



FR

September 2017

AGNEL

SHRAM NEWS

EMPOWERING
WOMEN



FR. AGNEL
ASHRAM

NEWS

September 2017

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THE JOY OF GIVING

Become a
Cheerful Giver



Letters from some
Benefactors and
Friends of our
Balbhavan Children

J.George, Tamil Nadu

I am enclosing a cheque for ₹.2,000 to be used for the orphan children in your Balbhuvan. Please pray for me and my family and also that my business should do well.

Nisha Mehta, Mumbai

1. One Cheque of ₹.6,001 for your Education Fund
2. The other cheque of ₹5,101 for the benefit of the orphan boys

Please pray for our family.

Francis Quaevedras, Mumbai

Enclosed is a cheque of

₹.9,500 for the orphan children under your care. Please pray for me and my family's good health and happiness.

Adrian Fosberry, Karnataka

Enclsd is a D/D for ₹.2,250 towards the sponsorship of my ward Shane Rayappa Nadar. I hope he is keeping good health and doing well in his studies. Will appreciate your kind prayers.

Santi Lucien, Chennai

I enclose a cheque of ₹.1,000 towards the sponsorship of my ward. Please pray for the intentions of our family.

WHY PROCLAIM ?

(In a series of articles the writer makes a case for proclamation that every Christian must practice, as a natural unfolding of his/her life.)

DISCLAIMER: The views expressed by the author are his and not the magazine's..

The idea of a Christian, as the very word represents is connected with the Lord Jesus Christ, and what it precisely means, is that a Christian is by his/her identity someone who is connected with Christ as much as an Indian is connected with India and an American is connected with America. The difference however remains that all connections are not identical. Some indicate positive allegiance or loyalty, others denote ethnic identity and still others state ideological similarity or identity.

A Christian's connection with Christ is an entirely different concept and demands a much deeper understanding, which can be summarized, as follows: a Christian considers himself indebted to Christ because he has been saved by the Death and Resurrection of Jesus. Thus as a result of this surrender to God in gratitude, for being empowered with eternity (*salvation/moksha/nirvana*), the Christian strives to experience this salvation every day of his/her life. Salvation is a personal gift, it needs to be experienced at the personal level, while it is also a collective gift to mankind, that has also to be experienced collectively (*vassudaivam Kuttumbakam*). A Christian's entire life journey is only this, to strive to experience his or her identity, that has been obtained for him, by Jesus Christ.

So a Christian's continuous striving does end up as a personal quest alone, but truly becomes an element of change in the world around him or her, a leaven, a salt or a light, as Jesus clearly indicates in Mathew 5, 13ss.

A Christian's life by very definition becomes proclamation because by his/her life he /she demonstrates to the world, that life has got an entirely different meaning, because we have been saved. It gives you an entirely different

perception of reality that empowers you to love, forgive and be compassionate, etc. This perception of a different reality enables you, to experience the Divine in you, (*God among us, Emmanuel, Aham Brahma Asmi*). Differently stated, our life is not what it appears to us to be, that it comes to a natural end, neither is it caught with an uncertain the cycle of life, but that life is eternal!

How does it come about? How does an ordinary person on the street, understand and perceive this complex reality? Proclamation's scope is exactly that, to demonstrate to the world, what a Christian believes, namely that all are called to find eternity, life of joy, bliss, "Anand", because it belongs to us, and has been achieved for us, by the Death and Resurrection of Jesus.

A Christian does not need to preach, his life itself is preaching, because, each time he makes a "Christian" act of forgiving someone who does him/her wrong, he demonstrates a new perspective, that we are all brothers and sisters, therefore forgiving is essential for me to be part of the family and for the other to be part of the family too, since God is our Father.

For all men and women of goodwill, forgiving, loving, sharing and wishing others good, is a natural inclination, although we are inclined to give it back, react adversely, but deep down, when our turn comes, we want forgiveness and mercy. When Jesus teaches that he has come to make our own life more abundant, by raising it to the level where it belongs, to the realm of the Divine, where you love, care and forgive, because he/she is your brother or sister, since God is our Father, and He has given His love to us in Jesus, in all its bounty. A mother in an affluent family loves her child, as much as a mother in a poor home, loves her child too,

because that is instinct. But that instinct does not tell you, that when someone hurts you, that you must not hurt him in return, and it is here that you require a stronger power to overcome that conflict, a reason to forgive and love, a power that you have right inside you!

Proclamation is about the new power to forgive, love, understand and embrace the other, for the simple reason because you have the power to do it, with love. God must have His many ways, of inspiring people to know him as a Father and a God, and therefore there are thousands around the world who probably know and worship God in their own way, without ever hurting one's brother and sister.

A Christian by his life must demonstrate that he has the power, the joy, the strength to love and forgive, simply because he has experienced the Love of God in his life, through Jesus. If a Christian does not proclaim, he/she probably fails to understand the reality he professes, but when he/she lives it well, she/he automatically proclaims his/her belief.

When we proclaim we do not preach superiority,

we do not preach hate or discrimination, and truly speaking, we tell the world that we are called to unity, to equality of God's children, where there is no superior or inferior, and we appeal that every man or woman, discover the mother's love towards her child, which is deeply embedded in any man or woman's life, and raise to the potential that it has, to love others as God loves us. Of course, such a life must be touched by God's power, through surrender in faith.

A Christian must at all times proclaim the joy of loving, a joy that comes to him/her as a result of discovering God's love in our life, by the Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. A Christian proclaims his/her permanent empowerment to love, because God's love in Jesus Christ is being constantly revealed to him/her, by surrendering, amidst struggles of life to His call. So when proclamation is only living what you believe, there is no place for hate, suspicion and discrimination.

-Jose Alarico Carvalho

alarc22@yahoo.co.in

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

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“Women are the real architects of society.”

-Harriet Beecher Stowe

The “Womb” That is September!

-Leon Bent

Come September! It's *yesterday* once more, for me! I simply bask in its aura, its divine milieu. On the twenty-sixth day of the month, the dark womb of my dearly beloved mother, of revered memory, opened me to the 'light.' On the first day, according to the Creation account of the Bible, God created light. His eyes were filled with its 'goodness,' and so was my whole being.

During this time of the year, I simply sit in the bosom of Mother nature's bounty, taking in its medicated, therapeutic air. The filigreed, vividly fluorescent, giant canopy of tamarind 'greens' draws me into its refreshing, yet, ancient embrace. The leafy branches of a century-old 'karji' tree dance delightfully in a gesture of welcome. The driving, pelting, sensuous rain, a joy to behold, quickens my 'spirit.' I experience the richness of God's handiwork vividly, as I sit in my "study," lost in contemplation. Oh, yes! The impishly cascading, crystal chandelier-like, falling ice-like poetry, of whispering waterfalls, here, there, everywhere, in my mind's eye, take me on a wonder-filled trip. I am in no-where, somewhere 'Spirit' land.

Many years ago, at the crack of dawn, I found myself on Jambhool Hill that rises conspicuously by the Ambarnath-Badlapur road, surrounded by a misty, silver-lined, dark cloud-kissed chain of towering hills, as far as eye could see. I bent down, even as I stood on the throne of God, drawn in admiration and awe at a cluster of gorgeous, nay, exotic caterpillars. I marvelled at their passionate urgency on vital personal growth, as they gorged on ambrosial, shimmering, juicy shrubs, despite my prying eyes. This enthralling spectacle was food for my soul. I gazed and gazed at the voracious creatures, reminded of my own intense struggle to become a free-floating, beautiful butterfly. The spectacle was fleeting, but would easily outdo a month-long "Retreat" in spiritual impact. Bishop Alex

Dias of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Fr. Ubaldo Fernandes sfx, will vouch for this fact! They, too, like me, basked in God's glory. His *thunder-and-lightening* presence enveloped us. The threesome was caught up, and savour to this very day, the Mount Tabor, 'Transfiguration experience!'

Quite some years ago, three Bishops were travelling to Nasik by car. The recitation of the Rosary was on. No flight of imagination, this! One old, saintly Bishop, quite oblivious of the world, chanted devoutly: Hail Mary, full of grace...*What a sight! Cows grazing on the green, green, hill slopes, the Lord is with you... Look, He's sitting cross-legged, Indian style, on a lotus in that tranquil pond over there, blessed are you among women... Ah, watch those rustic women swaying back to their hamlets, as if, perfectly choreographed, balancing two-three brass vessels of water on their absolutely 'still-silent' heads*, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.... A cool, nonchalant, 'amen,' his companions responded, as if awakened from a lingering reverie. Oh, 'amen' they reiterated, it is the eight of September!

From the *depths of Mary's virginal purity*, Jesus was born into history, to link heaven and earth, the divine and human, spirit and matter, the profound and mundane. The simple Bishop had brought out this mystical interrelatedness to a nicety!

I take you down memory lane again. When I was courting a sprightly teenaged Lorraine, almost thirty-six years ago, I had a 'Rosary' in glorious September-bloom, on the terrace of my sprawling ancestral bungalow, in Orlem, Malad. A hundred and more varieties of roses were a feast even for the untrained eye. At dusk, one day, a shapely, dapper flower, invited me hauntingly, bewitchingly into its vermilion, curvy cavern. As I entered the rose, I felt a rich scent hovering around me, like a current in the crisp,

caressing, evening air. Even as I breathed in the fresh, subtle perfume, I was led down, down, down into a titillating, ravishing, resplendent rose-red city, where I saw, heard and smelt intricate bursts of brilliant light and design, a 'son-et-lumiere' show, with hushed, melodious tones of the 'Beatles' all-time favourite, "Yesterday," in the hazy background.

As I progressed deeper into **it-her**, I realized we were dancing and prancing together, to the scent of the music, the rhythm of colours, to the breath we shared. Then, suddenly, from a thousand miles away, a muted, almost fading, yet, familiar voice kept beckoning: Leon... Leon! Who is it, I mused? Was it my most beloved mother, Betsy, called to the Lord twenty-six monsoons ago? I was breathing heavily and faster now, when all of a sudden raindrops mingled with my tears, and brought me out of the strangely romantic, enchanting rose-world. I welcomed the light drizzle with arms wide open, like a lover. Lo and behold, the rain, I exclaimed gleefully! It was, indeed, my sweet Lo-rraine!

In the innermost depths, in the dark abyss, there are no boundaries. Only mother and child, in complete symbiosis! The first and the last world is the womb. The only paradise we can regain is the one we have lost. The 'nine-month mystery' is meant to be utterly blissful, but, more often than not, it suffers terrible turbulence, like a bumpy monsoon ride, down Mumbai's horrifying pot-holed roads.

The birthday of Mother Mary reminds me of the trauma of birth. A child is the form in which the flesh brings forth its promise. Its bud is 'eros.' Unfortunately, not many infants enter this world unscarred. Wounds inflicted by the 'Family Tree' bear a silent testimony to the broken promise of love. Every crisis in later years, stretches, pushes and impels a person into a larger world; an invitation to become 'spirit,' to move to a higher

level. Without being born again and again in the Virgin's fresh, unsullied, pure and chaste depths, there is no journey, no spirit, no love!

If, as an adult, I have not remained like a 'delinquent child', if I am not folded, stapled and mutilated (psychologically and spiritually), perverse, twisted and gnarled, it is because I have left my 'childhood scars' in the womb of an artisan God, in the pristine cave of nature, in the voluptuous vortex of a red rose, in the vaginal recesses of Mother Mary, in the heavenly vault where my mother is, in the *heart (hearth)* of the matrimonial oneness I enjoy with Lorraine!

Come September, I mingle with my many 'creators', especially the Virgin Mary, who birthed the Son of God, the Son of Man and **me!** *She is the 'archetype' (the original model) for all mothers!* Each day, for innumerable years now, I 'pray' all the mysteries of the Rosary, in what is for me, a kind of Marian pilgrimage, with my earthly mother, Betsy, on my left and Mother Mary on my right. And, in a rather unmistakable way, I often sense a mystical union of flesh and flesh, spirit and spirit.

Now, this gold nugget! September offers me a poetic vista of life – a view guided by the heart, alive with the spirit and nourished in love. Its thirty days are prized beyond platinum. The ninth month of the year, very distinctly, throws up the rare and precious goodness of the Garden of Eden! It is like a fantastic seashell. When I apply my ear to its lips, I hear a perpetual, mysterious, buzz from the waves beyond the shore!

And this final flourish! This season of mists and mellow-fruitfulness contains the elixir of immortality, at its very core! It offers me special moments, privileged situations, timely (*kairotic*) gifts, magical events.

The last word: May the 'Womb that is September,' add sugar and spice, and sanctify your life too!

Educate a man and you educate an individual.
Educate a woman and you educate a family.

-A.Cripps

Teacher's day

-Christine D'Sylva

A teacher takes a hold, opens a mind and touches a heart.

Better than a thousand days of diligent study is one day with a great teacher.

The best teachers teach from the heart, not from a book.

Teacher's Day is celebrated on the 5th of September in our country.

It is a day celebrated all over the country, with students paying their respects and showing appreciation to their teachers. Cards, flowers, gifts are just some of the ways students pay their respects to their teachers.

This day was chosen for it commemorates the birthday of Dr Radhakrishnan, a staunch believer in education who contributed greatly to the education system in India.

Albert Einstein knew the value of good teachers. He said, "If you cannot explain it simply, you don't understand it well enough."

The purpose of a teacher cannot be underestimated. It is to awaken joy in the student, to make him think, question and reason why. It is the duty of a teacher to explain things simply enough to cater to every child in the classroom, whether they have low IQ's, average IQ's or even high IQ's. A teacher who is sympathetic to the weaker students, and draws them out of their timid shells of inferiority is truly a great teacher. A good teacher is one who is able to understand the worth of every child and see the hidden talents and worth of every child present in the classroom. It is true what we learn with pleasure, we never forget. It remains imbedded in our minds forever.

Enthusiasm showed by teachers helps in creating a positive atmosphere in the classroom. It is no surprise then that students find enthusiastic teachers more interesting than those who feel bored by the subject.

Says one student from Grade six, "I like my teachers but in particular most of us like those teachers who possess a sense of humour, and are not too stern. Also, those who show

enthusiasm for teaching us making sure we all understand. Most of all I like teachers who are just, kind and never unduly strict."

World's Teachers Day is also known as International Teachers Day and is held annually on October 5 since 1994. Every year the Education International(EI) launches a public awareness campaign to highlight the contributions of the teaching profession.

All of us have memories, some good and some perhaps a bit upsetting where teachers are concerned. We tend to recall the kind, loving teachers and while the too strict teachers made us feel very respectful, they never evoke warm feelings in us. This is but natural, and that is why today it is important to realise the importance and value of teachers in a child's life. I believe a good teacher can make a student, can bring out his best, while an indifferent one has the opposite effect.

Jesus Christ himself was a teacher. Did you know that of the 90 times he was addressed, he was called teacher 60 times. (Rabboni which means teacher). The disciples and multitudes addressed him as teacher.

Jesus said, "You call me Teacher and Lord, and rightly so, for that is what I am."

No other teacher here on earth could have such an impact on the world as Jesus did. This is an undisputable fact. Are you aware that two thousand years have passed and today because of this great teacher, Jesus Christ, over two billion people are Christians around the world? If the success of a student is reflected on his teacher then we can be sure that no other teacher in the history of the world was so effective as Jesus Christ.

Did Jesus use great words and great theological speeches while teaching? No, he did not. He spoke in parables. A parable is a story with a meaning. He used simple language, which could be understood by all. He explained simply for he knew it well enough. That's why he is the greatest teacher that ever lived.

Contd. to pg. 8

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

-P.A. D'Mello

On 8th September we honour the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The celebration of the devotion to Mary, the Mother of Jesus goes back to centuries. The date was set aside by the Orthodox Church in the early first century. The birth of Mary is miraculous firstly because she was conceived without original sin and secondly her birth represents the entrance into the world of a new blessing.

The Holy Gospel recorded a few incidents from the life of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It does not say much about her parentage, her nativity or her childhood. The familiar story of Mary's birth has had variations in splinter groups of Christianity, but there is no doubt that her birth came about an act of God. From the Protoevangelium of St. James, we learn that the parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Joachim and Anna were righteous and greatly devoted to God. Her father was a descendent from the Royal House of David, while Mary's mother came from the priestly line of Aaron. Their only sorrow was that they had no children.

In the Old Testament when God blessed His chosen people, He always promised to bless them with numerous offspring. God, therefore, in His divine providence was actually preparing Joachim and Anna for "great things" (Lk. 1:49). He was to show them a unique favour, for the child to be born to them was to become the Mother of the Messiah, the

promised Saviour of the world.

According to the words of the Angel to Joachim : "Rejoice! God has heard your prayers and your wife Anna shall conceive and give birth to a daughter, whose nativity will become joy for the entire world."

The Blessed Virgin Mary was foretold by the Prophet Isaiah: "Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and he shall be called Emmanuel, meaning God is with us." (Is. 7:14).

Mary's birth heralded the coming of the "Son of Justice", the promised Messiah, who was to destroy the power of Satan, reopen for us the gates of Heaven, and assure divine blessing to the entire human race. This is the reason of our rejoicing. The feast of the Nativity is an invitation for us to the hidden life to place ourselves with Mary in Christ and with Christ in God. The more we need to do great things for God, the more we need to labour in silence allowing ourselves to be touched by the word of God and be permeated by Him, like Mary. Let us not forget that the Mother of God is our Mother too.

We pray that the Blessed Virgin Mary intercede for us and obtain all what is good for us. May she bless our Nation and all its leaders so that all our problems will be resolved and there is Peace and harmony in the country.

Teacher's Day -Contd. from pg. 7

His teachings are still read in the Holy Bible all over the world. People find every teaching of Christ has great meaning. He taught people the importance of faith in God, in loving one's neighbour as oneself and most of all having a good, clean heart in which he implores us to make a place for him to dwell in. This month we will be celebrating Teacher's day in our country. Let us pray for our teachers and be appreciative of them, overlooking their faults and seeing the tireless service they put in each day.

Let's not forget these words -Teaching is a profession that teaches all of the other

professions

To end on a light note.

A teacher asked a student- Where is your homework?

The student had a ready reply- Teacher, I did it. I promise I did it, but I lost it.

Teacher – How did you lose it?

Student -Teacher, I lost it in the playground, fighting this kid who said you weren't the best teacher in the school.

Here's wishing all our teachers- A Happy Teacher's Day!

AGNEL HAPPENINGS

FE Orientation Programme

FR. CONCEICAO RODRIGUES COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING BANDRA, MUMBAI organized an orientation programme for the newly admitted first year students on 24th August 2017 in Samvaad Auditorium. The event commenced with the lighting of the lamp (diya) which is considered to be auspicious to mark the beginning of a new chapter.

Firstly Rev. Fr. Valerian D'Souza delivered an eloquent speech regarding the academic excellence, alumni, history of the college. This was followed by Rev. Fr. Nazareth Fernandes inspiring speech where he enlightened the students with wise words, and welcomed them into the 'Agnel Family'. In her brief address to the students and parents, the Principal of FR. CRCE Dr. Srija Unnikrishnan made the students aware about the rules and regulations, academic

demands, and gave an excellent career guidance talk which was truly motivational.

The General Secretary of the Students' Council, Ryan Furtado of FR. CRCE gave an introduction about the extra-curricular activities organized by the college, that play a major role in the all round development of a student's personality. He gave a general idea about the various events and different councils to promote participation of the students in the same. He introduced each and every member of the council and encouraged the students that they can also be a part of the Students' Council. He also introduced the Dean of Student Affairs Dr. V. S. Bilolikar, who is the guiding light for the Students' Council. In the end, the Students' Council had an interactive session with the first-year students telling them more about the kind of work they do. The orientation concluded on a joyous note.

Panorama of Patriotism

The seeds of patriotism should be sown in the early years of one's life so that the roots may get strong and our young generation as well as coming generations may realize what a big price our martyrs have paid to make us all free from the clutches of the British. Building on this idea **Fr. Agnel School, Gr. Noida** organized Inter Class Patriotic Song and Dance Competitions in the month of August, 2017 celebrating our National Festival when our 70th Independence Day was round the corner. The competition was conducted at four levels – for the classes I-II, classes III-V, classes VI to VIII and for the classes IX-XII.

The environment of the whole School was infused with the aroma of patriotism. The

theme of the competition was 'Price of Independence'. The competition reached its Zenith when the budding singers from each class sang beautiful compositions with great feeling and enthralled the audience. Each class showed their mastery over intonation, melody, rhythm, enactment and presentation. Along with the mesmerizing singing, unique and creative presentations, dance performances and acts were also seen. In the group of primary V A, in Junior category class VIII C and In Senior group XII C emerged as victorious. The judges were invited from the neighbouring schools to judge the competitions.

The School celebrated 70th Independence Day with great fervor and immense zeal. Fr. Tony Fernandez, the Director of Fr. Agnel School,

Orientation Programme at CRCE, Bandra, Mumbai



Ms. Garima hosting the ceremony



The dignitaries present at the session



Rev. Fr. Valerian lighting the lamp



Principal Dr. Srija Unnikrishnan lighting the lamp



Rev. Fr. Nazareth welcoming the students to the Agnel Family



All the newly admitted students



Rev. Fr. Valerian giving an inspirational speech



Principal Dr. Srija Unnikrishnan making the students aware about the rules and regulations of the college



Prof. Sunday Prabhavati giving a speech



Several of the staff members present along with the Dean of Student affairs Dr. V. S. Bilolikar

Independence Day celebrated at Fr. Agnel, Greater Noida



Flag hoisting



Fr. Tony's speech



Independence Day welcome



March past



Winner (1) std 6-8



Winner (2) std 1-2



Winner-(2) std 9-12



Winner (3) std 9-12

Pune graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and motivated the children to serve the country in their little ways. The children exhibited their patriotic zeal through the cultural programme

Independence Day Celebrations

The fifteenth of August (Independence Day) marks a day of great significance in the Indian history. It reminds us of the great sacrifice of our freedom fighters and serves as a beacon light for the development of our nation. It is an occasion of celebration for every Indian.

In India all schools, colleges, educational institutions and other organisations celebrate this grand occasion. In **Fr. Agnel School, Vashi** too Independence Day is celebrated with immense joy and pride every year, and this year was no exception. The students participated



wholeheartedly in the celebrations. The enthusiasm of the young patriots seemed to be contagious. The school building was cleaned and decorated for the occasion. A flag pole was put up in the terrace of the school building. Parents, staff members, teachers and other dignitaries were present. Mrs. Anuradha Mangale-Alumna of Fr. Agnel School was the honourable chief guest.

The programme began at 7:30am. The flag was

The 71st Independence Day was celebrated with great zeal and enthusiasm at **Fr. Agnells Ambarnath**. It was an occasion to pause, look back and remember those great souls who strived relentlessly for our freedom.

To commemorate the sovereignty of our nation, the Chief Guest, Mr. Deepu Keshavan unfurled the tricolor flag and all in unison sang the National Anthem expressing the

and patriotic presentations. The programme kindled an aesthetic sense and inculcated patriotic feeling among the students.

unfurled by Rev.Fr. Ivan who was the guest of honour and Mrs. Anuradha Mangale, the Chief Guest. Everyone saluted the national flag with respect and the national anthem was sung proudly. Then a tiny patriot from the pre-primary section delivered her speech regarding Gokulashtami and Independence Day. All students as well as teachers took a pledge with regards to making India a better place by promoting cleanliness right at the household level.

The students of primary and middle school impressed the audience with their mesmerising performances. The songs they sang truly evoked a feeling of patriotism in everyone's heart. The speech by the Chief Guest (Mrs. Anuradha Mangale) was very inspiring. Rev. Fr.



Ivan's meaningful speech imprinted an intense feeling of national pride in the audience.

The programme was concluded by the Principal-Mrs.Snidgha Roy who reinforced the idea of "A Clean India, A Better India". She appealed the audience to make any two resolutions which would prove to be helpful for the betterment of the society. The occasion was celebrated at Agnells with great pomp and splendour.

Let Freedom Reign!

joy of our freedom. This was followed by the speech given in English and Hindi by students of the Pre-primary and Secondary Sections. The singing of patriotic songs by the students and choir enhanced the spirit of patriotism.

The speech by the Chief Guest highlighted the

need for students to perform their duties and work hard to ensure a brighter future.

What can be a more powerful tool for the growth and development of children than music, keeping this in mind, Ma'am Antoinette,

One More Feather to the Cap

10th of August became a landmark day in the history of **Fr.C.Rodrigues Institute of Technology,Vashi** when it churned out its first Ph.D. student Mr.Rane Arun Bhiva from the ever glorious Mechanical branch under the



released the hymn book, 'Swaragini' on the happy occasion.

The day ended on a sweet note with resolve to build a better future for our Country.

guidance of Dr.Vivek Sunnapwar and Dr.S.M.Khot. Mr.Rane is amongst the first batch of research scholars who had enrolled in the various branches under the umbrella of Agnel Charities-FCRIT in the year 2013. On the 10th of August he defended his thesis on "Optimisation of Vehicle Assembly Line" for the award of Doctorate.

The first year of Junior College marks the beginning of the most important phase of a student's life - the crossroad at which the student makes the first important decision in shaping his or her future career.

An orientation programme was convened for the parents and new entrants of Std.XI at **Fr. Agnel Multipurpose School & Jr. College, Ambernath** on 15 August, 2017.

The programme began with a prayer service invoking the blessings of the Almighty on the new batch of students through Scripture readings from the Holy Bible, the Quran and the Bhagwat Geeta. The Agnel choir led everyone into the Divine presence with their melodious and mesmerizing singing of hymns.

A brief history of the school was presented by the Principal, Dr. Teena Dennis. She guided the students through the rules and regulations of the institution with the help of a power point presentation. The success stories of some

Orientation For Std-XI

alumni were also shared on the occasion to inspire the new students.

The special guest, Mrs. Kulwinder Kaur who is the Co-ordinator at Fr.Agnel Jr. College, Vashi, addressed the students and explained the importance of good study habits. She shared many tips and pointers which would enable the freshmen to excel in curricular and co-curricular activities.

A poignant and powerful message was delivered to the parents present by the School Manager, Fr. Ivon Almeida. He spoke about the pressing need for parents to become participants in their children's academic progress, rather than being mere providers. In conclusion, the School Administrator, Madam Antoinette Viegas gave the students and parents a warm welcome and best wishes for the year ahead.

Industrial Visit

Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn.

-Benjamin Franklin

Curriculum at **Fr.Agnel's, Ambernath** has always been an amalgamation of practical teaching. Students understand better with hands on experience. With this thought in mind, Jr. College students have compulsory Industrial visits in both the years of undergraduate studies. These two years are not only important from academic point of view but

also in making the ever important decision of choosing a career and subsequently 'a way of life. Therefore, students are taken to various industries where they get firsthand experience of how various industries function, their scope, admission process etc.

The first visit of the year was std XII students, both Science and Commerce faculties. On 13th July 2017 students got an opportunity to visit Bharati Vidyapeeth's Institute of Hospitality Management and Pharmacy. Both the streams are very distinct and distinguished. Students not only got orientation about the working of both these industries, but also got an opportunity to

visit the actual laboratories. This enabled students to have a sneak peep into real world of Professional studies.

Mr. Wilson Lukose, Principal, Bharati Vidyapeeth's Institute of Hospitality Management, was instrumental in arranging the whole orientation. Students were introduced



Dawn of New Associations

with the various facets of career options available. After hardcore academic sessions, students were taken to Inorbit Mall, Vashi to unwind and enjoy. The day ended not only on a joyous note but also provoked and invoked various new options for our students.

Widening The Horizon

“Every thing comes to him who waits” what began as a small sapling some years back has grown into a huge tree and has become one of the leading educational institutions and a beacon for other schools in Wadgaonsheri.

The grand inauguration ceremony of **Fr. Agnel's Higher Secondary Section, Pune** was held on 9 Aug 2017. It is a very special day as we proudly stand on the threshold of education by introducing Science and Commerce stream in the Higher Secondary Section. The achievement of this milestone has delighted all of us and filled the air with a spirit of joy and happiness.

The Chief Guests for this occasion were Mr. Haroon Attar, Education Officer, Nirantar Shikshan Vibhag, Pune and Mr. M.R. Jadhav, Education Officer, Pune Municipal Corporation. The Chief Guest in their speech congratulated and appreciated the efforts taken by the



school in shaping each child's future. A symbolic inauguration of the Higher Secondary Section was done by the hands of our Honorary Guests.

Rev Fr. Peter D'souza in his address expressed that the extension of our school from Pre-Primary to our much

awaited Higher Secondary section which underlines the success of the institution. He further emphasis that the school imparts quality education to the students by keeping their aspirations elevated while focussing on meditation.

The Principal Mrs. Minal Kasbey gave a brief Orientation regarding the functioning of the school. A small power point presentation was presented that highlighted the events of Fr. Agnel's Vidyankur School. The ceremony concluded with the School Anthem.

Dahi Handi was celebrated on 11th August 2017 by the tiny tots of the Pre-Primary Section of **Fr. Agnel's Vidyankur School, Pune.**



Pre-Primary Dahi Handi Celebration Report

Dahi Handi festival is a symbolic tribute to Lord Krishna which fosters love & unity.

Children dressed as Gopi's and Krishna's enacted a skit and dances on the life of Lord Krishna. The programme concluded with the Pre Primary children making a human pyramid and a little Krishna breaking the handi.

Women's Empowerment

-Janina Gomes

Though much has happened in the last century to do away with discrimination against women, the ground covered so far is just not enough. True, women are proving their mettle in all areas of life. But, the life of the average woman is tough, often painful and women are targeted in a way that was not possible before.

Daily we have reports in the newspapers of women being raped, killed, assaulted, harassed and women are most often victims of war and human trafficking, along with children. In India and indeed in many parts of the world, women's emancipation has not even touched the tip of the iceberg. Patriarchal systems keep women suppressed and any attempt to change this is often seen as socially destabilizing.

The church has always recognized the worth of women. Jesus had women disciples and his first and foremost disciple was Mary. We have a long list of women saints, some of whom were even doctors of the church. And yet the church till today has been largely male dominated and a role to women is often given grudgingly.

In Catholic circles in India, women may be better treated than in some others traditions. But in society as a whole, women still remain second class citizens. The oppression of women in many communities is not sufficiently recognized. So we need awareness campaigns to highlight the essential role that women play in society.

In elite circles too, women are often flaunted as sexual objects and the many journals and magazines that portray women as beauty

objects, advertising for cosmetics and whitening creams etc, further diminishes their value.

We as a society are especially guilty of treating the girl child in a discriminatory way. Though this may have its history in situations of economic want and the corresponding need for financial security, the girl child is often seen as a liability and asking for dowries from women is still commonplace, even in Catholic circles.

Today, the safety of women in society is a prime consideration. No amount of enrolling women police officers will check the malaise of open attacks against women. In some traditions, women can also be divorced on the flimsiest grounds.

Life is hard for everyone, but most especially for women. There is a strong bias in many circles against women. A woman is supposed to know her place and to be shown her place. Will this ever change? How can we change what needs to be changed? We should begin just where we are and treat our women spouses, employees, maids and women from different backgrounds, castes and religions with the respect they deserve.

Often, disrespect for women can be an unconscious thing. This disrespect is what we have inherited from a patriarchal society. That is the reason why our Catholic institutions and parishes should have awareness campaigns and deal with the problems that women face in a more open way, allowing them their full dignity as daughters of God, on par with the sons of God.

To serve the queen of Heaven is already to reign
there, and to live under her commands
is more than to govern.

- St. John Vianney



Fr. AGNEL'S BLESSINGS

OVERCAME FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES

Alleppy-Kerala: As I suffered huge setback in business I had to sell off my house to tide over the crisis. I was staying with my family in a small rented house with much difficulties. In despair and with firm faith in the intercession of Ven.Fr.Agnel I started his powerful Novena. Unceasingly I continued my tearful prayers. Gradually my business started picking up. Now by the grace of Ven. Fr.Agnel I purchased a new elegant bungalow and my business is flourishing well. My profound gratitude to Ven.Fr.Agnel with an offering of ₹.10,000.

-Antony Thekiniyeth

GOT A PROMOTION

Andheri: My nephew has been working for an Airline for over 10 years but he was not given any promotion. I prayed to Ven. Fr.Agnel and now he is blessed with a good promotion and increment in his salary. As a token of my gratitude I am sending my offering of ₹.1000 to the Ashram.

-Mahil D'Sa

CURED OF A THROAT PROBLEM

Agassaim-Goa: For over seven years my throat used to burn and I felt very uneasy. The doctor had prescribed some tablets and this was only giving me temporary relief. One day I took the mud of Ven.Fr.Agnel's grave and made the sign of the cross over my throat. At that moment I felt fire emitting from my throat. I am now completely alright and there has been no recurrence of the ailment. My heartfelt thanks to Ven.Fr.Agnel and I pray for his early beatification.

-Thelma Maria Gomes

CURED OF LUNG INFECTION

Udupi : My mother was critically sick with lung infection. She was hospitalized in a serious condition for over one week. At this time I pray fervently to Ven.Fr.Agnel for her speedy recovery and good health. I am now happy to inform you that she has been completely cured and discharged from the hospital. With a grateful heart I send my offering of ₹.500 to the Ashram.

-Vijay Aranha

GOOD WORKING CONDITION ON SHIP

Vasai : I have been working on board the ship for over 8 years. During my various trips I have not encountered any problems by the grace of Ven.Fr.Agnel. My heartfelt thanks to Ven.Fr.Agnel with an offering of ₹.2000.

-M.M. D'Cunha

CURED OF SKIN INFECTION

St. Cruz -Goa : My brother fell in hot water and was rushed to the hospital and remained for two months in the I.C.U. His skin had developed many blisters and this was hurting him. At this moment I prayed with great faith to Ven.Fr.Agnel to bring early relief to his suffering. I am glad to say that my brother has improved very much since then. My grateful thanks to Ven.Fr.Agnel and I pray for his early beatification.

-Rosalina Barretto

BLESSED WITH A DAUGHTER

Bhayander: By the grace of Ven.Fr.Agnel I am blessed with a daughter and also with a good job in a multinational company. As a token of my love and gratitude I am sponsoring one time lunch for the orphan children in your Balbhuvan.

-Sivakumar & Mariya

HELP IN CRITICAL TIME

Khopoli: I am a retired person of 78 years. I had lost my entire benefits amounting to 21 lakh rupees as the Bank had closed down due to mismanagement. To add to my woes, I lost my wife also. I was totally in a rundown condition. At this critical time I fervently prayed to Ven.Fr.Agnel to bless me with a suitable job. Ven.Fr.Agnel heard my fervent plea as I got a suitable job according to my age in our locality. As a token of my sincere thanks and homage an offering of ₹.1000 to the Ashram.

-V.D. Kumbhar

RECOVERY FROM HEART ATTACK

Velha –Goa: My husband suffered a heart attack and was quite serious. I had recourse to Ven.Fr.Agnel and also requested the priests to say a prayer for his early recovery. I am now happy to say that through the intercession of Ven.Fr.Agnel his condition has greatly improved. Ven.Fr.Agnel has also heard our prayers in finding a suitable house close to Pilar. Our grateful thanks to Ven.Fr.Agnel and we pray for his early beatification.

-Mr. & Mrs.Brazinho Monteiro

“A woman is the full circle. Within her is the power to create, nurture and transform.”

-Diane Mariechild

Be Peaceful For Today will take Care of Our Needs

-Horace

Tomorrow doesn't matter for I have lived today.

The twenty-four hours lying ahead is all we have been promised. With that promise is a guarantee that we will greet opportunities for growth that have their roots in yesterday. Our evolution is not without purpose and design, therefore, we need not concern ourselves with the future. It will educate and comfort us as it becomes the present.

When we understand that the situations inviting our responses today have purpose, our anxiety is eased. Fear is allayed when our

understanding is complete. Our life experiences are not happenstance, of this we can be sure, there exists an interdependence. Events are woven together for our greater good. Moreover, no one event offers more than a glance at the whole picture. So what we see today enlightens us about yesterday and the last week, even last year, perhaps. Tomorrow will do likewise. But today is our only concern. It will provide exactly those opportunities we need to weave the next portion of our chosen design.

“The purpose of life is to live it, to taste experience to the utmost, to reach out eagerly and without fear for newer and richer experience.”

- Eleanor Roosevelt

Out of Their Bounty

P. Srivastava	Mumbai	50000	S.J. Rangoonwala	Mumbai	1000	A.Mankar	Vasai	500
Bejon Desai	Nashik	36155	T. Anthony	Kerala	1000	D.M. Malaviya	Khopoi	500
C.Jose	Kerala	21000	S.M. Macwan	Gujarat	1000	S. Fernando	Nallasopara	500
B.K. Duri	Mumbai	18000	M. Varghese	Ahmedabad	1000	M.G. Solanki	Gujarat	500
S.G. Tawde	Mumbai	10000	K.D. Paul	Surat	1000	S. A.D'Abreo	Mumbai	500
S.C. Chandrakant	Jalgaon	10000	P.V.Chasia	Mumbai	1000	A. Chhabra	Mumbai	500
G. Pereira	Vasai	10000	T. Varghese	Virar	1000	C. Fernandes	Mumbai	500
D.A. D'Silva	Kuwait	10000	P. Thakur	Vasai	1000	F. D'Mello	Mumbai	500
J. Albuquerque	Mumbai	10000	M. Lopes	Vasai	1000	I. D'Cruz	Mumbai	500
F. Quadros	Mumbai	9500	N.A. Paduwala	Mumbai	1000	J. D'Silva	Mangalore	500
S.M. Nadar	Dharavi	6000	S.S. Rane	Nallasopara	1000	F.A. Barcey	Thane	500
R.A. Thomas	Kerala	5000	C. Almeida	Mumbai	1000	S. D'Cunha	Vasai	500
S. Dalmet	Bhayander	5000	K. Mehta	Mumbai	1000	N. D'Souza	Vasai	500
Hugh & Colleen	Mussoorie	5000	A. Mascarenhas	Mumbai	1000	F.R. Elavia	Mumbai	500
R. Radhakrishnan	T.N.	5000	Tushar Desai	Mumbai	1000	V.D. Vora	Mumbai	500
J. Berchmans	Chennai	5000	L. Remedios	Dubai	1000	S. Mone	Mumbai	500
G. D'Souza	Mumbai	5000	M.A. D'Souza	Mumbai	1000	M. Kapadia	Mumbai	500
R. Furtado	Mumbai	4000	H. Engineer	Mumbai	1000	J.C. Mistry	Mumbai	500
B. Enterprises	Mumbai	3750	A. Mascarenhas	Pune	1000	C. Nazareth	Mumbai	500
Z.J. Bharucha	Vasai	3000	U. Bhathia	Mumbai	1000	G.M Lobo	Mumbai	500
M. Singh	Mumbai	2500	A. Moses	Mumbai	1000	D. Carvalho	Mumbai	500
K. Parmar	Ahmedabad	2500	J. Joseph	Kerala	1000	S. Carvalho	Mumbai	500
A. Fosberry	Bangalore	2250	P. George	Kerala	1000	P.E. Ferrao	Mumbai	500
L. Philip	Kerala	2000	K.S Jayakumar	Kerala	1000	C.J. rodrigues	Vasai	500
J.N. Patel	Mumbai	2000	A.G. Stephen	T.N.	1000	George D'Souza	Thane	500
P. Varghese	Virar	2000	Jomy K.M.	U.P.	1000	A.K. Zaveri	Mumbai	500
P.V. Rebello	Palghar	2000	B . D'Couto	Kerala	1000	Savio D'Souza	Mumbai	500
M. Chhabra	Mumbai	2000	P. Thar	Mumbai	1000	L. Joseph	Kerala	500
A. George	Delhi	2000	N. Fernandes	Kuwait	1000	L. Kurian	Kerala	500
Jose T.K.	Kerala	2000	J.S. Jamble	Mumbai	1000	D. Tony	T.N.	500
I.C. Sequeira	Mumbai	2000	M.F. D'Souza	Mumbai	1000	J.Bharucha	Mumbai	500
C. Dias	Mumbai	2000	S. Correa	Virar	1000	A.C. Leena	Chennai	500
M. Joseph	Kerala	2000	S.D. Savio	Mumbai	1000	L. George	Kerala	500
J. Rodrigues	Mumbai	2000	N.S. D'Mello	Vasai	1000	Joseph C.D.	Kerala	500
A. Rodrigues	Mumbai	2000	V.S. Bilolikar	Mumbai	1000	B. Joseph	Kerala	500
Mary Paul	Mumbai	2000	J. Fernandes	Mumbai	900	Cicily K.	Kerala	500
P. Xavier	T.N.	2000	D. D'Sa	Mumbai	800	Dr.S. Lath	Daman	500
V. Singh	Mumbai	2000	G.P. Fonseca	Mumbai	750	M. Rajathi	T.N.	500
N.M. Rodrigues	Virar	2000	M.A. Raj	Mumbai	605	K.A. Nirmala	Kerala	500
Arun D'Souza	Mumbai	1500	KJ. Pauly	Belapur	501	P. Kalekar	Mira Road	500
K. Engineer	Mumbai	1500	P.D. Kolhy	Mumbai	501	N. S. Pandye	Mumbai	500
A. Fernandes	Mumbai	1500	A.R. Verma	Amethi	501	A.K. Modi	Mumbai	500
A. Jayasimhan	Mumbai	1500	Chandy K.P.	Kerala	500	M. Fernandes	Mumbai	500
Sr. Carmilla A.C.	Calicut	1200	E. Fernandes	Vasai	500	P. Fernandes	Mumbai	500
D. Alphonso	Mumbai	1200	M. Fernandes	Mumbai	500	Ashok Patel	Mumbai	500
S.S. Gonsalves	Vasai	1200	H.M. Fernandes	Mumbai	500	G. wilson	Mumbai	500
H.A. Patel	Mumbai	1200	M. George	Kerala	500	F.I Jivan	Diu	500
Nisha Mehta	Mumbai	1110	A. Chaudhuri	Kolkata	500	K.S. Rao	Mumbai	500
F.J. Daruwalla	Pune	1001	A. Rebeiro	Chennai	500	G.J. Parakal	Kerala	400
C. George	Kerala	1000	G. Veeramani	Chennai	500	A. Braganza	Mira Road	400
S. Eustachius	Nagpur	1000	V.O. D'Costa	Vasai	500	M. Anthony	Kerala	400
V. Karani	Mumbai	1000	C.F. D'Costa	Vasai	500	S. Desai	Gujarat	300
M. D'Souza	Bangalore	1000	R. Ananthan	Chennai	500	M. Mathew	Kerala	300
M.S. Lucien	Chennai	1000	Paul D'Costa	Mangalore	500	V. Varghese	Kerala	300
T. Joseph	Kerala	1000	V.K. Tare	Mumbai	500	H.V. Desai	Valsad	300
B. D'Costa	Ambarnath	1000	V.J. Lopes	Vasai	500	S. Merlyn	T.N.	300
						C.S. Pereira	Kerala	250

SOCIETY OF PILAR GETS A NEW TEAM

The Society of the Missionaries of St. Francis Xavier, popularly known as the Pilar Society, has elected Fr. Sebastiao Mascarenhas as its new Superior General. The election took place on August 10 2017 during the Society's General Chapter at its Generalate in Porvorim, Goa.

The 19th Chapter also elected Frs. Nazareth Fernandes, Norman Almeida, Alarico Carvalho and Romualdo Gonsalves as Councillors. Fr. Derick Rodrigues was elected the new General Treasurer of the Society.

The Society has 335 Priests and 10 Lay Brothers working in the Provinces of Delhi, Goa, Kolkata,



Mumbai and the Agnel Region. The Society works for social uplift and integral development of people, without discrimination of caste, class or creed. It has units in Jammu, Haryana, Punjab, Delhi, West Bengal, Jharkhand,

Madhya Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and the Union Territories of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Daman, Diu, Nager Haveli.

It has opened missions and parishes in foreign countries such as Nepal, England, U.S.A., Germany, Italy and Mauritania.

We wish the new Team best of luck in their future endeavors.

FR. AGNELS AMBARNATH 71ST INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION



Swaragini, Hymn book, unveiled by Madam Antoinette Viegas



Disha Deepu, Topper of March 2017 HSC Examination with 91% in Science faculty



Melodious Choir....Spreading message of peace and love

ORIENTATION FOR STD-XI



Auspicious beginning... ..always with Light



Ms. Kulwinder Kaur, Coordinator, Agnel's Vashi, imparting tips to succeed



Fr. Ivon Almeida's message to Parents - Love and Understand Children



Dr. Teena Dennis, Principal, introducing Jr. College to Parents

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FR. AGNEL GIFT GARDEN



BANDRA FAIR

10th To 17th SEPTEMBER, 2017

Dear Benefactors, Friends & Well-Wishers,

SEPTEMBER is one of the most beautiful months on the Calendar. God's beautiful creation reaches its zenith of glory with greenery, flowers all around and fields ready for harvesting.

In the midst of it, September 8th is a Joyful and glorious day - the Birthday of Mother Mary. How beautiful it is to celebrate and honour our own earthly mother's birthday! If so, much more the Birthday of our Heavenly Mother-Mother Mary.

Our Balbhavan children at Bandra (Mumbai), Vashi (Navi Mumbai), Pune, Greater Noida (U.P.) and Verna (Goa) numbering more than 800 children, are preparing for this great day. God has gifted them to us that we may gift them back to Him – fully human, fully alive and fully matured. This is our mission.

Can you help us in the mission on the occasion of Mary's Birthday to realize Mary's dream for these children? I am sure you will be eager, as in the past, to help these less fortunate children. Look at their beaming faces. They love you and crave for your attention.

Together we can work wonders for these children. God loves a cheerful giver. Remember that these lovely children

pray daily for your special intention. You will be blessed immensely by their prayers.

We thank you so much for your past help without which it would be impossible to tide over the huge expenses we incur in educating these children.

God and Mother Mary bless you and your family.

With Warm Regards,

(Fr. Nazareth Fernandes, sfx)

Superior

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2. Please issue Cheque/Draft/MO in favour of 'Society of St. Francis Xavier, Pilar' and send to Fr. Superior, Fr. Agnel Ashram, Bandstand, Bandra (West), Mumbai – 400 050. Or pay through NEFT and email to : agnelashramnews@gmail.com

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