

The International Day for The Elderly & Aged



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VEN. FR.AGNEL'S 90th DEATH ANNIVERSARY Monday, 20th November 2017

PROGRAMME

SPECIAL NOVENA SERVICES From 11th to 19th November 2017

Daily

 $\underline{\text{Morning}}$: 7.00 a.m. & 7.40 a.m. : Holy Mass and Novena Prayer in English followed by blessing with the Relic.

 $\underline{\textbf{Evening}}$: 5.30 p.m. : Novena Service in Konkani, Marathi & Gujarati followed by blessing with the Relic.

Evening : 6.00 p.m. : Holy Mass and Novena Prayer in English followed by blessing with the Relic.

<u>N.B.</u>

On Sundays 12th & 19th November all Masses and Novena Services will be held as on Normal Sundays.

20th November (Monday) : 90th Death Anniversary of Venerable Fr.Agnel.

<u>Morning</u> : Masses followed by Prayers for favours in English and blessings with the Relic at 7.00 a.m, 8.00 a.m, 9.30 a.m, & 11.00 a.m (Tamil) (normal Masses in the morning as on Sundays).

<u>Afternoon :</u> 3.00 p.m. (Gujarati & Marathi Novena) & 3.30 p.m (Marathi Mass).

Evening : Solemn Concelebrated Mass will be held at 6.00 p.m. in the Ashram Compound followed by prayers for favours.

Rt. Rev. Barthol Barretto, Auxiliary Bishop of Bombay will be the Main Celebrant.



Thousands of devotees will participate in this Annual Novena and celebration. Over one lakh favours, some of them truly miraculous such as cure of cancer, T.B., paralysis etc. have been received through the powerful intercession of Ven.Fr.Agnel.

Favours obtained and petitions to be placed at the Shrine of Ven. Fr.Agnel, may be sent to the following address :

Rev. Fr. Superior. Fr.Agnel Ashram Bandstand, Bandra (West), Mumbai – 400 050. India. Tel. : 67114000.

Bus No. : 211 :Special Bus Service to Ply from Bandra Railway station (W) to Fr.Agnel Ashram Gate.

HOW WE PROCLAIM.....

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

n a series of articles I would like to discuss, why after 2000 years of the coming of the message of Jesus in our land, it has not been able to make its desired impact. When I am talking of impact, there is need of a big "caveat" or caution. What does one mean by impact? Conversion, surely not! Influencing the general perspective of the land and its people, perhaps not. What then?

If we take the so called Christian countries in the world, such as Italy, France, Spain, Portugal, etc, that at one time were considered, centres of Christendom, and have at least nominally, a large Christian population, what kind of impact has the Gospel made on them? Quasi nil.

Of course, the greatest impact that the message of Jesus has brought to bear in the western world, is the idea of equality and may be to a less extent, the idea of righteousness which in modern lingo, may be called honesty. I am not saying that the western countries are honest in their dealings, specially of a commercial or political nature, but it appears that at the individual and personal levels there is a substantive level of honesty. Some organizations too are committed to honesty, at all levels and fiercely abide by that.

The principles of private and public life, in the western world have been largely influenced by the philosophical thought of equality and equity, generally expressed in the French revolution by "liberte, fraternite and egalite". Incidentally our Indian Constitution clearly and unambiguously upholds all that. In the course of time, this philosophy that

had its beginings in the teachings of Jesus, became a social philosophy on its own right, with no connection to the Gospel or to the teachings of Jesus. Equality, brotherhood (sisterhood) and freedom became fundamental values on their own right.

Equality and liberty as fundamental principles of human organizations were integrated in our key policy making document, the Constitution of India. While the western world remained largely faithful to the principles of freedom and equality, they were extremely successful in separating those principles from the religious belief system, and thus completely severed whatever idea of religion they had from the social philosophy principles and way of life. It can be righty stated that the majority of the western world could easily separate one from the other, in such a perfect manner that Nazism, Fascism, Communism thrived, apparently in an entirely, so called Christian soil.

The Indian Constitution therefore deserves a unique place of honour among the Common Laws of any other country in the world, because it upheld and laid down policies and norms, contrary to the socially embedded systems and practices. There was here a completely well defined dichotomy of a freely and publicly patronized and practiced system of inequality and a fundamental Law that was the exact opposite.

It is here that lies the Achilles' heel of the Christian message. The fundamental doctrine of equality of all men and women, in the sight of God is only a Constitutional principle, therefore the message of the Gospel, whose very identity lies on the dignity of the human person as a child of God, saved by His intervention in the history of man, does not appeal as a watershed idea, because the duality and its co-habitation is the way of life here.

The legacy churches or the mainstream churches were the practitioners of this same duality by putting up those majestic monuments for worship and other magnificent institutions amidst oceans of poverty and deprivation. What kind of impact would such bring to bear on the common man and woman on the street who day in and day out struggled with survival, discrimination and lack of human dignity. The Christian message largely did not deliver the punch that is its core strength – the freedom and equality of God's children!

(to be continued)

-Jose Alarico Carvalho

alarc22@yahoo.co.in

And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

-Mark 16:15

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MORNING				
TIME	MASS	TIME	NOVENA	N
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 &	03.30 p.m.	Marathi	T
	Marathi			F
06:15 p.m.	English	06:30 p.m.	English	E
07:15 p.m.	English	07:30 p.m.	English	V

Fr. Agnel Ashram - Bandra MASSES and NOVENAS ON SUNDAYS

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.
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Fax : 67114100.

- Email : agnelashramnews@gmail.com
- Web : http://ash.fragnel.edu.in

"And in the end it's not the years in your life that count; it's the life in your years "

-Abraham Lincoln

The Brilliant Setting Sun Beckons

-Leon Bent

This is a toast to the International Day for Elderly People on 1st October, each year.

Yes, indeed, the brilliant sunset beckons, well past the final frontier, into the mysterious, great beyond!

Although we have only one life cycle to live, and a tiny speck of human history to cover, to do this gracefully and cheerfully is our prized calling. Aging is the turning of the wheel, the gradual fulfillment of the earthly life cycle, where receiving matures into giving and dying becomes worthwhile.

The elderly are our prophets. Without the presence of old people we may forget we are all aging, from moment to moment. Those advanced in years remind us ceaselessly that, one day, we too will become feeble, maybe senile and helpless.

The old offer us hope. There is no need to be filled with fear and pain, bitterness and despair, severe alienation and self-rejection.

Those rich in years remind us of our ultimate destiny. They are our teachers and restore the link between the broken connections and successive struggling generations. They point to the dangers as well as the possibilities of growing grey. Aging, surely, is not a way to darkness, rather, it leads us to the light and the treasures of life, tucked away, somewhere, in the innermost recesses of our being.

Quite providentially, the old are memory banks or reservoirs of heartfelt remembrances. They spin wonderful and amazing stories for us, of yesteryears, on which the present is build. They resurrect the past in all its splendor and glory, for us to savor and enrich ourselves on. Wisdom is in full flow and nostalgia fills the air.

This reality is beautifully expressed in an old Taoist parable, which tells us about a carpenter and his apprentice, who saw a huge oak tree, very ancient and greatly gnarled. The carpenter said to his under-study: "Do you know why this tree is so big and old. The young man said: "No...Why?" The artisan answered: "Because it was useless. If it were useful, it would have been cut down, sawed and used to make furniture. But, because it was and still is useless, it has been allowed to grow. This is why it is so majestic now; you can rest in its dense shade."

Take heart, dear friends, you are not going to be thrown into the junk heap, a Home for the Aged, the retirement village, "The Last Resort." Cast off these fear without much ado!

Be uplifted by old (now St.) Pope John XXIII, opening a fresh window on life with Vatican II, and making an ancient Church vibrant with Spirit-power. And, an eighty-plus (now St.) Pope John Paul II touched the hearts of millions of youth and brought color to their lives. What about a wrinkled and twice-bentover Mother Teresa, who brought hope and love to the poorest of the poor, the world over. Look at the last self-portrait of the broken and weather-beaten, Rembrandt, a masterpiece of a painting, and discover a depth and range that did not exist in his youth. You may marvel at the last works of Michelangelo, for they are the best works of the master creator. We recall the piercing eyes of the elderly Einstein in his winter years, and the feverish brush of the evergreen, maverick M.F. Hussain, at 95, radical as ever, creating world-renowned paintings, even movies, ablaze!

Look at the last self-portrait of the broken and weather-beaten, Rembrandt, a breathtaking painting, and discover a depth and range that did not exist in his youth. I looked at Rembrandt's last self-portrait: so hideous and broken; so horrible and hopeless; and, yet, so wonderfully captured. All at once it dawned on me: to be able to look at one's fading self in a mirror – see nothing worthwhile – and paint oneself as the nothingness of man! What a miracle! In its bright golden light and stark, shadowy brown contrast, I found courage and freshly-minted youth. "Holy Rembrandt," I said. Indeed, I owe my life's richness only to the artists.

Monet continued to paint great canvases at 86. Titian put the last brushstrokes to the "Battle of Lepanto" at 98; he finished his Last Supper at 99. Goethe completed "Faust" at 81. Tennyson wrote "Crossing the Bar" when he was 83. Voltaire was still penning Plays when he died at 84. At 74 Verdi composed "Othello; at 80 he produced "Falstaff". At 50 the mind hasn't yet reached its zenith. At 60 it is at its best. It reaches its nadir well past 80 and more, if it has been razor-sharp and alive earlier in life.

A young child saw a tiny sparrow lying dead, on its back. He asked his father in a sad tone, "Why do innocent birds have to die so cruelly?" The answer was prompt and clear: "Everything that lives must die." The boy asked in dismay: "And, I?" "You too will die one day!" "Why?" The father's wise reply: "So that, life would be precious, son....Everything that is yours forever is never prized!"

Now, this gold nugget! The sun, that blazing orange ball, leaves all its brilliant colors behind for all to admire and be awed by, before it sets beyond the far horizon.

And, this final fling! "For those who have not loved/Old age is a winter time of loneliness. For those who have loved/Old age is a golden harvest time."

The last word from Scripture: "The virtuous... will flourish in the courts of our God, still bearing fruit in old age... still remaining fresh and green..." (Ps.92:13-15).

What an elder sees sitting; the young can't see standing.

THE **JOY**



Letters from some Benefactors and Friends of our Balbhavan Children

A.C. Iyer, London

OF GIVING

I enclose a BPO for £40 as my thanks offering to Ven.Fr.Agnel for favours received through his intercession. This amount may be utilized for your orphan children. Kindly remember my family and self in your daily prayers.

Rashmi Thomas, Mumbai

Please accept my contribution of ₹.25,000 for your Agnel Gift Garden towards the benefit of the orphans under your care. Pleae pray for us.

Mrs.M.P. Motiwalla, Mumbai

Please accept this donation of ₹.10,000towards the education and maintenance of the orphan children in your Balbhuvan. May God bless you for all the good work that you are doing for the poor. Will appreciate your prayers.

Mary Cherian, Kerala

Enclosed is a D/D for ₹.2400 towards the sponsorship of two children under your care. Please pray for me and my family.

Celin Pathiyil, U.S.A.

Herewith a cheque of \$100 for favours received through the intercession of Ven. Fr.Agnel. I need your special prayers for my friend's 1 year old son who has been diagnosed with leukemia. Please request the children to pray for him and also for my family.

The International Year of the Elderly and Aged

-Christine D'Sylva

With mirth and laughter, let old wrinkles come - Shakespeare

Wisdom is with aged men. With long life is understanding. Job 12 :12

October 1st is an important day for it celebrates the International Day of Older Persons. This was launched by the United Nations. 1999 was declared as the International Year of Older Persons. It was realised that while we have so many days like Women's day, Mother's day, Teacher's day, etc, little attention was being paid to the elderly and aged people.

Society today only deals with productivity and youth. Both are important for the development of any nation. A nation's progress does depend upon people who can work and be productive. Not surprisingly then, the elderly people are regarded as unwanted and a burden to society, for it is often felt like their use is negligible. What can they contribute to society's progress? They are merely regarded as dependent, useless people who seem too much of a burden. Harsh, wouldn't you say?

With the celebration of this day, people around the globe are made more aware that we have to give the elderly their due respect and importance.

Did you know that within the next few generations the proportion of the population aged 60 and over will increase from one in four? Imagine one in four persons will be elderly and aged.

There were proposed by the United Nations 18 principles grouped into five clusters-Independence, participation, care, selffulfilment and dignity for the elderly members of our society to lead better lives. past that reflect the fate of the elderly.

In Japan, there was a ceremony called oyasute which meant abandoning a parent, wherein the elderly relative was carried to a mountain or remote desolate place and left there to die either by dehydration, starvation or exposure. It was a form of euthanasia.

The Eskimos are quite known for the strange practice they have adopted in dealing with the elderly and aged people. It is said that since the Eskimos work very hard to survive, it is practically impossible for them to support adults who no longer can contribute to the well- being of the group. Thus, when old age strikes, the elderly Eskimos are taken to sea and set adrift on an ice-berg. Alone on the iceberg they will either freeze or starve to death, being horrifyingly alone. However, before we gasp too much at this seemingly barbaric practice, let us examine their point of view. The elderly are difficult to support, and also it is believed that another world awaited them when they died. This was considered to be a graceful exit without them becoming a source of resentment and burden to family members. Sometimes they were taken into the wilderness and abandoned and it is reported that some even begged their family members to kill them. They often did not want to be a burden to the group and wanted to die without their family members resenting them.

Psalm 92:14- They still bear fruit in their old age, they are ever full of sap and green.

Age is considered to be an incurable disease.

Let us examine the customs followed in the

Old age has many frightening aspects like illness, feelings of uselessness, loss of friends and loved ones, and a feeling of alienation from one's children and grand- children.

Sometimes, the elderly can be very intolerant of people around them by being rude, judgemental etc. This further alienates them from their family members. Often children complain that the elderly members of the family are very critical, rude and act a bit selfish. They are like children again seeking attention. It is said old age is like a second childhood. Elderly people can become very child-like and demanding. This takes a toll on family members who find sometimes their own lives becoming very stressful caring for them. Therefore, the aged have to also learn to adjust and get along better with their family members so that the burden will be greatly reduced. Many elderly people develop this bad habit of cribbing a lot. While we have to respect them and empathise with them, a little effort must also be done by them to be more easy-going and to be kinder to the family members around them. Children complain that the elderly people are difficult to get along with. It takes two hands to clap, of course and I firmly believe both parties must make efforts to get along well.

At present 95 million people in our country are over the age of 60. Therefore, to solve this escalating problem, Homes for the Aged are ideal for elderly people who are alone, face health problems and who suffer from depression and loneliness. Many elderly people who do not want to be a burden to their children, voluntarily go to these old age homes to be cared for.

Today, we do not live in an ideal world where the elderly people are cared for by their children. They themselves realise the burden they will be, and seek other alternatives like a nurse, a caregiver or even decide to go to the Home for the Aged and get company with other elderly people.

Age catches up with every one of us. It is said that we must never regret growing old for it is a privilege denied to many who die so young.

Plato, the Greek philosopher sums it up aptly-The spiritual eyesight improves as the physical eyesight declines.

So, this October 1st, let us remember the elderly and aged with respect for though their contribution to society may be on a wane, they still deserve our admiration and respect as important members of society. Nature teaches us important lessons. The older the wines and cheeses, the more they are praised. Should we not then realise that the older a person is, the more he should be appreciated and held in esteem?

Eleanor Roosevelt made this wise observation, "Beautiful people are accidents of nature but beautiful old people are works of art."

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

Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues Bandra Memorial Debate, 2017 "Competence of Latent Judgement"

e always have certain thoughts and opinions about certain issues and incidents. This arises from the prejudice we develop for the event from our subconscious mind. The term Latent stands for hidden and subconscious. Latent judgement is the decision you make following your instincts. They are born from your very own gut feeling at the very instant. It is free from logic and practicality. The final verdict, which comes after a lot of thought processing and logical analysis may or may not coincide with the latent judgement. So here we are, testing the efficiency of our subconscious minds with every debate, with the theme, "Competence of Latent Judgement", for the 19th edition of the Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues Memorial Debate which was held on 8th and 9th of September, 2017. The 19th edition of the memorial debate left us with beautiful memories striving towards excellence.

The first day of the event saw the opening ceremony with the lighting of the lamp in the state-of-the-art hall of the college – "Samwaad" followed with the blessed presence of Fr. Valerian D'Souza and Principal Dr. Mrs. Srija Unnikrishnan. The event was also graced by the presence of the Chief guest, Mr. Tejas Suma Shyam and the Guest of honour, an alumni, Mr. Anil Dagya who gave inspirational speeches. The Editorial Secretary of the Students' Council, Mr. Delzad Bamji, gave a short introduction to the debate, the theme and welcomed all the participants and the judges, following which the debate was declared open.

A total of 32 teams from all over the nation participated. The event followed a "League Round System" wherein the league rounds were held on the first day in the various classrooms of the institute. Towards the end of the league rounds, based on the number of rounds won and the speaker points, 8 teams advanced to the quarter final rounds. This year we witnessed the presence of adjudicators who competed for the 'Best Adjudicator' position. The day ended with the following teams moving on to the quarters:

- Pravin Gandhi College of Law
- Don Bosco Institute of Technology
- Sardar Patel Institute of Technology
- RA Poddar College of Commerce and Economics
- Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues COE
- Sardar Patel COE
- Army Institute of Technology (Pune)
- Institute of Forensic Sciences

The quarter finals took place on 9th of September. We had mind-blowing speeches from all the qualifying teams. After thorough examinations, the judges finally announced their verdicts. The results were extremely close. However the following teams advanced to the semi finals:

- RA Poddar College of Commerce and Economics
- Institute of Forensic Sciences
- Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues COE
- Don Bosco Institute of Technology (Mumbai)

The Semi-finals and Finals of the debate took place in samwaad. The judges for the semifinals were **Mr. Biswa Das, Mr. Jagjyot Singh and Ms. Ipshita Bhattacharya.**

Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues Ba



Principal Dr. Mrs. Srija Unnikrishnan lights the lamp



Participants at the Debate





Chief guest Brigadier Sushil Bhasin gives his thoughts on the debate



Editorial Secretary, Delza Bamji, introduces the theme of the debate on day 1



Fr. Valerian D'Souza delivers an inspirational speech



Adjudicator Yuvraj Singh gives his feedback to the teams



Maanav Doshi, an alumnus, being felicitated for his contribution to CRMD 2017



Principal Dr. Mrs. Srija Unnikrishnan presents the Best Speaker trophy to Mr. Arman Khan

NDRA MEMORIAL DEBATE, 2017



Audience for the Debate





Round 1 Debate in the Seminar Hall



Purav Bharadwaj (center) with the Runners up-DBIT



Brigadier Sushil Bhasin presents the winning team with the Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues Memorial Debate Trophy



The winning Team



The committee of Teachers and dignitaries



The Student Council - Organising Committee

SEMI-FINALS:

1. DBIT v/s RA Poddar:

Moderator: Ms. Janice Abraham

Topic: 'Context slide: - Earth 1: No concept of religion. Everyone is an atheist.

Earth 2: Present world we live in.

This house prefers Earth 2 over Earth 1'.

DBIT being the proposition rooted for the existing scenario of earth 2 where we look upon religion as the fundamentals of faith. The opposition, lead by RA Poddar, stated the demerits of religion in their points. With both the teams going neck and neck, the results were definitely going to be close. Don Bosco Institute of Technolgy bagged this round and secured their berth in the finals.

2. IFS, Mumbai v/s Fr. CRCE:

Moderator: Mr. Aditya Kelkar

Topic: 'This house as the BJP government will go back in time and without changing the outcomes, still implement Demonetization.'

This debate was like a whetstone for our brains. There were tremendous gains from both the teams, as they added constructive points to counter their worthy opponents and strengthen their stance. Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues COE triumphed over Institute of Forensic Science and secured the other seat in the finals.

THE FINAL COMBAT :

The finals saw Mrs. Madhavi Gokhale, Mrs. Sunitha George and Dr. Vidya Premkumar as the judges.

DBIT v/s Fr.CRCE :

Moderator: Mr. Dhruva Gaidhani

Topic: 'context slide:- A referendum is being held in Kashmir, there are 2 options: Option 1: one is to secede from India and create a separate state under the aegis of UN. Option 2: the other is to stay with India.

This house as a Kashmiri youth will vote to stay with India.'

The stage was set for a final showdown between the two heavy-weights of this year's

competition. The debate set the temperature of the auditorium soaring high. Heated arguments were exchanged by both the teams. DBIT was in favour of the cause and wished to stay with India. The opposition on the other hand wanted to pave the way for a new UN state. They presented a case through the eyes of a Kashmiri youth and his surroundings. AFSPA was mentioned by both the teams each one stating either pros or cons. In the battlefield of the realm of ideas, the participants sparred and traded blows. They kept us enthralled from the get go, riveted to the edges of our seats. The Proposition challenged their opponents repeatedly while the Opposition posed thought provoking questions. Following the end of the debate, the judges cross-questioned the participants and then moved on to give them feedbacks.

The judges shared their valuable inputs to the teams. Mrs. Madhavi Gokhale gave the judges' view on the debate. She congratulated both teams on their performance while giving tips to better their debating skills.

The Chief Guest, Brigadier Sushil Bhasin, Principal Dr. Mrs. Srija Unnikrishnan and Guest of honour, Mr. Bijal Sanghvi were later asked to speak a few words. Fr. Valerian gratuitously thanked the debate committee for putting up a concept that could allow students to think, make and contribute opinions.

Brigadier Sushil Bhasin congratulated the teams and organizing committee for the event and went on to state how he believed one needed to trust his or her instincts. The results were announced later.

Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues COE bagged the first prize while Don Bosco Institute of Technology became the runners-up. The Best Speaker award was presented to Mr. Armaan Khan of DBIT by Dr. Mrs. Srija Ma'am. The victors, Fr.CRCE, received the prestigious Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues Memorial Debate trophy from Mr.Bhasin. The participants from DBIT received the runners-up trophy later, through the hands of Mr. Bijal Sanghvi. The dignitaries awarded the Best Speaker trophy. The Best Adjudicator was awarded to Mr. Purav Bharadwaj by Father Valerian.

Following the prize distribution, the Cultural Secretary, Ms. Suparna Shetty took the dais to extend the vote of thanks. The Students' Council was thanked for executing the role of the Organizing Committee along with the student volunteers who contributed towards the event. Mr. Vijay Bilolikar, Dean of Student Affairs and Mrs. Archana Karandikar, the Faculty In-Charge of the debate, along with her teachers' committee were mentioned for their unwavering support, without whom the Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues Memorial Debate would have been difficult to pull off.

Angel Savoir Faire – Linguacious

Fr. Agnel School, Gr. Noida organized its Annual Talent Fair 'Angel Savoir Faire' 2017 on 28 August, 2017 when many Inter School Competitions were conducted. Highlighting the significance of language in a Child's overall personality development this year Agnel Savoir Faire was dedicated to promote three languages – English, Hindi and Sanskrit titled as LINGUACIOUS.

Expression requires language and language is a skill which needs to be developed. Learning language is a joyful experience and enables the learners to find the meaning and significance of life. For the purpose, various language competitions were conducted to discover and nurture the latent literary and creative potential in the students and enhance their language skills. The events were Be A Commentator, Tableau, Grammar Wiz, Hasya Kavi Sammelan, Kavya Gatha, Sankrit Vigyapan etc. The proficient language teachers and professors from the prestigious schools and Universities judged the events. Many schools participated in the events including St. Jesus and Mary School, Ursuline Convent School, Gr. Noida, Samsara School, Gr. Noida, cambridge school Gr. Noida, Father Agnel School, Noida and many others. Fr. Agnel School, Gr. Noida was declared as the overall champion with maximum marks.

Swearing in Ceremony at Agnels

The Investiture ceremony is an annual feature of great significance at **Fr. Agnel Multipurpose School, Vashi.** Every year a new Student Council is appointed to shoulder the responsibility of running the day to day affairs of the school in a smooth manner. During the ceremony the newly appointed leaders take the solemn oath to abide by the values and principles of the institution.

The students of Std. IX and Std.XI are given the opportunity to contest elections and become leaders. The deserving candidates are nominated by the teachers and elected by the students of Std. IX, X, XI and XII. After brief campaigning and speeches by the nominated candidates, all students cast their vote via electronic voting system.

The elected leaders have to undergo rigorous practice sessions to perfect the drill for the march past. On D-day the leaders get their badges and are formally handed over charge of managing the student related issues in school. The previous leaders are thanked and the new leaders are encouraged to do their work to the best of their capacity. The Head girl Nikita Jadhav said "It almost felt like we were being conferred with Knighthood. We promise that we will live up to the expectations of the Teachers, the Management and the Students". The perfectly co-ordinated drill was as always the outstanding feature of the ceremony. It is a ceremony that fills the hearts of all Agnelites with pride and joy.

TEACHERS DAY Celebrations

PCCE celebrated Teachers Day on the 5th of September 2017 where students welcomed the teachers with bookmarks.

Rev. Fr. Victor Rebello, Local Delegate Superior Agnel Technical Educational Complex, Dr. Mahesh Parrappagoudar Principal and staff members were present for the function. Rev.Fr. Seby Rodrigues, Assistant Director, conveyed his best wishes. The students of PCCE organized a program for all the staff members on this special day to show their appreciation. It commenced with the giving of beautiful cards which the students themselves made, followed by the cutting of the cake. The students also put together a beautiful video showcasing the various talents of the teachers here at PCCE. They organized various cultural programs and games for the teachers. The teachers of PCCE also showcased an act. The event was followed by fellowship.

The event was co-ordinated by Ms. Alzira Xavier, faculty in-charge, Mr. AmeyWadekar, IT department, Ms. Shona Afonso, Computer department, Ms. Jillian Cotta, ETC department and Mr. Marvin Fernandes, Mechanical department.



Birthday Ode To Our Lady

-Arthur D' Mello

Joachim and Anna will ever remember This date the 8th of September Where Heaven sent them a lovely girl with beautiful eyes and a lot of Curls.

When this joyful news made the village around

Relations and friends did all abound To greet the parents and wish the child

of a future, could one guess wild.

That this lovely maiden would be asked soon By a Maker, a great boon

To conceive and bear the Son of God of course Jesus Christ Our Lord.

Now, as in Community say Many Many Happy Returns of the Day Keep Oh! Lady, under your mantle the earth,

Graces, Blessings and favours, of no dearth.

Table Tennis Champions



Pranav Deshpande, Vipul Nandkar, Deepik Patil and Coach Suhas Chawan

F Agnel Multipurpose School and Junior College, Vashi won the DSO Interschool State Championship under 17 boys team event by defeating Krida Prabodhini Division with a score 3.1.

Earlier in Semi Finals Fr Agnel Table Tennis Team defeated St. Teresa School which represented Nashik Division with a winning score of 3.1

The tournament was conducted by DSO at Zilla Krida Sankul. Nanded

A Regional Summit

Aregional Summit of school principals on "Aggression in School Children- Causes, Prevention and Management" was held on September 19, 2017 at Anand Niketan, Satellite, Ahmedabad. It was a joint initiative of ICTRC (Institute of Counsellor Training Research and Consultancy) and Anand

Niketan. Mrs. Vijaya Vaithilingam represented **Fr. Agnel Multipurpose School& Jr. College, Vashi** at this summit which was attended by a large gathering of school heads from various parts of Gujarat and Maharashtra.

Renowned educational

psychologist and Director General of ICRTC, Dr. V.S. Ravindran, who was the chief resource person, shared his views on the prevalence of aggression today and the need for more and more SAFE and CARING schools. Beginning with



the view that lack of empathy is one of the main reasons for aggression, Dr. Ravindran shared his very valuable insights into the various faces of aggression in children and the probable reasons behind them. He emphasized on the need for helping children to grow into socially

aware, empathetic individuals.

Therefore schools need to consciously play a new role for promoting a culture of interdependence, positive peer relations and selfdiscipline through emotional literacy, social competencies

> and alternative thinking strategies. That in turn will help in building a pro-social generation which will handle challenging or stressful situations constructively and not aggressively.

Fr. AGNEL'S BLESSINGS

SECURED PROMOTION AND INCREMENT

Dubai: I am a staunch devotee of Ven. Fr.Agnel and would visit the Ashram almost every Sunday. By the grace of Ven.Fr.Agnel I got a job in Dubai. And again by his grace I got promotion and a good increment. As a token of my profound gratitude and homage an offering of ₹.18,290 to the Ashram.

-Kunal Chamanlal Darji

OVER CAME DIFFICULTIES

Vasai: We were facing some serious problems in our new business. We fervently prayed to Ven.Fr.Agnel and through his intercession we overcame all the difficulties and our business is on fast track. Our heartfelt thanks to Ven.Fr.Agnel with an offering of ₹.500.

-E. Sawarkar

RECOVERY FROM BACK INJURY

Calangute –Goa: On the 9th July I had a fall and injured my back severely. I feared a fracture on the spine. On the way to the hospital I prayed to Ven.Fr.Agnelo that there would be nothing serious. On taking the X-Ray I was relieved to find that not a single bone had a fracture though I was in great pain. I thank Ven.Fr.Agnelo for the favour and pray that he may have the honours of the Altar soon.

-Sabino Miranda

MULTIPLE FAVOURS

Virar: My husband was facing some serious problems with his job in Dubai. I fervently prayed to Ven.Fr.Agnel and now through his intercession all the problems are solved. My son was suffering from bad cold and fever for the past one year. Although he was under the right medication, it did not give him any relief. I visited the Ashram and placed my petition at the tomb of Ven.Fr.Agnel and through his blessings my son is alright now and does not need any medication. My daughter was blessed with a suitable life partner through the intercession of Ven. Fr.Agnel. As a token of my sincere thanks an offering of ₹.1000 to the Ashram.

-Algena D'Cunha

CURED FROM CONJUNCTIVITIS & URINARY INFECTION

Bandra: I was suffering from acute conjunctivitis for nearly a month and also had a urinary infection.: I fervently prayed to Ven.Fr.Agnel and I was cured from both these infections. In thanksgiving an offering of ₹.500 to Ven.Fr.Agnel.

-Pearl Fernandes

CURED OF KIDNEY STONE

Vasai: I was suffering from kidney stone for about 5 years Although I was under medication by various Doctors, it did not bring any lasting relief. I entreated the powerful intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel and through his blessing I am now completely cured from kidney stone. With a grateful heart an offering of ₹.500 to the Ashram.

-Luke Thomas Vaz

HELP IN NEEDY TIMES

Sanpada: We wanted to start our new business in our locality but we were facing obstacles in obtaining the necessary licence. At this time we besought the powerful intercession of Ven.Fr.Agnel and fervently prayed for his help. We are now happy to inform you that through the intercession of

Ven.Fr.Agnel we got the Licence and started our new venture which is running very well. Our heartfelt thanks to Ven.Fr.Agnel with an offering of ₹.1000.

-Harish Suvarna

HELP IN CRITICAL TIME

Kalyan: My son was very critically sick due to stomach infection and double typhoid. The doctors gave up hope of his survival. At this critical time we entrusted our son to the protection of Ven.Fr.Agnel and fervently prayed for his healing touch over our son. We are now extremely happy to inform you that through the blessings of Ven.Fr.Agnel my son has completely recovered from his illness and has regained his normal health. My sincere thanks to Ven.Fr.Agnel with my offering of ₹.500.

-Lourdes D'Souza

CURED OF MALIGNANT INFECTION ON FOOD PIPE

Calangute –Goa: My brother's daughterin-law Angela had a malignant infection on her food pipe. The doctors had suggested surgery. In this moment of panic I prayed to Ven.Fr.Agnel to intercede to God for his mercy and healing touch upon her. The surgery performed by the doctor was successful and now she is much better. My grateful thanks to Ven.Fr.Agnel and I pray for his early beatification.

-Maria Santan D'Souza

Honest Effort will Help us Make Measurable Progress

"I was taught that the way of progress is neither swift nor easy."

- Marie Curie

Some of our goals are easily attained. Others demand stamina and resourcefulness. And still others require a commitment of long standing, a willingness to postpone gratification, but most of all, an acceptance of possible failure. We can never be certain of a final outcome. We can only be sure of our effort. However, we can be assured that honest effort will allow us to make measurable progress.

Life is a process. We learn and grow and move

toward our goals little by little. The choice to quit moving is also available to us. In fact, a breather from the path we are on is occasionally in order. Recommitment is necessary, however, to begin the growth process again.

Charging ahead takes energy – emotional, mental, spiritual, even physical energy. The whole person is involved in the process of growth; our progress is in direct correlation to the process.

I learned to focus on what's real rather than imagined; on not letting feelings drive the bus; on being courageous and honest; on putting my total effort into something and not worrying about the result.

-Rob Lowe

Out of Their Bounty

Ambika U.T. R.C. Agarwal P. Srivastava S. Saje Bejon Foundation Nashik S.T. D'Mello Troy D'Mello J. Enterprises A.J. Sharma Joseph K.J. Dubai P.E. Serrao B. D. Tellis L. A. D'Souza Joyce D'Souza Vasai C. J. D'Souza Cyriac John Vapi S. Fernandes Chris D'Souza Vasai J.R. D'Souza S.A. fonseca D. Liberson T.N. M. Fernandes P. D'Abreo S. Menezes R.N. Forbes C.A. D'Souza J.M. Machado Cecil D'Souza M. J. D'Souza Dubai Rov D. Muniz P. Fernandes A. D'Souza T. George Airoli M.K. rivetna S. D. Jenlilal Diu Subramaniam R. T.K. Antony V. K. Naber Vijay Bakshi J. Rodrigues Vasai S. D'Souza Dubai B.S. Mehta S. Fernandes A. Nero Kerala Dr.P.S. Patel Surat J. D'Souza T. R. Menon A. D'Souza Vasai A.P. Varghese Kerala Irene Correa M. Fernandes Kerala N. Mariam A.K. Chheda J.G. Bhadun M.P. R. Cardoso Panjim N. Remedios

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S.C. Gandhi Valsad A. Bhadram Kerala A. Abraham Bangalore S.F. Bana Mumbai N. A. Pereira Vasai S. Saldanha Karnataka V.E. Karanjia Mumbai G. Corda Mumbai G. P. Fonseca Mumbai bP.J. George Kerala P.D. Nandu Mumbai J. Raja Mumbai V. Shah Gujarat M.F. D'Souza Mumbai S.S. Marvekar Mumbai A.S. Kalbay Mumbai D.M. Desai Mumbai S.S. Hetyr Vasai R.H. Almeida Nallasopara A. Barnes Mumbai N.R. Dhaser Vasai J.M. Desai Valsad A. Braganza Mira Road Mumbai A.M. Parmar A.C. Dias Virar N. Bamania Mumbai S.B. Chauhan Gujarat Mumbai C. Fernandes A. Pandit Dubai J. Bhadra Mumbai A.F. Pereira Vasai W.J. Tanya Uttan S.A. Chaudhary Vasai Mumbai J. Jeyaraj G. Pandian Mumbai Mumbai A. Lewis N.P. Dastoor Mumbai J. Cardoso Mumbai A. David Vasai J. Shah Mumbai P. Shah Mumbai Gracy Dabre Vasai G. Coutinho Vasai S. Cotta Mumbai S.S. Naik Airoli D.P. Dave Mumbai K.S. Rao Mumbai T. Kotak Rajkot Precilla Machado Vasai I. D'Souza Mumbai S.A. Silveira Dombivli Gulabsingh Rana Thane L.B. Clancy Bangalore S. Tuscano Vasai V. Barrow Mumbai R.T. Gonsalves Vasai B. Daver Mumbai

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INVESTITURE CEREMONY AT FR.AGNEL MULTIPURPOSE SCHOOL, VASHI



Rev.Fr. S. Almeida Managing Director giving a speech



Investiture Ceremony



School Leaders



Leaders take oath

Agnel Ashram Community & Balbhavan Children Wish all our Friends & Benefactors A Véry Happy Deepavali & a Prosperous New Year. 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.

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Sanskrit Vigyapan



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Kavya Samelan



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Winner Be a Commentator





Winner Grammar Wiz