

FR. AGNEL

ASHRAM NEWS

NOVEMBER 2024



VEN. FR. AGNELO D'SOUZA

IN OUR HEARTS, ALWAYS!

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**VEN. FR. AGNELO'S 97TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY****Wednesday, 20th November 2024****PROGRAMME****SPECIAL NOVENA SERVICES | 11TH TO 19TH NOVEMBER 2024****Every day**

Morning : 7.00 a.m. & 9.30 a.m.: Holy Mass and Novena Prayer in English.

Evening : 6.00 p.m. : Holy Mass and Novena Prayer in English.

N.B.

On 17th November, all Masses and Novena Services will be held as on normal Sundays.

**20TH NOVEMBER (WEDNESDAY) : 97TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF VENERABLE FR. AGNELO**

Morning : Mass followed by Novena Prayers at 7.00 a.m. & 9.30 a.m.

Evening : A Solemn Concelebrated Mass will be held at 6.00 p.m. in the Ashram Compound, followed by Novena Prayers.



**Most Rev. Thomas Macwan, Archbishop of Gandhinagar,
will be the main Celebrant on 20th November 2024.**



Thousands of devotees will participate in this Annual Novena and celebration.

Over one lakh of favours, some of them truly miraculous such as cure of cancer, T.B., Paralysis etc. have been received through the powerful intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnelo. Favours obtained and petitions to be placed at the Shrine of Ven. Fr. Agnelo may be sent to the following address:



Rev. Fr. Superior

FR. AGNEL ASHRAM

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

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

Website : www.agnelashram.org

Bus No. 211 : Special Bus Service to Ply from Bandra Railway Station to Fr. Agnel Ashram Gate.

MESSAGE FROM THE REGIONAL SUPERIOR



Diwali greetings to everyone and best wishes for the New Year, to be lit up with peace, happiness and prosperity!

During my canonical visitation to the Agnel Region in October, I visited the Agnel Centres in Bandra, Ambernath, Pune, Verna, Assagao, Vashi, Delhi, Noida, Greater Noida and Vaishali. I am quite impressed and appreciate the hard work and efforts of each one of you, for the growth of our centres. I took the opportunity to interact with the Principals, Heads of Departments, staff and students alike.

In my address to the staff, I stated that the attitudes of the students must be different from the others. They should inculcate the values of Humility and Simplicity in life. The staff should continue to give their best to their institutes and set the benchmarks of excellence in their fields. I encourage each one of you to keep up the good work!

We started the month of November, remembering the saints on the 1st and being inspired by their lives. Most of us have been named after saints. In 2014, Pope Francis said that everyone is called to be a saint, and that holiness is a gift from God that can be achieved in daily life through love and caring for our neighbours.

On 2nd November, we also remembered our dear departed loved ones and offered prayers for their souls.

On 20th January 2024, we are celebrating the 97th Death Anniversary of Ven. Fr. Agnelo D'Souza, a member of the Society of the Missionaries of St. Francis Xavier, Pilar (SFX). Let us be inspired by his life in the service of the marginalised sections of society!

This will be followed by the Exposition of the sacred relics of St. Francis Xavier from 21st November 2024 to 5th January 2025 at the Basilica of Bom Jesus in Old Goa.

In this month of November, we also celebrate Children's Day on the 14th, the birthday of the first prime minister of India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, known for his fondness of children. It is celebrated in India to raise awareness about the rights, education, and welfare of children.

Jawaharlal Nehru was affectionately called *Chacha Nehru* ("Uncle Nehru") by children, and their faith in him was a constant source of happiness for him.

Lord Jesus Christ too liked children. He said we must become like a little child to enter the Kingdom of God. He was taken up by the good child-like qualities of trusting, following and believing.

International Students Day, observed on 17th November, celebrates the contributions of students worldwide. It highlights their role in promoting education, social change, and advocating for human rights. On his day, I wish each of our students studying in the Agnel institutes across India, a bright future ahead!

- Fr. Bento Rodrigues

THE UNIVERSAL SIGNIFICANCE OF JESUS CHRIST

-Fr. Fio Mascarenhas, SJ

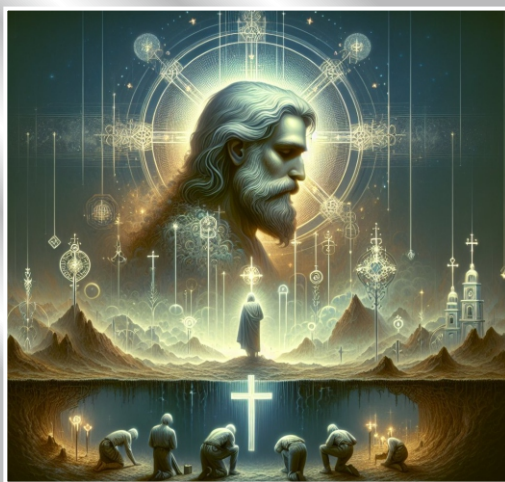
Catholics will soon celebrate (24 Nov) the Feast of Christ the King! But what or whom is Jesus the King of? And where is this Kingdom located? Obviously, it is not a temporal Kingdom of this world, but it is a **spiritual** Kingdom that is universal! As Scripture tells us,

“Although he was a Son, he had to learn obedience through what he suffered; and being made perfect, he has become the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him” (Heb.5:8f).

This short sentence reveals the greatest truth of all times, that the death and resurrection of a unique historical person called Jesus Christ has made available to *all of humanity* the great gift of eternal happiness!

“All of this applies *not to Christians only* but to all men and women of goodwill in whose hearts grace is active invisibly. For since Christ died for all, and all men and women are in fact called to one and the same destiny, which is divine, we must hold that *the Holy Spirit offers to all* the possibility of being made partners, in a way known to God, in the paschal mystery” (Vatican II, *Gaudium et Spes*, n.22).

Jesus had already declared at the Last Supper that his blood would be poured out “*for many*” (a Hebrew phrase meaning *for all*), and then on the Cross *he had identified himself with the sins of all human beings*, of whatever religion or lack of religion: “*For our sake God made him to be sin* who



knew no sin, so that in Jesus we might become the righteousness of God” (2Cor. 5:21).

Therefore, though the ordinary way for human beings to be saved and receive new life in the Spirit is to “*confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead*” (Rm. 10:9),

nevertheless, in God's providence, any person of goodwill who does not have the real opportunity for sacramental baptism can still be saved through *Jesus' death and resurrection “in a way known to God,”* as the Second Vatican Council taught.

Pope St. John Paul II developed this theme in 1990 in his encyclical on missionary work, explaining that the gift of salvation cannot be limited “*to those who explicitly believe in Christ and have entered the Church. Since salvation is offered to all, it must be made concretely available to all... (But) many people do not have the opportunity to come to know or to accept the Gospel revelation, or to enter the Church. The social and cultural conditions in which they live do not permit this, and frequently they have been brought up in other religious traditions*” (RM, n.10).

For such people who, “*through no fault of their own*” (Vatican II, *Ad Gentes*, n.7) do not know Christ, the divine plan has indeed provided a way of salvation. As John Paul II explained well, “The condition ‘*through no fault of their own*’ cannot be verified nor weighed by *human* evaluation, but must be left to the divine judgement alone... We have not been given the possibility to discern the

mystery of God's action in minds and hearts, in order to assess the power of Christ's grace, as he takes possession, in life and death, of all that 'the Father gives him,' and which he himself proclaims (Jn. 6:39) he does not want to 'lose'." (L'O.R, 7 June 1995).

We conclude joyfully, therefore, that Jesus Christ **IS** truly the Universal Saviour and Good Shepherd, who has laid down his life for his sheep, and *no Christian or non-Christian* can come to the Father *except by him*. John Paul II again insisted, *"The unique value of Christ's sacrifice on the Cross must always be acknowledged in the destiny of every man... It is important to stress that the way of salvation taken by those who do not know the Gospel is not a way apart from Christ"* (ibid). The Kingdom of God is not limited to the Catholic Church!

At the same time, Jesus is a PERSONAL Saviour to each one of us because, being the *Lamb of God*, he exchanged places with "me" (see 2C or 5:21 quoted above), he took my sins upon himself and in return he gave me his divine life! *"God cancelled the bond which stood against us with its legal demands, setting it aside by nailing it to the cross!"* (Col. 2: 12-14). God reconciles us by the blood of his Son in order to *transform* us into *"a new creation in Christ"* (2Cor.5:17). God now fulfils in a most marvellous way the prophecy of Ezek. 36:26ff: *"I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes... And I will be your God, and you shall be my people!"*

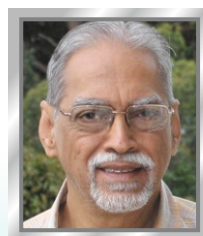
We can stand in awe and wonder at God's Providence and Mercy which "fills the whole earth." The Kingdom of Jesus Christ has no man-defined boundaries because it is a spiritual reality! Ask yourself, 'Would it not be unjust of a loving Father God to condemn two thirds or more of human beings (all created in his image) to "hell" if, for no fault of their own, they are not able to receive sacramental baptism'? If we look around

us and take the trouble to meet People of Other Faiths, we will likely find that many of them (perhaps more than some Christians?!) are in fact experiencing ***"the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, goodness, honesty, kindness, patience and self-control"*** (Gal 5:22). Therefore, St Paul himself clearly states: *"the Kingdom of God does not consist of food and drink but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit"* (Rom 14:17).

Good Pope St. John Paul II has boldly stated: *"The Holy Spirit's presence and activity affect not only individuals but also society and history, peoples, cultures and religions. Indeed, the Spirit is at the origin of the noble ideals and undertakings which benefit humanity on its journey through history"* (RM, n.28).

And good Pope Francis has been repeatedly trying his best to **"broaden the horizons of our minds"** over the last 12 arduous years of his pontificate, with speeches galore and several noteworthy encyclicals, teaching about how to extend the Kingdom of Jesus Christ in our needy world.

So let us all sing with new joy and conviction, **"JESUS CHRIST IS LORD! JESUS CHRIST IS KING OF ALL HEARTS OF GOODWILL! ALL PRAISE AND GLORY BE TO THE FATHER, THE SON, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT!!!"**



Dr. Fiorello Mascarenhas SJ DMin recently celebrated his Diamond Jubilee in the Society of Jesus, and writes and teaches biblical spirituality. His contact: frfiomas@gmail.com

MYSTIC AGNELO AWAITING CANONIZATION

-Leon Bent



Ven. Agnelo was born at Anjuna, Goa on 21st January 1869 in a very pious family. His parents were devout and religious minded people imbued with a true Christian spirit. His father was a strict disciplinarian, while his mother was a paragon of virtues, devotion and zeal. She used to teach Catechism to the children of the neighbourhood.

From the very beginning, little Agnelo had a 'crown of light,' a halo around him: An energy field or luminosity, and since he was spiritually illumined, awakened and enlightened, the young man also developed a spiritual aura. Jesus - Power flowed fountain - like from him. In simple terms it may be referred to as - faith imbued, Spirit-filled, grace in superabundance; the Fruit and Gifts of the Spirit. This is why he was forever a living prayer! Divine electricity oozed out of him!



Without the shadow of a doubt, Fr. Agnelo was a mystic and his life was a mystery. Further, a mystery is always cocooned in the deepest silence and utter solitude. The torch of mysticism burned in Agnelo with sweetness and purity. The sixth beatitude promises: "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God" (Mt 5:8). This is why he was led to the "Beatific Vision!" The saint in question, in worldly terms, was like an "upside down" tree: Its roots in heaven, its flowers and fruit, right here on earth. Mystics "Bring Eternity into Time." In Fr. Agnelo, we have a person who achieved completeness of life, which the mystics call "deification": The ineffable Splendour of God! Agnelo, the mystic, who rose heavenward on the wings of love has much to give to the spiritual life of men. He is a saint: A "Christified human being" - A treasure of timeless spirituality! This is why the Society of Pilar is doing its very best to get the Catholic Church's centre, the Vatican, to get him Canonized.

Pilar Missionary

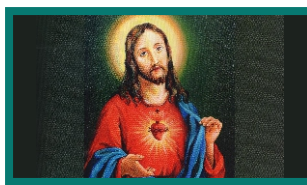
God had destined Agnelo for a perfect life. He wanted to live the Evangelical counsels in a



religious order. After much prayer, reflection and consultation, on 17th July 1897, he joined the Missionary Society of St. Francis Xavier of

Pilar, Goa. On 24th Sept. 1898, he was ordained a priest by Dom Antonio Sebastiao Valente. For the next 10 years, he almost lived a hidden life preparing himself for a unique and spiritual and missionary journey.

Jesus was the Centre of Agnelo's Life



Mathew (Mt. 13:44) speaks about a man who by chance, found a hidden treasure. After covering it again, he went to sell all that he had to buy the field,

so that, he could own this rare treasure. Paul was soaked with Christ. Paul wanted to vanish entirely in Christ. "For to me life is Christ and death is gain" (Phil. 1:20). "Who will ever separate us from the love of Christ?" (Rom. 8:35).

Fr. Agnelo, too, found in Jesus the only treasure of his life. He relished hours together in Jesus' "real presence" in the form of consecrated sacramental bread and wine in the Tabernacle. "There was a rare glow around him, when he prayed before the Blessed Sacrament," testifies his sacristan who accompanied him even during late hours at night. The Holy Hour or Adoration is not a devotion: It is a sharing in the work of redemption. Jesus said to the three apostles in the garden of Gethsemane: "Could you not watch one hour with me?" (Mt.26:40). Not for an hour of activity, did he plead, but for an hour of companionship." In Adoration before the blessed Sacrament, "heart speaks to heart." "Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you" (Archbishop Fulton Sheen). Adoration and the Eucharist are powerhouses of grace and blessings from on high. They are like diesel locomotives that, can draw any person, just as it did Venerable Fr. Agnelo, on the path to holiness and sainthood.

Fr. Agnelo was covered with the glory of God and his countenance became sublime and ecstatic when celebrating the Eucharist, and his countenance appeared to be transfigured from the

moment of Consecration. Fr. Agnelo had an intense devotion to the Sacred Heart, and it was a delight to hear him speak of Jesus and of His passionate love for us. Indeed, he inflamed the hearts of his seminarians and the people with his devotion to Sacred Heart of Jesus. Yes, the Crucified and Risen Lord belongs to all, the rich and poor, those of different faith persuasions and to countless devotees who have special needs. This explains the proclivity of Agnelo to the poor and marginalized, those hurting and in pain and his gentleness and tenderness for everyone.

The New Paradigm

Ven. Fr. Agnelo rediscovered the theology of the Kingdom of God: The new reign of godliness marked by right relationships, justice, hope, love, peace and joy. This new reign is in the world, but not connected to it; experienced in time, but not time-conditioned; profoundly human, yet cosmic; concerned with physical reality, yet, essential spiritual. The holy member of the Society of Pilar professed a radical and simple lifestyle. The “saint” of Pilar was counter cultural. He administrated “Shock Therapy,” the awakening, activation, and ascension of in a person's psyche – catalyst: Paul describes the profile of a spiritual catalyst: 1) Focus on God's grace; 2) Live to please God, not people; 3) They get personally involved being accessible, affectionate, empathetic, and vulnerable; and 4) Combine their example with challenges to others. The agenda for a Christian revolutionary is synonymous with drastic, profound and poignant transformation. This kind of liminality was that indefinable, ambiguous space, thrust upon Fr. Agnelo. It is a position of privilege and pain, inviting and frightening. Liminality is a quality of being in between two places or stages, on the verge of transitioning to something new. There's a liminality to the brief moment between being asleep and being fully awake.

Holy Death



He had a very holy death on 20th November 1927. It was on the vespers of the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Fr. Agnelo was the

preacher. Towards the end of his Sermon, he collapsed in the pulpit. When his body was brought down, he insisted on being allowed to stay for the Benediction of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Even in his last moments he displayed the tranquility of a saintly man. Upon his death people in the vicinity of the Seminary said, “a saint

has passed away.” Even before his funeral had taken place, the staff and the students from the seminary began picking up the few possessions of Fr. Agnelo. Latecomers began cutting his nails and even hair to keep as “relics”. At his funeral the then parish priest commented, “I have just laid a saint to rest.”

It was only on January 10, 1939, the remains of Fr. Agnelo were transferred from Rachol Seminary to the monastery of Pilar, on July 2, 1939.

Fr. Agnel's Shrine and Healings

From then on multitudes began flocking to his burial-place, and even pick up mud from his grave only to mix in water and drink to be cured from various sicknesses. Indeed, Fr. Agnelo's tomb at Pilar attracts countless devotees from all over the world.

Holistic healing is integral to Christianity. There are 41 cases of Jesus' healing ministry in the Gospels, and 19 in Acts of the Apostles. Jesus specifically sent his followers to practice such a mission, directing them to expect miracles, to occur as part of being his followers. The apostles' task was to teach, preach and heal. We have the classic passage in the New Testament about anointing with oil for healing (Cf. James 5:14).

In the context of Venerable Fr. Agnelo's process of canonization—in the Roman Catholic communion - several miracles of healing, must be confirmed before sainthood is declared.

Every Thursday, and especially from 11th to 20th November, many devotees flock to Pilar to make a Novena in preparation for Fr. Agnelo's Death Anniversary, to thank God for the favours received through his intercession. This is why shrines and relics are used as healing media. A Shrine is a Catholic or any other sacred place that, houses the remains or relics of a saint or other holy person, which is the object of religious veneration, prayer, pleadings and pilgrimage. In Fr. Agnelo's case it is his majestic tomb, in the ancient Franciscan Monastery at the summit of Pilar hill, where his remains are kept for veneration, prayer and intercession. This aspect of Catholicism was lost for several centuries, until it was revived by the Second Vatican Council. Whenever the Church has been imbibed with the Spirit of Jesus Christ, the power of the Holy Spirit is a real healing force.

Cause for Canonization

Anyone can strive to live a saintly life on earth. In the Roman Catholic Church, one has to die to be declared a saint! A Seraph or immaculate or 'white as snow' or holy person, means someone set aside for the purpose of glorifying God. A canon is

simply a list. We have no idea who are in heaven or hell or purgatory. All those souls who are in heaven are saints. However, a “canonized Saint” is one whom the Church believes to have evidence, following a rigorous scientific process, of their presence in heaven. A Canon is a partial list. It doesn't record all who are in heaven, but only those we believe through evidence are surely in heaven. Canonization is the declaration of a deceased person as an officially recognized saint, specifically, the official act of a Christian communion declaring a person worthy of public veneration and entering their name in the “canon catalogue of saints”, or in the authorized list of that communion's recognized saints. Fr. Agnel is almost halfway through this rigorous and arduous follow-up.

Agnelo Gustavo Adolfo de Souza S.F.X. (21 January 1869 – 20 November 1927), was a Goan Roman Catholic priest of the Society of the Missionaries of St. Francis Xavier, Pilar, who performed missionary work in the province of Goa, then part of Portuguese India. The cause for his canonization has been accepted for investigation by the Holy See, and has progressed to the point that he has been declared Venerable.

The Dicastery for the Causes of Saints is the Vatican organization that, manages the process of canonization and beatification. However, the process of canonization usually begins five years after a person's death, but the Pope can waive this waiting period.



Today, even after 97 years of his saintly death, Fr. Agnelo's tomb at Pilar, attracts countless devotees from all over the world, to give thanks for favours received, to seek his powerful intercession in their needs and to pray for his canonization.



Conclusion

Saints like Venerable Fr. Agnelo, are powerful beacons of the light of Christ to the world. Every situation in their lives is an exemplar of their discernment of God's will for themselves and for the service of others. They give us courage and assurance. The core of Fr. Agnelo's spirituality is a sign of hope and

vitality for God's people, on their pilgrim journey to eternal bliss. After all they were men and women like us, frail yet graced, who did what all of us are called to do – to search for God, and to respond to him at every moment of our lives. Religious, like Fr. Agnelo, are intended to be kingdom-spotters; their vocation is to be kingdom people. They belong to, both, Church and world, to



the here and hereafter, and yet, they are invited to transcend all these categories, and respond to the supreme prophetic

task of advaita: The recreation of life in the depth and unity of the One who holds all things in being. Those who do this to a supreme level are declared saints.

VEN. AGNELO IS ONE SUCH PERSON—THE ICON OF PILAR! PRAY THAT HE BE RAISED TO THE CATEGORY OF A CANONIZED SAINT!



Leon Bent frequently contributes Researched Articles to numerous Newsletters, Catholic Magazines and Theological Journals across the Globe, and Digital Online Portals in India and Worldwide, sometimes with a reach of 40 million readers.

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**

This magazine is available online.

Visit us at **www.agnelashram.org**

ALL SAINTS' AND SOULS' DAYS

- Jubel D'Cruz

All Saints' Day is a Catholic festival celebrated to honour all the saints. It is also known as the Feast of All Saints, All Hallows' Day, Solemnity of All Saints and Hallowmas. As the name suggests, it is a festival to honour all of the saints, known and unknown. The feast is celebrated on November 1 by the Catholic Church.

In Catholic countries, All Saints' Day is an official public holiday. In the eastern orthodox churches and the other eastern Catholic churches, associates celebrate All Saints' Day on the first Sunday after Pentecost.

All Saints' Day is observed to honour and remember all those who have lived a pious life on earth and may have not taken cognisance by the church to honour them to be revered as saints. It is presumed that they are in their heavenly abode. These could be anyone from our families - from grandparents' generation to present times - they are remembered with special liturgical services on November 1.

On November 2, the Catholic Church all over the world remembers the departed ones in people's families, including friends, relatives and strangers who have passed away.

The Catholic celebration of All Saints' Day (November 1) and All Souls' Day (November 2) stems from a belief that there is a powerful spiritual bond between those in heaven (the "Church triumphant"), and the living (the "Church militant").

In Catholic theology, the day commemorates all those who have attained the beatific vision in heaven.

The Catholic doctrine holds that the prayers of the faithful on earth can help cleanse the souls of those who are believed to be in purgatory because

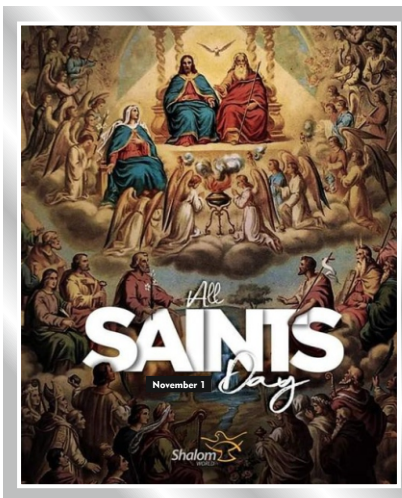
they died with lesser sins on their souls.

Somehow, parishioners give more emphasis to their departed ones in keeping with the old church tradition and are seen flocking to the local cemeteries to clean up the graves of their separated ones, decorate them with flowers in preparation for the blessing of the graves that are to be held at the cemetery grounds. This is an annual religious exercise attended to remember and respect the memories of their departed loved ones. But the good news is resurrection for those who accept and follow Jesus.

In the homily of the liturgy, the parish priest stresses upon this aspect of the faith alerting the faithful to keep away from leading a sinful life. Compassion

and understanding are the essence of human dignity, forgiveness is pleasing to God and caring for the sick and the aged is upholding humanity. Let us therefore, as we observe the day of the departed, reach out to the needy in times of distress, loneliness and suffering and bring relief and succour to them.

There is scriptural basis for this belief. The primary reference is in 2 Maccabees, 12:26 and 12:32. "Turning to supplication, they prayed that the sinful deed might be fully blotted out. Thus made atonement for the dead that they might be free from sin."



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

The first Catholics revered as saints were the martyrs who died under the Roman persecution in the first centuries after Jesus Christ was born. These martyrs were honoured as saints almost instantaneously after their deaths, as Catholics who had sacrificed their lives in the name of God.

LITTLE STARS, BIG DREAMS: CELEBRATING INDIA'S CHILD PRODIGIES

- Tancia Pires

When talent and giftedness meet hard work and determination, along with a bit of luck and graces from divine powers, we get an amalgamation of exclusive qualities and skills filled inside a person. Through the journey of life, these are the people who inspire everyone around them through their thoughts, words, and deeds. They end up leaving behind their sparkle and legacy, and even years after they have passed, their achievements and laurels are upheld and remembered with great pride and honour.

Many such names are recalled today and are written in golden letters in history, like Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, Rabindranath Tagore, Milkha Singh, Sarojini Naidu, Shakuntala Devi, and most recently, Mr. Ratan Tata. Presently, the list continues with legendary artists like Lata Mangeshkar, Amitabh Bachchan, Rajnikant, sportspersons like Sachin Tendulkar, Kapil Dev, Virat Kohli, Vishwanathan Anand, PV Sindu, Rohan Bopanna, Business Tycoons like Mukhesh Ambani, Savitri Jindal, Narayana Murthy etc. and the list goes on and on, across various fields of expertise. They inspire this generation and will undoubtedly be remembered in the long run for their dedication and prolific milestones. Their age, leadership, and expertise are respected around the globe.

As we celebrate Children's Day this month, let us dive into the lives of **Indian Child prodigies** in their respective fields. We say age brings experience and aids in sharpening skills, but these little wonder kids have defied the law of nature and mankind and made it big in life at a very tender age. Come, let's have a look!

Fierce in Sports!

The common names that strike the mind while thinking about youngsters in sports would be **Rameshbabu Pragganandhaa**, his sister **Vaishali**, and **Gukesh**, the Tamilian stars in the mind game of chess. They have earned laurels at the global stage through their sharp, mindful tactics and speed, surpassing even adults in the same arena. Apart from these well-known names, a little fairy, **Pari Sinha**, mastered this sport at age

four, when she won a state championship. While most of us at this age struggled to memorize the alphabet and count to 10, she was well-versed with her master strokes. Maharashtrian girl **Aditi Swami** became the youngest World Champion in archery at the age of 17, winning the Compound women's final in 2023 in the World Cup era. She has won two gold medals at the World Archery Championship. In January 2024, she was awarded the Arjuna Award, among other accolades and titles.

Music, Theatre and Art...

India is known for its cultural diversity, soulful music, and richness in performing arts. Hailing from Chennai, **Lydian Nadhaswaram** is an exceptional musician who learned to play the drums at two and piano at eight; he appeared at the 'World's Best' on CBS and even won a striking amount of one million. Currently (aged 19), he can play as many as 14 musical instruments. He has also entered the Indian film industry as an actor. **Trupturaj Pandya**, another Indian music

sensation, is recognized by the Guinness Book of World Records as the youngest Tabla player. He has made over 200 public performances at massive stages world-wide. Besides music, he even won the Global Child Prodigy (GCP) award in 2020 for sports. **Advait Kolarkar**, born in 2014, is one of the world's youngest painters, gaining recognition in the global art scene with his abstract paintings even without formal training. He began his journey just by playing with paints and now has reached a point where his paintings have earned him a total value of over \$300,000 till date; He has also won the GCP award in 2020. With an innate talent for singing, **Sharanya Mudundi**, discovered her gift of voice at the age of seven, and is now an established Carnatic musician. In 2020, she bagged the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar – in art and culture – India's highest civilian honour bestowed upon exceptional achievers under 18. She is an all-rounder with achievements in karate, marathons, and English Olympiads. She won the GCP in 2022, too, for art and culture.



Intelligence, Entrepreneurship, and much more!

While penning down this article, I sought the help of Google. Nowadays, such search engines make the smallest of information available at a fingertip. They are a boon, but what astonished me the most was a child being called the “Indian Google boy.” With an IQ same as that of the great scientist Albert Einstein (150) as examined by specialists, this boy had participated in 'Kaun Banega Crorepati' in 2013 when he was just five and left everyone jaw-dropped with his vast knowledge, exceptional intelligence, and answering speed. He has gone forth to become a motivational speaker, thus inspiring a lot of people.

Gujaratis are known for their expertise in business and management. Little did I know that a young Gujarati boy of 15 would become the CEO of his own logistics and shipping company and pave his way to entrepreneurship at such a tender age. 'Paper and Parcels' was founded in 2018 by this young genius **Tilak Mehta**, who has made eyes turn with a turnover of over 100 crores. He has received the Forbes Leadership Award, GCP 2020 for entrepreneurship, and is a speaker, even recognized by Tedx (Ted talks).

At the age where we fumble to talk even to our neighbours and fail to express emotions and thoughts confidently, **Licypriya Kangujam** (born in 2011), from Manipur, has turned out to be 'Greta Thunberg' of India. When she was just seven years old, she began raising her voice to combat Climate change and disaster risk reduction. This young environmental activist began the 'Child Movement' to protect our planet. She went on to make her mark globally by fearlessly voicing her opinions and ideas. Licypriya attended the UNESCO Partners' Forum 2019, spoke at the 2019 United Nations Climate Change Conference, addressed global gatherings on Earth Day 2020 in Washington DC, US, is a six-time TEDx speaker, and is still inspiring youngsters and great political leaders across the globe. **Karnav Rastogi** is yet another environmentalist, who has authored around 11 books based on crucial topics like environmental

pollution, plastic etc. He's also a great speaker and conducts workshops for children of his age and others. The list goes on...

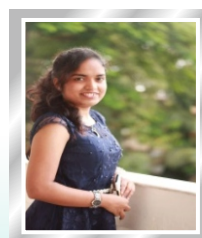
This search for young children who have made it big in life has left me speechless yet motivated to do better. Speechless because the lists from different sources were never-ending; it would take an entire book to compile data about each of them and their wondrous achievements. Among those

mentioned above are so many other names, like **Nihal Raj**, known as the 'Little Chef Kicha', who has made it big in culinary arts. **Abhijitha Gupta**, a child author of four books; **Namya Joshi** – an Advocate at just 16; **Aarav Anil**, who mastered the concepts of artificial intelligence, robotics, computer-aided diagnosis, and more. He has represented India in over 20 robotic competitions held in the US, Russia, France and other

countries.

They say Children of today are the future of Tomorrow. It's mind-zapping to know so many Indian Prodigies across a broad spectrum of skills, expertise, and talents. These examples should inspire young minds to do well in their respective fields and never to look back, as not even the sky is the limit. Let us work together to nurture young minds, never look down on them, and moreover, support and encourage them to soar higher and make it big in life! They might be small now, but let their dreams be big and their achievements even bigger!

Happy Children's Day!



Tancia Pires, who hails from the scenic state of Goa, is currently pursuing her Ph.D. degree at the Manipal Academy of Higher Education. She is passionate about literature, performing arts, music and singing.

Tech fest Crescendo 2024 - a journey of innovation, teamwork and discovery

This year, Crescendo 2024 held at **Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues College of Engineering, Bandra**, Mumbai, brought together technology enthusiasts and innovators under the inspiring theme of “**Singularity.**” Symbolizing the convergence of unique talents and groundbreaking ideas, the theme set the tone for a festival filled with creativity, collaboration and community integration.

The festival consisted of four flagship events - **Hackathon, Mechathon, Elex-a-thon**, and **RoboRift**- that encouraged participants to push their limits and embrace new challenges.

The Hackathon, organized by the **Google Developer Student Club**, saw programmers race against the clock, creating software solutions that redefined what's possible. The Mechathon tested teams with real-world engineering challenges, promoting practical and sustainable innovation. Elex-a-thon pushed participants to new heights in circuit design and microcontroller programming, while RoboRift, the marquee event, had custom-built robots navigating intense, dynamic challenges that showcased the strength, precision, and creativity of each team. RoboRift's arena buzzed with energy, as spectators witnessed thrilling battles that were both a testament to human ingenuity and a celebration of teamwork.

Alongside the flagship events, Crescendo 2024

featured a line-up of council events that brought together students from all disciplines, showcasing the diverse talents and interests within the community. **CSI CRCE's Code n Convo** combined tech talk with Python debugging, while Mozilla Club CRCE's CodeSprint put teams to the test, challenging them to enhance code bases in real-time. The **Codelab CRCE's Treasurehunt** added an adventurous twist, blending coding skills with fast-paced problem-solving.

Pitch & Prototype invited students to merge their skills in design and business, with teams creating a UI/UX design and pitching it within 45 minutes - a real test of creativity under pressure. **IEEE CRCE's Bugfree** and **ACM CRCE's SharkTank** encouraged practical problem-solving and sustainable innovation, while **The Mavericks' DroneX Odyssey** and **IIIE CRCE's Junkyard Genius** challenged participants to bring emerging tech and resourceful thinking to life in engaging, hands-on ways.

Crescendo 2024 wasn't just a series of competitions and challenges - it was a celebration of what's possible when people come together to learn, create and grow. The theme of Singularity felt especially fitting, reminding us of the extraordinary things we can achieve when we come together with a shared vision.



Rev. Fr. Valerian D'Souza, Director, Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues College of Engineering (right) welcoming Chief Guest Dr. Aatul Wadegaonkar, Managing Director, AW Consulting, at the inauguration of Crescendo 2024.



Creativity and innovation on display at Crescendo 2024.

Bit N Build Hackathon 2024 receives overwhelming national and international participation

Bit N Build Hackathon 2024 was a truly international coding event that brought together innovative minds from 20 Indian states and 20 countries worldwide. **Organized by the Google Developer Student Clubs (GDSC) at Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues College of Engineering, Bandra, Mumbai**, on 26th and 27th October, 2024, this year's hackathon emphasized challenges in Web App Development, AI/ML, and Blockchain, with problem statements tied to UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

National and International participation was extensive, with **prestigious collaborations from institutions in the USA, UK, Dubai, Poland**, and other countries, solidifying Bit N

Build as a global event and showcasing GDSC CRCE's dedication to connecting students worldwide.

The hackathon began with the problem statements introduced. Teams dived into brainstorming, before a mentoring session commenced with experienced mentors, primarily alumni with past hackathon exposure, providing insights to refine project ideas. The mentors' guidance expanded participants' perspectives, helping them develop feature-rich solutions.

Judges from industry giants like **TCS, Jio, Capgemini** and even **Amazon** evaluated the projects and offered constructive feedback, allowing teams to improve their prototypes.



1st Runners-up of the Bit N Build International Level Hackathon 2024 receiving their prizes from Principal Dr. Surendra Singh Rathod (second from right).



Students from India and abroad participating in the Bit N Build Hackathon 2024.

AGNEL HAPPENINGS

Greater Noida

VERUS MUN 2024 THE MAIDEN EDITION AT FR. AGNEL SCHOOL, GREATER NOIDA

On October 18th and 19th, **VERUS MUN 2024** took Fr. Agnel School's Model UN legacy to new heights. Inspired by the theme "**Unspoken Oppression**" and driven by the motto Vox Omnium Audiatur - "**Let the Voice of All Be Heard**" - the conference aimed to address global issues affecting marginalized communities.

This special occasion marked the presence of eminent author, **Ms. Rana Safvi** on 18th October and the insightful presence of Sr. Supreme Court Advocate **Ms. Mahalaxmi Pavani** on 19th October 2024. There were more than 300 delegates across six diverse committees. The VERUS MUN provided a platform for participants to engage in transformative dialogue and create impactful solutions.

The agenda was both ambitious and thought-provoking. In the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), delegates discussed the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, seeking resolutions amid escalating tensions. The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) focused on the humanitarian crisis in the Horn of Africa, centering on child displacement in Somalia due to environmental and conflict-related issues. The UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) examined Myanmar's violent deadlock and its devastating impact on Rohingya and indigenous communities, highlighting the pressing need for humanitarian aid. Meanwhile, the CAI

tackled the contentious debate surrounding a Uniform Civil Code.

The The All India Political Parties Meet (AIPPM) examined reforms in the Indian education system, emphasizing the role of the National Testing Agency (NTA). The International Press added a unique dimension, capturing the event's essence through journalism, photography and caricatures. Each department i.e logistics, hospitality, finance, PR & marketing, and IT, had dedicated students in-charge, fostering leadership and ownership at every level. A key highlight was the presence of an exceptional executive board, featuring esteemed delegates from Delhi's prestigious institutions, including NLU, Delhi University and IIT.

Their experience and dedication ensured fruitful debates and well-facilitated sessions, inspiring students to achieve a high standard of diplomacy.

The conference not only elevated Fr. Agnel School's MUN reputation but instilled a passion for excellence and collaboration among all participants. VERUS MUN 2024 is now a highly anticipated event in the MUN circuit and are committed to returning next year with an even more inspiring edition that raises the bar for MUN conferences everywhere.



Eminent author Ms. Rana Safvi providing delightful insights at VERUS MUN 2024.



The distinguished audience.

GRANDPARENTS DAY AT FR. AGNEL'S VIDYANKUR PRE-PRIMARY SCHOOL, PUNE



"A Salute to our Roots"

Grandparents are the family's greatest treasure, the founders of a loving legacy, the greatest storytellers, and the keepers of tradition. Grandparents are the family's strongest foundation. Through their special love and care, grandparents keep a family close to the heart.



Fr. Agnel's Vidyankur Pre-Primary School, Pune, celebrated **Grandparents Day** on 18th and 19th October 2024 to honour the grandparents of the students. The event commenced with Lighting of the Lamp, followed by the Principal's address to the gathering. He reiterated the role of Grandparents in our lives, as they are "A little bit of parents, a little bit of teacher and a little bit of friend."

The tiny tots of Nursery, LKG and UKG came up with scintillating performances as they danced to the melodious tunes of songs, based on the themes of Love, Respect, Gratitude and Friendship between Grandchildren and Grandparents. The performances by students left the audience

spellbound and thoroughly mesmerized.

The day was filled with blessings, happy faces, excitement and cheer, as the budding stars of Fr. Agnel's Vidyankur School displayed their love and affection for their grandparents. Students participated in different cultural programmes to welcome their *dada-dadis* and *nana-nanis*.

The children were excited to showcase their love for their grandparents and this was evident on their faces while they were performing. All participants thoroughly enjoyed themselves making memories that will last a lifetime.

The Grandparents were given sweets and a small gift on this day.



Little ones performing specially for their grandparents.



Grandparents make a happy picture.

PADRE SANTO - APOSTLE TO THE INDIES

-Severina Peres

The youngest child born in a family is often the pet of the family. In the castle of Xavier, Navarre, Spain on April 7, 1506 was born **Francis Xavier**, loved very tenderly by his parents not just because he was their youngest but also because he was good natured, amiable and charming. He grew up in an atmosphere of faith. His desire was to make himself illustrious by being a man of letters. Therefore his family sent him to Paris for academic studies in 1525. There the youthful Xavier encountered a different world but somehow his purity in conduct was not ruined despite being tested. He enjoyed his favourite sport of high jumping and pursued it with pride.

Came the time when Francis Xavier's new room mate in Paris was Ignatius of Loyola. Xavier avoided Ignatius, but it was not for long. Ignatius would soon impress upon Xavier the right purpose of man's life and efforts. Xavier's worldly pursuits and amusements were abruptly abandoned, he **experienced** the love of God and deepened his friendship with Jesus through the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius. From then on he decided to spend his life in the service of souls. He was ordained a priest on June 1537.

On being asked to go to India in place of another, Xavier rose to the occasion answering "Here I am, send me where you will". For 15 years, he would teach, preach, sweat, labour to bring God's love to all. He was a man in a hurry, going back and forth from Goa to the Fishery Coast, Tamil Nadu, Mannar, Cochin, Mylapore, Malacca, Ceylon, Japan and finally to China, Xavier bore the hardships of arduous and dangerous journeys by ship, long treks, inclement weather, wretched accommodation, unfriendly people, wars and bandits (Japan), rampant disease and fell sea sick often. The journey to Japan in 1550 was the most soul stirring and agonizing of all his life's journeys.

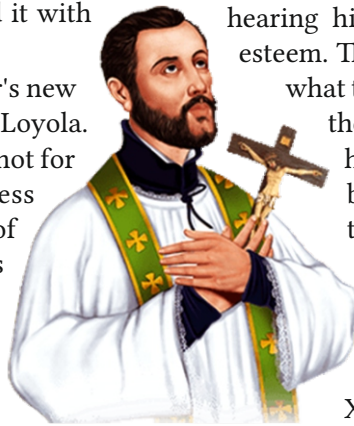
Wherever he went, Xavier first sought out the desperately sick and dying, personally caring,

nursing and consoling them, attending to the sick in prisons, leper asylums and hospitals. He laboured so hard for the sick and dying that he soon fell ill himself. In the villages, he was besieged by crowds of people who wanted him to come to their huts and to pray for their sick. God showed great mercy to the sick, healing them in both body and soul (Mt 4:23). He was admired and called, **Padre Santo**, the Holy, Saintly priest.

Xavier would give himself to much prayer and contemplation. He was most effective when he did speak, speaking of the things of God with great feeling. The listeners showed great satisfaction on hearing his preaching and held him in high esteem. They would willingly turn away from what the law of reason forbade and give up their vices. He exhorted everyone to have filial trust in God rather than believing in divination and fortune telling. Living in poverty, he begged for alms for the poor, consoling them, hearing their confessions. His conscience was always chaste and pure.

Xavier would visit the people at their homes often so as to show esteem to them. If anyone was sad, they were happy again when Xavier visited them. Children were attracted to Xavier, always being with him and on his mind, that he had no time for himself. Xavier defended his flock, rushed to their aid, bore any trouble and suffering to protect them. He felt cut to the heart by the suffering and persecutions faced by the Christians. He always looked at the situation from a higher point of view.

Xavier was on his way to China, the land of his dreams, he was stationed in a hut in Sancian. On Nov. 21, 1552, he fell ill with fever and in the night of December 2nd and 3rd, 1552 with the name of Jesus on his lips, Xavier passed away from this life to his Creator. He was given a lowly burial on the beach of Sancian. When his body was exhumed on February 17, 1553 it was found to be incorrupt. Later the incorrupt body was brought by ship to Goa where it has remained to date. Miracles and surge in faith were evident after his death.



Marcelo, a young priest in Naples was injured on the head from a hammer which fell from a workman. He grew worse and was dying. Those around him prayed to St. Francis and the man was miraculously cured when everybody was expecting him to die. In 1622, Francis Xavier was declared a Saint by the Holy See and later on Patron of Missions.

God exalted Xavier's self sacrificing, heroic life of zeal and charity by the **long-standing preservation of his body from corruption.** Down the years, the Sacred Relics of St Francis Xavier at Goa draws people of all faiths from all over the world who come with great devotion to venerate, seeking

his powerful intercession and goodness. St. Francis Xavier was a true disciple of Christ, leading all to Jesus, the Good Shepherd. We are all called to invite others to encounter God, to come closer to Jesus Christ, to act more like him to each other with a smile and joy of faith.



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

The decennial exposition of the Sacred Relics of Saint Francis Xavier in Goa will commence on November 21, 2024 and end on January 5, 2025.



There is no Joy Greater than the Joy of GIVING

Ravindra Prasad, Thane

I am donating an amount of Rs. 5000 through cheque, as my humble contribution towards the care of a Balbhavan boy at Fr. Agnel Ashram.

M.J. Pereira, Pune

I have made a contribution of Rs. 6000 through cheque for the education and medical needs of the Balbhavan boys.

Mira Tharakan, Gujarat

I am pleased to offer Rs. 2000 through NEFT for the welfare of Fr. Angel Ashram children. They are being brought up with love and care by the Pilar Fathers, who are continuing the good work of Ven. Fr. Agnelo D'Souza.

Hazel Perpetual D'Souza, Mumbai

I am pleased to donate an amount of Rs.10,000 through NEFT for the sponsorship of two Balbhavan boys. They are being given the best education and imparted skills in sports, music, drawing and painting. I was happy to see their works of art on display during the Bandra Fair,

held in the garden area of Fr. Agnel Ashram, Bandra, in September this year.

Maria Menezes, Vasai

I am delighted to contribute an amount of Rs. 5000, through PhonePe as a mini sponsorship of one child at Fr. Agnel Ashram.

Princeton, Mumbai

I am contributing an amount of Rs. 2000 through EDC for the Balbhavan boys. It fills my heart with joy to see children of all communities growing up together and being given the right guidance by the Fr. Agnel Ashram Fathers.

Lourdes Fernandes, Mumbai

I am happy to donate an amount of Rs.10,000 through NEFT for the daily expenditure fulfilment of Balbhavan boys.

Jatin Divecha, Thane

I am happy to provide Rs. 30,000 through cheque as the full sponsorship for one year of two Balbhavan boys.

CALLED TO LOVE

-Fr. M.K.George, SJ

A VUCA world is a loveless world. It is full of hatred and enmity. People are used and machines are loved. In this arid world, a Christian is called to love.

Listen to Jesus: "And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. 'Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest? Jesus said to him, 'you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind' ...This is the great and first and foremost commandment. The second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself'" (Mt. 22,34-40).

Read along with this 1 John 4,20: "If anyone says, 'I love God', yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And he has given us this command: whoever loves God must love his brother."

The reality of hatred and violence

One just needs to look at the three main wars in the world today, Gaza, Ukraine and Sudan, to see the amount of hatred and violence that rules the world now. In Palestine alone at least 41,870 are killed, with 97,166 injured (*Al Jazeera*, 6 October 2024). In Israel, the number of those killed in the Hamas-led attack on October 7 is at least 1,139 while more than 200 people were taken captive and some of whom are already killed.

Look at our communities in India. The hatred is seen in hate crimes. The Hate Crime Watch reported that out of 287 hate crimes reported in the period 2009-2019, most took place in the last five years. CJP, another NGO who follows hate crimes reports that five Indian cities alone recorded as many as 17 hate crimes against minority communities. Capital cities like Delhi and Bengaluru recorded the highest number of crimes...(2021).

Our families are no different. In 2023 of the 28,811 police complaints, 6304 cases were related to domestic violence (January 5, 2024). Divorce cases are increasing on a day-to-day basis. One out of 100 marriages ends up in divorce. And, add to these thousands of cases unreported.

The worse is the fight between and within the Churches. Christian groups which professedly are

called to love one another are fighting on the streets.

The antidote to hatred is love alone

In this world of cruelty and violence, the only antidote is to love. The tendency to lose hope is strong. With violence escalating every day, many tend to despair and drug themselves with pleasures of life and even self-destructive ways. Pope Francis reminds us, 'lack of charity causes unhappiness, because love alone satisfies the human heart.'

Get involved in a Project of Love

As a Christian, one can always revert to a project of love. Like the prodigal son, every Christian can repent and restart. Here are some guidelines that we need to be reminded of:

i. Start with you: There is the famous story of Mulla Nasiruddin who left his home at an early age to reform the world. After his attempts to save the world, his own village, and his family at his grand old age, Mulla prayed to God, 'Oh God I tried to change the world, village and family. Now, help me at least to reform myself.' Love yourself first.

ii. Start small: We can form friendships across families, neighbourhoods and communities, irrespective of caste, class or religion.

iii. Love should lead to action: St. Ignatius of Loyola says, 'Love is shown more in deeds than in words.' Action on behalf of the poor and marginalized should characterize Christian love.

iv. Love is patient and kind: Finally, 1 Corinthians chapter 13 will be our guideline to love.

In a VUCA world a Christian is called to love, after the model of Jesus, our Master and Lord.



Fr. M.K. George, formerly Principal of Loyola College of Social Sciences, Trivandrum, is currently General Counsellor to the Superior General of the Society of Jesus in Rome. He can be contacted at gmutholil@gmail.com

THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF PROPHET SAMUEL

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

The life of Samuel is an inspiring narrative of faith, leadership, and obedience to God. His name, "Shemuel," meaning "His divine name is El," reflects his central role as a mediator between God and the people of Israel. Samuel stands as the crucial link between the time of the Judges and the era of the Prophets. His life and ministry, demonstrated an extraordinary capacity for intercession and guidance, shaping the nation's spiritual and political landscape.

Samuel's story begins with a miracle: His mother, Hannah, was barren and prayed for a child, promising to dedicate him to the Lord if her prayer was answered (1 Samuel 1:27-28). God granted her request, and Samuel was born. Hannah fulfilled her vow by dedicating him to God's service under Eli, the priest at Shiloh. Though Eli's sons were expected to succeed him, they dishonoured God. In response, God declared, "I will raise up for myself a faithful priest" (1 Samuel 2:35), signalling that Samuel was chosen for a special role in God's plan.

The Call of Samuel: One of the most significant moments in Samuel's life was when he first heard God's voice. As a young boy serving in the temple under Eli, Samuel had not yet learned to recognize God's call. One night, God spoke to him, but Samuel, thinking it was Eli, went to the priest for help. Eli then realized it was the Lord and instructed Samuel to respond, "Speak, Lord, for thy servant hears" (1 Samuel 3:9).

From that moment, Samuel's journey as a prophet began. God revealed to him the future downfall of Eli's house and appointed Samuel as Israel's spiritual leader. This marked the start of Samuel's influential prophetic ministry. "And Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground" (1 Samuel 3:19). Samuel guided Israel through a period of spiritual crisis, urging the people to repent and return to God.

Leadership and Anointing of Kings: After Eli's death, Samuel became Israel's leader and urged the nation to abandon idolatry and renew their covenant with God. At Mizpah, he led the people in repentance and prayer, and God delivered them

from their enemies. Samuel set up a stone as a memorial, saying, "Thus far the Lord has helped us" (1 Samuel 7:12).

As Samuel aged, the people demanded a king to be like other nations. Samuel resisted, viewing it as a rejection of God's rule, but God reassured him, saying, "They have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them" (1 Samuel 8:7). Following God's guidance, Samuel anointed Saul as Israel's first king, though he warned the people about the burdens a monarchy would bring.

Saul's disobedience to God led to his downfall. Samuel rebuked him, saying, "Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, he has also rejected you" (1 Samuel 15:23). Samuel then anointed David, the youngest son of Jesse, to be the future king, laying the foundation for Israel's future under Davidic rule.

The Legacy of Samuel: Samuel's life ended during Saul's reign, but his influence persisted. In desperation, Saul sought a medium to summon Samuel's spirit. Samuel appeared, prophesying Saul's defeat and death, sealing his fate (1 Samuel 28:19).

Samuel's unwavering faith and obedience to God made him a powerful figure. As a man of prayer, he interceded for his people and spoke the truth, even when difficult. His legacy as both judge and prophet continues to inspire, reminding believers to listen to God, remain faithful in leadership, and trust in His plan. From his miraculous birth to shaping Israel's monarchy, Samuel's life testifies to the power of divine calling.

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

BIBLE QUIZ ON THE LIFE OF SAMUEL

1. Who was Samuel's mother?

- A) Hannah
- B) Ruth
- C) Rachel



2. What did Hannah promise God if he gave her a son?

- A) She would give her son to the Lord's service
- B) She would offer sacrifices
- C) She would never have another child

3. Where did Hannah bring Samuel to be raised?

- A) Bethel
- B) Jerusalem
- C) Shiloh

4. Who was the priest that raised Samuel?

- A) Eli
- B) Aaron
- C) Moses

5. What was Samuel doing when God first called him?

- A) Praying
- B) Sleeping
- C) Serving in the temple

6. How many times did God call Samuel before he responded?

- A) Two
- B) Three
- C) Four

7. What did God tell Samuel about Eli's family?

- A) They would be blessed
- B) They would be punished
- C) They would rule over Israel

8. What position did Samuel hold in Israel as he grew up?

- A) Judge
- B) King
- C) Prophet

9. What did Samuel do when Israel was threatened by the Philistines?

- A) Offer a sacrifice
- B) Pray for them
- C) Lead them into battle

10. What did the people of Israel ask Samuel to appoint for them?

- A) A prophet
- B) A king
- C) A priest

11. Whom did Samuel anoint as the first king of Israel?

- A) David
- B) Solomon
- C) Saul

12. What was Saul doing when Samuel found him?

- A) Looking for his father's donkeys
- B) Working in the fields
- C) Praying at the temple

13. How did Samuel anoint Saul as king?

- A) He laid hands on him
- B) He poured oil on his head
- C) He gave him a crown

14. Who did Samuel anoint as king after Saul?

- A) Absalom
- B) Jonathan
- C) David

15. How did Samuel react to Saul's disobedience?

- A) He celebrated Saul's victory
- B) He grieved for Saul
- C) He ignored it

ANSWERS TO QUIZ ON THE LIFE OF SAMUEL

- 1-A) Hannah (1 Samuel 1:20)
- 2-A) She would give her son to the Lord's service (1 Samuel 1:11)
- 3-C) Shiloh (1 Samuel 1:24)
- 4-A) Eli (1 Samuel 1:25)
- 5-B) Sleeping (1 Samuel 3:3-4)
- 6-C) Four (1 Samuel 3:8-10)
- 7-B) They would be punished (1 Samuel 3:11-14)
- 8-A) Judge (1 Samuel 7:15-17)
- 9-B) Pray for them (1 Samuel 7:8)
- 10-B) A king (1 Samuel 8:5)
- 11-C) Saul (1 Samuel 9:17)
- 12-A) Looking for his father's donkeys (1 Samuel 9:3-4)
- 13-B) He poured oil on his head (1 Samuel 10:1)
- 14-C) David (1 Samuel 16:13)
- 15-B) He grieved for Saul (1 Samuel 15:35)



Fr. Trevor D'Souza, OFM, is a Franciscan Priest, Retreat Preacher and a Writer. He can be contacted at jc4me2000@gmail.com

JUST FOR FUN

-Christine D'Sylva

We are in the month of November, very close to the end of the year. November is a month to celebrate Diwali and of course to look with anticipation to the biggest feast we love - Christmas.

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

Quiz Diwali



1. What is the name of the tradition of drawing beautiful patterns on the floor using powders and flowers?
2. What are oil lamps used in Diwali called?
3. Which Hindu goddess does Diwali honour?
4. Which city in the U.K. holds the largest Diwali celebrations?
5. Why are doors and windows in people's homes left unlocked during Diwali?

Smile Please

1. I told my wife she should embrace her mistakes. She embraced me.



2. Guy goes to a doctor. Doctor: "You are dying." Guy: "I want a second opinion." Doctor: "Okay, you are ugly too."

3. Do you know why Spiderman joined the computer class?
So that he could improve his web design.

4. The trial was over and the jury returned its verdict.
"Not guilty of car theft." said the judge.
The defendant looked at the judge and asked,
"Does this mean I get to keep the car?"

Inspiring True Hero Denzel Washington



Denzel Washington, born in 1954 in New York, was the middle child of a Pentecostal minister and a beautician mother.

The family lived modestly but his parents made great sacrifices to provide him with the best education.

At the age of 14, he was sent away to boarding school to prevent him from falling into street life like so many youngsters. This changed his life forever. It was here he discovered his passion for acting while participating in several school stage productions. He was awarded a scholarship at high school to attend University where he majored in journalism.

But he changed his major to drama and journalism. He began his acting career in theatre and television and soon got many roles that catapulted him into stardom. He was nominated for the Oscars and won his first Academy award two years later in 1989 for Best Supporting Actor for his role in, "Glory"

He married Pauletta Pearson in 1983 and they have four children together. Besides his acting, he has been producer, director and philanthropist and leaves an incredible mark on Hollywood and the world.

He is not embarrassed to talk about his Christian faith. He openly declares, "I believe that Jesus is the Son of God." He also spoke about how he got filled with the Holy Spirit and how the incident shook him up. He continues to read his Bible daily. When it comes to his work, he chooses roles that he can develop into some kind of positive messages.

Today Denzel Washington is often viewed on YouTube giving life advice that makes sense. He comes across as wise and humble and his messages reach world - wide impacting many.

Some of his quotes are:

"My faith helps me understand that circumstances don't dictate my happiness, my inner peace."

"Without commitment, you will never start, but more importantly without consistency, you will never finish."

"I blame no one. I look in the mirror."

"Fall down seven times, get up eight."

Riddles



1. What can you put between 87 and 89 to make the result when added together less than 20?
2. Tom has a very big family. He has 15 uncles and 20 aunts. Each of his cousins has an aunt who is not Tom's aunt. How is this possible?

3. What can jump higher than a building?
4. How does a snowman lose weight?

Inspirational Story



Once upon a time there was a Chinese farmer whose horse ran away. All the neighbours came around that evening and said that it was bad luck. But the farmer only said, "Maybe."

The next day the same horse returned bringing seven horses with him. All the neighbours crowded around, "That is great, such good luck."

The farmer just said, "Maybe."

The next day his only son was riding one of the horses he was attempting to tame and he got thrown off. He broke his leg. All the neighbours came around and said, "It is bad luck."

The farmer shrugged, "Maybe."

The next week, the conscription officers came around looking for people to join the army.

They rejected his son because he had a broken leg. The same neighbours came and said, "Is that not good luck?"

The farmer only said, "Maybe."

What do we learn from this story?

We learn that life is filled with happenings, good and bad. We must learn not to view things as good or bad. The chain of the universe is complex and infinite. Real life stories continue even after the happy ending. Sometimes what we or others perceive as bad may not be so at all but may turn out for our good in the long run. So keeping a calm and grounded attitude is important. Nothing should swell our heads or make us totally dejected. We should keep a middle ground.

Inspirational Quotes



1. "We cannot solve problems with the kind of thinking we employed when we came up with them." - Albert Einstein

2. "Learn as if you will live forever, live like you will die tomorrow." - Mahatma

Gandhi.

3. "Success is not final, failure is not fatal, it is the courage to continue that counts." - Winston Churchill

4. "If you are working on something that you really care about, you don't have to be pushed. The vision pulls you." - Steve Jobs

5. "A man who has made a mistake and does not correct it, it is committing another mistake." - Confucius Kongziz

What's the Good Word?

All about fireworks



1. The place where fireworks originated according to historians.

2. The place in America where the world's largest fireworks was set off.

3. The country that invented the aerial shell and made fireworks colourful.

4. The country which is the largest manufacturer and exporter of fireworks.

The History of Fireworks



The earliest fireworks can be traced to around 2000 years ago in China. People then are said to have roasted bamboo stalks. The stalks turned black and sizzled. Baozhu is a Mandarin

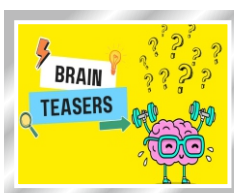
Chinese word for firecracker. It means exploding bamboo.

Years later, Chinese chemists took fireworks a step further. This happened between 600 and 900 A.D. The people filled bamboo shoots with gunpowder and threw them into a fire pit. Steel dust or iron shavings were added to make them sparkle. In China, these fireworks were often used in celebrations.

Fireworks in the 13th century spread in many countries and the fourth of July celebrated as America's Independence Day includes fireworks as part of its celebrations. In our own country, the practice of setting off fireworks during Diwali dates back centuries. Fireworks are a symbol of jubilation and they represent the triumph of light over darkness and good over evil.

It is assumed that the Mughals introduced the tradition of bursting fireworks during Diwali. So the next time you see or hear fireworks, remember they have a long history and are a tradition of jubilation and celebration.

Brain Teasers



1. First I am dried then I am boiled. The longer I swim, the more taste you get. What am I?

2. What can be stolen, mistaken or altered yet never leaves you your entire life?

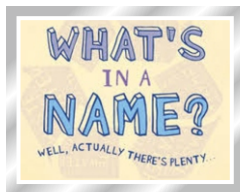
3. He has married many women but never been married. Who is he?

4. Which tyre does not move when a car turns right?

5. If x and z are equal in value, and when

multiplied by 643=643 and multiplied together then added the same number is= 644. What is the value of x and z?

What's in a Name?



Here are names of Bollywood stars. Let's find out their origin and meaning. Do these stars live up to their names?

Shahrukh Khan the top Bollywood star - His name is a Persian name and it

means royal face. Well, he certainly is like royalty in Bollywood.

Aishwarya Rai - Our very own Miss World who is a top Bollywood star. The name Aishwarya means prosperity and wealth and it is a Hindu name. It can also mean of royal or exalted rank. As the most famous Bollywood actress, she certainly lives up to her name.

Amitabh Bachchan - The topmost Bollywood star who is the anchor of the popular show - *Kaun Banega Crorepati*. His name is a Sanskrit name and it means 'he who possesses light without bound, he whose splendour is infinite.' You have to admit he lives up to his name.

Madhuri Dixit - One of the prettiest faces in Bollywood who is also a wonderful dancer. Her name means sweetness, charm, beauty and grace. It is of Sanskrit origin. She too lives up to her name very aptly.

Sridevi - The deceased star who reached the top in Bollywood and was also popular in the South (Tollywood). Her name means Goddess Lakshmi or Divine Goddess. It is a Hindu name. She certainly ruled like a Goddess in both Bollywood and Tollywood.

Akshay Kumar - A top Bollywood actor, his name is of Sanskrit origin and it means eternal, imperishable and undecaying. In Bollywood, he certainly is indestructible as one of the top male Stars.

Wisdom message for the month The importance of politeness



We live in a civilized world and it seems normal that politeness is essential for all our interactions with others. Politeness is sometimes viewed by people as being meek or mild and does not convey a strong person. But

this is untrue. Politeness is a mark of discipline and it entails behaving in a respectful manner towards others and not just to other human beings but to all living creatures that we encounter. It is

not a polite man who is polite to his neighbours but treats his pet dogs or stray animals with an abusive nature. That is a hypocritical and false politeness that does not come from being genuine. Politeness is more than just surface charm, it reflects our inner selves too.

Here is a short story to illustrate the value of politeness.

A teacher who taught in a school always displayed natural politeness and courtesy although he was a simple man who did not know etiquette very well. For example, if he went to a restaurant he would not know how to use a knife or fork. But he was a good polite and kind man.

One evening, a young student driving the teacher home was very rude to the beggars who begged for alms and also the shopkeeper he met since he wanted to buy some groceries for his mother.

He said to the teacher, "I want to be myself and let everyone know how I feel. Politeness is nonsense and just air. Nothing more."

The teacher listened and said gently, "It is true but our car tyres are filled with air and you can see how it helps to soften the blows."

Politeness is a virtue and we must never justify our lack of politeness towards others.

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

Answers

Quiz

1. Rangoli. 2. Diya. 3. Goddess Laxmi. 4. City of Leicester. 5. They hope that Goddess Laxmi will enter their homes and bless them with wealth and success.

Riddles

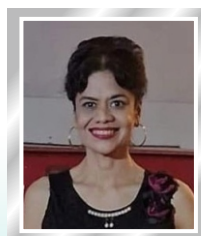
1. A decimal point between both numbers. It adds up to 17.6.
2. Their aunt is Tom's mother.
3. Anything that can jump because buildings cannot jump.
4. He waits for the weather to get warmer.

What's the Good Word?

1. China in ancient Liuyang. 2. Colorado. 3. Italy. 4. China.

Brain Teasers

1. Tea. 2. Your identity. 3. A priest. 4. A spare tyre. 5. Both are equal to the number 1.



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.



FR. AGNEL'S BLESSINGS

THANKSGIVING FOR GOOD HEALTH

VIRAR: Through the kind intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel, I have been blessed with good health. I am a staunch devotee of Fr. Agnel and have been visiting the shrine at Fr. Agnel Ashram, Bandra, for several years.

- *Nathan Rodrigues*

THANKSGIVING FOR FAVOURS RECEIVED

BORIVALI: Ven. Fr. Agnel has blessed us immensely. We are indeed grateful for all the favours received and have faith in the Venerable.

- *Pratyush & Sachi Baghel*

THANKSGIVING FOR FAVOURS RECEIVED

AHMEDABAD: Ven. Fr. Agnel has blessed us immensely. We are indeed grateful for all the favours received and have faith in the Venerable.

- *Steven Peter*

THANKSGIVING FOR BLESSINGS RECEIVED

BARODA: We often pray to Ven. Fr. Agnel and have been blessed immensely. We will continue to pray to him for his kind intercession on his 97th Death Anniversary.

- *Kokila & Chandrakant Fly*

THANKSGIVING FOR GOOD HEALTH

JUHU: I thank Ven. Fr. Agnel for answering my prayers and blessing me with good health.

- *Denzil Benita Sutari*

THANKSGIVING FOR THE GIFT OF A CHILD

MUMBAI: Ven. Fr. Agnel has answered my prayers and blessed me with a child. We have immense faith in the Venerable and thank the Fr. Agnel Ashram Fathers too for keeping us in their prayers.

- *Steron Shavra*

THANKSGIVING FOR BLESSINGS RECEIVED ON 60TH BIRTHDAY

MIRA ROAD: As I celebrate my 60th birthday, I thank Ven. Fr. Agnel for his intercession. I have been in good health all these years.

- *Maria Monserrate*

THANKSGIVING FOR BLESSINGS ON FAMILY

ARNALA: As a devotee of Ven. Fr. Agnel, we pray for his kind intercession. Our family has been blessed in many ways. The Venerable listens and

intercedes for us with the Heavenly Father and Lord Jesus Christ.

- *Fatima Gavdya*

THANKSGIVING FOR FAVOURS RECEIVED

VASAI: Through the intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel, we have received many favours and blessings. This has increased our faith and devotion.

- *Joylisa Rodrigues*

THANKSGIVING FOR ALL BLESSINGS RECEIVED

MAZGAON: I am thankful to Ven. Fr. Agnel for answering my prayers. I have immense faith in the Venerable and Lord Jesus Christ.

- *Laura Azavedo*

THANKSGIVING FOR PRAYERS ANSWERED

KURLA: I prayed to Ven. Fr. Agnel for his kind intercession in helping me in life. My prayers have been answered.

- *Remth D'Souza*

THANKSGIVING FOR BLESSINGS RECEIVED

UTTAN: I always look up to Ven. Fr. Agnel for his intercession. I am indeed grateful for all the blessings received.

- *Shweta Saudya*

THANKSGIVING FOR INTERCESSIONS

VIRAR: I always seek the intercession and blessings of Ven. Fr. Agnel. He supports me in every way.

- *Catina Crasto*

IN GRATITUDE TO VEN. FR. AGNEL

MALAD (W): We are indeed grateful to Ven. Fr. Agnel for blessing us always. The Ashram Fathers are continuing his legacy of service to the marginalised sections of society.

- *Annie Lobo*

THANKSGIVING FOR THE GIFT OF A CHILD

MUMBAI: Ven. Fr. Agnel has answered our prayers and blessed us with a new family member. We have immense faith in the Venerable who intercedes on our behalf.

- *Joseph S.*

OUT OF THEIR BOUNTY

Praveen Srivastava	Mumbai	46000	Nathan Rodrigues	Mumbai	2000	Cavin Peter Fonseca	Mumbai	1000
L.B.D. Rebello	Karnataka	20000	Stany Baretto	Mumbai	2000	A. Santhappan	Tamil Nadu	1000
George Tauro	Mumbai	15000	Stacy Carvalho	Mumbai	2000	Monica D'Souza	Pune	1000
Dicky Alphonso	Mumbai	15000	Peter Fernandes	Mumbai	2000	Reinson J. D'Souza	Mumbai	1000
Samson Pen	Vasai	15000	Rija Anna Francis	Mumbai	2000	Aaron Demonty	Mumbai	1000
Gaurang Mehta	Mumbai	15000	Isabel Hendricks	Tamil Nadu	2000	Dr. Sandipkumar	Gujarat	1000
Hazel Perpetual	Mumbai	10000	Vinith Varghese	Nashik	2000	David Patrao	Mumbai	1000
Ayesha Pereira	Mumbai	10000	Marissa D'almeida	Mumbai	2000	Noylin Fernando	Mumbai	1000
Kevin Martis	Mumbai	10000	Rosy D'Souza	Mumbai	2000	Umesh D. Kanani	Mumbai	1000
N.G. Asher	Mumbai	10000	Ryan D'Souza	Mumbai	2000	Shirley Rajesh	Mumbai	1000
Francis Creado	Mumbai	8000	Sonali D'Souza	Mumbai	2000	Durai Engineering	Mumbai	1000
M. J. Pereira	Pune	6000	Malcolm Rodrigues	Mumbai	2000	Alwyn D'Souza	Karnataka	1000
Warren Philomena	Mumbai	6000	Sandra Rodrigues	Mumbai	2000	Liston D'Souza	Karnataka	1000
Subramaniam R.	Mumbai	5100	Francis Fernandes	Mumbai	2000	Selvi Gonsalves	Vasai	1000
Ravindra Prasad	Thane	5000	Sybel D'Mello	Mumbai	2000	Rovina V. D'Silva	Vasai	1000
Olivia P. Tuscano	Mumbai	5000	Harsh Shukla	Mumbai	2000	Rajendra Modi	Gujarat	1000
Jacob Puthur	Kerala	5000	Mira Tharakan	Gujarat	2000	Skariah Ponnachan	Virar	1000
Agnelo Engineering	Mumbai	5000	Jayashree Correia	Mumbai	2000	Antony M. O.	Kerala	1000
Maria Menezes	Vasai	5000	Margaret Cardoz	Mumbai	2000	Godwyn D'Souza	Mumbai	1000
Sohrab Kothari	Mumbai	5000	Clara Pereira	Mumbai	1500	Chetana Nayak	Mumbai	1000
Anthony Rumao	Thane	5000	Mona Fernandes	Uttan	1500	Priya Vora	Mumbai	1000
Kamla Shah & Fly	Mumbai	5000	Rabia J Khan	Mumbai	1250	Donald Mankar	Vasai	500
Gerard Fernandes	Mumbai	5000	Suzanne D'Souza	Mumbai	1250	Goretty Fernandes	Mumbai	500
Darayus S. Desai	Mumbai	5000	Alice D'Souza	Mumbai	1250	Aruna Fernando	Tamil Nadu	500
Kersi Kapadia	Karnataka	5000	Sharon D'Souza	Mumbai	1250	Aaron D'Souza	Karnataka	500
Philomena Mary	Tamil Nadu	5000	Vasudev B. Tayaole	Mumbai	1000	B. Martin	Orissa	500
Reena Joseph	Mumbai	5000	Mary Anthony	Kerala	1000	Valsala Joseph	Kerala	500
Clara Gonsalves	Vasai	5000	Elvis Joel D'Mello	Karnataka	1000	Jimmy Fly	Mumbai	500
Thelma Pinto	Karnataka	5000	Paresh Thakkar	Thane	1000	Oscar Davla	Gujarat	500
A. V. Vincent	Tamil Nadu	3500	Preet Thakkar	Thane	1000	Aryam Attara	Mumbai	500
Techno Products	Chennai	3000	Dinaz Homavazir	Mumbai	1000	Kanet Tuscano	Vasai	500
Vallery D'Silva	Goa	3000	Francis D'Souza	Mumbai	1000	Annie Lobo	Mumbai	500
Shilpa Henriques	Vasai	3000	Mohes Boat	Vasai	1000	Reeve Fonseca	Vasai	500
Jacob J.	Kerala	3000	Anita Jadhvani	Mumbai	1000	Kamal Tambe	Ahmednagar	500
Kurian Thomas	Kerala	3000	Rudaki Bamaniya	Mumbai	1000	Geet Pujara	Thane	500
Errick Elavia	Mumbai	2500	Delnaaz Mistry	Mumbai	1000	Shiraz Havewala	Mumbai	500
Angelina D'Souza	Mumbai	2000	Abey Thomas	Mumbai	1000	John Baptist	Tamil Nadu	500
Princeton	Mumbai	2000	Jestine Sales	Tamil Nadu	1000	Devindra Patel	Vasai	500
Norbert Fernandes	Karnataka	2000	Joseph Easow	Kerala	1000	Sajimon Abraham	Kerala	500
Vinith Varghese	Mumbai	2000	Dyneshwar Dhone	Mumbai	1000	Selvaraj Mudliar	Mumbai	500
Diago Silveira	Mumbai	2000	Sharon D'Souza	Mumbai	1000	Juliet D'Cunha	Virar	500
Ramesh Ujenia	UK	2000	Macwin Fernandes	Mumbai	1000	Vilas Lopes	Vasai	500
Annie Joseph	Kerala	2000	M. D. Mathai	Kerala	1000	Stanley Christian	Gujarat	500
Udele Martins	Mumbai	2000						

BOB'S BANTER

by Robert Clements

A Yea or a Nay..!

Lately, in my interaction with an editor of a magazine, while discussing a priest who was suddenly supporting the ideology of an extremist organisation, I remarked that many of our priests, pastors and nuns had reached a state when we had forgotten the teachings of Christ where a yea or a nay was sufficient, to seal a deal and no written contract needed.

How beautiful it is to be known as a man or woman of his or her word.

When I was growing up a promise and a handshake were all you needed. Contracts were largely foreign and unnecessary. In fact, to insist on one would have been an insult. Why? Because a man's word was his bond. No one was willing to risk their social capital or relational equity by breaking their word.

But how times have changed.

Twice in the last month I have had people blatantly dishonour their own word, one a church

doing so is even more expensive. It will ultimately cost you your leadership.

In the Sermon on the Mount, in Matthew 5, Jesus expressly said, 'Let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.'

Yes, so impactful should be your word, that a written agreement should be a mockery of your integrity, and an evil blot on your character.

Like I said at the beginning, how beautiful to be known as a man or woman of his or her word. And then I said, that it is tragic when someone breaks their word, not only for the person who is the victim, but more so for the person who breaks it, because although he has gained materially from doing so, he has lost what he may never ever regain and which is even more precious than gold or silver and that is his or her reputation.

I know a Christian friend who influenced me in my school days who found out within a year of his




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elder and another a nun. Both were under a verbal contract, and both supposedly religious people. Their obligations were explicit. There was no ambiguity.

This is tragic - especially for them.

Keeping your word is the essence of integrity. As Stephen Covey points out, "honesty is making your words conform to reality. Integrity is making reality conform to your words." It is essential to leadership. Without it, you cannot be an effective leader.

Why?

Integrity is required for trust. If people can't trust your word, they won't trust you.

Trust is necessary for influence. People choose those they let influence them, and this is based largely on trust.

Yes, keeping your word is sometimes difficult, expensive, and inconvenient. But the cost of not

marriage that his wife suffered from a mental incurable illness. Did he divorce her? Did he say that this was not what he dreamt marriage was about? No, now over forty years into his marriage, he looks after her day and night.

He might have lost out on a lovely journey of marital companionship, but his keeping to those marital vows, 'I do' has influenced dozens and even hundreds, to understand what it is to lead a godly life.

If we want Christianity to be valued in our country, we need to be a community who's nay's or yea's are enough and thus be respected as people who keep our word...!"

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

Feast of Our Lady of Pilar Celebrations at Fr. Agnel School, Greater Noida

With a deep sense of gratitude to **Our Lady of Pilar, the Balbhawan family of Fr. Agnel Ashram, Greater Noida**, celebrated the Feast of Our Beloved Mother on **12th October 2024**.

The auspicious occasion began with the Rosary procession, followed by the Eucharist, presided over by **Most. Rev. Archbishop Anil J. T. Couto of the Archdiocese of Delhi**. The theme was "**Life is Beautiful**" which co-relates with the Jubilee theme. Our Lady of Pilar makes life even more beautiful with her exemplary virtuous life, for all of us to follow.



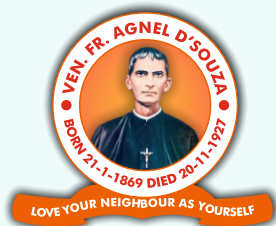
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HAPPY DIWALI

*Wishing all our friends and benefactors
a Happy Diwali and a prosperous New Year!
From Fr. Agnel Ashram Community and Balbhavan Children*



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