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AGNEL

SHRAM NEWS

The Family- **A Microcosm of Society**



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Fr. Agnel Ashram News

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One World, One Family

Has it ever occurred to you that all humans are related ? Inane as this question may sound, we Homo Sapiens are truly a species apart. For example, which species willfully invents weapons to wage war and kill it's own? Which species uses rape as an instrument of oppression? Which species kills for a thought, a myth, an ideology? And yet, we call such behavior as a way of Being Human !

According to some anthropologists, our species the Homo Sapiens were not the only human species to populate the planet. At least six other species just like us could be called our cousins. Homo rudolfensis, homo erectus, homo neanderthalensis, homo soloensis, homo florensis and homo ergaster. So from around 2 million years ago, till 10,000 years ago, several human species walked the earth. The others either perished because of their inability to survive, or were pushed out of existence by our clever forefathers.

So how did we evolve into a society with the family as a basic unit? The family is not unique to humankind. Almost every other mammalian species has a family to begin with. How else would the vulnerable little ones be nurtured and bred into adulthood. Whether it's a cub or a fledgling bird, nurturing is what keeps the species alive.

So our basic survival mechanism as a species begins with the family. Of course, for the birds and the bees, it's probably merely a matter of survival and procreation to keep the genus alive. For humans, it means a little more.

Being an animal with a large brain, cognition plays an important role in our existence. We process information not just for survival, but for overall growth and progress of the species. Being a thinking animal, knowledge and collective thought is part of our collective consciousness. Hence, nurturing involves imparting values and concepts that help the next generation grow successfully.

The family is a human being's first encounter with society. It represents to him a microcosm of the society in which he will live and grow. The opposite is also true. The individual will recreate and reproduce what he has learned in the family,

in his social environment as an adult. Hence, the formative years play an important role in the creation of a just and equitable society.

This simple thought has given birth to numerous aphorisms. Like father, like son, a chip of the old block; are just a few of them. The society we live in is a mirror image of the family we grew up in. The recent Khatua rape incident is a poignant example of family influence. The juvenile boy involved was instructed by his uncle to kidnap the child and take her to the temple where she was brutally raped and murdered by adults. You can only imagine the society this juvenile will create when he becomes an influential adult !

The individual will recreate and reproduce what he has learned in the family, in his social environment as an adult. Hence, the formative years play an important role in the creation of a just and equitable society.

Murder and rape is commonplace in certain states in India, while it is rare in certain others. If one did a deeper study, it would not be difficult to find a direct correlation between the social status of women and crime against women. It would be both unfair and untrue to attribute this trend to either genetics or culture. The values ingrained in a child through the family is more likely the immediate cause.

The same holds true for other mindsets like caste distinction, communal violence and religious intolerance. The family is the breeding ground for gender, linguistic and racial discrimination. All these values or lack of them help propagate the ills we face in society today.

Hence, it would be safe to conclude that the family creates the society we live in. If we wish to build an equitable and just society, we would need to take a closer look at the family values imparted. Laws, policing and governance can at most serve as a deterrent to crime. But, for long-lasting peace and justice, the family has a vital role to play in recasting society.

-Hansel D'Souza

Time and Timelessness ... You can still rule it!

Time is the world's most precious commodity, and therefore the saying "time and tide wait for no man" are so true. Time is also a dimension of a material world, a world that is limited, our world. The fluidity of time also means that what we experience here and now, the people we know and love here and now and the environment we belong to, will all pass, and a new situation will happen next.

Time is primarily a sign of our limitedness, of our smallness, of our frailty and of our perishability. Time means that all that we are and all that we have, will not be there in the next moment, all that we find is big and powerful will pass, all the security that we have put in place will change and all that we consider real and permanent will pass.

We would like to ignore the fact that time, makes all things around us transitory (that will pass away), and we find it very convenient to do so. We do not feel comfortable thinking that what we have piled up in our bank accounts, our buildings and our expensive vehicles, our jewellery and stocks, our name and fame that we so assiduously cultivate, often at the cost of others, will disappear, sometimes even without we knowing it. Uncertainty is mankind's greatest fear.

We are not sure about what will be tomorrow (how our exams will be, what results we will secure); we do not know which friends, we love and depend on so much will be there tomorrow (will they still be my friends?); we are completely unaware, what accident of nature can happen and things around ourselves will change;

therefore mankind considers time (change beyond his control) as his greatest enemy.

When you are working hard at finishing a project and you wish the clock would stop so that you can beat the deadline, you look at the wall clock several times, hoping that the minute hands will stop and you will have some extra minutes but it

never happens. When you see your reflection and you notice that your hair has greyed a little, or that your skin has wrinkled a little, you wish it were not so, and to cater to that fear, there is a multi billion dollar industry called cosmetics, skin care and what have you!

But the lack of control over it, is not so bad. Great men and women have turned this weakness into a great strength; they have turned the limitedness of time into an endless reality, and have turned their personal sense of weakness and frailty into an assurance of permanent joy. Our understanding of time that is limited, is

Time is primarily a sign of our limitedness, of our smallness, of our frailty and of our perishability.

intimately connected with our inability to see the future and live in the future and to be immortal.

Religions teach, and human quest for meaning of life, lead to the belief, that man has limitless possibilities, and the reason for this possibility is, because the yearning for immortality, the desire to live forever, is embedded in our system. Every man, woman and child born in this world, desires to live forever! Although philosophers like to call this idea of immortality, a figment of our





God or simply, discovering your connectedness with the Divine. This may appear the stuff that the pundits, the maulvis or the priests teach in the Temples, Mosques or the churches, but in reality this is what renders our life much more beautiful – fearless. Our ability to see the future, to rise above the ordinary and to pursue goals that appear to us indomitable, depends entirely on our clearly we are able to see the future beyond our limited view.

imagination, a myth, the fact is, that those who have accepted this idea (humankind's design for immortality), in whatever form understood, have substantially changed the quality of life, of the world, we live in. Because immortality is so real, for many, the idea of honesty and integrity, the idea of reaching out to the poor and the neglected, the power to give up the pursuit of personal fame and wealth, and live for others, have thrived and will continue to do so. The more robust, the idea of personal immortality one has, the greater impact his or her life, brings to bear on world, and make it better.

Young people all around the world with the best intentions, often give in to what they know is not right, simply because they can't resist the temptation of letting go off their friends, whose company makes them do things that as individuals they would never want to do. Our

The simplest way to do it, is to admit that our life, is not just a loose thread, but it is intimately connected with the reality of what we call the Supreme,

As people, all of us crave for greatness. We would like to excel in our work, earn a comfortable pay packet that allows us ample savings, vacations, education of our choice for our children, a great living place and a worry free retirement. How legitimate these aspirations and often we are willing to do anything to earn that extra four figure amount or perhaps even cheat and defraud or do something bad, personally. And all of this is done without regard to the fact that the future is not under our control. Were we able to align our limited control over our life, with the divine limitlessness, knowing that whatever happens to me in the future, it will be for my good, because I am aligned with the Truth, with the ONE who knows all and does all for my good.

bad habits are often a result of our desire to give in to something or somebody that we think is going to be with us for long, which of course is not true.

Our understanding that time is short is essential to connect ourselves with timelessness, a choice that is open to all of us. The simplest way to do it, is to admit that our life, is not just a loose thread, but it is intimately connected with the reality of what we call the Supreme, the Divine, and to grow each day discovering that, is the greatest triumph over time and its limitations. All of us, you and me are called to greatness, and discovering that and keeping it with you, is life's most precious treasure! That makes all that you are, do and live for, timeless! That is the power of you!

Great women and men have discovered a way to overcome this limitation, by transforming their present limitation into a timeless reality, what we call by many names, such as faith, trust in

**-Jose Alarico Carvalho
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God-Breathed, Birthing, Life-changing, Power

-Leon Bent

Ezekiel wrote: “A new heart I will give you and a new spirit I will put within you, and I will take out of your flesh the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances” (Ezek. 36:24-28)

The Lord would not simply give to Israel his Law, but, in the New Exodus, his Spirit, which would enable them to keep the Law (cf. Jer. 31:33; Ezek. 36:26-28, 37:14).

As we shall see, the opening passage from Ezekiel is crucial to understand what is happening in Acts 2.

A Divine Phenomenon: Pentecost

On the day of Pentecost, according to Acts 2:1-13, God poured out the Holy Spirit on the assembled believers, accompanied by several supernatural signs, including the sound of a violent wind, tongues of fire, and speaking in tongues. Scripture Scholar, Scott Hahn declares, “These three experiences seemed like natural phenomena (wind, fire, and speech); yet they were supernatural, both, in origin and character. The noise was not wind, but sounded like it; the sight was not fire but resembled it; and the speech was in languages which were not ordinary but in some mysterious way, ‘other.’”

Charles W. Carter & Ralph Earle’s, *The Wesleyan Bible Commentary*, suggests that, the tongues of fire symbolize purity, because fire is a purifying agent. The infilling of the Spirit symbolizes possession, because those filled with the Spirit had given themselves over to God. And, the speaking in unknown languages symbolizes proclamation, because the disciples would use the languages to

proclaim the Good News about Jesus.

The fiftieth day after Passover, also known as the “Feast of Weeks” or Shavuot, was one of the Jewish Harvest Pilgrimage Festivals, for which all Jews travelled to Jerusalem from far and wide; fifty days after Passover Jesus’ disciples too, probably travelled from Galilee, where they had returned to their fishing nets. The author of Acts uses this feast as the occasion for the renewal of the people of Israel and their Covenant.

The Renewal of the Covenant

The episode that followed as described by the author is very reminiscent of the Sinai experience. Noise is almost unbearable, and tongues of fire symbolized something divine was happening – in this case, the outpouring of the Spirit upon them, the gift promised by their dear Lord before His death.

The renewal of the covenant through the power of the Holy Spirit had to be an uproarious, boisterous and a visual business, as was the giving of the covenant on Mt. Sinai (Raymond Brown, *A Once-and-Coming Spirit at Pentecost*).

“You shall know that I am in your midst” prefaces the verse “I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams; your young men shall see visions” (Joel 2:28; Acts 2. 17). Just as the Lord poured out rain to rejuvenate the land, now My Spirit will be poured out upon all, irrespective of gender, slave or free person, young or old. It is not only human beings but the whole cosmos that will see the signs in “fire and billows of smoke” reminiscent of Sinai. However, “the sun will be turned to darkness and blood” that conjures Calvary. But from that darkness resurrected a new

creation, new life, as seen on this day of Pentecost (The New Pentecost: Dr. Scott Hahn). The quoted text ended with precise salvific words from Joel 2:32; Rom.10:13: “And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved...”

The Apostles and Disciples were Powered on by the Spirit

Jerusalem is, of course, filled with pilgrims at festival time and the Twelve with Mary, the women, and other disciples numbering 120 - all gathered to pray in the large upper room of one of Jesus’ followers. The Day of Pentecost fulfilled the Lord’s promise to His disciples of being filled with the power of the Holy Spirit for soul-winning, just before the Lord ascended. Peter, alive in the Spirit, was kerygmatic (apostolic proclamation of the Gospel message), and used the *parresia* to perfect effect, and

3,000 people gladly believed what they heard and were immediately saved (Acts 2: 41-42; 1 Pet.4:6). “Let us ask

the Lord for this ‘*parresia*,’” said Pope Francis, “this apostolic fervor that impels us to move forward, as sisters and brothers, all of us forward, bringing the name of Jesus in the bosom of Holy Mother, the Church, and, as St. Ignatius said, ‘hierarchical and Catholic.’ So be it!” The Greek word *parresia* is used 31 times in the New Testament. Boldness, confidence, courage, and fearlessness are words found in the Bible that relate to the concept of *parresia*.

What does Pentecost Celebration?

Pentecost is the Church’s celebration of the gift of the Holy Spirit. It comes from the realization that God’s very life, breath and energy lives in, with, and among us. Those who are Christians experience this life through Jesus because they see the Spirit so fully manifest in him. John’s Gospel 20:19-23 tells of a visit of the Risen Christ to the disciples huddled in fear. “Peace be with you,” Jesus says. “As the Father sent me, so I am sending you.” After saying this, Jesus breathed on them and added, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” The breath, the

very life, of Jesus himself! We are God-breathed! Pentecost celebrates that reality!

The coming of the Spirit into human hearts and minds on that Day of Pentecost in the early 30s (A.D.), was God’s sign that in Christ he was creating a new people — a new Israel — an Israel of the Spirit (Galatians 6:16) that included Jews and Gentiles, alike.

The Church, which had just been born in this way, on the day of Pentecost, by the work of the Holy Spirit, was immediately revealed to the world. It is not a closed community, but an open one - it could be called a community thrown wide open--to all the nations “even to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8). Those who enter this community through Baptism become, by virtue of the Holy Spirit of truth, witnesses of the Good News, and are ready

to pass it on to others. It is, therefore, a dynamic, apostolic community, the Church “in a state of mission” (cf. Christ in the Gospels in the Liturgical Year,

Raymond Brown).

And, this gold nugget: The Church - the “*ekklessia*,” the “gathered,” the “called together” - was empowered by the Holy Spirit to live differently, in the midst of a world awaiting the fullness of redemption, to live as a new people to lead the world back to the Father, in and through His Son. Through their experience of the Holy Spirit, the early Christians continued to fellowship, pray and share their possessions with the needy brethren, in communion with Jesus and in Jesus, with the Father; in Jesus with one another; and in Jesus for the world. So it must be, for you and me, in this bloody and fiery hour of urgent need and turmoil!

Now, this final flourish: Can we live a Pentecostal experience that reveals the beauty of the Church, to a world that is still desperately in need of redemption? Surely we can and we must! Come, Holy Spirit, Come! That’s breathing the Spirit of God!

St. Joseph the Worker, Guardian of Families

-E.F. Joseph

Every year 1st of May, the Universal Church celebrates the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker, Patron Saint of the workers all over the world. He was not a scholar nor a high dignitary in Society, but a humble carpenter from Nazareth, an obscure village, in the town of Galilee, Israel, and yet God chose him to be Foster Father of Jesus and made him partner in His Slavic mystery. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God", is true in the case of St. Joseph. Holy scripture says about him in one sentence that He was a Just Man (Mt.1-19) He did not want to disgrace Mother Mary publicly and put her to a cruel death, as he found her pregnant before marriage, a serious crime, amounting to capital punishment to be stoned to death in public, according to the Jewish Law. Since St. Joseph respected the dignity and status of the women in the Society, He saved Mary from disgrace and brutal death, on a message received from the Angel in the dream.

To Virgin Mary, the Angel Gabriel appeared while she was praying; to Zechariah, father of John the Baptist, the Angel appeared on the altar in the temple when he was serving as a Priest during his turn; and to Jesus, the Angel appeared while He was praying in the garden of Gethsemane on mount Olives; but, to St. Joseph all divine messages were given through dreams only, and yet He did not doubt or hesitate to obey the command of God, that is what makes him a Saint with a difference.

When He was in a quandary whether to accept or reject Mary, the Angel of the Lord appeared in a dream (First Dream) and told him to accept Mary as His wife, because She was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit.

After the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, He had the Second Dream. The Angel told him to escape to Egypt with Mary and the child Jesus as Herod the King was seeking to kill the infant Jesus. Overnight He packed up, and fled to Egypt with Mary and the child Jesus, braving extreme cold, darkness, wild animals and dacoits; striding hundreds of kilometers on a rough & tough terrain. He fully acknowledged the will of God and became the Guardian of the Holy Family. For him work was worship not hardship, for this very reason St. Joseph is considered to be the Guardian of families.

And again, He had the Third Dream, the Angel told him to return to Nazareth from Egypt as King Herod, who was seeking to take the life of Jesus, was dead. He obeyed the command of God; and safely brought Mary & Jesus back to Nazareth where Jesus was brought up in values and morals that helped Him to face challenges and crisis in His public life courageously, to the will of God. People who are faithful and obedient to the commands of God are Driven by Divine Dreams; and protected from all kinds of evils and dangers in life, even if they walk in the valley of death, and that is what we can see in the graceful life of St. Joseph.

According to tradition, St. Joseph died in the presence of Jesus (the Lord of Life & Death) and Mother Mary, a woman (full of grace). Oh ! what a graceful death!. For that reason St. Joseph is considered to be Patron of Happy Death.

I am fortunate, rather blessed to be known in the name of St. Joseph. Let me conclude with profound gratitude to my beloved parents for having named me Joseph.

Jesus was brought up in values and morals that helped Him to face challenges and crisis in His public life courageously, to the will of God.

Foundation Day

Our school celebrated its eight Foundation Day on 11 April, 2018. We were honoured to have Brahm Kumari Sister Medha, as our Chief Guest. We celebrated the day immense pleasure commemorating the day when school's foundation stone was set and the school started a new journey to add a milestone in the Agnel history. A wave of happiness could be felt all around. It seemed that the school itself cheered up to celebrate its eight birthday. Wishing the very best for the school and praying to God



Foundation Day Lamp Lighting



Foundation Day Magazine Release

to shower his blessings upon us the students welcomed the guests through a beautiful dance performance. Sister Medha told the students the meaning of 5 Cs- concentration, calmness, clarity, confidence and contentment. She also taught them how to do meditation. Swami Sushil ji Maharaj motivated the children to study sincerely and serve their country with devotion. At the end of the programme we released new edition of our school magazine, Agnel Lights.



Foundation Day Welcome



The Collapse of the Family and the Community

*Excerpt from the International Best Seller-Sapiens A Brief History of Humankind
Author- Yuval Noah Harari Published by Vintage Books, London*

The Industrial Revolution brought about dozens of major upheavals in human society. Adapting to industrial time is just one of them. Other notable examples include urbanization, the disappearance of the peasantry, the rise of the industrial proletariat, the empowerment of the peasantry, the rise of the industrial proletariat, the empowerment of the common person, democratization, youth culture and the disintegration of patriarchy.

Yet all of these upheavals are dwarfed by the most momentous social revolution that ever befell humankind: the collapse of the family and the local community and their replacement by the state and the market. As best we can tell, from the earliest times, more than a million years ago, humans lived in small, intimate communities, most of whose members were kin. The cognitive Revolution and the Agricultural Revolution did not change that. They glued together families and communities to create tribes, cities, kingdoms and empires, but families and communities remained the basic building blocks of all human societies. The Industrial Revolution, on the other hand, managed within little more than two centuries to break these building blocks into atoms. Most of the traditional functions of families and communities were handed over to states and markets.

Prior to the Industrial revolution, the daily life of most humans ran its course within ancient frames: the nuclear family, the extended family and the local intimate community.” Most people worked in the family business- the family farm or the family workshop, for example- or they worked in their neighbours’ family businesses. The family was also the welfare system, the health system, the education system, the construction industry, the trade union, the pension fund, the insurance company, the radio, the television, the newspapers, the bank and even the police.

When a person fell sick, the family took care of her. When a person grew old, the family supported her, and her children were her pension fund. When a person died, the family lent a hand. If a person wanted to open a business, the family chose, or at least vetted, the prospective spouse. If conflict arose with the neighbor, the family muscled in. But if a person’s illness was too grave for the family to manage, or a new business demanded too large an investment, or the neighbourhood quarrel escalated to the point of violence, the local community came to the rescue.

The community offered help on the basis of local traditions and an economy of favours, which often differed greatly from the supply and demand laws of the free market. In an old-fashioned medieval

community, when my neighbour was in need, I helped build his hut and guard his sheep, without expecting any payment in return. When I was in need, my neighbour returned the favour. At the same time, the local potentate might have drafted all of us villagers to construct his castle without paying us a penny. In exchange, we counted on him to defend us against brigands and barbarians. Village life involved many transactions but few payments. There were some markets, of course, but their roles were limited. You could buy rare spices, cloth and tools, and hire the services of lawyers and doctors. Yet less than 10 per cent of commonly used products and services were bought in the market. Most human needs were taken care of by the family and the community.

There were also kingdoms and empires that performed important tasks such as waging wars, building roads and constructing palaces. For these purposes kings raised taxes and occasionally enlisted soldiers and labourers. Yet, with few exceptions, they tended to stay out of the daily affairs of families and communities. Even if they wanted to intervene, most kings could do so only with difficulty. Traditional agricultural economies had few surpluses with which to feed crowds of government officials, policemen, social workers, teachers and doctors. Consequently, most rulers did not develop mass welfare systems, health-care systems or educational systems. They left such matters in the hands of families and communities. Even on rare occasions when rulers tried to intervene more intensively in the daily lives of the peasantry (as happened, for example, in the Qin Empire in China), they did so by converting family heads and community elders into government agents.

Often enough, transportation and communication difficulties made it so difficult to intervene in the affairs of remote communities that many kingdoms preferred to cede even the most basic royal prerogatives – such as taxation and violence – to communities. The Ottoman Empire, for instance, allowed family vendettas to mete out justice, rather than supporting a large imperial police force. If my cousin killed somebody, the victim's brother might kill me in sanctioned revenge. The sultan in Istanbul or even the provincial pasha did not intervene in such clashes, as long as violence

remained within acceptable limits.

In the Chinese Ming Empire (1368–1644), the population was organised into the *baojia* system. Ten families were grouped to form a *jia*, and ten *jia* constituted a *bao*. When a member of a *bao* committed a crime, other *bao* members could be punished for it, in particular the *bao* elders. Taxes too were levied on the *bao*, and it was the responsibility of the *bao* elders rather than of the state officials to assess the situation of each family and determine the amount of tax it should pay. From the empire's perspective, this system had a huge advantage. Instead of maintaining thousands of revenue officials and tax collectors, who would have to monitor the earnings and expenses of every family, these tasks were left to the community elders. The elders knew how much each villager was worth and they could usually enforce tax payments without involving the imperial army.

Many kingdoms and empires were in truth little more than large protection rackets. The king was the *capo di tutti capi* who collected protection money, and in return made sure that neighbouring crime syndicates and local small fry did not harm those under his protection. He did little else.

Life in the bosom of family and community was far from ideal. Families and communities could oppress their members no less brutally than do modern states and markets, and their internal dynamics were often fraught with tension and violence – yet people had little choice. A person who lost her family and community around 1750 was as good as dead. She had no job, no education and no support in times of sickness and distress. Nobody would loan her money or defend her if she got into trouble. There were no policemen, no social workers and no compulsory education. In order to survive, such a person quickly had to find an alternative family or community. Boys and girls who ran away from home could expect, at best, to become servants in some new family. At worst, there was the army or the brothel. All this changed dramatically over the last two centuries. The Industrial Revolution gave the market immense new powers, provided the state with new means of communication and transportation, and placed at the government's disposal an army of clerks, teachers, policemen and social workers.

Pune District Principal's Workshop

A Principal's workshop was organised by **Fr. Agnel's Vidyankur School** in co-ordination with Education Department, Zilla Parishad Pune on 21st of April 2018. A total of 60 Principals and representatives of School Management from around forty schools attended this session. Mr Krishnakant Choudhari, Deputy Education Officer Secondary Section Zilla Parishad and Rev Dr Ivon D' Almeida, Assisting Managing Director Fr. Agnel's Technical Education Complex Vashi, were the speakers on this occasion.

Mr. Krishnakant Choudhari explained to the participants about Fee Regulation Act, RTE Act, Posco and Sara etc. He explained to the participants how important it is to be an effective administrator to avert problems in school. He also answered the queries asked by the Principals.



Mr Krishnakant Choudhari Deputy Education Officer addressing the audience.

The second speaker, Rev Dr. Ivon D' Almeida, spoke about 'Education- Healthy Mind Creating Healthy Minds'. Fr Ivon conducted a short meditation for the participants. He explained



Rev. Dr Ivon D' Almeida addressing the audience.

about how we can pass on our positive vibrations to our children in school and even to the staff members. The participants at the end of both the sessions thanked the Management of Fr Agnel's Vidyankur School for arranging such an informative session.

*To us, family means putting your arms
around each other and being there.*

-Barbara Bush

Pentecost

We are not like robots. God promises to guide us through the Holy Spirit but he gives us the freedom to make our own decisions- Joyce Meyer. Only the Holy Spirit, the spirit of the lord can transform us- Joseph Prince. Pentecost is celebrated on the seventh Sunday after Easter.

What is Pentecost?

Pentecost is very reminiscent of the Last Supper for it was a gathering of all the disciples of Jesus. When the disciples were gathered in a room together after the death of Jesus, the Holy Spirit who is part of the Holy Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit), descended upon the apostles, making them speak in foreign tongues. From a historical viewpoint, Pentecost is the day on which the Church started. It is the Spirit that brings the Church into existence and enlivens it. Thus, Pentecost is the Church's birthday.

What actually happened on that special day?

This event is recorded in the New Testament. It begins as follows- And when the day of Pentecost had come, the followers of Jesus were all together in one place. All of a sudden, a sound came from heaven, like a strong wind, filling the house where the people had gathered. Something like tongues of fire rested on their heads. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit gave them the ability to speak.

The languages were intelligible and the message of Christ was heard by many in their own language. This was indeed miraculous for now evangelization began to take place. Language was no longer a barrier to communicate the gospel of Christ. Thousands heard the gospel of Christ and thousands and more became followers of Christ.

Peter one of the disciples of Jesus preached his first sermon after the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Remember that he was a fisherman, and certainly not highly educated. Yet, because of the power of the Holy Spirit, he was able to talk fluently and impressively to people. He urged the listening people to turn around their lives and be baptized in the name of Jesus. Then they would be forgiven and would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

It was reported that about 3,000 people were added to the church that day. It was certainly a testimony to the power of the Holy Spirit.

A simple fisherman could bring about such a miracle could only happen because of the power of the Holy Spirit. Who is the Holy Spirit? As Christians, we believe in the Holy Trinity. We believe in God the Father, God the Son, (Jesus Christ) and the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is pictured as a white dove, depicting gentleness. The Holy Spirit empowers us with wisdom for he seeks to enlighten and strengthen us. Turn to the Holy Spirit for guidance when in doubt about a problem. Like a gentle breeze, he comes into our lives and gives us strength and solace to face our problems and find effective solutions to them.

It is said by Jesus that "Anyone who speaks against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come."

Pentecost is a religious remembrance that all Christians are called upon to preach the word of God. In other words, we are encouraged to be evangelists and spread the gospel of Christ wherever and whenever possible.



The Traditional Indian Family

In India the family is the most important institution that has survived through the ages. India, like most other less industrialized, traditional, eastern societies is a collectivist society that emphasizes family integrity, family loyalty, and family unity.

For the Hindu family, extended family and kinship ties are of utmost importance. In India, families adhere to a patriarchal ideology, follow the patrilineal rule of descent, are patrilocal, have familialistic value orientations, and endorse traditional gender role preferences. The Indian family is considered strong, stable, close, resilient, and enduring.

Historically, the traditional, ideal and desired family in India is the joint family. A joint family includes kinsmen, and generally includes three to four living generations, including uncles, aunts, nieces, nephews, and grandparents living together in the same household. It is a group composed of a number of family units living in separate rooms of the same house. These members eat the food cooked at one hearth, share a common income, common property, are related to one another through kinship ties, and worship the same idols. The family supports the old; takes care of widows, never-married adults, and the disabled; assists during periods of unemployment; and provides security and a sense of support and togetherness.

A major factor that keeps all members, big and small, united in love and peace in a joint family system in India is the importance attached to protocol. This feature is very unique to Indian families and very special. Manners like respecting elders, touching their feet as a sign of respect, speaking in a dignified manner, taking

elders' advice prior taking important decisions, etc. is something that Indian parents take care to inculcate in their kids from very beginning. The head of the family responds by caring and treating each member of the family the same.

The intention behind the formation of any social unit will fail to serve its purpose if discipline is lacking and the same applies to the joint family system as well. As a rule, it's the say of the family head that prevails upon others. In case of any disagreement, the matter is diligently sorted out by taking suggestions from other adult members.

One usually also has to follow fixed timings for returning home, eating, etc.

The reason why Indians are proving to emerge as a prosperous lot globally, many researches claim, is because of the significance they attach

to the joint family system. All working cohesively to solve a problem faced by any one or more members of the joint family, is what works magic in keeping one tension-free, happy and contented even in today's highly competitive environment. An Indian may be a top corporate honcho or a great sportsperson or a movie actor and so on in a particular professional field, but all these accomplishments relegate to the backseat when at home.

With the advent of urbanization and modernization, younger generations are turning away from the joint family form. Some scholars specify that the modified extended family has replaced the traditional joint family, in that it does not demand geographical proximity or occupational involvement and does not have a hierarchal authority structure. This new family form encourages frequent visits; financial assistance; aid and support in childcare



and household chores; and involvement and participation in life-cycle events such as births, marriages, deaths, and festival celebrations. The familial and kinship bonds are thus maintained and sustained. Even in the more modern and nuclear families in contemporary India, many functional extensions of the traditional joint family have been retained, and the nuclear family is strongly embedded in the extended kinship matrix. In spite of the numerous changes and adaptations to a pseudo-Western culture and a move toward the nuclear family among the middle and upper classes, the modified extended family is preferred and continues to prevail in modern India.

India is an extremely pro-natalistic society, and the desire to have a male child is greatly stressed and is considered by some to be a man's highest duty, a religious necessity, and a source of emotional and familial gratification. Male children are raised to be assertive, less tolerant, independent, self-reliant, demanding, and domineering. Females, in contrast, are socialized from an early age to be self-sacrificing, docile, accommodating, nurturing, altruistic, adaptive, tolerant, and religious, and to value family above all. In rural areas, low-income women have always worked outside the home. In urban areas, there has been

a substantial increase in the number of middle- and upper-class women working to supplement their husbands' incomes. Women are entrusted with the responsibility of looking after the home and caring for the children and the elderly parents and relatives.

Adolescence and young adulthood are particularly stressful and traumatic stages in the lives of Indian youths. In one way, they desire emancipation and liberation from family but residing in the matrix of the extended family makes it difficult for them to assert themselves and exhibit any independence in thought, action, or behaviour. Social changes are gradually occurring but arranged marriages are still the norm, and dating generally is not allowed. Furthermore, sex and sexuality issues are not openly discussed, sex education is not readily available, interrelationships with the opposite sex are discouraged, and premarital sex is frowned upon.

In the traditional Indian family, communication between parents and children tends to be one-sided. Children are expected to listen, respect, and obey their parents. Generally, adolescents do not share their personal concerns with their parents because they believe their parents will not listen and will not understand their problems.

Annual Prize Distribution 2017-18

It was a pleasant evening when the parents began to enter the school for Annual Prize Distribution 2017-18 at Fr Agnel's School, Noida. On the stage the theme 'I DID IT' was glittering brightly for all the students who did and achieved something. Prize Distribution was celebrated in two phases – for junior students on 27 April and for seniors on 28 April, 2018. As soon as the Chief Guest Mr. Satya Prakash, Program Manager, FXB India Suraksha, entered the ground, the sound of a melodious welcome song echoed all around.

The Principal, Sr. Maria Nancy also congratulated the achievers and thanked their parents who motivated the children to do their best in every field. She thanked all the guests who attended the function although they had a very busy schedule.

As our theme was 'Miles Miracles', we showed it through a dance drama on five elements about how the Earth was formed and the human life cycle through Shadow Play. The day was a great success and the memorable one for the whole school.



Fr. AGNEL'S BLESSINGS

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 ₹.1,000 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 ₹.1,000 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

MARITAL RECONCILIATION AFTER 15 YEARS

Dharavi: Our father was on discord with our mother on a spec of doubt. He was living separately and did not take care of our mother and 4 children for about 15 years. Our Mother struggled a lot to bring up the family. In this ordeal we tearfully prayed to Ven.Fr.Agnel. We are now very happy to inform you that Ven. Fr.Agnel heard our fervent plea as our father reconciled with us. He sold his property and gave us a good share. Today we have come to the Ashram to give our thanks offering of ₹.4,000 to Ven Fr.Agnel.

-Sahayu Jeyanthi Rajan

SECURED GOOD JOB

Bhayander: For many months my son was trying to get a good job. We prayed to Ven. Fr.Agnel and he has now succeeded in getting a good job as cabin crew in a reputed airline. We are indeed grateful to Ven.Fr.Agnel and send herewith our thanks offering of ₹.500

-Anjana Rathod

CURED FROM JAUNDICE

Agassaim-Goa: My uncle was admitted to the Bhandare Hospital for an ailment. On examining him the doctor said he had jaundice and prescribed the medicine. However, there was no improvement in his condition and he returned home. After that he took very ill and could not even walk. We then got him admitted in the Vintage Hospital. On checking him the doctor said he was very serious and gave him just 24 hours. At that moment I told him to pray to God. We also prayed for the intercession of Ven.Fr.Agnelo. Our prayers were heard and my uncle recovered from his illness. I thank Ven. Fr.Agnelo for this favour granted and pray for his early beatification.

-Perpetual Gonsalves

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>

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.M.J. Eng.	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			

I DID IT

Annual Prize Distribution



Chief Guests with Fr. Bento and Sr. Nancy



A Floral Welcome



Tribal Dance Performance



Welcome Dance at the Event



Students Performing



A Message in Mime

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There is no Joy Greater than the Joy of **GIVING**

Leslie Frank D'Souza, Vasai:

I am sending a cheque of ₹.5,000 as my Easter Gift for the orphan boys. Please pray for us.

Please request the children to pray for me and my family and for all our intentions. Thank you.

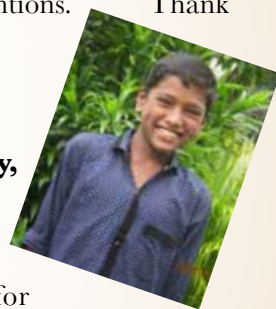
Jennifer Saldanha, Thane:

I enclose a cheque ₹.2,000 for the benefit of the orphan boys under your care. Please remember us in your prayers. Thank you.



Prof. Ittoop Menacherry, Kerala

I enclose a cheque of ₹.10,000 as my donation for your charitable activities. Kindly pray for us. Thank you.



Sosamma Saji, Al Ain

I am enclosing a cheque of ₹.31,000. This is our humble Easter Gift for your orphan boys.



Genevieve Marques, Goa

I am enclosing a cheque of ₹.2,000 which you may use for the poor children under your care. Will appreciate your kind prayers. Thanking you.

