

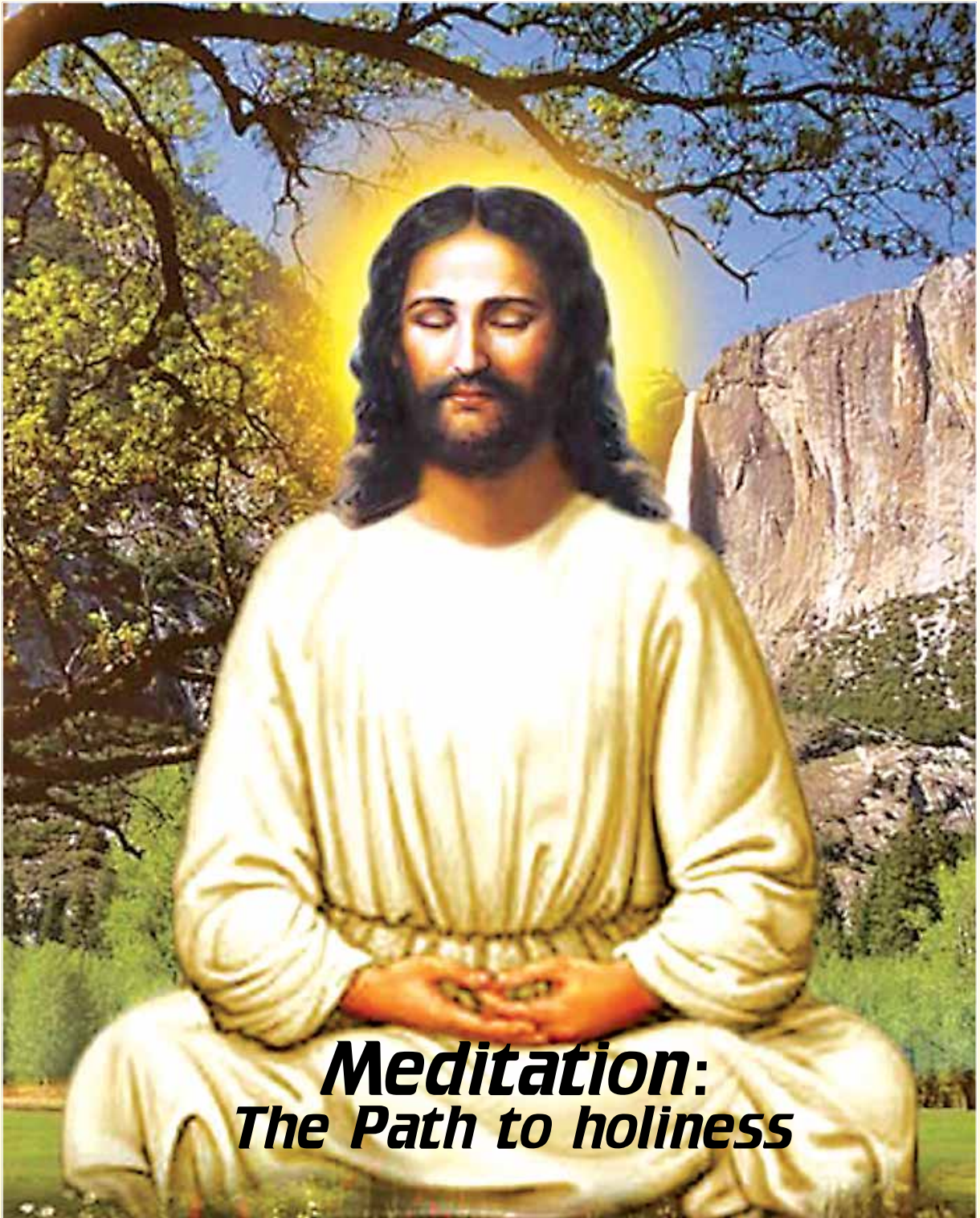


FR

November 2017

# **AGNEL**

**SHRAM NEWS**



***Meditation:  
The Path to holiness***

FR. AGNEL  
ASHRAM

# NEWS

November 2017

## Contents

Editorial	3
Ordinary People as Saints and Contemplatives	5
Ordinary People as Saints who follow God with all their Heart	7
Agnel Happenings	9
Stamp of Humility Cannot Be Traded	15
Fr. Agnel's Blessings	16
Out of their Bounty	18

*Magazine Designed by:*  
**Darshana Sharma**

Printed & Published by:

Fr. Nazareth Fernandes sfx 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:

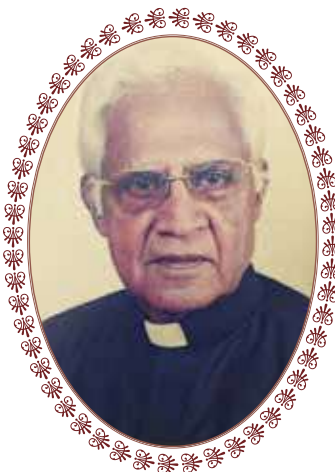
Fr. Agnel Ashram, Bandstand,  
Bandra, Mumbai - 400 050.

Single Copy Price: Rs. 15

Annual Subscription: Rs. 150

## Obituary

*Pioneer Leader of  
Agnel Family, Vashi  
is no more*



Rev. Fr. Orlando Rodrigues, the founder member of the Fr. Agnel Institutions in Navi Mumbai breathed his last on Sunday, 29th October 2017. A great visionary leader and educator, Fr. Orlando played a vital role in all the invaluable contributions made by the Agnel Ashram Fathers in the field of education, sports and service to humanity in Maharashtra and Goa. He has touched the lives of thousands of students and teachers and their families. He will be always remembered as the 'Iron man with a gentle heart.'

A special concelebrated Eucharist presided over by Rt. Rev. Barthol Barretto (Auxiliary Bishop of Archdiocese, Mumbai), was held at the Agnel Complex, Vashi on 30th October 2017. Thousands of students, parents, staff members, ex-students and well wishers gathered here to pay their respects to the dear departed soul.

Rev. Fr. Orlando's mortal journey on earth concluded with a solemn funeral at Pilar Seminary, Goa on 31st October 2017.



# Growing Intolerance in a Shrinking World

**-Hansel D'Souza**

*The views expressed here are the author's,  
and the magazine may not subscribe to the same.*

The world is shrinking rapidly. Every new technological innovation shrinks distance and time. It was not long ago that we booked International Trunk Calls and waited for hours and days to exchange a few words with someone across the globe. Today, we do it within the blink of an eye – free of cost !

We live in a world of instant communication. Whatsapp, Gmail, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest and dozens of other tools have helped shrink distances between people. Our thoughts fly across the waves instantaneously !

While we might revel in our new found freedom of expression, there is a growing wave of intolerance that is catching up at a fast clip. A couple of years ago, Mumbai was shut down for the funeral of a well known political leader. This prompted a conversation between two teenage collegians on Whatsapp. The offending question asked by one to the other was, “Who is Mr ----- ? Why should the city be shut down?”. The police displayed unusual alacrity in marching them off to the police thana, arresting the two and slapping criminal cases against them ! All for one childlike remark on Whatsapp !

Twitter is yet another classic example of a public domain that represents an “akhada” in Haryana. For the uninitiated, an akhada is a training school for wrestlers where there is always a flurry of grapplers in fight mode. Twitter is no better. It takes one innocent point of view, to invite armies of trolls to rise up in offence.

Old timers might identify trolls as evil ugly cave-

dwelling creatures found in J R Tolkien's classic novels. And they are right ! Our internet trolls are similar creatures who stalk Twitter and lie in wait for comments that differ from the ruling ideology of the day. Within seconds, the “offender” is bombarded with sadistic retorts, abusive rejoinders and a suitably rearranged family tree !!

There is a growing suspicion that trolls on the internet are not mere individuals with toxic viewpoints. There is a growing apprehension that they are part of an army of vitriolic foot soldiers, acting on behalf of the dominant ideology of the day!

**“I Disapprove of What  
You Say, But I Will  
Defend to the Death  
Your Right to Say It !”**

**-Voltaire**

While one can understand fringe elements espousing toxic political, cultural and religious views, what is alarming is that the trend is growing like a cancer. Every action has an equal and

opposite reaction. The no-holds barred spats on the internet are growing louder and more virulent by the day. The fear is that soon there will be no room for civilized debate on Twitter.

Of all our glorious treasures, the one that glitters the most is the fact that we are the world's largest democracy ! And democracy guarantees the freedom of speech among many other freedoms. Except for a short while, during the dark days of the Emergency when opinion was muzzled, we in India have always breathed in the air of freedom. Now that basic right is under threat.

Fortunately, the Constitution and its custodian the judiciary still rule ! Only yesterday, the cartoonist from Tirunelveli was released on bail, after being arrested for caricaturing

the CM, Collector and Police Commissioner in his cartoon. He had drawn the cartoon after a family of four (including 2 small children) immolated themselves in front of the Tirunelveli Collectorate on October 23, 2017. He was traumatised by the incident, which made him draw the cartoon.

This phenomenon is not evident in India alone. Intolerance has now become a worldwide phenomenon. The recent Presidential campaign in the second largest democracy of the world, the United States of America was one such example. The electoral process in the USA is normally the cynosure of all eyes, the pride of America and envy of people living under totalitarianism. This campaign however, was quite different. The shrill rhetoric bordered on the obscene at times. Personal attacks and character assassination surfaced time and again, albeit in disguise. The world looked on in shock and awe !

Religious intolerance is growing by the day. Islamic fundamentalism has wreaked havoc in the Middle East. Closer home, three proponents of rationalism Dabholkar, Kalburgi and Pansare were brutally gunned down by those opposing their points of view. Gauri Lankesh an activist-journalist and an outspoken critic of majoritarian fundamentalism was the most recent victim.

The question remains. Can we afford to relinquish our precious freedom of expression? Should we capitulate in the face of brutal suppression? Our most precious freedom is at stake. Time has come for all democrats to strongly proclaim Zero Tolerance for Intolerance. Disagreement is no justification for disagreeable behaviour. The words of the famous French philosopher Voltaire must stay imprinted in our minds, "I Disapprove of What You Say, But I Will Defend to the Death Your Right to Say It !"

### **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	03:30 p.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](mailto:agnelashramnews@gmail.com)

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

“Pray as though everything depended on God.  
Work as though everything depended on you.”

-St. Augustine

# Ordinary People as Saints and Contemplatives

-Leon Bent

Saints, broadly speaking, are all people who follow Jesus Christ and live their lives according to His teaching. Catholics, however, also use the term more narrowly to refer to, especially holy men and women who, by persevering in the Christian Faith and living extraordinary lives of virtue have already entered Heaven. The holiness of everyday saints, said Rome's Pontiff, "gives holiness to the church and that gives hope!"

The fact that these same people make mistakes and sin, Pope Francis said does not destroy their witness. "If sometimes one of these Christians commits a serious sin, but repents and asks forgiveness," that too is a sign of having a faith founded on the rock of Christ.

We are all sinners, we are weak, but if we put our hope in him we can move forward. This is the joy of a Christian: knowing that in him there is hope, forgiveness, peace and joy." Faith in Jesus, he said, is the source of hope, not "things that are here today and gone tomorrow."

## **Contemplative Spirituality is Slowing Down to be with Jesus.**

In contemplation and mysticism, I speak to God, and when God speaks, I listen attentively. I dwell in God and God lives in me. Most people pray with the mind: saying prayers, and ask God for what they and others need. The deeper mystery of prayer is to do so with the heart. It consists of simply being with God – "at-oneness". The Holy Spirit is the relationship of love between Father and Son. It is this Spirit Jesus has breathed into every human heart.

Contemplative and mystical union is not the privilege only of monks and nuns. It is a dimension of prayer to which we are all called. We must go to the depths, to where the spirit of Jesus himself prays in our hearts, in the sheer silence of his union with our Father in the Holy Spirit. Meditation is the work of finding and becoming one with stillness, which is the hallmark of the Holy Spirit. It is the total openness to and oneness with the prayer of Jesus. It is being silent, still and simple.

Silence is truthful. It is healing. It pacifies our inner turmoil. It is a cure for destructive anger, anxiety and bitterness. Silence in prayer, as between two people, is a sign of trust and acceptance. In its essence, it is nothing less that "worship in spirit and truth" (Jn.4:23-24).

God is simple – love is simple. Meditation and prayer are simple. It means passing beyond self-consciousness, self-analysis and self-rejection. This means the repetition of a single sacred word faithfully, and lovingly. This word is called a mantra. Take for example, the "Jesus Prayer!" This is a very ancient Christian form of prayer: one utters the name "Jesus" or a sentence, preferably comprising not more than seven words. Please say it with great composure, without haste, and expecting anything to happen. Listen to the mantra with your whole being.

## **The Mantra**

The meaning and sound of the word are both important. The mantra slowly, but surely, becomes a part of our very being. It leads us by faith. Listening to the mantra, with faith and love is the ever deepening work of a journey to God. The silence of the vowel sounds, for example, gives the Name, YaHeWH, a sense of reverence, awe and wonder! It points to the Passionate, Personal and Profound Divine Presence (cf.Ps.116:8).

The mantra clears a way through all the thoughts of past and future to reveal, in a thought-free state, the radiant reality of the here and now: the moment with Christ!

## **Chanting the Name of Jesus**

The seemingly ceaseless recitation of the name of Jesus (Philippians 2:9), the name above every other name, offers a devotee the most meaningful vibration of the Spirit. Chant the Jesus Name in lengthening melliflence, and it will resound with cosmic glory. It is like the soothing, scintillating, sound of ten thousand temple bells, which have long since stopped ringing. The faint echo and echo, in the heart, never stops. It releases into the air, a sense of transcendence, majesty and mystery

– trance-like. A mantra or chant represents God in His fullness.

These two forms of prayer help us discover the absolute wonder of the presence of God. Secondly, the ordinary is shot through with the extraordinary.

### **Married Couples and Communion with God**

Married people have many innovative ways to deal with their individual needs for solitude, stillness and silence, and growing desire to alter social activity. One married woman described her solution for obtaining quiet time as follows: “I take time each day when my husband is at the work-place to be in the presence of God. This turns out to be three hours or more, usually. When he’s home we often sit together and look at the ocean for long stretches of time. Our thoughts are centred on Jesus, not on community or money matters, certainly not on gossip.

### **Outwardly Simple, Inwardly Rich**

Author and researcher Duane Elgin calls this “voluntary simplicity,” a “contrast community.” One man insisted: “I’ve simplified my life, so that, I’ll have time for long walks in the woods, making pottery, gardening and writing. This has brought me much spiritual maturity and wholesomeness. As a woman, a wife and mother of two children put it: “I feel a person who says “Yes” to all requests for partying, running off to malls, involving oneself in unnecessary routines, is pulled in all directions at once. Research shows that many spoke often with a lingering glow, of parents, ex-spouses or friends who chose “outwardly simple but inwardly rich lives.” This calls for a radical and fundamental option for closeness with the Most High God: *tat tvam asi*; where “I” and “Thou” merge into the “One I-Thou”! (VJTR, July 2017).

### **The Call to Saintliness is a Mystery**

The great mystic Thomas Merton tried and tried, again and again, to be in touch with God, but failed. He ultimately found God, through the latter’s intervention, in a remote, long-forgotten, rustic place, in a wet field in Sri Lanka. Surely he stood still, with God, fully enlightened, in solitary splendour. St. Ignatius was converted from a delinquent to a great saint, by just watching the river Cardona flow by, in gentle, serene, ripples. Finding God and becoming a saint is a mysterious, full-of-surprises, mystical call from the Lord, for

us, ordinary people – indeed, everyone.

For example, a woman and her husband realized about the same time that, they needed to improve the quality of their daily lives, and decided on spending Prime Time, not leftover time, with one another. They wanted better, more natural surroundings, fresh air and water, trees, hills, more opportunities to just “gaze vacantly at nature,” (William Wordsworth) it’s symphony of sounds, it’s refreshing smells. They wanted to grow their own food, and the like in the hope that they would be divinely blessed. These are “counter cultural” truly prophetic people, in a world of “conspicuous consumption” (Thorstein Veblen Veblen, *The Theory of the Leisure Class*, p.64).

### **Discernment is a Necessary Ingredient for Saintliness**

A man in his seventies said that he had to make a break with conventional living. He wanted to be God-centred, with plenty of time for Bible study and reflection, to be in communion with the Lord and to search for a non-violent way of life, with all its twists, snarls and intricacies. He prayed that he make the right decision in the eyes of the Lord. He discerned how he should not be mistaken as a why-try, humdrum lethargy. Discernment is putting oneself in God’s shoes. It is “to listen to that silent, still, small voice within”. It is the “pearl of great price,” to buy which, the merchant had to sell all his goods....It is costly grace which must be sought after again and again....a door at which the person must knock. Such grace is expensive because it cost a man, Jesus, his life. It is grace because it gives a man the only true life (Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship*).

And, now, the stark surprise and this final flourish! “Sinners make the best contemplatives,” according to the Cloud of Unknowing, the medieval spiritual classic. To listen to the silence of the heart, is the silence waiting for us beyond the orbit of our noisy narcissistic world. This heals us and makes us whole again. And, to be whole is to be holy (Christian Meditation, Laurence Freeman OSB).

The last word: “Contemplating is looking at Jesus, just the way Mary sits at Jesus’ feet, looking at him with love” (Lk.10:38-42); it is “contemplating Jesus in the Mysteries of his Life, “Seeking Jesus in Contemplation and Discernment,” Robert Faricy, S.J.).

# Ordinary People as Saints who follow God with all their Heart

-Christine D'Sylva

---

**I**t was pride that changed angels into devils, it is humility that makes men as angels - St Augustine.

You cannot be half a saint; you must be a whole saint or no saint at all. – St Therese of Lisieux.

On the Feast of All Saints, Pope Francis stressed that saints are not supermen, contrary to popular belief.

He said that saints are ordinary people who followed God with all their heart.

He said, “They are like us, they are like people who before reaching the glory of heaven lived a normal life, with joys and sorrows, struggles and hopes.”

Most people feel very confused about saints. They feel that they are supernatural beings who are so good and holy, they appear almost unreal.

Yet, when we examine the lives of saints, we feel surprised to discover that they are ordinary people, yet when they began to love God passionately and devotedly, they are transformed into spiritual beings who are truly worthy of a place in heaven.

What do saints do that is so unique? The answer is simply that they spend their lives in service of others, they endure suffering and adversity without hatred, respond to evil with good and spread joy and peace.

Pope Francis is convinced that everyone can be a saint, for all of us in baptism have the inheritance of being able to become saints.

Mother Theresa who was revered around the world is now canonized a saint by the Catholic Church.

In Kolkata, she helped the poor and the destitute with such courage and kindness that it touched the world. She was a living example of

saintliness and goodness. She was a saint who defined sainthood as living in service for others. She took the vow of poverty and despite being aware of her many critics, she persevered. She said that it did not matter what people said about her for in the end it was never between her and them. What mattered was the truth that was between her and God. Only God could be the final judge of her life.

Many people have tried to ruin her name by slander. Yet, we must not forget that no human being can be canonized a saint until a thorough investigation of his or her life is made, and only after the Church believes that some undisputed miracles took place through her intercession.

We all tend to visualise saints as being born with a halo around their heads but most of them have only achieved this halo after they have loved God deeply enough to be totally committed to serving him.

Today, the Catholic Church wishes to make people more aware that saints are not supermen. The basic principle is simply this - If they could do it, so can you. This can be achieved with prayer, contemplation, a deep abiding love and trust in God, and a sincerity to reach out to others in service and love.

One of the most interesting examples of how ordinary people can become saints was the story of St. Augustine.

In the 4th century, Monica, who later became St Monica was a Christian woman who married a man who was an atheist politician.

She had three sons, one of whom was Augustine. Her husband was a terrible man who abused her, and was violent towards her. To say that their marriage was rocky was an understatement.

Yet, she was a good, religious woman who

remained devoted to her husband for she realised the sanctity of marriage. She served him faithfully despite his ill- treatment of her. Every day, she used to pray for him. Eventually, her prayers bore fruit. A year before he died, he converted to becoming a Catholic, because of her prayer and also her forgiveness. Her kindness and gentleness touched his heart deeply and he was ready to accept God.

However, she was very worried about her son, Augustine. Though brilliant and gifted, he spent most of his time on the streets with his friends, stealing food and living promiscuously. He even fathered a child out of wedlock.

Yet, Monica refused to give up on her son. She prayed fervently daily for him, trusting in God's power and infinite mercy. She fasted for his sake, and pleaded with God to help him to return to the faith.

Then, Augustine travelled to Rome and Milan for his education. Monica followed him like a concerned mother.

There she met the local bishop, Ambrose. Ambrose became the spiritual guide of Augustine and they both had long discussions on spiritual matters.

Ambrose who knew the pain Monica was undergoing urged her to speak less about God to Augustine and more about Augustine to God. In other words, he urged her to continue her fervent prayers. Soon, her persistence paid off.

Augustine decided to convert back to the faith at the age of 32. He became one of the most influential thinkers in western life and one of the greatest saints in the Catholic Church.

At her death bed, Monica was a happy woman. Not only had her husband been saved but now her son, Augustine too had found God.

She felt that her mission in life was accomplished.

Thus, we realise that if such ordinary people could transform their lives, then we too can transform our lives and become saintlier. No matter how far we may stray away from God, he is like a loving father who gently but firmly calls each one of us back into his loving arms. Therefore, achieving saint-hood is not an impossible dream but within everyone's grasp if they strive for it.

Let us conclude with a quote from St Augustine. "Our hearts are made for you, O Lord and they are restless until they rest in you."

## AGNEL CO-OPERATORS

You can join the Ashram Family by becoming a member of Agnel-Cooperators and enjoy the fruits of a Special Daily Mass offered at Fr. Agnel Ashram, Bandra for all the members. You will also enjoy the fruits of all the prayers and good works of the Agnel Ashram Fathers and entire Agnel Ashram Family.

### Membership Fees:-

Ordinary Co-operators : Individual ₹.100/-

Family : ₹.500/-

Benefactors : ₹.1000/-

Patrons : ₹.5000/-

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



# AGNEL HAPPENINGS

## TEDxCRCE 2017

It was a busy Saturday afternoon; the venue Samvaad auditorium at **Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues College of Engineering, Bandra Mumbai** was ready for its 3rd Edition of TEDxCRCE the annual event of the TEDx Council. The venue quite opposite to its nature was filling up with audiences who were not students. The atmosphere of the venue, the curiosity of the audience was a notch higher than what one generally can notice on a regular basis. It was 2:40 p.m on the large clock that is stationed inside the hall witnessing the timeline for the day, the auditorium was full with anxiety eagerly waiting for the event to commence.

It was 3:00pm and the organising member took to the dais to ask everyone to rise on the occasion and pay homage to our nation via our national anthem. He then introduced the compere for the day Mr. Tejas Suma Shyam to everyone. The Theme Illogically logical was introduced, very apt to the recent changes taking place throughout the world where the seemingly illogical ideas were marred on the basis of non-feasibility at once are now the very basis of the new changes taking place throughout.

The first session started with a dynamic performance by Mr Gaurav Kotian, a musician who played melodies via a set of wine glasses as his unique instrument called the glass harp, Mr Prabir Jha the global CPO and President of Cipla spread a strong idea of how career paths are changing and how one should adapt to these changing trends, Dr Ch. Satyanarayana a scientist at the Zoology survey of India had travelled right from Kolkata to the venue to spread awareness about coral bleaching which is one of the most dreaded concern of the 21st

century. The session ended with Mr Siddharth Randeria, the Mega star of Gujarati theatre, he in his true sense did something he is so good at – conveying a meaning through comedy. The audiences broke for a break to relish the hot cup of tea along with a few chosen delicacies.

The second session started with Mr Rajat Mitra, who flew from Delhi to educate everyone about what goes into the mind of the criminal while committing a crime. Mr Mandar Jhamsandekar the second speaker inspired people to start investing early for a better tomorrow. Mr Gopal Hegde the president of VWA, motivated everyone to not waste food and if there is wastage utilise the same to feed the needy, something if implemented on a large scale, hunger can be wiped out entirely. Mr Prashant Warriar the last speaker for the session spoke on the vast applications of Artificial intelligence and how one can utilise this new technology in various branches of medical sciences.

The crowd broke out for a brief networking break and were enthusiastic to await the sensational Mrs Kavita Seth, a Woman famous for what she writes, Mr Mark Manuel and the gorgeous Mrs Raveena Tandon. As expected the audience got what they had dreamt of, a final session full of excitement. The session started with a powerful performance by Kavita Seth, her soulful renditions touched every heart in the auditorium. This was followed by a commanding talk on the evolution of media and journalism by Mr Mark Manuel, the pros and cons of being truthful in the field was well explained. The show stopper Mrs Raveena Tandon graced the stage to spread the idea of sharing is caring via her own pieces of experiences. Thank you! Were the words, post

# TEDxCR



*Dr .Ch. Satyanarayana – Scientist, Zoology  
Survey of India*



*Mr.Rajat Mitra – Clinical Psychologist*



*Mr.Gopal Hegde – President Versova Welfare  
Association*



*Mrs. Kavita Seth – Singer Bollywood*



*Mrs.Raveen Tandon - Actor Bollywood*



*Mr.Gaurav Kotian – Glass Harp performer*

# CRCE 2017



*Mr. Prabir Jha – President Cipla*



*Mr. Siddharth Randeria – Actor, Director  
Gujarati Theatre*



*Mr. Mandar Jhamsandekar – Author,  
Economist*



*Mr. Prashant Warrier – Founder Quire.ai*



*Mr. Mark Manuel – Reputed Journalist*



*Team Picture – TEDxCRCE*



which the audience erupted with a loud cheer. The talks throughout the day were fantastic, performances were brilliant, but the applause was to mark an end of a day full of knowledge and thought provoking ideas. The show was over but not yet, the audiences applauded the efforts of the team who had given their 100% to pull off something what CRCE will remember for a lifetime. The team took centre stage, more than 30 students together stood with smiles.

The photographers were constantly clicking images to store these moments.

Dinner was ready, the audiences relished the delicacies served hot on the 5th floor to enjoy the event to its core. People left with many visions and ideas that can help them grow as an individual and remember TEDxCRCE for a long time. I am sure to not miss the forthcoming edition of TEDxCRCE, TEDxCRCE 2018 untitled announced to be scheduled in August 2018.

## Annual Prize Distribution, 2017

Every year Annual Prize Distribution is held in **Fr. Agnel School, Gr. Noida** with great zeal and enthusiasm to felicitate the talents of our Agnelites and the laurels that they brought to this school. This year too, it was held on the first of September, 2017. The theme of the Programme being Laughter Adda aimed to plaster big smiles on the faces of the audience as making the people smile is one of the noble causes in the world. The Chief Guest of the event was Mrs. Leenu Sehgal who with her gracious presence lit up the evening. The rain poured its blessings on the programme. Achieving the real motto of the programme the School felicitated the meritorious students in

the categories of Academics, Full Attendance and Good Samaritan. The CBSE toppers from class XII and 10 CGPA grabbers from class X were awarded with trophies and certificates inspiring the Agnelites to set higher goals in their life and achieve more attractive laurels.



*Chief Guest Mrs. Leenu Sehgal*



*Dance*



*Toppers awarded Trophies and Certificates*

## Bagged Gold in Long Jump

One of Navi Mumbai's promising athletes, Tanishka Shetty has bagged a gold at the West Zone Junior Athletics Championship held in Nagpur.

Tanishka Shetty, a student of **Fr. Agnel Multipurpose School and Jr. College,**



**Vashi**, studying in Std. XII represented Maharashtra in the long jump event in the girls under 18 category.

She triumphed in her favourite event with a giant leap of 5.49 meter among 650 top athletes from six west zone



states like Rajasthan, Gujarat, Goa, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra.

Last month, she had won the Gold medal at the Maharashtra State Junior Annual Athletics Meet organised by Maharashtra Amateur Athletics Association with a jump of 5.23 meter that she bettered at Nagpur.

Tanishka credits her success to the able guidance of her coach Mr. Srinivas Gupta. The support and encouragement that she receives from the school, helps her to successfully juggle between academics and sports. She will now participate in the nationals to be held in Vijaywada.

## International Chefs Day at Fr. Agnel Institute of Food Crafts and Culinary Sciences

Culinary forum of Goa which comprises of executive Chefs of all Five Star Hotels in Goa namely the Leela Goa, Holiday Inn Resort Goa, Zuri White Sands, Radisson Blu, Cidade De Goa, Planet Hollywood, Taj Exotica, Baywatch, Holiday Inn Resort hosted a lunch on 14th October 2017 with entertainment for 350 Orphans and Street children from different

orphanages at **Fr. Agnel Institute of Food Crafts and Culinary Sciences, Verna Goa.**

The children interacted with the Chefs as well as were entertained with a one man band and magician. At the end of the event a take away packet which comprised of a digital watch and some goodies was given to every child.

*Photos on Back Cover*

## Fun Outdoors for the Agnel Family

“There are few things as pleasant as a picnic in perfect comfort.”

These words of writer W. Somerset Maugham became a reality for the administrative, teaching and utility staff of **Fr. Agnel Multipurpose**

**School & Jr. College,**

**Ambernath.** On 16th September 2017, 99 members of the Agnel Family, accompanied by Fr. Ivan and Madam Antoinette, visited Monteria Resort at Khopoli.

A bus ride took everyone to the resort where a hearty breakfast was served on arrival. Immediately afterwards, luxurious rooms were allotted for a much needed rest. Soon, the Teachers ventured towards the Activity Area which had games like cricket and archery along with some adventure sports for the daredevils. In the meanwhile, the Masters had a gala time



cooling off at the pool.

Lunch, served on the terrace, was a spread of delicacies. After a sumptuous meal, everyone retired to their rooms to enjoy a siesta. Later, the Teachers rushed to the pool for a dip and to shake a leg at the rain dance. Invigorated by the swinging rhythm,

everyone was famished and ready for another snack. High tea was served and it was then time to bid adieu to Monteria Resort.

Hence, a fun filled day came to a satisfying end. The administrative staff, teachers and the utility staff enjoyed a well-deserved time of relaxation and rest.

Many thanks to the Management of Fr. Agnel Multipurpose School & Jr. College, Ambernath for the considerate and generous Teachers Day picnic gift !!

## Fr. Agnel Bal Bhawan Greater Noida Celebrates Solemn Feast of Our Lady of Pilar

8<sup>th</sup> October 2017 was a red lettered day for **Balbhawan family, Greater Noida**. The feast of Our Lady of Pilar was celebrated with full fervour and enthusiasm. Rev. Bishop Anil Kuto was the main celebrant. Society of the Missionaries of St. Francis Xavier newly elected 3rd counsellor Rev. Fr. Alarico Carvalho, Delhi provincial Rev. Fr. John M Fernandes, Director of Fr. Agnel Bal Bhawan Greater Noida Rev. Fr.

Bento Rodrigues, Pilar Sisters and all the Priests and religious of neighbouring institutions shared the joy with the Bal Bhawan family. The day was grace filled. The Rosary procession led by the children was a moment of spiritual exhilaration. The day came to a close with a family meal.

*(photo on back inside)*

## TEACHERS' DAY Celebrations

On 5 September 2017, Teachers' day was celebrated in **Fr. Agnel School, Gr. Noida** to honour and entertain the teachers for their sincere efforts to impart knowledge. To acknowledge their love and efforts, a colourful cultural programme was presented by Agnelites whole-heartedly. The celebration was prepared and guided by the School Parliament which reflected the very essential role of teachers in every student's life. This was followed by a comic act in which the senior

students mimicked the style of their favourite teachers. The programme also included several entertaining dance performances and delightful games. All teachers were greeted with tokens of love by school students. Teachers were delighted to see their disciples presenting an exuberant programme. The fun-filled and heart warming programme left the beloved teachers mesmerized and proud of the children. The programme was a great success that engraved beautiful memories in everybody's heart



*Teacher's Day -Welcome*



*Entertaining Dance performances & delightful Games*

You must not lose faith in humanity.  
Humanity is an ocean; if a few drops of  
the ocean are dirty, the ocean does not become dirty.

-Mahatma Gandhi

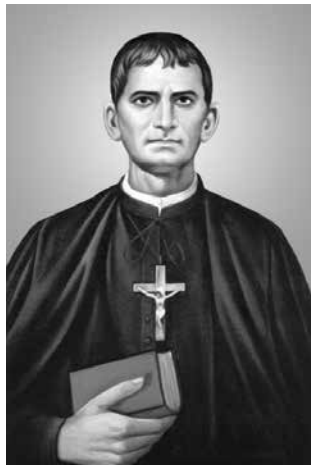
# Stamp of Humility Cannot Be Traded

-P.K.R.

“Humility” it has been said, “is one of the qualities left out of a self-made man.” Not all, one would say. For there are any number of self-made men, the word over, who have been the epitomes of humility.

Among such figures one could count Jesus Christ, Mahatma Gandhi, Gautam Buddha and by all accounts Fr. Agnel. All of them suffered for the cause of other people – so that they would be happy and liberated, some from their sins, others from eternal damnation.

All of them without exception considered themselves as “servants of the people” and dedicated their lives to the people at large. Their example and their sacrifices have lived down the ages. They will continue to inspire people and enlighten their lives.



Some of them, like Ralph Waldo Emerson believed in the dictum: “Do not go where the path leads, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.”

All those who have trodden their own path in life, have been deified by those who believe in them and by their followers. And thereon lies greatness.

Men who dare to hew out their own pristine paths are destined to live long in people’s memory and to provide them inspiration to follow their own chosen paths. All this for the greater glory of mankind.

The world teachers had one thing in common: their humility, their realization that what they had achieved in life was a small contribution to the good of Mankind and for the benefit of all men on earth. Men the world over accepted their teachings in that spirit.

Christianity, being an organized religion, is

almost the same everywhere – from Africa, to Europe, to India and Australia. But Buddhism or Hinduism is not the same in various parts of the world where they are practiced.

The Ramayana and Mahabharata are interpreted in a totally different manner in Java, Indonesia and Malaysia. Buddhism is practiced in different ways in Myanmar, Tibet,

India, China and Japan. And yet there is some binding common factor in all these varying practices. And one remarkable factor one notices in the ardent devotee of these religions is their selflessness and their utter humility. They imbibed these sterling qualities from their mentors, who initiated them into the faith they believe in and practice.

Gandhism, one suspects is slowly slipping into that mode of divergent practices. From what one once practiced as Gandhism – abstinence, self-abnegation, deprivation, suffering if necessary for a cause one believes in, are now restricted to a fringe group of his followers. For the rest, Gandhi has become a brand Ambassador, as for example, the costliest fountain pens one could think of.

When the element of humility goes out of faith and trust in great men, who have trodden their own paths to show to mankind some new revelation of life on earth, it is but natural that some element of commercialism would creep in.

This applies to all great men of humility and forbearance. Their examples have to be followed with full faith, not in bits and pieces as one thinks fit. Therein lies the nobility of ordinary men and women who seek to follow the great men of the past.



# Fr. AGNEL'S BLESSINGS

## RECOVERY FROM MAJOR ACCIDENT

**Pomburpa-Goa:** My son and daughter were victims of a bus accident while travelling to Mumbai. While my son was among the 45 passengers who were killed, my daughter suffered severe wounds and a fracture on her hand. The doctor had given up hope of her survival. I prayed to Ven.Fr.Agnelo to save my daughter. She went through a complicated operation and remained in hospital for a long time. Now after seven months she has recovered completely and resumed her normal work. We thank Ven. Fr.Agnelo and pray that the Lord may grant him honours of the Altar.

*-Aurora Mendis*

---

## BLESSED WITH OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT NASA, U.S.A.

**Baroda-Gujarat:** We are traditionally staunch devotees of Ven. Fr.Agnelo for the past many years. We have received numerous favours and blessings through his heavenly intercession. Recently my daughter who is in the IX standard was blessed with a rare opportunity to visit the NASA in America, in a Science Talent Contest conducted at the All India Level. As a token of our sincere thanks an offering of ₹.2000 to the Ashram for its various charitable activities under the patronage of Ven. Fr.Agnelo.

*-Deepak Macwan*

---

## LOAN RECOVERED

**Muscat:** A person had owed us a huge amount of money. Repayment of the loan was being delayed for no reason. I came to the Ashram and prayed to Ven. Fr.Agnel for his help. I am now happy to say that all the amount has been returned to us through a

cheque. My sincere thanks to Ven Fr.Agnel with an offering of ₹.5000.

*-Vijaya Mohandas*

## SUCCESSFUL OPERATION

**Ilha de Rachol-Goa:** My son had stones in his liver due to which it had swollen up. He was taken to a specialist who said that surgery would be futile and fatal. We then took him to Mumbai and there the doctors were of the same opinion. In this tense situation we prayed fervently to Ven. Fr.Agnelo to place his healing touch on our son. The doctors finally agreed to do the operation and the same was successful. We thank Ven.Fr.Agnelo and pray for his early canonization.

*-Marino Mendes*

---

## CURED OF DENGUE

**Nallasopara:** I was very critically sick with Dengue. Although I was under treatment in 4 hospitals, it did not bring any relief to me rather my health started deteriorating. Finally I was brought to Leelavati Hospital but with little hope of survival. At this critical time I entrusted myself to the protection of Ven.Fr.Agnel and fervently prayed for his healing touch over me. I am now very happy to inform you that through the blessing of Ven.Fr.Agnel I have completely recovered from dengue and regained my normal health. With a grateful heart an offering of ₹.200 to Ven.Fr.Agnel.

*-Kishore Govare*

---

## NUMEROUS BLESSINGS RECEIVED

**Vasai:** Ven. Fr.Agnel has been always a great intercessor for us and we have received numerous blessings and favours through his heavenly intercession. As a token of



our love and gratitude we send our offering of ₹.5000 to the Ashram for its various charitable activities under the patronage of Ven.Fr.Agnel.

- Sacheet Thomas Dabre

---

### CURED OF HYDROCELE

**Goregaon:** I was suffering from hydrocele for about 60 years now. I did not take any treatment due to some personal reasons. I was a laughing stock to others. I fervently prayed to Ven.Fr.Agnel to cure me without any operation and medication. I have now great pleasure in informing you that by the grace of Ven.Fr.Agnel I have been completely cured of hydrocele. Today, I have come to the Ashram to pay my homage and thanks offering of ₹.6000 to Ven.Fr.Agnel.

-Narcis R. Martin

### GOT ADMISSION FOR MBBS

**Vikhroli:** I was praying to Ven.Fr.Agnel to bless my daughter get admission for MBBS

in the first round in a Medical College closer to our house. By the grace of Ven.Fr.Agnel my daughter got admission as we desired. We are sending our thanks offering of ₹.501 to the Ashram.

-Purvi H. Mehta

---

### CURED OF BLEEDING PROBLEM

**Carambolim-Goa:** Last August I came to Pilar to pray for my daughter. She was suffering from continuous bleeding and the doctors advised that she be taken to Mumbai to show the specialists. I prayed to Ven.Fr.Agnel with great faith in his intercession. After the tests were taken the reports showed that everything was normal. The disease too was diagnosed. The doctors prescribed treatment and assured us that the bleeding would eventually subside. I am grateful to Ven.Fr.Agnel for hearing my prayer and pray that he may soon be canonized.

-Heraclina & Nazareth D'Mello

### THE JOY OF GIVING



Letters from some Benefactors and Friends of  
our Balbhavan Children

#### **R. Radha Krishnan, T.N**

I enclose a D/D. for ₹.1000 for the benefit of the orphans in your Balbhuvan. Kindly pray for us.

#### **Liberata Pereira, Goa**

Please accept my contribution of ₹.10,000 for your Agnel Gift Garden towards the benefit of the orphans under your care. Please remember us in your daily prayers.

#### **Jaipaul Berchmans, Chennai**

Please find enclosed a cheque for ₹.5000 which may be utilized for the orphans in

your Balbhuvan.. We request you to kindly pray for us and our families.

#### **Alice Mathew, Cochin**

Enclosed is a cheque of ₹.2000 towards Agnel Gift Garden for the orphan children. Please pray for our family especially for my daughter to be blessed with a child.

#### **Selene Mekat, Kerala**

Please accept my humble donation of ₹.5000 for the welfare of the orphans under your care. Kindly remember us in your daily prayers, especially for my son who will be getting married on 25th November.

# Out of Their Bounty

Luke Kaithaikai	U.S.A.	97076	C. Aiyappan	New Zealand	3194	Kishor Mondal	Mumbai	1000
Delight Jackson	Australia	75432	Liza & Charamel	U.S.A.	3153	Nisha Travels	Mumbai	1000
Asha S. Gandhi	New Zealand	66710	Meera Doshi	U.S.A.	3075	Nishit R. Kothari	Mumbai	1000
P. Srivastava	Mumbai	50000	Naina Desai	Mumbai	3000	Marie S. Lucien	Chennai	1000
Flavia D'Souza	Mumbai	25000	Subodh Gokhale	Mumbai	3000	Prince Anto	T.N.	1000
M D'Souza	Mumbai	25000	A George	Delhi	3000	Maria Pereira	Mumbai	1000
Ghardi Chemicals	Mumbai	25000	Teresa Peters	Malaysia	3000	Luis Pereira	Vasai	1000
Shobha Machado	Vasai	25000	D Monsurate	Dubai	3000	Theresa Varghese	Virar	1000
Meeta M. Naik	Mumbai	18000	Smita Macwan	Mumbai	3000	Mukesh, Pushpa	U.S.A.	953
Natalie J. Adams	Australia	16892	Anjali Jagtiani	Mumbai	2500	C. Hendricks	Australia	860
Sheetal Gandhi	U.S.A.	16800	Mary Cherian	Kerala	2400	S. Wood	U.K.	771
Rakesh Patel	U.S.A.	15948	Florin Mendonsa	Bandra	2000	S. Wood	U.K.	689
Honeymol Wilson	Australia	12000	Maria D'Souza	Dubai	2000	D. Sackett	U.K.	689
Samta Lingpad	Mumbai	11000	Susan D'Souza	Mumbai	2000	M.McNair	U.K.	670
Kavita S. Malini	Mumbai	11000	Agnella D'Souza	Vasai	2000	Deepa Surve	Mumbai	601
Irene M. Pereira	Naigaon	10000	Victor D'Souza	Vasai	2000	B.K. Rajpur	U.S.A.	544
Liberata Pereira	Goa	10000	Fatima D'Souza	Vasai	2000	R. Ananthan	Chennai	501
M.P. Motiwalla	Mumbai	10000	Amelia t. Dias	Mumbai	2000	Swimmy David	Mumbai	500
J. Berchmans	Chennai	10000	P.J Kattookkaran	Kerala	2000	Siju David	Mumbai	500
R. Radhakrishnan	T.N.	10000	P.C. Debnath	Navi Mumbai	2000	Vasanti Macwana	Mumbai	500
Cliff Wade	Australia	10000	M D'Mello	Vasai	2000	Shoun Motheghar	Mumbai	500
S. Castelino	Dubai	10000	Alice Mathew	Kochi	2000	Ashok M. Patel	Mumbai	500
Clifford D'Souza	Mumbai	9000	Y Khalpey	Mumbai	2000	Cecilia R. Kajar	Vasai	500
Jisha W.Kocherlie	Mira Road	9000	S Chaudhuri	Mumbai	2000	T Gonsalves	Uttan	500
J Machado	Mumbai	8000	Jomy Joseph	Kerala	2000	John Fernandes	Mumbai	500
M.H. Shah	U.S.A	6500	Neha S. Naik	Nallasopara	1500	S.J. Sutari	Mumbai	500
Lilian Pinto	U.S.A.	6483	A. Jayasimhan	Mumbai	1500	Priya S. D'Mello	Vasai	500
Deepak Mathew	U.S.A.	6483	Abraham Daniel	Kuwait	1500	A. Xavier	T.N.	500
Sonal Shah	U.S.A.	6166	Pius & Sally	U.S.A.	1497	N Rodrigues	Vasai	500
P Fernandes	Mumbai	6000	Audrey Iyer	U.K.	1494	Nitu D. Shah	Mumbai	500
A. Varkey	Kerala	6000	George Parakal	Kerala	1400	Jatin Desai	Valsad	500
Alfred J. Kurian	Mumbai	5700	Aleyamma Joy	U.S.A.	1238	Patel Ashvin	Diu	500
J Rodrigues	Vasai	5000	S Mascarenhas	Mira Road	1200	Sarah Pereira	Nallasopara	500
Denis D'Costa	Mumbai	5000	Ernest Aruja	Kochi	1200	Franky M. Pinto	Mumbai	500
Swithan D'Souza	Vasai	5000	Joseph D'Souza	Vasai	1111	Oswald D'Souza	Mumbai	500
Julian Serrao	Thane	5000	V Varghese	Delhi	1100	Harsh M. Chheda	Vasai	500
Ronnie D'Souza	Mumbai	5000	Solanki Gokul	Diu	1001	Shaila Lopes	Vasai	500
Reji Daniel	Mumbai	5000	Pravin Panchal	Mumbai	1001	Lawson D'Souza	Virar	500
Vinith Varghese	Mumbai	5000	Reshma Bhawsar	Surat	1001	Hilda Fernandes	Mumbai	500
Kavita Ghoshal	Mumbai	5000	Lata Shetty	London	1001	G.S. Almeida	Vasai	500
Sunil s. Rane	Nallasopara	5000	Pushpa Surati	Canada	1001	Francis D'Souza	Mumbai	500
V. Mathewkutty	Kuwait	5000	Vibha H. Solanki	Ahmedabad	1000	Bhavana Kotak	Gujarat	500
Myrtle D'Monte	Australia	4823	Vincent Sequeira	Mumbai	1000	Paul Araujo	Goa	500
Nayan Bhagat	New Zealand	4765	Esha S.Devadiga	Navi Mumbai	1000	Milind Kumble	Mumbai	500
Arung O.Pathali	Mumbai	4500	Arsen Rodrigues	Vasai	1000	G. Veeramani	Chennai	500
Joseph d. Raphael	U.K.	4053	Vincent Lobo	Vasai	1000	K.S. Rao	Mumbai	500
Surekha Gandhi	U.S.A.	4032	Aldrin Pashana	Thane	1000	Vivek D'Costa	Vasai	500
Jacob Almeida	Karnataka	4000	Jitendra Divecha	Mumbai	1000	Sarah Gomes	Bangalore	500
I. Santineer	T.N.	4000	R Makwana	Anand	1000	Richard Barreto	Bhyander	500
Sangita Shah	U.S.A.	3381	Jaison P.A.	Kerala	1000	Dominic Dmello	Virar	500
S. Patel	U.S.A.	3381	Homi Mistry	Mumbai	1000	Ritubai Dabre	Vasai	500
Bharati V. Patel	U.S.A.	3381	Diago Simoes	Mumbai	1000	Lily P. Crasto	Mumbai	500
Doreen Young	Canada	3375	Maxine Hatton	Kolkata	1000	Alves M. Raj	Mumbai	300
Meera Doshi	U.S.A.	3335	V.S. Bilolikar	Mumbai	1000	S Fernandes	Mumbai	200
Center Motel	U.S.A.	3279	Layla A. Mathew	Bangalore	1000	N.E. Kovoov	Kerala	200
Punam Bajaj	U.S.A.	3250	Gee Thomas	Kerala	1000	I.S. Arul Raj	Bangalore	200
			Sunila Macwan	Gujarat	1000			

# Fr. Agnel Bal Bhawan Greater Noida Celebrates Solemn Feast of Our Lady of Pilar



Statue of Our Lady of Pilar



SFX newly elected 3rd counsellor Rev. Fr. Alarico Carvalho, Delhi provincial holds the statue of Our Lady of Pilar



"Palki" of Our Lady of Pilar Statue



Rev. Bishop Anil Couto Main Celebrant



Procession



Rosary with a candle lit procession



Pilar Sisters



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  
License to post without prepayment  
No. MR/TECH/WPP-87/NORTH/2017  
at Bandra Post Office, (West), Mumbai – 400 050.

## International Chefs Day at Fr.Agnel Verna, Goa



*Chefs observing and assisting the children*



*Chefs giving take away Gifts*



*Children enjoying the lunch*



*Children watching the entertainment*



*Director Fr. Victor and Principal Alphonso  
addressing the children*



*Magician Reggie entertaining the children*