



FR

April 2018

AGNEL

SHRAM NEWS

Ekam Sat Vipra Bahuda Vadanti



FR. AGNEL
ASHRAM

NEWS

April 2018

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THE JOY OF GIVING

Become a
Cheerful Giver



Letters from some
Benefactors and
Friends of our
Balbhaven Children

Kakkar Francis, Kerala:

I am enclosing a cheque of ₹.1000 to be used for your orphan boys. Please pray for us. Thanking you.

*keep us in your prayers.
Thank you.*

**Rati K. Commissariat,
Mumbai**

Please accept my contribution of ₹2000 towards the sponsorship scheme in your Ashram. Kindly request the orphan boys to pray for us. Thank you.

Putli Lentin, Hyderabad :

Enclosed is a cheque for ₹.20,000 for the benefit of the orphan boys under your care. Please remember us in your prayers. Thank you.

Vasanthi Manoharan, T.N.

I am enclosing a cheque of ₹2000 towards the sponsorship scheme for the welfare of the orphan boys. Will appreciate your kind prayers.

Savio D'Silva, Pune:

Please find enclosed my contribution of ₹5000 towards the great work that you are doing through your institutions with the blessings of Ven. Fr. Agnel. Please

Children of the Same Father

We have just completed the Holy Season of Lent. The culminating Holy Week was a celebration of the many milestones that marked the journey of Jesus Christ here on earth. Beginning with His triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Passion Sunday, the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday, his Death on the Cross on Good Friday and His Resurrection on Easter Sunday. Every single one of these events has its own story to tell.

Two years ago, Pope Francis celebrated Maundy Thursday at Castelnuovo di Porto, a refugee camp near Rome. While delivering his homily, he said, “You, we, all of us together, of different religions, different cultures, but children of the same Father, brothers — and there, those poor people, who buy weapons to wreck fraternity. Today, at this time, when I do the same act of Jesus washing the feet of twelve of you, let us all make a gesture of brotherhood, and let us all say: ‘We are different, we are different, we have different cultures and religions, but we are brothers and we want to live in peace.’”

Eight men and four women took part in the ritual, AP reported, including an Italian Catholic; three Eritrean Coptic Christians; four Catholics from Nigeria; three Muslims from Mali, Syria and Pakistan; and a Hindu man from India.

These serene words of wisdom were a demonstration of the resolve of the Holy Father to bring the healing touch to a troubled world. They demonstrated a radical shift from the exclusivism that prevailed in the Catholic Church for two millennia since its inception. It was a well articulated mission statement that will govern the mission of the Church in the twenty first century.

So how should we in India view this statement of purpose? How relevant is it to us? How will it affect our lives in the milieu in which we live?

To begin with, the words of Pope Francis echoed, if not paraphrased, the ancient wisdom espoused millennia ago in the Upanishads. “*Ekam Sat Vipra Bahuda Vadanti*”. This loosely translated means, “That which exists is ONE, sages call it by various names.” By acknowledging this truth, Pope Francis united the world in all its myriad forms, shapes and colours. What was more emphatic was his unspoken reiteration of his assertion by washing the feet of people from almost every major religious sect in the world.

To us in India, this assertion should be a moment of joy and awakening. As inheritors of this profound and eternal wisdom, we have a special connect with the message of the Pope. His message is as relevant to India as it is to the world. We have recently witnessed violent expressions of intolerance and strife in the name of religion. The secular fabric of our nation is under threat. It is time we embraced the

You, we, all of us together, of different religions, different cultures, but children of the same Father ...

-Pope Francis

words of the Upanishads and put into action the Pope’s message of uniting diverse sections of our society.

While speaking at an inter-faith seminar in the aftermath of the Babri Masjid demolition, I remember saying, “We Christians are a minuscule minority, a speck on this large canvas called India. Yet, we are called to be the salt of the earth. Just a pinch will suffice to add flavor and taste to this milieu we live in.”

The challenge before us is daunting. Can we build bridges with the communities we live with? Can we bridge religious divides to lend a healing touch? Can we live the Biblical exhortation to be the salt of the earth? Of course, the greatest challenge will be to accept in our minds and hearts the wisdom of the Upanishads, “*Ekam Sat Vipra Bahuda Vadanti !*”

FAITH

THE ONLY MEETING POINT OF RELIGIONS!

Throughout our recent history there have many, not so serious attempt to find a meeting point of religious faiths, to create genuine harmony and understanding. Although they were well intentioned efforts, they were bound to fail, since any approach that looks down on the other, is fatally designed to fail.

There have however been some serious attempts to come to an understanding based on the needs of the other and not on one's own, which perhaps have made some progress. There have been yet many more that have designed some pragmatic approaches, primarily based on the principle of convenience or even balance of fear. The latter have succeeded to keep the truce, much like the cold war of 5 decades which was primarily a balance of terror, or the MAD principle (Mutually Assured Destruction), that Putin and Trump so much like to flaunt as their special prowess.

Frankly speaking, is true, genuine, dialogue leading to a permanent and stable understanding and harmony possible? All resolutions of conflict are necessarily based on the principle of justice, or on the principles of imposed justice, i.e. the terms imposed by the conqueror over the vanquished. The first WORLD WAR imposed a solution that led to the SECOND WORLD WAR, but thankfully, because of the enlightened statesmen of the time, who saw the futility of the imposed justice, apparently reached a more equitable solution.

The key for the search of an understanding between religions is based on the fundamentals of what is called religion. Religion is a quest, of the human mind to understand his beginnings and his destination, which invariably focuses on the understanding of the Supreme Power (by whatever name called) and his (mankind's) relationship with that Supreme Power. This is motivated by the human mind's inherent vacuum that makes such a quest necessary. The inevitability and therefore the importance of such a quest can be ascertained by the fact, that right from the beginning of human existence there have been serious and concerted attempts, to arrive at a certain Omega point of

this search. Even when man has succeeded to reach that desired goal and many would like to think they did, the search has never ended.

The idea of quest that has not reached closure, may not be easily acceptable to some faiths, especially to the Christian and Moslem faiths. The reason being that both of them would like to believe that God's intervention in the history is final, and that the message from the Supreme Power has been fully and finally received. Although this belief is a universally accepted stand, the teachings and the practice persistently speak about greater and deeper understanding of this divinely inspired truth or truths in the individual's as well as the collective people's lives. There is therefore an inbuilt contradiction in the idea, that would like to state that the quest is settled and therefore there is no opening for anything further.

The greatest obstacle to any genuine and lasting meeting point among religions lies exactly in this: the inability of one to accept anything that appears contrary to what one believes and holds. This apprehension flows from the real or assumed fact that acceptance of any idea that appears contrary to what one presently holds, will hurt or be offensive to the Supreme Power, that one pays obeisance to. This apprehension or rather this zeal to uphold the honour of the Supreme, when pushed to its limits, makes beasts of humans, leading to genocide and bloodshed that history is too aware of. A milder form, is bigotry, suspicion and prejudice among religions.

Any meeting of minds or persons has to be preceded by a position of equality taken by the parties involved and engaged in the dialogue process, and if such a position does not exist efforts must be made to reach such a position before any meeting of minds can take place. Often our greatest stumbling block is not what the other says, but is what I cannot say about myself. Our positions are so deeply embedded that we give ourselves no allowance to think about differently, and the predominant reason is that our God, will not tolerate it. Mildly stated we have tied our understanding of the divine

in such tight knots, that He apparently cannot change his position.

This position is taken by believers, who consider that their quest to an understanding of God has reached final closure. They also think that they know everything, about how to keep this relationship with the Divine safe and secure, and it leaves no ground for any expression contrary to what they feel about it. Most of our difficulties and inhibitions arise about small things.

If a Christian visits a Hindu temple with his friends, he often finds it difficult to go in, or when he goes in to walk in it respectfully, because he fears that his attitude of respect goes contrary to his own understanding about his belief in God. Other finds it preposterous to share of the 'prasadam' that a hindu brother shares with him in his place of work. This fear flows from one's idea of his God who is terrible, and is out to strike him for every misdemeanor against His majesty. This idea of God and fear is diametrically contrary to the fact that our God and Father is also the God and Father of our hindu/muslim brothers and sisters.

This apprehension goes deeper than that. The understanding that some established religions have about their faith, is often so fatalistic that it leaves no space for a further and improved understanding. Such a stand is entirely contrary to the core of any belief. Faith in God, worship and reverence are human aspect of our relationship and they are subject to our understanding which often needs to be corrected, improved and even chucked out of our system.

The easiest way to do this, is to acknowledge that the other is also a seeker like me. Although in my sincerity I believe that all that I do and know about God is true, that gives me no right to open my eyes to want to understand what the other believes, simply because he was not born in the same faith that I was, has never had the opportunity to know what I believe as deeply as I do, and, neither I have ever made an effort to understand how his perception of faith works in his life.

The second attitude is to make serious efforts to understand what belongs to the core of my faith and what belongs to the periphery. What is essential and has come to us as cultural or historical context. Our gestures during worship

are cultural, they might be authentic but they are culturally defined. Our prayers and expressions are culturally defined, either because they come from our sacred books, which expressions are culturally defined, or because we are confident that they express the truth authentically.

In human history only great men who have achieved true experience of the Divine are free. They are liberated from internal prejudice or a fixed understanding of the divine and as a result of their personal surrender to God in Faith, have acquired the power to love. Only they have been able to dialogue, reach out to others, without ever diluting their own belief or without hurting the other. Kabir, Mirabhai, Thiruvallur are known as mystics in India. Mother Theresa, St. Theresa D'Avila, St. Francis of Assisi, the Sufi Saints are known as mystics because their idea and experience of the Divine was different from our understanding, yet was real, and of a far greater depth. The freedom to embrace the other, comes only from the power to love the other, and that requires a great level of freedom, that flows from our surrender to the God of our life, and through this surrender we no longer hold on to our belief which we acquire as a result of our philosophical efforts but through contemplation, or God's gift to us. When one has arrived at this level, he is able to see the other in an entirely different light..

Jesus, the Son of God, who was truth Himself, did not think is necessary for anyone to follow laws made by men, because he believed and taught that the law of our surrender to God in faith, is the ultimate fulfillment of the Law. He told everyone that when the choice is between helping a needy brother and doing his mandatory worship, the former comes first. He told a Samaritan woman, who came from a non-Jewish tradition, and confessed her inability to go to the temple to worship, there was no need to go the temple, as long as she worshipped the Lord in her heart. He lauded foreigners, non-jews, considered sinners, pagans as worthier than many others who taught that because of their knowledge of the sacred scriptures and their practice would be saved. If religious leaders want a genuine meeting of the hearts and minds they must be free so speak the truth as they see it, even if goes contrary to what they believed in the past and that is TRUE FAITH.

-Jose Alarico Carvalho
alarc22@yahoo.co.in

EARTH VILLAGE: Reinventing Unity and Peace

-Leon Bent

On October 1, 1517, Martin Luther defiantly nailed a copy of his 95 Theses to the door of the Wittenberg Castle church in Germany. It ended up in a division of the Church into different denominations. On its 500th Anniversary, with numerous Christian denominations celebrated, Pope Francis declared that all Christians must work together in Dialogue towards the prayer of Jesus for unity: "May all be one...so that the world may believe" (cf. Jn.17:21).

Unity is not the fruit of human effort or the product of diplomacy. It is a "gift that comes from above." Unity is not uniformity, either. Differences of religious and cultural notions are a wealth and not a threat to unity. Unity is not even absorption....We must acknowledge we are sisters and brothers, who believe in one Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ (zenith.org).

At a Focolare Inter-Religious initiative and active participation of Spiritual Leaders, Dr. A.K. Merchant, National Trustee of the Lotus Temple and Baha'i Community of India said: "We need a renaissance of religion today, where people can rediscover faith in all its pristine purity."

The Director-General of UNESCO, the UN Permanent Observer of the Holy See and the Focolare Movement jointly sponsored a forum entitled: "Reinventing Peace: Education Towards a Humanism Based on the Unity of the Human Family," explained, "Peace is not a theory, nor a dream; it is a commitment and a choice; an invitation to everyone to be bearers of peace." This is what Maria Voce, President of the Focolare Movement, read: "Peace is certainly a gift of God, but it is also the outcome of choices people make, and, therefore, something each one of us can contribute to daily...through small steps and concrete gestures."

The only solution is to engage in dialogue processes involving different cultures, different

faiths, different world views, aimed at mutual recognition, international cooperation, the promotion of solidarity and the common good. These are the characteristics of a community based on a lifestyle that seeks unity.

What does Dialogue of this nature entail? Dialogue is "Love that beats in the depths of every human heart. For the followers of Christ this may mean agape - a participation in the Love Circle of the Blessed Trinity....For those of other religions persuasions it is benevolence ; for those who do not entertain religious beliefs, it can mean philanthropy, solidarity, non-violence.

We must decide to live in dialogue to bring about Universal sisterhood and brotherhood. Dialogue is the new culture of the contemporary world. Way back in 1947, Chiara Lubich uttered prophetically: "We must keep our gaze fixed on the one Father of countless children, and then consider all people as children of that one Father, God!" Dialogue must be sustained by and imbued with mercy, compassion and charity. We have only one thing, in fact, that is necessary: to love. It is the Holy Spirit in us who can help us respond.

Love and mercy are the foundation of dialogue. They not only help us to see our neighbour in good light, but help us discover diversity as a gift. "The person next to me was created as a gift for me, and I was created as a gift for the person by my side. In this world, all things are in a relationship of love. In and through love we discover the golden thread that weaves and interlinks together all that exists" (Maria Voce on 5th May, 2017, in Malta).

Archbishop Felix Machado, Bishop of Vasai Diocese, a former Under-Secretary in the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Inter-Religious Dialogue, and my contemporary in the Seminary and friend, shares how he received grace from on high to fulfil his great task. He

says emphatically: “I am inspired by St. Pope John XXIII, who used to kneel in prayer after a long, hard day saying, ‘Lord, I’ve done my best. This is your Church (your World), you are in command now.’ As human beings we have a tendency to be impatient, but God isn’t. And, hence, it is our duty to be Christ-like in loving, forgiving and continuing to believe in universal brotherhood and sisterhood, even when we are greeted by a dark and menacing world, in our march towards establishing peace and harmony in a world torn apart by anti-religious sentiments, terrorism in the name of religion and bloodshed and massacre on an incredible scale. Our world leaders always believe that “peace is secured through the barrel of a gun,” an age-old saying which is being dastardly and murderously lived out, even today. In fact, more so, in the post-Modern Era!

On her journey through the path of Unity, Chiara Lubich made it clear through her many writings that, the key point of the spirituality of Unity is “Jesus Crucified and Forsaken!” God has poured a great passion into my heart: him, crucified and forsaken! From the height of the Cross he tells me: “I let everything of mine fade away...everything! I am no longer beautiful, or strong; I have no peace here; justice is dead; truth has vanished. All that is left is my Love, which to pour out for you the riches of God...This is how he speaks to me...to follow him...he is my Passion!”

“The mystery of Jesus forsaken is very important for living in unity. In his abandonment and total self-surrender to the Father’s will, Jesus shows us the way to overcome disunity, however stretched and threadbare it may be. If we live and suffer like Jesus, we will never find separation from any other person or from

God, as Jesus experienced in an unparalleled manner. In his dying moments, after colossal pain and agony, Jesus’ last cry from the Cross was: “Into your hands I commend my spirit!”(Lk. 23:4). If we desire this Godly level of unity we too must lose everything for the sake of unity! Jesus said: “When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all people to myself” (Jn.12:32), that is, I will make everything one!

And, this final flourish from Thich Nhat Hanh, Nobel Peace Prize winner in 1967, world-renowned Buddhist Zen master, spiritual leader and peace activist: “Peace is every step. It turns the endless path to joy.” This summarizes the essence of this great thinker and humane person. Peace is not external, or to be sought after or attained. Quite mystically, it is slowing down and enjoying each step, and each breath. Peace is already present in each step, and if we walk in this way, a flower will bloom under our feet with every step. In fact, the flowers along the way, will smile at us and wish us well on our way to the “One Father of ALL humanity!”

Now, this gold nugget: “Remember, we all stumble, every one of us, that’s why is comfortable to go hand in hand” (E.K. Brough). Shared Suffering is Shared Healing! Whatever any one of us suffers is, in fact, part of the greater suffering, shared by the whole family of creation. Genuine compassion is born from shared suffering. Compassion invariably speaks in some way to the deepest level of suffering. It certainly carries a healing message. What truly is the “balm of healing” is the love we offer and share. When we touch pain with love it is mercy. Mercy is a blessing. It is, indeed, God very own Three-in-One Intimacy!

*Peace is not absence of conflict.
it is the ability to handle conflict by peaceful means.*

-Ronald Reagan

“ A Sweet Revenge”

-E. F. Joseph

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The title of this article may sound strange and arouse interest in the readers to find out the reason for such an odd and unusual heading. It is nothing new but truly the words of Jesus Christ with a slight deviation from that ‘do good to those who persecute you and pray for your enemies’. That is what has been virtually done by Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues, founder of Fr. Agnel Ashram and pioneer in the field of Technical Education, in his native place Goa, from where he was exiled. As I have already mentioned in my previous articles (May 2017 & Feb. 2018) Fr. Conceicao became an undesirable person to the Portuguese authorities during the Goan Liberation Movement. His patriotic as well as secular views and writings displeased those, who wanted to keep colonial rule in Goa. He faced rejection and suffered set backs but nothing deterred that brave missionary from achieving the goal for which he had set out on his missionary journey. For him, life was a challenge and he did not bow out before crisis and threats. Braving set backs and threats he marched forward with a team of brilliant and dedicated priests to a new pasture, i.e. Bandra, Mumbai. The Agnel Ashram and the huge Technical Institutions in different parts of the country are an outcome of such brave decision taken at the right time. Fr. Conceicao could have given a bitter retort to his opponents but he refrained, rather opted a Christian approach that is what the title says ‘A Sweet Revenge’.

It was his long cherished dream to start an Ashram and a Technical Educational Institutions in Goa larger than what has been built in Bandra, Mumbai. He entrusted the task of establishing the Ashram & Technical Complex in Verna, Goa to Fr. Anselm D’sa and Fr. Proto Rodrigues. Fr. Anselm was the Superior, a silent missionary, with a smile on his face always. None, could find him, otherwise in a different mood. A man of prayer more over a committed ‘karmayogi’. Blessed are those who are meek, for they will inherit the earth, that may be a suitable title for him. Perhaps, he is the only priest in the history of India on whose death, a State Assembly passed a condolence motion. The Goa State Assembly paid rich tribute to the departed soul for his outstanding contribution in the field of Technical Education in the State of Goa. Fr.

Proto Rodrigues, a young highly talented Priest was the Managing Director of the Goa project. Both living in a rented house with minimum requirements started the work. The Ashram and the Complex, at Verna, Goa is now spread over 50 acres of land comprising Schools, Jr. College, Polytechnics, ITI, 2 Engineering Colleges with Post Graduation, Catering College, 2 Start Ups and other numerous job oriented courses, and also several rural development programs for women and the marginalized in the society.

It was a golden feather in the cap of Agnel Fathers and a milestone in the history of the Ashram in Goa that former President of India, Dr. Zail Singh visited the Complex and inaugurated BALGRAM VILLAGE (a Home for destitute children) in 1986 under a new method of one mother for 10 children, taking entire care of orphan children (boys & girls) in each cottage. Rastrapathi was very much impressed over the educational and charitable activities undertaken by Agnel Fathers, and exhorted the people to follow such exemplary work instead of spending money and time on feeding pets & birds.

During this period of rapid growth and progress, fate took away the precious life of Fr. Proto in an accident at Madhya Pradesh. His sudden death at the peak of his youth was a great loss to the Ashram. Soon, the vacuum, created by his untimely death was filled with the appointment of Fr. Peter Martin Rodrigues, an able Administrator, who was Procurator of the Ashram in Bandra, for a long time. Fr. Anselm and Fr. Peter Martin, together carried out the mission successfully and thus accomplished his long cherished dream that made the Agnel Institutions pride of Goa. All, three Fathers left for their heavenly abode leaving behind an indelible mark in the heart of Goans. All the Agnel Institutions across the country, especially the ones in the heart of Goa stand upright as a symbol of SWEET REVENGE to the opponents and critics of Fr. Conceicao and his team.

Let me conclude with a point for readers’ reflection that sweet revenge is divine, constructive and above all beneficent to the human kind from generation to generations as that had been done by Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues in his eventful life.

AGNEL HAPPENINGS

IBA Mumbai CEO Prasad Menon from Fr.Agnels Vashi bags first prize at DST ISBA Conference

The DST - Department of Science and Technology (Govt. of India) and ISBA - Indian STEPS and Business Incubators Association, recently held their annual conference at Goa, for business incubators from all over India.

The conference has an eminent jury that awards startups and incubators for their innovations. DST & ISBA also conducted a flash competition called STAR GAZING AWARD to recognise the incubator manager for Vision 2025.

About 10 different incubator managers from all over India competed for this award presenting



their vision for 2025 to the jury and to the participants of the conference.

Prasad Menon, CEO of the Agnels Incubator in Vashi-Centre for Incubation and Business Acceleration (CIBA), represented Agnels at this conference. His presentation and pitch at the conference was applauded by all present and the jury gave him the first

prize for making the most absorbing quick (7 min) presentation on 'Our Incubator in 2025.'

At the ISBA Award nite, Prasad Menon was presented with the award of Rupees One Lakh by Shri H.K. Mittal, Adviser & Member Secretary of NSTEDB, Government of India.

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Incidentally the National Shooting Range, Subang is the same venue where in 2004, at the Asian Shooting Championship, Suma Shirur had equalled the World Record (400/400) with a Gold medal and booked her quota place for the 2004 Athens Olympics. The KL range has once again proven lucky for her student shooter Trisha Mukherjee.

Trisha's team mate Elavarin incidentally herself shot a 400 in this competition, no mean feat at all.

Great performance overall from the whole Indian Women's Team.



Trisha Mukharjee, ex-student of Fr. Agnel School, Vashi is representing India at the World University Shooting Championship-2018 (Kuala Lumpur) Malaysia from 14 to 18 Mar 2018.



Fr. C. Rodrigues



Agnel Polytechnic serving the rural poor 1986.



Chief Minister of Maharashtra
Mr.S.B.Chavan paying Homage to Ven.
Fr.Agnel on his visit to the Ashram Jan
1976.



Fr.Agnel Institute for National integration
started in 1979



Memory of Mrs.Indira Gandhi block
dedication Fr.Agnel School new Delhi
Bldg.

FROM 195 A JOUR REMEBER PICTU



Dilip Kumar & Saira Banu inaugurating the Agnel Gift Garden in Sept 1979.



Mr. H.M.Patil union minister for home
unveiling the commomeration plaque of
Agnel boys town and Tehcnical Complex Goa
on 4th June 1979 the governor Mr.R.S. Gill is
also present.



MrVasantryao Patil discussing a point
with LateFr.J.Pereira,Superior &
Fr.C.Rodrigues and members of the
governing body during visit to the
College in May 1977.



Shri Ram Manohar Tripathi, minister
of State for Urban Development on
the occasion of the new Academic
year of the School on visit June 1978.



Shri Ahmed, Hon.minister for Technical
Education, Govt. of Maharashtra, inspects
a job on our new Electra Machine on the
right is Fr.C.Rodrigues Managing Director.



Archbishop of Goa Filipe Neri Ferrão inaugurates the seminar



Most. Rev. Theodore Mascarenhas, Sec. Gen. CBCI addresses the gathering

2018 JOURNEY SHARED IN VIBES



Vivek Muni, President - International Mahavir Jain Mission



Bikku Sanghsena, Founder of Mahabodhi International Meditation Center, Ladakh



Imam Umer Ahmed Ilyasi, Chief Imam of India, President-All India Imam Association



Sushil Goswamy Maharaj, President - Bharatya Sarva Dharm Sansad



Paramjit Singh Chandok, Chairman - Bangla Sahib Gurudwara



Rev. Fr. Jose Alarico Carvalho, addresses the gathering on the occasion of 60 years of Agnel Region of the Soc. of Pilar in Bandra, and 40 years in Verna- Goa, Vashi-Mumbai and Delhi.



Spiritual Leaders representing various faiths came together to spread the message of Peace & Harmony, on 5th April at Ravindra Bhavan Margao Goa. The meet was organised by CBCI in collaboration with Agnel Region of Soc. of Pilar and Bharatya Sarva Dharama Sansad

Smart India Hackathon-2018 Winners

The grand finale of Smart India Hackathon 2018, was organised by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), in association with Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) on 30th & 31st March 2018.

During the finale, the participating teams, consisting of six students and two mentors, were given problem statements to solve within 36 hours. It was evaluated by expert judges.

Over a lakh of students across the nation from 1,315 institutions participated. A total of 16,700 ideas were received and over 408 problem statements were given to participants for the finale from different ministries. These are all part of the event.



Of the 28 centres, two centres were in Karnataka, one in Bengaluru (Sri Venkateshwara College of Engineering) and another in Hubballi (BV Bhoomareddi College of Engineering and Technology). In the Bengaluru centre, out of

56 teams, 52 were present and in the Hubli centre, all 42 teams were present. Team from our Institute Named : AVASTS with Team Members : Ms. Vanessa Almond, Mr. Sachin George, Mr. Advait Kamath, Mr. Aditya Jadhav, Ms. Tanvi Rajadhyaksha, Mr. Swapnil Shinde under the Problem Category : Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence won Second Prize . They were awarded with a trophy and a cash prize of Rs.75,000/-.

Convocation Ceremony 2018

The Convocation Ceremony of 2017 batch of students was organized on 10th March, 2018 in Samvad auditorium at 2.30 p.m. Dr. B. G. Fernandes, the Head of the Department, Electrical Engineering, IIT Bombay, graced the occasion with his presence as the Chief Guest. More than 200 students were awarded the

Graduation Certificates by the Chief Guest, Rev Fr. Valerian, Principal Dr. Srija Unnikrishnan, and the Heads of the Department.

All the parents accompanied by students enjoyed the live streaming of Convocation Ceremony, arranged in Seminar Hall.



Report on Wellness Lecture

A Wellness Lecture on 'Mystical Healing'-Mind a Miracle was organised on 10th February 2018 by the Management of Fr. Agnel Ashram Wadgaonsheri, Pune. Rev. Dr. Fr. Ivon Almeida started the session with guided meditation. He explained the working of our mind in healing oneself and the methods and techniques of taking care of oneself. Fr. Ivon suggested various ways and techniques to

help improve our thoughts and life. He further expressed that we as parents and teachers should not just be providers to our children but should be actively involved in their day to day activities. We should not judge others but look at their intention. The four hour session was enlightening and thought provoking. It has helped all the participants in improving their daily meditation.

Very proud moment for Fr. Agnel ITI

Very proud moment for Fr. Agnel ITI Who appeared on Delhi Doordarshan National on Dt. 25/03/2018. please click the given link & watch Agnel ITI coverage from 12.09 onwards.



Collective Action for Dialogue and Social Harmony

The Society of Pilar, Western Region, had the onerous task of organizing a Public Meeting in collaboration with the Catholic Bishops Conference of India and the Bharatya Sarva Dharm Sansad. The Ravindra Bhavan, Margao, Goa had a packed audience who listened with rapt attention to the galaxy of speakers representing the major religions in India.

The meeting was inaugurated by the Patriarch of the East Indies and Archbishop of Goa and Daman, Most Rev Filipe Neri Ferrao. It was against the serene backdrop of one of the most harmonious states in India that this meeting was held.

All the various religious groups were represented by their heads. Most Rev Theodore Mascarenhas, Secretary General of

the CBCI represented the Catholic Church.

In a joint statement signed and issued at the meeting, the speakers unanimously reiterated the right of every Indian "to decide what one eats, to marry the person of one's choice, to choose the education one selects and the freedom to practice whatever faith one wishes to profess."

The statement condemned the violence, lynchings and killings in the name of religion. It denounced in unequivocal terms the attacks on three Catholic Churches in Rourkela, Orissa during Easter.

The speakers called for social harmony and a rightful place in society for Dalits, tribals, marginalized and the workers. It spoke of building a just society with dignity and respect for all.

To survive in peace and harmony, united and strong, we must have one people, one nation, one flag.

-Pauline Hansonharmony

Easter- Joy and Liberation

-Christine D'Sylva

Easter is the story of God's wonderful window of divine surprise- Carl Knudsen.

Earth's saddest day and gladdest day were just three days apart. – Anonymous.

The joy of Easter has an important proclamation- Christ is Risen! Truly, he is Risen.

Christmas is celebrated with much aplomb all over the world and truly it is a memorable feast for it proclaims the birth of Jesus Christ- the Saviour of the World.

But, Christianity would never have gained so much momentum and spread all over the world if it wasn't for Easter. Easter is the feast that celebrates with great joy the resurrection of Christ.

Christ lay in that cold, lonely tomb, his enemies were sure death had defeated him forever. But, he rose on the third day, and this resulted in Christianity achieving world- wide recognition. His resurrection symbolises that the death of Christ through crucifixion was not the end of him and his teachings. In fact, it heralded a new awakening amongst the people who realised that with his resurrection, he had defeated death. He had defeated the chains of the bondage of death and this liberation poured confidence in the hearts of his apostles. They gathered courage to go forth, be fishers of men and spread the gospel of Christ.

We, thus view Easter as a liberation from sin, a liberation from the chains of sin that hold us bondage. The cross that we carry no longer is like a huge burden, there is hope now. Hope that miracles can take place, hope that things can look brighter. Easter gives us this message of liberation. Liberation to break away the shackles of sin of our old lives and be renewed again.

Thus, Easter is also not only a feast of liberation but one of great joy. It heralds new life, a new beginning.

An early believer wrote, "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old has gone, the new has come."

People today can find inner renewal through the Risen Christ. He seems to have his arms stretched out wide, welcoming us warmly to find peace and solace from the cares of the world. We feel our strength renewed and carrying our cross each day is a less burdensome task for Christ walks along with us.

In the poem, 'Footprints in the Sand', we find that during difficult times, Christ carries us through our troubles. He does not just walk alongside us, he carries us in his arms. Therefore, when we see just one set of footprints in the sand, we must realise that Christ carried us during times of difficulty when we turned with faith to him, and that is why we emerged victorious and our strength was renewed.

The darkness of Good Friday gave way to the light of Christ's resurrection and that is why Easter is celebrated with such joy and happiness throughout the world.

Easter eggs symbolise new life and Easter seems incomplete to most families without the Easter Egg. It has come to symbolise the true meaning of Easter- joy, new life and liberation.

Here is a short poem on Easter by me.

Easter.
The stone was moved
On that special day,
The cold, empty tomb
Silent, with no words to say
Christ has risen,
Risen to new life.
Clothed in dazzling white,
Ending all strife.
The apostles awed,
Their heavy hearts uplifted,
Christ is once more,
His resurrection to the world gifted.
The message rings loud and true,
Easter brings joy, hope, cheer,
It reminds us that Christ
Is once more with us, throughout the year.
Happy Easter!

ALLELUIA – The Lord Has Risen

-Arthur D'Mello

-
- 1) A very early riser was Magdlene Mary
on that Sunday morn, called at the tomb early
To find to her dismay, the stone rolled away of Christ's body no sign that day.
 - 2) With teary eyes, from those in the vicinity she sought
whether the corpse had been taken or kept in the lot
since none responded to her plaint or cry.
She ran Peter to ask what next and why.
 - 3) She persevered on return to the tomb and to cry
Hearing her sobs, a bystander asked her why
It was none but the Lord, she failed to discern
Presuming Him the gardener posed her query and concern.
 - 4) When He called her by name, she to embrace Him set
He cautioned that He had not reverted to His Father yet
Leave me for the present to complete this task
Tell Peter and the rest that I did ask.
 - 5) When Peter and the rest came up to the site
Entered to find the bloodied head bandaged right
Accompanying two disciples explaining events long and deft
Recognition dawned as he broke the bread and left.
-

By choosing Self-Control you will achieve Freedom

One's mind may be given readily and it may be given with zest.
Not all Control is oppression. Sometimes it is release.

-Gilbert Ryle

Our most dangerous delusion is that we can control others. The hard-won truth is that we can control only ourselves – and it may take us a lifetime to learn this. Self-control means release, however, release from the bondage of uncontrolled and thoughtless behavior. When we recognize that our only legitimate power is over ourselves, we become free to grow spiritually and to increase that power.

Lack of control is not freedom; it is chaos. Conflicting impulse squander energies instead

of controlling them and directing them towards growth. We can't subdue our unruly selves by fighting them: accept them, love them as part of our human imperfection, our superb and our human imperfection, our superb and jagged individuality.

As we come to recognize the benefits of self-control, we'll choose it more and more often. We'll become more fully in control of our lives, better able to direct our energies and do what we want to do.

*Self-Control is a key factor in achieving success.
We can't control everything in life, but we can definitely control ourselves.*

-Jan McKingley Hilado



Fr. AGNEL'S BLESSINGS

GOT GOOD MEDICAL REPORT

Dadar : As the doctor was suspecting some cardiac disorder in me, I was advised to take an Angiography C.T. Test. I was very much worried. I prayed to Ven. Fr. Agnel to get a normal report. I am now happy to inform you that by the blessing of Ven. Fr. Agnel the Angiography C.T. Report showed normal functioning of the heart.. My grateful thanks to Ven.Fr.Agnel with an offering of `500.

-Dinaz Karanjia

CONSTRUCTION OF HOUSE COMPLETED

Nallasopara: I was experiencing a lot of problems while getting my new house constructed. I had to face many obstacles while obtaining permission from the authorities concerned. I prayed fervently to Ven.Fr.Agnel to help me to overcome all these problems. By the grace of Ven.Fr.Agnel construction of my house has been completed. My thanks offering of `500 to the Shrine of Ven.Fr.Agnel.

-Sylvia Lemos

CURED OF URINE PROBLEM

Seraulim-Goa: My brother had an infection that showed in his urine. His veins oozed water because of which his body was swollen. Later on he was unable to pass urine and was going through a lot of pain. At this moment I prayed to Ven.Fr.Agnel to cure him of his urine problem. He is now much better and does his normal work. My heartfelt gratitude to Ven. Fr.Agnel. I pray that he may soon be declared a saint.

-Sherry Fernandes

OVERCAME LEGAL HASSLES

Santacruz: For over a year I had been trying to get Occupancy Certificate for my building. I had to run from pillar to post but all my efforts were in vain. I was really fed up with all the

legal hassles. In despair but with great hope I turned to Ven.Fr.Agnel and fervently prayed for his intercession in this case. I am now extremely happy to inform you that by the blessing of Ven.Fr.Agnel I got the O.C. within a short time and also many other favours through his heavenly intercession. As a token of my sincere thanks an offering of `1000/- to the Ashram.

-Mathew Fernandes

FERVENT PLEA ANSWERED

Dubai: Wife of my friend could not feed her new born child as her B.P. had shot up. They were very much worried. I advised them to pray to Ven.Fr.Agnel. The next day I got a call from them that her Blood Pressure had come down to normal level and she was feeling much better and could attend to her child. Their child is now keeping good health. Their thanksgiving offering follows.

-Sussan D'Souza

CURED OF TOOTH INFECTION

Porvorim-Goa: I had undergone an operation for thyroid. Eight years later I had a tooth extracted after which an infection set in. I took various medicines but there was no relief. The Doctor advised me to get admitted in Manipal Hospital. I was worried and with great faith pleaded with Ven.Fr.Agnelo to cure me of this ailment. Indeed Fr.Agnelo has worked a miracle as the sonography report confirmed the cure. My sincere thanks to Ven.Fr.Agnelo and I pray for his early beatification.

-Jenerosa Fernandes Esteves

SUCCESS IN EXAMINATION

Dubai: Daughter of my friend was very distressed as her final exam was scheduled. I showed them the picture of Ven.Fr.Agnel and asked them to pray for his blessings. She has

now recovered from her tension and passed the exam with flying colors. Moreover she got a very lucrative placement in France. Their thanks offering to Ven.Fr. Agnel follows.

-Sussan D'Souza

MULTIPLE FAVOURS

Bandra: My elder sister was unable to walk for several months due to acute pain on her legs. I fervently prayed to Ven.Fr.Agnel for her speedy recovery. Now by the grace of Ven. Fr.Agnel she is able to walk without any help. My niece got a suitable job and a life partner. Her marriage was successfully held through the blessings of Ven.Fr.Agnel. With a grateful heart an offering of `1000/- to the Ashram.

-Sr. Domenic

RECOVERY FROM COLD AND ASTHMA

Quepem-Goa: My one-year old daughter caught cold which developed to pneumonia and she also had a bout of asthma. She was kept in the ICU of a hospital in Margao for three days. Despite much medical treatment given there was no improvement in her condition. The doctor said that he could not do anything more and advised us to admit her in a hospital in Panjim. On examining the doctor said that she was very serious and he could not guarantee her survival and exhorted us to pray to God. At that moment I thought of Ven.Fr.Agnel and prayed earnestly to him to save our child. I am glad to say that my child has recovered well. My heartfelt gratitude to Ven.Fr.Agnelo.

-Connie Cardoso

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 Kissing of Relic are held on every Saturday after 6.00 p.m.

Mass Favours obtained, petitions and offerings may kindly be sent to :

Rev. Fr. Superior

Fr. Agnel Ashram

P.O. Box – 6656, Bandstand,
Bandra (W), Mumbai – 400 050.

Tel : 67114000.

Fax : 67114100.

Email : agnelashramnews@gmail.com

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

I think we need to do some deep soul searching about what's important in our lives and renew our spirit and our spiritual thinking, whether it's through faith-based religion or just through loving nature or helping your fellow man.

-Louie Schwartzberg

Out of Their Bounty

P. Srivastava	Mumbai	50000	F. Almeida	Mumbai	2000	A.D. Patel	Navsari	501
K. Vaz	Mumbai	40000	P. Fernandes	Mumbai	2000	D.F. Motafaram	Mumbai	501
Y. S. Randeira	Mumbai	20000	Lucy Pinto	Mumbai	2000	Samta P. Pandya	Mumbai	501
B. Fernandes	Delhi	20000	B. Antony	Kerala	2000	Neil Louis	Mumbai	500
Jayan D'Souza	Mumbai	18000	O. D'Sa	Mumbai	2000	A. Shetty	Mumbai	500
R. Fernandes	Pune	15000	A. Jayasimhan	Mumbai	1500	S. Desai	Mumbai	500
Parag R. Ved	Mumbai	14000	S.J. Eustachius	Nagpur	1500	Priti P. Pereira	Virar	500
M.I. Shah	Ahmedabad	11000	A. Henriques	Thane	1200	S. F. Pinto	Vasai	500
N. Mark Anthony	Mumbai	10000	S.N. Irani	Mumbai	1111	S.V. Trivedi	Mumbai	500
D. Parmar	Nagar Haveli	9900	S. B. Karundwadi	Kolhapur	1100	Lily J. D'Souza	Thane	500
Prasad S Gawde	Vashi	9000	P. Oberoi	Delhi	1100	C. Mange	Thane	500
Nelson D'Souza	Mumbai	9000	D.C. Mehta	Mumbai	1001	Mary D'Souza	Naigaon	500
R. Barboza	Mira Rd.	9000	Veena C. Mehta	Mumbai	1001	M.M. Shinde	Palghar	500
Warner Pereira	Vasai	8000	Christina	Mumbai	1001	John Xavier	Dahisar	500
J Engineering	T.N.	7000	Rutty Birdy	Mumbai	1001	Andrew Lobo	Mumbai	500
O.M. Olpadwala	Mumbai	6,000	M.s. Pavri	Mumbai	1001	S. V. Dabre	Vasai	500
D. Thomas	Kerala	6000	Priyona Boat	Bhayander	1000	P. Pereira	Mumbai	500
T.F. Correia	Vasai	5000	A.R. Dabre	Nirmal	1000	Milton Hoggens	Australia	500
S. Saldanha	Mangalore	5000	M.B. Patel	Mira Road	1000	A. Vincent	Mumbai	500
P.T. Lopes	Vasai	5000	R. Mistry	Bilimora	1000	M.J. Lam	Nashik	500
L.I. Menezes	Vasai	5000	Jane D'Souza	Mumbai	1000	M.J. Sheth	Mumbai	500
M. Muckaden	Mumbai	5000	Troy D'Souza	Mumbai	1000	P.M. Braganza	Mumbai	500
N.J. Gunderia	Mumbai	5000	Rani Joseph	Bangalore	1000	Hilda Fernandes	Mumbai	500
C.V. Colaco	Thane	5000	P.N. Mathias	Mumbai	1000	K.S. Rao	Mumbai	500
S. C. Ambo	Thane	5000	Selwin George	Oman	1000	M. Kumble	Mumbai	500
C.J. Ariwala	Mumbai	5000	Dominic Pereira	Mumbai	1000	C. Rodrigues	Bangalore	500
M.H. Ariwala	Mumbai	5000	Johny Kathi	Vasai	1000	K. Kharbari	Mumbai	500
D. Quadras	Mumbai	5000	Leonilla D'Souza	Naigon	1000	H.B. Barjorji	Mumbai	500
S.J. D'Mello	Virar	5000	P. J. Desai	Valsad	1000	T. M. Barjoji	Mumbai	500
Urvi Agency	Bhayander	5000	A/. G. Kelawalla	Mumbai	1000	Mathew Pinto	Mumbai	500
Anjali Gupta	Mumbai	5000	H.S. Waghela	Surat	1000	F.K. Bharucha	Mumbai	500
M.K. Bhatti	London	4500	R. Rajan	Mumbai	1000	K.H. Ganatra	Mumbai	500
M.P. John	Kerala	3000	V.M. Fernandes	Mumbai	1000	A. Boney	Kerala	500
I. Henriques	T.N.	3000	Nancy Carlo	Mumbai	1000	S. Saldanha	T.N.	500
H. Z. Bharucha	Vasai	3000	A. Antonyraj	T.N.	1000	S. Chettiar	Mumbai	500
R.N. Mary	Mangalore	3000	H.N. Nagarwalla	Mumbai	1000	G.B. Pillai	Gujarat	500
L. Monteiro	Mangalore	3000	F. Rebello	Mumbai	1000	Lilly D'Souza	Mumbai	500
C.J. Moras	Mangalore	3000	V.S. Bilolikar	Mubai	1000	Jeome D'Souza	Mumbai	500
Sybel D'Mello	Vasai	2500	G.R. Rana	Thane	1000	N. S. Hadkar	Dombivli	500
B.V. Asani	Mumbai	2500	J. Rodrigues	Mumbai	1000	A. Shah	Mumbai	300
R.T. Hingorani	Mumbai	2100	Rusi Shroff	Mumbai	1000	J. Mathew	Kerla	300
Ila H. Patel	Mumbai	2000	A.D. Ghosal	Vasai	1000	K. Alphonsa	Kerala	300
P. Kishore	Kerala	2000	A.G.A. Mohal	Mumbai	1000	M.J. Pereira	Pune	300
V. Carvalho	Vasai	2000	Alapatt Brothers	Kerala	1000	B.g. Desai	Mumbai	251
A. Nadar	Dharavi	2000	A. Devassy	Thane	1000	M. Macwana	Virar	201
C. George	Oman	2000	K.K. Karkaria	Mumbai	1000	S. Das	Assam	201
Calvin George	Oman	2000	F.E. Gonsalves	Vasai	1000	Celine Rodrigues	Mumbai	200
S. George	Mumbai	2000	R.R. Chavan	Mumbai	1000	Gracy Mathew	Mumbai	200
M.d. Lopes	Mumbai	2000	N. Simon	Kerala	1000	A. Joseph	Kerala	200
B.A. Pereira	Vasai	2000	S. D'Cruz	Kerala	1000	F.J. Rebello	Ahedabad	200
George Lobo	Mumbai	2000	V.D. Khumbar	Khopoli	1000	N.S. Tribhuvan	Pune	200
C.E. Varghese	Mumbai	2000	Jaison P.A.	Kerala	1000	A.S. Khandangle	Ahmednagar	200
M.S. Nathani	Mumbai	2000	A.J. Pinto	Dombivli	1000	B. Joseph	Kerala	200
Julia roach	Coimbatore	2000	J. Kapadia	Mumbai	702	V.A. Vincent	Kerala	200
Phyllis D'Abreo	Mumbai	2000	Y. Trivedi	Mumbai	502	P. McCoy	T.N.	200
G.T. Tekchandani	Mumbai	2000	D.D. Patel	Navsari	501	D. Sebastian	Kerala	200
Maj. Chemmanoor	Karnataka	2000	C.D. Patel	Navsari	501			

Pope washes feet of prisoners on Holy Thursday

Jesus does not give up on anyone, he told them

“Jesus takes a risk on each of us. Know this: Jesus is called Jesus, not Pontius Pilate. Jesus does not know how to wash his hands of us; he only knows how to take a risk on us,” the pope said on March 29 during his homily at Rome’s Regina Coeli prison.

In his brief homily before the foot-washing ritual, Pope Francis explained to the prisoners that in Jesus’ day, the job of washing feet was the task of a slave. “There wasn’t asphalt or cobblestones, there was dust and people’s feet got dirty,” so before they went into a house, the slaves would wash the person’s feet.

The Gospel recounts Jesus washing the feet of his own disciples “to give us an example of how we must serve one another,” the Pope said.

“I am a sinner like you, but I represent Jesus today. I am his ambassador,” the pope said. “When I kneel before each of you, think, ‘Jesus took a risk on this man, a sinner, to come to me and tell me he loves me.’ This is service. This is Jesus. He never abandons us. He never tires of forgiving us. He loves us so much.”

The pope celebrated the Mass of the Lord’s Supper in the rotunda of the prison, a small central area formed from the intersection of various wings of the jail.

The prison is designed to house just over 600 inmates, but currently houses more than 900 men. Some 65 percent of the inmates are non-Italians, Vatican News reported.

At the end of the Mass, a prisoner publicly thanked

Pope Francis for his visit and said the inmates would try to do, at least symbolically, what he recommended at his general audience at the Vatican the day before: celebrate Easter by splashing water on their eyes to look at the world with fresh eyes.

The 81-year-old pope responded by confiding in the prisoners that, like many people his age, he is developing cataracts and will have an operation next year to fix them.

But, he said, as life goes on and people get busy or make mistakes, they can develop “cataracts of the soul” that prevent them from seeing the world with the hope that is born of Jesus’ resurrection.

“Never tire of renewing your gaze, of having that cataract operation on your soul every day,” the Pope told the prisoners.

He also insisted that jail time must be a time to prepare a person to return to society and live as good citizens and that the penalties for crime must be “open to hope.”

“There is no just penalty that is not open to hope,” Pope Francis said. “That is why the death penalty is neither Christian nor human.”

The Mass on March 29 marked the fourth time Pope Francis celebrated the Holy Thursday Mass in a detention facility. In 2013, for his first Holy Thursday as Pope, he celebrated in a juvenile detention facility. In 2015 he presided over the Mass and foot-washing ritual at Rebibbia, Rome’s main prison, and in 2017 he went to a prison in Paliano, some 45 miles from Rome.



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