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JUNE 2025



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NEW ACADEMIC YEAR : OFFBEAT CAREERS

JUNE 2025

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MESSAGE FROM THE REGIONAL SUPERIOR



We begin the month of June, celebrating Global Day of Parents on the 1st. We are what we are today because of our parents. They have given us a firm foundation in life through quality education and guiding us along the right path. They have sacrificed a lot to give us the best in life. So let us celebrate and honour our parents today!

After celebrating Mother's Day, we now commemorate Father's Day on 15th June. Our dads have been a pillar of strength and support to our families. They are always there for us.

World Environment Day on 5th June focuses on ending plastic pollution. It affects the water we drink, the food we eat, and also marine life. While plastic pollution is a major concern, we should all do our bit in avoiding the use of plastic to meet this environmental challenge.

In June 2025, we celebrate several feast days within the Catholic Church, including the Ascension, Pentecost, Most Holy Trinity, Corpus Christi, Sacred Heart of Jesus, Immaculate Heart of Mary, and the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul. Let us build on our faith!

22nd June is the death anniversary of our founder, Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues. His philosophy was quite simple "My Land! My People. That's all that matters." True to this motto, he founded the Fr. Agnel Ashram in 1957 in Bandra, Mumbai. Ever since, it has expanded to Vashi, Verna and Assagao in Goa, Pune, Ambernath, Delhi, Noida and Greater Noida, providing yeoman service to the community.

After the passing away of Pope Francis, our new shepherd of the church, Pope Luis XIV guides us on our journey ahead. As Pilgrims of Hope, we are edified to know that over 400 men will be ordained to the priesthood in the U.S. this year.

After the summer holidays, June is also the beginning of a new academic year. It is the time to have new teachers, new friends and new learnings.

Wishing all students, teachers and support staff, a bright academic year ahead!

- Fr. Bento Rodrigues

BE BUILDERS OF HOPE - PART II NEGOTIATING THE TORTUOUS PATH TO PEACE

- Archbishop Emeritus Thomas Menampampil

“Politicians Are for Sale”

May my life, each breath of life, the eyes, the ears, the speech, the mind, the soul and all other acts and deeds, be put to the service of humankind (Yajur Veda 18,29).

Yascha Mounk of Hopkins University argues that due to rising disillusionment with **chaotic, non-performing, exploitative democracies**, many democratic nations have fallen into the hands of leaders who look after merely party/corporate interests. Some of them excel in **impressive rhetoric** but are least worried about the **concerns of the lower classes/rural masses** in their countries. They look on them with contempt. On the other hand, authoritarian populists like **Trump**, while **using shockingly rough words**, cater to the interests of specific groups with specific concerns (e.g. the fear of the Whites against immigrants). Russia and Turkey have changed “fledgling democracies into electoral dictatorships” (Mounk 2). These have set a model for India and other Asian countries.

The greatest danger today is that of the **political and economic elite coming together** in full-fledged alliance. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse feels that America is precisely in that situation today (Whitehouse 31): politicians are sold out to the corporates. The impression created is that ‘**Politicians are for Sale**’ (Henderson 226). While using smokescreens to distract, elections are planned and guided by billionaires and their teams. What actually takes place can be described as ‘silent auctions.’ And once the election is over, the agents of the corporations treat the **senators** as their juniors, their **tools and instruments** (Whitehouse 33-34). Social observers notice many similarities with the *present Indian situation*. Very many of Indian **MPs and MLAs are crorepatis** who serve

the interests of business companies.

India is closely taking after American opportunists. Business-supported groups seek to **suppress debates**, e.g. on climate change (Whitehouse 41), **pack the judiciary** (Whitehouse xii), enlist media support (Whitehouse xxi), **reduce social welfare programmes** (Whitehouse 32), promote privatization (Whitehouse 54). Their main skill centres round **tax evasion**, while controlling billions. Tax ultimately is paid by ordinary people (Whitehouse 52) with the **rising prices** on essential goods.

Most people prefer to be “**opportunists**” mindlessly **supporting** an exploitative government, than show themselves responsible citizens calling their leaders to account. **MPs and MLAs** have been **shifting loyalty** from party to party. Literally, they seem to be on sale! The so-called “**Resort Politics**” in India has turned out to be a perversion of democracy, which has not been subjected to the criticism it deserves.

Deepening Discontentment, Revival of European Aggressive Nationalism of the 19th and 20th Centuries in Asia

To be one with the world is wisdom (Tirukkural)

Alexis de Tocqueville argues that **revolutions** are produced by “improved conditions and **rising expectations**,” not by mass misery. Discontent grows with prosperity, when **inequality** becomes evident. It is true that globalization has made more things available to more people than ever before, but nobody is happy. The **sense of uncertainty, dissatisfaction, and anger** has never been higher. Deep racial, cultural and **ethnic panics** are evident in all societies, including the most advanced. Sturdy globalization is opposed by strong **identity assertion** (Menon 249).

Asian politics have returned to **national rivalries**, **territorial claims**, naval building. Maritime space is contested (Menon 250). There is a re-enacting of the nationalistic exaggerations of the 19th and early 20th century Europe: **aggressive nationalism**, arms race. China's "Wolf Warrior" postures are countered by self-assertion of other countries. All are busy disputing about **boundaries**, **alliances**, military bases, and spheres of influence. **Each state is strengthening itself** (Menon 2551-52).

Since 2012, **populist leaders** everywhere have tapped popular fears and played with **xenophobia**, **nationalism**, and **chauvinism**. They count on their charisma, **resent criticism**, with slight variations in response: in Japan, China, India, Turkey, Russia. **China is internally tight**. What has emerged on the world scene is the **politics of emotion** based on **prejudices**, preferences, heated rhetoric, emotional outpourings, amplified by the **social media**. No more give and take, compromise. No rules prevail. North Korea's nuclear programme found its way to Iran via Pakistan, and to Syria (Menon 256-58).

Proximately, **two-thirds of the world's population** will be **urban** even in the developing world, with consequent **crowd psychology**, under the influence of mass media, **social media**, and new ideologies. Majority of the people become **alienated individuals** outside the influence of their inherited traditions and social-familial structures. Robert Kaplan foresees "a relentless **hot-blooded nationalism**." Politics has become local, regional. Rules-based liberal order is no more. In **China**, the **army's (PLA) role in policymaking** has grown under Xi. A **militarized foreign policy** is evident in their **aggressive tones** (Menon 259-60).

As Europe expanded worldwide in the 19th century, US spread westwards on their own continent, and Russia eastwards to the Pacific (Menon 65). Both the **West and Russia claimed destiny** and 'exceptionalism'. What they could visualize was a bipolar world as Athens and Sparta did in ancient times, **Spain and England** in the 15th-17th century,

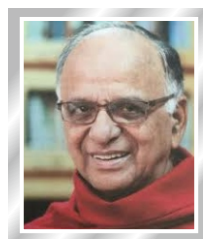
France and Germany later, and Japan and China in Asia.

A brief period of **success blinds** a successful state. When it suffers a major defeat, it wakes up but too late. **No one learns from history**. America boasts it is the "**city on the hill**". US GDP, of course, is 25% of the world. Xi in 2017 claimed to set a **model for the world**.

In 2019, Xi said **China** has become "**a great power in the world**," it is time for us to take the **central stage** and contribute to humanity. China, however, has remained most pragmatic "Feeling the stones underfoot while crossing the river," as Deng Xiaoping said. At the same time, they are acutely aware of their **superiority**. To sustain a fighting mood, Xi has developed the slogan "**Never forget national humiliation**." He consciously cultivates **victimhood**, eagerness to pay back (Menon 294-95).

Asians have not learnt from the **negative experiences of last century Europe**. Here is where alert **citizens must become vocal**. For all their boasting **Chinese economy is slowing**, **society is ageing**. **Indian economy** too is unsteady, the **rupee is falling**, **prices rising**, domestic demand sinking, **inequality** mounting, discontentment among the deprived communities soaring.

Jyotirao **Phule**, a Dalit, saw **social liberation** as more important than political liberation. Phule stood for egalitarianism (Pillai 248). He recognised **education as passport to wisdom**.



Archbishop Emeritus Thomas Menamparampil was Bishop of Dibrugarh and Archbishop of Guwahati. He has brought a large number of schools and hospitals into existence in Assam. He has been involved in several initiatives for peace in Northeast India.

THE ALCHEMY OF PASSION & SKILLS ... OFFBEAT CAREERS

-Ninette D'Souza

What is a Career? It is defined as a job or profession that one has been trained for and does for a LONG TIME. So, if you are going to spend more than three decades doing the same thing, day in and day out, you ought to make sure you're happy doing it. What is the use of financial success and its perks, if you return home each day with no time for self or family. Worse still if you are hoping retirement day comes sooner than later. A career is not always about the money, it's about doing what you like; what you are proficient at, because that makes you happy and the payments an added bonus.

What is a Vocation? It is defined as a calling, a sense of purpose involving a deep desire to always keep doing what you are doing, often times not for personal gain. It is something that aligns with your value system, trying along the way to make a meaningful difference. A fulfilling life is one that involves aligning your Career with your Vocation. It would involve finding work that is financially sustainable and personally rewarding, simultaneously.

It is a challenge today for our young people to choose a career from the plethora of available options. Parental and peer pressure just add to it. Parents to you I say, start with Aptitude testing as early as Std. VIII itself and follow it up in the next two years. Then your children can begin to gear their energies towards that choice. It is not right to wait to see the percentage obtained in Std. X and then choose the stream you think is right for your child. Getting 90% + in 10th Board exam, does not automatically qualify your child for the Science stream. Let their natural flair and their liking for something guide their choice, even if it is one that does not resonate with you. Often as parents we can be guilty of living out our unfulfilled careers through our children.

Children who have just answered the 10th Board exam, you are on the cusp of a new journey in life. Don't plan too far ahead where your career is concerned. Set small goals towards it and work to achieve them.

Those of you, who have finished Std. XII, are going to be taking the most decisive step in setting forth on your career, so make the right choice after proper research and under the guidance of knowledgeable persons whom you trust. Choose the right college according to the subjects offered which will work in favour of your career.

Finally, remember that to be ready to take up a job

and pursue a successful career, you will need to advance proficiency in some core abilities such as: developing good communication skills, honing problem-solving skills, bringing harmony into teamwork, possessing more than basic digital literacy and above all displaying exceptional work ethics. These competencies can be enhanced while you are pursuing higher studies by assuming a leadership role in group projects, internships (even if unpaid), job shadowing during semester breaks, volunteering for various camps and community service.

I present here a bird's eye view of careers that may seem unconventional and unorthodox but I am sharing them after speaking to many young people who are today a force to reckon with after having chosen them. Here goes.....

- a) Today an MBBS degree is not worth much unless you can finance your own clinic and practise as a GP. Specialization is the way forward. The medical field offers options like **Dentistry, Physiotherapy. Alternative Medicine like Ayurveda is the in thing.** If you are an animal lover, get yourself a BSc. degree in Veterinary Science or one in Pharmacy.
- b) If you are a linguist, and have always done well in languages at school, **there is the choice of Journalism or Mass Media.** Avid readers with wild imaginations can begin writing poems or short stories enroute to become columnists or authors. Becoming a librarian, working at a book stall, handling Book Clubs will keep you engrossed and productive.
- c) Those who can rustle up a dish or two by following YouTube videos and adding your personal touch to them, please consider going in for **Hotel Management.** There is a good market for just bakery products as well.
- d) If you enjoyed conceptualizing and executing programmes for Teacher's Day or the School Annual Day, **Hospitality Management and Event Management** would be right up your street.
- e) Maybe during lectures that you found boring or difficult, you kept doodling in the notebook, then fashion designing, **becoming a sketch artist could be your choice.** Check Jenifer S on Facebook. If you have an eye for aesthetics, try your hand at **interior designing, jewellery designing, Mehendi.** Of course, **hair styling, make up and beauty will never go out of style.**
- f) If you are convinced you can sell ice to an eskimo,

try a career in **Sales/ Marketing**. A B.Com. or BBI degree followed by a CPA, CFA, CFP course will earn you a broker's badge and you would be on your way to becoming a Financial Planner/ Financial Advisor and sell Life Insurance, Mediclaim and Mutual Funds. My son who did this was the exception to the rule in our home of science graduates. Today he is doing well for himself with his own Investment business.

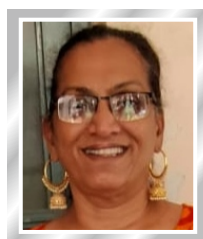
- g) **If you are a computer geek, then IT is your calling card.** There are a lot of preferences in the field of computers. Stop chasing followers on Insta and X. Focus instead on knowing about Coding, ChatGPT and even AI. Use Social Media to market your out-of-the-box career, no one is going to do it for you. You will need to blow your own trumpet and there is absolutely nothing wrong with this.
- h) **If you are a numbers person, then opt for a major in Statistics/ Mathematics. Check out Actuarial Science.** It has a wide scope. If you have a liking for taking things apart and putting them together then the very abstract concepts of Physics coupled with Math, would make Engineering a perfect choice. Or you can opt for **Research and Development**. Here let me also include **Architecture**. There is always a dilemma between a degree and a diploma. A degree needs to be advanced with a Master's and a diploma with specialized courses. There is an array to choose from. BE and Dip both look good on a CV.
- I) **A degree in Performing Arts** is offered by some universities (especially the autonomous ones) as is the regular BFA. Here let me include **Music – Vocal and instrumental, Sculpting, Photography and Mimicry**. Mr. Johny Lever started out mimicking his bosses and co-workers at the Hindustan Lever factory located at Sewri and the rest as they say is history.
- j) My neighbour's son went on a holiday to the Maldives and among the many thrilling activities there he learnt scuba diving. Today he is a well-paid **scuba instructor**. The same applies to Yoga, Mountaineering, Trekking. Check out Fitcoachvivan_24 on Instagram. If you were involved in any Sporting disciplines in school/college, especially at the MSSA/District/State levels, then you could look at coaching.
- k) If you spent many holidays playing teacher teacher with your siblings, friends and even used footwear to be your students (as I did), then go get that BEd. or DEd. Degree asap. **Becoming a Special Education teacher is a Vocation.**
- l) Can you tell a joke with a straight face? Then

have a shot at **stand-up comedy**.

- m) If you have the 'gift of the gab' as we called it in our days, you could be the **Master of Ceremonies** at various events. If you are able to keep arguing a point even when you know you are in the wrong, then that black coat/robe with the white band is meant for you. You don't have to be a liar in order to be a compassionate and good lawyer.
- n) Those with green fingers please use them to become a **Horticulturalist or a Landscape designer**. There are many takers for creative items like cards, candles, albums, paintings. Check out Stephanie Sequeira and Krishna Sharrma on Facebook.
- o) Ask a young person today, 'What do you see yourself doing 10 years from now?' and the immediate response is, '**I will have my own start up**'. It is not that easy. Research well before you go ahead.

The late Pope Francis loved young people and the feeling was equally reciprocated. He always had pearls of wisdom to share with them. Let me end this article with these words of his Holiness. "Keep walking forward. When a young person keeps walking forward, even if the road is hard, everything is OK. But when a young person stops, it's like water. When water stops moving it becomes unclear and full of things that make it worse. Water that stops moving is the first to go bad. A young person who stops moving forward is the first to lose their way. So always keep moving forward. Keep walking with courage and with joy."

Dear children, You have your role to play with the God-given talents you are blessed with. While innate talent provides a foundation, it has to be buoyed with specific skills acquired through learning, training and experience. These call for hard work and perseverance. The depth of your struggle will determine the height of your success. Do not stress over things that are out of your control. Nothing kills you faster than your own mind. Your life is your message to the world. Make sure it is inspiring.



***Ninette D'Souza** is a prolific writer and retired teacher of Math and Science at Canossa High School, Mahim. She is also the author of *Lamplighter* and *Lamplighter 2.0*.*

TECHNOLOGY TRENDS THAT WILL SHAPE 2025 AND BEYOND

-Leon Bent

With the SSC and HSC results declared, students have the option to choose Computer Engineering, Artificial Intelligence and other-related career options.

With the SSC and HSC results declared, students have the option to choose Computer Engineering, Artificial Intelligence and other-related career options.

How does Educational Technology Benefit Students and Teachers?

In this article, we'll explore the key areas where technology is moving at breakneck speed, and what this means for our future. An AI-driven acceleration of technology could upend markets, business models, and competitive landscapes with breathtaking pace. The continual integration of educational technology tools, encompassing software, hardware, and relevant technological processes, is revolutionizing traditional classroom learning in numerous ways. Educational technology, including robots, facilitates teachers in grading assignments, even as part of homework.

The Internet of Things (IoT) enables the creation of virtual classrooms for students. It refers to the network of interconnected devices that, collect and exchange data through the Internet. In education, this means tools like smartboards, connected tablets, and wearable tech, creating an enriched and interactive environment that, elevates teaching and student engagement. Machine learning and blockchain tools support teachers in managing grading systems and other online learning materials, whether students are physically present in school, travelling, or studying from home.

For students, educational technology proves to be a huge asset, providing them with numerous benefits:

- ♦ By offering a wide array of online courses and training materials tailored to students' convenience, fostering interactive, engaging, and adaptive learning sessions that enhance interest in online education.
- ♦ Automating processes, saving students time spent on travel, note-taking, and similar activities by providing all necessary resources via an app, facilitating rapid understanding of concepts and the way students tackle repetitive tasks.
- ♦ Taking a forward-thinking approach by

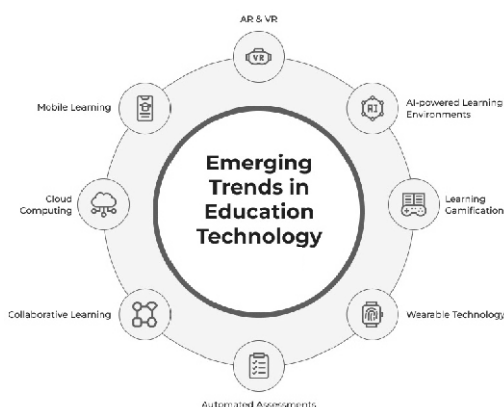
providing collaborative platforms for communication and knowledge-sharing, preparing students for the future.

- ♦ Enabling access to diverse information beyond textbooks, exploring video materials, and supplementary study materials, and grasping concepts at their own pace from the web.

Technology trends of the future

Let us take a closer look at the trends that will shape the whole industry in the upcoming years. Some of these trends are emerging technology in education while the others are more or less familiar to tech-savvy users.

- ♦ Automated assessment tools use learning analytics to aid students in recognizing their areas of weakness and addressing them. Additionally, automated grading systems enable swift and precise evaluation of assignments, diminishing the time required for these tasks and freeing up the energy for more creative pursuits.



Cloud Computing: It remains a crucial asset for educators, enabling streamlined access and storage of data. Moreover, it allows students to economize on costly textbooks by providing easy access to cloud-based materials from any location. Emerging as a prominent trend in educational technology, cloud computing provides robust authentication measures to safeguard data integrity. Additionally, it fosters seamless collaboration among both students and educators.

Wearables Technologies: With the increasing prevalence and adaptability of wearable technologies, their influence on learning environments will be substantial. Wearable technology can monitor progress, furnish performance evaluations, and deliver personalized guidance in real time.

On top of that, students can utilize wearable technology such as smartwatches and VR headsets to access audio lectures, receive class updates, take voice notes, and engage in various other activities. This advancement promises to enhance the accessibility and effectiveness of learning, ultimately benefiting educators and parents alike.

AR and VR: Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR) possess the capability to generate immersive and personalized learning experiences, irrespective of the setting in the future of the education industry and learning in general. They are being integrated as instruments for immersive and hands-on learning. This enables students to delve into virtual realms, undertake practical exercises, and participate in tailored simulations that cater to their specific requirements.

As, both, AI and VR in education gain wider acceptance, their influence on the industry will be undeniable. These trends in educational technology revolutionize learning by seamlessly integrating educational content into the real-world environment, offering students enhanced visualization of subjects. They can also transport students to entirely new digital environments.

Both imagine a world where artificial intelligence comprehends your strengths and areas for improvement, customizes your educational journey, and extends precise assistance at every juncture.

Data and Analytics: Big data and analytics offer meaningful insights to schools and educational facilities.

We have extraordinary tools at our disposal today to democratize education, so that, a child in the deepest part of rural Africa, could be getting the same education as a child in Manhattan. Technology makes that possible.

On Cultural Agility, a culture promoting innovative thinking company-wide, with a focus on, both, transformative and incremental improvements, can act as the bedrock for lasting innovation. The mindset, after all, plays a pivotal role. Visionaries don't just follow trends; they set them. The future belongs to those who not only innovate but also inspire!



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.

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PENTECOST!

- Fr. Fio Mascarenhas, SJ

Dear Reader, what is the true significance of Pentecost for *you personally*? Or, put differently, why did Jesus ask the Father to send *you* their Holy Spirit (Jn 14:16)? The 4th Eucharistic Prayer of our Catholic Mass gives us the best and correct answer:

“That we might live no longer for ourselves but for him, he sent the Holy Spirit as his first gift to those who believe, to complete his work on earth, and bring us the fullness of grace...” (read 2Cor 5:15).

Not surprisingly, when asked this same question about Pentecost, most Catholics think of Jesus' words: ***“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you”*** (Acts 1:8). But, *what “power”?* What “power” will the Holy Spirit give *you* at Pentecost in this Jubilee Year?

Pentecostal or charismatic Christians will probably answer, “The power to DO great things for God's glory, by using the charismatic gifts.” Not quite so! Scripture and the Church give us a far better answer: “The power to BE

CHANGED into a true disciple of Jesus.” Before “doing great things for God,” we must “let God do great things for us!” In other words, the purpose of Pentecost is to *transform* us into true Christians, true children of God, true co-heirs with Christ, true disciples of Jesus whose daily lives (values, emotions, and behaviour) give witness to the ***“new life in the Spirit!”***

But, it will not happen by “magic!” Nor automatically! Only through the personal action of that Spirit whom Jesus called ***“another Paraclete!”*** This Third Person of the Blessed Trinity will indwell us 24 x 7 x 365(6), and ***“change us into his image and likeness, degree by degree”*** (2Cor:3:16-18) – of course, if *we desire* it with all our hearts, and stay “actively open” to his action!

So what does the Greek word, “Paraclete,” really mean?

In **John 14:16**, Jesus calls this Spirit ***“another Paraclete,”*** an unusual but highly significant title. The Greek verb *parakaleo* means “to call to one's side,” and occurs often in the NT, especially in the letters of Paul; but the derived noun *parakletos* occurs only in John. Outside of the NT, *parakaleo* and *parakletos* are used in courtroom contexts, but in the NT, in the sense that Jesus intended, the more correct translation of *Paraclete* is the **Encourager**, someone who stands by us to cheer us on, to exhort us to pray, to forgive 70x7, to carry the cross daily, and to love like Jesus...



A d v o c a t e (or Counsellor, etc.,) is a not a translation but an interpretation, because, after all, our lives are not all spent in a courtroom for us to need an advocate! Besides, Rom 8:31ff states that a Christian has no need of more Advocates, Jesus is enough! Perhaps the *best* rendition is given by the famous English Jesuit poet **Gerard**

Manley Hopkins. In a homily given on Pentecost Sunday in Liverpool Cathedral, he explained:

“We usually translate Paraclete as *Comforter*, but a Paraclete does more than comfort. The word is Greek; there is no one English word for it, *Comforter*, *Counsellor* or *Advocate* is not enough. A Paraclete is one who comforts, who cheers, who encourages, who persuades, who exhorts, who stirs up, who urges forward, who calls on; what the spur and word of command is to a horse, what clapping of hands is to a speaker, what a trumpet is to the soldier, that a Paraclete is to the soul: *one who calls us on*, one who calls us on to good.

“One sight is before my mind, it is homely

but it comes home: you have seen at cricket how when one of the batsmen at the wicket has made a hit and wants to score a run, the other doubts, hangs back, or is not ready to run it again, how eagerly the first will cry: "Come on, come on!" – a Paraclete is just that, someone that cheers the spirit of man, with signals and with cries, all zealous that he should do something, and full of assurance that if he will he can, calling him on, crying to his ears or to his heart: This way to do God's will, this way to save your soul, come on, come on!

"If this is to be a Paraclete, one who cries to the heart, "Come on," no wonder Christ is a Paraclete. For he was one, he said so himself; though the Holy Spirit bears the name, yet Christ is a Paraclete too: *I will send you* he says, *another Paraclete*, meaning that he himself was a Paraclete, the first Paraclete, the Holy Spirit the second. And did he not cry men on?"

An inspired Hopkins accumulates a series of verbs and images that suggest dynamism, vitality, energy, movement. Just as a *Paraclete* does not merely comfort but *calls to action*, so the Risen Christ in the Gospels does not communicate a 'static' sense of well-being but a joy that of its very nature burns inside us and cannot be contained. Its fruit is community, ecclesial ministry and mission.

We must also remember that the Devil or the Evil Spirit (Jn 8:44), has only one objective: to be our *Discourager*, to discourage and deter us from being faithful 24x7 disciples of Jesus Christ our Lord; for example, to discourage us (by using specious arguments) from forgiving 70x7, from being faithful to daily prayer and/or Eucharist, etc., etc! As Saint Peter writes, "*Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour!*" (1 Pet 5:8). No wonder, then, that Jesus asks the Father to send us the Holy Spirit, *another Paraclete* (or Encourager)!

INSPIRING TEXTS TO PONDER AND ACT UPON FOR PENTECOST:

1. St Pope Paul VI, in *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, nos 24, 27:

"The person who has been evangelized becomes himself/herself an evangelizer. It is inconceivable that someone who has received the word and surrendered to the Kingdom

should not him/herself become a witness and proclaimer of the truth...

"May the world of our time which is searching, now in anguish, now in hope, receive the Gospel not from evangelizers who are dejected or dispirited, or from those who are impatient or anxious. Let them hear it from witnesses of the Gospel whose lives are aglow with fervor, from those who have received the joy of Christ into their lives."

2. Archbishop Ignatius of Latakia (Ecumenical Council of Churches at Uppsala in 1968):

"Without the Holy Spirit, God is far away, Christ stays in the past.

The Gospel is a dead letter, The Church is simply an organization,

Authority a matter of domination, Mission a matter of propaganda,

The liturgy is merely a memorial, And Christian living a slave morality."

"But with the Holy Spirit, The Cosmos is resurrected, and groans with the birth pangs of the Kingdom, The Risen Christ is there, The Gospel is the power of life, The Church shows forth life in the Trinity,

Authority is a liberative service, Mission is a Pentecost,

The liturgy is both memorial and anticipation, And human activity is divinized."

3. St. Pope John Paul II:

"The breath of the divine life, the Holy Spirit, in its simplest and most common manner, expresses itself and makes itself felt in prayer. It is a beautiful and salutary thought that wherever people are praying in the world, there the Holy Spirit is the living breath of prayer" (DeV, 65).

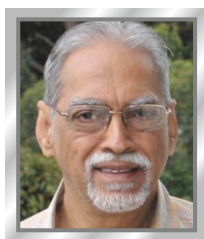
"The Church is supremely aware of the reality of the inner man, of what is deepest and incorruptible. Under the influence of the Holy Spirit, this inner 'spiritual' man matures and grows strong... The hidden breath of the Divine Spirit enables the human spirit to open in its turn before the saving and sanctifying self-opening to God... The Triune God, who exists in himself as a transcendent reality of interpersonal

gift, giving himself in the Holy Spirit as gift to human beings, transforms the human world from within, from inside hearts and minds... and enables every person ever more fully to find him/herself through a sincere gift of self.” (DeV, 58f.).

4. Our Pope Francis, of happy memory:

“To discover the full meaning of the realities of the Bible, it is necessary to go beyond the Old Testament and come to Jesus, who emphasizes the freedom of the Spirit: “The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Like the wind, that cannot be bridled, ‘bottled up,’ or put in a box, the Holy Spirit cannot be reduced to “concepts, theses, definitions, or treatises,” nor enclosed within “canons, institutions, or definitions.” The Spirit “creates and animates institutions, but cannot be ‘institutionalized’”

“The freedom of the Spirit is not a freedom to do what one wants, but the freedom to freely do what God wants! This is a freedom that expresses itself in service, which appears to be the opposite, but is not! It is a false freedom that allows the rich to exploit the poor, the strong to exploit the weak, and everyone to exploit the environment with impunity... The true freedom of the Spirit must come from Jesus! Let us pray that Jesus might make us, through His Holy Spirit, truly free men and women.”



*Fr. Fio Mascarenhas is a former Chairman of the International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Council based in Rome (1981-88) and of the Indian National Service Team (4 terms). His most recent book co-authored with Dr Renu Rita Silvano OCV, STD is **GOD’S SELF - GIFT - A N O T H E R PARACLETE.***



There is no Joy Greater than the Joy of GIVING

Severina Peres, Dadar

I have whole-heartedly donated an amount of Rs. 10,000 for fulfilling the daily needs of the Balbhavan boys. Fr. Agnel Ashram is doing yeoman service to the community.

Sameer Ganapathy, Mahim

I have made an online donation of Rs. 20,000 via NEFT for the welfare of the young Balbhavan children.

Mathew P. Mathew, Kottayam

I am happy to offer my donation of Rs.10,000, as an Easter Gift for the Balbhavan boys. They are not only excelling in studies but also music, painting, dramatics and sports. Kudos to the Ashram Fathers and the support staff.

Melvyn J. D'Mello, Thane

I have donated an amount of Rs. 1250 via NEFT, as a monthly sponsorship for a Balbhavan boy. It is good to see them growing up as talented citizens of tomorrow.

Lizzie Varg, Pathanamthitta (Kerala)

I am pleased to give my contribution of Rs. 2000 for meeting the daily needs of the Balbhavan boys. They are being well cared for by Fr. Agnel Ashram over the years.

George Joseph Parakal, Angamaly, Ernakulam (Kerala)

I am happy to offer a donation of Rs. 500 as an Easter Gift for the Balbhavan boys. Whenever I am in Mumbai, I make it a point to visit Fr. Agnel Ashram in Bandra Bandstand.

K. Alexander, Pathanamthitta (Kerala)

It gives us great pleasure to make a small donation of Rs. 600 through Money Order for the Balbhavan boys. I am a staunch devotee of Ven. Fr. Agnel and believe in the power of his intercessions.

Noylin J. Fernando, Govandi

I am providing an amount of Rs.1000 through UPI in support of the charity works of Balbhavan, at Fr. Agnel Ashram.

HABEMUS PAPAM! WE HAVE A POPE!

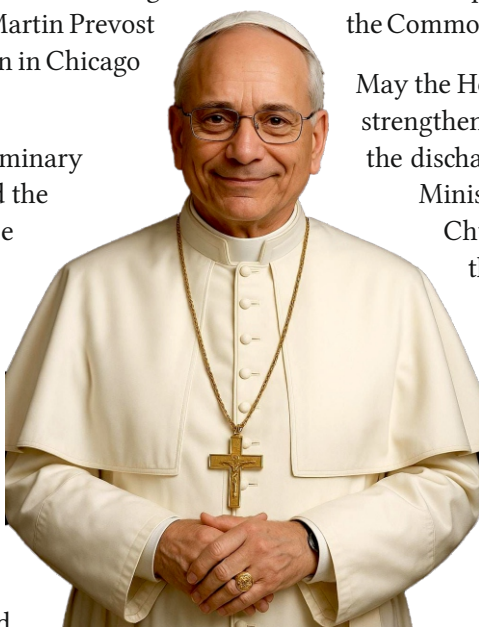
-Maria Imelda de Sousa

We have a Pope! Long live Pope Leo XIV, the 267th successor of St. Peter, whom Jesus Christ the son of God appointed our first Pope by saying: "Tu es Petrus et super hanc petram edificabo Ecclesiam Meam"... (Thou art Peter – a rock – and upon this rock I shall build my Church... (Mathew XV, 18, 19).

Robert Francis Prevost, the youngest son of his parents Louis Mario Prevost and of Mildred Agnes Prevost, the others being Louis Martin Prevost and Joseph John Prevost was born in Chicago Illinois on September 14, 1955.

He studied in St. Augustine Seminary High School. In 1977, he entered the Augustinian Novitiate in the Province of Our Lady of Good Council in St. Louis. He followed it up with a B.Sc Degree in Mathematics through Villa Nova University.

On 29th August 1979, he took his solemn vows and completed his Master's Degree in Theology. He was ordained priest on 19th June, 1982. Later, Fr. Robert Francis was sent to Rome to study Canon Law and he got his Doctorate in 1987. He was then ordained Bishop of Peru and later Archbishop of Chiclayo. He was appointed President of Pontifical Commission for Latin American Bishops. Archbishop Robert Francis was elevated to Cardinal by Pope Francis in 2023.



Pope Leo XIV served the Church in different positions: as Teacher, as Missionary, as Parish Priest, as Superior General of the Augustinians, as Bishop, as Archbishop, as President of the Episcopal Conference of South American Bishops, as Cardinal, etc.

We all hope and pray that Pope Leo XIV continues in the footsteps of Pope Francis as the Pope of the Commoners.

May the Holy Spirit continue to guide and strengthen His Holiness Pope Leo XIV in the discharge of the duties of the Petrine Ministry for the good of the Catholic Church and for the well-being of the entire humanity.

Long live Pope Leo XIV, the 267th successor of St. Peter, our first Pope!



Maria Imelda de Sousa is based in Goa. A contributor of articles to different publications, she participates in sports competitions even at 90 years.

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

AGNEL HAPPENINGS

Assagao, Goa

Health Club of Agnel Institute of Technology & Design (AITD) organises CrossFit Championship

The Health Club 'Momentum' of Agnel Institute of Technology & Design (AITD), Assagao, Goa, organised a CrossFit Championship on 2nd and 10th May 2025 for their staff and students. Over 50 participants, including seven women, competed in high-intensity events like Hurdle Jump, Tyre Run, Sack Loading, Tyre Flip and Sprint. The competition had separate categories for students and staff, with gender-based divisions for fairness.

The student winners were Harsh Nate and Joyce Martins while the staff winners were Soheli Virnodkar and Yogini Lamgaokar.

The event showcased strength, stamina, and sportsmanship across all participants. It encouraged fitness and friendly competition within the AITD community. The atmosphere was filled with enthusiasm, teamwork and mutual support.



The student winner of CrossFit Championship, Joyce Martins, receiving her trophy.



AITD organises Invictus 2025 sports extravaganza

INVICTUS 2025 was a four-day sports extravaganza filled with energy, unity and competitive spirit. Held in two phases (September 2024, January and May 2025), it brought together students from all departments.

The grand finale on 10th May featured an inspiring inauguration by hockey legends and Arjuna Awardees Joaquim Carvalho and Merwyn Fernandes.

Dignitaries including Rev. Fr. Agnelo Gomes and Principal Bordekar added grace and support to the event.

Competitions included cricket, futsal, volleyball, tug-of-war, chess, badminton and more. The events tested physical ability, mental resilience and team spirit across departments. The students displayed outstanding sportsmanship, leadership, and unity throughout the event.

AITD organises FACT 2025

FACT 2025 – Fusion of Art, Culture & Talent was held on 29th and 30th April 2025 at AITD's open-air theatre. The event was inaugurated by Goan music composer **Mukesh Ghatwal** and choreographer **Sudesh Salgoankar**, along with AITD dignitaries. FACT provided a platform for students to showcase talents in music, dance, theatre, fashion and various art forms.

The highlights included Melisma (singing), Mute Beat (music with non-instruments), Monologue, Fashion Show, Mr. & Miss AITD and Nitrya Knockout (dance). Students also participated in offstage competitions like rangoli, face painting, photography and reel making.

The atmosphere was lively with performances by **Blue Moon band** and **DJ Kenzz** on the final day. The event celebrated creativity, teamwork and student enthusiasm. **The Electronics and Communications Engineering Department** won the FACT 2025 rolling trophy.



The winners of the FACT 2025 rolling trophy (standing) with the organisers.



Students showcasing their musical talents.

INVISIBLE ROOTS, VISIBLE IMPACT: REFLECTIONS ON GLOBAL DAY OF PARENTS

-Tancia Pires

In the vast forest of life, parents are the invisible roots that anchor the world's great tree.

The roots are not always seen, but their strength holds everything steady. While the branches reach for the sky and the leaves dance in the sunlight, it is the roots - deep, enduring, and selfless - that nourish and support the entire structure. As we celebrate **Global Day of Parents** (June 1) and **Father's Day** (celebrated on the third Sunday of June in many countries), we are reminded of the unwavering sacrifices, silent strength, and enduring love that define parenthood, especially the often-unsung role of fathers.

Established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2012, Global Day of Parents provides an opportunity to appreciate all parents for their *"selfless commitment to children and their lifelong sacrifice towards nurturing this relationship."* It recognizes that the family has the primary responsibility for the nurturing and protection of children, in a familial atmosphere of happiness, love, and understanding.

2025 Theme: Raising Parents

This year's theme, **"Raising Parents"** draws attention to an essential but often underappreciated reality: parenting is a learned skill. It celebrates new parents who may have little experience in parenting and appreciates their efforts and shows them our support in nurturing their children.

While penning down this piece, getting insights from the rightful individuals seemed more appropriate, so I reached out to some parents and individuals across the world to share their personal reflections and perspectives on Parenting.

In conversation with the 'Super Moms'

'Raising Mom' - Fidora, currently in London, UK, was asked about the challenges as a new mom of two little babies, and how she is overcoming those, in fulfilling her role as a 'raising parent.' She said, "Becoming a mom of two has brought its own challenges, like balancing a newborn and a toddler, which often leaves me stretched thin. Every day brings doubts: Am I doing this right? Am I enough? Yet, amidst sleepless nights and messy moments, I'm learning resilience and adaptability. The hardest part has been trusting myself amid endless advice and comparisons. I'm learning there's no perfect way to parent - just growth, grace, and showing up matter. As I raise them, they raise me, teaching me love,

patience, and quiet strength." And I thought to myself, that is the sweetest thing one could say, raising yourself while raising your kids is something so underrated yet so quintessential.

Apart from new parents, the struggles are seen with single parents, who, unfortunately, must raise their kids on their own with little or no other extended support. Speaking to, Catherine Rodrigues from Maharashtra, India, it was evident that in her case, her hard work and dedication in raising her daughter on her own were valued and cherished by her family and society at large. Her goal of providing a good education and upbringing to her only daughter, who

is now an independent, successful young woman, seems fulfilled. However, looking across the society, not everyone is able to do so; they struggle every day to even provide the necessities to their kids, their fights and courage go unnoticed, the stigma and prejudice associated with it also add an unwarranted burden on their already loaded shoulders. Let's strive to support such parents and appreciate those who single-handedly march forward while performing several roles at once.

'Fathers - the unsung heroes'

While mostly, the moms are much appreciated and credited for parenting while multi-tasking and handling various responsibilities all at once, the unsung heroes and their unprecedented efforts shouldn't be overlooked. Speaking to my friend, Lenoy Gomenes, from Goa, India, who has a well-established musical career, while also being a devoted father to three young kids - it was ascertained, that managing his work and family has never been an issue, as the priorities were rightly set in the start, with family and kids being at the top of his day-long to-do list. He never hesitated in cancelling appointments or rescheduling his work to make time for school meetings or events. He proudly says, "Parenthood is a wonderful gift from God and I'm proud to be a dad to three loving kids, with whom I share the sweetest bond, especially being a friend more than a dad to my two daughters. That is my greatest joy." He added, "Challenges are always a part of life, whichever field you pursue, the trick is to strike that right balance while never neglecting your responsibilities towards family and kids."

As we also celebrate Father's Day in June, Dr. John Solomon (PT), from Tamil Nadu, India, was asked



about the joys and challenges of being a father of grown-up kids and how he tackles those following a simple parenting mantra as a parent. Dr. Solomon reflects on the transition from being a hands-on dad to supporting his grown-up boys. He says, 'While Parenting, there wasn't ever a dull moment, as I found two friends with whom I can share and enjoy the little moments in life. However, as they became teens, handling their rebellious nature at times would pose a challenge, but understanding them profoundly was the key.' His life mantra for all the dads out there, is, ***"Be a parent who extends a listening ear and stands as a tall lighthouse when it's difficult to find the way!"***

The 'Religious' perspective on Parenthood

While parenting is learned through love, experience, and daily challenges, many also turn to faith and tradition for strength and guidance. Recognizing that parenting is more than a practical role - it is often a **calling** - I asked spiritual leaders to share their perspectives on the divine and social role of parents.

Fr. Jossy Mascarenhas SFX, currently in Rome, Italy, beautifully quoted, ***"When parents love their kids, they witness God's love; when they pray with their children, they build a sanctuary of faith; when they forgive, they mirror God's mercy."***

Sister Caroline FMA, Pune, India, who has worked in various schools in India and been around children of different age-groups for most part of her journey as a nun, feels that, while providing the material necessities to their children, it is equally or more important to inculcate the value of Faith. She said, ***"Faith in God, as it's an indispensable part of our lives; Faith in humanity, as every person around is sacred and precious in their own way; and Faith in oneself, as we are uniquely created to love and be loved."***

Sr. Violet Keerthi SJS, Bangalore, India who has worked in nourishing and bringing up orphan children in their homes was asked about her perspective on children without parental guidance, the difference she noticed in those children in comparison to those who were raised in the comforts of their respective homes in love and care of their parents. She answered, ***"Spending time with orphans and kids raised in loving homes revealed a clear difference in how they view themselves and the world. Those with caring parents often grow up feeling secure, open, and quietly strong, while orphans carry hidden losses and learn strength the hard way. Parental presence isn't just about rules, it's about love, safety, and shaping a child's sense of self."*** It is heartening to see many people across the globe strive to provide these necessities to the orphaned, specially abled, or unfortunate children through their religious associations, NGOs, etc. This **Global Day of Parents**, let us also be appreciative of their service to mankind, and extend support in whatever way we can.

A humble tribute

While most of us are blessed to have parents, many tend to take them for granted, not realising their efforts and hardships. We often underestimate or underappreciate the role they play in our lives in making us what we strive to be. Our goals become their prayers; our desires become their dreams; our achievements become their prosperity; their entire being is dedicated to the happiness of their children.

My friend, a proud PhD scholar, Miss Rose Dhar, hailing from Nongbah, Meghalaya, recalls her humble beginnings and credits her parents' wisdom and perseverance for shaping her life. "They shaped me into a better person and taught me the true meaning of life, starting from a place of poverty, breaking through barriers, and emphasizing the importance of following the right path. They instilled in me the value of knowledge and education, making it the topmost priority in life," she said.

Final Thoughts

While I conclude writing, my heart is full, and I feel immensely grateful and blessed to have the kind of parents I have. According to me, while there's no perfect recipe for parenting or a route map to being the ideal parent, the secret lies in accepting that each child is different and, accordingly, parenting is also a dynamic process. Though it might get overwhelming sometimes, with all the responsibilities and tasks at hand, being gentle, seeking support, and staying calm could be the cornerstones. Discipline does not mean yelling. Punishment for mischief does not have to be a slap. Teach, don't lecture. Nagging is not the way to get tasks done. Validating feelings, making the child feel heard, loved, and cared for, even when they are not their best selves, would give them a sense of stability and purpose. Appreciate good behaviour, mend broken ties, repair a conflict, reconnect after a scolding, pray, eat, and play together.

Whether it's a single parent, a grandparent stepping in, or those working in children's homes, **parenting is love in action**. On this Global Day of Parents, let us celebrate not just biological parents, but all who give of themselves to raise, guide, and love a child.

Let's honour them not just with words, but with understanding, support, and gratitude - every single 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.

MIRACLES OF SAINT ANTHONY

-Jacqueline Kelly

The Feast of St. Anthony is observed every year on June 13 to honour the life and work of St. Anthony of Padua, who accomplished many things during his short time in this world as a priest.

Faith is one of the three theological virtues [the others are hope and charity]. The rich roots of the word "faith" lie in the Latin term "*fides*", which means "belief" and "trust." Faith can be described as a trust, a conviction, commitment to a response to, or belief in someone or something. Religious faith can be defined, as trust in or belief in, a response to, and commitment to God the Creator who has revealed many things throughout the history of the world to humankind.

Jesus of Nazareth, who was the promised Messiah of Israel and God's greatest revelation, called others to repent and have faith in Him, in order to truly believe and live His Good News about salvation for all of humanity. Revelation is God's free and loving self-communication, especially through Jesus of Nazareth but also in many other ways – through creation, through human history, through other human beings and cultures, and through God's own words and deeds directed towards the spiritual well-being and salvation of all humanity.

Great preparations usually precede great events. Some people believe in miracles and some do not. Miracles are phenomena which interrupt the laws of nature and surpass the force of all natural causes. Miracles are marvellous events or extraordinary, observable moments that cannot be fully explained by natural laws and circumstances and in which God's unlimited, caring power and saving presence to humanity are manifested in a purposeful and striking way.

Catholic tradition emphasizes that Jesus of Nazareth had miraculous powers and, by the power of God's loving Spirit, was empowered to perform a number of miraculous signs and works, such as healing the sick, calming a raging sea, feeding a large gathering of individuals and raising the dead back to life. The word 'miracle' is derived from the Latin words '*miraculum*', "a marvel", and '*mirari*', "to wonder." The Anglicized Latin word, "miracle," indiscriminately used in the Authorized Version, denotes the superficial character of the act or event it is applied to, as producing wonder or amazement in the beholders. The terms commonly employed in the New Testament are of deeper significance, and connote the inner nature of the occurrence, either as requiring to be pondered for its meaning, or as the product of a new and peculiar energy. Many religions and cultures have spoken of miracles and wondrous signs attributable directly to

transcendent powers. The Hebrew Scriptures report various kinds of miraculous events, through which Yahweh revealed a choice of or support for certain individuals or groups. For example, the Bible says that Abraham, Jacob, Moses, and Elijah each were gifted with direct revelations from God.

Much of contemporary Catholic teachings on miracles can be traced back to the First Vatican Council [1870]. Vatican I declared that the miraculous deeds performed by Jesus of Nazareth were signs of God's revelations.

Saint Augustine, that sublime genius, has said long before: "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" [De Civit. Dei, L.X.].

Can God communicate to Saints the power to work miracles?

God is all-powerful. When a miracle is performed, it is always God who performs it at the request of a saint. Holy Scripture tells us that many miracles were performed by the Apostles and their disciples under the eyes of all! To enumerate some: a paralytic cured at the gate of the Temple, Tabitha raised from the dead, the shadow alone of Saint Peter curing the sick, etc.

Long ago it was said: "To suppose that the pagan world have become Christian without being influenced

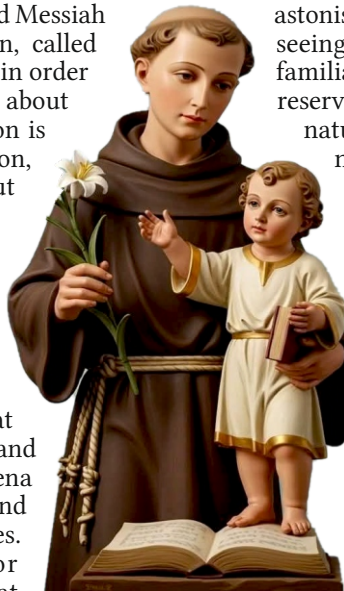
thereto by the sight of great and numerous miracles, is to suppose a miracle greater than those that fill the Lives of the Saints."

Did God give, for instance, to Saint Anthony this power of performing miracles?

Yes, the history of his life proclaims it, a history as credible as any other history.

Saint Anthony is one of the most popular Saints. He was instrumental in bringing many sinners back to God, mostly by his good example. He died on June 13, 1231 on a Tuesday, at the age of 36. It was on that day for the first time after his death that miracles were known to have occurred through his intercession. Tuesday thus abides in the memory of the people and so Tuesday has come to be called Saint Anthony's Day. This is the origin of the Tuesday Devotion. The thirteen days of prayer in preparation for his feast are called "*Tredicina*."

Innumerable miraculous cures occurred on the day of his death. The blind regained their sight, the deaf their hearing and the lame the use of their limbs, fever and



all other bodily infirmities were instantly put to flight. The fame of the wonder-worker soon spread far and wide, and people came to the tomb in devout pilgrimage. Anthony was universally and spontaneously acclaimed as a Saint.

Hardly a month after his death, a petition was presented to the Roman Pontiff for his canonization. The countless miracles unceasingly worked through the Saint's intercession after his death brought about his official canonization in less than a year. In the appendix to Saint Anthony's first biography, the *Assidua*, we find a list of 51 miracles that, read in the presence of Pope Gregory IX, led to Anthony's canonization in the Cathedral of Spoleto on May 31, 1232.

Everyone must die. Sooner or later we will pass from this world. We do not know when, but we may be sure that when death comes no one can escape. One day the thread of life will be cut off forever. Do we know where death will find us? No. Will it come to us suddenly? After a long illness, will we be prepared? Why not resolve now to prepare ourselves for it? Let us imitate the example of Saint Anthony who forsook the world in his youth to prepare himself for a happy death.

Millions of people do not pray and have cast God aside, saying: "We don't need God we have science, the human brain!" But, in fact, even in material questions, modern man would have to have his scalp sensitized to qualify as a numbskull! There is no conflict between God and true science because God made and governs the Universe. Einstein and Plato both said: "The Sun is but the shadow of God!"

A quote from Hans Christian Anderson [1805-1875]: "Every man's life is a fairy-tale written by God's fingers."

Miracles after Saint Anthony's Death

A most efficacious means to obtain favours from Saint Anthony is the devotion of the Nine Tuesdays. The Saint himself manifested how pleasing this devotion is to him. In the year 1617, he appeared to a client who had besought this intercession in a very important matter and said, "Visit my picture in the Church of Saint Francis on nine consecutive Tuesdays, and your prayer shall be heard." His directions were followed and the desired favour obtained.

Cure of a Paralyzed Child

A child named Bartholomew from Piove di Sacco, mute from birth and was paralyzed for fourteen years. When he was brought to the sepulchre of Blessed Anthony, it was found that his tongue loosened. He praised the Lord and returned home walking.

The Drowned Child

In Lisbon, Portugal, a boy named Parrisio decides to go on a boat trip with other boys without informing his parents. Suddenly, a violent storm breaks out and the boat capsizes. The other boys who were older and who knew how to swim, managed to save themselves, Parrisio drowned.

The mother did not allow her child to be buried. She continued to pray to Saint Anthony, promising to

consecrate her child to the Franciscan Order. On the third day, the boy suddenly awoke. His mother's prayers had been answered. When Parrisio grew up, he **joined the Franciscan Order**.

Eurilia Comes Back to Life

A young girl in Padua named Eurilia accompanied her mother in one of her visits to an old lady. Eurilia stayed outside to gather some sticks for the fire. When her mother came out, she found her daughter **floating on** a muddy pond, face up. Eurilia had slipped into the water and drowned. The mother started to cry and begged the Saint to pray to Christ to save her daughter. "Oh Please Saint Anthony, give me back my daughter." Shortly, after this simple prayer, Eurilia started to throw out the water she had swallowed and through the merits of Saint Anthony, she came back to life.

A girl named Auriema, who had lost her sight for a year and a half, was brought to Blessed Anthony's Ark so that she might be cured. When she touched her eyes with the cloth that covered the Ark, she suddenly opened her eyes.

In the city of Venice, there was a man named Leonard. His ears were blocked, and he was deaf for four years. When he visited Blessed Anthony's tomb, he was healed.

It is related that a merchant left Spain for Peru. Although his wife wrote several letters to him, she never received a reply, which greatly worried her. Finally, she invoked Saint Anthony's aid. Filled with childlike confidence she went to the Franciscan Church in Oviedo where she placed a letter in the hands of a statue of Saint Anthony begging him to deliver it to her husband. Later, she returned to the Church and to her great joy found, in place of her letter, a reply from her husband, together with several gold pieces.

The Liberation of Padua

The most famous story regarding Saint Anthony's political courage involves around Ezzelino da Romano. Ezzelino belonged to a political party known as the Ghibellines. Both they and their opponents, the Guelphs, were famous for their conniving and treacherous behaviour. Ezzelino was holding certain Guelphs as prisoners, threatening to execute them. Saint Anthony courageously stood before him and called him to conversion. He repented his ways, only to turn back to his old tricks after Saint Anthony left.

A few years after Saint Anthony's death, Ezzelino extended his dominion by brute force. Saint Anthony appeared to two Franciscan Friars [one of them was probably Blessed Luke Belludi] and foretold them about the liberation of Padua from Ezzelino's tyranny. In 1256, Ezzelino's troops were driven out from Padua and the citizens of the city were free through the intercession of Saint Anthony.

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

POPE LEO XIV, THE NEWLY ELECTED PONTIFF

-Jubel D'Cruz

A new Pope has been chosen by the conclave of Cardinals to lead the 1.4 billion-strong Catholic Church worldwide. This moment is always historic, and in recent decades, the choice of a Pontiff has become an especially scrutinised event. The passing away of Pope Francis on April 21 left many Catholics wondering about the future direction of the Church: Would the next Pope carry forward his reformist legacy, or return to a more traditionalist path? The selection of Cardinal Robert Francis Provost suggests a continuation of Pope Francis's progressive vision.

Now known as Pope Leo XIV, the first American to assume the papacy, he made his first public appearance from the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica on May 8.

Originally from Chicago, Robert Provost (Pope Leo XIV) spent much of his career as a missionary in Peru and was elevated to Cardinal in 2023 by Pope Francis himself. His appointment as Pontiff now places him at the helm of a Church navigating both internal reform and global political engagement.

Pope Francis was widely recognised for his commitment to social justice and his outspoken positions on international conflicts - most notably his daily contact with the Church in Gaza during the crisis there, and his criticism of Western and Israeli actions. As a close protégé of Francis, Robert Provost (Pope Leo XIV) is expected to maintain a similar tone, at least in the early stages of his papacy.

However, as history has often shown, the direction a new Pope ultimately takes can never be fully predicted.

For now, the election of Robert Provost (Pope Leo XIV) brings hope and renewal to millions of Catholics around the world, who now look to him for spiritual leadership and moral clarity in uncertain times.

Robert Provost (Pope Leo XIV) spent his childhood and adolescence with his family and studied first at the Minor Seminary of the Augustinian Fathers and then at the Villanova University in Pennsylvania, where in 1977 he earned a degree in Mathematics and also studied Philosophy.

On September 1 of the same year, he entered the novitiate of the Order of Saint Augustine (O.S.A.) in Saint Louis, in the Province of Our Lady of Good Counsel of Chicago, and made his first profession on September 2, 1978. On August 29, 1981, he made his solemn vows.

At the age of 27, he was sent by his superiors to Rome to study Canon Law at the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum).

In Rome, he was ordained a priest on June 19, 1982, at

the Augustinian College of Saint Monica by Archbishop Jean Jadot, then pro-president of the Secretariat for Non-Christians, which later became the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue and then the Dicastery for Interreligious Dialogue.

He obtained his licentiate in 1984 and the following year, while preparing his doctoral thesis, he was sent to the Augustinian mission in Chulucanas, Piura, Peru (1985-1986).

In 1987, he defended his doctoral thesis on "The Role of the Local Prior in the Order of Saint Augustine" and was appointed vocation director and missions director of the Augustinian Province of "Mother of Good Counsel" in Olympia Fields, Illinois (USA).

He celebrated his first Mass in the Vatican's Sistine Chapel on May 9. The multilingual service began as the pope processed in and sang in Latin along with the Vatican's Sistine Chapel Choir, one of the oldest and most prestigious choirs in the world. The first two readings were delivered in English and Spanish.

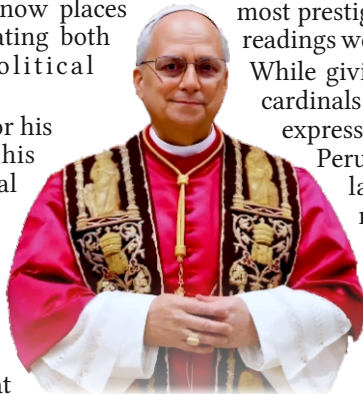
While giving the homily, he thanked his fellow cardinals for selecting him as the pope. He also expressed gratitude to his former diocese in Peru and spoke warmly of Pope Francis, his late predecessor, before ending his remarks with a prayer.

The papacy, a significant institution in world history, traces its origins to the first century AD, with Catholic tradition asserting that Saint Peter was the first pope. The papacy has seen over 260 occupants since its founding, playing a crucial role in the spread of Christianity, resolving doctrinal disputes, and intervening in political affairs, particularly in the Middle Ages.

The papacy's authority grew gradually, with the Bishop of Rome, considered the successor of Peter, gaining prominence due to the city's political and cultural importance.

Several popes have left a lasting impact on history, such as Pope Gregory VII, Pope John XII, Pope John Paul II, and Pope Francis.

The pope is elected by a conclave of cardinals, who gather in seclusion to vote.



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

JUST FOR FUN

-Christine D'Sylva

June is a month that heralds the advent of the rainy season in our country and for most of us a welcome respite from the scorching hot summer.

1st June is celebrated as Global Day of Parents to honour parents for their relentless support, sacrifice and commitment towards their children.

On this positive note, let's begin...

World Doll Day



World Doll Day is celebrated on the second Saturday of June. Every little girl has some fond memories of dolls and although not all little girls like dolls, yet most have had at least one doll in their childhood.

Dolls have made a tremendous contribution to the development of children. This inaugural event was held in 1986 initiated by Mildred Seeley, an avid doll collector.

Dolls have been part of human civilization, for thousands of years, with archaeological evidence indicating that dolls are the oldest known toy. The earliest dolls were made of clay, stone, wood, ivory, bone, leather and wax. Wooden dolls were discovered in Egyptian tombs as dating early as the 21st century B.C. Clay dolls have been found in the graves of ancient Greek and Roman children. Egyptian kids dressed their dolls according to the latest fashions of the day.

Rag dolls date back to the 5th century A.D. Today Mattel's Barbie doll is one of the world's most popular dolls, first created in 1959. On this day, you can donate your old dolls if you still have them to needy kids and promote the give joy to a child since dolls remain for little girls the most beloved toy till date.

Inspirational Story



Once a wise man held a seminar to teach people how to get rid of sorrows in their life. Many people came to listen.

The speaker entered and told the audience a very hilarious joke. Everyone roared with laughter. After a couple of

minutes, he told them the same joke again, now this time just few smiled.

After a couple of minutes, he told them the same joke again for the third time. Nobody even smiled.

The wise speaker said, "You cannot laugh at the same hilarious joke again and again. So tell me why do you cry over the same problem over and over?"

The crowd was silent. He said, "Problems are to be

solved and then not thought about much anymore. It should be a closed chapter in your life. If the same problems repeats itself again and again, do not cry, but just realise if you solved it once, you can solve it again by facing up to it and not letting it control you. For example, if you always get hurt by a particular person's nasty comments, either ignore them or face your opponent with courage and show them you have boundaries. But do not spend time wallowing in self-pity. Take appropriate action and once the problem is solved do not ruminate on it anymore."

Ice-creams - A most tasty treat



The first frozen desserts appeared over 2000 years ago. Ancient Chinese royalty created the earliest version by mixing snow with milk and rice. Roman emperors had servants to gather mountain snow to mix with fruit and

honey, thus making an early sorbet.

In ancient China, buffalo, cow and goat's milk was heated and allowed to ferment. This yogurt was mixed with flour for thickening, camphor for flavour and refrigerated before serving. King Tang of Shang had a staff of 2271 people which included 94 of these ice-cream men.

The ice-cream cone was an accident. At the St. Louis Fair in 1904, an ice-cream vendor ran out of bowls, so a waffle maker rolled his pastries into a cone shape to help. The most popular ice-creams are vanilla and chocolate ice-creams. The American President Thomas Jefferson is credited with the first recipe for ice-cream in America. It is said about 98 percent of American families have ice-cream in their freezers at all times. In 1950, scientists actually incorrectly thought ice-cream caused polio because there were more cases of polio during summer. Americans spent more than 6 billion on ice-cream in 2019.

So it's a fact that everyone does love ice-cream.

The Value of Yogurt



Yogurt is a good source of protein and calcium. It supports gut health and can aid in weight management and heart health and may prevent cancer.

It is relatively easy to make. Two tablespoon of yogurt added to a litre of warm milk

(scald milk then cool to warm temperature, not hot first) and should be stirred well and kept untouched in a warm place covered with a towel preferably overnight. A clay pot is very beneficial to set yogurt well. After setting it should be refrigerated.

Many yogurts contain probiotics which is beneficial bacteria that supports gut health and boosts the

immune system. However, flavoured yogurt has high amounts of added sugar and should be eaten in moderation.

Unless you are lactose intolerant, go ahead and have some yogurt regularly. It has many good benefits for your health. But like most foods it should be eaten in moderation.

Quiz

All About Animals



Animals are any living creature including humans but not plants. Humans are considered to be social animals.

1. Which bird is pink on the outside and inside?
2. Which sea animal dies after

giving birth?

3. Which fish have blue blood and not red?
4. Which is the slimiest animal in the world?
5. Which animal sleeps the most?

Smile Please



1. After many months of unsolved quarrels amongst the women in a hostel, it was finally moved to a court of law.

The judge with Solomon like wisdom said, "I would like to listen to the oldest lady first."

The case was dismissed for lack of evidence.

2. Interviewer: "What is your biggest weakness?"

Candidate: "Honesty."

Interviewer: "I do not think honesty is a big issue."

Candidate: "I don't give a crap about what you think."

3. A blonde lady was speeding down the road in a little red sports car and was pulled over by a blonde police officer.

The blonde cop asked her for her driver's license.

The blonde car driver asked nervously, "What does it look like?"

"Well, it is square and has your picture on it."

Moments later, the blonde lady in the car after rummaging through her purse handed the blonde cop a square mirror, "Here it is."

The blonde cop looked at the square mirror and handed it back saying, "Ok, you can go. I did not know that you were a cop..."

4. A man to a psychiatrist: "How do you select who should be admitted to your facility?"

Psychiatrist: "We fill a bathtub with water. We give the guy a spoon, cup and bucket to empty the water."

Man smiles: "Ah, I understand. If you are sane, you would choose the bucket."

Psychiatrist: "No, a sane guy pulls the plug of the tub to drain it. Now tell me, do you want a room with or without a balcony?"

What's the Good Word?

All about our Indian Army



1. Is the Indian Army voluntary or by conscription?
2. The year when the Indian Army was formed.
3. The highest bridge in the world built by the Indian Army.
4. The Indian Army's headquarters.
5. The highest wartime gallantry award in India.

Brain Teasers



1. I can be short but hot and I rarely impress. What am I?
2. A family living together has six sons and two parents. Each of the sons has only one cousin brother. How many people are in the family?

3. What coat goes on wet?

4. What would you find in the middle of Toronto?

5. $A+B=60$, $A-B=40$, then A multiplied by B?

Touching War Story



Second Lieutenant Arun Khetarpal was a 21-year-old hero of the Battle of Basantar in the 1971 Indo-Pak war. He had joined the army just six months earlier and was undergoing training at Ahmednagar.

He was called to battle and rushed to help his fellow

soldiers on 16th December, 1971. Even after being seriously wounded, he refused to abandon his tank and he kept fighting till his last breath.

In a final faceoff, his tank and an enemy tank fired at the same time but he did not permit the enemy to move forward. He was martyred but his valiant nature is testimony to a committed soldier dedicated to fighting for his country.

His bravery reminds us what every a young soldier can achieve if he taps into his highest potential. For his incredible bravery, he was awarded India's highest gallantry award, the Param Vir Chakra. His story is one of service and bravery that will always be remembered.

Let us pause a while and say a prayer for our Indian Army who deserve our prayers and blessings. It takes guts and great sacrifice to lay down one's life for the nation.

Naturopathy

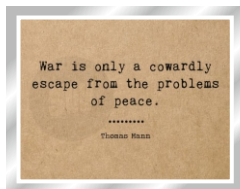
The system of medicine that relies on nature.



1. Mix neem powder in warm bath water can help get rid of skin problems.
2. Begin each day with a glass of lemon juice and some honey. This can help clean your system.

3. Drink a glass of water before sleep to reduce the chances of cardiac arrest while sleeping.
4. A natural face wash is the use of besan, that is chickpea flour to cleanse your face which also has an exfoliating effect removing dead skin cells effectively.

Inspirational Quotes on War and Peace



1. "Peace is more difficult than war." - **Aristotle**
2. "Blessed are those who endure in peace for by You, Most High, shall they be crowned." - **Saint Francis of Assisi**
3. "Did you know that the original title for War and Peace was War, What is it Good For?" - **Jerry Seinfeld**
4. "I urge you to be peacemakers, to love peace, to seek peace, to cherish peace, to create peace." - **Jeffrey R. Holland**
5. "If we don't end war, war will end us." - **H.G. Wells**

Riddle Me



1. What has a bark but no bite?
2. What has ears but cannot hear?
3. I am round but not a ball. I am in space but I am not a star. I have many layers but I am not a cake. What am I?
4. What has thirteen hearts

but no other organ?

Wisdom Message of the Month



Funerals are part of our lives as we go to them to show our respect for the dead and pray for their souls. Often after mass, people who knew the dead person are permitted to take the pulpit and give an eulogy about the deceased.

Eulogies often speak very positive things about the deceased and rarely is a negative word ever said. This is good because everyone wants to be remembered as good and virtuous even if it to the contrary!

It must be remembered while giving an eulogy one must refrain from comparing the dead person to any person from the Bible. I say this because Biblical characters, especially virtuous ones are acknowledged by their incredible virtues and these are acknowledged verified facts.

It is not in our hands to pass judgement on the deceased and compare them to saintly Biblical characters or saints. For example, if in an eulogy the deceased woman is compared to Elizabeth, the cousin of Mary or Deborah, a fearless judge in the Bible, this is being presumptuous. Nor should we refer to a deceased man similar to being virtuous like

Paul the apostle or any other male Biblical virtuous person. I think it is not wholly right.

I think only God knows the real hearts of the deceased and can pronounce the final judgement. God does not judge on outward appearances of piety or virtue but he judges the heart of man that sometimes is not visible to all. Sometimes so called good people have plenty of hidden vices unknown to us. After all outward appearances can lie. Only God sees every hidden thought and deed.

What do we learn?

We learn that only God is the final judge about a person's saintliness or not. We must speak positive things about the deceased but comparing them to saintly people is I think being very presumptuous and should not be done. If we do so, then we are exercising our spiritual authority which we do not really have in deciding who is worthy of entering God's kingdom and who finds favour with God. Even saints before being canonized have to undergo many years of certain tests before being proclaimed as saints. So let's speak well of deceased people but let's refrain from comparing them to either Biblical characters or saints.

That's all for this month. Take care. Till next month...

Answers

Quiz

1. Flamingos. 2. A female octopus. 3. Cuttlefish/Horseshoe Crab.
4. Hagfish. 5. Koala.

What's the Good Word?

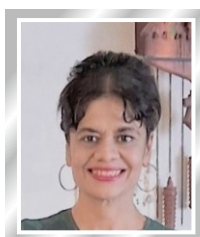
1. It is voluntary to join. 2. 1895 . 3. The Bailey bridge in the Himalayan mountains. 4. Delhi. 5. Param Vir Chakra.

Brain Teasers

1. Temper. 2. Two parents, six sons, one cousin, total nine.
3. A coat of paint. 4. The letter o. 5. 500

Riddle Me

1. A tree. 2. Corn. 3. Earth. 4. A deck of cards.



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 BLESSINGS RECEIVED

MUMBAI: We often pray to Ven. Fr. Agnel and have been blessed immensely in many ways. We will continue to pray to the Venerable for his blessings.

- *Fatima Gavadya*

THANKSGIVING FOR FAVOURS RECEIVED

DELHI: I thank Ven. Fr. Agnel for answering my prayers and blessing me and my family.

- *Jenny Maria*

THANKSGIVING FOR FAVOURS RECEIVED

GUJARAT: Ven. Fr. Agnel has answered my prayers. We have immense faith in the Venerable and visit Fr. Agnel Ashram in Bandra, whenever we are in Mumbai.

- *Varsha Prakash Mahida*

THANKSGIVING FOR BEING BLESSED WITH A CHILD

KURLA: Through the intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel, our prayers have been answered. We have been blessed with baby Manuel.

- *Asha & Bosco D'Cunha*

THANKSGIVING FOR BLESSINGS RECEIVED

MUMBAI: I thank Ven. Fr. Agnel for his intercession and all the blessings bestowed on me and my family.

- *Rishi Bhatia*

THANKSGIVING FOR PRAYERS ANSWERED

MUMBAI: I often pray to Ven. Fr. Agnel and have been blessed immensely. We will continue to pray to the Venerable for his blessings.

- *Raymond Coelho*

THANKSGIVING FOR SECURING A GOOD JOB

BANDRA: Through the intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel, I have been blessed with a good job. Thank you Venerable for helping me out of a difficult situation.

- *Joshua Crasto*

THANKSGIVING FOR FAVOURS RECEIVED

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

- *Collan Kasughar*

THANKSGIVING FOR BLESSINGS RECEIVED IN FAMILY

VASAI: We often pray to Ven. Fr. Agnel for his kind intercession. Our family has been blessed with good health.

- *Anita & Roger Gonsalves*

THANKSGIVING FOR BLESSINGS RECEIVED

JUHU: We have been blessed immensely by Ven. Fr. Agnel. I am indeed grateful for all the favours received.

- *Cyrus & Sabrina Misquitta*

THANKSGIVING FOR PRAYERS ANSWERED

NAGPUR: We are indeed grateful to Ven. Fr. Agnel for blessing us always. I like to visit Fr. Agnel Ashram, whenever I am in Mumbai.

- *Violet Mary*

THANKSGIVING FOR THE GIFT OF A CHILD

VASAI: I have been blessed with a lovely child through the intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel. It's a happy feeling to be a mother.

- *Ruby Rodrigues*

THANKSGIVING FOR FAVOURS RECEIVED

VAKOLA: Through the intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel, I have been blessed in several ways. I am indeed thankful to the Venerable.

- *Francis Gomes*

THANKSGIVING TO VEN. FR. AGNEL

BANDRA: I find joy and peace whenever I visit Fr. Agnel Ashram in Bandra. I thank Ven. Fr. Agnel for his kind intercession in answering my prayers.

- *Winnie*

THANKSGIVING TO VEN. FR. AGNEL

VIRAR: Through the intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel, my family has been blessed in many ways. We always look up to the Venerable.

- *Rubina Tuscano*

OUT OF THEIR BOUNTY

Nilesh Parmar	Gujarat	100000	Rija Francis	Kerala	2000	Anil Chavan	Pune	1000
Praveen Srivastava	Mumbai	37000	Lisa Tuscano	Vasai	2000	Diayana Sales	Kerala	1000
His Kingdom Trust	Mumbai	25000	A.R. Elavia	Mumbai	2000	Pareesh Thakkar	Thane	1000
Sameer Ganapathy	Mumbai	20000	Selina Rodrigues	Vasai	2000	Preet Thakkar	Thane	1000
Geeta Naik	Mumbai	15000	Cleophas Fernandez	Tamil Nadu	2000	Anthony Thomson	Kerala	1000
Zubin Bharucha	Vasai	12000	Hyacinth Kenny	Mumbai	2000	Gracy Nautiyal	Thane	1000
Swimmy David	Mumbai	11000	Satyakam Kalivda	Mumbai	2000	Liza Cardoz	Mumbai	1000
Mathew	Kerala	10000	John D'Souza	Karnataka	2000	Mary Antony	Kerala	1000
Agnelo D'Souza	Goa	10000	Jose T.K.	Kerala	2000	Adler Fernandes	Vasai	1000
Pelegrina Braganza	Mumbai	10000	D'Souza & Associates	Mumbai	2000	Dominic Dalmeida	Mumbai	1000
P. A. Joseph	Kerala	10000	Nadeen Khan	Mumbai	2000	Kanet Tuscano	Mumbai	1000
Hugh & Colleen Gantzer	Uttarakhand	10000	Attely Kuttikadan	Thane	2000	Kiran Tuscano	Mumbai	1000
Caitan Fernandes	Mumbai	10000	Agnello Coutinho	Vasai	2000	Harsh Shukla	Mumbai	1000
Bazle Manohar	Bandra	10000	Francis and Kimberly	Vasai	2000	M.D. Mathai	Kerala	1000
Hazel D'Souza	Mumbai	10000	Lilly Crasto	Mumbai	2000	Monica D'Souza	Pune	1000
Severina Peres	Mumbai	10000	Ranjita T. D'Monte	Virar	2000	Maria Santhana	Tamil Nadu	1000
Domnic Fernandes	Mumbai	5000	Royal D'Britto	Virar	2000	Noylin J. Fernando	Mumbai	1000
Jacob Puthur	Kerala	5000	Priya Lalwani	Mumbai	2000	Joglan Pereira	Vasai	1000
Selwyn George	Oman	5000	Vrunda Shah	Gujarat	1250	Jinal Patel	Mumbai	1000
Souvik Majumdar	Thane	5000	Samihan Pachchigar	Gujarat	1250	Sangita Patel	Mumbai	1000
Louis D'Souza	Mumbai	5000	Fransquinha Fernandes	Mumbai	1250	Ghanshyam Patel	Mumbai	1000
Ashley Fernandes	Mumbai	5000	Asha Mehta	Mumbai	1000	Ankit G. Patel	Mumbai	1000
Cranetech Equipments	Mumbai	5000	Elizabeth Pious	Kerala	1000	Fitech Industries	Mumbai	1000
Jaison Chackochen	Kerala	5000	Twisha Gala	Thane	1000	Tvish Gale	Mumbai	500
Kersi Kapadia	Karnataka	5000	Bhumi Gala	Thane	1000	Suhas Cheistian	Gujarat	500
Walter D'Cunha	Thane	5000	Mokssh Gala	Thane	1000	Perfect Carries	Kerala	500
V. B. Reddy	Hyderabad	5000	Gunvantiben Gala	Thane	1000	Freny Amra	Mumbai	500
T. G. George	Mumbai	4000	Nanji N. Gala	Thane	1000	Thomas Pathare	Gujarat	500
Rodney Valentine	Mumbai	4000	John Thomas	Kerala	1000	Veena Pachchigar	Gujarat	500
Falguni Solanki	Mumbai	3500	Jenny Saraiya	Mumbai	1000	Dhruti Parikh	Mumbai	500
Agnel Shaju	Kerala	3000	George D'Souza	Thane	1000	Christopher D'Mello	Virar	500
Susanne Irani	Mumbai	3000	Arulgnana Stephen	Tamil Nadu	1000	Surekha Londhe	Mumbai	500
Mohan Nanda	Mumbai	2000	Meher Balsara	Mumbai	1000	Chimanbhai Macwan	Gujarat	500
Dhaval Pachchigar	Gujarat	2000	I.C. Mehta	Mumbai	1000	Jessy Kurian	Kerala	500
Louis D'Souza	Mumbai	2000	Veena Pachchigar	Mumbai	1000	John Baptist	Tamil Nadu	500
P. M. Mary	Kerala	2000	Christine D'Souza	Goa	1000	Kochala K.I.	Kerala	500
Gracy Nautiyal	Thane	2000	Lawrence Noronha	Mumbai	1000	Mary D'Souza	Virar	500
R. Micheal	Tamil Nadu	2000	Runa D'Abreo	Virar	1000	Archana Kshirsagar	Thane	500
Isabel Hendricks	Tamil Nadu	2000	Ashwin Macwan	Gujarat	1000	Minakshi Kadam	Mumbai	500
Natalia Cardoz	Mumbai	2000	Neena Cardozo	Mumbai	1000	Elzas Dabreo	Mumbai	500
Zina Cardoz	Mumbai	2000	M.P. John	Kerala	1000			

BOB'S BANTER

by Robert Clements

Air-Vents All Clogged Sir..!

The AC in my bedroom conked out in the middle of the night. Not sputtered. Not whimpered. It just gave up, like a resigned bureaucrat on a Friday afternoon. One moment I was wrapped in Himalayan bliss, the next I was drenched in Sahara sweat.

And so I tossed and turned all night like a chicken being barbecued. By morning, I looked like I'd spent the night dancing in a steam room, and felt like I'd been at war - with a mattress and my melting dignity.

The mechanic arrived late morning. Snooty fellow, eyes half shut with indifference and an air of casual brilliance, like he knew the secrets of the universe... or at least the secrets of split ACs.

"It's a good brand," I told him hopefully, pointing at the machine like it was a pedigree dog that had soiled the carpet.

"The best," he nodded solemnly, opening the unit

Cold, sweet air whooshed out, almost like a sigh of relief - mine, not the AC's.

And as I sat under the newly sanctified breeze, I couldn't help but think: Aren't we a bit like that air-conditioner?

We go through life with dust collecting in our systems - stress, deadlines, family drama, cholesterol, WhatsApp forwards from that hatred filled friends. Slowly, our vents get clogged, our filters don't work, and our emotional fins seize up.

Then one day we snap. Tempers flare. Health breaks down. Relationships stall. Spiritual life flattens.

And someone gently tells us, "You need servicing."

Not a vacation to Bali, though that sounds lovely. But simple, quiet servicing - like regular walks, fewer gulab jamuns, annual health check-ups, forgiving that ex-friend, and a little conversation with the Divine each morning - not a rant, but a chat.




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with the reverence of a surgeon unveiling a chest cavity.

"Then what's the problem?" I asked, hoping he wouldn't suggest I replace it with some obscure cousin from a new brand he'd conveniently be selling on the side.

"Air vents clogged. Filters dirty. Fins choked. All jammed with muck. Sir, there's construction going on next door?"

"Yes," I said, "it's been going on for the last two years!"

"All the more reason," he replied, with the wisdom of the Himalayas. "That you should have got it serviced regularly."

He tinkered for the next hour while I hovered like a parent outside an operation theatre. Then, like Lazarus from the tomb, the AC sprang back to life.

You see, our lives are surrounded by constant construction - of expectations, responsibilities, ambitions. And in all this dust, we forget to clean our vents.

My AC's working fine now. Whisper-cool. Just like the soul after a bit of prayer and the body after a morning stretch.

Hope your vents aren't clogged, dear reader. If they are - well, you know what to do.

Service due, sir. Service due...!

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

In our hearts forever!

The Founder of Fr. Agnel Ashram, Bandra



FR. CONCEICAO RODRIGUES

(27th March, 1912 - 22nd June, 1984)

"My Land and My People! It is all that matters."

True to his mission, **Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues** started Agnel Ashram in 1957 to care for marginalised children and their education. The Ashram runs a full-fledged school, industrial training centre, polytechnic and an engineering college.

It has spread its wings with large technical complexes at **Bandra** in Mumbai, **Vashi** in Navi Mumbai, **Verna** and **Assagao** in Goa, **Pune**, **Delhi**, **Noida** and **Greater Noida**.

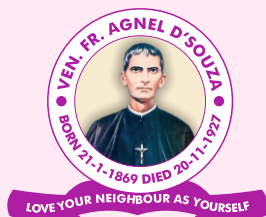
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May the new academic year 2025-2026 bring success, happiness and endless knowledge to each one of us.



Let's strive to achieve our goals and create unforgettable memories!



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