



FR

September 2018

AGNEL

SHRAM NEWS



True peace is not merely
the absence of tension,
it is the presence of justice.

~ *Marting Luther King Jr.*



NEWS

September 2018

Contents

Editorial	3
Ganesha, the First among Equals	4
The Mystical "Womb" That is September!	5
International Day of Peace	7
Agnel Happenings	9
Summer Camp 2018	13
Joy of Giving	13
Make India Vishwaguru again	14
Create Behaviour Patterns Which Will Make You Proud	16
Agnel Blessings	17
Out of their Bounty	18
Joy of Giving at Vidyankur	19

Printed & Published by:

Fr. Peter D'Souza, sfx on behalf of Agnel Publications

Editor:

Fr. Jose Alarico Carvalho, sfx.

Printed at:

S.B.M Printers
C-130, Ansa Industrial Estate, Andheri East, Mumbai - 400072

Place of Publication:

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

Single Copy Price: Rs. 15

Annual Subscription: Rs. 150



FR. AGNEL GIFT GARDEN

"Giving Hands Are More Graceful Than Praying Lips"
(Bandra Fair From 9th to 16th September 2018)

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

As Bandra Fair is around the corner, we approach you with a humble request for your generous financial help for the upkeep and welfare of over 800 orphan children (girls & boys) irrespective of their caste, creed and religion, sheltered in our various homes at Bandra, Vashi, Goa, Pune, Noida and Greater Noida. The future of these little ones depend on your love and generosity. Every year we are spending huge amount of money towards expenditure on their education, food, lodging, medication and other various activities. We, therefore, humbly knock at your generous heart for financial support. Kindly help us with your donations, and also from your friends and relatives.

On this occasion, we would like to express our profound gratitude for the sincere help and support you have extended to us over the past many years. We have great pleasure to say that it is owing to your whole-hearted support we have been able to carry out various humanitarian works, and to provide a bright future to these hapless children, who, would, otherwise, have been black spots of the society. Your continued support and prayers strengthen our hands to carry on the lamp of love and service unfaded to innumerable children yet on the streets.

We assure you of our sincere prayers along with the orphan children for you and your dear ones. May God shower his choicest blessings upon you all. With a grateful heart.

(Fr. Peter D'Souza)
Superior

1. Donations to the Society of St. Francis Xavier, Pilar, are exempt from Income Tax. **Vide I.T. Exempt No. DIT(E)/MC/80-G/2404/2007/ 2008-09 Validity extended in Perpetuity.**
2. Please issue Cheque/Draft/MO in favour of '**Society of St. Francis Xavier, Pilar**' and send to Fr. Superior, Fr. Agnel Ashram, Bandstand, Bandra (West), Mumbai - 400 050. Or pay through NEFT and email to: agnelashramnews@gmail.com

For donations above ₹.2,000 it is mandatory to quote your PAN No. (For Details see below).

ACCOUNT NAME	BANK and ADDRESS	A/C NO.
Society of St. Francis Xavier Pilar	Corporation Bank Mumbai-Bandra (120) Baitul Sharaf, 105, Hill Road, Bandra (W). Mumbai-400050	520141000955503
		IFSC Code: CORP0000120

Please detach the Form below and return it with your generous offering

Dear Fr. Superior,

Please, accept my Gift Garden contribution of ₹. _____

MO /Cheque/NEFT /DD

Name : _____

Address : _____

PIN _____

PAN : _____ e-mail id : _____

Mobile No. : _____

The Apostle of Peace

-Hansel D'Souza

“Jesus showed the idea, but Gandhi gave us the method. Gandhi unpacked the life the life of Jesus more than anybody in history.” Martin Luther King Jr, an American Baptist minister who let the black civil right movement for nearly 3 decades pronounced these profound words. His assassination in 1968 was mourned the world over by people struggling against oppression.

Many leaders in history have attempted to define the word peace. Peace may be looked at as the opposite of tension. So why is the world in a constant state of conflict? What is it that makes us human beings constantly oppose and even attack each other violently? Why can't peace prevail, when it is in the best interest of humankind?

These and many other questions have challenged humankind for centuries. Very few have managed to find the right answer. Too most, peace is a state that is enforced by dominance. Take for example the most powerful country on the planet -the United States of America. Every American president will have you believe that the world can remain peaceful only if they remain the most powerful military power on the planet. According to the American philosophy, military power is a countervailing force that keeps in check unsavory elements that wage war on the American nation and their allies. Most people on this planet believe this to be true.

Conflict has been an integral part of human history since millennia. From the time man evolved to be the dominant species on this planet, he has been in constant conflict with the other species, his environment, and his fellow human beings and indeed with himself.

A deeper analysis of a conflict situation will reveal that every conflict is a struggle to establish control over limited resources. Every civilization seeks to establish for itself a superior standard of living. That's how different types of economic systems took shape in the early 19th century. Some countries experimented with Adam Smith's free market economy, others with

Karl Marx's communism, some chose Mao's revolutionary path and some India's Nehruvian socialism. Some of these systems succeeded and some failed. What was common is that all these economic systems attempted to establish themselves using force in order to expand their markets.

We are now in the midst of a new economic revolution. The world is slowly turning into a global economy. The Internet and World Wide Web have crossed all frontiers and have united us has one large family. China has become a partner of the USA in economic growth and prosperity. India is slowly emerging as the third largest economy in the world. But does this signal an end to conflict and a new era of peace and prosperity?

The answer lies in the words of the great apostle of peace Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi. He once said, “there is enough for everyone's need, there is not enough for everyone's greed”. In this great truth lies the answer to the world's problems. If only the world took cognizance of this pearl of wisdom and stopped this mindless accumulation of wealth and resources, they would be enough to feed all of humankind. Mindless stockpiling of nuclear weapons which are never going to be used (because they can never be used} has locked up billions of dollars that would otherwise provide food clothing and shelter to almost one fourth of humanity.

The role model of our time who accepted this philosophy is not other than the world's richest man at one time Bill Gates. Why else would a man spend half his lifetime accumulating wealth to become the richest man in the world and then spend the rest of his life giving it all away in charity. Some of the greatest contributors to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation are Warren Buffet and many of the world's billionaires including our own Aseem Premji. It is time the world learned from them the wisdom of Martin Luther King Jr who once said, “True peace is not merely the absence of tension, it is the presence of Justice”.

Ganesha the First Among Equals

Soon the country will be buzzing with the grand celebration of Ganesh Chaturthi. Ganesha, as he is fondly known by millions on the subcontinent, is considered the first among equals. There are many versions of the birth of this popular elephant-headed God.

Shiva, the ascetic, was away from home meditating in the mountains. His wife, the goddess Parvati, was alone at home. Since Nandi the bull was unavailable to stand guard at the door while she took a bath, she fashioned from the turmeric on her body a cherubic boy child and breathed life into him. She instructed the boy to stand guard at the door and not to allow anyone in till she finished her bath. Shiva returning from the mountains was stopped at his own door by this handsome young man who was a stranger to him. Shiva insisted on entering his own home and the boy on his mother's instructions forbade him from entering. A violent fight ensued and Shiva severed the head of the boy with his Trishul.

Parvati rushed out to see the tragic sight of her own creation with his head severed. She flew into a rage and threatened to destroy all creation. To pacify her Shiva, sent his men out to find an alternative. They returned with the head of an elephant. He placed the head on the boy and breathed life back into him. In order to further placate Parvati he bestowed a boon on her elephant-headed son. He promised that no worship would be complete without first invoking the name of Parvati's son Ganesha. Thus, Ganesha attained the status of first among equals!!

Ganesh Chaturthi is celebrated by Hindus across the world. From the Phillipines to Paris, from Bali to Guyana. Every Hindu household will mandatorily pay obeisance to the much loved Ganesha. In Maharashtra however, Ganesh Chaturthi holds a special significance. Besides

worshipping Ganesha, the festival serves to bring the community together.

Hinduism is a personal belief system that can be adapted to different cultural situations. It is extremely flexible and can seamlessly accommodate diverse beliefs, practices and customs. Semitic religions like Christianity, Judaism and Islam all focus on conformity and standardization of religious practice. Hinduism and Buddhism in contrast allow total freedom of religious expression.

Hinduism is a personal belief system that can be adapted to different cultural situations. It is extremely flexible and can seamlessly accommodate diverse beliefs, practices and customs.

It is during the freedom movement in India that Ganesh Chaturthi gained in importance. Lokmanya Tilak was instrumental in converting a personal religious celebration into

a community festival. The Ganesh mandals across Mumbai city are vestiges of this historical movement. Every locality has its ubiquitous pandal with a clay statue of Lord Ganesha in all its creative splendor. The mandals compete with each other. The larger and more ornate idols attract larger crowds from across the metropolis. This year tourists from Europe and other countries will be visiting Mumbai to witness the parade on the last day of immersion. Fortunately, the government of Maharashtra has decided to be proactive and construct an air-conditioned viewing gallery at Girgaum Chowpatty with total security and other facilities. Ganesha is ready to step on to the global stage.

Like all other festivals Ganesh Chaturthi is another reason to celebrate. The festival lasts a full fortnight with blaring Bollywood music from competing mandals contributing to the din. Traffic is thrown out of gear and many an office-goer has to soldier home on foot, if he harbors a hope of reaching home. But, who cares, Lord Ganesh is here once again to be welcomed into homes and to be accorded the honour of the first among equals in the Hindu pantheon!

-Hansel D'Souza

The Mystical “Womb” That is September!

-Leon Bent

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

During this time of the year, I simply sit in the bosom of *Mother* nature's bounty, taking in its medicinal, therapeutic air. The filigreed, vividly fluorescent, giant canopy of tamarind 'greens' draws me into its refreshing, yet, ancient embrace. The leafy branches of a century-old 'karji' tree dance delightfully in a gesture of welcome. The driving, pelting, sensuous rain, a joy to behold, quickens my 'spirit.' I experience the richness of God's

handiwork vividly, as I sit in my "study," lost in reverie and contemplation. Oh, yes! The impishly cascading, crystal chandelier-like, falling ice-like poetry, of whispering waterfalls, here, there, everywhere, in my mind's eye, take me on a wonder-filled trip. I am in no-where, some-where, 'Spirit' land.

Many years ago, at the crack of dawn, I found myself on Jambool Hill that rises conspicuously by the Ambarnath-Badlapur road, surrounded by a misty, silver-lined, dark cloud-kissed chain of towering hills, as far as eye

could see. I bent down, even as I stood on the dazzling throne of God, drawn in admiration and awe at a cluster of gorgeous, exotic caterpillars. I marveled at their passionate urgency for speedy personal growth, as they gorged on ambrosial, shimmering, juicy shrubs, despite my piercing,

From the depths of Mary's virginal purity, Jesus was born into history, to link heaven and earth, the divine and human, spirit and matter, the profound and mundane.

AGNEL ASHRAM COMMUNITY &
BALBHUVAN CHILDREN

Wish All our friends, benefactors
and well-wishers

*Happy Ganesh
Chaturthi*



prying eyes. This enthralling spectacle was food for my soul. I gazed and gazed at the exotic voracious creatures, reminded of my own intense struggle to become a free-floating, beautiful butterfly. What wealth to me it brought! The spectacle was fleeting, but would easily outdo a month-long "Retreat" in spiritual impact. Bishop Alex Dias of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and Fr. Ubaldo Fernandes sfx, will vouch for this fact! They, too, like me, basked in God's glory. His *thunder-and-lightening* presence enveloped us. The three some was caught up, and savor to this very day, the Mount Tabor, "*Transfiguration experience!*"

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

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

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

and impels a person into a larger world; an invitation to become 'spirit,' to move to a higher level. Without being born again and again in the Virgin's flesh, unsullied, spotless, pure and chaste depths, there is no journey, no spirit, no love, no eternal bliss!

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

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

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

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

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

Prayer is the key of the morning and the bolt of the evening.

-Mahatma Gandhi

International Day of Peace

-Christine D'Sylva

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

-Ronald Reagan

An eye for an eye only ends up making the whole world blind

- Mahatma Gandhi.

If we have no peace, it is only because we have forgotten that we belong to each other

- Mother Teresa

The International Day of Peace is observed on 21st September. The General Assembly has declared this day as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and people.

A peaceful society is one where there is justice and equality for everyone.

This day is also known as World Peace Day and it was first celebrated in 1982. It is observed by many nations.

To inaugurate this day, the United Nations Peace Bell is rung at the UN headquarters in New York city. This bell is cast from coins donated by children from all continents except Africa and was a gift from the United Nations Association of Japan as a reminder of the human cost of war.

The inscription on its side reads- Long live absolute World Peace.

Life is interconnected. Our fear, anger, hatred, intolerance breeds problems and decreases peace in the world. When we have love and tolerance in our hearts, there is more peace. More than one billion people live in countries affected by violent conflict that shatters lives and stuns development.

There is a mosaic of Jesus' face in a church. It is comprised of hundreds of stones, some large, some tiny, some colourful, some plain, yet all of them help to complete the beautiful stunning mosaic of Jesus. Each person, every country forms a mosaic of the world. Despite differences big or small, every one of us is important and this fact helps us to remember the need for tolerance and greater acceptance amongst ourselves not just in our own nation but in the world around us.

Everyone has the potential to be a peacemaker.

In the Bible there is a story of a peacemaker named Abigail.

It is a story of how Nabal had insulted David and his men who had helped and protected their shepherds. When David heard this, he was furious and declared battle. He had 400 men to help him defeat Nabal.

When Nabal's wife Abigail, heard this, she knew she had to do something to avert a terrible battle.

She thought quickly and gathered fruits, bread and sheep in large amounts.

Alone, she travelled to meet David. She was very brave and courageous for it was a dangerous thing to meet the enemy of her husband. Yet, she was determined to secure peace.

She met David and she begged him to reconsider. She begged for forgiveness for both her husband and herself. David was touched by her pleas and he thought that God had sent Abigail to prevent him from doing wrong.

David thanked Abigail and did not fight with Nabal. Later on, he married Abigail after the death of her husband and took her as his second wife. He was impressed by her beauty, bravery and her peacemaker traits that won his love and admiration.

Jesus Christ said, "Love your enemies, do good to those that hate you, bless those that curse you and pray for those who abuse you."

Jesus was the greatest peacemaker that ever lived. He always advocated peace and harmony. His way of life was one of non- violence, peace, forgiveness and reconciliation.

Therefore today, let each one of us become a harbinger of peace, not just in our own homes or society but in the world at large too. Let us forget racial, caste, class and creed discriminations. Let us treat all men with respect and dignity.

Peace can begin like a ripple that can ultimately cause a great wave that can transform the world around us.

Thus, let us strive to work and pray for peace today. Peace is the greatest gift of love we can give to each other.



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

M.N. D'Cruz, Malaysia

I wish to express my humble thanksgiving for favours received through the intercession of Ven.Fr.Agnel. Enclosed is a cheque of ₹.3000/-. Kindly remember me and my family in your prayers.

Ravindra Prasad, Kalyan

Enclosed is my donation of ₹.5000/- which you may use for your charitable activities. Please pray for us. Thank you.

Joseph Johny, Mumbai

I enclose a cheque of ₹.9000/- towards the

sponsorship of my ward Sushant Santosh Gawli. Kindly request the orphan boys to pray for me and my family. Thanking you.

Jaipaul Berchmans, Chennai

Enclosed is a cheque of ₹.10,000/- for the benefit of the orphans under your care. Kindly remember us in your daily prayers.

Mrs. Irene Correa, Mangalore

I am sending herewith a cheque of ₹.3000/- on the occasion of the birthday of my son Agnelo on 16th November. Please request your orphans to pray for him and his family. May God bless your Institutions abundantly.

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>

Ideas Worth Spreading

On the 11th of August, 2018 TEDxCRCE hosted its 4th Edition of the Main Event in **Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues College of Engineering, Bandra**. The theme for the event was, “REWIND”: The thought that emphasises on bringing back foundations laid in the past to nurture the present and build a brighter future.



[L-R: Rev. Fr. Valerian D'souza, Dr. Mrs. Srija Unnikrishnan, Rev. Fr. Peter D'souza, Padmashri Shri Ramesh Sippy, Col. Subin Balakrishnan(RET), Mr. Akshay and Mr. Ankur.]

The first session kicked off with the inspiring story of Paralympic champion who won India a gold medal in 2016. A fighter who made masses believe that nothing but strong desire to overcome disabilities can be the ladder to success. Vibhas Sen is truly an inspiration. Mr.

V.S. Parthasarathy the Group CFO & CIO of Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. explained the true meaning of leadership and how a leader should be strong, vulnerable, trustworthy and most importantly friendly. The session ended with Ms. Tanvi Shukla the top news anchor of Mirror



[L-R: Rev. Fr. Valerian D'souza, Dr. Mrs. Srija Unnikrishnan, Mr. Nimesh Shetty, Rev. Fr. Peter D'souza, Mrs. Subarna Ghosh, Mr. Rithvik Dhanjani.]

Now, bringing to light the discrepancies in today's media and how to be aware of false news that takes stage. The audiences

relished the High Tea break post the first session.

The second session started with Ms. Bistriti Poddar, founder of The Paperless Postcards. She inspired the audience by her journey through adversities which were her stepping stones to success. The next Speaker was Mr. Nimesh Shetty, a transgender activist who voiced his opinion on transgender rights and how they should be given equal opportunities to achieve their dreams. Following Mr. Nimesh was Mrs. Subarna Ghosh, Academic Activist and founder of ReRight Foundation. She spoke on awareness of women rights and through her words motivated young women who will be future mothers to make right choices. Her talk left everyone astounded.

Our last Speaker for the session who is an actor and an entertainer, Mr. Rithvik Dhanjani helped the spectators embark on a journey of self-discovery. He helped us believe that each one of us has our calling if we chose to look at the optimistic side of life. We then commenced our networking session.

After a fruitful interactive session, Ms Aashka Goradia gave a kick start to the final session. She expressed her opinion on aesthetical procedures and why the society should embrace an individual's choices for self enhancement. The next in line was Col. Subin Balakrishnan (RETD), who has had a distinguished career at the cutting edge



[L-R: Ms. Tanvi Shukla, Dr. Mrs. Srija Unnikrishnan, Rev. Fr. Valerian D'souza, Rev. Fr. Peter D'souza, Mr. Vibhas Sen, Mr. V.S. Parathasarathy.]



of combat leadership. He helped instil a sense of patriotism and leadership in the minds of the youth. Padmashri Shri Ramesh Sippy was next to take stage. He shed light education in the field of cinematography which would help increase the quality of 21st Century films. Last but not the least, Mr. Ankur and Mr. Akshay, ScoopWhoop Producers and Performers brought the stage to life with their highly acclaimed performance of 60 years of Bollywood.

We take pride in the success of the event and hope to continue TED's mission of 'Ideas Worth Spreading'. The TEDxCRCE stage will certainly continue to showcase diversity and novelty in the years to come. We thank everyone who helped and motivated us.

"Great ideas need landing gear as well as wings" and we are elated to be the platform to witness these ideas flourish.

Tri-Colour Unfurled

The national flag was unfurled with great zeal and enthusiasm at **Fr. Agnel Multipurpose School & Jr. College, Ambernath**. It was a day of rejoicing for 71 years of independence and also a day of paying a humble tribute to the martyrs of the Freedom Movement.

The programme began with a solemn flag-hoisting at the hands of Mr. Ravindra Pawar, parent of Mast. Aditya Pawar, the SSC topper for 2017-18. This was followed by a cultural programme in which students and teachers participated in singing a variety of patriotic songs with great gusto. Vibrant voices filled the air as anthems like “Himmat watan ki”, “Aye

watan, mere watan”, “Pyaara mera desh hein”, “Tum chalo toh Hindustan chale” and “Rise India rise”. Teachers brought the programme to its conclusion by presenting a medley of patriotic songs.

Besides singing, some energetic speeches were presented in English and the national language, Hindi. The power-packed speeches touched every heart. The story-speech brought forward by the Pre-primary Section left the audience mesmerised.

Agnelites, thus, had a wonderful celebration of freedom. The lesson of true patriotism was driven home with an appeal to imbibe the spirit of nationalism not just for a day but for always.



Independence Day Report

The 72nd Independence Day was celebrated in **Fr. Agnel's Vidyankur School**, with great enthusiasm and fervor. The ceremony began with the hoisting of our tricolor flag by our Chief Guest Rev. Fr. Franky Carvalho and the national anthem was sung to commemorate the sovereignty of our nation.

Shurti Shinde of class XII expressed the sentiments and aspirations of the country through her speech. Students also prayed for the wellbeing of our country and peace in the world to make “One World One family” a reality.

A touching skit on the life of soldiers and their struggles was performed by the students of STD VIII. A beautiful song “Hum Bharatiye” was sung by our Choir showcasing the cultural rich background of our country. The students of STD XII too expressed their feelings through a fusion dance.

Rev. Fr. Franky Carvalho, sfx in his speech reminded the students about the supreme sacrifice of the great martyrs who laid down their lives for our freedom. He also appreciated the students about their efforts in the waste management project of the school.

Summer Camp 2018

Time witnessed yet another power packed, rejuvenating and a successful Summer Camp at **Fr. Agnel Multipurpose School, Ambarnath**. Young Agnelites of Class IV to VIII participated and chose from a range of fun and exciting activities like football, hockey, athletics, badminton, drawing, calligraphy, pot painting and the list goes on and on. Specialized trainers helped the students spark their intellectual curiosity and expand their skills in all possible aspects.

A valuable experience which combined academic rigour with the energy & excitement of summer. Towards the end, for the last 3 days, different

competitions like Poster making, singing, Solo Dance, Dance Faceoff and various exciting telegames were organized. Volunteers were mobilized all over the campus. The students were divided into 4 groups namely Avengers, Agnells United, Agnelke Chote Dhamake and Lion Roarers. A very high level of energy and excitement was seen throughout. Every team gave its best. The highest scorer were the Lion Roarers who won the competition and bagged the trophy.

Being at par with the motto of the school i.e. Always Excellence, Agnells Ambarnath had a fantastic and blasting Summer Camp 2018.

-Photos on back page

Joy of Giving

The 'Joy of Giving' activity is conducted every year in the month of January in **Fr. Agnel's Vidyankur School**. This activity helps the students to inculcate the value of sharing and helping the people in need. This month watching the news and seeing our fellow citizens in Kerala going through tough time due to floods following heavy rains is heart wrenching.

The Management decided to extend a helping hand and the 'Joy of Giving' activity was conducted on 22 August 2018. The teachers, students and their parents were requested to donate generously for this cause. The response was over whelming and the cash and items like

tooth brush, tooth paste, soaps, biscuits, etc were collected.

The fund raised was used to buy necessary materials such as blankets, bed sheets, sanitary napkins and water bottles etc. The collected items were sent by truck to Kerala and personally given to the flood affected people of Kerala.

The Director Rev. Fr. Agnelo Gomes, Principal Mrs Minal Kasbey , teachers, non-teaching staff, students and their parents lived up to the theme of this year

“ONE WORLD ONE FAMILY“

Photos on back page

Find a place inside where there's joy,
and the joy will burn out the pain.

-Joseph Campbell

Make India Vishwaguru again

- M Venkaiah Naidu

Ever since I became the vice-president, I have been visiting various universities to attend their convocations. I keep reflecting on the glorious Indian heritage, the heights to which education had reached in the past and the ways in which we can re-infuse that spirit of excellence in our education system. We have a rich tradition of debate and dialogue in the pursuit of knowledge. The Upanishads are an eloquent testimony to the constant, constructive dialogue between the teacher and the taught. Thanks to innumerable thinkers, researchers and teachers who absorbed the best in the world and charted out a path on their own, India emerged as a global centre of learning and was described as “Vishwaguru”. The world looked up to India.

The excavations of urban settlements and buildings at Harappa and Mohenjodaro have proved that India was ahead of others in the world at that time.

“We owe a lot to the Indians, who taught us how to count, without which no worthwhile scientific discovery could have been made,” said Albert Einstein. Mark Twain described India as “the cradle of human race, the birthplace of human speech, the mother of history, the grandmother of legend, and the great-grandmother of tradition. Our most valuable and most instructive materials in the history of man are treasured up in India only.”

Ancient India was home to some of the famous centres of learning like Takshashila, Nalanda and Pushpagiri, which attracted knowledge seekers and savants from across the country and the world. The Vedas and subjects such as agriculture, philosophy, mathematics, archery, military arts, surgery, medicine, astronomy, futurology, magic, commerce, agriculture, music and dance were taught at these centres of higher learning. In the 7th century AD, Xuanzang,

a Chinese scholar, studied with many famous Buddhist masters at the famous university at Nalanda. When he returned, he carried with him some 657 Sanskrit texts. With the emperor’s support, he set up a large translation bureau in Xi’an with collaborators from all over East Asia. Chanakya, the author of Arthashastra and Charaka, famous Ayurvedic physician, were products of Takshashila.

The excavations of urban settlements and buildings at Harappa and Mohenjodaro have proved that India was ahead of others in the world at that time. India’s priceless contribution of the zero and decimal system and its advancements in the fields of metallurgy speak of its greatness as an early world civilisation. Kanad spoke of “anu” and its indestructible nature long before John Dalton propounded the atomic theory. Sushrutha is known as the father of plastic surgery.

India could achieve this excellence because it valued learning. It is also a country that welcomed good ideas from everywhere and said in the Rig Veda: Aano bhadrāḥ krathavo yantu vishwathaha (Let noble thoughts come to us from all sides). This assimilation, acceptance and adaptation, leading to ideation, lay at the heart of India’s progress in the realm of ideas.

We need to foster a new mindset — not the blind acceptance of any concept wherever it has emanated from but adopt an analytical stance. Some would describe this as moving away from the colonial mindset in which we unquestioningly adopt and borrow from others. Many like Koneru Ramakrishna Rao feel that the westernisation of India’s education system has robbed Indians

of original thinking and made them develop a mindset of looking with awe at anything Western, while undervaluing one's own culture and native ethos. The way to overcome this syndrome is to deepen our understanding of our intellectual lineage and draw lessons for the revitalisation of the education system.

Education is a life-long process. However, it is important to ensure that children are taught in their mother tongue for better learning outcomes. Imparting value-based education rooted in our socio-cultural milieu is the need of the hour. What we need today is a critical mass of people who are imbued with this spirit of inquiry, a mindset that doesn't rely on blind belief but searches for answers and evidence through relentless research as well as an openness to new ideas.

Our ancient thinkers saw the acquisition of knowledge as a liberating experience. It liberates us from ignorance, superstition, irrational prejudices and unfounded fears. "Saa vidyaa yaa vimuchyathe," they said. Rabindranath Tagore had called for a renaissance where the "mind is without fear and the head is held high". That's the heaven of freedom we all should aspire for. The colonial shackles must be broken. As Kalidasa, the great Sanskrit poet says, "All that is ancient is not necessarily good. Nor should you think that whatever is modern is bad. Wise persons carefully analyse and come to a conclusion whereas the foolish persons are blindly led by other's views."

There are numerous statements in our ancient texts that can inspire all of us to rise to greater heights. We need to study these texts and internalise their key messages. For instance, at the end of the course of study, the teacher gives the following message to the students. This message taken from Taittiriya Upanishad reads like a convocation address that is more relevant today than ever before: "Be truthful. Do your duties. Continue to study and learn. Do not swerve from the path of Truth and Dharma, and contribute something useful to the society. Aim for excellence. Keep improving your knowledge. Use whatever you have learnt and share your knowledge with others. Respect the gods and your ancestors. Look upon your parents, teachers and

guests as gods. Always analyse and distinguish the good from the bad. Avoid the latter and always do what is good. Follow all that was good in your teacher's life, not any other. You will meet with better men than even the teachers with whom you have lived. Show them due respect. "

This advice has many important elements that are critical for making the big leap we wish to make towards new high watermarks in educational leadership. The themes of lifelong learning, quality consciousness, social relevance of knowledge, ethics, empathy, reverence, humility and commitment find a sharp, succinct expression.

The post-Independence Indian education system has produced outstanding scholars, scientists and achievers in different fields with institutions like Indian Institute of Science, IITs and IIMs emerging as centres of excellence. Access to education has expanded but what we need to do is to transform our institutions into "learning" institutions that constantly reinvent themselves and position themselves to be the leaders in knowledge production and knowledge dissemination.

While absorbing the best educational practices and concepts from around the globe, we need to have an educational system that is best rooted in our culture, traditions and heritage. Swami Vivekananda had said, "Learn everything that is good from others, but bring it in, and in your own way absorb it; do not become others".

We can be Vishwaguru once again only if we can make the quest for excellence the norm. We can elevate our institutions of learning into world-class institutions if we foster a culture of research and innovation, of instructional leadership and ethical behaviour. I do hope on this Teachers' Day, commemorating the birth anniversary of Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, the first Vice President of India, we shall accord the respect due to our indefatigable teachers and facilitate their endeavour to transform the classrooms in which our country's future is being shaped.

*-Courtesy
The Indian Express*

Create Behaviour Patterns Which Will Make You Proud

-Katherine Hepburn

Good habits are as easily formed as bad ones. It's quite likely that most of our daily activities are routine. With little need for forethought, we make our necessary motions every day. And if we have behaved towards others in disrespectful ways on many occasions, we may thoughtlessly repeat those acts today.

Yet we should be grateful that we are in full control of all actions we choose to take. No one

else has power over our behavior. No one else can push us into actions for which we will feel shame or remorse.

Responsibility for who we are, in all respects, is our birthright. Perhaps we don't always rejoice over this fact. And yet, it is the one absolute that guarantees we each have the power to become who we wish to become.

*You'll never change your life until you change something you do daily:
The Secret of your success is found in your daily routine.
- John C. Maxwell*

MARY'S BIRTHDAY WISHES

- Arthur D'Mello

Heaven opened its gates Angels with you Descended
Anne and Joachim's long wait for offspring Ended
Pretty babe with curls, blue eyes and smiles Angelic
Proud parents with friends make the time to Rollick
You blossomed into a beautiful maiden so Elegant
Betrothed to Joseph the carpenter so calm so Sedent
Informed by an angelic dream of your impending Travail
Redeemed us bearing Christ as foretold by God's Mail
Thru childhood to manhood after public life Overlap
Helped his fathers diktat the true faith world Tap
Disciple first, intervener twixt us and God on High
Always intercede for us whether or not we you Eye
Your queenship on earth and heaven we'll Remember
Many Happy Returns of today from your family members.

Love our Lady. And she will obtain abundant grace to help you
conquer in your daily struggle.”

-St. Josemaria Escriva



Fr. AGNEL'S BLESSINGS

TEARFUL PRAYERS ANSWERED

-L. Monteiro

Khar: My son discontinued his studies after the 12th Standard. He wasted 4 years in bad company of friends, leading a totally irresponsible and immoral life. Finally, as a last resort I came to the Ashram and attended Sunday Novena prayers and tearfully prayed to Ven.Fr. Agnel for the conversion of my son. I am at the present happy to inform you that my tearful prayers were answered as my son gave up his bad company of friends and returned to a good moral life. He is now working. My heartfelt thanks to Ven. Fr. Agnel with an offering of ₹.1000.

-Tejas P. Kesane

CURED OF CANCER

Nallasopara: I am 60 years old and was suffering from cancer since 2013. I was taking the necessary treatment and also praying to Ven. Fr. Agnel to place his healing touch on me. I am now extremely happy to inform you that by the grace of Ven. Fr. Agnel I am completely cured of cancer and there is no need for any further medication. My thanks offering to Ven. Fr. Agnel has been put in the tomb box.

-Ganesh Manohar Jambale

FERVENT PRAYERS ANSWERED

Porvorim-Goa: My father had two knots on his chest. After seeing the Report the Doctor recommended further tests. At this juncture, I prayed with great faith to Ven. Fr. Agnel. I am now glad to say that before going for the said test, the knots on his chest had disappeared. I also received another favour. My son was finding it difficult to get his U.K. visa. After completing the third Novena itself my son got his visa. I thank Ven. Fr. Agnel very much and pray that he may have the honour of the Altar soon.

SHOWER OF BLESSINGS

Mahim: I am a staunch devotee of Ven. Fr. Agnel for many years. I have received numerous blessings and favours through his powerful intercession. 1) My son passed the LL.B. exams with high marks. 2) My father who was unable to walk properly has now started walking with the help of a Walker. 3) My daughter in the U.S.A. pursuing Engineering could not score a first class. For that reason she was very much upset and desperate. Now by the grace of Ven. Fr. Agnel she has secured a first class in the last Semester and got a good placement. As a token of our sincere thanks an offering of ₹.600 to the Ashram.

-Mary Fernandes

CURED OF MENINGITIS

Chandor-Goa: My nephew Sheloyd had meningitis and was in the hospital for 13 days. The doctors had given hope of his recovery. At this moment of panic I prayed with ardent faith to Ven. Fr. Agnel to save Sheloyd. I am now glad to say that Ven. Fr. Agnel heard my fervent plea and worked a miracle of healing him. I am very grateful to Ven. Fr. Agnel and pray for his early beatification.

-Alzira Gomes

OPERATION AVERTED

Bandra: My wife had a boil on her neck which was very painful. The pain continued and the doctor advised that she undergoes an operation. With great faith I sought the blessing of Ven. Fr. Agnel and brought her to the Ashram. I am now happy to inform you that by the grace of Ven. Fr. Agnel, she is much better and no operation was needed and also further medication. The tumour had completely vanished. My thanks offering has been placed in the box at the tomb.

-Sacrafamilia Lazarus

Out of Their Bounty

P. Srivastava	Mumbai	50000	D.H. Gonsalves	Vasai	2000	A.O. King	Mumbai	700
Aran Soli Baria	Mumbai	50000	Z.J. Mistry	Mumbai	2000	Mr. & Mrs. Herman	Kerala	700
S. Saji	U.A.E.	31000	M.D. Lopes	Mumbai	2000	K. Mirza	Mumbai	600
T.M. Bhatia	Mumbai	25000	J. Noronha	Vasai	2000	M. Chack	Jabalpur	600
D. Jackson	Australia	23528	Laveen Fernandes	Thane	2000	Kuruvila K.	Kerala	600
S.Abraham	Kerala	20000	S.M. Pereira	Vasai	2000	E. Dustur	Mumbai	501
A. Augustine	Kerala	19300	B. Rajesh	Mumbai	2000	R. Ananthan	Chennai	501
M.P. Motiwalla	Mumbai	15000	S. Singh	Mumbai	2000	K.S. Rao	Mumbai	500
F.R. Fernandes	Mumbai	14000	M. Sundar	Mumbai	2000	Daisy V. Issac	Bangalore	500
F. Cobntractor	Mumbai	10000	Lavina D'Souza	Vasai	2000	N.M. Andrades	Vasai	500
J. Edwin	Mumbai	10000	B.B. Rebello	Vasai	2000	O.J. Pereira	Vasai	500
Nargis Dutt Fdn.	Mumbai	10000	S. Chaudhuri	Kolkata	2000	M.J. Mathew	Pune	500
H. Wilson	Australia	10000	Jose D.K.	Kerala	2000	Jacinta D'Souza	Mumbai	500
M. Fernandes	Mumbai	10000	I. Hendricks	T.N.	2000	M. Silveira	Palghar	500
Francis Quadras	Mumbai	10000	Techno Products	Chennai	2000	H.R. Solanki	Gujarat	500
Phyllis D'Abreo	Mumbai	9000	Vamsha Shetty	Mumbai	1700	N. S. D'Silva	Vasai	500
Roy D. Muniz	Bhayander	9000	A. Jayasimhan	Mumbai	1500	D. Creado	Mumbai	500
M.J. D'Souza	Dubai	7000	A. H. Gala	Dombivli	1500	D. Prenath	Mumbai	500
R. Jagdale	Solapur	7000	John Joseph	T.N.	1500	Ajay Parmar	Ahmedabad	500
Universal Welding	Mumbai	6000	D. Thomson	Chennai	1500	J. Desai	Valsad	500
Vipul Shah	Oman	6000	K. Fernandes	Mumbai	1500	S. Dabre	Vasai	500
D.H. Singh	A.P.	6000	M. Cabral	Australia	1200	N.J. Gonsalves	Vasai	500
H. Goradia	Mumbai	5111	J. E. Bhosle	Mumbai	1200	J. Mehta	Mumbai	500
Bibhu & Babita	Vashi	5000	S.R. Martin	Vasai	1200	Godson Dabre	Vasai	500
Rosy K. Nazareth	Bangalore	5000	R. Waghmare	Mumbai	1111	John Jacob	Kerala	500
M. Carvalho	Goa	5000	M. Hatton	Kolkata	1050	A. Elavia	Surat	500
Susan D'Souza	Dubai	5000	J. Hariawala	Mumbai	1005	F.P. Baretto	Vasai	500
R.M. D'Costa	Vasai	5000	A. S. Khair	Pune	1001	L.B. Clancy	Bangalore	500
Luza Pereira	Mumbai	5000	Lata Shetty	London	1001	G. Veeramani	Chennai	500
L. R. D'Souza	Mira Road	5000	V.S. Bilolikar	Mumbai	1000	Jacob Almeida	Mangalore	500
Ronald D'Souza	Karnataka	5000	S. Castilino	Dubai	1000	Kurian Thomas	Kerala	500
B. Indira	Kerala	5000	R.V. Lopes	Vasai	1000	Amit S. Dabre	Vasai	500
S.V. Pijwala	Gujarat	5000	P. Anandiben	Baroda	1000	V. Sophia	T.N.	500
Nirmala Pinto	Mumbai	5000	M. Falgun	Mumbai	1000	S.B. Shinde	Ahmednagar	500
J. Berchmans	Chennai	5000	S. Seraphim	Bihar	1000	S. Lazar	Kerala	500
I. Menacherry	Kerala	5000	Valerian D'Souza	Mumbai	1000	G.J. Parakal	Kerala	400
Suramaniam R.	Mumbai	5000	S.S. Pereira	Mumbai	1000	Prema Indirani	T.N.	400
D. Maisuria	U.S.A.	4866	N. Fernandes	Thane	1000	S. Tuscano	Nalasopara	350
S. Kaithackal	U.S.A.	4794	R.S. Modi	Baroda	1000	I.S. Raj	Bangalore	300
R.A. Thomas	Kerala	4000	Melvin Pereira	Vasai	1000	L. Savarimuthu	T.N.	300
O.R. I. Tauro	Kalyan	4000	B. Mondal	Mumbai	1000	A. Nirmala	Kerala	300
R. Albuquerque	Australia	3825	F.L. Menezes	Mumbai	1000	R. Victor	Vasai	300
R. Parackal	Kharghar	3500	R.J. Fernandes	Mumbai	1000	S. Merlyn	T.N.	300
D. Sequeira	Vasai	3000	Gee Thoas	Kerala	1000	Rajathi M.	T.N.	300
F.A. Lobo	Mumbai	3000	S.J. Rangoonwala	Mumbai	1000	S. Mistry	Pune	300
Hilda Fernandes	Thane	3000	Linda D'Cruz	Kerala	1000	Anto Paul	Kerala	250
A. George	Delhi	3000	Paul Costa	Mangalore	1000	M.B. Gandhi	Mumbai	200
S.Solanki	Ahmedabad	3000	S.F. Corda	Mumbai	1000	N.E. Kavoov	Kerala	200
S. Inigo	T.N.	3000	A. Stephen	T.N.	1000	N. Ekka	Ranchi	200
Alex Fernandes	Goa	3000	Lissy Rajan	Kerala	1000	W.M. Pereira	Mangalore	200
R.M. Pinto	Mumbai	2500	A. Jadhav	Kerala	1000	M. Sussainathan	T.N.	200
.A. Rathod	U.S.A.	2000	R. Arulanandham	Thane	1000	C.K. Fernandes	Gujarat	200
Sobha John	Sharjah	2000	John Lobo	Canada	999	A. D'Souza	Chennai	200
Sidney Ferreira	Dubai	2000	Monica D'Souza	Pune	770	H.N. Desai	Valsad	200
Norine Ferreira	Dubai	2000	G.P. Fonseca	Mumbai	750	Monanetta	T.N.	200
S. Rodrigues	Nalasopara	2000	Irudayaraj M.	T.N.	750	John Baptist	Chennai	200
						K. Michael	T.N.	200

Joy of Giving at Fr. Agnel Vidyankur School



Items Collected for the families in Kerala.



Truck leaving for Kerala.



Rev. Fr. Vincent Crasta's appreciating words.



Truck leaving for Kerala.



School President handing over the items to Fr. Vincent Crasta.

Regn. No. of Publication RNI-9473/64.
Date of Publication 10th of every month
Date of posting 14th & 15th of every month.
Single copy Price Rs.15/-
Annual Subscription Rs.150/-
Total pages including cover : 20

PRN - MCN/175/2018-2020
to post at concessional rate on 14th & 15th
License to post without prepayment
No. MR/TECH/WPP-87/NORTH/2018
at Bandra Post Office, (West), Mumbai – 400 050.

Summer Camp at Fr. Agnel, Ambernath



Children enjoying playing Hockey



Hockey Teams with Teachers and staff members



Dance performance by the children

If undelivered please return to:

FR. AGNEL ASHRAM

PB NO. 6656, Bandstand,
Bandra (W),
Mumbai-400050. India

Ph: 022 67114000

email: agnelashramnews@gmail.com