

FR. AGNEL

# ASHRAM NEWS

MAY 2024

THANK YOU MY BEST

# MOM

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY



*Honouring the selfless love, boundless sacrifices and unwavering support of Mothers*

MAY 2024

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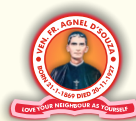
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## *The world you believe in, is the world you will create for yourself and others...*

However much you want to believe that there is nothing you can do about what is happening around you, you could well be wrong! Our outlook of the world is often perceived as determined by some external source or what we might call destiny, which what fatalistic or deterministic theories state. The other outlook that governs all we do in our world, is based on the perception that we believe we have free will, we act freely and plan our present and future according to what we decide to do with free will. When we launch our satellites into space and land our capsule on the moon, we do it by meticulous planning, based on scientific calculations, arrived from millions of telemetry data that we have gathered, and decide what speed the rocket should have, at what time and distance, other rockets should be fired to change direction, and for how long, and when the back-burner would be fired if need be to reduce speed, all by design, and free will and never because we think that whatever we may do, it will end in a particular way.

A neurosurgeon who carries out a difficult, complex and delicate surgical intervention on a person, does so, after meticulous planning and study, and not by flipping coins. Nothing that we do, consciously and with a final objective in mind, is left to destiny (whatever it means). Our entire planning, technology, economic theories and investments are all carried out, out of certainty as perceived by us, and not out of certainty that destiny will give. Were it not so, our whole world would have to survive from day to day, based on what destiny (whatever it means to those who believe in it) will decide, and our day-to-day lives would be shrouded with complete uncertainty. Of course, you decide which team will bat or bowl first, because that decision is essentially based to establish uncertainty, or in other words to ensure that no one has been given undue advantage.

If there was no certainty, the coaching institutes would not be able to charge so much from young aspirants for IIT and MBBS. They charge you a lot of money, because they want to state that if you study what they teach you, in a manner they want you to study, and answer in a way they taught you to answer, you are sure to pass, although that seldom happens. Lots of students who attend coaching classes crack the IIT or NEET, but equally others do it, without ever attending coaching classes. Destiny plays no role here, it is the combination of hard work, a cool and confident mind, and the fact that in whatever questions students give chance answers, some click and others do not click. Once again it is not destiny, but the chance that one takes, without knowing what is the right answer, the right chance clicks for those who took the right chance, as well as for those who answered knowing what is the right answer. No destiny here too.

### **ME AND WHAT I WILL BE TOMORROW**

The problem that haunts us, is what kind of a world will our children inherit tomorrow, since destiny will play no role in it? Differently put, can we ensure that we and our children will be able to breathe free and grow healthy, have a safe environment to live and enjoy, grow and pursue our careers in safe and comfortable environments, in other words, will we be able to dream dreams and be happy, chasing those dreams? Is it possible to project a scenario which is more or less predictable without any astrological inputs. A lot of physical and as a consequence, economic disruptions are predictable due to what we have done to our planet, caused by climate change – floods due to incessant rains, droughts causing famines, and economic distress following large scale destruction and disruption. Wars and subsequent economic distress will follow due to human greed

and unwillingness to solve problems amicably, through give and take, and trust deficit and fear or military might. Large scale social disruptions, riots and violence can happen when governments and power groups create distrust between communities and incite uncontrolled violence. Large scale social unrest and violence can happen when democratic rights are controlled or denied, social discrimination happens as part of official policies and resultant unrest is let loose.

### **IS THERE A RECIPE FOR A GOOD FUTURE, CAN IT BE CERTAIN?**

This undoubtedly is a good question. Were we to proceed from where we ended in the last para, it is obvious that it is possible to obtain certainty, leaving aside acts of God, such as earthquakes, lightnings or unprecedented floods. I have purposely omitted famines because although these were considered acts of God in the past, they are no longer so now, since technology has the capacity to feed the world many times over.

If uncertainty is reduced to only acts of God, it is possible to predict a future of certainty. The only factor that can turn this power that mankind possesses, to ensure certainty, is the man (woman) and his desire to be less human. A nuclear war can destroy our planet many times over, biological weapons of mass destruction can decimate most of mankind, and the depredation of our planet can cause indescribable misfortune to our planet.

Mankind had the certainty of a happy future, exactly because he (she) has the free will to choose right and decide what will preserve and nourish humanity, against deciding to do the opposite. How can we prevent humanity or individuals from turning 'rogue'. Being 'rogue' is the outcome of a false perception, that one cause harm to others, and remain immune from that harm and damage one causes to others. Acts of hate, discrimination against others, and insensitivity towards others, arise out of a mental arrangement that decides in the first place that causing harm, depriving others of their rights, is normal. Every step in his process of deciding in this manner, is person neutral, i.e. when you hate, you do not need a person, you familiarize with the idea that causing harm, pain, death to others is fine. Only when this perception is embedded in the human mind, the object is selected, and by design the desire to harm, maim and kill does not end with one object/person because it becomes embedded and will always seek more victims.

To ensure a future to our families, our communities, our school and our villages and towns, it is absolutely essential that the idea of hate/discrimination/ideas of superiority and inferiority are not allowed to be embedded in our minds. This does not mean, that we will not have divisions, misunderstandings and fights, but they are instances of lack of control, self defense, etc. Hate that conditions our mind to hate, suspect, discriminate, etc. against others, is a result of self inflicted or socially acquired indoctrination. It needs to be based on an argument (although false), which means, a sub-conscious approval system is created within us.

### **THERE IS URGENT NEED TO CREATE A SANITIZED MIND THAT REJECTS HATE, ACTS OF VIOLENCE, DISCRIMINATION AND REVENGE!**

It sometimes appears that anything that is spoken of as 'good' is a religious connotation. Goodness is a natural conditioning of the human mind. That is why even a child, shrinks and gets frightened when someone is in pain or cries. Causing pain to others or to oneself is contrary to us, to our way of thinking and by the way even to animals. Our common effort for ensuring a future for us and our children and our communities, our villages and towns, is to ensure that we do now allow our minds to be conditioned to hate, causing pain to others, etc. When all of us, men, women and children, including infants, decide to be human, to hold fast to what we are, humans, our future is secure for us and for our kids, because the man-made mass scenario can never happen.

We, as adults, can create a world of our choice, provided we decide to do it, because the 'World belongs to the Brave', and to be brave means the refusal to be moved out from where you belong – a Brave Mind that is able to see what is right, what is essential for our survival and the courage to negate hate. The world will be safe, as long as there are Advocates of Hope, and Hope has a name – OUR DESIRE FOR SURVIVAL AND GROWTH.

*- Fr. Jose Alarico Carvalho*



# CELEBRATING MOTHER'S DAY

-Jubel D'Cruz

Mother's Day is celebrated in India and throughout the world every year on the second Sunday of May. This year, it falls on May 12. The extent of the celebration varies greatly.

In some countries, it is potentially offensive to one's mother not to mark Mother's Day. In others, it is a little known festival. In other countries, it is celebrated in an entirely different time of the year. But whatever may be the date of Mother's Day, the spirit of the celebration is the same everywhere.

Everywhere in the world, mothers are respected for their extreme devotion towards their children.

The word 'motherhood' symbolises love and kindness, patience, sacrifice, tenderness and many other human behavioural expressions in the human nature.

Motherhood is termed as the greatest gift of God to mankind and the creation will ever be indebted to its 'mother.' It can be rightly said that these words could never have been in the dictionary without 'motherhood.'

Almost every single group in our society and every family relationship has a special day such as Teacher's Day, Children's Day, Women's Day, Father's Day, Labour Day and Mother's Day.

It is a common saying in our society that all the days of the year are Mother's Day, but we cannot celebrate all the 365 days of the year as Mother's Day. That is why, this day is celebrated on the 2nd Sunday of May so that everyone is able to celebrate this day with their mothers who gave them birth.

Keeping aside a day especially for mothers out of the 365 days of the year is a good idea. A mother

has been historically expected to contribute her whole career to her family.

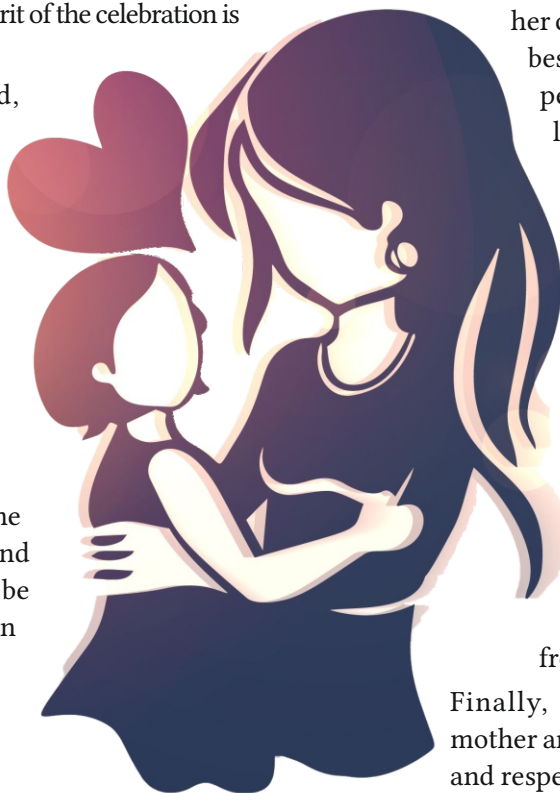
A mother is a great gift for us from God and no one can take the place of a mother. So without a mother, our life is meaningless as a mother is everything for a child to survive in this world.

Mothers love and they play a vital part of a child's care. A mother is always with her child during the worst and best times. She is the only person in the world whose love is very much pure and unlimited for her children. She is a personality who needs just love and a smile from her children to make her life a pleasure.

Don't mothers deserve a smile? Absolutely, they do deserve more than a smile because they only demand happiness from their children.

Finally, never ever hurt your mother and always give due regard and respect to her. Mother's Day is a happiest and highly memorable day of the year for every child.

On Mother's Day, you can gift your mother a beautiful bouquet of flowers or surprise her with a unique gift that she will remember for many years to come.



*Jubel D'Cruz is a freelance writer and the author of several books for children. He lives in Mumbai.*

# ANOTHER PENTECOST!!!

-Fr. Fio Mascarenhas, SJ

Most Christians probably know that the event of the pouring out of the Holy Spirit by Jesus is called the **first** Pentecost, and that it is recorded in Chapter 2 of the Acts of the Apostles: *"Tongues as of fire rested on each person present, etc."* It signalled the birthday of the Church, transforming a motley group of frightened and confused apostles and disciples into the "Body of Christ." For over 2000 years since then, Jesus' prophecy to Simon Peter, *"I will build my Church on rock, and the powers of hell will never prevail against it, etc."* (Matt 16:18), has been proved true.

But how many of you, dear Readers, have noticed a **second** Pentecost soon after, recorded in Acts chapter 4:29-33? *"And now, Lord, look upon their threats, and grant to*

*your servants to speak your word with all boldness, while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your servant Jesus. And when they had prayed, the place in which they were*

*gathered together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God with boldness. Now the company of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things which he possessed was his own, but they had everything in common. And with great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all."*

Isn't that wonderful? In other words, Pentecost is not a once-and-for-all event, but every time the Church is in some new crisis or danger, it can confidently ask and receive a New Pentecost! That is why, even in our day (I mean those, like me, who are 80 plus, will remember this "day"!)

Good Pope St. John XXIII summoned the 3000 plus bishops of

the whole world to come to Rome for the "aggiornamento" (updating) of the Church, and asked all the Faithful to pray at every Mass for a New Pentecost. So we all prayed, **"Send your Spirit, Lord, with the force of a mighty wind, to broaden the horizons of our minds, as for a new Pentecost!"** The resulting Second Vatican Council indeed experienced a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and its effects are felt till today (with more to come)!

In between, over the last 20 centuries, how many "New Pentecosts" there have been, with the starting of new initiatives like the monastic movements, the new religious orders (Dominican, Franciscan, Jesuit, Carmelite, etc), the

Reformation leading to the biblical movement, and also of course lay movements which are still emerging more and more in every part of the Church. The inexhaustible freshness of the Spirit's action is guaranteed by Jesus himself: **"I will be**

**with you, till the end of the world!"**

The Nicene Creed, promulgated by the first two ecumenical Councils (at Nicaea in 325 A.D. and Constantinople in 381 A.D.) and accepted till today as true doctrine by *all* Christians, states: *'We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.'*

This Creed is recited by the faithful at every Sunday Eucharist. However, as believers, we are always in need of renewing, or deepening, our understanding of the Truth, so that it can better nourish our relationship with God and the Church. Therefore, at the end of Vatican II, Pope St. Paul VI asked for **'a new study of, and a new**





**devotion to the Holy Spirit':** "The Christology and particularly the Ecclesiology of the Second Vatican Council, must be succeeded by a new study of and a new devotion to the Holy Spirit, precisely as the indispensable complement of the teaching of the Council."

His successor Pope St. John Paul II wrote an Encyclical letter to all Christians on "The Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life" (1986), to promote **"a more vivid devotion to the Holy Spirit."** Then, as preparation for *Yesu Khrist Jayanti* 2000, he declared a whole year, 1998, as 'The Year of the Holy Spirit.' He wrote that the Church cannot prepare for the New Millennium "in any other way than *in the Holy Spirit*. What was accomplished by the power of the Holy Spirit 'in the fullness of time' can only through the Spirit's power now emerge from the memory of the Church."

In the Apostolic Letter which he wrote, 'On the Preparation for the Jubilee of the Year 2000' (1994), John Paul II declared,

'The Spirit makes present in the Church of every time and place the unique Revelation brought by Christ to humanity, making it alive and active in the soul of each individual: 'The Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you' (Jn.14:26)...The primary tasks of the preparation for the jubilee thus include *a renewed appreciation of the presence and activity of the Spirit*, who acts within the Church...The reflection of this year ought to focus particularly *on the value of unity* within the Church, to which the various charisms and gifts bestowed upon her by the Spirit are directed.'

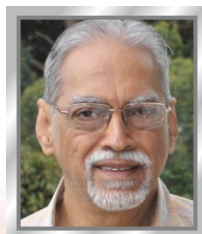
In fact, long before the Holy Spirit became an article of the Creed, he was a living reality in the experience of the early Church. The Acts of the Apostles could well have been titled, '*The Acts of the Holy Spirit*,' since the presence and direction of

the Spirit is so explicitly mentioned in it. In every page of Acts, the Spirit's presence is felt, more real and more active than the men whose names are recorded there. He is spoken of as a presence both beloved and sure: *the Spirit* inspires boldness in the apostles (Acts 8:29-39); *he* gives strength to the martyrs (7:55); *he* brings Peter, a Jew, to the household of Cornelius, a Gentile (10:19f); *he* chooses those who are to be sent on mission (13:2); *he* is the joy and assurance of those who are persecuted (13:50ff); *he* presides over the decisions made in the new-born Church (15:28); *he* guides the apostles' travels (16:6f); etc. And over the last twenty centuries too, *the Spirit* has influenced the great decisions that have determined the course of the Church's mission. Cardinal Suenens wisely commented:



"The Spirit unceasingly prevents the Church from taking itself as an end in itself, from indulging in self-satisfaction. He wants Christians to set out on their journey afresh each morning, taking as little baggage as possible... At certain moments, the Church has felt itself thrust forward by the Spirit in a mysterious way. The present time too offers us such a grace: it should find us attentive and open... **We must not fear the unknown ways of God, nor the renewals needed if the Church is to keep young!**"

Therefore, as today's Spirit-filled and Spirit-led Pope Francis, in line with these previous popes, leads the Church with wisdom, courage and boldness, let us all be specially attentive and personally open to the Spirit of Jesus, as for a New Pentecost!



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# MARY'S FIAT: A MODEL OF SELF SURRENDER

-Norma Kamath

Mary, daughter of St. Joachim and St. Anne was conceived without sin. This truth was revealed by Mother Mary, herself, when she appeared to St. Bernadette Soubirous in 1858 at Lourdes, in France. She said, "I am the Immaculate Conception." Mary found grace through prayer and perfection of her virtues. God the Father imparted his fruitfulness to her to enable her to become the Mother of his Son, and Mother of the Mystical Body of Christ.

## MARY AND JOSEPH EMBRACING GOD'S WILL WITH TRUST

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to Mary, a virgin, in the city of Galilee, named Nazareth, with the good news that she would conceive and bear a son, and she should name him Jesus. Mary, betrothed to Joseph was afraid. But the angel reassured her that the Holy Spirit would overshadow her and the son to be born would be holy, the Son of God, for with God nothing will be impossible. "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it done to me according to Thy Word," Mary replied. With Mary's consent, God the Holy Spirit, through a spiritual espousal relationship with Mary was able to form Jesus Christ in her womb, and Mary became the Mother of God.

Mary was found with child, when she came together with Joseph. Joseph being informed by an angel in his dream that the child was brought forth by the Holy Spirit, being a just man and obedient to God's command, he accepted Mary as his wife.

Mary's deep faith and obedience to God's Word enabled her to say yes, to God's Call. We see in Joseph, a just man, a man of understanding, who wanted to protect Mary's reputation. He too, like her, was a man of faith and obedience to God's Word.

## MARY, A WOMAN OF LOVE

When Mary heard from the angel Gabriel, that Elizabeth, her kinswoman, advanced in age had conceived, her love and concern drew her in haste to the house of Zechariah in Judah. God used her with her infant babe, Jesus, to heal Elizabeth's child in her womb. Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and acknowledged Mary as the Mother of

God. The child grew in spirit, a great prophet, John the Baptist, who prepared the way for Jesus, the Saviour.

## OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S LAW

Mary and Joseph were law abiding. They left Nazareth and went to Bethlehem to get themselves enrolled according to the Roman decree. Jesus was born in a stable, wrapped in swaddling clothes, and laid in a manger. The multitude of heavenly hosts were praising and giving glory to God. The angel proclaimed to the shepherds the birth of the Saviour, Christ the Lord. Mary pondered all these things in her heart.

At the end of eight days, Mary and Joseph had their child circumcized according to the Jewish custom, and the child was called Jesus, the name given by the angel, before he was conceived.

When it was time for their purification according to the law of Moses, as required by a male who opens the womb, they brought Jesus to the temple of Jerusalem to present him to the Lord and to offer a

sacrifice, as the law prescribed, a pair of turtle doves and two pigeons.

Simeon, a prophet, led by the Spirit, came to the temple, and holding Jesus in his arms, prophesied, that Jesus was the Saviour, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory to Israel. He blessed them and prophesied about the Cross, the Power and the Wisdom of God, and that Mary would share in Jesus' suffering at the Cross. Anna, a prophetess, gave thanks to God, for he had raised up a Redeemer.

## MARY, A WOMAN OF PRAISE

After performing everything according to the law of God, Mary and Joseph returned to Nazareth. With Joseph's meagre earnings as a carpenter, they had to cope with poverty. Mary nursed, fed and cared for Jesus. She was a woman of contentment and praise, as we see in her beautiful song, the Magnificat (Lk.1: 46- 55). She was able to praise God in all circumstances, and do the perfect will of God.

## THE HOLY FAMILY - LOVING SURRENDER TO GOD'S PLAN

Every year Mary and Joseph went up to Jerusalem at the feast of the Passover. When he was twelve





years old they returned from the feast, and Jesus stayed back without their knowledge. They returned to Jerusalem and found him in the temple, sitting among the learned teachers, answering their questions. They were amazed at his wisdom. When Mary exclaimed that he had given Joseph and her an anxious time, he answered, 'Did you not know that I must be in my Father's House?' They did not understand as yet his mission. They accepted what he said. Jesus was obedient to them, and gave more glory to his Father through his obedience, more than even his miracles. Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature between God and man.

#### **MARY, A WOMAN OF PRAYER AND FAITH**

Mother Mary was invited to the wedding feast of Cana, Jesus and his disciples too. Mary was concerned when the wine ran out and brought this need to Jesus. Jesus felt it was not yet time to start his ministry. But with Mary's prayer and trust in God, the Father used Mary to gently guide Jesus to start his ministry. Jesus worked his first great miracle, changing the water into wine, which increased the faith of his disciples. The miracle has a deeper meaning. Jesus consecrated the marriage and brought about a new creation. The marriage feast of Cana is a precursor of the Marriage Feast of The Lamb (Rev.19, 21) where Jesus the bridegroom marries his bride, the church, and makes her a new creation.

Mary is called the new Eve. It is she who crushed the serpent (Gen 3:15). Satan fears her. Being proud he feels humiliated being vanquished and punished by a lowly and humble woman.

#### **EMBRACING THE FATHER'S WILL**

Mary was present at the foot of the Cross as Simeon prophesied. She was united with Jesus in one sacrifice, and with her consent to the Father's will, Jesus laid down his life, and became the

Saviour of the World. Earlier we had the example of Abraham in the Old Testament, accepting the will of God and offering Isaac as a sacrifice.

From the Cross Jesus saw his mother and his disciple John, and he said to his mother, 'Behold your son.' Then he said to his disciple, 'Behold your mother.' From that hour the disciple took her into his own home. Mary became the Mother of the Church and the mother of every member of the Mystical Body of Christ. It is God the Father's wish that Mary become the mother of his children, till the end of time. He says in Sirach 24:8, 'Make your dwelling in Jacob and in Israel receive your inheritance.'

#### **MARY, QUEEN OF ANGELS AND SAINTS**

With Mary's 'Yes' her FIAT, her self surrender, and embracing God's plan, the Father honoured her, when she was assumed into Heaven, and crowned her Queen of Angels and Saints.

Mary is the new Ark of the Covenant. John had a vision of her in Heaven, in God's temple (Rev.11, 12). Like the Ark of the Covenant in the Old Testament, which Moses and the Israelites carried across the desert to the Promised Land as a protection against their enemies, in the latter days, the days of anti-Christ, Mary the new Ark of the Covenant will guide us safely to our Heavenly Home. Let us listen to her guidance, and heed her words, as she speaks to us in her many apparitions, in Lourdes, Fatima, Medugorge, and several other places in the world.



***Norma Kamath** lives in Bangalore. She experienced the Baptism of the Holy Spirit in 1983 and was called to serve in the intercessory, counselling and healing ministry.*

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# MARITAL ENRICHMENT: THE MARIAN WAY IN MAY!

- Lorraine & Leon Bent

The terribly warm but beautiful month of May is upon us, in a blaze of glory, with "Golden Laburnum" hanging ornamentally, lace-like, in soothing yellow, and the long arching branches of the "Flame of the Forest," making an awesome red splash above us – its eye-catching colour on the ground beneath – a time of real natural and spiritual birthing and replenishing, for everyone, especially matrimonial lovers. For, Mary is a model of unconditional, blessed, bolstering sacrificial love, touched with fireside warmth. The kind of selfless devotion mothers usually possess. This is why she is revered by millions of people, even those of other faiths, the world-over.

All who wish to deepen and enrich their love are welcome to drink from her wellsprings: Fiat, Magnificat, Cana, Jesus Teaching in The Temple at Age 12, Stabat Mater. Please return to these Spirit-filled, faith-imbued fountains, again and again.

**FIAT:** And, the angel came in unto her and said, Hail, thou art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women (Lk. 1:28). For, with God, nothing is impossible (37). And, Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it done unto me according to His word (38). It is very important to know at all times, especially in moments of despair that, marital couples are highly favoured ones; we are blessed. And, nothing is impossible with God. What an assurance! What a promise! Mary's spontaneous answer was YES to the Holy Spirit working in her. Do we do this at every step of the way, as vowed partners, as relationship people? Mother Mary birthed Jesus. She will plead with her loving Son to keep Jesus alive in our nuptial lives too!

**MAGNIFICAT:** The young virgin's answer was not only YES but a resounding FIAT. Her life was on song after that, one of the most beautiful and fruitful melodies in the Bible, THE MAGNIFICAT (Lk.1:46-55). And Mary said, my soul doth magnify the Lord! What does soul mean? The Mother of God exulted from the innermost recesses of her being, in every little deed, word and action, every day, at every moment in time. She did all things for the greater glory of God. What about us, in the ordinariness of our daily

life? Our marital relationship, too, can be born in the very 'virgin' womb of Mary, when we fall back on Mary in times of despair; if it is done all the time, so much the better....our 'vowed love' will remain constant and become more Christ-like, by the day. We, too, will be exuberant even when dark clouds darken our matrimonial sky!

Do we believe 24x7 that, Jesus, is slowly, imperceptible, continually, but surely, changing the water of our marriage into sparkling, vintage, ambrosial wine? "Do whatsoever he tells you," and TRUE LOVE will come your way. What about our marriage becoming a connoisseur's delight for all the world to marvel at? What about us, then,

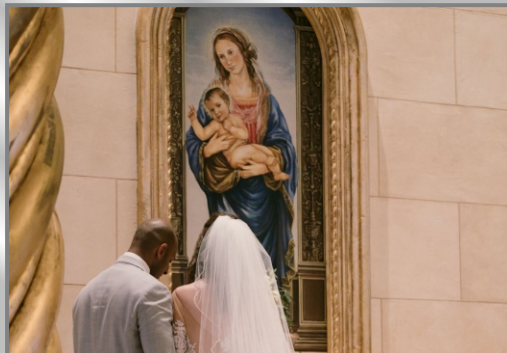
being tangible witnesses of Jesus' love?

**CANA:** Mary was a powerful intercessor at Cana. She sensed something was amiss, at the Wedding Feast and acted with lightning speed. Do we plead with Mary, to lead us to Jesus, when storm clouds darken our marital sky? And, when we feel good...that our intimacy may be greater, richer? Mary

intervened famously at Cana! "Do whatsoever he tells you." Do we discern the Father's will for our marriage? Mary will surely mediate on our behalf too! And, of course, are we fully aware of, and live the dream of the Sacrament of Matrimony and the Marriage Encounter Weekend? Jesus changed water into wine. Do we see, accept and appreciate hundreds of little/big miracles that grace our lives daily and the big one's too?

What about our marriage becoming a connoisseur's delight for all the world to marvel at and imitate? Like the onlookers remarked in amazement: "See how they love one other!" (cf. Jn. 13:35). What about us, then, being tangible witnesses of Jesus' agape love?

**JESUS IN THE TEMPLE AT AGE 12:** Jesus was left behind in Jerusalem, while Mary and Joseph were already on their way back to Nazareth (Lk. 2:41:52). When questioned, Jesus said he was about his Father's business. "Mary pondered all he said, in her heart (Lk. 2:51; Gen.37:11; Dan 7:28). In other words, she held the mystery in her heart and lived it to the full, without asking why, even as she prayed persistently and with fierce faith. As married couples we too, are called to live the





mystery of our lives together. Michelangelo's masterly marble sculpture, the "PIETA", gives shape and form to this mystery. Place your love-life (your lifeless marriage?) in the comforting, revitalizing womb/lap of Mother Mary. She will help make it Spirit-filled again and faith-imbued. The Pieta is a symbol of immense hope, a place of nurturing love, a place of God's rest, the "Ark of the Covenant", which holds the Mercy Seat of Yahweh! Wow!

**STABAT MATER:** Mary is called "Stabat Mater" or Sorrowful Mother. She walked the Way of the Cross with her battered Son (cf. Lk. 23:27). She stood with a pierced heart, not a broken one, by the Cross (Jn.19:25; Mt.27:62). The Cross, paradoxically, is the fountainhead of forgiveness, of reconciliation, of mutual love, of healing, of redemption. Do we sit at the foot of the Cross, as a couple, all the time? Is our spousal love being continually washed white in the blood of the Lamb (Rev.7:14), and, very essentially, signed and sealed in our blood? Covenantal and total self-emptying and sacrificial love flows only from Jesus' Cross! Oh, Yes!

Do you think, Mary, even for a brief moment, doubted the final triumph of her Son? On the contrary, she invariably looked forward to the splendour and glory of the Resurrection. This,

according to God's plan, is the vision for our marriage too! We, too, will reach the 'final frontier' of one partner's life in intimate togetherness, and later, in mutual everlasting bliss! This is Mary's assurance if we live as 'marital lovers', in the shadow of the Crucified Christ.

And this final flourish! Mother Mary, cover us with your mantle of love, and guide every step we take and vowed partners. Dear Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, teach us "to love as Jesus loves" (Jn.13:34), and in the measure you loved Jesus! This is the innermost core and tender kernel of Matrimonial Love – always pondering and treasuring everything in the solitude and silence of our hearts – sometimes a distressing "other" (partner), the Marian Way!

**Lorraine & Leon Bent were Team Coordinators of Worldwide Marriage Encounter, Mumbai, Editors of its National Newsletter for 8 years, gave Talks on ME Weekends, and in Schools and Parishes, and "Intimate Sharings" in other parts of the Country. They gave Talks as a Couple at several CBCI Western Conferences, held in St. Pius X College, Goregaon & "Shared" their Sacred Relationship with Theologians at the Archdiocesan Seminary.**



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

### **Shalaka Ivan Coutinho, Mumbai**

I have donated an amount of Rs.10,000 for the welfare of the Balbhavan boys. The Ashram Fathers are doing a splendid job of educating the boys and ensuring a bright future for them.

### **Sanjay Kohli, Mumbai**

I have sent Rs.15,000 through NEFT, towards the support of a Balbhavan child's education.

### **Agnelo D'Souza, Goa**

In gratitude for the favours received through the intercession of Fr. Agnel, my family has made a donation of Rs.10,000 towards the care of the Balbhavan children.

### **Praveen Madhur Srivastava, Mumbai**

I have donated an amount of 55,000 towards education, food, stationery and essentials for the Balbhavan children at Fr. Agnel Ashram, Bandra.

### **Anthony Thomas Karutikaran, Surat**

I have made a donation of Rs.10,000 via NEFT towards ensuring a bright future for the Balbhavan children.

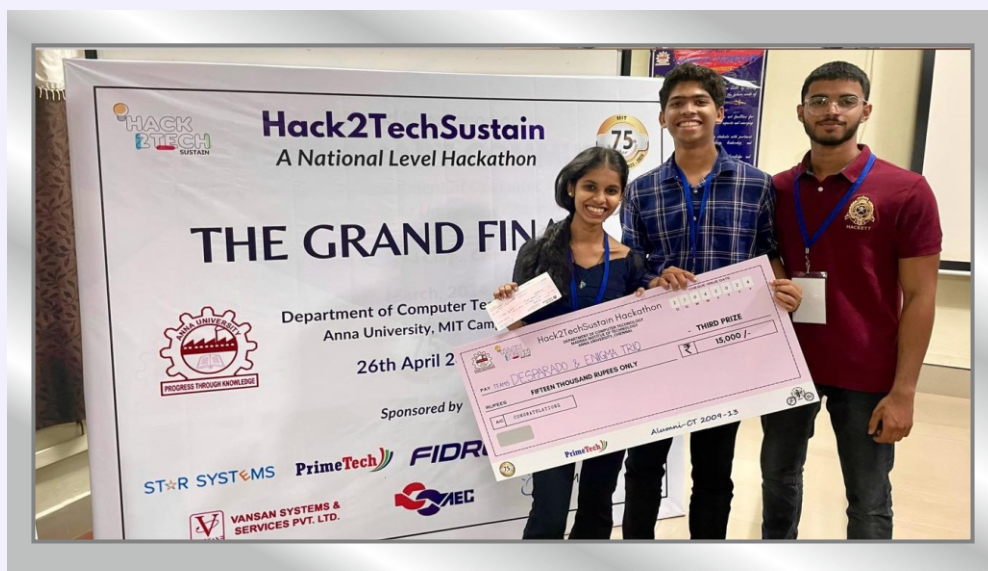
### **Anita J. Sharma, Mumbai**

I have made a contribution of Rs.30,000 through cheque, towards the charitable activities of Fr. Agnel Ashram, especially for the maintenance and education of the boys in Balbhavan home.

### **Hemshree Parmar, Gujarat**

I have made a donation of Rs.10,500 via EDC, towards the various community services at Fr. Agnel Ashram, Bandra.

## CRCE students excel at Madras Institute of Technology



Three Second Year students from the Computer Department of Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues College of Engineering, Mumbai, namely, Shaun Mendes, Susan Fernandes and Sharian Dabre, have bagged the third prize at the national level Hackathon. It was held on 26th April 2024 at the Madras Institute of Technology, Chennai, in which over 330 teams from all over India had participated. They secured the 3rd rank and won a cash prize as well.



### THE WORKS OF MERCY

#### CORPORAL & SPIRITUAL

FEED THE HUNGRY	INSTRUCT THE IGNORANT
GIVE DRINK TO THE THIRSTY	COUNSEL THE DOUBTFUL
SHELTER THE HOMELESS	ADMONISH SINNERS
CLOTHE THE NAKED	FORGIVE OFFENSES
VISIT THE SICK	COMFORT THE AFFLICTED
VISIT THE IMPRISONED	BEAR WRONGS PATIENTLY
BURY THE DEAD	PRAY FOR THE LIVING AND THE DEAD

"A BIT OF MERCY MAKES THE WORLD LESS COLD AND MORE JUST" (POPE FRANCIS)



# AGNEL HAPPENINGS

Greater Noida

## *Balbhavan students shine in their careers*

Recently, two Balbhavan students of Greater Noida have reached significant milestones in their lives. They used to travel daily to **Fr. Agnel School, Noida**, for their studies up to Std. XII, while the school was being built in Greater Noida.



Pinky Masih, a physiotherapist by profession, successfully passed the UPSC exam of 2023, securing an All India Rank of 948. She says, “My parents and close friends have been my pillar of strength in my preparation journey. Balbhavan has also made a difference in my life.”



**Sohemiliu from Manipur has been appointed as an Assistant Professor in Biomedical Science at Galgotias University, Uttar Pradesh.** She says, “I became part of the Agnel family when I joined Balbhavan in the year of 2002, at the age of 6 years and thereon, I completed my schooling in Fr. Agnel School, Noida, in 2014. After completing my graduation from the University of Delhi, I pursued my Post Graduation at Jawaharlal Nehru University in Biotechnology.”

Both the students have studied with Balbhavan, Greater Noida, right from their childhood. They echoed the same views, “We owe our success to Fr. Agnel Balbhavan, our role models Fr. Bento Rodrigues and Fr. Alarico Carvalho, Agnel Fathers and sisters, mothers and wardens, for their love, support and guidance, in our journey of learning and growth, both in our career and personal development. We wish to carry this legacy to a larger section of the society.”

## MOSES: THE PROPHET AND LEADER OF GOD'S CHOSEN PEOPLE

*(The life of Moses extends from Exodus 2 to Deuteronomy 34)*

- Fr. Trevor D'Souza, OFM (Franciscan)

**Introduction:** Moses, a towering figure in the Bible, shaped Israel's history and embodied God's plan. Born during the brutal Israelite oppression (Ex 2), his journey, chronicled from Exodus 2 to Deuteronomy 34, is a testament to faith, courage, and unwavering obedience. He exemplifies a divinely called leader with human flaws, ultimately redeemed by God's grace.

**His Name and Origins:** The meaning of Moses' Hebrew name, "Moshe," is debated. It could originate from Egypt, meaning "son," reflecting his palace upbringing. Alternatively, it may derive from the Hebrew verb "to draw out," emphasizing divine intervention in his rescue from the Nile.

### Miraculous Escape:

Moses, born to Amram and Jochebed, narrowly escaped death under Pharaoh's decree of infanticide (Ex 1). His mother's unwavering faith led to his miraculous rescue, hiding him in a basket among the reeds, where Pharaoh's daughter found him and raised him in the palace. This upbringing immersed him in Egyptian culture, providing leadership training and instilling a sense of privilege. This diverse background, combined with his Hebrew heritage, would later shape his role as a leader.

**Divine Calling:** At the encounter with the burning bush (Ex 3), his destiny took a divine turn. Here, Yahweh, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, revealed himself to Moses and entrusted him with a daunting mission: to liberate the Israelites from Egyptian bondage. Initially hesitant, citing his limitations in eloquence (Ex 4), Moses found reassurance in God's unwavering promise and the presence of his brother Aaron as his spokesperson.

**Deliverance from Egypt:** Empowered by God, Moses confronted Pharaoh, demanding the Israelites' freedom. A series of devastating plagues ravaged Egypt, demonstrating God's immense power and ultimately forcing Pharaoh's hand (Ex 7-11). The Israelites' exodus, culminating in the miraculous parting of the Red Sea (Ex 14), became a defining moment in their history. It symbolized their liberation from oppression and the beginning of their journey towards the Promised Land.

**Lawgiver and Covenant Mediator:** At Mount Sinai, Moses received the Law, including the Ten Commandments, which became the foundation of Israelite society (Ex 20). Acting as the mediator of the covenant between God and His people, he established Israel's religious and moral identity. His intimate communion with God solidified his authority as their divinely chosen leader.

**Trials of Faith:** Despite his closeness to God, Moses faced numerous challenges. The Israelites' constant grumbling and rebellious nature tested his patience and leadership skills (Ex 16, Num 14). His own moments of doubt, like striking the rock for water (Num 20), revealed his humanity and the

ongoing struggle between faith and fallibility. Yet, God remained faithful, using Moses' imperfections to teach valuable lessons and demonstrate His own unwavering love and forgiveness.

**A Precursor to Christ:** The New Testament recognizes Moses' foundational role. Jesus affirms his authority (Mt 5:17). Acts 7 and Heb 11 celebrate him as a faithful prophet. Both Moses and Jesus function as liberators of their people. Their meeting at the Transfiguration (Mt 17:1-8)

underscores Moses' importance as a prophet who foreshadowed the coming Messiah. Ultimately, Moses' life and work prefigure Christ's fulfilment of God's plan for salvation.

**Conclusion:** Moses' life serves as a profound example of faith, humility, and dedicated service to God. From his humble beginnings as a rescued infant to his courageous leadership of the Israelites, Moses epitomizes the qualities of a faithful servant. Despite his initial reluctance and moments of doubt, he demonstrated unwavering obedience to God's commands. His fearless confrontation with Pharaoh and his steadfast journey through trials showcase his remarkable faith. Through it all, Moses remained committed to God's will, displaying wisdom, compassion, and unwavering dedication. His legacy continues to inspire believers, reminding us of the importance of righteous living and the enduring power of faith in God's faithfulness.





**Resources:** Dictionary of the Bible; Reader's Digest, Who's Who in the Bible; Internet sources and AI Tools.

### BIBLE QUIZ ON MOSES

**1. Where was Moses hidden as a baby to escape Pharaoh's decree?**

- a) A cave
- b) A basket among the reeds
- c) Pharaoh's palace
- d) The wilderness

**2. Who adopted and raised Moses?**

- a) His biological parents
- b) Pharaoh
- c) Pharaoh's daughter
- d) Aaron, his brother

**3. At what significant location did God first appear to Moses?**

- a) Mount Sinai
- b) The Nile River
- c) The Red Sea
- d) The burning bush

**4. Who did God appoint to be Moses' spokesperson?**

- a) Miriam, his sister
- b) Joshua
- c) Aaron, his brother
- d) Pharaoh himself

**5. How many plagues did God send upon Egypt?**

- a) Five
- b) Ten
- c) Fifteen
- d) Twenty

**6. What miraculous event allowed the Israelites to escape from Egypt?**

- a) An earthquake
- b) The parting of the Red Sea
- c) A giant sandstorm
- d) A hidden passage through the mountains

**7. On which mountain did Moses receive the Ten Commandments?**

- a) Mount Carmel
- b) Mount Sinai
- c) Mount Tabor
- d) Mount of Olives

**8. With what object did Moses strike to provide water for the Israelites in the wilderness?**

- a) A staff
- b) A rock
- c) A well
- d) A fruit-bearing tree

**9. What was the name of Moses' sister?**

- a) Rachel
- b) Deborah
- c) Miriam
- d) Esther

**10. Which prophet is considered by the New Testament to be a successor to Moses?**

- a) Elijah
- b) Isaiah
- c) Jesus
- d) John the Baptist

**11. What was the name of the place where Moses died?**

- a) The Promised Land
- b) Mount Sinai
- c) The wilderness near Moab
- d) Egypt

**12. What was the name of the golden calf the Israelites worshipped in the wilderness while Moses was receiving the Law?**

- a) The Ark of the Covenant
- b) The Menorah
- c) The Golden Calf
- d) The Tabernacle

**13. What was the name of the sea that the Israelites miraculously crossed on dry land?**

- a) The Dead Sea
- b) The Red Sea
- c) The Mediterranean Sea
- d) The Sea of Galilee

### ANSWERS

- 1. (b) A basket among the reeds (Exodus 2:3)
- 2. (c) Pharaoh's daughter (Exodus 2:10)
- 3. (d) The burning bush (Exodus 3:2)
- 4. (c) Aaron, his brother (Exodus 4:14)
- 5. (b) Ten (Exodus 7-11)
- 6. (b) The parting of the Red Sea (Exodus 14)
- 7. (b) Mount Sinai (Exodus 20)
- 8. (a) A staff (Numbers 20:11)
- 9. (c) Miriam (Exodus 15:20)
- 10. (c) Jesus (Matthew 5:17)
- 11. (c) The wilderness near Moab (Deuteronomy 34)
- 12. (c) The Golden Calf (Exodus 32)
- 13. (b) The Red Sea (Exodus 14)



*Fr. Trevor D'Souza, OFM, is a Franciscan Priest, Retreat Preacher and a Writer. He can be contacted at [jc4me2000@gmail.com](mailto:jc4me2000@gmail.com)*

# EUCCHARISTIC MIRACLES

-Jacqueline Kelly

In the kingdom of Our Father, we shall be forever united with Christ in the celebration of the heavenly marriage feast. A guarantee and a foretaste of this heavenly marriage feast is the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. In His great love for us, the Lord Jesus gave us a great miracle of mercy: the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.

At first, the Holy Eucharist used to be called “the breaking of the bread”. But because praise and thanks are offered to the Father through its celebration, the early Christians soon gave it the name of “**Eucharist**” [which means “praise” or “thanks”]. The celebration of the Eucharist is also called “the Holy Sacrifice” or “the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass” or “Holy Mass”. And because in this sacrament Christ is really present in a special way, and because it is celebrated on an altar, we call it also “The most Holy Sacrament of the Altar.”

At the celebration of the Eucharist, Christ himself is our High Priest, sacrificial gift and food. The Priest at the altar is his visible representative and his living instrument. The sacrifice of the Cross is made present and we receive the Bread of Eternal Life. In Holy Communion, Christ, who is our Lord in heaven, even now unites Himself with us in the most intimate manner. The Holy Eucharist is the family meal of God's children.

The Eucharist is the centre of our relationship with God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It unites us on earth as a community committed to Christ and to one another. As Christians, we are a Eucharistic community. “The Eucharist makes the Church” because it is the centre towards which all other sacraments are celebrated, and the source from which they derive their power. The Eucharist is both a sacrifice and a sacrament. The Eucharist is a share not only in Christ's death but also in his resurrection [John 6: 54-56].

In 1964, the Year of the Eucharist, Pope John Paul II in the “*Ecclesia de Eucharistia*,” Ch. 6 explored

the depths of the Eucharistic spirituality through the witness of the life of the Blessed Virgin Mary. He wrote: *“If we wish to rediscover in all its richness the profound relationship between the Church and the Eucharist, we cannot neglect Mary, Mother and model of the Church.”* Mary is a “woman of the Eucharist” in her whole life. The Church, which looks to Mary as a model, is also called to imitate her in her relationship with this most holy mystery.

The Eucharistic celebration inculcates in us the yearning to listen to the Word of God. This yearning implies a total, trustful surrender to obey the Word of God, convinced that it is indeed

the “Word of eternal life.” The Scripture also assures us that God is our rock, our protector, our stronghold and deliverer. We need to claim this during the Eucharist especially when the prayer of protection is being said. Similarly, compulsive habits disappear when prayed for at the Eucharist.

Each time the Mass is celebrated, the Eucharistic miracle takes place. When

incidences of Eucharistic miracles arise, we discover that the Host turns into “Human flesh and blood.” Through these miracles, Jesus manifests His Presence in a clear and definite way. Miracles are phenomena which interrupt the laws of nature and surpass the force of all natural causes. Saint Augustine has said, “All nature is full of miracles. We are not astonished at them, because we are used to seeing them, their repetition makes them familiar to our eyes. Behold why God has reserved to Himself others out of the course of nature, that they may strike us by their novelty.”

Can God communicate to saints the power to work miracles? Yes, since He is all powerful. In fact, when a miracle is performed, it is always God who performs it at the request of a saint.

For a Christian, the possibility of a miracle is not a question, it is a point of Faith which he professes





everyday, when he says: *"I believe in God, the Father Almighty,"* and from the Words of the Gospel : *"Nothing is impossible to God"* [Luke 1:37] and from these words: *"He that believeth in me, the works that I do he also shall do, and greater than these shall he do"* [John 14:12]. Faith is a gift of God.

In the Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Eastern Orthodox, Methodist, Anglican and Oriental Orthodox Churches, the fact that Christ is really and truly manifest in the Eucharist is deemed a **Eucharistic Miracle**.

### **Eucharistic Miracles and the Saints:**

**Saint Mary of Egypt:** [Born in 344 A.D.]. She left her parents house at the age of twelve and moved to the city of Alexandria and worked as a prostitute. On the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, she joined the crowd as it was headed to the Church in order to venerate the relic of the True Cross. She was unable to enter. A miraculous force



pulled her away from the door. She tried desperately to get in three or four times but failed. She moved to the corner of the Churchyard and began to cry tears of remorse. She saw a statue of the Blessed Mother and prayed to the Holy Mother for permission to enter the Church to venerate the relic. She promised Mother Mary if she was allowed to enter the Church, she would renounce the worldly ways.

Mary entered the Church, venerated the relic and returned to the statue to pray for guidance. She heard a voice telling her to cross the Jordan River. She arrived in Jordan and received Holy Communion and the following day crossed the river and wandered eastward into the desert that stretches towards Arabia. She lived alone for forty-seven years. A monk named Zosimus met her. They prayed together, she requested Zosimus to meet her at the Jordan on Holy Thursday evening of the following year and bring with him Holy Communion.

On the appointed evening, Zosimus met at the spot that had been indicated. Mary made the Sign of the Cross and received Holy Communion. She then told Zosimus to come back again the next year to the spot where he had first met her. He came, but only to find the poor saint's corpse and written beside it on the ground a request that he should bury her, and a statement that she had died

a year before, on the very evening she had received Holy Communion.

**Saint Anthony of Padua:** [Born in Lisbon, Portugal; much honoured in Padua, Italy]. He lived in the early 13th century. When heretics poked fun at him, he spoke to the fishes, who raised their bodies out of the water to listen to him. A heretic challenges St. Anthony to likewise influence his donkey.



The heretic was to starve the donkey for three days, after which the donkey would be set free to either go to a pail of his favourite fodder held by his heretical owner, or to go to St. Anthony holding the Eucharist. While the donkey fasted for three days, St. Anthony fasted and prayed for three days. On the appointed day of the challenge, St. Anthony spoke to the donkey: "I command you to come here to adore God, so that it will give truth to all of the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist." The donkey ignored the pail of tempting fodder and walked over to St. Anthony holding the Body of the Christ; he knelt down on both legs and lowered his head in reverence. St. Anthony blessed the donkey, which then arose and went across and ate all the fodder.

**Saint Clare of Assisi, Italy:** Saracen mercenaries threatened the nuns in the Convent of San Damiano, where St. Claire lay ill. St. Claire took the Monstrance and pleaded with Our Lord to protect the nuns and also the city. A sweet voice told her that it would be done. The mercenaries just turned away from the convent gates.



**Saint Catherine of Sienna, Italy:** She was a special friend of Jesus. She was not formally educated, but is yet one of the women doctors of the Church. She was given the gift of holding Baby Jesus in her arms, presented to her by Our Lady. She was given the gift of ecstasies of the levitation many times. She was given the special gift of drinking the Blood of Jesus from His side, after this she couldn't eat any more. She



was neither hungry nor could she retain anything other than the Sacred Species in her stomach, yet she was full of energy and very active.

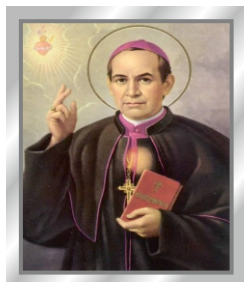
**Saint Nicholas of Flue, Switzerland:** He was a



soldier and statesman and the father of ten children. At 50 years of age, he set his house in order and leaving his home and family, became a religious hermit. At the very start of his ministry, one night, he suffered severe cramps in his stomach while sleeping beneath a tree. Praying

intently, he accepted whatever the Lord's will would be. After a while, the pain subsided, but from that time till the end of his life, he lost all desire for food or drink. He could retain nothing except the Body and Blood of Jesus in the Eucharist.

**Saint Anthony Mary Claret, Spain:** In his



autobiography we read: "On 26th of August, 1861, while I prayed in the Church of the Rosary, in Granja, at seven o'clock, the Lord granted me the great grace of the conservation of the Sacramental Species and of always having, day and night, the Blessed Sacrament

within my breast."

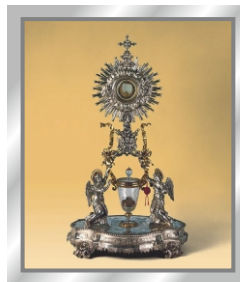
The working of miracles is very closely related to the charisma of healing, but it includes miracles of different kinds. There are people whose prayers result in real miracles. They have the gift from the Holy Spirit.

The miracles reported in the Bible include physical wonders, casting out demons and resurrection of the dead. Miracles and healings constantly accompanied the evangelists and apostles. They resulted in the conversion of many people. As stated by Kathryn Kuhlman, "The Bible itself is the greatest of miracles, and the Son of God more wonderful than any of the wonders that confirm His claims!"

According to Dr. Elmer Hess, President-elect of the American Medical Association, "All healing is Divine, it is the Divine power of God that heals." A doctor has the power and ability to set a bone, but he must wait for Divine power to heal. "Any

doctor who lacks faith in the Supreme Being has no right to practice medicine," said the Erie, Pennsylvania, specialist in urology.

### The Eucharistic Miracle of Lanciano



Ancient Anxanum, in the Church dedicated to Saints Legontian and Domittian in Lanciano, Italy, has contained for over twelve centuries the first and greatest Eucharistic Miracle of the Catholic Church. This wondrous event took place in the 8th century A.D. as a

divine response to a Brazilian monk's doubts about Jesus' Real Presence in the Eucharist.

During Holy Mass, after the two-fold consecration, the host was changed into live Blood, which coagulated into five globules, irregular and different in shape and size. The Host Flesh, as can be very distinctly observed today, has the same dimensions as the large host used today in the Latin Church; it is light brown and appears rose coloured when lighted from the back. The Blood is coagulated and has an earth colour resembling the yellow of ochre.

Since 1713, the Flesh has been preserved in an artistic Ostensorium, delicately embossed by an artisan of the Neapolitan school. The Blood is enclosed in a rich and very old cup made of Rock crystal. In 1970-71 and again partly in 1981, there took place a scientific investigation by the most illustrious scientist Prof. Odoardo Linoli, eminent Professor in Anatomy and Pathological Histology and in Chemistry and Clinical Microscopy. He was assisted by Prof. Ruggero Bertelli of the University of Siena.

The analysis was conducted with absolute and unquestionable scientific precision and they were documented with a series of microscopic photographs. This analysis sustained that The Flesh is real Flesh, consists of the muscular tissue of the heart, complete in its essential structure. The Blood is real Blood, proteins and minerals were found in the same normal proportions. The Flesh and the Blood belong to the human species having the same blood-type: **AB** [Blood type identical to that which Prof. Baima Bollone uncovered on the *Holy Shroud of Turin*.]



### Santarem, Portugal, 1200 A.D.



Sometime between 1225 and 1247, a woman who was very unhappy with her husband, went to a sorceress to find a method of making her husband love her. She was asked to bring a Consecrated Host to the sorceress. The woman did not consume the Host but wrapped the Host in her veil.

On her way out, the Host began to bleed profusely. Afraid, she hurried home and kept the veil and Host in the bottom of a trunk.

In the night, husband and wife were awakened by a bright light coming from the trunk, lighting up the entire room. They spent the rest of the night adoring the Miraculous Host. The next day people, were attracted by the light and came into the house to witness the miracle for themselves. The Parish Priest came and took the Host back to the Church in a solemn procession. The Host was placed in a wax container in the Tabernacle. The next day, when the Priest opened the Tabernacle door, he found the wax container shattered into pieces, in its place, was a crystal container with the Blood of the Host inside. The silver Monstrance is kept in Saint Stephen's Church where it can be seen today; the Church has been renamed "*The Church of the Miracle*". From the time of the miracle until today, the incident is re-enacted by the local people on the Second Sunday of April. This Blood is still in liquid form 750 years after the miracle.

### Bolsena and Orvieto, Italy, 1263 A.D.



A German Priest named Peter of Prague, who was having great doubts about the physical presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, was travelling on a pilgrimage. He stopped at Bolsena, about 60 miles from Rome; he stayed for the night at the Church of St. Christina, a local saint of the early Church. He requested permission to celebrate Mass at the altar of the saint and prayed for the grace of Faith in the Eucharist. At the time of Consecration, as he said, "This is My Body," the unleavened Bread turned into Flesh and began to bleed profusely. The priest, not knowing what to do, wrapped the Host in the

corporal and left the altar, drops of Blood spilling on the marble floor in front of the altar. Fr. Peter of Prague immediately went to report this to Pope Urban IV, who was close to Orvieto. Pope Urban sent a Bishop to Bolsena to verify the facts and bring the sacred Relics to Orvieto. Pope Urban set forth to meet the Bishop, fell on his knees before the sight of His Lord manifested before Him in physical form; he went to the balcony of the Papal Palace and raised the Corporal reverently, declaring that this Eucharistic Miracle dispelled the heresies running rampant at that time. Pope Urban instituted the Feast of Corpus Christi. St. Thomas Aquinas wrote the Liturgy for that Mass and composed the hymns "O Salutaris" and "Tantum Rego". The Sacred Relics are preserved in Orvieto, while the marble chips on which the Blood spilled are preserved at Bolsena.

### Offida, Italy, 1273 A.D.



A lady named Ricciarella, wanted a happy married life with her husband, Giacomo Stasio. A local sorceress told her to take a consecrated Host home [by not swallowing the Host at the time of receiving the Communion] and to burn it and mix it with her husband's drink. When she did so the outside of the Host [which she placed in a pot over a fire for the Host to burn] turned into Flesh, and while the centre of the Host retained its original form, Blood gushed from the Host turned Flesh. Ricciarella was frightened and hid it in a pot. The pot was placed in a hole in the stable housing the animals. After seven years when she confessed her sin, on recovering it, they found the Flesh and Host incorrupt. Holy Relics are installed in the Sanctuary of St. Augustine in Offida.

### Cascia, Italy, 1300 A.D.



In Cascia, Umbria, known to everyone as the city of St. Rita, a Priest lost respect for the Eucharist. One day, on receiving a sick call, he took the Eucharist irreverently and placed it between the pages of his breviary. When he opened his breviary to give the sick man Communion, this priest was shocked to find two large Blood stains on the

pages facing each other. These two pages were removed from the breviary, after the priest had confessed his sin; one page was kept in a Tabernacle in Perugia while the other in a monastery in Cascia in the Church built next to the monastery in honour of St. Rita, the stigmatic nun, who joined the convent after the death of her husband and two sons. Over the years, the people noticed a change on the blood-stained page of Cascia. The face of Christ can be seen on it, when a flashlight is placed at the back of the page.

#### **Bologna, Italy, 1333 A.D.**



Imelda Lambertini, born in a noble Bolognese family, was known for her piety and spirituality. She was permitted to join a Religious Order at the age of nine, but could not receive Communion

with her other sisters as she was not yet 12 years old. But the Lord had a special gift for her. On the feast of the Ascension in 1333 after mass, the sisters saw a bright white Host hovering over Imelda's head. A priest took a Paten and the Host settled on it; he took it as a sign for Imelda to be given First Holy Communion.

On receiving First Holy Communion, Imelda went into ecstasy and died the same day - May 12, 1333, when she was eleven years old. Blessed Imelda's body is venerated in the Parish Church of San Sigismondo, near the University of Bologna; her body is incorrupt.

#### **Zaragoza, Spain, 1427 A.D.**



There was a married couple at Zaragoza whose marriage was very stormy. Some friends wrongly advised the wife to consult a sorcerer for a love potion. The sorcerer asked her to bring

a consecrated Host from the Church. The woman received Communion, and swiftly withdrew the Host from her mouth, placed it in a cloth bag and went to the sorcerer.

When she opened the bag, she did not find the host; instead, there was a perfectly formed, beautiful little live baby; a bright aura surrounded His Body. The sorcerer told the woman to take the Baby home and burn it in a fire and carry the ashes back to him. The woman tied the Baby to a metal rod and turned it over the fire. When the fire went out, the Baby was not dead but very much alive and brilliant in light. The woman ran throughout the streets of Zaragoza, fear, repentance and tears streaming down her face. The sorcerer too fell to his knees in fear and begged pardon from God he had so hated and was so willing to blaspheme.

The woman went to the Cathedral to confess her sins, while the sorcerer went to the Vicar General of the diocese to ask how he could receive pardon for his terrible sin. The Baby was taken in a procession to the Cathedral on a golden plate. The Baby was placed under heavy guard on the altar of San Valero. On Sunday morning, the Archbishop celebrated the votive Mass of the Blessed Sacrament in honour of the Eucharist Miracle. During the Offertory as the gifts of Bread and Wine were offered, the Baby disappeared, and in its place the Consecrated Host reappeared. As a result of this Eucharistic Miracle, the people of Zaragoza were renewed in their devotion to the Blessed Sacrament.

There are many more Eucharistic Miracles. All the saints and holy people, put themselves entirely in God's hands for their physical and spiritual nourishment. The LORD is our nourishment too.

**The Eucharist is Jesus' fulfilment of the promise He made before His ascension; the promise that He would remain with us till the end of time. He is not only present to us – by the gift of the Holy Spirit sent by the Father. Jesus is truly present to us – physically present to us – in this total gift of Himself.**

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

## **READER'S FEEDBACK**

We have increased the number of pages of *Fr. Agnel Ashram News*, from 20 to 28, to bring you more interesting articles. We would love to hear from you. Share your views at **[agnelashramnews@gmail.com](mailto:agnelashramnews@gmail.com)**

**This magazine is available online.**

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# JUST FOR FUN

-Christine D'Sylva

May is a very hot, sweltering month and most people enjoy going for vacations to preferably cooler places to beat the heat.

May gives way to June that heralds the start of the rainy season that we all look forward to after the blistering May heat.

On that cheerful note, let's begin...

## The month of May - Fun Facts



The month of May was named for Maia, the Greek Goddess of fertility.

No United States President to date has ever died in May.

The U.K. celebrates May as the National Smile Month.

It was on May 1, 1931 that the Empire State building in New York was officially opened.

In the month of May, a meteor shower named Eta Aquarids passes by Earth between April 19 and May 28. It is easiest to view it from the equatorial regions of the world.

May 4 is popularly recognized as Star Wars Day because of the words of the movie, "May the force be with you."

Finally, is your birthday in May? If it is, you are fortunate for it is said that those born in May have a greater chance of being more successful in life and experience more love. Yet according to British folklore, children born in May will fall ill at birth so perhaps it is not such a lucky month. I guess it really depends on your perspective of things to view things either positively or negatively.

## Quiz - All about May



1. What is the birthstone of May?
2. What are the two birth flowers of May?
3. Which are the two Zodiac signs in May?
4. Which day in May is celebrated as May Day?

## Travel broadens our mind - A true story



A lady's husband battled cancer for six months but sadly passed away. She just found it hard to believe that she was now a widow and that he was no more. Nothing really prepared

her for his death although she had known he was going to die.

They had been together since she was 19 and she had never known what it was without him by her side. She had always been part of a couple. But as days passed, she felt perhaps it was time to find herself. A family member offered their Maui condo to her to take some time off to recuperate from her loss. She accepted gratefully and arrived in Hawaii.

Later, she decided to go to Kauai and rented a beautiful house in the jungle by herself. She spread her husband's ashes in the ocean at the secluded beach they had discovered on their honeymoon. But after Hawaii, she realised she could function without him and was determined to carve a new life for herself.

She decided to be on the go and not spend her life moping. She used to come home for a few days to live with her mother-in-law and dog then leave to explore new places like Australia, Florida, Tanzania and many other places. This helped lessen her deep grief and she found she became independent and began to enjoy life again.

She visited over 20 countries. Travel indeed broadens the mind as she was exposed to different cultures, dress, food habits and houses of different kinds of people. This enabled her to broaden her outlook on life and learn to be more accepting of others and shed her prejudices.

What did she learn from this experience? What can we too learn?

**She learnt that we must live in the moment, not in the past or future. Experiences and connections are what matter a lot in life. We cannot predict the future or even control it too much, but we must live in the moment and follow our dreams. We should savour life to its fullest as a gift to enjoy in its present moment.**

## Riddles



1. What kind of band never plays music?
2. What has one eye but cannot see?
3. What has words and numbers but never speaks?
4. Which is the hardest and most stubborn key to turn?

## Mother's Day



May is a month to honour our mothers and the second Sunday of May is often celebrated in many countries including India as Mother's Day. Mothers are very important to a family because of their role as

caregivers, protectors and mentors to their kids. This day is observed in more than 50 countries around the world.

After the death of her mother in 1905, an American woman named Anna Jarvis, wanted to set aside a day to honour the work and sacrifices made by mothers. She held the first Mother's Day celebration in Grafton, West Virginia, in May 1908 and this soon caught on with people realising the need to honour mothers.

This month take time to thank your mum for all her kindness and sacrifices and give her a gift to express your love for her.

## Smile Please



1. Why do Americans choose from just two candidates to run for president but 50 for Miss America?

2. Wife gave her husband the silent treatment for an entire week. She was very upset

with him. The husband at the end of the week smiled and declared happily, "Hey, we are getting along pretty great lately!"

3. After finishing Chinese food, there was a fortune cookie for both the wife and the husband. The wife's fortune cookie read - Be quiet for a little while.

He husband's fortune cookie read - Talk while you have a chance.

4. A bank is a place that will lend you money if you can prove that you do not need it.

5. An archaeologist lady was sitting in a café looking sad.

The cheerful bartender asked her if she was okay.

The archaeologist lady sighed deeply, "My career is in ruins!"

6. A wealthy hostess gave instructions to her new maid before a party, "Now remember, Annie, do not wear any jewellery when you serve my guests."

Annie answered, "Madam, I do not have anything valuable but I must thank you for the warning."

## What is the Good Word?

### All about Rivers

We all know a river is a ribbon-like body of water that flows downhill from the force of gravity. Let's test your knowledge about rivers.



1. The longest river found in North Africa.

2. The second longest river in the world situated in South America.

3. The world's deepest river.

4. He swam the entire length

of the Amazon River in 2007.

5. The smallest river in India.

6. The Father of all rivers.

7. The river in India considered as the Mother of all rivers.

## St. Joseph - The worker



To foster deep devotion to St. Joseph among Catholics, Pope Pius XII instituted the feast of St. Joseph the Worker on May 1.

By work, humankind fulfils the command found in the Book of Genesis to care for

the earth and to be productive in our labours.

St. Joseph the carpenter and the foster father of Jesus is an example of the holiness of human labour.

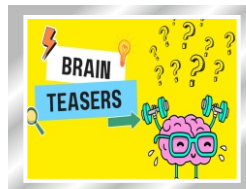
This saint was a foster father of Jesus. He taught Jesus carpentry and Jesus often worked besides his father learning the trade. This upholds the necessity that man should work for his daily bread.

This silent saint had the noble task of both caring for Mother Mary and Jesus Christ and doing his work each day as a carpenter to provide for his family. He serves as a model for the head of the family to provide for his family and not take the easy way out by refusing to be the main provider for his family.

In Genesis God commanded - By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground.

St. Joseph serves as a model reminder for men to be vigilant in their studies, study a fitting trade diligently to help them earn their livelihood to support both themselves and their families.

## Brain Teasers



1. What has no hands but might knock on your door and if it does you better open up?

2. I rock but do not roll. Granddads love me. What am I?

3. If you have a bowl with ten

apples and you took away three. How many do you have now?

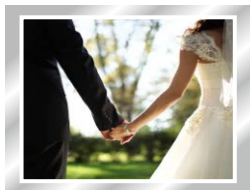
4. What will you actually find at the end of a rainbow?



5. What single digit appears most frequently between and including numbers 1 and 1000?

6. Mavis works in an aquarium. When she tries to put each turtle in its own tank, she has one turtle too many. When she puts 2 turtles per tank, she has one tank too many. How many turtles and how many tanks does Mavis have?

### May superstition that some people still believe in



A rhyme goes - Marry in May and you'll surely rue the day.

It was considered a bad omen to marry in May in Roman times because May was the month of the Feast of the Dead and three days

of that month were devoted to cleansing the evil dead spirits.

In those days, society frowned upon couples seeking to get married thus making their union unlucky. They were instructed that instead of celebrating they should pay homage to the dead. In addition, May was also the festival of the Goddess of Chastity which made a celebration of marriage seem unlucky.

Of course today some people choose to disregard this superstition, however there are many people who believe old superstitions. I guess everyone is entitled to their own viewpoints.

### Birthdays in May



Here are a few famous personalities whose birthday falls in May

Arthur Wellesley, the Duke of Wellington known as the Iron Duke defeated the

French Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte at Waterloo in 1815.

Florence Nightingale, the Lady with the Lamp as she was popularly called was an English nursing pioneer of the Crimean War who reduced the hospital death rate from 42% to 2%. That of course is no mean feat.

Queen Victoria of the United Kingdom and Empress of India was born in this month and she reigned over the greatest empire in the world.

**So that is all for this month. Take care and God bless. Till next month.**

### Answers

#### Quiz

1. Emerald. 2. Lily of the Valley and Hawthorn. 3. Taurus and Gemini. 4. May 1

#### Riddles

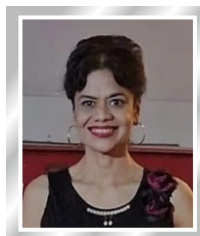
1. Rubber band. 2. A needle. 3. A book. 4. A donkey.

#### What is the Good Word?

1. Nile river. 2. Amazon river. 3. Congo river. 4. Martin Strel. 5. Arvari River in Rajasthan which is 45 km long. 6. Indus river. 7. Ganges river.

#### Brain Teasers

1. Opportunity. 2. A rocking chair. 3. The 3 apples you took. 4. The letter W. 5. Number 1. 6. There were 3 tanks and four turtles.



*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.*



***“Mother: The most beautiful word on the lips of mankind.”***

***-Khalil Gibran***





## FR. AGNEL'S BLESSINGS

### THANKSGIVING FOR HEALING FROM BRAIN SHRINKING PROBLEM

**CALIFORNIA, USA:** My daughter had met with a car accident. Her MRI diagnosis revealed that her brain was shrinking. So I prayed to Ven. Fr. Agnel for his kind intercession that this should not happen. After 2 years, the MRI was done again and a miracle happened. She didn't have the brain shrinking problem any more.

-Shilpa Desai

### THANKSGIVING FOR HEALING FROM HEART BLOCKAGE

**MUMBAI:** We thank Fr. Agnel for the miraculous healing of Anil Ravasahab Kamble. When he was 1 year old, he had a heart blockage. We prayed to Ven. Fr. Agnel for a healing and within a few years, he was healed of his heart problem. Now he is 26 years and is fine.

-Manjubhai Durgappa Gasti

### THANKSGIVING FOR HEALING FROM KNEE PAIN

**MUMBAI:** My wife had to undergo a knee operation. I prayed to Ven. Fr. Agnel, for 5 to 6 months, for the success of the operation. Recently, the knee got cured without any operation, after praying for a long time. Thank you, Ven. Fr. Agnel, for your kind intercession.

-Mathew D'Souza

### THANKSGIVING FOR GIFT OF A CHILD

**MUMBAI:** I have always longed for a child of my own. Through the kind intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel, my prayers have been answered and I have been blessed with the gift of a child.

-Preeti D'Souza

### THANKSGIVING FOR PROBLEMS SOLVED

**BANDRA (EAST):** My son, Anup A. Redkar, was in a lot of trouble for 4 years. We prayed to Ven. Fr. Agnel and on 10th April 2024, he got out of that trouble. We thank God for showering his blessings on him and for being in good health.

-Mary A. Redkar

### THANKSGIVING FOR SUCCESS IN STUDIES

**TAMIL NADU:** Our son Ruchir Rajeshkumar Parmar has been in Canada since the last 4 months to study and work. He is keeping good health. We are also thankful that our daughter Rechal Rajeshkumar has been doing well in her studies, keeping good health and saying the family prayers.

-Vidhyaben & Rajeshkumar Parmar

### THANKSGIVING FOR PASSING IN EXAM

**VIRAR:** I am thankful to Fr. Agnel for answering my prayers and helping me pass my exam.

-Neomi Lopes

### THANKSGIVING FOR GETTING A CHILD THROUGH ADOPTION

**MIRA ROAD:** We were a couple without a child for several years. We had undergone several infertility treatments and lost hope. Finally, we visited Fr. Agnel Ashram, Bandra and prayed for a child. Our prayers were answered and we were blessed with a child through adoption. We ask Fr. Agnel to pray for us, for the good health of our child and family.

-Roshan and Nisha

### THANKSGIVING TO VEN. FR. AGNEL FOR SUCCESS IN LIFE

**VASAI:** I am very much thankful to Ven. Fr. Agnel for helping me achieve success in life. I always pray to the Venerable for his kind intercession.

-Rommy D'Costa

### THANKSGIVING FOR BEING WITH ME ALWAYS

**VAKOLA:** Through the kind intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel, I have been blessed abundantly.

-Lorraine Fernandes

### THANKSGIVING FOR FAVOURS RECEIVED

**JUHU, MUMBAI:** I have been blessed in several ways through the kind intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel. I am indeed grateful for all the favours received and the gift of life.

-Savio & Perpetual Misquitta

### THANKSGIVING FOR ABUNDANT BLESSINGS

**OMAN:** Through the kind intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel, our family has been blessed in many ways.

-Brenda Vincent D'Costa & Family

### THANKSGIVING FOR BLESSINGS RECEIVED

**GOA:** I would like to thank Ven. Fr. Agnel for blessing me in every way. Day after day, the Venerable is interceding for all our intentions with God.

-Giemma Fernandes

### THANKSGIVING FOR SECURE JOB

**MUMBAI:** Ven. Fr. Agnel has blessed me with a good job. Everything is possible through the kind intercession of the Venerable and the graces of Almighty God.

-Nikhil Mithe

### THANKSGIVING FOR EVERYTHING

**BANDRA:** We visit Fr. Agnel Ashram, Bandra, regularly. The shrine has a serene environment. We come with our burdens and experience peace of mind there.

-Alphonsia Vijay Thakur



## OUT OF THEIR BOUNTY

Praveen S.	Mumbai	55000	Vilas V.	Mumbai	2000	Thomaskutty S.	Kerala	1000
Sybal R.	Mumbai	50000	Jaion C.	Kerala	2000	J. Kummathutharapil	Kerala	1000
Gujubai U.	Thane	40000	Cranetech E.	Mumbai	2000	Stanley V.	Mumbai	1000
Archena S.	Vasai	30000	Rija Anna	Kerala	2000	Prabha V.	Mumbai	1000
Anita J.	Mumbai	30000	Peter V.	Vasai	2000	Paresh M.	Thane	1000
Shane F.	Mumbai	20000	Vijaya R.	Vasai	2000	Shiji Sajuj	Kerala	1000
Sanjay K.	Mumbai	15000	Pranav B.	Mumbai	2000	P. G. Antony	Kerala	1000
Frahnak D.	Mumbai	12000	A. R. Elavia	Mumbai	2000	Jamila D.	Mumbai	1000
Hemshree P.	Gujarat	10500	Arulgnanastephen	Tamil Nadu	2000	Hyacinth K.	Mumbai	1000
Joseph T.	Kerala	10000	Agnelo D.	Mumbai	2000	Linda D'Cruz	Kerala	1000
Dilbur P.	Mumbai	10000	Shilpa H.	Vasai	2000	Sharon R.	Mumbai	1000
Shalaka I.	Vasai	10000	Denis D.	Mumbai	2000	Varsha R.	Mumbai	1000
Agnelo D.	Goa	10000	Errick E	Mumbai	2000	Hiren G.	Dombivli	1000
Anthony T.	Gujarat	10000	E. V. Sebastian	Kerala	2000	Rita Johnson	Kerala	1000
Ashley J.	Hyderabad	10000	Calton D.	Mumbai	2000	Devassiya	Kerala	1000
Anthony T.	Gujarat	10000	Sairus J.	Mumbai	1750	Maxi D.	Kerala	1000
Ashley J.	Hyderabad	10000	Sunitaben M.	Gujarat	1500	Monica D.	Kerala	1000
Kamala V.	Mumbai	10000	Daanish D.	Mumbai	1500	Santha T.	Mumbai	1000
Zubin J.	Vasai	7000	Attely A.	Dombivli	1500	Lissa G.	Kerala	1000
Warren F.	Mumbai	6000	Arun J.	Kerala	1500	M.D. Mathai	Kerala	1000
Gina E.	Mumbai	6000	Thomas T.	Kerala	1500	Jessy P.	Karnataka	1000
Subramaniam R.	Mumbai	5100	Simili K.	Kerala	1500	Donald V.	Vasai	1000
Babu I.	Kerala	5000	Melvyn J.	Thane	1250	Flemy T.	Kerala	1000
George T.	Kerala	5000	Beena J.	Mumbai	1250	Varsha R.	Mumbai	1000
V. B. Reddy	Hyderabad	5000	Alice D.	Mumbai	1250	Gavin P.	Mumbai	1000
Vasillie G.	Kerala	5000	Sharon D.	Mumbai	1250	Albert F.	Kerala	1000
Diana V.	Kerala	5000	Jacob D.	Mumbai	1250	Nikunj	Gujarat	1000
O. Nazareth	Mangalore	5000	Suzanne D.	Mumbai	1250	Pratibha R.	Pune	1000
Henry M.	Karnataka	5000	Sanjay K	Mumbai	1100	Christopher	Mumbai	1000
Cherunny	Karnataka	5000	A. Santhappan	Tamil Nadu	1000	Mercy A.	Mumbai	500
Richard D.	Goa	5000	Xavier S.	Thane	1000	Ilaben K.	Mumbai	500
Rajendra K.	Mumbai	5000	Joseph G.	Gujarat	1000	Joyal P.	Gujarat	500
Cyril A.	Ambernath	5000	Jennifer P.	Mumbai	1000	Rameshbhai	Gujarat	500
Uma Vilas	Mumbai	5000	Agnel B.	Thane	1000	Saumaya S.	Ahmedabad	500
Hitesh H.	Bhandup	5000	Miti D.	Mumbai	1000	Samaya S.	Ahmedabad	500
Jatin M.	Mumbai	5000	Ekyam	Mumbai	1000	Dimple D.	Gujarat	500
T. Trivedi	Mumbai	5000	Antony M.	Kerala	1000	Neelhi	Mumbai	500
Suraj Pai	Singapore	5000	Luca A.	Karnataka	1000	John B.	Tamil Nadu	500
Pooja T.	Delhi	5000	Roshan P.	Karnataka	1000	Patrick P.	Mumbai	500
O. C. Georgekutty	Kerala	5000	Rosamma G.	Kerala	1000	Evena M.	Mumbai	500
Lawrence L.	Karnataka	5000	Amal S.	Kerala	1000	Arun B.	Gujarat	500
Carlton A.	Mumbai	5000	Maria S.	Tamil Nadu	1000	Varghese	Mumbai	500
Avina F.	Mumbai	4000	Rajeshkumar	Gujarat	1000	Heyansh P.	Mumbai	500
T. G. George	Mumbai	3000	Aditi M.	Mumbai	1000	Akshay S.	Mumbai	500
Mira T.	Gujarat	3000	T.P Simon	Kerala	1000	Marian F.	Mumbai	500
Jain M.	Kerala	3000	Darragh Smail & Co.	Kerala	1000	Ramesh T.	Mumbai	500
Techno Products	Tamil Nadu	3000	Rajesh M.	Mumbai	1000	Rincy F.	Vasai	500
Babu T.	USA	3000	Joy M.	Vasai	1000	Charlotte M.	Mumbai	500
Annie L.	Mumbai	3000	Bhupat M.	Thane	1000	Jihaan G.	Mumbai	500
Aloo T.	Mumbai	3000	Ashwini A.	Mumbai	1000	Poornima	Vasai	500
Rodney V.	Mumbai	3000	Sanvedna K.	Pune	1000	Prashant	Mumbai	500
Gracy N.	Thane	2500	Anthony T.	Kerala	1000	Marian D.	Mumbai	500
M. V. Fernandes	Bengaluru	2500	Vasudev B.	Mumbai	1000	Hitesh H.	Mumbai	500
Anu Philip	Kerala	2000	T. A. Anthony	Mumbai	1000	Mahrugh M.	Nashik	500
Somi K.	Kerala	2000	Neena C.	Mumbai	1000	Tresa H.	Kerala	500
Zubin J.	Vasai	2000						

# BOB'S BANTER

by Robert Clements

## Handling Angry Words..!

"Miss," says the little fellow, running after his class teacher, "He called me a bad word!"

The wise teacher looks at her young student, "And what did you do to provoke him to say that?"

No, I'm not defending the boy or girl who said an ugly word, but very often we forget the provocation as we punish an offender who reacted. But the situation doesn't rest there. In quarrels between a husband and wife, the husband or wife next day remembers the words thrown at him or her, but forget what got the other to say them.

It's time we started putting angry words back in context.

Many, many years ago, I remember a casual worker in my business, who was trying to form a

"Don't respond to them," said the lawyer with a chuckle, "Just react to the facts!"

Needless to say, we won the case, and I've always remembered my lawyer's advice.

When people throw words at us in anger, it's not our job to catch those words and hurl them back with more vigour, but here's some advice, go deep into what caused them to say what they said, and proceed with your response accordingly.

A loving father took a doll away from his toddler daughter. The little one threw a tantrum and then in a fit of rage slapped her father. The father, reacting to the sudden pain and without thinking slapped her back, stunning the little one. It took many days for his daughter to come back to him, without being afraid.




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union in my company by sending me a lawyer's notice. I took it to my lawyer, and pointing the harsh sentences out to him said, "Look what he's calling me!"

The lawyer nodded, and said, "You want to hit him back?"

"Yes," I said, "The audacity of that man, he's just a labourer in my company and he needs to be taught a lesson!"

"And that's exactly what he wants you to do," said my lawyer, "He has no facts to attack you with, so with these name calling words he expects you to get so riled up, that you will respond violently, and with your response, he will build his case."

"So, what do I do?" I asked.

That's what we do, when we hold onto angry words and react to them. Our spontaneous and unthinking reaction to them causes unnecessary and sometimes irreversible damage.

Instead, understand the context, look deep into the provocation, then wisely decide how you will handle not the words, but the situation. If the words were said out of despair, handle the feeling, if frustration, look into what the cause and reason is, and suddenly life will become all the easier in the living, and many a relationship, saved...!

*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](mailto:bobsbanter@gmail.com)*



***BALBHAVAN BOYS Day Out  
at HD Beach Resort, Vasai,  
on 8th April, 2024***





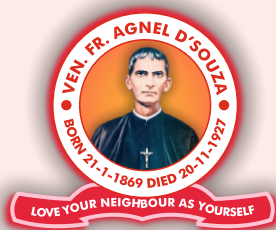
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## VOTE INDIA



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IN THE GENERAL ELECTIONS,  
BEING HELD IN INDIA, TILL 1ST JUNE 2024.**



**If not delivered please return to**

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