything else. Groupings that captured the electoral process was logical since serving and furthering the interests of the individuals and groups became a predominant preoccupation.

That is where we stand now. On the one hand, religious life is entwined by more and more rules and regulations, hoping that they would keep them bound, and on the other hand individuals believe that the individual and his choices are final. Every superior is either dealing with the problem of transfers or individual member's perception of what is good of him, with the stress that it is a personal choice. Young religious are found involved with habits that were primarily the weakness of the elderly, appointments are always desired where there is control over money, etc.

Where do we go from here? In a recent talk to thousands of religious in Rome, Pope Francis referring to the perception that religious have about themselves as individuals stated, that he met a religious who said, "I have had my dialogue with the Superior, but now I have to make my choice, and do not have to abide by what the superior says". The Pope continues, "what kind of obedience is this, that even after the dialogue with the superior the religious holds on to what he wants. This, the Pope states is a "diabolical obedience". Harsh words but sadly true.

There have been three fundamental flaws:

(i) the idea of individual has been wrongly understood, as the final and supreme decision maker, without reference to the fact that the assertion of his individuality is subject to the already made option to follow Jesus in the religious life, which implies his individuality has already been surrendered to a large extent through his response to the call of Jesus;

(ii) the idea that religious have to be relevant to the world they work in, little understanding that what Jesus prayed at the last supper "I pray that may be in the world but not of the world". St. Paul clearly states that his preaching is not in terms of human wisdom.... The relevance of the religious in the world is that he projects the eschatological reality, that eating, drinking and making merry may be relevant in the world, but not so in the world we are called to be.

(iii) that all power and authority wielded in any position is only for service. Paulo Freire the great social reformer, in his classical work, the Pedagogy of the Oppressed, speaks about adoption, advocacy and immersion as necessary steps to bring about change. Liberation is possible only when the liberator is conscious of his mission yet humbly exercises it in humility to be effective. We need to remember like St. Paul that we are holding this treasure in vessels of clay. Where do we go hence??? Any guesses!!

-Jose Alarico Carvalho

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I, Rev. Fr. Nazareth Fernandes, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Dated : 1st March 2017.

Fr. Nazareth Fernandes

Love Endures all Things

- Fr. Tony Savio Fernandes, sfx

St. John the Evangelist, who calls himself the beloved of the Lord, shares in his Gospel and especially in his letters his deep and inner experience that God is love (1 John 4). St. Paul writing to the Corinthians speaks of the gift of love. He says that “Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things and endures all things” (1 Cor. 13:7). We have already entered into the season of Lent, a period of . Once again the Liturgical cyclic time which has Christ at the axis, gives us an occasion to reflect and meditate on the Suffering, Passion, Death and the Resurrection (the Paschal Mystery) of our Lord Jesus Christ and the reason is just because God’s love endures all things and everyone.

Emeritus Pope Benedict has said, “May Lent be for every Christian a renewed experience of God’s love given to us in Christ.” Lent really always been a renewing experience for me every time, especially when I was in Europe this season blended very well according to the times. Lent in Europe starts in the winter when things are bleak anyway, very dull and gloomy. By the time lent is over, enters Spring and the earth opens once again to new life that was dead and buried in that harsh winter. You see beautiful flowers shooting up even in the ordinary grass along the path and the railway tracks. This season of spring aptly suits the season of Lent. Lent for me, felt like that the very earth was cooperating in moving me from the winter of my sin into a springtime of God’s love. Each day, as the sunlight now lingered longer and longer, one ought to feel renewed and recharged, as a sign of annual renewal of grace and to experience God’s immense love inspite of our sinfulness.

In Lent, as selfish as it sounds, it’s just me and my God, to think of all that Jesus has endured just because He loves me. This focus ought to be internal in the very depth of one’s being.

The real beauty of the season of Lent is to reflect God’s immense love. To do so we have some magnificent liturgical moments. The devotion to the Way of the Cross every Friday is one such

means to reflect on the Love of God that endured so much to redeem us. Then especially during Holy Week, we are led deeper into the mystery of Love of God. Lent must be the most creative time of the year in terms of spiritual growth and renewal.

If God has loved us so much and continues to love, it is important for us to decide what we are going to do to reciprocate God’s love. Our present Holy Father Francis had declared the year 2015-16 as Jubilee Year of Mercy, a year to reflect and, “be merciful as your Heavenly Father is merciful” (Lk6:36), and he had said, that we should allow ourselves to experience what God has done and continues to do for us. Then at the closing of the Jubilee

Year, he said although we close the Jubilee Year dedicated to Merciful Jesus, but let the door of our heart be open to experience God’s mercy and to share it with those all around us. This Lent, once again, I would suggest that we reflect and meditate more on the very essence of God that is- his Merciful Love. If God is merciful and Christ is the revelation or the Face of God’s mercy than the Church too, the bride of Christ has to be merciful. Indeed, many people experience the Church as very rigid and lacking in mercy and personal touch. For this reason, at the opening of the Second Vatican Council, Pope St John XXIII said that the Church must, above all, use the medicine of Mercy. St. John Paul II took up this declaration in his encyclical *Dives in Misericordia* and devoted the entire chapter to the topic “The Mercy of God in the Mission of the Church”. He emphasized that it is the Church’s task to give witness to divine mercy (7). Having experienced his forgiveness, let us be ready to continue to forgive all those who have done harm to us and caused much suffering in our lives. We are taught to show to the world how much God has loved the world, how much we love him, not so much to allow ourselves to be loved and forgiven by Him. Pope Benedict XVI in his very first encyclical *Deus Caritas est* says: “We have come to believe in God’s love: in these words the Christian can express the

In Lent, as selfish as it sounds, it’s just me and my God, to think of all that Jesus has endured just because He loves me.

fundamental decision of his life. Being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction. Saint John's Gospel describes that event in these words: "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should ... have eternal life" (3:16). In acknowledging the centrality of love, Christian faith has retained the core of Israel's faith, while at the same time giving it new depth and breadth" (1)

Perhaps this year, the greatest gift we can give God during Lent is to feel God's love, given to us through Christ, and experienced in the grace of

the season of Lent during the Holy Year. As Pope Benedict XVI in one of his Lenten message said: "God's love is a love that each day we, in turn, must 're-give' to our neighbour, especially to the one who suffers most and is in need".

Therefore let us continue to pay heed to the means that Pope Francis had given to us to practice mercy in our lives by practicing the Works of Mercy, seven corporal and seven spiritual. Only in this way will we be able to participate fully in the joy of Easter. May Mary, Mother of Mercy, guide us in this Lenten journey, a journey of authentic conversion to the love of Christ that endured all things.

The Fourteen Stations Plus One

-Arthur D'Mello

Before Pilate for judgment Jesus was brought,
Who knew Jesus' innocence so escape Pilate
sought,
The rabble chose Barrabas, his ploy was in Vain,
He had his gubernatorial position to maintain.

A reed for a scepter, a most thorny a crown,
Buffeted, spat upon, vilified with scorn,
Then, a high wooden cross he was made to bear
On His frail shoulders with blood-matted hair.

After that last supper, without food or drink,
Starved of nourishment, his strength did sink,
So under the weight of that wooden cross,
Frail and weary, He had a big toss.

As He wended His way, He saw in the crowd
His Mother so tearful, to God's will bowed,
That look of compassion, of wonderment how,
She could save Him or soothe His brow.

Seeing Jesus' strength fail the soldiers shout,
To Simon a Cyrenean to help Him out,
Simon had compassion, proffered his hand,
To the Lord who was grateful for his stand.

A woman called Veronica, moved by His plight,
Finding she no longer could bear the sight,
Came near with a cloth, daubed His visage,
Lo thereon, loud and clear was his image.
The cross was weighty, His flagging strength,
Even with help, He fell down full length,
The soldiers stone-like, countenance rough,
Showed no compassion, with Him were tough.

As he steadily wended the path so steep,
He noticed nearby a women's group weep,
He admonished them to save these tears
For themselves, their children and their fears.
The arduous journey soon took its toll,
Of the Lord who had another fall,
He was made to rise and walk again,
Without any compassion for His pain.

They soon reached the summit of the hill,
But the soldiers did not rest Him till,
They stripped His garments, laid Him bare,
With only a loin cloth, the rabble to stare.

Then to the Cross, they did Him nail,
Those doughty blows, the Lord did pale,
Two thieves they crucify on either side,
One who relents, the other keeps his pride.

The time had come on Calvary's hill,
For Christ to do His Father's will,
This excruciating suffering He bore most,
Bowing His head down, gave up the ghost.

The Arimathean Joseph and Nicodemus went,
To lower His body on His mother's knees bent,
So a guard was posted from that day,
Lest the disciples spirit His body away.

At Lourdes when making the fourteen stations
round,
There was fifteenth added, I found
Where an empty tomb, so the Board read,
To mark His momentous Rising from the dead.

It's Lent : Live Like Jesus

-Leon Bent

Hans Kung, one of the greatest contemporary theologians and an ageing Papal cynic, expressed surprise that our present Pope “dared” take the name Francis (of Assisi)! Pope Francis wants the Universal Church to be “of the poor – for the poor!” Why is this innocent-looking name so heavily loaded – spiritually?

The reason: St. Francis of Assisi had an unswerving desire to imitate our Crucified Saviour in all things by living the Gospel, and teaching others to do the same. In 1209, he opened the Scriptures thrice, in as many minutes, and found these three inspirational verses: 1). If you want to be perfect, go and sell all you have, and give to the poor - then follow me 2). Take nothing with you for your journey 3). If any man desires to follow me, let him deny himself and take up his Cross! The offense of the Cross is that it is a confession of human frailty and sin, and the inability to do anything good. To take the Cross of Christ means, to depend solely on Him for everything and this is the abasement of all human pride.

Francesco was famously called Poverello (Poor one) ! His followers were known as Penitents (contrite/repentant) of Assisi! He recognized Jesus in the poor, and the Lord's Beauty and Providence in nature. His purity of heart helped him to see God in all things! His poverty of spirit, which runs through Matthew's Beatitudes, helped him mirror Jesus closely. This is why he is regarded as one of the greatest saints, by far! Francis died on the eve of October 4, 1226, lying on the bare floor, naked and poor in the eyes of men, but rich in God's grace. It is true to say that, no one ever, has set himself as seriously to imitate Jesus Christ, and carry out Christ's work so literally, in Christ's very own way! The keynote of Francis' spirit was poverty, reduced to “begging,” so much so that an allegorical poem and one of the frescos at Assisi, Italy, celebrate the “holy nuptials of Francis with Lady Poverty!”

Francis' exuberance and incessant joy, despite the “stigmata” (suffering the five bleeding

wounds of Jesus), his tenderness, originality, simplicity, humility, stillness, silence, meekness, desert-like nothingness, overflowed like a fountain from his holiness. He once strangely preached a scintillating sermon to a flock of birds, and his wisdom blossomed into “flowers in verse!” Now, do you know why Pope Francis' odour of sanctity is kissing the clouds, in curls and twists of fragrant incense?

This is one of Francis of Assisi's sweetest legacies (against modern spiritual decadence/relativity) in song: “Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;/ Where there is hatred, let me sow your love;/Where there is injury, pardon/Where there is error, truth;/Where there is doubt, faith;/ Where there is despair, hope;/Where there is darkness, light;/ And where there is sadness, joy.”

“O Divine Master, Grant that I may, not so much seek/To be consoled, as to console/To be understood as to understand;/To be loved, as to love./For, it is in giving that we receive;/It is in pardoning that, we are pardoned;/And, it is in dying that, we are born to eternal life.”

This is exactly how Jesus would have lived if he walked this earth today! To achieve sainthood, we must necessarily be counter-cultural, prophetic, swim against the tide and portray the face of Jesus across the seven seas.

Emeritus Pope Benedict XVI offers us a gold nugget for this Lenten Season: “The ‘risen one’ is always the one who has been crucified!” I offer you a slight variation, which I struggle daily, to put into practice: “In this world, true love is invariably, necessarily, crucified!” We need to tuck these rare treasures securely, gently, into the folds of our unconscious, if they are to work their magic!

If you want to be right up there in the heavens, by Jesus' glorious, blissful, side, sign these profound life-changing chants, on your throbbing heart, so that, they go on echoing and re-echoing ceaselessly, mellifluously, like a thousand temple bells in the distance, even after the bells have stopped ringing! I'll try to do the same, as Francis of Assisi did so very beautifully, to near perfection!

AGNEL HAPPENINGS

Euphoria 2017

The most awaited cultural festival at **Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues College of Engineering, Bandra**, Euphoria, commenced on 20th February 2017 and lasted for a fun-filled five days. The theme for Euphoria 2017, was 'Escaping The Monochrome'. The festival included events from a variety of domains such as Performing Arts, Gaming, Literary events, Fun events, Personality events, Fine Arts. Each of these events saw an immense amount of participation from the entire college. The inter-collegiate dance competition 'Paridhan' took place on 22nd February at St. Andrews auditorium, Bandra (W), a total of eight colleges participated in this competition. Ramrao Adik Institute of Technology bagged the first place with their spectacular dance performance. The Intra- collegiate Fashion Show competition took place on this day as well. The fashion shows displayed by the students of the college were outstanding. The BE Electronics class won the Best Fashion Show Trophy. The college band showcased their incredible talent and entertained the college with their songs, at the Band Night on 23rd February. Finally, the last day of Euphoria was held at Rangsharda auditorium, Bandra (W). The Annual Day celebration was held here, wherein the academic rank holders as well as students who have excelled in certain fields, were felicitated.

The final day also witnessed the Intra-college dance competition, wherein each of the 16 classes put up a dance performance. There was also an Instrumental Band performance put up by the students of the college which was truly amazing. The drama put up by the Drama Club captivated the audience. Followed by these events was the Prize Distribution ceremony, where the winners of various competitions are awarded for their exceptional performance. The BE Computers class was awarded the Best Dance. The prestigious college trophies were also distributed, which marked the efforts of the classes for the entire year. The winners of the trophies are as follows :

Technical Trophy : BE Computers

Boys Sports Trophy : BE Computers

Girls Sports Trophy : TE Electronics

Cultural Trophy : BE Computers

Best BE Class Trophy : BE Computers

Best Class Trophy : TE Production

Best Fashion Show : BE Electronics

The DJ night held at the college marked the end of this euphoric festival. Euphoria would not have been possible without the help of the Staff and Management. The Student's Council would like to thank the Management, teachers as well as the students for all the help and support in making this event a grand success.

Eye Checkup Health Camp at Fr. Agnel Balbhuvan, Bandra

"when wealth is lost, nothing is lost; when health is lost, something is lost; when character is lost, everything is lost . "

- by Billy Graham

The health camp was organized by Mrs. Bindu Didi (the benefactor of Balbhuvan) under the leadership of Mr. Kailas Sawant the ex-

Balbhuvanite, at **Fr. Agnel Balbhuvan, Bandra** in Mumbai. The sixty children underwent the eye checkup and the seven children were detected for the deficiency of eye sight. These children were provided spectacles by Mrs. Bindu Didi (the benefactor of Balbhuvan) and the Mumbai Eye Care, Cornea and Lasik Centre Organization.

Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues College *Celebrates*



Lighting of the lamp at the inauguration ceremony of Euphoria 2017



Extracurricular reports being given during the event



Facilitation of 25 years



Inter college dance event Paridhan

College of Engineering, Bandra

Euphoria 2017



Sundari ma'am being facilitated for completion of 25 years



Facilitation of 25 years



Tattoo making event



LAN gaming event

Mumbai Eye Care, Cornea and Lasik Centre was started by Dr. Jatin Ashar in October 2012. In a short span of time they have grown to be the best 'Eye Care Centre' providing quality eye care with new technology, latest surgical techniques and most advanced machines catering to variety of eye diseases under one roof.

Dr. Ashar has been trained from the prestigious All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi; which is the best hospital in Asia. After his post-graduation, he did a fellowship in Cornea and Anterior Segment from world renowned L.V. Prasad Eye Institute. He was

the main cornea consultant at the new tertiary care center of L. V. Prasad Eye Institute, Vijayawada.

He is amongst the Youngest Indian Surgeon to be invited at the American Academy of Ophthalmology. He holds to his credits numerous awards, publications in International Journals and Conferences.

He is an excellent cornea surgeon and has performed corneal transplants that include transplants even in babies as young as 1 month old. He has also performed many refractive surgeries such as LASIK, PRK and ICL.



BeFunky Collage - Eye camp

A Swim Against The Tide

The phrase 'age is just a number' is more than just your overused cliché, as proved by three kids right here in the city. 10-year-old Vedant Sawant from **Fr. Agnel Multipurpose School, Vashi**, and 11-year-olds Raj Patil from Uran and Dolly Patil from Bhiwandi swam across the International Bangladesh channel from Teknaf Fisheries Jetty to Saint Martins' Island Jetty in Bangladesh, making them the youngest people to have crossed any international channel. The trio crossed 17 kms, in around four hours'

time.

Vedant a student of Std. V covered the distance in four hours and was the youngest and the fastest swimmer crossing the 17 km stretch of Bangla channel.

Vedant's coach Sanket Sawant said, "Vedant gave his best shot in his attempt to surpass the first milestone. The kids represent the



Open Water Sea Swimming Association (OWSSA) that trained them for long distance Sea swimming along Uran coast of Arabian Sea under the guidance of International swimmer and Coach Santosh Patil.



Healthy Values Happy Life

Fr. Agnel Ashram, Pune took great pleasure and honor to welcome the eminent Rt. Rev. Dr. Theodore Mascarenhas, Aux. Bishop of Ranchi and Secretary, General CBCI on their Ashram Day. The programme began with readings from the Quran, Bhagawadgita and the Bible. Meditation conducted by the campus representatives was not only effective but it also helped each one to introspect and focus their attention towards the

Divine. The cultural programme that was staged included a classical and a welcome dance. Students of Std V showcased the life of Dr. Prakash Amte and the students of Std IX performed an act on Bhakti and Shakti, which is an important and remarkable feature of Maharashtra. Through these items the students emphasized on the importance of values in their life.

Fr. Tony Fernandes, Director Fr. Agnel Ashram, Pune welcomed all the dignitaries and introduced the Chief Guest. Rev. Fr. Valerian D'Souza Secretary, Agnel Region, Rev. Fr. Nazareth Fernandes, Local Superior Agnel Ashram, Bandra, Rev. Fr. Saturnino



Felicitation of Rt. Rev. Theodore Mascarenhas.

Ameida, Local Superior, Vashi, Rev. Fr. Peter D'Souza, Superiors of various NGO's, Father and Sisters belonging to various communities and close associates of Agnel Ashram, Pune graced the occasion. A campus report was presented by Mrs. Minal Kasbey, Principal, Fr. Agnel's Vidyankur School highlighting the activities of the campus.

The Honourable Bishop Rt. Rev Theodore Mascarenhas in his message, stressed on humanity and brotherhood.

The programme concluded with all the teachers and students joining in to sing and perform on the theme song 'Healthy Values and Happy Life'.

Every year the students of **Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues College of Engineering**, Bandra participate in the various sports events held during the semester to claim the prestigious Sports trophy.

We started the even semester with the Intra Collegiate Cricket Tournament. The matches were held at Shivaji Park, Dadar. After 2 weeks of gritty matches, BE Computers won the tournament. BE Production bagged the second place and BE Electronics came in third.

Our Inter Collegiate Sports Festival, Athlos, is an event we take immense pride in. Even after having to postpone it due to unforeseen circumstances, it didn't diminish our spirits. Instead we worked twice as hard and put our heart and soul into making Athlos a grand success. From the 19th to the 22nd of January, 2017 participants from more than 35 colleges across Mumbai participated in the various events held in our college. Ground football, rink football, basketball, volleyball were the events for boys and, for girls we had rink football, throwball and basketball. Indoor games included table tennis, carrom and chess for boys as well as girls. Winners went home with medals, certificates and prize money. It was truly a sporting extravaganza.

The badminton tournament for girls and boys was held across 2 days where SE Elec won the first place among the boys and SE IT claimed the title among girls. Following closely was the Volleyball (for boys) and Throw ball (for girls) tournaments which were played with great might

Various Sports Events

by the 12 participating teams. Both sports were won by their respective reigning champions, Volleyball- BE Comps and Throw ball- TE Elec. In the following week boys basketball tournament was held where all classes of information technology showcased brilliant performance. TE Info. Tech., Se Info. Tech. And BE Info. Tech stood 1st, 2nd and 3rd place respectively.

The much awaited Annual Sports Day was held on the 18th of February, 2017 at Priyadarshini Park, Napeansea Road. We had multiple track events for boys and girls along with shot put, long jump and tug of war. We also had races for our staff members. This year we introduced a new sport for girls, box cricket. The event was a part of our Cultural Festival, Euphoria. TE Electronics stood first place and TE Info. Tech. stood second.

We are very proud of our college sports teams for representing our college in sporting events of colleges across Mumbai. Mr. Pratikraj Salian (Boys Sports Secretary) and I extend our hearty thanks to college authorities and sports-in-charges, Mr. Sunil Chaudhari and Mrs. Dipali Bhise for their faith in us and guiding us throughout. We would like to acknowledge our volunteers who helped us in every event and made them a success. We would also like to express our gratitude towards the Students' Council 2016-17 for the motivation and tireless support through our endeavour's.

The greatest gift you can give to your family and the world is a healthy you! And the best way to achieve this is through sports and exercises.

At Father Agnel School, Delhi games, exercises and sports form an integral part of the school curriculum. They help in developing a holistic personality of our students.

Every year our school organises its sports day to provide a platform to our students to display their skills, hard work and determination towards sports. This year as well our school organised its sports day, Chrysalis, on 1st March, 2017. Students of class II and III participated in this with full zeal.

The event flagged off with students digging their heels and swinging their arms in rhythm for the March Past. This was then followed by the students performing Yoga asanas to highlight the importance of a healthy mind, body and soul. Students also demonstrated body balance and team work through 'pyramids' where they made patterns and levels in the air. Next was the skipping drill wherein the students projected hand-eye coordination. In the process of learning

Sports Day at Fr. Agnel School, Delhi

the skipping drill, the students immensely increased their stamina as well. In the skating event the audience witnessed elegance and style on wheels. To add to the fun element students also participated in unique races like groom yourself, unlock your luck and lace your shoes. Parents also got a taste of the fun games with tug of war and sack race.

Our little ones participated with full enthusiasm in the challenging and exciting events. The parents of the students also showed their support with their presence and participation.

It was amazing to see the indomitable spirits of our little wonders who despite getting exhausted at times kept moving ahead with their practice sessions. To quote Michael Jordan "Never say never because limits, like fears, are often just illusions."

Our little Agnelites indeed did not give up and collectively worked to make their sports day a successful event.

Market Day With A Difference

Saturday 18th February 2017, the pre-Primary children of **Fr. Agnel's Vidyankur School, Pune** celebrated "Market Day" as a tribute to all the people who work hard to make our living comfortable. The tiny tots came dressed like green grocers, cobblers, tea man, balloon man,



Parents enjoying snacks provided by Ishwari sisters.

vendors etc. A market was setup in Pre-Primary campus where all the children performed their roles as per the stalls given to them. This year

even Parents of Upper Kindergarten were invited to the market where they purchased fruits, vegetables and other eatables sold by the children at reasonable rates. The market day celebrated with a difference taught the children the value of money and value of all our helpers. The parents enjoyed the experience and participated with great enthusiasm in the market day by purchasing the items which



Vegetable Seller.

were for sale. The money raised by the children through this event would be donated to charity. Thus the event was the great success.

Day three of Reliance Foundation Youth Sports National Football Championships saw Mumbai boys and girls from **Fr. Agnel Multipurpose School and Junior College, Navi Mumbai** keep their winning streak going. Playing in front of their home crowd, Father Agnel School & Junior College bagged a double crown in the Senior Girls and Boys category finals of the inaugural Reliance Foundation Youth Sports Football Nationals Championship at the Cooperage ground.

Fr. Agnel Multipurpose School and Junior College edged out Rosary Higher Secondary School, Goa 1-0 to win in the senior girl's category at the Reliance Foundation Youth Sports National Football Championship held in Mumbai. Fr Agnel Multipurpose School, playing at home went ahead in the 22nd minute of the game with a splendid goal from Akanksha Kandalkar. The Mumbai eves played some exquisite passes on the way to scoring the lone goal of the game. The Goan girls fought back strongly throughout the game but the defence of Fr Agnel Multipurpose School was unbeatable. Akanksha Kandalkar for Fr. Agnel Multipurpose School once again showcased

Reliance Foundation Youth Sports National Football Championships

her skills throughout the game and walked away as the top scorer and won the Golden Ball award and Ankita Shinde won the Golden Gloves award.

Fr. Agnel Multipurpose School and Junior College, Mumbai held their nerves in a thrilling encounter against Govt. HSS, Panampally Nagar (Kochi) to beat their counterparts and won the title in the Senior Boys Category. The fiercely contested finale witnessed a tie at 1-1 with the game moving into a penalty shootout to decide the winners. Ashwin miss at a crucial shot during the penalty shootout resulted in the Mumbai boys winning the title by 4-2 in penalties.

Sachin Tendulkar along with Abhishek Bachchan and John Abraham joined Mrs. Nita Ambani, Founder & Chairperson Reliance Foundation Youth Sports to grace the occasion on the final day.

Marathi Divas Celebrated With Gaiety at Fr. Agnels, Vashi

Kusumagraj, a son of our state, a great poet and playwright is always remembered for his colossal contribution to the Marathi Literature. In the middle school we walked down the memory lane on Tuesday, the 27th of February, remembering this creative person. It was the initiative of two 8th standard students that sparked off this celebration of "Marathi Divas". The Marathi teachers and Music sirs soon came out with a short and meaningful programme.

"Marathi Maati" the famous poem was recited melodiously with musical accompaniment. After a short role play on the importance, glory and blossoming of the Marathi language it was time for the interesting play "ShyamcheeAai". This play written by Sane Guruji depicted many

simple and important life lessons. The student decked up in traditional attire put up a small village scene on the stage. The play was a different way of making young minds see discerningly.

A healthy mind and a healthy body is so important for one's wellbeing. This was depicted by our young student who deftly handled the "Silambam". Silambam is a martial art, using wooden sticks. They are twisted, turned and twirled at great speed to defend oneself. We were given a short introduction to Silambam which was an eye opener for one and all.

Thus through a variety of items, we celebrated "Marathi Divas" in a fulfilling manner as rightly described in the song

**'IaaBalaoAamhaMsaBaagya
baaolataomarazi
jaahlaoKrocaQanya
Eoktaomarazi'**



Fr. AGNEL'S BLESSINGS

GOT A GOOD JOB ABROAD

Vasai : My son was praying to Ven.Fr.Agnel to bless him with a good job abroad. He was attending nine Sundays Novena at the Ashram. By the grace of Ven.Fr.Agnel he has now secured a very good job in Dubai and he is quite happy. With a grateful heart an offering of ₹.3000.

-Dominic Fulya

GIFT OF A SON

Chembur : I am a great devotee of Ven. Fr.Agnel. I have received numerous blessings from him. Recently I was blessed with a son after one daughter. As a token of my love and gratitude I offer Prasad to the Ashram to be distributed to devotees on Sunday at the Shrine.

-Bijni

CURED FROM SPLITTING HEADACHES

Colva-Goa : for a long time I used to suffer from splitting headaches and I was unable to do much work. I tried different medications as prescribed by the doctors but I did not find any improvement. I then came to Pilar and prayed fervently to Ven. Fr.Agnel to place his healing touch on me.

It is now over ten years and I have been completely cured and keeping good health. I thank Ven.Fr.Agnelo and pray that he be granted honours of the altar soon.

-Rosalina Fernandes

CURED OF KIDNEY AILMENT

Sion : My sister was very sick and was unable to walk. We took her to the doctor and he was suspecting a kidney ailment. I prayed to Ven.Fr.Agnel to place his healing touch on her. I am happy to say that through the blessings of Ven.Fr.Agnel she is alright now. Today I brought her to the Ashram to pay our homage with a thanks offering of ₹.501.

-Anita Bechhan

SPECIAL FAVOUR OBTAINED

Santacruz : I have been praying to Ven. Fr.Agnel for a special favour. I am happy to say that through his blessings I have obtained the special favour. My grateful thanks to Ven.Fr.Agnel with an offering of ₹.500.

-Veena D'Costa

CURED OF INTESTINAL DISORDER

Majorda-Goa : Our sister Fiona was very sick with an intestinal disorder. The doctor advised us to take her to Mumbai for further treatment. We pray fervently to Ven.Fr.Agnel and also gave her to drink the water of the relic of Ven. Fr. Agnel. To our great relief the operation was successful and she has fully recovered. Our thanks to Ven.Fr.Agnel and we pray that he may be beatified soon.

-Lovina Fernandes

SHOWER OF BLESSINGS

USA : We are staunch devotees of Ven. Fr.Agnel since many years. All our prayers have been granted through his heavenly intercession. Now by the blessing of Fr.Agnel we are well settled down in USA with good job and elegant apartment. As a token of our profound gratitude an offering of ₹.3,000 to the Ashram.

-John & Preeti John

FERVENT PLEA ANSWERED

Trichur – Kerala : I was fervently praying to Ven.Fr.Agnel for particular favour, which I found to be inaccessible for me due to unfavourable conditions. Now, by the grace of Fr.Agnel I have achieved the goal. My heartfelt thanks to Fr.Agnel with an offering of ₹.6,000 for your various charitable activities under his patronage.

-Jomy Jose

Lent- A time for Greening of the Soul

-Janina Gomes

Lent is often associated with wearing a long face and making sacrifices that are hard for us to make. Lent is a time of repentance alright, when we also make amends for the wrong we have done to others. But, more importantly, it is a time to refresh ourselves and to plant the seeds of hope for our tomorrows.

We have all seen people transplanting rice in the fields. The soil has to be properly dug up and softened. The plant is in need of sunshine and the rains to put forth new shoots. Our souls are very much like the rice fields. There is a time and a season for transplantation, and that period is Lent.

Our souls need regular watering with pray, alms giving and penance- the three pillars on which the Lenten season rests. When we pray as Jesus said, we should not pray hypocritically by wearing sack cloth and ashes for the whole world to see us, but rather by deepening our prayer lives in such a way that God becomes ever present to us.

Similarly, when we give alms- our right hand should not know what our left hand is doing. When we give, let us give generously and quietly. We should not make known abroad the good we are doing. But, when we see the needy, let us instead respond to their needs, even in secret.

As for penance, true contrition is not when we make a big thing of it. Instead, it can sometimes take the form of a quiet apology, a reconciliatory

gesture, a warm hug or embrace.

These are all positive ways of greening our souls. Why do I call it greening of the soul? This is a metaphor from nature. Green grass is the sign of springtime when the old leaves are replaced by the new, new shoots spring out of the soil, and everything looks restful and peaceful. Similarly, souls that are withering in the dry ground are rejuvenated once more by this time of preparation for Easter.

Easter is the feast of light and our preparation for it through Lenten practices is a way of spreading light in the darkness. That is why the practices are never negative- giving up alcohol, giving up cigarettes, giving up sweets, giving up eating fruits. These practices are good in themselves when we remember why we are doing them. We are not doing these things to make ourselves unhappy. But we are denying ourselves for some greater cause.

Lent thus has a positive connotation. It is a time to prepare the ground of our souls for a good harvest of good deeds, good intentions, good thoughts. It is a time of renewal. To renew ourselves we reject what is evil and soak ourselves in what is good.

This Lenten season let us think how we can do small acts of charity, how we can tithe, how we can turn towards God with more determination and consistency and how we can enrich our lives and through our lives enrich others.

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

Web : <http://ash.fragnel.edu.in>

Out of Their Bounty

K. Vaz	Mumbai	40000	B. Enterprises	Mumbai	2500	S. Abraham	Uttarakhand	1000
P. Srivastava	Mumbai	35000	J.G. Almeida	Vasai	2500	K. Zaman	Kolkata	1000
X.A. Shahiwalla	Mumbai	20000	A. D'Souza	Vasai	2500	J.J. Mathew	Mumbai	1000
J.G. Pereira	Mumbai	20000	E.J. Bhatia	Baroda	2500	S.D. Surve	Mumbai	1000
A.M. Soares	U.K.	18000	C.V. George	Kerala	2400	H. Nagarwalla	Mumbai	1000
J. D'Souza	Mumbai	18000	T. V. Rodrigues	Mumbai	2400	R. Shroff	Mumbai	1000
C.C. Pereira	Mumbai	15000	J. Pardiwala	Mumbai	2001	A.T. Fernandes	Mumbai	1000
D.J. Rebello	Mangalore	15000	S. Fernandes	Navi Mumbai	2000	J. Castelino	Mumbai	1000
S.M. Barboza	Mumbai	10000	B. Abreu	Bangalore	2000	M. Fernandes	Delhi	1000
S.S. Akshikar	Pune	10000	R. Chavan	Vasai	2000	D. D'Silva	Mumbai	1000
B. Fernandes	Mumbai	10000	R. Thomas	Kerala	2000	B. McCarren	Mumbai	1000
D. Pires	Mumbai	10000	R.B. Casti	Thane	2000	S.R. Johny	Kerala	1000
J. Berchmans	Chennai	9000	M.J. Tatna	Mumbai	2000	N. Pattani	Gujarat	1000
K.N. Bamania	Mumbai	9000	F.P. Joseph	Kerala	2000	P.J. Jose	Kerala	1000
V.Chavan	Mumbai	9000	Paul D'Mello	Vasai	2000	J.M. Pamani	Mumbai	1000
M. A. Prasad	Mumbai	8000	Dr. B.M. Vyas	Mumbai	2000	S.R. Johny	Kerala	1000
Jomy Jose	Kerala	7500	A.A. Lisboa	Palghar	2000	N. Pattani	Anand	1000
S. Y. Meshvam	Dombivli	6800	S.C. Mehta	Mumbai	2000	P.J. Jose	Kerala	1000
J. Fernandes	Mumbai	6000	S. Saldanha	Mangalore	2000	J.M. Pamani	Mumbai	1000
K. Gonsalves	Mumbai	6000	S. D'Mello	Vasai	2000	V.S. Bilolikar	Mumbai	1000
J. Zacharias	Kerala	6000	F. Almeida	Mumbai	2000	Lily Divecha	Mumbai	1000
F. Quadros	Mumbai	6000	S.S. Sant	Panvel	2000	J.F. D'Souza	Mangalore	1000
T.H. Bhatia	Mumbai	6000	A. K. Ohal	Silvassa	2000	K.H. Ganatra	Mumbai	600
T.K.M. Das	Dombivli	6000	P.V. Jose	Navi Mumbai	2000	R. Parmar	Bhayander	600
K. Borwankar	Vashi	5001	R. D'Mello	Mumbai	2000	M.J. Lam	Nasik	565
S. Solanki	Ahmedabad	5000	S. Mathews	Pune	2000	M.J. Sheth	Mumbai	501
Rosy Nazareth	Bengaluru	5000	P.M. Gaikwad	Jalna	2000	J.D. Chikhliwala	Mumbai	501
Meal Farm	Mumbai	5000	A. Dias	Mumbai	2000	B.R. Mehta	Mumbai	501
Sahil S. Mehta	Mumbai	5000	N. Vaz	Mumbai	2000	M. Chacko	Jabalpur	500
L.N. Rane	Mumbai	5000	P. D'Costa	Vasai	2000	F. Sequeira	Vasai	500
X.C. Raj	Dombivli	5000	A. T. Daruwalla	Mumbai	2000	M. Gregory	Kerala	500
T. George	Navi Mumbai	5000	J. P. Antony	Kerala	2000	A. Varghese	Kerala	500
D. Kumar K.	Mumbai	5000	V.N. Heldt	Secunderabad	2000	A. Mundachal	Kerala	500
H. Patel	Dahisar	5000	W.D. Bathena	Mumbai	2000	A. Rebeiro	Chennai	500
F. Fernandes	Mumbai	5000	A. Bomanbehram	Mumbai	2000	B.M. Samy	Kerala	500
R. Natalwalla	Mumbai	5000	B. Rita Peters	Kolkata	2000	E.T. D'Souza	Dombivli	500
A.J. DeSouza	Mumbai	5000	E. Devassy	Thane	2000	M.S. Nathani	Mumbai	500
S. D'Silva	Vasai	5000	L. Varghese	Kerala	2000	N.J. Gunderia	Mumbai	500
J.K. Tandon	Mumbai	5000	S. Kataki	Mumbai	1800	R. F. Gonsalves	Thane	500
S. D'Silva	Pune	5000	J. Joseph	T.N.	1500	T. Kotak	Rajkot	500
R. Albuquerque	Australia	4700	L.L. Nunes	Vasai	1500	K. Maneckji	Mumbai	500
F. D. Bathena	Mumbai	4,600	A. Daniel	Kerala	1500	H. Fernandes	Mumbai	500
Subramaniam R.	Mumbai	4500	V. Karani	Mumbai	1500	M. Fernandes	Mumbai	500
K.B. Saman	Mumbai	3501	A. Jayasimhan	Mumbai	1500	V.J. Almeida	Vasai	500
H.M. Shah	Virar	3001	R.A. Carvalho	Vasai	1500	L. George	Kerala	500
H. Sitlani	Mumbai	3000	E.V. Margaret	Kerala	1200	L. George	Kerala	500
A.M. Chakkalayil	Kerala	3000	S.N. Irani	Mumbai	1111	S. Saldanha	Chennai	500
R.A. thomas	Kerala	3000	M. Fernandes	Mumbai	1100	F. D'Souza	Mumbai	500
F.R. Mehta	Mumbai	3000	B.K. Thomas	Kerala	1006	C.A. Cardoso	Mumbai	500
R.N. Bilimoria	Mumbai	3000	D.C. Pereira	Thane	1001	G.R. Rana	Thane	500
J.C. Nadar	Mumbai	3000	Mehroo & Pavri	Mumbai	1001	M. Jariwala	Surat	500
L.F. D'Souza	Vasai	3000	V. Kadam	Mumbai	1001	A. D'Mello	Mumbai	500
D.J. Pereira	Mumbai	3000	S. Babulal	Mumbai	1001	S. Joseph	Kerala	500
L. Monteiro	Mangalore	3000	A. Brothers	Kerala	1000	Jomy Joseph	Bangalore	400
B.F.J. Vaz	Mumbai	3000	J. Jagrute	Belapur	1000	M. Chesson	Mumbai	301
L. Lobo	Mangalore	3000	S. Suresh	Mumbai	1000	F. Vincent	Punjab	300
			J.A. C. Roche	T.N.	1000			

FR. AGNEL MULTIPURPOSE SCHOOL, VASHI
CELEBRATES MARATHI DIVAS



Marathi Rajya Bhasha Divas

VARIOUS SPORTS EVENTS
BY CRCE COLLEGE, BANDRA



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SPORTS DAY

AT FR. AGNEL, GREATER NOIDA

