



FR

February 2020

# AGNEL

SHRAM NEWS

World Day of  
*Consecrated Life*

FR. AGNEL  
ASHRAM

# NEWS

February 2020

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## GOD'S BEAUTIFUL CHILDREN NEED YOUR SPONSORSHIP SCHEME

The Scheme offers the Benefactors/Well-wishers an opportunity to share in the noble work of bringing up over 600 poor children sheltered in our Homes (Balbhavan) at different parts of the country (BANDRA, VASHI, PUNE, GOA & GREATER NOIDA) People have the option to choose Full Sponsorship or Mini Sponsorship. The sponsorship amount may be paid lump sum or on installment basis at their convenience.

- Full Sponsorship 10,500/- per year. Rs.875/- per month.
- Mini Sponsorship (Co-sponsorship) Rs.2000/- for one year.
- NB :- Apart from this, people have the facility to sponsor Lunch/Dinner/ Snacks/Groceries/Stationery etc. please contact the Ashram Office for further details.



The poor children are provided with free accommodation, food, education, medication and moreover with Technical Training and the right direction according to their flair and talent. They are enabled to settle down in a life of their own with a decent earning and status.

Of all the activities, initiated by Agnel Fathers, Balbhavan a Home for the destitute children stands apart with great pride. It runs on donations received from kind-hearted people. Through our dedicated service, rendered for the last 61 years, thousands of poor children, who could have been, otherwise, a burden on the society or even anti-social elements, have become respectable citizens of the country and are well settled down in their life.

Please contact : Rev. Fr. Superior,  
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# Youth in The Footsteps of Christ

-Ibonio D'Souza

**Y**our the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. This is one of many ways that Jesus describes the bold contrast between Christians and the rest of the world. It is a difference that should be as clear as night and day, but rarely is the case with Christians in the world nowadays.

The very things that Christ warned us not to become are the exact same things - hypocritical, sheltered, and judgmental - we are viewed as today. One of the biggest reasons for the scepticism of Christianity today is the ignorance of our own faith. Christians are not getting into the world, and it shows in society. Many of us cannot answer basic questions when asked about our faith, and even if we can, many are not living out those beliefs.

Ignoring our faith has led to a religion of mixed up morals and hypocrites, and has largely contributed to the scorn towards Christianity. These views are slowly being passed down from the modern adults of today to the developing Christian youth. It is therefore paramount to look for avenues to reverse this situation and get back to inspiring hope in a culture full of cynicism.

Many people tend to think of today's youth as the leaders of tomorrow. But according to God's Word, we are to be leaders even today who earnestly desire to honour and serve our Lord in all our thoughts and actions. Apostle, Paul, told Timothy, a younger man in the faith; "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity"(1 Tim. 4:12). God specifically commands young people to be leaders - to lead by example.

As Christians, today, we must seriously consider what God's Word has to say to us. Are we measuring up to what God wants us to be? Are we just following the crowd, or do we stand

out as those who desire to be faithful and holy despite the hypocrisy and compromise of all around us on the part of both adults and other young people?

All of us are bombarded by television programmes, commercials, music, billboards, video games, magazines, newspapers and movies that give us the impression that to rebel against all authority is cool; that parents are old, out-of-touch "has been" who do not know what they are talking about; that sex, lust and immorality are perfectly acceptable as long as one is honest and responsible. How are we to respond to these pressures?

Some of our elders say, "They are just kids" or "They are only young once...let them live and enjoy all the world has to offer while they still can." But notice what the wisest man who ever lived wrote by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, in Ecclesiastes 12:1. King Solomon wrote: "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth." Notice that Solomon did not say: "Live it up while you are young, and later on you will have the opportunity to serve and glorify God." No, he said exactly the opposite. He tells young people, "Now is the time to focus on your relationship with God, the Creator of all things ever."

The attitudes of the world in which we live completely contradict the exhortations found in God's Word. Even in Gospel, 1 Timothy 4:12, Paul does not tell Timothy, "Since you are young, you have God's permission to live a wild lifestyle if you will promise to live for Him when you get older." Nor does Paul tell Timothy, "While you are young, give the older generation a reason or an excuse to point out about the way you are living and acting." On the contrary, the apostle commands Timothy to do exactly the opposite! This young man is instructed to live a blameless life and be an example to others so those who

are older will not have a reason to look down on him.

In the New Testament, Paul also addressed another young man, Titus, and told him, "In all things showing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine showing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you" (Titus 2:7,8). As a young man, Titus was to be an example, a pattern, to all other believers in many areas of his life including his doctrine, his speech and his sincerity.

The Gospel gives us six areas in which we as true Christians are to be examples to other believers and unbelievers. These are; in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith and in purity. As you look carefully at each point, search your heart and ask yourself whether or not you are measuring up as a Godly example to other young people and older individuals alike.

It certainly is not becoming easier to live for the Lord and maintain a consistent testimony for Christ in this evil world. But we must remember that we are called by God to be examples as true Christians; in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith and in purity.

Finally, never give up. When at times we fail the Lord in various areas of our lives, get back on track through prayer and Bible study, and keep purposing to please Him in everything you do. Keep striving to be an example of a true Christian. Jesus earnestly desires to help us, walk with us and strengthen us in every area of our lives. All we need to do is to obey Him and yield ourselves to Him and to His will. Difficult times will come - loneliness, anxiety, peer pressure and discouragement will look us straight into the eyes at times. But God is always faithful to us.

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

**Joseph Mathew, Kerala:** Please accept my Christmas Gift of ₹.10,000 to the poor children under your care. I thank Ven.Fr.Agnel for all the favours received by me through his intercession. Please pray for all my intentions.

**Alina Sajish, U.K.:** Enclosed is a cheque of ₹. 10,000 which you may utilize for the education and support of the orphan children. Kindly pray for me and my family. Thank you.

**Daphney Monsurate, Dubai :** I am enclosing a cheque of ₹.5000 as a thanks offering for favours received through the intercession of Ven.Fr.Agnel. The amount may be used for the needs of the destitute children in your Ashram.

Kindly keep my family in your prayers and for the safety of our jobs.

**Sunita Macwan & Vijay Pijwala, Gujarat:** Please accept our contribution of ₹.2000 towards the maintenance and education of the children in your Balbhuvan. Our family is happy and safe because of the blessings received through the intercession of Ven.Fr.Agnel and prayers of the children. Please pray for all our intentions. Thank you.

**N.V. Anthony, Kerala:** Thanks for your Greetings. I enclose a cheque of ₹.2000 as my Christmas Gift for the orphans under your care. Please remember us in your daily prayers.

# The Secret of True Love is Loving in The Spirit

--Lorraine & Leon Bent

Conjugal partners cannot love one another perfectly in the “flesh” (Gal.5:19). The long and difficult path to True Love is “to love in the Spirit”! (cf. Romans 8:9; 7:14:25; 1 Jn.2:15; Gal.5:16-18, 22; Prov.4:23). Only in the realm of the Spirit will True Love bloom and grow. We have to live and walk in the Spirit (Gal.5:22; 1 Cor.12). We will attempt to point you the way.

What is the one indispensable ingredient for making marriages work? Family life educators usually answer: Communication. This is good news, because effective communication can be learned. Skills such as active listening, using “I” statements, paying attention to our feelings and those of our spouse, and learning tips for “fighting fair” make marriage thrive. Some couples use these skills intuitively, because they saw them modelled in their own upbringing. Others can learn them through classes, workshops and reading, and above all, at a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend, with its life changing message, which makes good marriages great and great marriages, heavenly!

The world teaches us that love is something one feels. If love is just warm fuzzy emotions, how will it enrich marriage? The New Testament and Holy Mother the Church teach us that, true love is sacrificial. The primary expression of love is not embracing feelings of affection or being on Cloud 9; it is accepting the rough wood of the Cross.

The fact is that love is not limited to feelings and emotions. God gives us emotions so often tied to love, to remind us of the joy which love brings about. Very often, though, we find that love is difficult. Indeed, very often “True Love” is elusive. Love is a choice. One has to make “to love a decision”. To learn about love, to study in the school of love, is to meditate on the Cross of Christ. We urge you: look to the Cross. Be sure to hang a Crucifix in your home that, you may constantly at the most perfect image of True

Love: This is a blend of information, knowledge, and a mature twosome, powered by the Holy Spirit. It does not come by easily in the sunshine years, but in the endless joy-through-pain, twilight period of a marriage.

We need to prayerfully strive to sit at the foot of the Cross in marriage. Sometimes we feel the emotions of love, but not always. When good feelings fade, when we’ve had a sleepless night because our child was restless and cranky, we should draw consolation from the Cross. When we needlessly keep away from ‘marital embrace’, because we are hurt with one another, the Cross can inspire us to forgive and reconcile. When the nuptial act brings new life into the world, we must, in gratitude, go to the Cross.

The Cross is the fountainhead of True Love, which is a total gift of one’s self to our Vowed Lover. It is not experiencing butterflies in our stomach; neither is it a pounding heart, nor emotions of romance. True Love is trudging up Mount Calvary. True Love bleeds. True Love gasps for breath as it hangs from the Cross due to unruly children, everyday misgivings, or financial distress. True Love is a sacrificial gift we make to our spouse and our God. Therefore, we must all strive, and work hard, to make our lives conform to the Cross of Christ. Marriage does not offer us happiness which is ephemeral; we are called to fidelity: Joy in pain!

We often remind ourselves that marriage is a covenant like those of the Old Testament, which was ‘cut in the blood’ of animals, where both partners, had to symbolically die, if a pact was to be arrived at. Jesus himself died as he sealed the ‘new and eternal covenant’ in his blood, so must conjugal partners, who make Vows to one another in the Sacrament of marriage. It is worth reinforcing that every marriage is validated at the foot of Christ’s Cross and Resurrected as Jesus did on Easter Sunday.



## **A Love Letter to My Beloved**

In marriage, each partner has his/her own unique love story that God continues to write, over a lifetime – a story that is exquisite, a narrative that has God's love and mercy woven through it. As God continues to pen our story, it is good to reflect on where He has brought us to, and what He has brought us through. We thought we'd share with you a sample "Love Letter" from one Christian spouse to another. The art of writing a good old-fashioned "Love Letter" may have faded, but the spirit of writing one should still be very much alive in our hearts and lived in our lives. Dialogue or the 10/10 of Marriage Encounter is the charism of the Marriage Enrichment Movement, with 'attentive listening with the heart' by both partners, as the key ingredient.

### **My Dearly Beloved....**

I am writing this letter as a token of my love for you, as a keepsake for you to treasure, and as a reminder of my commitment to us and to our life together. I want you to know that I love you, 'All of You', and I always will. I am committed to our marriage until death do us part. At times, in moments of deep frustration, I may have questioned otherwise, but that was my immature way of seeking love from you when I should have turned to the Spirit for help, not you, to fill the void in my temporarily wandering heart. Beloved, I know I have hurt you countless times with my words and actions and for all them – I sincerely and humbly ask for your forgiveness. Since God made my heart to fit yours in the Sacrament of Marriage, I pine for you even when my heart is broken, even when I feel deeply hurt by your actions, or lack thereof, that my heart feels frozen – I still long for you. I have pondered this many times over, and have come to realize that this is what God truly desires – this longing. It keeps bringing me back to my knees in prayer to pray for us.

Sometimes I feel our love for one another gets buried amidst the daily stress of life. Trying to balance everything: Prayer, family interface, time together, work, caring for the children, household chores and other commitments are

very challenging! There is no one else I would rather be exclusively intimate with, than you! We are a team and you are the only partner I could ask for. God blessed me abundantly with you! When our love gets buried, please know, with God's grace, I will fight to uncover it, and allow God to breathe life back into our oneness. He gave us the gift of one another and our life together, is a daily unwrapping of His matchless gift to both of us.

I know, at times, trust between us is tested; good, heartfelt communication has been challenging; promises we made have been broken, and, overall, new unwanted baggage has come in. We are human and our frailty and sinful nature is in constant need of God's mercy. The amazing thing is that God's love and compassion make all things new! My beloved, I want you to know that with this Love Letter, I, today, renew my commitment to loving God first, so I can more wholly love you with His love pouring forth from my heart into yours, like liquid gold. God's love can heal our excess baggage, old and new.

As we both grow closer to God, we are able to see ourselves more clearly – our highs and lows. We both have faults that challenge us, but our marriage grows in holiness, when we actively seek God at our weakest points, and beg Him to energize us, so we can freely love one another the way He desires, that we freely receive love from one another, the way that He wants. I know God has a unique plan for our marriage, and it is exciting to watch that unfold!

Thank you for all of the sacrifices you have made and continue to make for us. I am always reminded when I see you working so hard that, 'sacrifice' means "to make holy." Your daily sacrifices for me and for our marriage do not go unnoticed. In fact, in a mystical way, it is deeply attractive because I see Christ working through you, in a powerful way as you serve our marriage and family.

Truly, our life together has been beautiful. It has been shaped and formed by all that God has allowed us to experience together as a couple. Indeed, our journey has been amazing! We look forward to the Promised Land – intimacy for

*Contd on Pg. 8*

# Valentine's Day

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- Christine D'Sylva

*Love is composed of a single inhabiting two bodies*

- Aristotle

The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart- Helen Keller

Who can resist romance? Well, few people can and unsurprisingly that, while we have various days devoted to Mothers, Fathers, Daughters, Elderly etc, we also have a day celebrating love and romance. This is not the love between a mother and child for instance or between two platonic friends. It is a day celebrating romantic love with a capital L.

Corinthians 13- Love is patient, love is kind, it does not envy, it does not boast. It is not proud. It does not dishonour others. It is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

John- Anyone who does not love does not know God because God is love. Valentine's Day gets its name from a popular saint named Valentine who was a Priest from Rome in the third century. He served as a Bishop of Terni, Marnia and Amelia. He was placed on house arrest with Judge Asterius.

Valentine pledged his love for Jesus to a doubtful Judge Asterius. Immediately, the Judge put Valentine and his faith to the test. Valentine was presented with the Judge Asterius' blind daughter and told to restore her sight. If he was successful, the Judge would do anything for him in return. Placing his hands on the girl's eyes, Valentine was able to restore back her vision. Judge Asterius was humbled and obeyed Valentine's requests. He broke all their idols in his home, fasted for three days and was baptised along with his family and a household of 44 members. Judge Asterius then freed all the Christian inmates.

However, later on, Valentine was arrested again for continuing to convert people into Christianity.

It is said that besides his attempt to convert people, he also angered the authorities because he secretly performed marriages of Christian couples and aided Christians being persecuted by Emperor Claudius in Rome. Both acts were considered to be very serious.

A relationship between the Emperor Claudius and Valentine began to grow a bit favourably. However, Emperor Claudius became enraged when Valentine attempted to convince Claudius of Christianity. He was then sentenced to death. He was commanded to renounce his faith or be beaten with clubs and then beheaded. But Valentine refused to do so and thus laid down his life in martyrdom for Christ.

On the day of his execution according to history, he left Judge Asterius' daughter a note, signed, "Your Valentine." This of course, captured the hearts of many and thus this phrase is still used till date.

There is absolutely no doubt that St. Valentine really did exist because archaeologists have unearthed a Roman catacomb and an ancient church dedicated to St Valentine.

In 496 Pope, Gelasius marked February 14th as a celebration in honour of his martyrdom. Relics are found all over the world. Father John Spratt received a gift from Pope in 1836 containing a small vessel tinged with St Valentine's blood. This gift stands in Whitefriar Church in Dublin, Ireland.

Today, St Valentine is not just a patron Saint of lovers but also of beekeepers, epilepsy, happy marriages, plague, travellers and young people. He is generally represented very romantically in pictures with birds and roses.

St. Valentine said, "Your flaws are perfect for the heart that is meant to love you." He also said,

“There is only one happiness in this life, to love and to be loved.”

Valentine’s Day should be celebrated with the spirit of love and thanksgiving for the love we experience in our lives.

Husbands and wives can look forward to not taking each other for granted on this day and forgive each other and make time for romance away from the routine of everyday life. It is a day that can serve as a renewal of their vows and love.

Basically, it is a day to celebrate love and to realise how fortunate we are to have a significant other person in our lives who accepts us with our flaws and loves us just as we are.

Yet, while we might enjoy celebrating with flowers, gifts, chocolates and outings let us never forget the true source of all love. The true source of love is God. God is love and because we are made in His image we know how to love.

Let us renew our faith in God, remember his love which is tolerant, patient and everlasting. God’s love is the one deep love in our lives we can be 100 percent sure of. People might be fickle and they may cease to love us with time but God’s love is steadfast and enduring. It is like an everlasting burning flame that can never be quenched.

Thus, even if this Valentine’s Day you may not have someone romantically special, still get enthusiastically into the spirit of this day and celebrate it. Celebrate God’s love in your life and thank Him generously for all the care and kindness He has showered on you till date and will continue to do so for the rest of your life.

So basically, Valentine’s Day is a celebration of love that has its true source in God because we can only love each other because we are children of God.

Let us never forget, “Nobody has ever measured, not even the poets, how much the heart can hold.”

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### ***The Secret of True Love is Loving in The Spirit - Contd. from pg 6***

an eternity! Please know that my heart is yours forever, and we need to enter one another’s world, with God’s transforming, healing love!

(Your Most Beloved Spouse in Christ.)

**Now, this gold nugget! With the eyes of faith, and “in the Spirit” – we see that the Sacramentum (literally means “oath”)**

**of Matrimony invites us to a heavenly Banquet of Love, the Supper of the Lamb, with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Heaven and earth embrace in blissful, intimate love, “ongoing, perpetually present, continually re-actualized” (Scott Hahn, The Lamb’s Supper pp.155-157; Also cf. Revelation 19:6-10).**

*Lorraine and Leon have been a part of Worldwide Marriage Encounter (India) for 38 years, and have served our beloved Movement in various capacities. Leon also writes on Psycho-Spiritual themes, and contributes Articles to several Journals, Magazines, Bulletins and the Digital Media, sometimes the reach is 5 million readers worldwide.*

**“Lent is like a long ‘retreat’ during which we can turn back into ourselves and listen to the voice of God, in order to defeat the temptations of the Evil One. It is a period of spiritual ‘combat’ which we must experience alongside Jesus, not with pride and presumption, but using the arms of faith: prayer, listening to the word of God and penance. In this way we will be able to celebrate Easter in truth, ready to renew the promises of our Baptism.”**

**- Pope Benedict XVI**



## Fr.Agnel Jayanti Celebration at Bandra

On 21st January 2020, the devotees of Ven. Fr. Agnelo came in large numbers to celebrate his 151st Birth Anniversary.

The Day was marked with devotees coming from various parts of Mumbai to pay homage to Baba Agnel. The Birth Anniversary celebration was preceded by nine days of Novena which were attended by a good number of people from Mumbai.

On the occasion of the Birth Anniversary of Ven. Fr. Agnelo, the main Celebrant was Most Rev. Dr. Peter Machado, the Archbishop of

Bangalore, who highlighted many qualities of Ven.Fr.Agnelo which are practical to each one's life. The concelebrated Eucharistic celebration was attended by a large number of devotees.

Preceding the Eucharistic celebrations, there was a short cultural program put up by the Students of Fr.Conceicao Rodrigues College of Engineering and the Balbhavan children.

Towards the end, Fr. Trevor Pereira thanked the entire congregation and all those who assisted in organizing the day.

## Minithon 2020 Fr.Agnel's, Vashi

**Fr. Agnel Multipurpose School and Junior College, Vashi**, organized its 16th Annual Minithon on 5th January 2020. Managing Director, Rev. Fr. S. Almeida, welcomed the large crowd of over 3000 Agnel family members and well-wishers, who had gathered, on the basketball courts so early on a Sunday morning. Vice-Principal, Mrs. Vijaya Vaithilingam, began the day's proceedings reminding all present, to follow the school's motto- "Love your neighbour as yourself" and understand the need to be loving and compassionate towards others and ourselves. Taking the theme of the 37th Annual Day- 'Save Water and Save the rivers' forward, the students, teachers, ex-students, parents and well-wishers, present there, once again took the water pledge to change habits to help conserve water and extend helping hands to save the rivers. Rev. Fr. Almeida said that the proceeds from this year's

Minithon would help the Agnelites to reach out to the farmers from the drought- stricken areas of Maharashtra, through the 'Pani Foundation' and to the farmers in South India, through the 'Cauvery Calling' project of the Isha foundation. The Minithon was flagged off by ex-student and India's promising athlete, Deizny Lewis. Participating students held placards and posters, to spread the message of conserving water and saving the rivers. There were waterpoints at regular intervals and volunteers offered light snacks to all participants. Students held dust bin bags to ensure that cleanliness was maintained and roads were not littered. The event which propogates the mission- 'Fitness for self' and Service to others' concluded with much enthusiasm, with the crowd grooving to the latest musical hits by DJ Rajesh.



Pledge to save water.



Minithon flagged off by Fr. S. Almeida and Diezny Lewis.



# Fr. Agnel Jayanti Ce



Rev.Fr.Valerian D'Souza giving a welcome speech



Cultural Items performed by the Students of CRCE Bandra



Rev.Fr.S.Almeida welcomes Rev.Dr.Peter Machado Archbishop of Bangalore, with a bouquet of Flowers



Choir led by Joshua and his Group



Rev Fr.S Almeida presenting a shawl to the Archbishop



Archbishop Peter Machado along with other Fathers cutting the Birth Anniversary cake



Novena prayer led by Rev Fr.John Almeida



A Vote of thanks by Rev.Fr.Trevor Pereira.



# celebration at Bandra



Cultural Items performed by the Students of CRCE Bandra



Releasing of tri-colour Balloons by Archbishop Peter Machado



Rev Fr. Trevor Pereira welcomes Rev Fr. Mathew Fernandes (Superior of Goa province)



Rev. Fr. Trevor Pereira welcomes Rev Fr. Johnson S. Fernandes



Archbishop Peter Machado celebrating the Eucharist



The faithful participating in the Eucharist



# Agnel Happenings



*The Archbishop and other Concelebrants gathered for the Mass*



*A Balbhawan Boy presents a Bouquet of Flowers to Rev.Fr.S Almeida*



*Instrumental music by the Balbhawan Boys*



*Life of Ven Fr.Agnelo at a glance*

## 151st Birth Anniversary celebration of Ven. Fr. Agnelo

The 151th Birth Anniversary of Ven. Fr. Agnelo De' Souza was celebrated at **Fr. Agnel's Vidyankur School, Pune** on 21st January, 2020. The students presented a beautiful skit depicting the different incidents from the life of Ven. Fr. Agnelo De' Souza. The Director Rev. Fr. Agnelo Gomes garlanded the bust of Ven.Fr. Agnelo De' Souza and addressed the gathering.

Through his message Fr. Gomes emphasized on values that Ven. Fr. Agnelo De' Souza practiced and preached. He encouraged the children to imbibe these values in their life. Sweets were also distributed to all the students. A drawing competition 'Rang Tarang' was conducted for the students on this occasion.

*Photos: on pg 19*

## The Balbhawan Day 2020, Greater Noida

11th January, 2020 opened up to beautiful blue skies and the gentle warmth of the winter sun. **Fr. Agnel School, Greater Noida** opened its doors to welcome guests who streamed in to celebrate the 20th Bal Bhawan Day. A tradition that has stood the test of time, weather and the frailty of the human body. The second Saturday of January is marked in the calendar of all those who wish to stay connected to the Miracle that we call the Balbhawan.

The program began with the usual welcome by Fr. Bento, who read out a long list of the children of Balbhawan who have flown out of this Home that nested them for years, to do well for themselves in the world outside. Fr. Bento announced with fatherly pride that Balbhawan now has their first grandchild, both parents being Balbhawan children. A number of the young men and women are currently pursuing higher education in premier colleges in Delhi. One is studying German, another four preparing for the UPSC Examinations, and yet, pursuing their Post Graduation.

The screen saver proclaimed to the world the philosophy of the Balbhawan. It is to give thanks to God and to make music in His name. A little surprise punctuated the beginning of the program when the children congratulated Fr. Bento on his 50 years of Priestly Ordination with the cutting of a cake.

It was over to the children to sing and dance and give thanks. The Prayer Dance captured the essence of everything that guides Balbhawan. God walks with us always. An Action Song by class I followed this. It was a prayer to God asking to be transformed and beseeching the Lord to change their hearts from the another word.

What came after this was a touching dance by the Mothers of Balbhawan and their children of the kindergarten. The loving gaze of the mothers as they led the little ones into dancing to melody from North-East India was so heart-warming. The babies had their eyes fixed on the mothers as they swayed gracefully to the lilting music. The Pantomime that came after this was a master stroke of synchronization and symphony.

Fr. Carvalho addressed the guests in his inimitable style and he paid a glowing tribute to Fr. Bento's 50 years of commitment to doing God's work. He thanked every well-wisher and benefactor for being an integral part of making this miracle. It culminated in these inspiring words: Old age comes when you have exhausted the belief that you can do no more. This statement left the guests wonder-struck about the enduring energy of Fr. Carvalho and Fr. Bento.

Music, the love of the Balbhawan children and Fr. Bento, was next on the programme, the musicians and singers rocked and rolled as they sang and danced and engaged the audience to some memorable oldies. The drums, guitars, saxophones, violins, clarinets all came together to present a twist to this musical – a fusion of the East and West. The guests were astounded to hear that so many of their favourite Hindi songs were actually copies of old English numbers. Music has no boundaries. It belongs to everyone. It is divine and brings peoples and cultures together.

The program came to an end with a prayer. The guests and the children moved out into the grounds to enjoy the winter sun, the delicious spread and the warmth of togetherness. The curtain came down on yet another Balbhawan Day.

**"Prayer is where the action is."**

- John Wesley



## Delicia Mediterranea (Theme Dinner) Aifccs, Verna

Organised by the Final Year students with support from the Faculty on any International Theme. The cuisine, décor, Uniforms, Backdrop, Entertainment, Beverages

are all conceptualized by the students as part of their curriculum. The event is attended by the parents of the students, guests from the hospitality industry and others.

## Internal Hackathon for Selecting SMART INDIA HACKATHON (SIH) -2020 Teams

The word Hackathon comes from the word Marathon (a long or difficult activity in a short period) and Hack, here means an exploratory programming. Hackathons, with their come-one-come-all ethos, have emerged as the new forum for networking, learning, and beta-testing new apps and ventures.

In Hackathon, participants spend a short period of time, usually between 24 - 48h, in building, creating and delivering a demonstrable product. The idea is to collaboratively code /develop in an extreme manner, to start from scratch and end with a working prototype. It's often a sort of competition, where teams of Programmers, Developers, Designers and Project Managers come together to design & build a nice product, a software project or a hardware project.

As a pre-requisite for Smart India Hackathon (SIH) – 2020, internal Hackathon has to be conducted in the Institute to shortlist participating teams. In collaboration with IIC, ACM Chapter and Industry Association, we conducted an Internal Hackathon on 17th and 18th January,

2020.

For this Hackathon, a total of 19 teams participated. 16 teams were from the Software Edition and 03 teams were from the Hardware Edition who selected problem statements from different Ministries and Organizations as published by AICTE.

On 17th January 2020, we had internal judging by the Faculties from our Institute and on 18th January 2020, in the forenoon, teams were asked to work on their suggestions and modifications given during the previous day. Winners of SIH-2019 extended their guidance during this session.

Final judging started at 2:00 pm. by four industry experts from Tata Consultancy Services Ltd., Mumbai. The Judges were amazed with the both solutions and technologies used for developing solution(s).

Based on combined scores of both internal judges and external Judges, we came up with the best 5 teams (+ 2 waitlisted teams) in Software Edition and best 2 teams in Hardware Edition.



*Judging Software Category Team(s)*



*Demonstration Hardware Category Team(s)*

## Enthralling Sports Day at Agnels, Ambarnath

Fr. Agnel Multipurpose School & Jr. College, Ambarnath, hosted its Sports Day for different sections across a period of 3 days from 14-16 December 2019.

The pre-primary Sports Day themed 'SUPERHERO' was held on 14 Dec. It was a beautiful sight to watch the little ones dressed in their favourite Superhero costumes and a proud moment for parents too, to relive their childhood fantasies.

The Chief Guest for the day was Rev. Fr. Cherubino Fernandes, Parish Priest, Our Lady of Fatima Church, Ambarnath.

With Superhero musical beats to set the rhythm in the background, the children competed in the popular flat races, hurdles, three-legged race and relay which gave everyone present a glimpse of their team spirit and co-ordination. Kudos to all our little ones who showed that competing is not all about winning but about enjoying the moment and giving your best.

The highlight was the Children's Walk Past and Drill Display. The next day, was marked for the Secondary Section, with Mr. Mervyn Fernandis, an Olympic gold medalist winning hockey player as the Chief Guest. The theme for the day was 'Panchabhootam'. He declared the Sports Meet open, lighting the ceremonial Torch which was carried by two worthy students of Std X who have achieved a remarkable place in the field of Sports - Master Kamlesh Ukali, a talented Table Tennis Champion at the Inter district as well as State level, and Miss Mrunal Borse, a State level Fencing Champion. The Head Girl, Miss Misbah Khan, led the oath of fairplay.

This was followed by the races wherein the enthusiastic athletes participated with enthusiasm. The most captivating aspect of the event was the various splendid drill displays involving mass student participation. The enthusiastic parents who had gathered in large numbers, were enthralled & mesmerized. The Annual Sports Event ended with the Green House

declared as the Champions. It was a day filled with sportsmanship, enthusiasm and memories to cherish.

The much awaited Sports Day for the Primary Section was held on the third day with great zeal and excitement with Fr. V. Louis – Finance Administrator & Labour Commission Director, Pune Diocese, as the Chief Guest. The Sports Day was themed 'The Joy of Christmas'.

The Fun Races saw children building little snowmen, dressing themselves as elves, decorating Christmas Trees and shepherds gathering their grazing sheep, amidst cheering and tons of encouragement for the budding athletes.

The musical drill displays had children dressed as Rolly Polly Snowmen. They were followed by frolicking little Elves with their Candy Canes. The captivating dance performance of the 'Shepherds and Sheep' with the devotional hymn 'Charvahe' was loved by the audience. The highlight was the performance of the Santas and shimmering Christmas Trees. They raised the Christmas Star at the end calling to mind the birth of Christ the Saviour, the Shepherd of Mankind.

The Chief Guests on all three days were welcomed with a grand Guard of Honour by the Cabinet Ministers of the school, marching in step with the stirring drumbeats of the band. The academic excellence of SSC and HSC toppers and meritorious students of all classes for the year 2018-19 was also acknowledged. Students won prestigious titles for 2019-20 as follows:

The trophy for the Best Sports Boy and Girl were bagged by Mst. Kamlesh Ukali and Ms. Mrunal Borse respectively. Similarly, Ms. Hiya Makhija and Mst. Akshay Sunil were declared the Best Singers, and Mst. Daksh Mathai the Best Dancer.

The Sports Day at Agnels is always a great practical, field lesson in sportsmanship, teamspirit and discipline. The sheer hard work of all the students and teachers and an undying desire for excellence was evident on all three days.

*Photos: on pg 19*

# Today will abound with opportunities to serve yourself and others. Let us be open to them

*SERVICE: A beautiful word fallen upon bad days*

- Claude McKay

Silver service, military service, tennis service, evening service. The word has so many different connotations that we lose the thread that connects them; something done for another. Whether it is our profession or our gift, service is our offering of skill or care to a fellow being.

We now have the term self-service, which mostly connotes convenience in shopping. Do we truly serve ourselves, in the sense of offering our best to our own benefit? A high quality of self-service is an important part of self-

esteem. By taking time for ourselves, treating ourselves gently, we demonstrate our belief that we deserve love.

Quality self-service does not only mean caring for our bodies, although that is important. It also means forgiving ourselves, letting mistakes remain in the past, and nourishing our spirits with good thoughts, good works, good deeds. If we are to earn tranquility and joy in life, surely we can learn to serve ourselves with kindness.

## **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](mailto:agnelashramnews@gmail.com)

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

**"Lent stimulates us to let the Word of God penetrate our life and in this way to know the fundamental truth: who we are, where we come from, where we must go, what path we must take in life..."**

- Pope Benedict XVI



# FR. AGNEL'S BLESSINGS

## GIFT OF A CHILD AFTER 7 YEARS OF MARRIAGE

**SANTACRUZ :** We were issueless even after 7 years of our marriage. Although we were under treatment by the specialist Doctors, it did not bring any hope in our life. We were worried whether we would continue to be childless in our life. In this plight, we sought the powerful intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel and fervently prayed to him. We are now extremely happy to inform you that through the heavenly intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel we are blessed with a son. Today, we have come to the Ashram with our little son to express our profound gratitude to Fr. Agnel with an offering of ₹.5000 to the Ashram.

*-Revlinio & Valencia Fernandes*

## VEN. FR. AGNEL GUARDIAN OF THE STUDENTS

**AHMEDABAD :** My two children were doing the professional Course MCA & MBA. I entrusted them to the care Ven. Fr. Agnel and fervently prayed for their bright career. I am now very happy to inform you that through the blessing of Fr. Agnel both my children have successfully completed their professional course with high marks. As a token of our sincere thanks, an offering of ₹.1000 to the Ashram.

*-Cheryl D Joachim*

## CURED OF SEVERE STOMACH PAIN

**LONDON:** My daughter, who is in London, was suffering from a sudden bout of severe stomach pain. Although she was under medication, it did not bring any relief to her and she was screaming with acute pain in the abdomen. On hearing the news, I rushed to the Ashram and placed my petition at the Samadhi. I tearfully prayed to Fr. Agnel for my daughter. After some time, I got another call from London that she is completely cured of severe pain and no more under treatment. With a grateful heart an offering of ₹.500 to the Ashram.

*-Philomina D'Costa*

## BLESSED WITH GOOD JOB IN AUSTRALIA

**ORLEM-MALAD:** My daughter had migrated to Australia in search of a better job. But, I got the message that she was facing many difficulties to get a suitable job. In this predicament, I came to the Ashram and fervently prayed to Ven. Fr. Agnel. I am now very happy to inform you that through the blessing of Ven. Fr. Agnel, she has now secured a suitable job. My thanks offering of ₹.5000 to the Ashram.

*-Maurice Alvares*

## VEN. FR. AGNEL GUARDIAN OF OUR FAMILY

**TRICHUR-KERALA :** I am an ardent devotee of Ven. Fr. Agnel since last many years. Through his intercession I have received numerous blessings, especially in very critical times and I have been able to overcome all the obstacles with courage and confidence. As a token of my sincere thanks an offering of ₹.30,000 to the Ashram.

*-Selina George*

## HELP IN CRITICAL TIME

**GHATKOPAR :** My daughter was preparing for an exam titled SAT (Standardized Assessment Test) a qualifying exam for higher study in the US. Since she did not fare well in the early tests, I came to the Ashram and fervently prayed to Fr. Agnel for my daughter. Surprisingly, in the final exam, she scored very high marks. But the examining authority felt doubt over her sudden high performance and they held up her result for revaluation and investigation; whereas they published the result of other students. Although we requested the concerned authority to release the result, they did not disclose it. Again, we sought the intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel. We are now very happy to inform you that after 25 days, they declared her result valid and genuine. Shortly, she will be flying to US for higher study in Economics. My thanks offering has been put at the Samadhi.

*-Mrs. Hetali Karia*

## Out of Their Bounty

P. Srivastava	Mumbai	50000	Nikunj & Harnisha	Daman	1000	M.P. Pegado	Vasai	500
M.M. Nair	Mumbai	27000	Vimal Fernandes	Mumbai	1000	R.J. jeyaraj	Mumbai	500
Prasad Sudhakar	Vashi	9000	R.A. Gandhi	Mumbai	1000	Y.U. Vaz	Mumbai	500
Paul Sequeira	Mumbai	9000	K.M.Manek	Mumbai	1000	S.J. Martin	Gujarat	500
Jose K. C.	Kerala	9000	Clara Almeida	Mumbai	1000	A.P. Patwardhan	Pune	500
Mary J. Fernandes	Mumbai	6200	Sanjay Narvekar	Virar	1000	A. Honavar	Mumbai	500
Leena Bijoy	Mumbai	6000	Sahana Narvekar	Virar	1000	Jatin Desai	Valsad	500
P. Fernandes	Mumbai	6000	Tony Dias	Mumbai	1000	Ashok Patel	Mumbai	500
Subramaniam R.	Mumbai	5000	M.G. Fernandes	Mumbai	1000	M. Lewis	Mumbai	500
D.J. Fernandes	Mira Road	5000	G. Sartape	Mumbai	1000	Lily Crasto	Mumbai	500
S.D. Thengil	Mumbai	5000	Mehroo & Pawri	Mumbai	1000	John Fernandes	Mumbai	500
T.M. David	Mumbai	5000	A.. Tauro	Dahisar	1000	Tanvi Desai	Mumbai	500
Siju D. Thengil	Mumbai	5000	Francis D'Souza	Mumbai	1000	L. Joseph	Kalamboli	500
Manoj P. Porathur	Rajkot	3100	A.S. D'Cunha	Vasai	1000	Jose & Amy	Bhayandar	500
Samil Mehta	Mumbai	3000	B.B. Falcao	Vasai	1000	L. Sabbadu	S. Africa	500
S.G. Popat	Mumbai	2500	C.D. Joachim	Ahmedabad	1000	L. Alex	Thane	500
Dishaa S. Badaai	Oman	2000	A.G. Kelawalla	Mumbai	1000	A.T. Nadar	Mumbai	500
C. T. Varghese	Mumbai	2000	M.K.K.	Mumbai	1000	I.X. Coutinho	Vasai	500
Nita Nair	U.S.A.	2000	Kalpana Sonawane	Kalyan	1000	K.M. A. Vincent	Mumbai	500
Nita Abhilash Nair	U.S.A.	2000	Gavin P.Fonseca	Mumbai	750	D.F. Motafaram	Mumbai	500
Esha Mira Nair	U.S.A.	2000	H. Dubash	Mumbai	700	Josephine Jaswal	Ahmedabad	500
Maria D'Souza	Dubai	2000	Agee Kini	Mumbai	700	Sharon S. Balid	Ambivli	500
F.I. Jivan	Diu	2000	B. Dubash	Mumbai	650	F. Cardozo	Mumbai	500
B.R. Mandan	Daman	2000	A. Dubash	Mumbai	650	S. Parmar	Mumbai	500
V.R. Bariya	Daman	2000	Bharati S. Bidaai	Oman	521	Jijo J. Tholath	Mumbai	400
Parampita Boat	Uttan	2000	M.F. D'Souza	Mumbai	510	Ishwar A.	Mumbai	300
Justin Varghese	Bhayandar	2000	Subodh G.	Mumbai	501	Noreen Kanga	Mumbai	300
Nilesh J. Lopes	Vasai	2000	R.J. Wadekar	Mumbai	501	S.S. Gonsalves	Vasai	300
A.A.. Sequeira	Virar	2000	M.J. Lam	Nashik	501	V.L. Deore	Aurangabad	251
E. Fernandes	Mumbai	2000	Yaksh Popat	Mumbai	501	T. K. Chitalia	Mumbai	251
I. Fernando	Mumbai	2000	B. Vaja	Mumbai	501	K.V. Chitalia	Mumbai	251
A. Silvera	Mumbai	2000	Francis Londhe	Thane	500	Sonal & Samir	Ambarnath	250
A. Fernando	Mumbai	2000	S. Kurian	U.K.	500	Chris C. D'Souza	Nallasopara	200
Anna N. Fernando	Mumbai	2000	Wilson D'Souza	Mumbai	500	T.S. Kale	Uran	200
F. Gilder	Mumbai	2000	Marie D'Souza	Mumbai	500	J.V. Christian	Nadiad	200
Albert D'Souza	Mumbai	2000	J. Fernandes	Mumbai	500	Antonio Dias	Mumbai	200
M.S. Sequeira	Vasai	2000	Naina Desai	Mumbai	500	A.C. Makwana	Mumbai	200
Sanjay Narvekar	Virar	2000	Blossom Stephen	Nallasopara	500	M. Kuruvilla	Vasai	200
Saish S. Narvekar	Virar	2000	Rajesh D'Mello	Virar	500	S. Sanjay Narvekar	Mumbai	200
Millie Fernandes	Mumbai	2000	Umeh Angre	Navi Mumbai	500	M. Kadam	Kalyan	200
Albert Carvalho	Mumbai	2000	Laxmi	Virar	500	J. Bhujbal	Bhayander	150
H. Sontumyra	Mumbai	2000	A. R. Konge	Vasai	500	A.N. Kansara	Ahmedabad	125
George P. D'Mello	Virar	2000	S. P. Dhoke	Navi Mumbai	500	C.V. Raval	Ahmedabad	111
Vijay Singh	Mumbai	1500	J. P. Fulya	Vasai	500	R. Pandloskar	Mumbai	101
Savita D'Souza	Thane	1500	Isha Almeida	Vasai	500	P.N. Shridhankar	Mumbai	101
M.Patel	Mumbai	1200	Zinin & Vihan	Vasai	500	Agnes Kotta	Mumbai	101
C.C. Fernandes	Mumbai	1100	Shaina Gonsalves	Virar	500	R. Parikh	Mumbai	100
B. Modi	Bhayandar	1080	L.M. Pereira	Vasai	500	S.V. Shetty	Kalyan	100
Benaifer & Dominic	Mumbai	1001	M.C. Belosay	U.S.A.	500	P. C. Shah	Mumbai	100
A. Arora	Gujarat	1000	R.J. D'Sa	Vasai	500	T.S. Foss	Vasai	100
M. Tripathi	Mumbai	1000	Lavina S. Lobo	Virar	500	S.A. Sheth	Kalyan	100
Mira Esha Nair	U.S.A.	1000	C. Saldanha	Qatar	500	P.C. Collins	Mumbai	100
Sunita D'Silva	Mumbai	1000	N.F. Cerejo	Vasai	500	Neal Dias	Mumbai	100
Ayesha Pereira	Mumbai	1000	V.M. Solanki	Mumbai	500	J.K. Sagar	Nadiad	100
Walter Quadros	Mumbai	1000	Dhruva G.	Pune	500	Bharat M. Jai	Mumbai	99
M.A. Pereira	Mira Road	1000	P. Ravindra	Mumbai	500	R. Tyagi	Airoli	51
			J. Vincent	Mumbai	500			



## Sports Day at Fr. Agnels Ambernath

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*A Graceful Beginning*



*Ablaze with Excitement*



*Santa's Little Elves*



*Rain Rain Come Again*



*While Shepherds Watch their Flock by night*



*Captain America Saves the Day*

## Fr. Agnels Jayanti Celebration, Vidyankur Pune

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*Rev. Fr. Agnelo Gomes  
garlanding the bust of Ven. Fr.  
Agnelo De' Souza*



*Students presenting a skit depicting the important events from  
the life of Ven. Fr. Agnelo De' Souza*



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