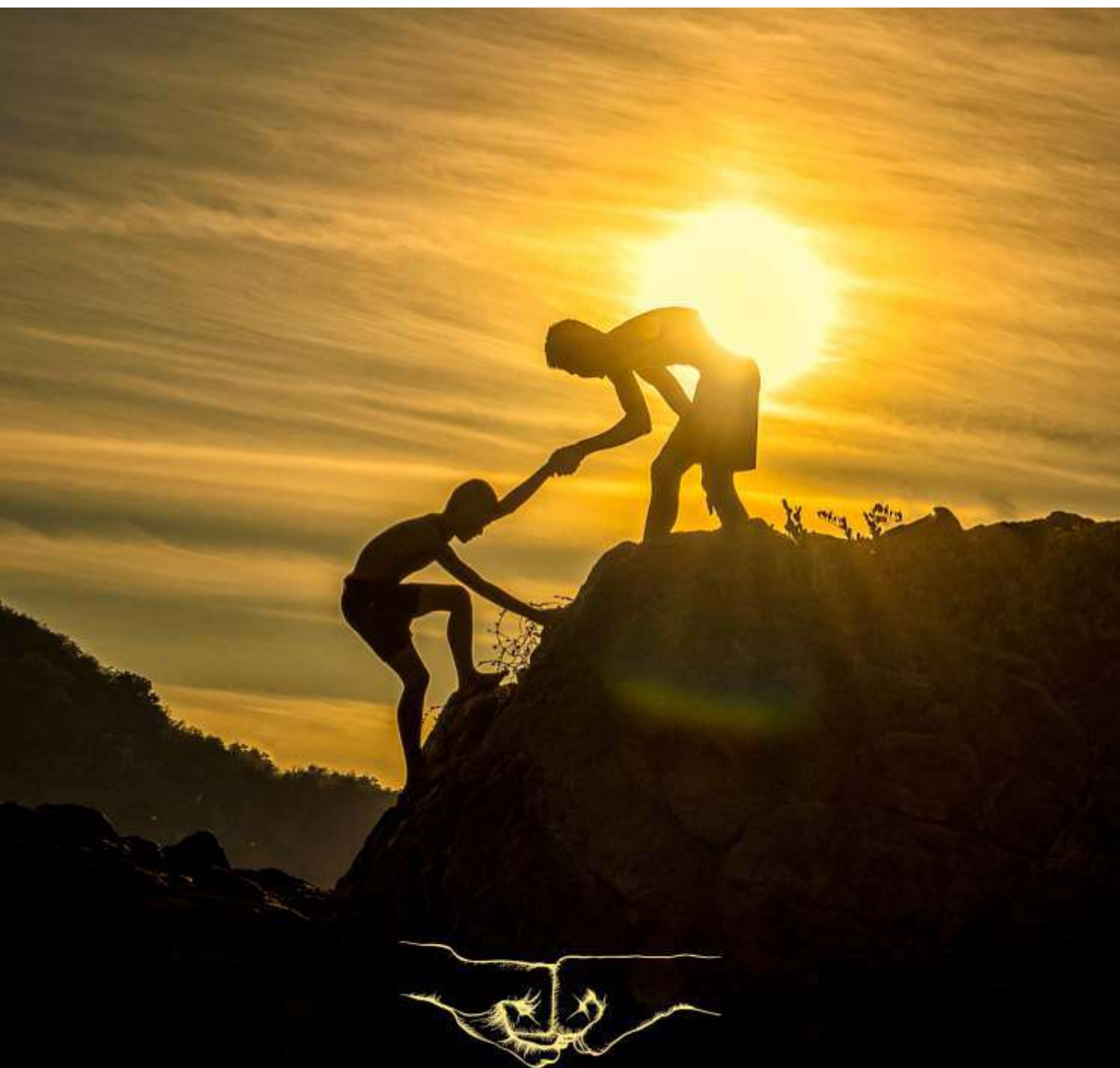


FR. AGNEL

ASHRAM NEWS

July 2023



The most valuable gift you can receive is an honest friend

"A friend in need is a friend indeed"

JULY 2023

CONTENTS

Guest Editorial	3
The Essence of Friendship	8
July – A Month of Faith	10
World Youth Skills Day	12
Agnel Happenings	13
Sts. Thomas & James, Apostles - Listening to the Call of Discipleship	15
Mathematics and Science – 2 Sides of the Same Coin	17
FAMILY: Father and Mother, I Love You	19
The Joy of Giving	20
Just for Fun	21
Grandparents: Guardians of the Family	23
Fr. Agnel's Blessings	24
Out of Their Bounty	25
Bob's Banter	26

Printed & Published by

Fr. Valerian 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 - 400 072.

Place of Publication :

Fr. Agnel Ashram, Bandstand,
Bandra, Mumbai - 400 050.
Single Copy Price : Rs. 15
Annual Subscription : Rs. 150
agnelashramnews@gmail.com
[website : www.agnelashram.org](http://www.agnelashram.org)

BALBHAVAN SPONSORSHIP SCHEME



We offer our Benefactors/Well Wishers an opportunity to share in the noble work of bringing up Balbhavan children. We would appreciate your contribution in assisting us in caring for our children. You have the option to choose **Full Sponsorship or Mini Sponsorship**. The sponsorship amount may be paid lump sum or on monthly instalments at your convenience.

Full Sponsorship: Rs. 15,000/- per year; Rs. 1250/- per month

Mini Sponsorship (Co-sponsorship): Rs 5000/-

Apart from the Sponsorship Scheme, you have the facility to sponsor lunch / dinner / snacks / groceries / stationery items and other Ashram activities. Please contact the Ashram Office for further details.

Mode of Payment: By MO/NEFT/Cheque/Debit Cards

Address: Fr. Superior, Fr. Agnel Ashram, Post Box No. 6656, Bandstand, Bandra (West), Mumbai 400 050, Maharashtra.

Account Name	Bank Address	A/c. No.
Society of St. Francis Xavier, Pilar	Union Bank of India Mumbai - Bandra, Branch: Baitul Sharaf, 105, Hill Road, Bandra (W), Mumbai - 400 050	520141000955503

IFSC: UBIN0901202

To know more about our Balbhavan Homes and their activities, do visit us at :

Website : www.agnelashram.org



FR. AGNEL ASHRAM

P.B. No. 6656, Bandstand, Bandra (West), Mumbai – 400 050, Maharashtra, India.

Tel.: 022 - 67114000 | Mobile: 091 - 7738009137

Email us at : fragnelashrambandra@gmail.com

SOCIETY OF THE MISSIONARIES OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER (SFX)

Society of Pilar

-Leon Bent

The Society of "S.F.X." was formed on 26th September, 1887. Today, the Society of St. Francis Xavier, or the Society of Pilar, is the pride of Goa. Pilar, set atop a hill, in the heart of Goa, is famous as a Pilgrim Centre. Every thoroughbred, faithful and authentic Goan, be s/he a Catholic or Hindu, and also loads of outstation Catholics, Christians and people of myriad faith-persuasions, visit the "Mount," in Old Goa, at some time in their lives, to pray at the Tomb of Goa's favourite son, Venerable Fr. Agnelo D'Souza. I saw it all, when I spent over a month, in the Animation Centre, with the gracious Fr. Lawrence, as Superior. The camaraderie over meals, was amazing and phenomenal. I finished my Book on Mercy, in the Year of Mercy, in 2016, and had it printed by Fr. Joseph, at the Society's Printing Press perched on the hilltop.

The Society was formed at Agonda (Canacona) by a priest in south Goa, India, named Father José Bento Martins Ribeiro, who, together with his three companions, decided to dedicate their lives for the service of God's people. Their aim was to serve the diaspora Catholics of the predominantly non-Catholic areas of Goa, called the 'Nova Conquistas.' The Nova Conquistas or "New Conquests" are a group of seven concelhos (administrative sub-districts or municipalities) of Goa and Damaun, officially known as 'Portuguese India.' They were added to Goa in the 18th Century A.D., a comparatively later date than the original three concelhos that made up the Velhas Conquistas or "Old Conquests."

The seven concelhos (municipality) of the Novas (newly visible star) Conquistas (conquest) are Pernem, Bicholim, Sattari, Antruz (Ponda), Sanguem (modern-day Sanguem and Dharbandora talukas), Quepem and Canacona. Silvassa was a newly conquered area in the territory of Daman, Diu and Silvassa, and so, a grand vista of opportunity opened to them, to proclaim the Gospel in these areas. In 1890, the headquarters of the Society were transferred from

Agonda to Pilar, where its Mother House used to be located. In 1891, the Society's Rules (Constitution) were approved by a local bishop. Father Bento Martins became the Society's first Superior.

The Reorganized Society of Missionaries of SFX Spreads In All Directions: The Pilar Monastery was made the Headquarters of the new Society, on 4th February 1890.

As a Deacon, Jose Mariano Clemente Bento Martins, from Orlim (Salcete Taluka), had in 1878 started a school in Tilamola (Quepem Taluka). After his priestly ordination, he had told the Bishop that, "in order to serve God and the Church in a better way, he had dedicated himself to the religious education of the peoples of the New Conquests, who were dearly in

need of Christian formation."

He had then been sent in 1881, to Valpoi in Satari Taluka, where he established the first Christian community. By 1884,

he was given additional charge of Agonda in Canacona Taluka, where three more clerics joined him, and with them, he founded 'the Society of the Missionaries of St Francis Xavier'.

On seeing their dedication and service, the first Patriarch D. A. S. Valente gave his Summer Residence, the Pilar Monastery to them, as the headquarters of the new Society, on 4th February 1890, and since then it came to be known as the "Society of Pilar". The Society grew slowly. From 1887 to 1934, the Society had no more than 21 members, and from 1896 to 1934, the Society never exceeded eight priests at one time. In 1939, when only one member remained, the Society was reorganised, primarily by Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues and Fr. Francisco Sequeira with four others. **Today, the Society is spread over 32 dioceses in India, and 10 dioceses abroad. The total strength of the Society is 439 with 3 Bishops, 386 priests, nine lay brothers, one deacon and 40 professed members in formation. Its Generalate has now been shifted to Porvorim, Goa, and the 'Mother House' remains in Pilar, Goa.**



St. Francis Xavier



Born in Spain in 1506, St. Francis Xavier has been colloquially referred to as 'Goencho Saib' or the Patron Saint of Goa, and was one of the earliest missionaries who brought Christianity to this part of the world, including St. Thomas, in the 1st Century A.D.

Xavier is a name of Arabic origin meaning "new house" and "bright." Saint Francis Xavier was given this name to honour the Spanish-Basque village where he came from.

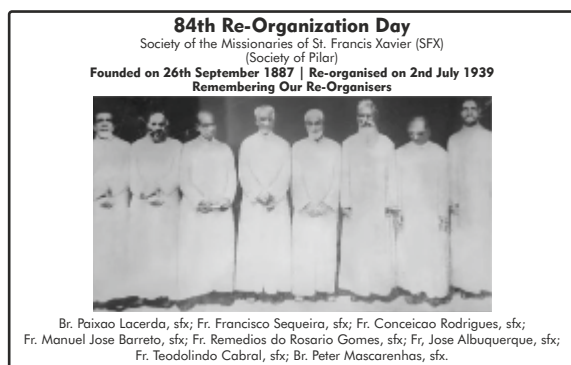
He discerned and chose to be Christ's disciple in the service of God and humankind. Secondly, Francis Xavier's life teaches us to serve humbly. These traits I have been seeing in ALL the 'Pilar Fathers,' over around forty years I have been associated. They are invariably affable and simple, and have the rare virtues of "welcome" and "hospitality," like Fr. Ubaldo Fernandes, Franklin Rodrigues, and a host of others who have crossed my path, over the years...and even, Bishop Emeritus Alex Dias. St. Francis Xavier was particularly passionate about spreading the Word of God to the far regions of the world. The Pilar Fathers are not very far behind!

Meanwhile, when Portugal became a Republic in 1910, the Portuguese government again enforced the ban on religious orders more severely till 1928. As a result, the Society of Pilar dwindled in numbers. Meanwhile, the political scenario changed after 1928, when Religious Orders were re-admitted by the Portuguese Government, in Goa.



The Patriarchal Seminary & Church of Rachol Venerable Fr. Agnelo G. A. de Souza, from Anjuna, who as a deacon, was running a School for three years in Calangute, joined the Society in 1898. He lived a life of obedience, prayer and contemplation for ten years in the Pilar Monastery, was a

renowned preacher in Goa, and from 1909 was made Parish Priest of Kumpta (a town and taluka in North Kannada), then of Sanvordem, and from 1918, Spiritual Director of the Patriarchal Seminary of Rachol, till his saintly death on 20th November 1927. Fr. Agnelo D'Souza, a saintly member of the Society had been buried in Rachol Cemetery after his death; Fr. Gomes and Fr. Conceicao worked hard and got bones exhumed and transferred to Pilar Monastery on 10th January 1939, and Pilar became a centre of pilgrimage for his devotees.



This event took place on 2nd July 1939. The history of the unfolding of this event, however, goes way back to November/December 1931, when students of Rachol Seminary were encamped in Old Goa, for the exposition of the relics of St. Francis Xavier. A few of them, while praying there, felt inspired to imitate the Saint, who had come from so far away and spread the faith in our land. "What are we as sons of the soil doing for our own people?" This vision, coupled with the clarion call of Pope Leo XIII, "Your own sons, India, will be ministers of your salvation" made them resolve to dedicate their lives to the Missions.

Among them were two first-year students of Theology, Conceicao M. Rodrigues and Francisco J. Sequeira. Back in the Seminary, they shared their experience with each other and then with other seminarians. Thereby began a movement. They called this movement, "Liga Xaveriana" in honour of St. Francis Xavier. Its Superior then, was Msgr. Lucio Vaz, was very old and had asked for an auxiliary. It had another two old and sick members, and a third Fr. Rosario Remedios Gomes in his forties.

Around the year 1944, Patriarch Teotonio, in this letter of transfer, commended Fr. Gomes to promote the exact observance of the statutes of the Society to give it a new life, for "We learn that

there are young priests or ordinandi, who manifest desires of a perfect life in community and want to dedicate themselves to the work of the missions, wherever the Prelate may send them.”

Then on 23rd November 1937, the Secretary of the Patriarch, Msgr. Francisco Rebello, in a letter to Fr. C. Rodrigues conveyed the readiness of the Patriarch to patronize an Association of secular priests, similar to that of Pilar, whose statutes, as the Ecclesiastical Authority may judge to be opportune and convenient, would be able to serve the purpose in view.

The above letter set the ball rolling. A lot of correspondence followed between the Patriarch and Fr. C. Rodrigues. The Leaguers made all efforts to get a new Society and waited till 1939 to come together, though their Constitutions were ready by 1934/35, only after making the Patriarch accept many of their proposals. But although he used the term “nova Sociedade continuadora da velha” (new Society continuing the old), he did not permit them to start an entirely new Society.

The Patriarch, influenced by the decree of the S.C. of Religious of 1922, and the Instruction of S.C. Propaganda Fide (the Sacred Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith, and Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples) of 1937, which were not in favour of a proliferation of Missionary

Institutes, asked the Leaguers to strengthen the old Society which was not different from their own Congregation.

The Society was re-organized and re-vitalized on 2nd July 1939 by the two who accepted the advice:

Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues and Fr. Francisco Jasso Sequeira, together with Fr. B. R. R. Gomes, by now the lone survivor of the old Society, and a few more who joined them, namely Fr. M.J. Barreto, Fr. J. A. F. Albuquerque, Fr. T. Cabral and two candidates Paixao Lacerda and Peter Mascarenhas

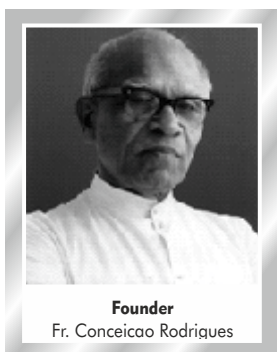
as lay brothers. They started their Novitiate in the Pilar Monastery on 5th August 1939 and made their commitment on 8th September 1940.

Unlike the old Society, which had limited its activities to the then Archdiocese of Goa, the Re-Organized Society slowly spread its missions and socio-educational activities throughout India and abroad. Today the Society is spread in four Provinces and one Region, in different parts of India and has opened a few units abroad. On 30th September 2010, Pope Benedict XVI granted the Society the canonical status of Pontifical Right.

The Re-Organization of the Society of Pilar on 2nd July 1939, gave a spurt to the missions of the Church. The first concern of the Re-organizers was to ensure the stability and progress of the Society by establishing, in 1942, a Seminary in the Pilar Monastery, with only seven students on its rolls, for the recruitment and training of the future members of the Society. No doubt, there was initial criticism and scepticism from some quarters, but with the support of the ecclesiastical authorities, the re-organizers boldly went forward with their vision.

As new candidates went on joining the Seminary, year by year, the spacious All India Mission Seminary building, atop the hillock, was put up from 1946. The Philosophy section was shifted to Nagpur from 1967. An Academic Block of the Pilar Theological College with classrooms, Library, and auditorium was added as an Annex to the Seminary in 1997. Meanwhile, Apostolic Schools and Minor Seminaries were opened in Goa, Kalyanpur (a town in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh), Bhopal and other places to recruit 'local' and 'adivasi' vernacular vocations.

The old Pilar Monastery housed the Novitiate for many years, until it was definitively shifted to Coleman from 1991; from then on, it continues with the training of candidates before joining the Society, in the Pre-Novitiate year. The Office of the Superior General, which was in Pilar, was shifted to its new premises at Porvorim, in 2003.



Founder
Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues

The Heritage of Govapuri:



A study of the artefacts in and around the Pilar S e m i n a r y Monastery of Goa, is done by Fr. Cosme Jose Costa.

Fr. Cosme Jose Costa is the curator of Pilar Museum, which houses a Thomas Cross dated around 700 A.D. There are also two Roman coins in the museum that proves the existence of ancient links between Goa and the Mediterranean Sea around 350 AD. “Every 3-4 months we have experts who come to the museum to check the status of the collection. We have a coin collection and a stamp collection and around 84 artefacts,” says Fr. Cosme.

Our Lady of Pilar:



In the context of Spirituality and sanctity we cannot but mention that Our Lady of Pilar is the Patroness of the Missionary Society of Pilar. From October 3 to 11, all Fathers, Brothers, Seminarians and Sisters in all our communities have a Novena to prepare for

the feast of our beloved Mother on 12th October.

For nearly 2,000 years, the title 'Our Lady of Pilar' has inspired every missionary carrying the Word of God around the world, since her first apparition on the banks of the River Ebro, in Zaragoza-Spain, where there stands a huge Basilica dedicated to Our Lady of Pilar.



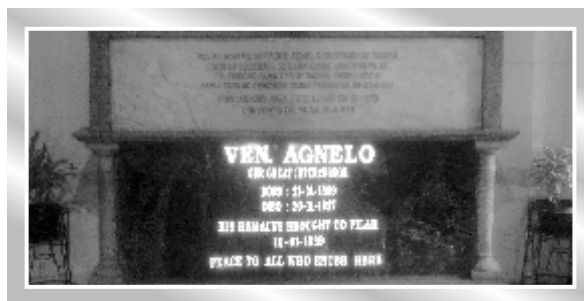
The Pilar Monastery

Preaching the Gospel in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands

The Andaman-Nicobar group of over 300 islands – only some are inhabited, is not only a rare sight to



The Pilar Theological College



Fr. Agnelo's Tomb, Pilar, Goa



Generalate of the Society of Pilar, Porvorim

behold...one is reminded of foreign missionaries, who traversed by ships across the seven seas, to spread the Gospel. Bishop Alex, on a smaller scale, did the same! He retired at 75 – a 'burnt-out' personage! I know a host of others, doing yeoman service in the Lord's Vineyard, whose names are already written in heaven; if I were to enumerate them, this Article would explode into a sizeable



20th General Chapter of the Society of Pilar – 2022
volume. This is just a thin slice of the “Society of 'S.F.X.’,” an immense, variegated, sacred landscape, to admire, be inspired by, savour and live by. It is also a Portuguese relic to be admired and stand in awe of, for its holy aesthetics.



Fr. Agnel's, Bandra
-where it all began!

**Fr. Agnel Technical High School
& Junior College, Bandra**

Fr. C. Rodrigues Institute of Technology, Vashi

On 4th February, 2003, the Society of the Missionaries of St. Francis Xavier (Society of Pilar) transferred its Generalate (Headquarters) from Pilar to Porvorim. Archbishop Raul Gonsalves with Cardinal Ivan Dias inaugurated and blessed the edifice of "Pilar Deepti Sadan" (PDS). The Generalate houses the Offices of the General Administration of the Society.

The present Superior General is Rev. Fr. Nazareth Fernandes.

Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues was a visionary, with astounding influence in high places. It was he who initiated Fr. Agnel Ashram and all the other Institutions, both, in Bandra, Mumbai, and Vashi, New Mumbai. Agnel Institute of Technology and Design, Assagao is an Engineering College located in the village of Assagao in Bardez, India. It was established in the year 2012 and approved by AICTE and **The Society of Pilar has its presence in India - from Jammu in the North to**

Maduravoyal in the South, from Gujarat in the West to Kolkata and the Andaman Islands in the East and 10 Dioceses abroad. It engages in mainly pioneering missionary apostolate, but runs several schools, colleges and social work projects.

Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues – Founder of Fr. Agnel Ashram

Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues was a visionary, with astounding influence in high places. It was he who founded Fr. Agnel Ashram, and all the other Institutions, both, in Bandra, Mumbai, and Vashi, New Mumbai; also Ambernath. Fr. Agnel's has an enormous Multi-purpose Educational Complex in Verna, comprising a huge hill and sprawling plains. It also has prestigious Schools in Pune and New Delhi.



Bishop Alex Dias



Bishop Theodore Mascarenhas



Bishop Sebastião Mascarenhas

The Missionary Society of Pilar, boasts of three Bishops: I was highly privileged to attend the Episcopal Ordination of now Bishop Emeritus Alex Dias, and met him, on several occasions, later. My wife, Lorraine and I, are his good friends, to this day.

Bishop Theodore Mascarenhas, Auxiliary Bishop of Ranchi, was elected General Secretary of the Indian Bishops' Conference (CBCI) from March 2016 to June 2019.

His brother Rev. Fr. Sebastião Mascarenhas, S.F.X., former Superior General of the Missionaries of St. Francis Xavier, was ordained Bishop of Baroda at the Episcopal Consecration ceremony held at

Rosary High School Ground, Vadodara, Gujarat on 11th February, 2023.

I love the Pilar Fathers, not only for their missionary work, but more so, as friends! There are extremely "welcoming and hospitable!" What about you, dear reader?



Leon Bent was awarded the "Silver Pen Award," in the year 2000, for Published Writings on Social Issues, at the hands of Ivan Cardinal Dias. He also won "The Cardinal Dias Award for Research in Mariology," in 2018, at the hands of Oswald Cardinal Gracias. Leon contributes Articles on a regular basis, to various Journals in India and Overseas, and Digital Platforms around the world.

The Essence of Friendship

-Tancia Pires

“No man can live as an island, journeying through life alone.”

Truly, the journey of life is full of ups and downs, sharp twists and turns, waves of joy, and at times winds of sorrows and trials. And at each step, feeling all of these emotions, and experiences alone, would be so meaningless and monotonous. Hence, relationships play an integral part in moulding one's journey on Earth. One of the many relationships that we're tied in, is a sweet little one called 'friendship' which is a unique connection that transcends time, distance, and circumstances, weaving a tapestry of love, support, and shared experiences.

Friendship doesn't always lead to happy endings, or the most joyous moments in life, at times it can be a lesson to be learned, the hard way, or a disastrous heartbreak of betrayal or backbiting by toxic people, so-called friends. But what is the true essence of friendship? What are the ingredients of a fulfilling friendship? Let's explore...

Positivity – The word *friend* or even the thought of friendship should bring an air of positivity within oneself. There shouldn't be even an iota of negativity. Cranky, manipulative, envious people can bring along a lot of negativities and weigh you down unnecessarily, thus making the environment toxic to live in and literally sucking the life out of you. This can have a negative impact on one's growth, self-worth, and productivity. So, instead, be around friends, who make us feel safe, unjudged, satisfied, and accepted even with our shortcomings, who understand us, and are sensitive towards our thoughts.

Consistency – It is the amount of time spent together, frequency of interacting and being in touch. It helps us to know each other. It starts from building history to creating memories together. In

our bustling surroundings and hectic schedules, we tend to increase screen time and decrease the 'we-time' we would otherwise spend with friends, going out on trips, or enjoying a simple cup of coffee, or even making a text or a phone call. Meeting often, allows us to share with each other the happenings of life, future plans and past memories, whereas, meeting once in a blue moon will just make your friend an age-old acquaintance. Perhaps, therefore it is said that school friendships last longer due to consistency, as we would end up meeting every day. Choose consistent friends, not those who are around you only till the time they can 'use' you for their benefits and convenience.



Vulnerability – It is the ability to share or reveal ourselves to a friend. It is to talk about what's happening in life, history, present, achievements and embarrassment, where we feel known and seen. However, this could happen only if there's an immense amount of trust

and understanding in a friendship. As it is said, every relationship thrives on trust, and so does friendship. The bond of friends should be such, that you do not have to walk on eggshells, where you can be yourself unapologetically, speak unhesitatingly, think out loud, act without being judged, point out each other's mistakes or faults, give suggestions and advice.

Voluntariness – Volunteer to start the conversation first, to call, to plan a trip, to share how you feel, without staying back from saying what you feel at that very moment, even if it means constructive criticism, that might offend your friend. The ego shouldn't sail higher than the will to sustain or strengthen the beautiful bond of friendship which might otherwise sink. One shouldn't however, feel compelled to do

something unwillingly just to please a friend or due to ulterior motives of greed or selfishness. It should all come wholeheartedly and voluntarily.

Companionship – At the core of friendship lie



companionship. It can crop up from loyalty and sensitivity to a friend.

Being present for each other in thick and thin, offering a hand for help, a shoulder to cry on, providing a listening ear in times of despair, being a soul with a compassionate heart, empathetic eyes, and a cheerful smile that can bring about so much of comfort and assurance, even in the most difficult times. This leads to 'friintimacy' - intimacy between friends that improves the quality of life. It gives a feeling of confidence in someone and brings about hope and contentment.

Spirituality – Friendship with God! *What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear, what a privilege to carry, everything to God in prayer...*

Jesus defines the essence of friendship; He laid down his life on the cross as a supreme example of love and friendship. Whenever we are down and broken, hurt by our friends, instead of falling prey to vices like substance abuse, let us turn to Jesus. Indeed, Jesus is a friend; a true friend, He will not let us down.

These little aspects and ingredients can cook up a great friendship. Having healthy friendships is such a blessing and can make one's life way more meaningful and worthwhile. It has the novel ability to discard feelings of despair, confusion, gloom and loneliness. According to scientific research, it is said that, feeling lonely can even impact health negatively. It is equal to being a lifelong alcoholic, or smoking 50 cigarettes, or having a deteriorating immune system and can thus cause life-threatening conditions like cardiovascular disease, dementia and anxiety.

As St. Mother Teresa said, *"The most terrible poverty is loneliness and the feeling of being unloved."*

Today, loneliness is becoming a pandemic. It's one of the greatest public health issues. People tend to feel lonely even when surrounded by several people. This is because one doesn't feel connected, there's no genuineness, no transparency, and moreover no trust. A person feels unheard, unnoticed, unwanted and hopeless. Lack of healthy relationships can even lead to severe ill effects like terrorism, poor politics and crimes. So let us try to build, strengthen and sustain warm friendships and relationships. And to make it happen, first, we need to love ourselves, be content, and have an optimum self-worth. If you have so much love for yourself, it is only then that you can share it with others. It is not necessary to

go around and build ungentrue social networks in the name of friendship, or for social media standards. Believe in having quality over quantity. Once you find your true friends, keep them close. As a quote by Euripides goes, *'One loyal*

friend is worth more than 10000 relatives.'

This International Friendship Day on 30th July, let us cherish the essence of friendship and nurture these bonds, for they are a testament to the beauty and richness of the human experience. Let us also strive to be that friend that looks out for the other, the one that can be trusted and counted on, since that's what friends are supposed to be.



Tancia Pires from Goa is currently pursuing Masters in Medical Imaging technology, a branch of Radiology. She is passionate about writing, acting and singing.

July – A Month of Faith!

-Dr. Fio Mascarenhas SJ

July begins with the feast of the apostle St. Thomas, who is popularly called the Apostle of Faith because he exclaimed, “My Lord and my God,” though at first (and for a whole week!) he vehemently demanded scientific *proof* in order to believe that Jesus was truly risen! Later in July, we have the feast of St. Mary Magdalene (22nd), who must also certainly be called a woman of great faith, which is why Jesus made her an “apostle to the apostles!” We also have the Feast of the Apostle St. James (25th) whose Letter uses strong words to teach about *authentic* faith. There occurs also on 29th July, the feasts of Sts. Martha, Mary and Lazarus (outstanding examples of “faith and works”), and finally, of two well-known and still very influential Founders of Religious Orders, St. Benedict (already on the 11th), and St. Ignatius of Loyola (on the 31st), both great examples and teachers of the virtue of heroic faith.

So let us look at the essential sacred gift and virtue of Faith. The Bible defines **faith** thus: “*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*” Another (more clear) translation (RSV) puts it as: “**Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things unseen**” (Heb 11:1).

Faith is *the* most important and necessary ingredient for a meaningful and happy human life. It is one human characteristic that does not allow for counterfeit: either one possesses it, or one does not. Those that do possess true faith generally lead blessed, fulfilled lives, despite the various trials and tribulations encountered along the way. They usually have a healthy regard and understanding of the value and purpose of human life, and have a general realization and respect for the power of the Creator of the Universe (or of local deities).

People who say they do not believe in God or gods are either “agnostics” or “atheists,” and in today’s secularized world (especially in Western countries), their numbers are growing rapidly. Life for these individuals is like an unsolved mystery. An atheist is someone who makes a definitive statement that God or gods do not exist. An agnostic is someone who says he/she does not “know” whether God or gods exist.

Nevertheless, such people can still have faith in *themselves* and in *people* (for example, prospective husbands and wives act in *faith* when they promise to love each other till death) and when they persevere in trying to lead happy and meaningful lives of service to others and of true companionship with each other. The definition of Heb 11:1 is not for Christians only but can apply to all people, since faith speaks the language of the heart and is an expression of hope that goes beyond the conscious mind. (Faith cannot be explained away by reason or logic, or be captured by a single definition).

Furthermore, the Second Vatican Council explains that faith is **a gift of the Holy Spirit**: “*Human beings must have the grace of God, the interior helps of the Holy Spirit, to move and assist them, before they can exercise faith*” (*Dei Verbum*, n.5).



Faith in a loving God and in his plans for us, faith in the Lordship of Jesus, faith in the Cross, faith in the Eucharist, faith in the role of the Church, etc., **are all a gift**, the working of the Holy Spirit, enabling us to be interiorly “*convinced of things not seen*” and “*assured of what we hope for.*” However, we do remain free to accept the gift and to believe, or refuse to believe, allowing instead our doubts or the world’s secular mindset to strongly influence us. (The Holy Spirit never *forces* his gifts upon an unwilling recipient).

However, though faith is a gift of the Holy Spirit which we are personally free to accept or to refuse, it is nevertheless a *necessary* gift for salvation. Jesus said to Thomas, “*Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe*” (Jn.20:24ff). Jesus also used very strong words about the need to be childlike in order to have faith: “*I thank thee, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to*

Faith
Love
Hope

babes" (Matt 11:25), and again "Unless you change and become like little children, you cannot enter the kingdom of God" (Matt 18:3).

Therefore, one appealing characteristic of people of genuine faith is their childlike attitude of humility and gratitude, as they realize who God is, and how they owe everything to his love and mercy! The great Cardinal Suenens of Belgium wrote in his Autobiography, "As death approaches, I see on every page of my life a watermark, so to say, that shows how the attentive love of God has watched over my daily goings and comings, so much is it true that what we called chance or coinciding circumstances were but Providence at work with infinite delicacy. How deeply too would I testify to the fact that, through life's sufferings, I have felt, every day, the truth of Jesus' promise to his disciples which guaranteed them "a joy which no one can ever take from you" (*Spiritual Journey*, FIAT Publications, 1990).

It is with this sense of faith that the Church too prays in the liturgy of the Sunday Eucharists, "Almighty and ever-present Father, your watchful care reaches from end to end, and orders all things in such power that even the tensions and tragedies of sin cannot frustrate your loving plans... The love you offer always exceeds the furthest expression of the human heart. Direct each thought, each effort of our life, so that the limits of our faults and weaknesses may not obscure the vision of your glory, or keep us from the peace you have promised..." (Sunday Mass, Weeks 2 and 3).

Such prayers, expressing the faith of the Universal Church, cannot be prayed without a deep sense of

mystery! They need a foundational faith that '**wherever evil abounds, grace superabounds**' (Rom.5:20), and that a loving God watches over and guides the destiny of human beings. May this spirit of courage, of biblical wisdom, and of Christian hope fill us and move us in our life's pilgrimage, as we entrust ourselves to our great and all-holy Triune God, especially at moments when our personal weaknesses and/or the sinfulness of others tend to weigh us down.

Finally, the Bible also insists that "faith without works is dead" (Jas.2:17), and that "anyone who does not love (neighbour) does not know God" (1Jn.4:8). Hence compassion, self-giving service, and looking for no reward in this world because they are invincibly convinced that the Lord will be their reward, are also important characteristics of people of authentic faith.

Such people are true disciples who draw their "heroic faith" from active participation in the Eucharist and from their daily *Lectio Divina* or faith-filled reading of the word of God. (Dr. Renu Silvano and I have explained this in our recent books, "**The Eucharist and Personal Prayer**," and "**Bible Aglow – Wisdom and Energy from the New Testament**").



Dr. Fio Mascarenhas SJ is Emeritus Chairman of the Catholic Bible Institute and a noted preacher and author of biblical spirituality. He can be contacted at frfiomas@gmail.com

AGNEL CO-OPERATORS

You can join the Ashram Family by becoming a member of Agnel Co-operators and enjoy the fruits of a Special Sunday Mass offered at Fr. Agnel Ashram, Bandra, for all the members. You will also enjoy the fruits of all the prayers and good works of the Agnel Ashram Fathers and entire Agnel Ashram Family.

MEMBERSHIP

Ordinary Member

Individual : Rs 100/-
Family : Rs 500/-

Special Member

Individual : Rs 500/-
Family : Rs 1000/-
Benefactors : Rs. 3000/-
Patrons : Rs. 5000/-

Please contact:

Rev. Fr. Superior, Fr. Agnel Ashram, Bandstand, Bandra (W), Mumbai-400 050.



-Tony Menezes

Every year, July 15 is celebrated worldwide as World Youth Skills Day. This day was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2014 in order to endow young people with essential skills for their personal and professional development. Likewise, to highlight the importance of empowering young people with skills for good employment, decent work potentialities and entrepreneurship.

Essentially, World Youth Skills Day accentuates the need to encourage young people, coupled with their inborn dexterity, to be skilfully successful.

It exemplifies the fact that technical and vocational education and training (TVET), improves lives and it forms an integral part in self-development. It reinforces the importance of investing in the development of skills in young people which subsequently leads up to prosperous careers.

The youth are the future of our world, and it is crucial that we give them necessary tools to adapt to the constantly evolving global environment.

In today's world, the demand for skilled workers is increasing, and the competition for jobs is tough. Consequently, it is important for young people to develop not only their educational qualifications but also to excel in their overall social and cultural proficiencies.

Another critical aspect of World Youth Skills Day is the emphasis on creating an enabling environment for the youth, especially the marginalized and vulnerable groups - where every young person has the fundamental right for equal access to opportunities.

Here are some important missions of World Skill Day:

- To advance the importance of lifelong learning and skills development for individuals and society as a whole.
- To advocate the importance of developing skills and vocational education.
- To initiate collaboration between employers, educators, and governments to improve quality of life of our youth.
- To showcase the talents and achievements of skilled professionals and encourage more people to pursue vocational careers.
- To facilitate coaction between employers, educators, and governments, refine the quality and relevance of learning and promote development of skills.

- To encourage governments, educational institutions, and employers to invest in the development of skills and vocational education programs.
- To raise the status of skilled professionals by showcasing their vocational skills and accomplishments.
- To help in reducing the skill gap between generations, cultures and countries by sharing knowledge and skills.
- To provide gainful employment opportunities for young people by skill training.
- To highlight the role of skills in achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals, mainly in poverty reduction and promotion of economic growth.
- To improve social mobility and increase employment opportunities for young people around the world by providing them with the necessary skills to succeed in the workforce.
- To promote innovation and creativity in skill development, with an emphasis on the latest technological advancements and industry-specific requirements.

World Youth Skills Day is an excellent opportunity to highlight the importance of up skilling and reskilling young people to meet the changing demands of the job market. On this day, numerous events, activities, seminars and workshops are organized globally to raise awareness about the skills required to succeed in today's highly competitive world.

Furthermore, this day reaffirms the need for the private sector, civil society institutions, and governments to work unitedly to provide young people with the necessary tools for success.

The private sector can create job opportunities, offer internships, so that young people can gain work experience. Governments can invest in education, training and collaborate with other sectors to bridge the skills gap.

By supporting our young people, we can build a brighter future, and ensure that the youth of today are equipped to tackle the challenges of tomorrow.



Tony Menezes is a writer, aspiring poet, hospitality management professional and animal lover.

AGNEL HAPPENINGS - VASHI

OUR SSC
TOPPERS
2023

**Fr. Agnel Multipurpose School and Jr. College, Vashi,
posts 100% results in SSC 2023**

**Once again, Fr. Agnel Multipurpose School and Jr. College, Vashi
posted 100% pass percentage, as the SSC results came in online on 2nd June 2023.**

Nidhi Vinay Prabhu and **Avneesh Amar Nair** stood 1st **in the English Medium** with 98.4%.
Swarali Kiran Gulve and **Pranjal Sachin Ahire** with 98.2% stood 2nd and
Pratham Prakash Shetty with 97.8% stood 3rd respectively



Nidhi Vinay Prabhu
1st Position 98.4%



Avneesh Amar Nair
1st Position 98.4%



Swarali Kiran Gulve
2nd Position 98.2%



Pranjal Sachin Ahire
2nd Position 98.2%



Pratham Prakash Shetty
3rd Position 97.8%

In the Marathi Medium section,

Juili Bharat Gotam with a score of 95.6% bagged the highest percentage.
Jai Parag Mande with 95.2% stood 2nd and **Bhumita Suresh Thorave** with 93.2% stood 3rd.



Juili Bharat Gotam
1st Position 95.6%



Jai Parag Mande
2nd Position 95.2%



Bhumita Suresh Thorave
3rd Position 93.2%

This year, 291 students from English medium and 27 students from Marathi medium enrolled for the SSC exam and all passed with excellent scores. 262 students from English medium and 14 students from Marathi medium passed with distinctions.

Nine students with learning disabilities from English medium and two students with learning disabilities from Marathi medium passed with flying colours. Also two students in English medium with epilepsy, one each with dwarfism, diabetes and sickle cell disease took the SSC exam this year. In the Marathi medium section, one student with hearing impairment also took the SSC exam this year with board concession.

Manas Pradyumna Singh, Shreya Manoj Jain and Vedant Sharad Woyal
scored 100 out of 100 **in Sanskrit.**



Manas Pradyumna Singh,
100 out of 100



Shreya Manoj Jain
100 out of 100



Vedant Sharad Woyal
100 out of 100

AGNEL HAPPENINGS - VASHI

AGNELITES
EXCEL IN HSC
2023

Jubilation at Fr. Agnel Multipurpose School and Jr. College, Vashi, with 100% HSC results

Pawan Shinde with 95.50% stood 1st in the **Science stream**,
Prathamesh Herle with 95.33% stood 2nd and **Kunjal Patil** with 94.17% stood 3rd respectively.



Pawan Shinde
1st Position 95.50%



Prathamesh Herle
2nd Position 95.33%



Kunjal Patil
3rd Position 94.17%

In the Commerce stream,

Neel Bahira with a score of 94.67% bagged the highest percentage.
He is followed by with **Raizan Bhombal** with 94.50% and **Sharnam Dedhia** with 94.33%.



Neel Bahira
1st Position 94.67%



Raizan Bhombal
2nd Position 94.50%



Sharnam Dedhia
3rd Position 94.33%

This year, 158 students from the Science stream and 122 students from the Commerce stream registered for the HSC exams and all passed with excellent scores. 82 students from the Science stream and 92 students from the Commerce stream passed with distinctions.

Nine students with learning disability and one autistic student who registered for HSC examination this year passed with flying colours.

Pawan Shinde from the **Science stream** scored 100 out of 100 in **Chemistry**.
Riya Tandel from the Science stream scored 100 out of 100 in **Information Technology**.



Pawan Shinde
100 out of 100



Riya Tandel
100 out of 100

Sts. Thomas & James, Apostles - Listening to the Call of Discipleship

-Christine D'Sylva

“Christianity without discipleship is always Christianity without Christ” - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

“True disciples of Christ are willing to stand out, speak up and be different from the people of the world.” - Russell M. Nelson

St. Thomas was also known as Didymus meaning twin. He was one of the apostles of Jesus who goes down in history for his doubting nature. Today, we use the term, 'Doubting Thomas' to indicate anyone who has a sceptical nature when faced with the truth.

When Jesus was resurrected on the third day after his burial, he appeared to his many of his apostles. But Thomas was not present. However, when he heard the news he was not optimistic but retained a pessimistic sceptical attitude. After the death of Jesus to a certain extent, it was natural that without their leader, their beloved teacher Jesus, the apostles would feel lost, forlorn and dejected. They felt like a boat adrift a turbulent ocean with no one to steer them along the right path. So perhaps since he was human like us, he felt that Jesus being resurrected was impossible.

Thomas said to them, “Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

After eight days, when the disciples were gathered together in the same room, Jesus came to them although the doors were shut, and stood amongst them and said, “Peace be unto you.” Then he said to Thomas, “Reach out your finger and touch my hands, and reach your hand here and thrust it into my side, and do not be faithless but believe.”

Thomas was overcome by emotion. He knew Jesus was gently rebuking him for not having faith. He said, “My Lord and my God.” Jesus said, “Thomas, because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are they who have not seen, yet believed.”

St. Thomas, however, should not be looked down for his doubting nature for probably because of

this incident, more and more people realised that indeed the resurrection of Christ was not a fantasy or delusion but a reality that happened.

St. Thomas travelled outside the Roman Empire to preach the gospel with perhaps greater zeal than ever because his former doubting nature had turned into one of great faith in Jesus Christ. He travelled to Tamilakam, Kerala in South India and even reached Italy. The feast of St. Thomas is celebrated as Indian Christians Day which falls in this month, July the third.

Today the name Thomas remains quite popular among the Christians of the Indian subcontinent. Thomas was killed by a spear during prayer on the “Big Hill” near Madras. Some believe

it was an accident while others believe he was martyred for his beliefs.

So this missionary laid down his life for Christ. He was aware of the many dangers of trying to preach the gospel and probably knew he might be killed. Yet he was brave and preached with zeal and enthusiasm the gospel of Christ. What can we learn from this great saint?

We learn that in our lives we face many difficulties, temptations, and often our faith is challenged. However, when we cast aside our doubts and trust in our Lord Jesus Christ, he does not always promise to remove the boulders and obstacles but he promises his grace and strength. For Jesus himself said, “Take up your cross and follow me.” This means we cannot escape the hurdles and crosses in our lives but He assures us of His grace and love along our journey in life. We must never forget that our journey on earth is just a journey, our ultimate destination is to reach Heaven which is eternal life with Christ where we will see God face to face.



Thomas putting his finger in the wounds of Lord Jesus

St. James

He was one of the twelve apostles of Jesus whose martyrdom is recorded in the New Testament. He was a fisherman. James and his younger brother John were amongst the first four disciples whom Jesus called. Both worked with their father in a fishing boat on the Sea of Galilee.

James and John who witnessed the Transfiguration of Jesus Christ, asked Jesus to let them sit, one at right and the other at his left, in his future glory. But Jesus was not agreeable to this as He said it was not his to grant except by God his Father. Jesus taught them that the purpose of authority is to serve and they must learn the lesson of humble service. They were quite fiery individuals. Jesus understood this. Once when

the Samaritans would not welcome Jesus because he was on the way to Jerusalem, John and James saw this. They asked, "Lord, do you want us to call down fire from heaven to consume them?"

Jesus turned and rebuked them for he never believed in violence or an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth.

This makes us examine our own relationships with others. Do we follow the teachings of Jesus about loving our neighbour and spreading peace and goodwill? Or do we believe in hitting back at others in the same coin they measure out to us? Jesus taught us to return good for evil and the power of forgiveness.

Is forgiveness essential? Jesus taught us, "If you forgive others their transgressions, your Heavenly Father will forgive you."

He also said that we must forgive others seventy-times seven. This number is not to be taken literally, rather it means to forgive others innumerable times. Of course, this is hard to do. One has to be saintly to practice this zealously because it is in the nature of man to hold grudges and for him to retaliate if his ego is pricked. This makes us human. But following Jesus is no

ordinary call. It is a difficult path, yet He promises us His strength along the way. He tells us His grace is sufficient for us when we are called to do good things.

St. James was eventually martyred. King Herod had laid his hands on some members of the church

to harm them and he had James killed by the sword. Herod realised this pleased the Jews, he had Peter arrested too.

When we examine the lives of these great apostles, we may find they were good and holy, yet they were human too. Like us, they were filled with pettiness, bickering, fickleness and narrow-mindedness.

Yet Jesus saw their special worth and He knew they could be transformed into better people. He knew they were inherently good, and they possessed the trait of

loyalty that would make them firm ardent followers. They were inspired by the Holy Spirit to evangelise people and thus because of their missionary work, Christianity spread all over the world from every corner around the globe. It must be remembered that transport was difficult for in those days there were no aeroplanes, helicopters and huge ships. Yet, remarkably Christianity spread like wildfire and this we can attribute to the power of the Holy Spirit.

Let us ask ourselves - Are we like James and Thomas called to be disciples of Jesus?

Yes, definitely, because while we might not do missionary work, we are representatives of Christ on earth.

Let us conclude with the wise words of St. Teresa of Avila, "Christ has no body but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassionately on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world."

Let us spend some time pondering on this beautiful message and practice it with God's grace and strength.



St. James

Mathematics and Science – 2 sides of the same coin

-Ninette D'Souza

Dear students, observe your life for 24 hours, noting down activities that will make you understand the role of Mathematics and Science, supposedly 'difficult subjects' in your daily life. In fact they help you use reasoning power, apply logical thinking, comprehend concepts.

No matter what career path you choose, you will find the need for the application of Math sometime, somewhere.

A smart phone can handle complex calculations, but with a citywide electricity breakdown and a dead phone battery, paper and pen accompanied by hand and head will help complete that design or estimate before the deadline looms.

◆ **To conquer fear of Math is not rocket science.** Begin by learning your **TABLES (at least till 25 times 12)** from videos or books, by **WRITING THEM DOWN**. Knowledge of the 'squares, cubes, square roots and cube roots' of commonly used numbers is mandatory.

◆ **Follow the 4-step process.** a) Write down data given in the question b) Write the appropriate formula c) Substitute the proper values d) Write the final answer in a sentence. Each step is worth a $\frac{1}{2}$ mark at least.

◆ **Learn all formulae well.** Give importance to constructions, questions based on geometrical figures, Graphs – drawing and reading, Statistical calculations. These are scoring topics.

◆ **Always carry - Ruler, Protractor with a small pencil, Compass** and use them even for rough figures which carry marks.

◆ **It is OK not to get 100/100 or even 70/100.** Do the simple stuff. Work out every sum of every exercise including the solved examples on your own as much as you can. Ask for guidance when stuck. Practise at least 5 sums daily, either from what was taught on that day or from previous matter. **Regular, daily work in Math is a must.**

Avoid MUGGING UP SUMS.

◆ **Using the GUIDE to learn Math is a NO - NO.** Lots of steps are left unexplained in the solutions leaving you more confused. If you are going for tuition, request your teacher not to teach you from the guide. The text also does not give complete explanations. Pay careful attention to your teacher's explanation in class. If you don't understand the first time, ask for a second

explanation or watch a video on the topic but don't copy down solutions just to complete the home work. Even worse is taking a friend's book to complete your own. There's no success without effort.

◆ **It is important right from std. 5 to**

get some basic concepts understood clearly. BODMAS, Addition & Subtraction of Fractions, Use of LCM & Cross Multiplication, Simple Equations, Laws of Indices, Multiplication & Division by multiples of 10, Algebraic Expressions and operations on them, are some important ones. These form the basics of Math. Take your formative assignments seriously. They test your grasp of such concepts.

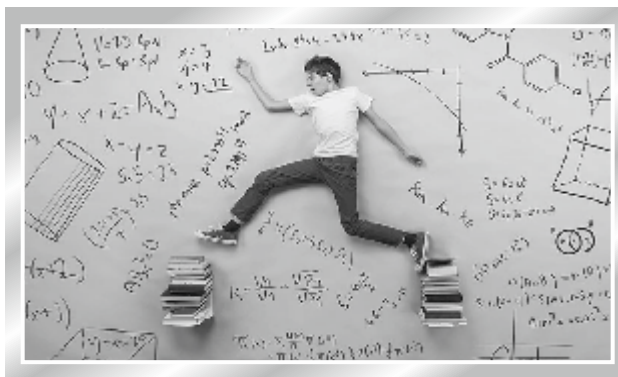
◆ **Be neat in your work and presentation.** Don't cover your page with calculations. Use the Rough Work Column on the right. If you have read point 1, you will realize mental Math will make this work much less.

◆ **Mathematics is a concentric subject,** hence keep the texts of preceding years for brushing up.

Dr. A. P. J. Kalam was not born with a silver spoon in his mouth. It was his interest, dedication, perseverance that earned him the epithet 'Missile Man' and got him elected as the 'People's President.'

When studying Science bear in mind the following:

◆ **Most of the answers to the questions asked in the exercises are to be found within**



the text itself. The Science texts also have a lot of application-based or 'GK' questions, such as 'Can you Tell, Brain Power' and 'QR codes' for learning more about a topic than just what is in the lesson. Answers to all of these can be found within the concepts covered in the lesson. If you are not able to formulate the answers, you may use the guide but make sure you select valid points whose wordings match those of the text. *This is applicable for all subjects.

◆ **PLEASE avoid studying directly from the guide.** These are written by persons with many degrees to their name but who forget to keep the answers to the level of students. The same applies to Shalaa.com or even Quora which gives multiple answers to the same question. If you are under the impression that if you write extra matter or write something that is not in the text, you will get additional marks, think again.

◆ **Write answers in point form, even when giving a scientific reason.**

◆ **If you are watching a video on any topic, make sure you stop the video now and then and make notes** of what you have watched. Otherwise it's a TP (timepass) exercise.

Diagrams are a given in Science. Practise them in the notebook and not in the air. They should be drawn to size, all parts neatly labelled on one side if possible and boxed.

◆ **Questions on Science are to be answered to the point.** If a definition is asked, write just that, no need to give examples. If there are some difficult words, you could substitute them with simpler ones after verifying the meaning. For example: ambiguity regarding Hydrogen can be rephrased as problem No expressing in your own words, as you would do in a language paper.

◆ **Wordings of Laws, Definitions, Principles are researched thoroughly before release.** Don't change them.

◆ **The texts have many small experiments that students can perform on their own, some with adult supervision.** Try them out to build an interest in the subject.

◆ **As you progress you will realize that certain chapters appeal to you.** This is an

indication that your choice of a career in Science if you choose to follow it, lies in that area. The Science stream offers a multitude of options, not just medical and engineering.

◆ **Two major drawbacks of Technology where Learning is concerned are the 'Click Button' and 'Swipe left/right' syndromes.** They lead to a short attention span and lack of focus. Consequently, you find reading the text in any subject – BORING. But this an extremely important activity. As you read a chapter with a pencil in hand, underline, bracket, highlight words and sentences that seem important to you. Prepare your own question bank from what you have marked and then see how easily you will have completed the studying of the chapter. The Science texts are very colourful, and the matter is in a large font, so **READ THE TEXT.**

◆ **Most topics in Science are covered in every std.,** so keep the books of the previous years for reference.

◆ **Last but not the least. Science is found all around us,** from every breath we take to the multitude of flora and fauna we perceive, so don't limit yourself to just the lessons in your Science texts. No matter how small your home you can always find place for a few pots in which you can grow plants preferably herbal ones. Generate your own compost if you have the space for it. As a birthday present ask for a fish tank and learn how to care for fish. Adopt a stray cat or dog and develop a whole lot of virtues. Watch DIY videos to make feeders from soft drink bottles and create homes from cartons. Then watch in amazement as different birds come to satisfy their hunger and procreate.

The above may not make for a very interesting read but it is how I taught my two children and scores of others as a teacher of High School Math and Science for 30+ years. So go ahead and master these subjects! All the best for the new academic year.



Ninette D'Souza is a prolific writer and retired teacher of Canossa High School, Mahim.

FAMILY: Father and Mother, I Love You

-Severina Pires

Every child born into this world has a mum and a dad. Sacred scriptures record the intervention of God's salvation in the lives of humans, each person mentioned is identified through his/her parents, beginning with the children of Adam and Eve. Parents give their children a sense of identity without which one could feel lost or disoriented. There are no perfect parents, as there are no perfect children. Parents always need assistance in their lofty calling (GS 47). Jesus revealed the love of the Father, who is rich in mercy (Luke 15).

Here are a few reflections on the hallmark qualities seen in parents:

1. **Proud Parents:** Parents who feel good about their parenthood auto instil in their child a confidence and good self-worth. Parents are on the right track when they regard their children as children of God and respect them as human persons (CCC 2222). God has willed that after Him we should honour our Parents to whom we owe life (Exodus 20:12), a respect to be given throughout their life and has its roots in the fear of the God, one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit. Aren't you blessed when you have gratitude towards your parents who by the gift of life, their love and hard work, have helped you to grow in stature, wisdom and grace (Lk 2:52).
2. **Praying Parents:** When they become parents, spouses receive from God the gift of a new responsibility (GS 14), bringing their children to a gradual discovery the love of God fostered through prayer, to personal dialogue with Him, to worship Him. Graced with the dignity and office of fatherhood and motherhood, parents lead the way by example and family prayer (GS 48). Family prayer is prayer offered in common, husband and wife together, parents and children together. Parents are blessed as they rejoice in the righteousness of their children (Proverbs 23:24), inculcated through family prayer.
3. **Pushy Parents:** We come across some parents who will go to great lengths to bring out the best in their youngsters; by their wisdom, encouragement and personal example, these parents give roots to their child and then slowly help their child to develop their wings to fly and soar high. On the other hand, there are parents who can

push their child to the brink or force the child to do something wrong, just to achieve their own selfish goals and ambitions.

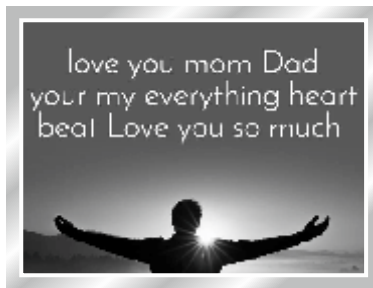
4. **Protective Parents:** Have you observed spouses who mutually cherish and care for each another? This is so uplifting, isn't it? A sense of protection and well-being is passed on by default to their children, as they grow and develop in an environment of security and positive self-worth. Truly children will do well if they listen to advice and accept instruction, to gain wisdom for the future (Prov 19:20).

5. **Punishing Parents:** We come across some parents who are strict in their ways and are always looking out for opportunities to penalize their child or take punitive action. At the back of this type of behaviour may be the attitude of 'spare the rod and spoil the child'. However, this kind of behaviour though needed at times must be accompanied with rewards

and encouragement at appropriate moments, otherwise a strict demeanour can mar the personality of the child. Little ones and young ones long for less correcting and more connecting, more hugging and less tugging.

6. **Privileged Parents:** Have you realized that you are a privileged child because you have the kind of parents who treasure you and act towards you with a sense of responsibility. This continues even after the child becomes an adult and has children of their own. Why is this so? Parenthood is always a matter of choice, however, making a decision to accept this responsibility and accept the gift of a child/children fulfils the vocation of married couples to bring a family into formation. The Divine Fatherhood is the source of human fatherhood (Eph 3:14), the couple are called to be ready with stout hearts to co-operate with the love of the Creator and the Saviour (HV 50).

7. **Pampering Parents:** They are the kind who will never say No to their child's requests and give in to every whim and fancy of their wards, sometimes going to any extent to fulfil this. Parents may be taken for granted. Despite everything given, young ones will long for the company of their parents and a listening ear.



8. **Praise Bestowing Parents:** I have seen parents who are always praising their children before others. Sensitive to the limitations of their child, they will never be heard uttering a complaint or criticizing their child but always affirming them yet gently correcting them. These are the kind of parents who are at peace, thanking the Almighty and uplifting their children. Youngsters dread when parents give in to comparisons between their children.
9. **Persevering Parents:** We raise our hearts in gratitude and a salute to parents who are preserving in their responsibilities despite their own limitations or having a child with limitations. They are always looking out to give the best to their child in spite of their own struggles and sacrifices. Parents who work hard to try and smooth the rough places in the road for those who will follow them are truly heroic in the eyes of their child. What can children give back to them that equal the parents gift to the child? (Sir 7: 27-28).

In conclusion, we are also faced with serious disturbances in families by situations of polygamy, excessive self love, divorce, economic

conditions, by influences at once social and psychological and by demands of civil society (GS 41). There is no need to give up hope or blame one another. Avenues of correcting and improving the gaps in the parent-child relationship are available through the intervention of a trusted mentor or counsellor or educator. Families who are blessed can in turn reach out to the children forsaken, abandoned or deprived of parental love. Most of all, the Promise of God brings hope and healing: "Though my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will receive me." (Ps 27:10). "I Will Not forget you. Behold, I have inscribed you on the Palms of my Hands!" (Is 49: 15-16).

Let's love our Parents! May the example and prayer of the Holy Family of Nazareth strengthen and fructify parents and children.



Severina Peres has considerable experience in the banking industry and enjoys writing short articles based on Encyclicals and Church Documents. She is also interested in assisting senior citizens.



There is no Joy Greater than the Joy of GIVING

Melvyn D'Mello, Thane (West)

I wish to continue my sponsorship of a child. Please accept my monthly donation of Rs. 1,250 towards the yearly sponsorship of Rs. 15,000, for a Balbhavan boy.

Sosamma Saji, Al Ain, U.A.E.

I am pleased to send you a donation of Rs. 80,000 (May and June). This is my humble gift for your orphanage children. Please accept this money and pray for me and my family. I am 100% sure that Fr. Agnelo is always praying for us.

Flemy Thekketh, Thrissur, Kerala

My small contribution of Rs. 2,000 has been sent via NEFT for the needs of Fr. Agnel Ashram and the Balbhavan orphanage.

Zacharias Joseph Mannala, Sharjah, U.A.E.

I have made a donation of Rs. 25,000 by direct transfer, for supporting your service to the poor and needy. May I request your prayers for peace, good health, safe journey and jobs for all my family members.

Infanto Kevin Edward, Chennai

Kindly accept our contribution of Rs. 2,000, on

behalf of late Raphael Motha (my grandfather), who used to regularly support Fr. Agnel Ashram. Do keep us in your prayers.

Jerin & Tessy Sunny, Ulwe, Navi Mumbai

I have sent an amount of Rs. 50,000 via NEFT bank transfer, for the needs and maintenance of the Balbhavan boys and for Fr. Agnel Ashram. I also wish to donate towards the yearly sponsorship of the boys. Please accept my humble contribution.

Hiten Bajaj, U.A.E.

I wish to sponsor lunch for two days and breakfast for one day for the Balbhavan children. I am sending an amount of Rs. 19,000 via NEFT for this purpose. Please arrange for the same from your side and do the needful.

Gaurang & Poonam Mehta, Kanjurmarg, Mumbai

We would like to donate an amount of Rs. 15,000 through Google Pay, towards the annual sponsorship of one boy of the Balbhavan orphanage.

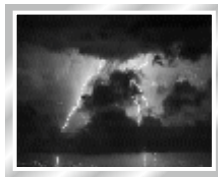
JUST FOR FUN

-Christine D'Sylva

The month of July is a rainy month and a blessing from the scorching heat of summer. It is a month that we Christians dedicate to the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ. July is a month of cosy rainy days, umbrellas and rainbows too.

So let's begin...

Thunderstorms



A thunderstorm is also known as an electrical storm or lightning storm and is characterised by the presence of lightning and its acoustic effect on the Earth's atmosphere. Relatively weak

thunderstorms are called thundershowers.

Thunderstorms occur in a cloud known as cumulonimbus, are accompanied by strong winds and produce heavy rain, sometimes snow, sleet or hail.

Strong or severe thunderstorms included large hail, strong winds and tornadoes. In the US the Tri-State tornado of March 18, 1925, killed 695 people in Missouri, Illinois and Indiana.

On April 25, 1989, an F4 tornado ripped through the Manikganj District in Bangladesh. It is estimated that 1,300 people died. It uprooted trees, destroyed homes and left 80,000 people homeless. This Daulatpur-Saturia tornado is the deadliest in history.

Quiz Time



1. In which country it rains the most?
2. Which place has the highest rainfall in India?
3. Which place in India receives the lowest rainfall?

4. Which country has unpredictable weather and tea is the most favoured drink here?



Smile Please

1. Relationships are a lot like Algebra. Have you ever looked at your X and wondered Y?
2. Do you know that dolphins are so smart that within a few weeks of captivity, they can train people to stand

on the edge of the pool and throw fish to them.

3. A Doberman, a Golden Retriever and a cat died. They met God.



The Doberman said, "I will protect you with my life."

"You can sit on my right," said God.

The Golden Retriever said, "I will fetch your slippers and do anything you ask me to."

God said, "Then you can sit on my left side."

Finally God looked at the cat and asked, "And what will you do?"

The cat replied, "Excuse me, I think you are sitting on my seat."

4. A woman gets on a bus with her baby.

The driver says, "That's is the ugliest baby I ever saw."

The woman gets upset and sits down at the back of the bus.

She says to the man next to her, "The driver just insulted me."

The man says, "You go up there and tell him off. Go on, I will hold your monkey for you."

Riddles



1. Which word is always spent wrong?
2. Which invention lets you look right through a wall?
3. An electric train is headed east. Where should the

smoke go?

4. What four letter word can be read from forward and backward?

5. What has a head, a tail but no body?

Brain Teasers

1. There is a word in the English language. The first two letters signify a male, the first three letters signify a female, the first four a great man and the whole word a great woman. What is the word?

2. I have a big mouth and I am quite loud. I am not a gossip but I get involved in everyone's dirty business. What am I?

3. When my dad was 32 years old, I was seven years. Now my dad is twice my age. What is my

present age?

4. $A + A + A = 36$

$A + B + B = 28$

$B - C = 3$

What is the value of C?

5. If $2 = 6$

$3 = 12$

$4 = 20$

$5 = 30$

$6 = 42$

Then $9 = ?$

Rainbows

A rainbow is a magical sight. Everyone loves rainbows.

It is an optical phenomenon that can occur under certain metrological conditions. It is caused by refraction, internal reflection and dispersion of light in water droplets resulting in a continuous spectrum of light appearing in the sky.

The rainbow takes the form of a multi-coloured circular arc. The seven colours are violet, indigo, blue, yellow, green, orange and red.

A rainbow is often seen as a sign of hope and it is said there is a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow.

Judy Garland in the movie, The Wizard of Oz sang the famous song 'Somewhere over the Rainbow.'

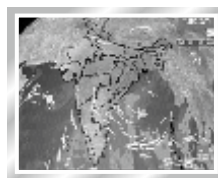
When God spoke to Noah in the Old Testament, God promised him that he would establish his covenant with him. Never again all life would be cut off by the waters of a flood and never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth. He told him that he set a rainbow in the clouds and it will be the sign of the covenant between Him and the earth.

Whenever we view a rainbow in the sky, it is a reminder of God's eternal promise to his creation and it symbolises the healing connection between Heaven and earth.

A double rainbow is a beautiful sight. The dark band between the two rainbows is known as the Alexander's band after Alexander of Aphrodisias first described it in 200 AD.

Double rainbows are formed when sunlight is reflected twice within a raindrop, and the violet light that reaches the observer's eye comes from the higher raindrops and the red light from the lower raindrops. A double rainbow is seen as a symbol of good luck and prosperity. So if you see one, you are going to be lucky!

What's the Good Word? - All about the weather



1. A strong wind used in nautical contexts.

2. A tropical storm.

3. A storm that hovers over the Northwest Pacific Ocean.

4. A system of winds that are rotating inwards to an area of low barometric pressure

That's all for this month. Take care and see you next month.

Answers

Quiz

1. Colombia. 2. Mawsynram in Meghalaya. 3. Ruyli located in Jaisalmer district in Rajasthan. 4. United Kingdom.

Riddles

1. Wrong. 2. A window. 3. Electric trains do not produce smoke. 4. Noon. 5. A coin.

Brain Teasers

1. Heroine.
2. Vacuum cleaner.
3. 25.
4. 5.
5. 72

What is the Good Word?

1. Gale. 2. Hurricane. 3. Typhoon. 4. Cyclone.



Christine is an author of over 30 books available on Amazon worldwide in paperback and Kindle. She also enjoys playing the piano and has a YouTube cooking channel Christine D'Sylva's fusion kitchen.

Grandparents - Guardians of the family

-Jacqueline Kelly

Human life at any age is most precious in the eyes of God. "Every human community must necessarily have over it someone in authority; for without a head and a directing authority it would fall to pieces. Moreover, it could not attain the purpose for which it came into being or was founded." - Pope Leo XIII.



St. Joachim and St. Anne,
Grandparents of Jesus Christ

Change is the order of life. The fast pace with which change is sweeping our lives is unbelievable. Relationships in the real world are driven more by practicalities than emotions. All these changes have taken its toll on the individual and the family. The family as a social unit has undergone change. What was desirable and acceptable has sadly been replaced.

In spite of modern gadgets for communication, there is still a wide gap and that makes old people weary and face an unusual situation in the worldly life. This is a case of serious concern as ageing parents face loneliness. Children go overseas seeking jobs or for higher studies and as a result they are isolated from the grip of parents and grandparents. Life is rather hectic and even though the love for the parents and grandparents exist, we do forget to take care of the lonely and the aged. Old parents deserve the right to spend their struggling years in dignified comfort. It becomes difficult for most youth to accept the fact that they too will one day grow old.

Old people have a special grace and dignity. In the course of their lives, they have had great experience, and often have worked very hard. Therefore, we should always show respect towards them, treat them courteously, be concerned for their comfort, and help them whenever possible.

The Holy Scripture says: "*Rise up from thy seat in reverence for grey hairs*" (Leviticus 19:32). The grand child to grandparent relationship is so often a cherished one and yet challenges can crop up when young ones are faced with the grandparents' behavioural changes, whether they are due to ageing, illness or both. Parents should prepare their kids for these changes and explain why they are happening.

Happy families have strong family bonds. Parents, as the leaders of the family unit, have to be responsible for strengthening and protecting these bonds. It doesn't happen naturally in our hectic day-to-day lives. A happy family does not need to be perfect.

There are many misconceptions about old age. Ageing could be a glorious adventure if viewed from a different perspective. In old age, save only those memories which give a twinkle in your eyes and not wrinkles on your face.

The Bible contains many stories of righteous people who continued serving God even in old age. **By**

tradition, Saint Joachim and Saint Anne are the names of the parents of Mary, Mother of God. The Gospels give no indication as regards the parents of Our Lady. But the Proto-Gospel of James, dating back to the middle of the 2nd century names them as Anna- or Hannah, which means "grace" and Joachim, denoting "Yahweh saves", and declares that their daughter Mary was born in answer to fervent prayer after a long childless marriage.

In bringing Mary to the temple at the age of three and dedicating her to the service of God in fulfilment of Anne's promise - "Let us make a vow to God for an offspring. We will consecrate the child He gives us back to Him" they both come through as perfect role models for Christian parents of every age and time, models of fidelity, diligence, piety and modesty.

It was their teaching that led Mary to respond to God's request with faith, "*Let it be done to me as You will.*" It was their example of parenting that Mary must have followed as she brought up her own Son, Jesus. It was their faith that laid the foundation of courage and strength that allowed her to stand by the Cross as her Son was crucified.

Saint Anne of Aaron was of the prestigious Hebrew tribe of Levi. She possessed great virtue and wisdom. Saint Joachim was a descendant of King David, Tribe of Judah. He was an upright man who had great faith in God, so in his family there was great honour and joy. Saint Joachim was the father of Mary, the mother who bore Jesus Christ, the Divine Saviour who changed the course of world history and set it on another path which, if followed leads to eternal life.

The feasts of Saint Anne and of Saint Joachim were quite ancient in the Eastern Church (4th century) but came to be observed universally in the 15th or 16th century, on 26th July.

Grandparents are someone with silver in their hair and gold in their hearts.

Jacqueline Kelly is a regular contributor of articles to different publications.



FR. AGNEL'S BLESSINGS

THANKSGIVING FOR A NEW HOUSE

VILE PARLE: I am thankful to Ven. Fr. Agnel for helping me get my own home. I have come to the Ashram and made an offering.

-B. Jeo

THANKSGIVING FOR THE GIFT OF A CHILD

USA: We have been blessed with a child through the kind intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel. An offering has been made to the Ashram.

-A. D. D'Souza

THANKSGIVING FOR GOOD HEALTH

MAHIM: Through the kind intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel, my family and I have been blessed with good health. With a grateful heart, I have offered five Masses at Fr. Agnel Ashram, Bandra.

-B. Lobo

THANKSGIVING FOR TAKING POSSESSION OF OUR NEW HOUSE

BANDRA (W): I am very much thankful to Ven. Fr. Agnel for helping me get a new house. I have come to the Ashram and made an offering.

-J. Parmar & Family

BLESSINGS ON FAMILY

VILE PARLE: Through the kind intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel, our family has been blessed abundantly. With a grateful heart, I have come to the Ashram and made a love offering in thanksgiving.

-V. Misquita

THANKSGIVING FOR FAVOURS RECEIVED

VASAI: Through the kind intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel, I have received many favours. With a grateful heart, I have made a love offering to Fr. Agnel Ashram, Bandra

-S. Pereira

THANKSGIVING FOR GOOD HEALTH

VASAI: Ven. Fr. Agnel has blessed us immensely. We are indeed grateful for all the favours received.

- N. Lopes

THANKSGIVING FOR ANSWERING PRAYERS

DADAR (W): My prayers have been answered. I have received many favours, through the kind intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel. A thanksgiving offering of Rs. 500 has been made at the Ashram.

-A. Lobo

THANKSGIVING FOR PRAYERS ANSWERED

PUNE: Through the kind intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel, I have received many favours. A love offering has been given at Fr. Agnel Ashram, Bandra.

-B. Fernandes

THANKSGIVING FOR A GOOD JOB

ANDHERI (E): Through the kind intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel, I have received several favours. A thanksgiving offering of Rs. 200 has been given to the Ashram.

-C. Dias

THANKSGIVING FOR GOOD HEALTH

UTTAN: Through the kind intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel, I have been blessed abundantly. A thanksgiving offering has been sent to the Ashram.

-N. Dunga

THANKSGIVING FOR BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

ANDHERI (SAKINAKA): I am thankful to Ven. Fr. Agnel for showering his blessings on my birthday. With a grateful heart, I have come to the Ashram and made a love offering.

-V. Fernandes

THANKSGIVING FOR FAVOURS RECEIVED

VASAI: My family has been blessed with many favours, through the kind intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel. A thanksgiving offering has been given to the Ashram.

-O. A. D'Costa

OUT OF THEIR BOUNTY

P. Srivastava	Mumbai	1,97,000	A. Rane	Mumbai	3,000	P. Patwardhan	Pune	1,500
P. Ved	Mumbai	28,000	A. Rodrigues	Mumbai	3,000	R. Solanki	Mumbai	1,500
A. Aloz	Vasai	25,000	A. Santhappan	Tamil Nadu	3,000	S. Bohra	Mumbai	1,500
Ancy	Mumbai	25,000	Antony O.	Kerala	3,000	T. Punnen	Kerala	1,500
M. Simon	Gujarat	24,706	D. Issac	Karnataka	3,000	Y. Sakpal	Thane	1,500
G. Naik	Mumbai	20,000	E. Remedios	Mumbai	3,000	M. D'Mello	Thane	1,250
J. Puthur	Kerala	20,000	Fittech Inds.	Mumbai	3,000	M. James	Kerala	1,100
M. Fernandes	Mumbai	20,000	G. Xavier	Kerala	3,000	V. Badge	Mumbai	1,022
G. Katak	Mumbai	15,000	Irudayaraj M.	Tamil Nadu	3,000	Irani	Mumbai	1,002
J. Achuthan	Mumbai	15,000	J. Kurian	Kerala	3,000	A. Das	Thane	1,001
A. Lobo	Mumbai	13,000	Lara	Vasai	3,000	Louis	Mumbai	1,001
Agnelo	Goa	10,000	M. Rimani	Gujarat	3,000	A. Christian	Gujarat	1,000
B. D'Souza	Mumbai	10,000	R. Gonsalves	Vasai	3,000	A. Doshi	Mumbai	1,000
C. Pereira	Vasai	10,000	S. Furtado	Goa	3,000	A. George	Mumbai	1,000
F. Rodrigues	Vasai	10,000	S. George	Muscat	3,000	A. Gonsalves	Vasai	1,000
H. Wilson	Australia	10,000	S. Inigo	Tamil Nadu	3,000	A. Jaman	Mumbai	1,000
J. Creado	Mumbai	10,000	X. Rebello	Mumbai	3,000	A. Kemu	Mumbai	1,000
J. Jadhav	Mumbai	10,000	Lakshmi/Mini	Kerala	2,750	A. Khavri	Palghar	1,000
M. D'Souza	Mumbai	10,000	R. Patel	Mumbai	2,500	A. King	Mumbai	1,000
N. Solanki	Gujarat	10,000	S. Pinto	Mumbai	2,500	A. Nadar	Mumbai	1,000
P. Braganza	Mumbai	10,000	S. Samuel	Kerala	2,500	A. Patel	Mumbai	1,000
R. Fernandes	Pune	10,000	S. Rozario	Palghar	2,400	A. Rose Mary	Tamil Nadu	1,000
Rubertina	Mumbai	10,000	V. Pachchigar	Gujarat	2,100	A. Shirali	Mumbai	1,000
S. Joshi	Canada	10,000	A. Kumar	Mumbai	2,001	C. Gonsalves	Vasai	1,000
S. Koyande	Thane	10,000	A. Elavia	Mumbai	2,000	D. Bhanga	Mumbai	1,000
Subramaniam R.	Mumbai	10,000	A. Honavar	Mumbai	2,000	D. Patel	Mumbai	1,000
A. Thomas	Kerala	9,500	A. Stephen	Tamil Nadu	2,000	D. Saras	Kerala	1,000
C. Alvares	Mumbai	9,000	A. Vaz	Mumbai	2,000	D. Varghese	Kerala	1,000
E. D'Sylva	Mumbai	9,000	Agnello	Vasai	2,000	Deon/Joel	Kerala	1,000
M. Mathew	Kerala	8,000	Allwyn	Mumbai	2,000	E. Abraham	Kerala	1,000
N. Chettiar	Mumbai	8,000	B. D'Silva	Vasai	2,000	G. Gabriel	Mumbai	1,000
Z. Nair	Mumbai	8,000	B. Dutt	Kolkata	2,000	G. Mathias	M.P.	1,000
A. Jeyaseelan	Mumbai	7,000	B. Rebello	Vasai	2,000	G. Vaz	Mumbai	1,000
E. Rebello	Mumbai	7,000	C. Engles	Punjab	2,000	H. Gupta	Mumbai	1,000
F. Solanki	Palghar	6,000	Cranetech Eqpts.	Mumbai	2,000	H. Hannikeri	Karnataka	1,000
J. Patel	Mumbai	6,000	D. Alphonso	Mumbai	2,000	H. Prajapati	Mumbai	1,000
M. Macwan	Gujarat	6,000	D. Mascarenhas	Andhra Pradesh	2,000	I. D'Costa	Mumbai	1,000
N. Jino	Mumbai	6,000	Darragh Smail & Co.	Kerala	2,000	J. Fernando	Mumbai	1,000
Philomena	Mumbai	6,000	E. Bhosle	Mumbai	2,000	J. Gala	Mumbai	1,000
Techno Prod.	Chennai	6,000	F. Saldanha	Mumbai	2,000	J. Jamble	Mumbai	1,000
W. Fernandes	Mumbai	6,000	G. Agnel	Kerala	2,000	J. Magar	Mumbai	1,000
A. Philip	Kerala	5,500	G. Arputharaj	Tamil Nadu	2,000	J. Parmar	Gujarat	1,000
Sagaya	Tamil Nadu	5,500	G. Corda	Mumbai	2,000	J. Rebello	Vasai	1,000
K. Engineer	Mumbai	5,101	G. Nunes	Mumbai	2,000	J. Rodrigues	Mumbai	1,000
G. Nautiyal	Thane	5,001	G. Rajesh	Ahmednagar	2,000	J. Saldanha	Mumbai	1,000
Joseph/Brigit	Kerala	5,001	H. Kenny	Mumbai	2,000	J. Sales	Tamil Nadu	1,000
A. Correya	Kerala	5,000	J. Caleb	Goa	2,000	J. Thomas	Kerala	1,000
A. D'Souza	Mumbai	5,000	J. Chackochen	Kerala	2,000	L. Abraham	Kerala	1,000
A. Fernandes	Mumbai	5,000	K. Antony	Kerala	2,000	L. D'Silva	Karnataka	1,000
C. Vanjare	Ahmednagar	5,000	K. D'Souza	Mumbai	2,000	L. D'Souza	Thane	1,000
D. Algotra	Gujarat	5,000	L. Menezes	Karnataka	2,000	L. George	Kerala	1,000
D. Gonsalves	Palghar	5,000	M. Antony	Kerala	2,000	L. Savarimuthu	Tamil Nadu	1,000
F. Fernandes	Mumbai	5,000	M. Cardoz	Mumbai	2,000	M. Gonsalves	Vasai	1,000
G. Fernando	Mumbai	5,000	M. D'Mello	Vasai	2,000	M. Helen	Kerala	1,000
H. Basil	Kerala	5,000	M. D'Souza	Pune	2,000	M. Nathani	Mumbai	1,000
H. Methos	Palghar	5,000	M. Mathai	Kerala	2,000	M. Sheth	Mumbai	1,000
J. Jeyaraj	Mumbai	5,000	M. Paul	Kerala	2,000	N. Babu	Kerala	1,000
J. Rodrigues	Palghar	5,000	N. Shastry	Thane	2,000	N. Bhoan	Mumbai	1,000
Jeeja J.	Kerala	5,000	O. Coutinho	Mumbai	2,000	P. Blaise	Kerala	1,000
L. D'Souza	Vasai	5,000	P. Daruwalla	Mumbai	2,000	R. Carval	Vasai	1,000
L. Fernandes	Daman	5,000	P. Fernandes	Mumbai	2,000	R. D'Souza	Vasai	1,000
L. Saldanha	Mumbai	5,000	R. Fernando	Tamil Nadu	2,000	R. Ghelani	Mumbai	1,000
M. John	Kerala	5,000	R. George	Kerala	2,000	R. Jacinto	Mumbai	1,000
M. Joseph	Kerala	5,000	R. Johnson	Kerala	2,000	R. Phakul	Palghar	1,000
M. Parmar	Gujarat	5,000	R. Motha	Tamil Nadu	2,000	Raju A. X.	Kerala	1,000
P. Singh	Uthasnagar	5,000	R. Valladares	Mumbai	2,000	Roque	Mumbai	1,000
R. Chitra	Tamil Nadu	5,000	R. Vaz	Mumbai	2,000	S. Anoop	Kerala	1,000
R. D'Souza	Mumbai	5,000	Rebello & Fly	Palghar	2,000	S. D'Souza	Palghar	1,000
S. Mannathukkarani	Kerala	5,000	S. Bellarmin	Mumbai	2,000	S. D'Souza	Mumbai	1,000
S. Pereira	Palghar	5,000	S. Fernandes	Vasai	2,000	S. Gomes	Kolkata	1,000
Z. Bharucha	Vasai	5,000	S. Joseph	Gujarat	2,000	S. Jagtap	Ahmednagar	1,000
Marian	Mumbai	4,001	S. Sonawle	Mumbai	2,000	S. Jain	Mumbai	1,000
A. Colacco	Vasai	4,000	S. Sudarshan	Mumbai	2,000	S. Macwan	Gujarat	1,000
D. Rodrigues	Mumbai	4,000	S. Thakur	Mumbai	2,000	S. Nunes	Vasai	1,000
Dev Mata Boat	Uttan	4,000	T. David	Mumbai	2,000	S. Pandya	Mumbai	1,000
J. Fernandes	Mumbai	4,000	T. George	Kerala	2,000	S. Rajesh	Mumbai	1,000
L. Fernandes & Fly	Mumbai	4,000	V. Dodhiya	Mumbai	2,000	S. Stephen	Tamil Nadu	1,000
M. Heli	Mumbai	4,000	V. D'Silva	Mumbai	2,000	S. Thomas	Mumbai	1,000
P. Hendricks	Tamil Nadu	4,000	V. D'Silva	Goa	2,000	S. Vaz	Vasai	1,000
Patel & Fly	Mumbai	4,000	V. D'Souza	Gujarat	2,000	Sajan S.	Mumbai	1,000
Popsons Trade	Kerala	4,000	V. John	Palghar	2,000	Sanjay/Rozy	Palghar	1,000
R. Francis	Kerala	4,000	V. Pereira	Mumbai	2,000	T. Joseph	Kerala	1,000
S. Kalivda	Mumbai	4,000	I. Parmar	Gujarat	1,600	T. Thomas	Kerala	1,000
S. Venkataramanan	Mumbai	3,600	Raj/Neena	Kerala	1,600	V. Allen	Kolkata	1,000
K. Patel	Mumbai	3,500	C. Patel	Mumbai	1,501	V. Almeida	Vasai	1,000
M. George	Kerala	3,500	A. Shinde	Thane	1,500	V. Arahna	Karnataka	1,000
H. Gala	Thane	3,070	B. Rosemary	Tamil Nadu	1,500	V. Lakhani	Mumbai	1,000
A. Antony	Kerala	3,000	C. D'Souza	Tamil Nadu	1,500	V. Mehta	Mumbai	1,000
A. Jadhav	Kerala	3,000	J. Dabre	Vasai	1,500	V. Solanki	Gujarat	1,000
A. Kuttikadan	Thane	3,000	N. Asher	Mumbai	1,500	Vincent	Gujarat	1,000
A. Mascarenhas	Thane	3,000	N. Rodrigues	Mumbai	1,500	Y. Modi	Mumbai	1,000
A. Paulose	Kerala	3,000				Z. Mistry	Mumbai	1,000

Bob's Banter

by Robert Clements

Hold Tight to Your Dream..!

"Bob, I also wanted to be a writer!" is something I hear at practically every party or gathering I go to.

"Oh!" I exclaim politely, "Then what happened?"

"People dissuaded me from being one!" they say dolefully.

"And you compromised?" I ask.

"Yes!" they whisper.

Ah well it's a story that's often told to me, and I do agree, sometimes it's a necessity, but most often it's just that you didn't hold too tight to your dream!

The story of a man who never compromised is that of Sylvester Stallone, one of the biggest and most

the studio said no, as they wanted a real star. He left with his script. A few weeks later, the studio offered him \$250,000 for the script. He refused. They even offered \$350,000. He still refused.

After a while, the studio agreed to give him \$35,000 for the script and let him star in it! The rest is history! The movie won Best Picture, Best Directing and Best Film Editing at the prestigious Oscar Awards. He was even nominated for Best Actor! The Movie ROCKY was even inducted into the American National Film Registry as one of the greatest movies ever!

Today, the same Stallone who slept in the streets and sold his dog, is one of the greatest movie stars! Have you ever had a dream? A wonderful




Become a Powerful Writer and Speaker!

Taught by Robert Clements himself

Online course of 1 month
4 hours a week
and write like a Professional

- Write a Book
- Speak at functions
- Create change around you

Send a  to : +91 98925-72883

famous American movie superstars. Stallone was a struggling actor in every definition. He slept at the New York bus station for 3 days. Unable to pay rent or afford food, his lowest point came when he tried to sell his dog as he didn't have money to feed the dog anymore. He sold it at \$25 only.

He says he walked away crying.

Two weeks later, he saw a boxing match between Mohammed Ali and Chuck Wepner and that match gave him the inspiration to write the script for the famous movie, ROCKY. He wrote the script for 20 hours! He tried to sell it and got an offer for \$125,000 for the script.

But his dream was to be an actor, and he had only one request, he wanted to star in the movie. But

dream? But you are too broke to implement it? Too tiny to do it? Too small to accomplish it?

Life is tough. It's a tough world. Maybe rough. Doors will be shut on You. People will steal your glory and crash your hopes. You will push and push. And then your hopes will crash.

But never let anybody crush your dream. Hold tight to your dream! Fight on! Fight for your place in history, it's waiting for you..!

Robert Clements is a newspaper columnist, whose column has graced over 80 newspapers and on certain days has a readership of over 6 million. He can be contacted at bobsbanter@gmail.com



WATER BOWL CHALLENGE & WALKATHON FOR ANIMAL WELFARE

AT FR. CONCEICAO RODRIGUES COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING, BANDRA

In celebration of the first anniversary of The Animal Care Organization (TACO), the #Waterbowlchallenge and #Walkathon for Animal Welfare event was organized with the aim of creating awareness about the need for better animal welfare. The event, organized jointly by **Anil Agarwal Foundation's initiative, The Animal Care Organization (TACO), and renowned actor Bhumi Pednekar's NGO, Climate Warrior**, brought together over 600 enthusiastic participants at Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues College of Engineering, Bandra, on 10th May 2023.

With the support of **Vedanta Foundation** and **Fr. Agnel Ashram**, this event successfully highlighted the importance of animal welfare and distributed over 500 water bowls to participants to place at their homes, emphasizing the significance of providing hydration for animals. The initiative aimed to encourage individuals to place these bowls in their homes, ensuring that animals in their vicinity would have access to water, especially during the scorching summer months.

The event commenced with the much-awaited launch of the heartwarming TACO Song. Thereafter, the participants eagerly took part in a vibrant and energetic walkathon, spreading the message of animal welfare to a wider audience.



(Sitting from right to left): **Rev. Fr. Valerian D'Souza**, Director, Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues College of Engineering, Bandra, **Actor Bhumi Pednekar**, **Priya Agarwal Hebbar**, Anchor – TACO and Founder - YODA and **Princy John**, Director, TACO.



Bhumi Pednekar (left) and **Priya Agarwal Hebbar** (right) flagging off the **Walkathon**.

As a part of the event, a veterinary health checkup was organized for all the pet owners in attendance. The NGO YODA, known for its commitment to animal welfare, conducted the health checkups.

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 : 28

PRN - MCN/175/2021-2023
to post at concession rate on 14th & 15th
Licence to post without prepayment
No. MR/TECH/WPP-87/NORTH/2021-2023
at Bandra Post Office, West, Mumbai - 400 050.

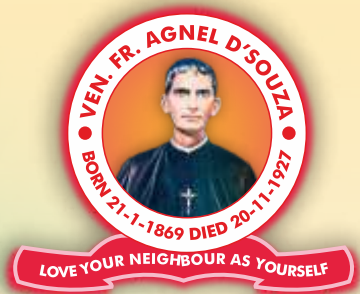
THE AGNEL COMMUNITY WISHES

Rev. Fr. Jose Alarico Carvalho
Editor, Fr. Agnel Ashram News



ON HIS SACERDOTAL GOLDEN JUBILEE

**We are grateful to God for blessing us with you in our lives.
You have been our spiritual guide and mentor.
We wish you good health, peace, happiness and success
throughout your priestly journey.**



If not delivered please return to

FR. AGNEL ASHRAM

P.B. No. 6656, Bandstand, Bandra (West), Mumbai – 400 050, Maharashtra, India.
Tel.: 022 - 67114000 | Mobile: 091 - 7738009137

Email us at : fragnelashrambandra@gmail.com | Website : www.agnelashram.org