

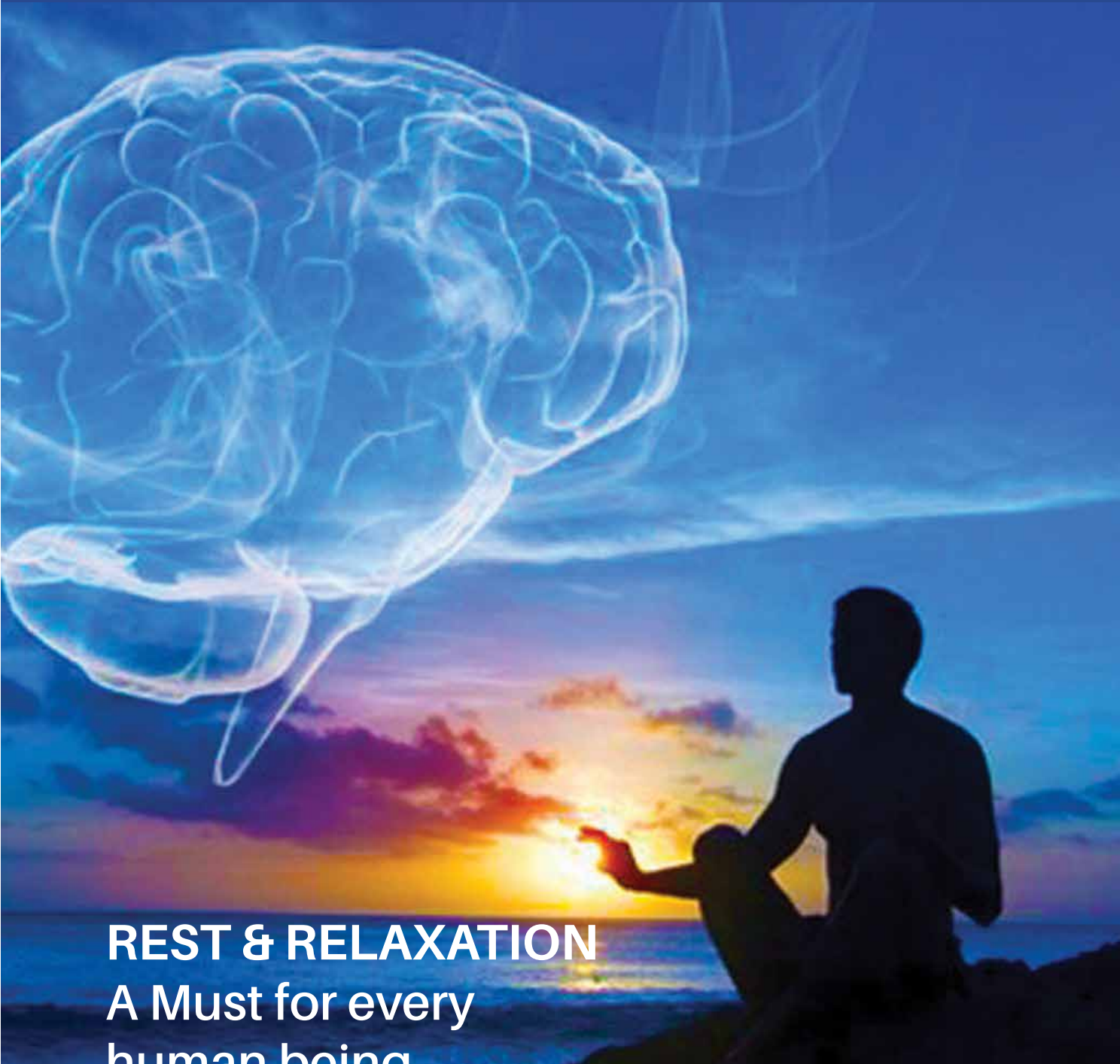


FR

May-June 2017

# **AGNEL**

## **SHRAM NEWS**



**REST & RELAXATION**  
A Must for every  
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FR. AGNEL  
ASHRAM

# NEWS

May-June 2017

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Magazine Designed by:  
**Darshana Sharma**

### Printed & Published by:

Fr. Nazareth Fernandes on behalf of Agnel Publications

### Editor:

Fr. Jose Alarico Carvalho, sfx.

### Printed at:

S.B.M Printers

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

### Place of Publication:

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

Single Copy Price: Rs. 15

Annual Subscription: Rs. 150

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### THE JOY OF GIVING

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Cheerful Giver



Letters from some  
Benefactors and  
Friends of our  
Balbhavan Children

### **Thomas Pallickaparamil, Kerala**

*Please find enclosed a D.D. for ₹.3000 as my gift for the orphans boys under your care. Will appreciate your prayers. Thank you.*

### **Lizzie Varghese, Kerala**

*Enclosed is a cheque of ₹.2000 for the orphan children in your Balbhuvan. I am happy to know that they are doing well in their studies and want to come up in life. Please pray for me and my family's good health and happiness.*

### **Meera Doshi, U.S.A.**

*Enclosed is a cheque for \$50 towards your Ashram*

*charitable works. Kindly pray for me and my family Thank you.*

### **Stanly Castalino, Dubai**

*Kindly accept my donation of ₹.10,000 for the benefit of the orphans under your care. This is a token of my thanksgiving for God's blessings and graces showered on my family. Please remember us in your prayers.*

### **Luke Kaithackal, U.S.A.**

*Please accept a donation of \$100 as my Christmas Gift for the orphan boys in your Balbhuvan. Kindly request the children to pray for our family.*

# RESURRECTION

## -HOW CONFIDENT IS YOUR BELIEF?

.....a quest for meaning!!!

This month, Christians the world over celebrated Easter. The Rising of Jesus from the dead, is the cornerstone of the entire Christian faith. The meaning of life and its purpose as well as the assurance of the ultimate goal that every Christian has in mind as his final destination, is entirely dependent on the Resurrection of Jesus. Therefore the choice that every Christian makes, each day of his or her life, is only driven by the certainty of his or her belief in the Resurrection. As St. Paul, the most important early preacher, who fired the then entire world, around the Mediterranean, with his preaching, categorically states, "if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain." (1 Cor 15, 14)

But in our preaching as well as in our exchange (dialogue) with other faiths, this central truth of our faith, on which everything else depends, is understated. The reasons for understating are multiple. In the dialogue circles the primary reason why the Resurrection of Jesus takes a back seat, is the common understanding of all known religious traditions about salvation. For almost all, salvation is an individual journey for liberation by any name understood, *moksha*, *nirvana*, *samadhi*, etc. This journey is the endless and unpredictable law of Karma, and the ultimate riddance of one's baggage of sin and its effects - endless cycle of uncertainty. The logic of this is based on the fundamental philosophical perspective that sin is the result of ignorance (inability) of the individual that he is the Atma (the Divine Reality), and until you achieve liberation from that ignorance, over multiple life cycles, you have no release, i.e. salvation.

The liberation that a Christian achieves, is not the result of his/her efforts but the empowerment given by the Risen Lord. There is a huge gap to be filled between the two - as the intervention of God in human history in a manner that He (God) is almost losing his Divine is impossible to understand in all systems of Advaita or Dvaita, at least as it is explained now. This statement is not contrary to dialogue, because this the

philosophical approach, and the religious approach could take a different path.

### THE ISSUES

1. I am neither a theologian, nor a biblical scholar, but the importance of Resurrection to our faith is so vital, that one does not need to be either to understand it. And because the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead is so central to us, both for our life experience as well as our need to explain, it is important to make it easy for ordinary faithful to know in depth what their belief is all about.
2. The key elements that theologians and biblical scholars grapple with while dealing with Resurrection as an essential part of the salvation event, is the question that is asked: did Jesus know that he was the promised Messiah. If the Resurrection is taken to be part of the plan of God in Jesus, that event should have been predicted and therefore expected as part of the revealed plan of God in Jesus. "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days." (John, 2, 19); And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." (John, 12, 32); For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. (Mt. 12, 40); <sup>21</sup> From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. (Mt. 16, 21); <sup>1</sup> And <sup>x</sup> He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be <sup>y</sup> rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be <sup>z</sup> killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup> He spoke this word openly (Mk, 8, 31).
3. The Resurrection of Jesus is not an isolated incident in the history of salvation of the world. It is the central element of God's revelation to man/woman, that God loves man/woman. The imagery of the Garden of Eden portrays



this, and the entire Old Testament message of the coming of the Messiah, as the ultimate fulfillment of God manifesting Himself to the world, is not only about His appearance among us (Emanuel), or even living among us as one of us, but most importantly, as a fulfillment of the unfolding of God's plan – that God loves man in a manner that human kind is transformed once and for all.

4. Other questions have been raised about Resurrection and the major distractions are:

**a. That Jesus did not die on the cross, but only fainted and thus he revived and went away.** The statement is laughable, after the excruciating death he suffered, the piercing with the lance, the extreme interest that the chief priests had in summarily finishing the threat of Jesus to them, the burial rites, the huge stone rolled on the mouth of the tomb and the soldiers placed on watch, make this allegation baseless and amusing.

**b. That the disciples stole the body of Jesus and hid it, and spread the canard up to this day that he had risen.** The amusing part of this, is that the body, that was the object of such a controversy was not found up to to this day. The version does not match with the following: i. the guys who had deserted Jesus and had run away, were in hiding and were completely distraught (Emmaus disciples), who in the Gospels are not even ready to believe that it is Jesus, when Jesus appeared, would not do this; ii. And why would all these apostles who had hidden the body of Jesus, die to defend that he was alive!!! So, this theory is good for amusement;

**c. The third major allegation is that the apostles were hallucinating.** How wonderful, they were hallucinating and continued to do so, even when martyred and dying, and that too in such numbers!!

**d. That it was all a myth.**

## MYTH, HISTORY AND METAHISTORY

5. A more widely accepted understanding of history is “ facts and events that happened in the past and which have contributed to

the development of human civilization”. How does one verify that events of the past are real. The empirical arguments are that i. they have been repeatedly seen, heard, touched, tasted, etc ( have been experienced through the senses); ii. they have happened at a particular time in history, and in a particular space (place, surroundings, environment, etc. ; iii. In case of past events, that they have been reported by reliable witnesses; iv. That there is evidence, at present, directly connected with that event or the person that validate the fact of the person or the event.

6. Although the above arguments are correct, they are not exhaustive. There is evidence of large meteorites having hit the earth and having caused craters. No one has seen them and even he/they were it would have been very few. The evidence is left on the debris that exists. It can be said so, of the solar system as well and so many others, whose “historical evidence ” is based on valid inferences.

7. How does Resurrection fit into such a history jacket? For the sake of consensus let us leave the apostles as witnesses, aside, because that is what the opponents allege.

(i) The first element that needs to be stated is: is the definition of history given above complete? Are there persons and events that could be real, but do not comply with all the terms of the “historicity”? An event that defies the laws of nature but exists, would that comply with the terms of history? e.g. a sudden cure, or a sudden illness; a premonition of something that is about to happen, and it really does: is this history too?

(ii) There is therefore another dimension to events and persons that goes beyond history when the event exists in time, but cannot be explained in space ( as conforming to the laws of nature, as known to us now). This history is known as “meta history” , (beyond history), because the existence of an event although complies with all the elements, cannot be explained within the range of those elements, alone.

(iii) Resurrection does not correspond to the laws of nature, therefore it cannot be dismissed as non-historical, because it defies history, and is beyond it,



transcends history, i.e. “metahistory”. The Resurrection of Jesus, while it meets most of the requirements of being history, at the same time it does not meet other essential elements of history: *the weight, the volume, the dimensions and the life (duration) of the Risen body? This makes the Resurrection comply with history but transcend it.*

8. A belief (faith) is relationship, and historical evidence is science. Science is non-personal, non affective, not requiring allegiance, whereas faith (belief) is the opposite of it all. Science is communicable, because it uses empirical, visible, tactile, etc. realities and categories, and therefore everyone can see it, touch it or even understand it. Belief does not have visible communicable categories or elements but responds through allegiance, commitment and personal transformation.

So, if belief is not based on objective historical facts as they are validated by science, can it be concluded that belief can even be about a myth? This is what some Christians although well meaning, who cannot explain Resurrection seek recourse to. Is Resurrection a myth then?

9. Myth generally has been explained as (i) *a traditional story, especially one concerning the early history of a people or explaining a natural or social phenomenon, and typically involving supernatural beings or events, (synonyms: folk tale, story, legend, tale, fable, saga, folklore, etc)* or (ii) *as a widely held but false belief or idea.* So myth is a false belief or idea, or is a subjective explanation about something real or imaginary.

The idea (i) of “false” and “true” relates to non existence of objective empirical facts or the existence of such facts; the other explanation of myth; (b) i.e. a traditional story, is about facts real or imaginary that are understood differently from their contextual reality. Both the above explanations about the understanding of “myth” relate to something that is believed but does not concur with the reality.

- i. That Jesus was a living person who was killed, is a universally accepted historical fact although there are those who deny it, without giving any reasons, or

who magnify it in such a manner that makes it unreal. Even contemporary historians, adverse to Christianity, affirm his existence.

- ii. That after the death of Jesus there was a large group of followers who were completely transformed and embraced a new way of life, defying all odds and persecutions, including death, and that movement did not cease for more than 18 centuries is also historically evident.
- iii. Thirdly and most importantly, myth takes a long time, a minimum of 100 years to take hold, because its very existence depends on obscurity and inaccessibility. Whereas the impact of the belief in the Resurrection, the happenings around the event, like the Sanhedrin interventions, the Roman interventions, that happened immediately after the death of Jesus, within months, as depicted by Luke in the Acts, do not comply with the myth phenomenon.
- iv. The immediate impact of the belief of the Resurrection on the apostles and the followers of Jesus, is far more powerful, evident and reliable, than what the witnesses may have stated about the fact of the Resurrection as historical evidence, which testimony may be questioned.

10. So here we have historical evidence of a man called Jesus who lived and who was condemned to death. We also have impeccable scientific and historical evidence of a large group of followers who after his death became transformed and embrace a new way of life that challenges, the natural, scientific understanding of life, relationships and aspirations.

11. Our faith is not about the scientific, historical evidence alone, but about our theological understanding and its acceptance. The disciples were invited by Jesus to follow him, and they did so, leaving behind what they were doing. It could just be possible that Jesus had a particular charisma that appealed to their simplicity, or perhaps they were even naïve to believe. So they followed him, and most did not even understand him, even up to the day of his death and even after his Resurrection. So, the consequent transformation that followed

in their lives, is not a result of a predefined pattern, it is the opposite of it, and therefore makes the impact creditable.

12. We do not need much of a blind belief here. The gospels do not paint Jesus in big colours, he is just an ordinary man who has a lot of appeal and people flock to him to listen to him. Something attracts people to him, although as events would unfold, they are not dumbstruck permanently and turn over when the going gets bad and even shout "crucify him, crucify him". This is the historical context as it is recorded and we must accept it, as we would accept any other narrative. People may even question the "miracles" as they happened and that would be acceptable too. If you are looking for objective historical evidence you have the duty to question everything, fair enough again.
13. Gospels appear later, much after Jesus died and rose again (if so). Centuries later many writers have tried to explain the Gospel events differently and questioned the Gospel narratives, not so much about the reality of the events but about the way we understand them. That is fair critique. So many among us, are not very comfortable to speak about Resurrection and we do so, we do it diffidently.

## **RESURRECTION - WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO ME, AS A BELIEVER!**

14. A believer does not look for historical evidence, that is the task of the so-called theologians and biblical scholars. A believer looks for Jesus who was born, died and rose again as his/her Saviour. There is no linkage whatsoever between being one's Saviour and God, with the historical aspect of that person or entity. Even a quest for such a linkage is infructuous.
15. A theologian who demands from the biblical

scholar a clear unassailable proof of what Jesus did or said, can do so for all time to come. But a faithful does not need or demand an empirical proof of what Jesus did or said, but looks for that link between him or her and Jesus that gives his or her life a meaning.

If the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead is subjected to detailed scientific investigation and found to be correct, as a particular scientist would want to see it, that would in no way change the impact of the Resurrection on the Christian faithful, because the faith of a believer does not depend on the historicity of an event but on the transformative impact a particular event has had on the life, perspective and aspirations of the faithful.

When a couple of scientists sat together to discuss the historical fact of the Resurrection, one scientist asked how would we be able to prove or disprove something which is beyond the realm of science. The Resurrection of Jesus is not only about Jesus rising from the dead but rising to life which is no longer subject to death. How would a scientist address this issue, and with this the discussion ended.

So is the Resurrection event real? Is it historical? The answer to both the questions is: (a) the Resurrection is a "meta event", i.e. an event that cannot be contained perfectly in space and time, categories, and (b) the Resurrection is "meta historical" because what happened at Resurrection impacted believers in a manner that is beyond history.

So for all those, especially who because of their conversations with individuals of other faiths find it difficult to speak about Resurrection, and consider it myth, are free to do so, and since it is a myth for them it will impact them only as a myth, whereas for a believer it impacts fundamentally and allows him or her to see and live reality differently.

**-Jose Alarico Carvalho**  
alarc22@yahoo.co.in

*Faith is the bird that feels  
the light when the dawn is still dark.  
- Rabindranath Tagore*

# Father Conceicao Rodrigues

## A Great Visionary And Missionary

- E.F. Joseph

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It is 33 years now since that great missionary Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues founder of Fr. Agnel Ashram and pioneer in the field of Technical Educational Institutions, left for his heavenly abode on 22nd June 1984. In the words of St. Paul 'to receive the crown of eternal life.' Born in Goa, died in Mumbai rendering yeoman service to Society. He was Father to Fatherless, Voice to Voiceless, Good Shepherd and guiding light to innumerable hapless people. He was a man of dynamic personality. His life was full of crisis and challenges. His patriotic as well as secular views and writings were much criticised, rather misunderstood, during the Goan liberation movement and therefore he became an undesirable person to the authorities. He had to face rejection and setbacks but nothing deterred that brave soldier of Christ from achieving the goal for which he had set out on his missionary journey. "My land, my people that is all what mattered to him".. The hand of the Lord was always with him that he could build huge Technical & Educational Institutions. He had to leave his mother state Goa due to some political reasons but later it became a blessing in disguise for him. Strange are the ways of God sometimes, it is called a divine intervention. God makes everything good for those whom he loves. That is what has actually happened in the eventful life of Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues also, the stone that was rejected by the builders became the corner stone.

Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues started his missionary activities at Bandra, Mumbai in a very humble way by giving shelter to 12 street children. A tiny seed which he sowed has blossomed and now branched out to in Verna, Assaagao in Goa, Vashi in Navi Mumbai, Ambernath in Thane, Gautam Nagar in New Delhi, Noida, Greater Noida and other parts of Uttar Pradesh consisting of Engineering Colleges, Catering Colleges, Polytechnics, ITI, Trade Schools, Academic & Technical Schools, Junior Colleges, MBA Courses, Rural Development Programmes, Health & Meditation Centre, Orphanages for Boys & Girls, Community Polytechnics, Overseas Recruitments & Trade Test Centre

and numerous job oriented courses in a nutshell from Kinder Garden to PH.D level (KG to PH.D) catering to the needs of thousands of students.

He made the name 'AGNELS' a synonym for better education. He was of the view that better facility + better faculty = better technician. A shrewd visionary foresaw the future requirements of the country. Step by step he brought up institutes at Bandra from Nursery to Engineering College, now at Ph.D level.

It was his long cherished dream to start an Engineering College at Bandra, and it was virtually accomplished exactly on the day of his funeral. While his funeral service was going on in the Ashram compound there came in Govt. order granting permission to start an Engineering College. Prof. Kadu, then Director of technical education of Govt. of Maharashtra in a tearful adieu to the departed soul said that the country has lost a Saint, "A Saint of Technical Education" yes, of course, a Saint who sowed seed of technical education and nurtured it. He was of the noble view that there is no greater charitable work than that of making a person employable or providing him job to earn an honest livelihood and thus save families. Thousands of families are directly and much more indirectly benefited from his brilliant missionary works. The great humanitarian and educational works done by Fr. Conceicao have been appreciated by the State and Central Govt's at all times.

Apart from building up Charitable and Educational Institutions, he made Agnel Ashram a centre for devotion to Fr. Agnel, whose name and devotion was earlier confined to the boundaries of Goa, a small state. Because of his dedicated activities, devotion to Fr. Agnel spread far and wide all over the country and the world. Thousands of devotees irrespective of their various religion and economic status seek his heavenly intercession for their various needs. It is a rare scene where people of

*Contd. to page 13*



# The Mystery of Pentecost

-Leon Bent

Pentecost was one of the Jewish festive holidays. However, it was not called Pentecost. That's the Greek name. The Jews called it the Feast of Harvest (End Times/the original "Earth Day") or the Feast of Weeks. Shavout, as it is also known, is celebrated fifty days after the Passover, and is a festival that reminds Jews that God meets both, their physical and spiritual needs. Jewish pilgrims celebrated the goodness of God and the bringing in of the wheat harvest ("fullness of life"). The feast is mentioned in five places in the Pentateuch—Exodus 23, 24, Leviticus 16, Numbers 28, and Deuteronomy 16.

Pentecost (pentēkost in Greek) is the fiftieth day after Easter in the Christian dispensation. At the first Pentecost after the Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus, the Holy Spirit was manifested, showered and communicated as a Divine Person to the Church, fulfilling the Paschal Mystery of Christ according to His promise" (726, 731; cf. 1287; also: Cf. Catechism, Glossary, p. 893). Yes, Pentecost was the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in fulfilment of Jesus' assurance (Acts of the Apostles 2:33-36).

## Culmination of the Paschal Mystery

Pentecost was the beginning of the Church's Mission! The Holy Spirit was sent by Christ to sanctify the Church. "The Church was made manifest to the world on the day of Pentecost by the explosive outpouring of the Holy Spirit." The significance of such a beginning should not be missed. Pentecost is the culmination of Jesus' Paschal Mystery, where the incarnate, crucified and now risen and ascended Lord lavishes on the world, the Spirit with which he himself was anointed. We could say that Pentecost is the point at which Jesus wished to arrive, as it were, so that, what he did in one time and place during his sojourn on earth, could be extended to every time and place through his Holy Spirit. This outreach is the Church, that is, the assembly of all that Jesus draws to himself when he is lifted up. (See Jn. 12:32).

## Inaugurates the Last Times

Pentecost, the completion of the Paschal Mystery, also simultaneously inaugurates the last times. "Inaugurated eschatology sees the first coming of Christ as the beginning of the kingdom in the present, while acknowledging that the consummation or fulfillment of the kingdom of God is yet to come" (*Pocket Dictionary of Theological Terms*, 46).

I present eight different supporting reasons to view the Kingdom of God through the lens of inaugurated eschatology:

The kingdom of God is at hand (Mark 1:15); this is... the last days (Acts 2:16-17); The end of the ages has come (1 Cor. 10:11); In later times, the last days, some will depart from the faith and there will come times of difficulty, just as you already see (1 Tim. 4:1; 2 Tim. 3:1); In the last days, scoffers will come, and have come (2 Pet. 3:3-5); Treasure something eternal in these last days (James 5:3); In these last days, God spoke to us by Christ (Heb. 1:2); The powers of the future exist in the present (Heb. 6:5).

"Pentecost inaugurates the day of reckoning – not the final day of judgment – but its prolepsis (a rhetorical device by which objections are anticipated and answered in advance), as Israel and the nations are gathered to be judged and justified, in these last days, before the "Last Day", in which only judgment will prevail" (Michael Horton, *The Gospel Commission... formation of Disciples*.)

## The Birth of the Church

Before the events of the first Pentecost, which came a few weeks after Jesus' death and resurrection, there were followers of Jesus, but no movement that could be meaningfully called "the Church." Thus, from an historical point of view, Pentecost is the day on which the church was born. This is also true from a spiritual perspective, since the Spirit brings the Church into existence and enlivens it. Pentecost is about renewal, energy and enthusiasm of the Body of Christ. Consequently, Pentecost is the Church's birthday.

*Contd. to page 16*

# AGNEL HAPPENINGS

## Visitation Of Fr. General To Agnel Region

**T**he Agnel Region of the Society of Pilar happily welcomed the announcement of the good news of the Visitation by the Superior General of the Society of Pilar, V. Rev. Fr. Francisco Carvalho, to the Agnel Region in February, March and April, 2017. The members of the Region were elated with this news and the Regional Superior Rev. Fr. Alarico Carvalho lost no time in setting into motion the preparations for the same. Immediate consultations followed and a programme was finalized, keeping in mind the time crunch faced by Fr. General in view of the oncoming XIX General Chapter preparations.

Visitation is a time for the Superior General to take stock of the overall implementation and living out of the charism and the missionary mandate that the Society of Apostolic Life is called upon to fulfil in the changing times. It is a time to introspect, discuss, decide and give fitting orientation to the apostolate of the members. Above all it is time to meet the members personally on one-to-one basis and in the communities and, encourage them in their apostolate, reprimand the errant who deviate, take necessary decisions of importance in loco, thus fostering and promoting missionary enthusiasm in the members and the religious communities of the Society.

Fr. General first visited the Delhi units of the Region comprising Gautam Nagar in Delhi, Noida and Greater Noida from February 28 to March 1 and March 23 to 24. This was followed by visit to Verna and Assagao in

Goa, from March 27th to 28th . On March 29th Fr. General arrived in Vashi, Mumbai followed by Pune on 30th . On March 30th evening finally Fr. General arrived in Bandra, Mumbai on his final leg of visitation, where he pitched his tent for three days.

Fr. General was accompanied by the Regional Superior on his Visitation Programme. He was welcomed with joy at all our units. In all places Fr. General visited all the institutions, met the members personally inquiring into, above all, their health and also the apostolate that they were involved in. He met the members also in the Local Communities deliberating on the common issues that affected the members and their apostolate. He made notable observations wherever needed for the guidance of the members and communities.

Fr. General and the Regional Superior were given a special welcome by the Fr. Agnel Ashram Community of Fathers and Balbhuvan children with bouquets and welcome song. At Bandra Fr. General visited the various institutions of the complex and had a special interaction with the Heads of Institutions and Departments in the Ashram library. In his address he appreciated and thanked them for their contribution for the dynamic growth and development of the complex as it stands today.

Towards the end Fr. General capped his Visitation with a meeting with all the Agnel Region Fathers sharing his observations on the visitation and appreciating on the missionary work of educating and skilling the young into employable trades and disciplines. This was followed by a photo session and agape. The members then bade adieu to Fr. General who then departed to Goa by night train Konkan Kanya on 1st April.



# Visitation of Fr. Gene



*Bandra -Inspecting Ashram Office Management System*



*Bandra - Visit to various institutions*



*Bandra -Focussed look at Pre-Primary play station*



*Bandra -Interacting with a Balbhuvan Child Mst.Irfan Shaikh*



*Bandra -Receiving Floral welcome from Mst.Vedant*



*Bandra -Enjoying perform*





# eral to Agnel Region



Bandra -Taking a deeper look at machine shop



Bandra -Launching Engineering students' car project



Bandra -The Balbhuvan musicians at their best, mesmerizing Fr.General



formance by Balbhuvan children



Bandra -Becoming all things to all men





## 'NIE' Best Student of the Year

**N**ivedita Tiwari student of Fr. Agnel's Vidyankur School, Pune of Std VIII has



made the school proud by bagging the 'Best Student award' Organized by the NIE. She was awarded with a trophy, Cheque of ₹.1000 and a Certificate. The Management, Principal, Teachers and Students congratulate her for this wonderful achievement.

the achievements of students in various fields. The function was well appreciated by all the parents and the Management. The function came to a close with the rendition of the School Anthem.



*Dancing To The Tune Of The Theme 'Healthy Values Happy Life' By LKG kids.*

## Annual Function Report (Pre - Primary)

**F**r. Agnel's Vidyankur School celebrated the Annual function of the Pre – Primary Section on 31.03.2017 and 1.4.2017. All students from Nursery, LKG and UKG classes took part.

The function started traditionally with the lighting of the lamp, prayer and welcome dance. Tiny tots of the school created a beautiful ambience with their performance. Through various skits like Family Bonding, Beautiful Heart and Green Forest, they delivered the message of 'Healthy Value Happy Life'.

The School Report was presented highlighting



*Nursery kids dancing to the tune of 'life is a beautiful journey'.*

## Summer Extra-Vaganza

**T**he summer camp, an annual feature at Fr.Agnels, Vashi was conducted between 8th and 30th April 2017 in the Agnel Sports Complex. Other than the usual sports like athletics, football, gymnastics, basketball, badminton, chess, hockey, table tennis, kabaddi, kho-kho, lawn tennis, skating, swimming and shooting, the camp had new sports like baseball, golf and archery this year. The camp encourages students to use their time constructively and engage in a sporting activity of their choice. The camp aims at overall development of children and helps to discover young talent. A whopping 1,059 students availed the various facilities. 222 students grabbed the opportunity to learn swimming. 66 students opted to learn golf. The camp was a hit with students and parents.



*'Heal the World ' a message given by UKG kids.*

At Agnells, Vashi, Maharashtra Day was celebrated in a unique and interesting way. Through a musical performance, tiny tots of Std.1 and 2, dressed in traditional Maharashtrian attire, recreated scenes of rural Maharashtrian homes bringing to life the daily chores of people living there and the struggles of our farmers. Through their act, they refreshed the memory of the audience about the sincere efforts of various saints and Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, who strove to preserve and protect the rich Marathi culture. The entire basketball court resonated with the lyrics of 'Mee Marathi' thereby reviving each individual's spirit with Marathi fervor.

This programme also coupled up as the closing ceremony of the Summer Camp held at Agnells from 8th to 30th April. As part of the finale, all student participants displayed the skills and techniques of the various games they had

learnt over the last three weeks.

The Chief Guests for this event were Mr. Siddharth Naik and Mr. Brijesh Patel, both distinguished and accomplished golfers. Popular as 'The golfing duo of Ahmedabad', these dignitaries hold a World record and 3 National records in golf and are the role icons for young golfers. Their passion for the game of golf brought them together and does compel them to spread its awareness far and wide. They have founded 'Cady's Golf Club' wherein the unsung heroes of golf are encouraged and felicitated. Siddharth Naik is instrumental in bringing golf to schools in Ahmedabad and to Fr. Agnells in Mumbai.

The evening of 1st May 2017 at Agnells Basketball Ground, culminated into a rich experience filled with heartwarming Marathi flavour, brilliant presentation of techniques and fine nuances of various games.

*See Photos on Back Cover*

## Summer Camp

**E**very year Fr. Agnel's Vidyankur School, Pune organizes the summer camp to enhance the children's talent hobbies and interest. This year the summer camp was held from 10th April to 26th April 2017. This year to we had a great response from Std. II to VII with a total of 388 students.

State and national level coaches trained the

students in gymnastic, sports dance, table tennis, skating, basketball, cricket, football, hockey and music. Every year a new activity is introduced, this year we introduced piano and guitar classes .

We also had a canteen to provide refreshments to the participants at a minimal cost. Children enjoyed learning new sports, games and activities.

*See Photos on Back Inside*

### *Father Conceicao Rodrigues, A Great Visionary And Missionary - Contd. from pg 7*

various faith pray together at Fr .Agnel Ashram which has become one of the reputed shrines in Maharashtra, really a shrine for secular India without any kind of discrimination.

Agnells has become a hub for students and job seekers. There is no surprise that students and staff get preference in Interviews and recruitments, over other candidates. Nearly three thousand staff and employees are directly employed in these Institutions across the country. Thousands of students are well employed in reputed companies in India and abroad. Of all the works he has started, Balbhavans (Orphanages) stand apart with great pride. Thousands of orphan children,

who could have been otherwise, derelicts of the Society are well placed and leading decent life with families in India and abroad also.

The lamp that was lit by Fr. Conceicao is still carried on by a team of dedicated, dynamic priests who believe in that giving-hands are more dedicated and graceful than that of praying lips, rendering selfless service to the Society. I am fortunate rather blessed to be part of this great family of "AGNELS" for the last many years. Let me conclude with a big salute to that brave soldier of Jesus Christ, Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues. 'Pranam, Fatherji Tera Nam Amar Rahe.'



# 'You are a Priest Forever' ....our Four Deacons!

**T**he Society and the Seminary greatly rejoiced at the Ordination of two of her confreres to the priesthood of Christ, Seneto Peixot and Alex Gabriel Fernandes. The Order was conferred by Archbishop Patriarch Filipe Neri Ferrao during a meaningful liturgical ceremony organized in the magnificent Seminary Chapel on the 30th of April 2017 at 4.00 p.m. A large congregation of people consisting of the family members, relatives, benefactors and well-wishers of the Society and the ordinandi participated in the two hour ceremony.

The Archbishop in his homily, addressing the new ordinandi, laid emphasis on the exemplary life of service. He presented St. Damien the Leper as the model of service, compassion and fidelity who left his own country and for the love of God served the lepers in the Molokai Island for 16 years. When the time was fulfilled he gave his life by succumbing to leprosy. The Archbishop urged the new priests to imitate Jesus, the Master, who became humble like a slave and washed the feet of his disciples. The same path was followed by St. Damien who became an icon of service to the people of God. In his homily, the Archbishop also asked the faithful to pray for the new priests; appreciate them in their good work, show fraternal correction when they fail and always hold them in love. The Archbishop pointed out that every priest, as well as every bishop and even the Pope as men are like earthen vessels and can fall but through our assistance and prayers, we can support them and call on God to make them faithful to him.

The liturgy for the whole occasion was well organized with the commentator informing

the faithful, the proceedings of the sacred rite of Ordination. Added to the liturgical celebration, the choir played an important role in making this occasion more meaningful.

At the conclusion of the religious ceremony, Fr. Alex Fernandes, the newly ordained priest, thanked God for having chosen them as his servants. He extended his heartfelt words of gratitude to the parents, siblings, benefactors, formators and the members of the Society. Fr. Francis Carvalho, the Superior General thanked the Archbishop for conferring the Ordination on the two members. He also said that while the Society rejoices over the ordination of these two members, another two more members will be ordained in May in their home parishes, namely, Deacon Benson Valiyaveetil and deacon Antony Samy. The Archbishop speaking on the occasion, congratulated the newly ordained priests. He said the vocation of a priest or a sister from a particular parish is a sign of the maturity of the faith of the people of God. He laid stress on the communitarian aspect of priesthood and religious life and encouraged the faithful to keep up the faith.

After the final hymn, the faithful greeted the new priests and kissed their anointed hands. They were also served snacks. Later in the evening, there was a fellowship meal in the refurbished Seminary Refectory along with the two new priests and the two deacons, Benson Valiyaveetil and Antony Samy who will be ordained priests in their parishes, namely, Sacred Heart Church, Thrissur on 8th May and St John's Church, Uthumalai, on 14th May respectively.

*Prayer should be the key of  
the day and the lock of the night.  
- George Herbert*

# Called to Service

## Anointed to share in the Priesthood of Christ



**Fr. Seneto Peixot**

**F**r. Seneto Peixot hails from Tilamola, Goa. He joined Apostolate school, Pilar in 2000. He underwent his Novitiate (2007-2008) at Shishalaya, Collem, Goa and made his first temporary commitment in the society on 24th May, 2000. After completing his graduation through Gonsalo Gracia College, Vasai of Mumbai university, he did his philosophy at Pilar Institute of Philosophy, Nagpur (2010-2012) and then his regency in Sindoni, Nagar Haveli. The last four years were spent at All India Mission Seminary, where he successfully completed his Bacculareate in Theology. He was ordained as Deacon on 17th October, 2016 by Bishop Derek Fernandes of Karvar and served as a Deacon at the Mission of Dudhnim, Nagar Haveli. He was Ordained a priest on 30th April, 2017 by Archbishop Filipe Neri Ferrao at the Mission Seminary Chapel, Pilar. His theme for the Ordination was "TO REMAIN IN HIS LOVE AND BEAR ABUNDANT FRUIT".

**Parents :** Joaquim Peixot and Concessao Peixot.



**Fr. Alex Gabriel Fernandes**

**F**r. Alex Gabriel Fernandes was born at Uccassaim, Goa. He did his early schooling at Cross High School, Bastora and joined the Pre-Novitiate in June, 2004. After a year of Novitiate, he did his commitment in the Society on 24th May, 2006. He was sent to Delhi Province and did his graduation at Chaju Ram Memorial College, Hissar, Haryana (2007-2009). He obtained his philosophy Degree at Pilar Institute of Philosophy, Nagpur in 2011. He worked at Fr. Agnel Niketan for a year (2012-13) and joined the Mission Seminary for his Theology studies in June 2013. After obtaining the Bacculareate in Theology in 2016 he was Ordained a Deacon on 17th Oct, 2016. He did his diaconate ministry at Christ the King Church, Akhnoor, Jammu Kashmir and demonstrated lot of love for the mission. He was ordained a priest on 30th April, 2017 by Archbishop Filipe Neri Ferrao at the Mission Seminary Chapel, Pilar. His theme for the Ordination was " TO MANIFEST JESUS THROUGH MY LIFE."

**Parents:** Marcus Fernandes and Margarida Fernandes.

## Congratulations & God's Blessings on your Ordination



## **The Church's Mission**

"...the Church's Mission is not an addition to that of Christ and the Holy Spirit, but is its sacrament: in her whole being and in all her members, the Church is sent to announce, bear witness, make present, and spread the mystery of the communion of the Holy Trinity" (Catechism, 738).

The Holy Spirit manifested that is, revealed Himself or made Himself known, through "a strong, driving wind" (Acts 2:2) and "tongues as of fire" (Acts 2:3).

The "wind" recalls the Spirit of God moving over the waters at the creation of the world (Genesis 1:1-2). The manifestation of the Holy Spirit through the "strong, driving wind" indicates that a "new creation" is taking place: the renewal of humanity in God's Holy Spirit! The "tongues of fire" denote the Presence of God, Purification, and Judgment.

Our Lord Jesus Christ promised to send them – a Paraclete – the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth, to teach them the "Truth", and abide with them forever (see John 14:25-26). Truth, succinctly put, is that "Jesus is the Lord, in whom the entire Revelation of the Most High God is summed up!" Truth enlightens man's intelligence and shapes his freedom, leading him to know and love the Lord (*Veritatis Splendor*).

## **Relationship with the Father Renewed**

The central purpose of Jesus' mission, which was finalized in the gift of the Holy Spirit, was to renew our relationship with the Father, a relationship severed by sin, to take us from our state of being orphaned children, and restore us as his sons and daughters.

The Apostle Paul, writing to the Christians in Rome, says: "For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God, which enables us to cry out, "Abba, Father" (Rom. 8:14-15). Here we see our relationship renewed: the paternity of God

is re-established in us, thanks to the redemptive work of Christ and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

## **A Programme for Life**

Pentecost offers us a programme for life: "**Walk by the Spirit**" (Gal.5:6, 25). The world needs men and women who are not closed in on themselves, but filled with the Holy Spirit. Humanity requires the courage, hope, faith and perseverance of Christ's followers. It needs the "**Fruit of the Holy Spirit**": "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control" (Gal.5:22). The "**Gifts of the Holy Spirit**" too, (1 Cor.12: 8-10; Isa.11:1-3a), have been bestowed upon the Church and on each one of us, so that, we may live in genuine faith and active charity, that we may sow the precious seeds of reconciliation and peace. The seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit are, according to Catholic Tradition, heroic character traits that Jesus Christ alone possesses in their plenitude, which he freely shares with the members of his Mystical Body, that is, the Church. They are: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord (reverence/wonder). Strengthened by the Spirit and his many charisms, may we be able, uncompromisingly, triumphantly, to battle Satan and sin, devoting ourselves with patient perseverance to the works of justice and peace (cf. Pope Francis). Add to these inexhaustible riches the extraordinary spiritual benediction, often termed "**Charismatic Gifts**". They are the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, increased faith, the gifts of healing, the gift of miracles, prophecy, the discernment of spirits, speaking in diverse tongues and the interpretation of tongues (The Catholic Encyclopedia. III; "**Spiritual Gifts**", A Dictionary of the Bible).

Emeritus Pope Benedict XVI says, The Church – recollected as she was at her birth with Mary – prays: "**Veni Sancte Spiritus!**" – "Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love!"

*Put your heart, mind, and soul into even your smallest acts.  
This is the secret of success.*

*- Swami Sivananda*





# Fr. AGNEL'S BLESSINGS

## GRACEFUL 50 YEARS OF MARRIED LIFE

**Bandra-Mumbai :** We are staunch devotees of Ven.Fr.Agnel for over 50 years. We have received numerous favours from Ven. Fr.Agnel. By his grace we had a very happy married life and our children are well settled in life. Today we have completed 50 years of our married life. Moreover we are very fortunate to have an apartment very near to the Ashram. With a grateful heart we are offering ₹.3000 to the Ashram.

-Nita & Ram Gokran

## SECURED JOB IN GOVERNMENT SCHOOL

**Ahmedabad-Gujarat :** I was praying to Ven. Fr. Agnel to bless me with a good job in Government Sector. Ven. Fr.Agnel heard my fervent plea as I am now employed in a Government School with an attractive salary. My thanks offering to Ven.Fr.Agnel is placed in the tomb box.

-Milind Engineer

## CURED OF STOMACH ACHE

**Benaulim - Goa :** Our daughter in London had complained of stomach ache and consulted the doctor. After doing the necessary tests the doctor diagnosed that a cancerous cyst lodged in the abdomen had burst and chances of saving the situation were slim. We had no option but to bring her back to India. On seeing her reports no hospital in Goa was ready to admit her as her death was imminent. Having strong faith in Ven. Fr. Agnel's intercession, we prayed to him ardently that some hospital should accept her and bring about her healing. Finally she was admitted in Manipal Hospital. I am happy to say that she is now completely cured. I thank Ven.Fr.Agnelo and pray that he may be canonized a saint soon.

-Roque and Mariquinha Barreto

## 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

## NUMEROUS FAVOURS RECEIVED

**Ulhasnagar:** We are ardent devotees of Ven. Fr.Agnel for the past many years. We have received numerous favours through his heavenly intercession. As a token of our love and profound gratitude an offering of ₹.18,000 to the Ashram for their various charitable activities under the patronage of Ven.Fr.Agnel.

-Girish M. C. Chauhan

## SUCCESS IN STARTING BUSINESS

**Ankleshwar :** For a number of years I have been wanting to start my own business but was not successful and all my efforts were in vain. In despair and with great faith in Ven. Fr.Agnel I sought his powerful intercession. I am now happy to say that I have been able to start my own business and I am doing quite well. As promised I am sending my offering of ₹.2500 to the Ashram.

-Vaibhavi S. Solanki

## GIFT OF A BABY BOY

**Navelim-Goa:** Even after 14 years of marriage my daughter was not blessed with a child. They visited several doctors and specialists but it did not help. The doctors stated categorically that she would never be able to conceive. We then prayed to Ven. Fr. Agnelo to bless my daughter with a child. My prayers were heard and now my daughter has been blessed with a baby boy. My heartfelt gratitude to Ven. Fr. Agnelo and I pray for his early beatification.

-Anthoneta Rodrigues

## Out of Their Bounty

|                 |              |       |                  |             |      |                |            |      |
|-----------------|--------------|-------|------------------|-------------|------|----------------|------------|------|
| P. Srivastava   | Mumbai       | 35000 | A. Jayasimhan    | Mumbai      | 1500 | R.A. Philip    | Virar      | 500  |
| C.M. Mehta      | Mumbai       | 25000 | L. D'Souza       | Mira Road   | 1200 | L. Lobo        | Doha       | 500  |
| N. D'Souza      | Mumbai       | 25000 | S. Kozhiparambil | Mumbai      | 1200 | S. Fernandes   | Mumbai     | 500  |
| N. Jauni        | Mumbai       | 21000 | S.N. Iran        | Mumbai      | 1111 | A. Chheda      | Dombivli   | 500  |
| C. Gonsaves     | Dubai        | 20000 | R. Birdy         | Mumbai      | 1001 | N.E.T.Pasku    | Bhayandar  | 500  |
| Dr.Gita S. Naik | Mumbai       | 15000 | K.J.Jose         | Kerala      | 1000 | S. Pereira     | Mumbai     | 500  |
| T. Raphael      | Virar        | 12000 | L. D'Souza       | Mumbai      | 1000 | M.J. Fernandes | Mumbai     | 500  |
| M.R. Ruiyari    | Dahisar      | 11000 | P. Quadras       | Mira Road   | 1000 | V.L. Parmar    | Anand      | 500  |
| A. Pereira      | Mumbai       | 10000 | J. Castelino     | Mumbai      | 1000 | J. D'Souza     | Mumbai     | 500  |
| S.T. Peres      | Mumbai       | 10000 | P. C. Mohan      | Mumbai      | 1000 | S. Atul        | Kolkata    | 500  |
| A.A. Misquita   | Vasai        | 10000 | R.P. Fernandes   | Mumbai      | 1000 | I. Menon       | Kerala     | 500  |
| V.N. Heldt      | Secunderabad | 9000  | D.P. Rajput      | Mumbai      | 1000 | B. Joseph      | Kerala     | 500  |
| D.J. Kurian     | Mumbai       | 9000  | M. Mathew        | Mumbai      | 1000 | E. Fernandes   | Kerala     | 500  |
| J. Chettiar     | Vashi        | 9000  | A.G. Kelawalla   | Mumbai      | 1000 | Jiji V.K.      | Rajasthan  | 500  |
| D. Dongare      | Mumbai       | 9000  | K. Maneckji      | Mumbai      | 1000 | U. Arokiadas   | Nashik     | 500  |
| A. Jaiswar      | Mumbai       | 9000  | P.K. Raghuvanshi | U.S.A.      | 1000 | R. Mondal      | Kolkata    | 500  |
| H. Pinto        | Mumbai       | 9000  | L.N. D'Souza     | Mumbai      | 1000 | C. Thomas      | Kerala     | 500  |
| N.M. Joshi      | Mumbai       | 8000  | A. Pinto         | Mumbai      | 1000 | R. George      | Kerala     | 500  |
| E.A. D'Souza    | Goa          | 7000  | C. Fernando      | Dubai       | 1000 | I Menon        | Kerala     | 500  |
| P. Fernandes    | Mumbai       | 6000  | R. D'Souza       | Dombivli    | 1000 | B. Joseph      | Kerala     | 500  |
| Mary Tom        | Bangalore    | 5000  | I.S.M. Rodrigues | Mumbai      | 1000 | E. Fernandes   | Kerala     | 500  |
| K.N. DeSouza    | Mumbai       | 5000  | R. Nastawalia    | Mumbai      | 1000 | T.P. Simon     | Kerala     | 500  |
| S.J. D'Cunha    | Vasai        | 5000  | J. Cardoso       | Mumbai      | 1000 | Joseph C.D.    | Kerala     | 500  |
| A.J. D'Souza    | Mumbai       | 5000  | I. D'Mello       | Mumbai      | 1000 | A. Fernando    | T.N.       | 500  |
| Urvi Agency     | Bhayandar    | 5000  | C. Picardo       | Mira Road   | 1000 | P.K. Devasia   | Kerala     | 500  |
| M. Aranha       | Mumbai       | 5000  | Celine Picardo   | Mira Road   | 1000 | A. Chelladurai | Mubai      | 500  |
| J. Rose         | Kerala       | 5000  | K.K. Karkaria    | Mumbai      | 1000 | S. Abraham     | Kerala     | 500  |
| Subramaniam R.  | Mumbai       | 4500  | R.B.Michael      | Kerala      | 1000 | J. Josephine   | Kerala     | 500  |
| E. Rebello      | Mumbai       | 4000  | D. D'Souza       | Mumbai      | 1000 | L.George       | Kerala     | 500  |
| A. Jacob        | Kerala       | 3500  | V.S. Bilolikar   | Mumbai      | 1000 | I. Raphael     | Kerala     | 500  |
| A. Serrao       | Mumbai       | 3000  | E. James         | Kerala      | 1000 | S. Philip      | Kerala     | 500  |
| P. D'Abreo      | Mumbai       | 3000  | P.A. Joseph      | Kerala      | 1000 | P. Waghela     | Gujarat    | 500  |
| T. Ravindranath | Mumbai       | 3000  | F.G. Xavier      | Kerala      | 1000 | D. D'Cruz      | Kerala     | 500  |
| J. Saldanha     | Mangalore    | 3000  | Rani Joseph      | Bangalore   | 1000 | N.M. Amolik    | Ahmednagar | 500  |
| Sunny Jacob     | Kerala       | 3000  | E. James         | Kerala      | 1000 | E. David       | Bangalore  | 500  |
| M. Gaikwad      | Dombivli     | 2500  | J. Jacobs        | Kerala      | 1000 | S. Joseph      | Kerala     | 500  |
| K. Raiyani      | Mumbai       | 2500  | P.A. Joseph      | Kerala      | 1000 | Angel Rose     | Kerala     | 500  |
| N.S. Ramon      | Rajkot       | 2500  | F.G. Xavier      | Kerala      | 1000 | E. Elizabeth   | Kerala     | 500  |
| Lucy D'Souza    | Mangalore    | 2000  | Rani Joseph      | Bangalore   | 1000 | M. Vincent     | Kerala     | 500  |
| S.J. Rangoonwla | Mumbai       | 2000  | S.S. Meshram     | Dombivli    | 1000 | R. Stephen     | Kerala     | 500  |
| A. Kuriakose    | Delhi        | 2000  | Meera N.         | Kerala      | 1000 | Agnel K.A.     | Kerala     | 450  |
| V. Bakhi        | Mumbai       | 2000  | T. Xavier        | Kerala      | 1000 | M.J. Pereira   | Pune       | 400  |
| V. Manoharan    | T.N.         | 2000  | S. Francis       | Kerala      | 1000 | Wilson Rose    | Kerala     | 300  |
| S. Mehta        | Mumbai       | 2000  | A. Mittathany    | Kerala      | 1000 | G. Mathew      | Gujarat    | 300  |
| Sahil Mehta     | Mumbai       | 2000  | Dr.C. Engels     | Amritsar    | 1000 | P. Aloysious   | T.N.       | 300  |
| S. Gonsalves    | Vasai        | 2000  | Dr. M. Thomas    | Kerala      | 1000 | S.Mistry       | Pune       | 300  |
| I. Fernandes    | Mumbai       | 2000  | C.J.Lawrence     | Rajkot      | 1000 | K. Alphonsa    | Kerala     | 300  |
| A. Fernandes    | Mumbai       | 2000  | P.S. Chirputkar  | Gujarat     | 900  | P.L.Tony       | Kolkota    | 2000 |
| A.P. Carvalho   | Vasai        | 2000  | M. Jose          | Ahmedabad   | 620  | S.Murugesh     | Mumbai     | 1000 |
| R.C. Fernandes  | Mumbai       | 2000  | D.C. Italia      | Mumbai      | 600  | A.C. Sebastian | Kerala     | 1100 |
| A.A. Lisboa     | Vasai        | 2000  | S. Prasanna      | Bangalore   | 600  | R.Johnson      | Kerala     | 900  |
| L. D'Souza      | Mumbai       | 2000  | M.s. Nathni      | Mumbai      | 500  | S.Fernando     | Chennai    | 500  |
| S. Katak        | Mumbai       | 1800  | D.Coutinho       | Mumbai      | 500  | M.I.Joseph     | Chennai    | 500  |
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# SUMMER CAMP, PUNE



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Regn. No. of Publication RNI-9473/64.  
Date of Publication 10th of every month  
Date of posting 14th & 15th of every month.  
Single copy Price Rs.15/-  
Annual subscription Rs.150/-  
Total pages including cover : 20

PRN - MCN/175/2015-2017  
to post at concessional rate on 14th & 15th  
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