



FR

November 2022

AGNEL

SHRAM NEWS

"It is not the clothing
that honour the man
but his virtues."

-Ven. Fr. Agnelo



FR. AGNEL
ASHRAM

NEWS

Novemeber 2022

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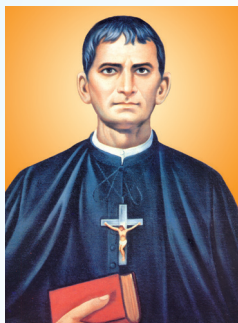
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VEN. FR. AGNELO'S 95th DEATH ANNIVERSARY Sunday, 20th November 2022

PROGRAMME

SPECIAL NOVENA SERVICES From 11th to 19th November 2022

Everyday

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

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

N.B.

On Sunday, 13th November, Masses and Novena Services will be held as on Normal Sundays.

20th November (Sunday) : 95th Death Anniversary of Venerable Fr. Agnelo

Morning : Mass followed by Novena Prayers at
7.00 a.m. (English), 8.00 a.m. (Konkani),
9.30 a.m. (English) and 11.30 a.m. (Tamil)

Evening : A Solemn Concelebrated Mass will be held at
6.00 p.m. (English) in the Ashram Compound.

Main Celebrant

**Most. Rev. Allwyn D'Silva,
Auxiliary Bishop of Bombay,
will be the**

Main Celebrant on 20th November 2022.



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
Bandstand, Bandra (West),
Mumbai - 400050

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

Entrusting Our Future to God

November is the month when the Church reminds us about both, eternal glory (1st November), and our death (and of our loved ones) on 2nd November. But sadly, many people, including very good Catholics, are afraid of death! The secular world has even started using euphemisms like, “He/she *passed*,” instead of he/she died! The Second Vatican Council declares lucidly:

“It is in regard to death that man’s condition is most shrouded in doubt. Man is tormented not only by pain and by the gradual breaking-up of his body but also, and even more, by the dread of forever ceasing to be. **Because he bears in himself the seed of eternity, which cannot be reduced to mere matter, he rebels against death.** All the aids made available by technology, however useful they may be, cannot set his anguished mind at rest. They may prolong his life-span; but this does not satisfy his heartfelt longing for a life to come...”

“But while the mind is at a loss before the mystery of death, we believe that God has created man in view of a blessed destiny that lies beyond the limits of his sad state on earth. Moreover, the Christian faith teaches that bodily death, from which man would have been immune had he not sinned (*Cf. Wis. 1:13; Rom. 5:21; Jas. 1:15*), will be overcome when wholeness is given once again to him by the almighty and merciful Saviour. **Faith, therefore, with its solidly based scriptural teaching, provides all thoughtful persons with an answer to their anxious queries about their future lot.** At the same time it makes them able to be united in Christ with their loved ones who have already died, and gives hope that they have found true life with God” (*G et Spes*, 18).

As we pray on All Souls Day for our loved ones who have gone before us, we can do so with the full assurance that, as Jesus promised, **“Everyone who sees the Son and believes in him will**

have eternal life; and I will raise him/her up on the last day” (Jn 6:27-40).

We should also make efforts every day of the year to grow in our personal faith by a devotional reading of the word of God (*lectio divina*). Jesus himself assures us, **“My words are spirit and life”** (Jn 6:63). So here is a powerful prayer (taken from the *Divine Office*) to use daily – it will surely bring inner peace and even joy as we think about our future life:

“Alone with none but Thee, my God, I journey
on my way;
What need I fear, when Thou art near, O King
of night and day?
More safe am I within Thy hand, than if a host
did round me stand.

My destined time is fixed by Thee, and death
doth know his hour.
Did warriors strong around me throng, they
could not stay his power;
No walls of stone can man defend, when Thou
Thy messenger dost send.

My life I yield to Thy decree, and bow to Thy
control,
In peaceful calm, for from Thine arm, no
power can wrest my soul,
Could earthly omens e’er appall, a person that
heeds the heavenly call?

The child of God can fear no ill, His chosen
dread no foe;
We leave our fate with Thee, and wait Thy
bidding when to go.
‘Tis not from chance our comfort springs,
Thou art our trust, O King of kings!”

As for the **Feast of All Saints, 1st November**, the Church has deliberately placed it on the day just before All Souls, to teach us that many millions of our sisters and brothers have indeed **“won the race and kept the faith”** (2Tim 4:7), and are now constantly and powerfully interceding for us all in the Communion of Saints. It can help us draw courage, inner peace, and hope!

To help us live holy lives, we have a wonderful role model in the person of Mary, the mother of Jesus and our Mother, who lived out the demands of the word of God made on her every moment of her life, and now in eternity she continues to interest herself in our lives by her prayers and interventions. All her decisions, right from the time of the Annunciation made to her by God's messenger Gabriel, till the time of the birth of the Church by the Holy Spirit on Pentecost day, were made in deep faith and trust in God's victorious will all the time, especially when she could not "comprehend the work of God." At such times, as the Gospel records, she pondered everything in her heart (see Luke 2:19; 51). Thus she teaches us by her own example how to live our present lives in this world.

There are moments when our own faith will be tested. That is when we are called to surrender to God what is beyond our own capacity to understand, and to do the duty of the present moment, and not to worry about the future or grieve continuously about the past. The element of mystery in our lives is the element of eternity that God has put into our hearts, to reveal to us that this world is not our lasting home. God, who has gifted us with a share in his life, empowers us to face all life's challenges with the eyes of faith, hope and love: love for our God and love for our family of human beings, especially those put into our care in one way or another.

The lives of the Saints are a good illustration that our holiness must struggle daily with our persisting sinfulness, strength with weakness, wisdom with folly, peace with new disturbance, our divinity with our humanity. Over the centuries, there is not a single Saint who, in trying to be "aglow with the Spirit" (Rom 12:11) did not need to fulfil the twin requirements of being "Spirit-filled" yet "hungry for the Spirit," of knowing both fullness and emptiness, of finding God in all things and yet having to search for him continually, of receiving the privilege of becoming "temples of the Holy Spirit" and yet having to wait for the fullness of sonship: "*But we ourselves who have the first fruits of the Spirit groan inwardly as we wait for sonship/ daughterhood, the redemption of our bodies*" (Rom 8:23).

Hunger is an inescapable reality. In the material

realm, one can gorge oneself with choice foods and be satiated with abundant drink, still in a few hours one is hungry again! No matter what one's age, colour, creed or social status, everyone is captive to physical weakness and the need for regular nourishment. So too in the spiritual realm, hunger is an ever-present reality. St. Augustine put it well: "*Our hearts were created for you, O God, and they are restless until they find their rest in You!*" One may pretend to ignore God and his claims, nevertheless it is one's deep spiritual loneliness and hunger that drives every human being to search for love (for the experience of being loved and of loving in return). Such a search leads some to try esoteric religions, others secular humanism, and still others money, drugs, sex or alcohol, but one's spiritual hunger to be "aglow with the Spirit" can only be definitively and truly fulfilled in God.

However, the Good News is that **God has done something** to fulfil the inner longings of his people! He has done, and continues to do this, with sovereign freedom and power, gratuitously, generously, in and through his Son Jesus Christ. This is the unique significance of Christianity, that it effectively brings to people of goodwill the Good News of God reconciling the world to himself and offering it a new, fulfilling life in the Spirit (see 2Cor 5:17-20). Not by works, nor by merit, nor by the Mosaic Law does one become "aglow with the Spirit," but only by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Hence, a Christian must continually "*watch and pray*" (Mt 26:41) – watch with confidence, but also with humility; pray with strong, expectant faith, but also with an inner conviction of personal unworthiness. Paul's words must be taken to heart by every Christian, as all the Saints did too: "*I punish my body and subdue it, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified*" (1Cor 9:27)!

The thought of Eternity (Feasts of All Saints and All Souls) can be our well-spring of active faith, and of deep attachment to God and his holy will, one day at a time. May the Holy Spirit lead all of us daily to interiorize and obey the word of God, happily!

-Fr. Dr. Fio Mascarenhas SJ, DMIn

St. Andrew, the Introducer

-Fr. Antony Jerald

Human persons have this natural tendency that anyone should introduce me to someone great and special in the world. We always long for introduction and recognition before others. It is not easy to get attention or being introduced by others. Jealousy or ego will stop us from introducing people in the presence of significant persons in the society but we have a saint who is model for all of us in introducing and proclaiming. He is a true disciple who did not know the will of the Father and never knew who the Messiah was until he met and experienced who Jesus is. By the very word of his master, John the Baptist, he followed Jesus till his death. Even at his death, he believed he was not worthy of being crucified in the same manner as Jesus. He was crucified in the shape of “X” cross at his request. That is our Saint Andrew the Apostle, the first disciple and apostle of Jesus Christ.

St. Andrew is mentioned in the Gospel passage very few times, but each moment he appeared in the scene, was a turning point for the mission of Jesus or a famous act that had happened in Jesus’ ministry. If St. Andrew had not followed Jesus, we might not have known St. Peter as the first pope of our Church. If St. Andrew had not listened to the voice of John the Baptist and followed Jesus, we might not have known the truth of Jesus that he not only came to restore the earthly kingdom of Israel but to fulfil the prophecy announced through Daniel, Ezekiel, Isaiah, and Jeremiah that God’s light would be brought to all the nations.

When we look at the life of St. Andrew, from the Scripture, he received an invitation only once (Mt 4:18-22), but he introduced many people to Jesus. He

realizes that the Good News of Jesus is for every man, woman, child, tribe, nation, and world. When other disciples were preventing the children and chasing away the Syro-Phoenician woman, St. Andrew was expressing the opposite opinion. He always took people to Jesus. Great examples are: Andrew introducing St. Peter to Jesus; St. Andrew showing a boy to Jesus to do the miracle of feeding of five thousand; and introducing Greeks (foreigners) to Jesus.

When John the Baptist told St. Andrew, “Here is the lamb of God” (John 1:35), he immediately followed Jesus. Do you think he has

stopped just following Jesus? No, once he discovered that Jesus is the Messiah, he ran to his brother St. Peter to announce the good news that ‘we have found the messiah’ (John 1: 41), which led him to Jesus, who became the pillar of the Church and lovable disciple of Jesus. The peculiar act of St. Andrew is that even though he was left alone in the Bible, not adding to the beloved disciples (wherever Jesus went he took Peter, James, and John), he always introduced someone to Jesus. He never had prejudice in his mind.

It is our time to think of how far we can introduce Jesus to others. Do we introduce Jesus for the will of God, as St. Andrew did, or for our own benefit? He never worried about, ‘Why St. Peter was exalted whom he introduced to Jesus, but he was not mentioned for it.’ His instinct was not to get any fame or benefit, but rather to bring others to Jesus. The other example is the boy with two fish and five loaves. When Jesus wanted to feed the people who followed, Philip was counting the members and the expense (two

Contd. on pg 8



Remembering Venerable Fr. Agnelo D'Souza on his 95th Death Anniversary

-Sunil D'Cruz

Born in Anjuna, Goa, on 21st January, 1869, the sixth child of Miguel Arcanjo Mariano de Souza, and Maria Sinforosa Perpetua Magalhaes, who were blessed with eight boys and a girl, little Agnelo was christened after St. Agnes on her feast day.

Characteristically, he grew up manifesting qualities of gentleness, love and purity, humility and obedience, combined with a strong sense of self-discipline. He was not given to much of talking, unlike the boys of his age, and usually preferred silence and prayer. Teaching catechism to the boys was his favourite childhood hobby. One of his uncles, Fr. Lazaro Fortunato Souza, seeing his teaching activities, uttered these prophetic words: “Agnelo will one day be a virtuous priest and a renowned preacher.”

Both these prophecies came true, for during his studies for the priesthood, he proved to be brilliant and Godly and never missed the daily Mass at the Seminary of Rachol where he completed his discourse of theology with distinctions.

Fr. Agnelo had set his sights high in the service of God and aimed at cultivating assiduously all the priestly virtues. He believed he could do better in a Religious Order and after much prayer and consultation with his colleagues and teachers, he made his first profession as a member of the Society of Missionaries of St. Francis Xavier, Pilar.

On 24th September, 1899, the then Patriarch Archbishop of Goa, Dom Antonio Sebastiao Valente, ordained him a priest at the Cathedral of Old Goa, and celebrated his first Holy Mass at the Monastery of Pilar. From then on, Fr. Agnelo's spiritual life can be studied under two phases.

The first consisted of ten years he spent at Pilar, more or less in seclusion, prayer and meditation



Tomb of Ven. Fr. Agnelo in Pilar, Goa.

and occasionally going out on pastoral work at the request of his superiors. It was a preparation par excellence for his later apostolate as a Pastor, Confessor, Preacher, and Spiritual Guide.

He was appointed on 8th September, 1908, as Confessor to the Seminarians in Rachol and

by the influence of his personal life of austerity, holiness and benevolence, he strengthened the Vocation of many a young penitent.

From 1910 to 1917, he served as Missionary Vicar of Shiroada in Goa, and of Kumta, now in Karnataka, and thereafter at Sanvordem as Curate. He left in all these places a memorable legacy of his holy living and pastoral concern. He had an intense devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and spent a few hours each night in adoration. On 15th April, 1920, he was confirmed as Spiritual Director of the Seminary as well as Director of the Apostleship of Prayer.

Fr. Agnelo was also an impressive preacher not because of any flourish of the rhetoric but because every word he spoke from the pulpit, came out from the depths of his heart. His sermons were simple, clear, lucid and easily understood. His preaching enlightened and converted the most rebellious sinners. Indeed, by his preaching Fr. Agnelo won countless people to God and brought about the transformation of atheists and those on the wrong path.

In order to give greater glory to God, Fr. Agnelo sought to awaken by his word and example, vocations to the priestly and religious life, by encouraging those who manifested to him these desires. Thanks to the encouragement of Fr. Agnelo, many seminarians consecrated their lives to God.

Such was his passion and commitment in continuing the Lord's work, that once, though

Contd. on pg. 14

Children's Day - A Child, the Future of Our Nation

-Christine D'Sylva

"No one has yet realised the wealth of empathy, the kindness and generosity hidden in the soul of a child." - Emma Goldman

Our country celebrates Children's Day every 14th November which is also a remembrance of our dear former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, whose birthday falls on this day.

Apparently, Nehru was very fond of children and what better way than to honour his memory and to pay attention to our children than celebrating this day joyfully? Nehru was affectionately called Chacha Nehru by kids and their affection and faith in him was a constant source of joy to him. His aim was to create a suitable congenial atmosphere in our nation, so that the welfare of the children are paid importance. He was the pioneer in establishing the Children's Film Society India in 1955, so that the Indian kids could be represented.

It is said that Nehru was so convinced of the importance of children that in their eyes he viewed the future of India. He was convinced that no amount of money spent on children and their mothers was too much. He felt that it as a sound investment for the future. His philosophy is a sound one and may be expressed as - The children of today will make the India of tomorrow and the way we bring them up will determine the future of the country.

This year, the theme of Children's Day is 'A better future for every child.' India races today to achieve great strides but unfortunately its children are still behind in terms of healthcare, education and other facilities. Girls especially are faced with lack of educational opportunities, malnourishment, infant mortality and early marriages.

It is found according to surveys that every second child under five years is malnourished. Most infants are anaemic and one third of kids up to the age of three have a stunted growth. Two out of five children are underweight. There exists high infant mortality and there are 58 infant deaths for every 1000 births.

Let us examine how important it is to take care of children from a Biblical perspective. We honour Infant Jesus because Christmas Day would never

come into existence without the birth of baby Jesus in the manger with his Mother Mary and her husband St. Joseph.

There are novenas dedicated to Infant Jesus as well as statues and churches named after him. This love for Infant Jesus reminds us that Jesus too had been a child and as we are children of God, we feel a kinship with him as a child. We see his innocent face, his tender expression and we feel that he will hear our prayers for children are often loving and kind. They have not developed a hardening of personality as yet. So we feel drawn to Infant Jesus.

As a child, Jesus was a very good lad, hardworking and sincere. He often assisted his father, St. Joseph in carpentry. I am sure he must have helped in the housework too and been sympathetic to his Mother Mary. He was so good and perfect that the Bible refers to just one incident when he seemed to behave in a different manner. Mary, Joseph and Jesus went to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover, according to custom, and they were returning home.

The boy, Jesus who was twelve years old, slipped away and stayed behind in Jerusalem but this went unnoticed by his parents probably because of the crowds and rush. They travelled home for a day and then suddenly realised he was absent, after searching frantically for him.

Imagine their fear and worry when they found him after three days in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening and answering questions. Everyone was amazed at his knowledge and understanding. His mother was astonished finding him here and scolded him gently asking him why he did this and made them worried. Young Jesus simply replied, "Why were you searching for me? Don't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" They could not understand that he was trying to tell them he was in a small way actually preparing for his future ministry for he was aware that he was the Son of God. It is true that Jesus was obedient to them after this and never gave them cause for alarm again.

I think this is a beautiful story for it makes us ponder. Are we quick to judge our kids unfairly? Do we really understand our children? Do we

always measure our children by either the world's yardstick or our own misguided one?

Can we accept them unconditionally? When God gives us kids who are not exactly what we like, can we love them? They may never be good looking, intelligent or very talented. Can we love them as they are? Or do we compare them at every opportunity and make them feel inferior? Do we just tolerate our kids because they are a natural part of life or do we love them because in their faces, we see the image of Infant Jesus?

This Children's Day, we must carefully examine all our thoughts. We must promise ourselves to accept the children God has given us. Yes, it may be hard because our neighbour's kids seem so perfect. But God never gives us a child that he has not especially chosen for us. He has deliberately given us the child knowing fully well he has a plan that we must appreciate. St. Paul said, "We see through as glass darkly."

We cannot determine God's divine plan for he thinks ahead, his wisdom and reasoning will never match our own limited faulty logic. He sees what we deserve, what the child needs and he gives us this child. We are called as parents to nurture our kids and teach them sound morals and values. If we lack sound moral values, we cannot impart these to our kids. If we are too

materialistic, we impart materialistic values to our kids making them crave money too fervently and greedily. If we see going to church as only an obligation we have to do, then we are sending messages to kids that the church and mass is not a pleasant happy celebration but a boring duty that has to be done.

So when God gives us a child, he trusts that we will do our best for that child. Even if we fail at times, he promises us his love and strength to accept the pain kids can impart by their misbehaviour or faulty attitudes. He watched his only Son, Jesus suffer and die on the Cross. Do you not think God too suffered pain seeing Jesus nailed to the Cross? Of course he did. He knows then the suffering a parent undergoes when their child is hurt, misbehaves, is wounded or life throws difficulties that seem unfair. Children are given to us as blessings but also as lessons. We learn a great deal of life's lessons through our kids.

So let us this Children's Day, place all our kids in God's loving hands and most of all accept our kids unconditionally and sympathetically. Yes, we can pray for God to change their hearts and bad ways, but in the meantime we can love them with all our heart, grateful they are a beautiful gift from Heaven. Happy Children's Day.

St. Andrew, the Introducer - Contd. from Pg. 5

hundred days' wages) of food but unlike the other disciples, St. Andrew invited a boy with two fish and five loaves into Jesus' ministry to demonstrate that Jesus could turn the impossible into possible through the miracle of the multiplication of the bread and fish (John 6:1-13).

Do you think he stopped with the people of Israel? No, St. Andrew showed the global outlook by ushering the foreigners (Greeks) to meet Jesus (John 12:20-26). He is a man with open mind and loving heart. He understood clearly the mind of Jesus and his universal approach in mission. St. Andrew was kind and friendly and was quick to accept others, which made him social and solution-oriented in all situations that he faced with Jesus, even after the resurrection of Jesus.

His feast day is celebrated by our mother church before or near the first Sunday

of the new liturgical year. He is a very apt saint to celebrate his feast day at the beginning of the New Liturgical year because he is the one who introduced St. Peter to Jesus. He is the one who introduced the global outlook of Jesus. Let us examine ourselves. Are we ready to invite or introduce others to Jesus as St. Andrew did? He never had jealousy in him, rather he encouraged St. Peter to do the will of God. Are we willing to follow the way of St. Andrew? So, be like St. Andrew to spread the love of Jesus. Let's be an example like him to spread the fragrance of the love of Jesus. Let's take St. Andrew as a model to invite others to the community of Jesus by sharing the love of Christ. Let's be an introducer to the future generation to spread love, mercy, compassion, forgiveness and joy of Christ to others.

The Indian Agenda and the Flush of Intellectual Fecundity in Conceicao Rodrigues Memorial Debate (CRMD) 2022: A National Level Debate Competition

Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues College of Engineering successfully hosted its flagship event, **Conceicao Rodrigues Memorial Debate (CRMD)**, on the 7th and 8th of October, 2022. The national level debate underlined

Studies (Pune), among many others, competed diligently through the league rounds to acquire their positions in the quarter-finals.

The wheels of the event set rolling with the Opening Ceremony, held in Samvad on the 7th of October, in the honourable presence of the **Director Rev. Fr. Valerian D'Souza**, **Assistant Director Rev. Fr. Eleuterio Fernandes**, **Rev. Fr. Trevor Pereira**, **Principal Dr. Surendra Singh Rathod**, judges, teachers, and students.



Rev. Fr. Valerian D'Souza, Director of Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues College of Engineering, lighting the traditional lamp, as Rev. Fr. Trevor Pereira, Assistant Director Rev. Fr. Eleuterio Fernandes and Principal Dr. Surendra Singh Rathod look on.

The panel of judges from different colleges in Mumbai, and maestros from the Education and Corporate precincts served the participants with eloquence

the theme, ***The Indian Agenda: Global Influence and Dominance***. This intermediate Oxford-style debate competition had 32 laudable teams from all over India eagerly anticipating bagging the esteemed trophy with their debating intrepidity, grappling with their words for the first prize of Rs. 30,000, the second prize of Rs. 15,000, and Rs. 5000 for the best speaker and the best adjudicator. **Teams from prestigious institutions like IIIT (Raipur), NMIMS (Mumbai), NIFT (Mumbai), Gokhale Education Society's Law College (Kharagpur), and Symbiosis Centre for Management**



A section of the audience at the Conceicao Rodrigues Memorial Debate (CRMD).

and sagacious feedback. **Mr. Niraj Doshi, the CEO of Equal Fintech and alumnus of FR. CRCE was the chief guest** for the final round of CRMD '22. His willingness to consummate

Agnel Happenings

the 'Save A Life' Foundation with a team of 40 volunteers - to spread mental health awareness, and conspicuous banking experience revved up the alacrity of the students. His recollection of

arduous debate, Side Proposition, Team CMD24 (Symbiosis Centre for Management Studies) was declared as the runners-up for CRMD '22. Mr. Yash Thorat received the Best Speaker award

and Mr. Yogeshwar Singh received the Best Adjudicator award. The debates were lively, proposing and countering a plethora of ideologies. Providing a forum for youth to engage in various affairs experienced in daily life, CRMD was an indulgent treat for the debaters and the audience alike.



Seen in the picture (from left to right) are Principal of CRCE Dr. Surendra Singh Rathod, the Chief Guest Mr. Niraj Doshi, the winning CRCE team, consisting of Mr. Brycen Fernandes and Mr. Yash Thorat. Rev. Fr. Valerian D'Souza, Director, CRCE, is also seen in the picture.

The theme consciousness testified that the institution renders pivotal importance

FR. CRCE and the healthy competition it imbibes in its students magnified the true standards of the event.

The teams competed flawlessly in the semi-final rounds, proving their skills for the dialectic dispute, but the finest teams made their way to the finals. Articulating the roots of beliefs and opinions, the two teams in the final round showcased their endowment of deploying lucid and logical arguments following the given motion - "THW allows the operation of only those humanitarian and development aid organizations that operate according to the principles of effective altruism."

Side Opposition, Team CMD01 (Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues College of Engineering) emerged triumphant in the prestigious battle of CRMD 2022. Offering an



Winning Team: Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues College of Engineering emerged the winners of the Conceicao Rodrigues Memorial National Debate Competition 2022.

to bridge the gap in all the possible domains of knowledge by creating vision awareness- "Moulding Engineers who can Build the Nation". The institution is heading towards climbing the various rungs of holistic development and aiming to create blueprints of "ultimate achievements" and first responders.

Pope Francis: 'Priests must be close to the people'

In a conversation with seminarians and priests studying in Rome, Pope Francis addresses numerous topics: from the compassionate style of priests, called to be close to the people, to spiritual direction.

A long dialogue took place in the Paul VI Hall in the Vatican recently, between Pope Francis and seminarians and priests studying in Rome. Throughout the meeting, the Pope was asked ten questions.

The good priest and God's style

Responding to a question on the concreteness of mercy, the Pope stated that it is necessary to learn the language of gestures that express closeness and tenderness. This also applies when giving homilies, he said, "Let the expression be complete."

Pope Francis spoke of three languages that reveal "the maturity of a person: the language of the head, the language of the heart, and the language of the hands" and urged them to learn to express themselves in these three languages, "that I think what I feel and do, feel what I think and do, do what I feel and think."

Keeping in touch with God's people

To those who asked him how to live the priesthood without losing that "smell of the sheep" that must be proper to the priestly ministry, Pope Francis replied that even if one is engaged in studies or in Curial work "it is important to maintain contact with the people, with God's faithful people, because there is the anointing of God's people: they are the sheep. By losing the smell of the sheep, by distancing yourself from them, you can be a theorist, a good theologian, a good philosopher, a very good curial official who does

all the things" but you will have lost "the ability to smell the sheep".

The Pope then reiterated what he calls the principle of the four "proximities" of priests: closeness with God through prayer, closeness with the bishop, closeness with other priests, and closeness to the people of God: "If there is no closeness to the people of God, you are not a good priest".

The priesthood is not a commodity

The Pope then spoke of priests who live the priesthood as if it were a job, with set hours; official priests, who seek tranquility.

"The priesthood is a sacred service to God," the Pope explained, "the service of which the Eucharist is the highest degree, it is a service to the community." He then addressed the topic of "climbing priests", those who aim to make a career for themselves, inviting them to stop: "The climber, in the end, is a traitor; he is not a servant. He seeks his own and then does nothing for others".

Spiritual accompaniment

In the wide-ranging dialogue developed in the Paul VI Hall, Pope Francis also emphasized the importance of spiritual direction - noting, however, that he preferred the term "spiritual accompaniment" - which is not obligatory but helps on life's journey, and which is good to entrust to a person other than one's confessor.

The Pope emphasized that the important thing is that these are two separate roles. "You go to the confessor so that he may forgive you your sins. You go to the spiritual director to tell him the things that are going on in your heart, the spiritual emotions, the joys, the anger, and what is going on inside you." It is important to be accompanied, to recognize that you need to be accompanied, to "clarify things", to recognize

that you need someone to help you understand your spiritual emotions, said the Pope.

Not every question has an answer

Taking his cue from a question on the dialogue between science and faith, the Pope first of all invited priests to be open to the questions of scholars and the anxieties of people and university students, to listen, and to always maintain a positive, open, and humble attitude.

“To be humble, to have faith does not mean having the answer to everything,” said the Pope. “That method of defending the faith no longer works, it is an anachronistic method... To have faith, to have the grace to believe in Jesus Christ is to be on the way,” he explained. The Pope also recommended always keeping dialogue open with science, even if one has no answers, and if anything, directing the person to whom one has not been able to answer towards those who can offer more clarification. Dialogue is saying “I cannot explain this to you, but you must go to these scientists, to these people who will perhaps help you,” said the Pope.

Falling down, getting back up



Responding to another question, the Pope described life as “a continuous imbalance,” because it means walking among many difficulties, falling down, and getting up.

He encouraged his audience not to be afraid of it and to discern, instead, in such daily imbalance, because “in the imbalance, there are

God’s motions that invite you to something, to the desire to do good.” “Knowing how to live in imbalance” leads to “a different equilibrium”, a “dynamic equilibrium” governed by God.

Dangers of the Internet

During the meeting with priests and seminarians, the Pope also spoke about his relationship with technology and his discomfort with modern digital tools. He recounted how, as a gift, he received a mobile phone as soon as he was ordained bishop in Argentina, used it for a single phone call to his sister, and immediately returned it.

“It is not my world, but you must use them,” he told those present, albeit cautiously. Pope Francis emphasized the dangers of the internet, such as digital pornography, which presents a temptation for many, including religious. “It weakens the soul. The devil enters from there: it weakens the priestly heart,” he warned.

The Church in the face of war

Responding to a Ukrainian priest, the Pope said that the Church, like a mother, suffers in the face of wars “because wars are the destruction of children.” The Church, continued the Pope, “must suffer, weep, pray. It must assist people who have had bad consequences, who lose their homes, or war wounds, deaths ... The Church is a mother, and the role first of all is closeness to the people who suffer.”

Then, addressing himself directly to the young priest who had asked him the question, the Pope concluded by saying, “You suffer so much, your people, I know, I am close. But pray for the aggressors, because they are more victims like you. You cannot see the wounds in their souls, but pray, pray that the Lord will convert them and that peace will come.”

- *VATICAN NEWS*

Cancer: A Silent Killer!?

-Tancia Pires

Despair ... teary eyes... a confused mind... fearful heart... trembling body... an experience nobody would like to go through, on hearing the devastating disclosure of cancer detection. The disease brings along a huge change not only in the cells of the body of the person suffering from it but also has a negative impact on the mind, emotional state, and societal behaviour of the patient, as well his/her near and dear ones. The stigma and fright attached to it are best known to the ones suffering or the ones who've lost their dear ones fighting this terrible disease – Cancer!

What is it?

Cancer is basically the irrational growth of cells, spreading to various tissues and causing genetic changes in the body. Cells start increasing in number and outgrow the number of normal cells, thus consuming most of the nutrition, depriving the normal cells of it. Cancer cells are like rebels, that do not cooperate with the normal physiological system of the body. These can accumulate into large masses of cells forming tumours, which could either be benign – which means restricted to only a certain area of the body, less aggressive in nature, and have better prognosis, while others could be malignant – that aggressively invade other tissues (metastasis) and have poor prognosis.

Types

Based on the organ where cancer starts, an apt name can be given e.g. Lung cancer, breast cancer, colorectal cancer, prostate cancer, etc. Also based on the types of cells invaded, different names could be coined e.g. Sarcoma – where it invades the cells of the connective tissues e.g. Bones, muscles, cartilage, etc. Lymphoma – where the cells of the lymphatic system are involved, Leukemia – starts by invading the white blood cells and hence appears in areas where blood cells are produced e.g. Bone marrow.

Risk Factors

The cause of cancer is not clearly known and is still under research, but as every disease has

certain risk factors, so does cancer, some of which are:

- Family history of cancer, tobacco chewing, alcohol, age, chronic inflammation, diet, obesity, hormones, radiation exposure, sunlight etc.
- Ingestion and/or inhalation of certain cancer-causing substances called carcinogens, e.g. Arsenic, Asbestos, Benzene, Beryllium, Coal Tar, Mineral Oils: Untreated and Mildly Treated, Formaldehyde, Wood Dust, etc.
- Infectious Agents: bacteria, viruses, parasites, etc.

What should be done then?

Cancer risk can be lowered by making certain healthy choices. Prevention is better than cure and so, various vaccines (shots) that can help prevent several kinds of cancer should be taken timely. For example, the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine helps prevent most cervical cancers, or the hepatitis B vaccine can help lower the risk of liver cancer.

Any disease if diagnosed at its initial or early stage has proven to have better prognosis than later stages and so, ample amounts of screening tests that can find some cancers early should be performed as per healthcare guidelines, for an example, all women after the age of 50 years are advised to undergo a mammography (x-ray of breast) test annually in order to rule out the risk of breast cancer. Besides the medical screening tests, regular self-examination proves to be a very efficient detection method.

Similarly, on having any unusual symptoms which unfortunately could be the initial symptoms of a potential cancer, like the feeling of a lump, unexplained pigmentation, skin changes or sores, irregular menstrual cycle, bloating, difficulty swallowing or breathing, chronic coughing, or headache or any other abnormality should be brought to the notice of the family physician, who would then prescribe the best and most appropriate screening test which would diagnose

the presence of a cancer, if any to the earliest possible, at a time at which the treatment is expected to be most effective.

Apart from these, opting for an overall healthy lifestyle in lieu the sedentary one, would undoubtedly be the best option for us. Exercising regularly, getting enough sleep, eating a balanced diet while avoiding junk (unhealthy) food, indulging in yoga or meditation practices on a day-to-day basis, maintaining a healthy weight, avoiding tobacco, limiting the amount of alcohol intake, protecting the skin, etc. are some of the precautions or preventive measures we should develop and try to incorporate in our daily routine and make it a part of our lifestyle.

Being aware of the initial symptoms, and risk factors will help one take the necessary steps

that should be taken to avoid having this terrible sickness. So, as we celebrate the national Cancer awareness day this month on 7th November, let us pledge to be aware and spread this awareness to others and help save lives that would otherwise succumb to this silent killer. Together we can(cer) vive (survive)! And help others survive. Maybe you could go gift someone a health check-up coupon, visit a cancer care unit and make someone smile and add a little hope to the rest of his/her days, give your time or financial support to healthcare groups actively working towards the awareness, care, and cure of Cancer patients, visit a cancer survivor and listen to their inspiring story, and maybe share with some others who aren't able to seek courage to battle against this disease. Be a ray of hope in the lives of those in darkness and despair.

Remembering Venerable Fr. Agnelo D'Souza on his 95th Death Anniversary - Contd. from pg. 6

not of robust health, Fr. Agnelo undertook to preach the whole novena for the Sacred Feast in November 1927 at Rachol. At the Vespers for the feast on November 19, Fr. Agnelo mounted the pulpit for the last time. His congregation missed the usual fire in his eloquence, and the voice itself turned faint. He ended the sermon earlier than other days and as he knelt in the pulpit for a final thanksgiving prayer, he lost his balance and had to be carried away.

But he was still conscious and desired to be laid on a bench in the corridor from where he received the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament that followed the end of the Vespers. Fr. Agnelo had suffered a coronary thrombosis with paralysis of the left arm and leg. He received the last rites and then lapsed into a coma. He had often desired to die on the feast of the Sacred Heart, and the Lord heard his prayer.

On the following day, the funeral was very largely attended by people from all corners of Goa eager to pay their last tribute to a saintly priest. The Vicar of Rachol, Fr. Manuel Albuquerque, declared after the funeral ceremony, that "he had just interred a saint" in the cemetery of his parish.

Thereafter, as a mark of respect and veneration for Fr. Agnelo, the faithful undertook pilgrimages

to his grave in the cemetery of Rachol. The Patriarch Dom Teotonia Viera de Castro, noticing the large group of people at the grave and the great faith they had in Fr. Agnelo remarked "Our Father Agnelo is already a Venerable."

Later, this honour of being called "Venerable" was given by Pope John Paul II, on November 10, 1986, after a close scrutiny of "The Life and heroic Virtues" of Fr. Agnelo. Thus the Pope had accepted that Fr. Agnelo did really live a saintly Christian life and had given it as a model to all Catholics. Being declared "Venerable" is one step closer to being "Beatified" by which Fr. Agnelo would be officially declared Blessed.

During his earthly journey, Fr. Agnelo never sought honours and recognition and lived a humble and obscure life. Yet soon after his death, he has become known, across the world, as a powerful intercessor before God who secures all kinds of spiritual and temporal favours, for both Christians and non-Christians, without distinction of race, creed or language. Pilar, Goa and Fr. Agnel Ashram, Bandra, Mumbai have become well-known pilgrimage centres, where devotees of all religions, from across India and the world congregate to invoke the blessings of Fr. Agnelo.

Here are some facts about the Internet:

- Did you know that of all the traffic on the internet, 51.8 are from bots while 48.2 are from humans?
- The Internet weighs as much as one strawberry according to Russel Seitz a physicist.
- It took the internet just four years to reach its first 50 million users.

Quiz Time

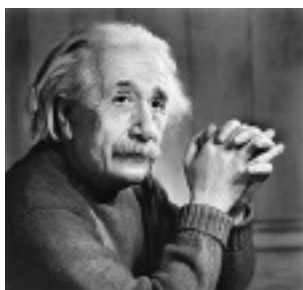
Our Solar System - Our Planets



1. Which is the biggest planet in our solar system?
2. Which planet was named by the Romans for their goddess of love and beauty?
3. Which is the smallest planet in the solar system?
4. Which planet is named after the Greek god of the sky?
5. Which planet is the only planet that can support life?

We all have heard about the world famous scientist Albert Einstein. Well, here are some facts about him that are not well-known.

- Albert Einstein was a proficient musician who loved to play the violin.
- Even though he was brilliant, his IQ remains unknown till this day. We can only speculate about it that it



was a genius IQ. This means he had an IQ score above 140. The average IQ score falls between 85 and 115.

- Albert Einstein created the world's most famous equation- $E=mc^2$.
- Einstein was a campaigner for the civil rights of African Americans and even paid the tuition fees of an African student. So he definitely was not racist.
- Did you know that Einstein was asked to be the President of Israel but he turned it down?
- His grandmother's first glimpse of Einstein was an erroneous one. She actually said that he was stupid!
- Because his father gave him a pocket compass at the age of five years old, he became obsessed with magnetism.
- He hated school discipline and this resulted in him getting expelled! His headmaster actually told him that nothing would ever come of him. It sounds unbelievable, doesn't it? He loved geometry and algebra and always tried to prove different math theories by himself.
- And lastly his appearance was eccentric for he had uncombed hair, never wore socks and even at posh dinners would arrive untidy with no socks.

Smile Please!

1. A man tells his doctor, "Doc, help me. I am addicted to Twitter."

The doctor replies, "Sorry, I don't follow you."

2. Guess what is the astronaut's favourite part on the computer?

The space bar.

3. To whoever stole my copy of Microsoft Office. You have my Word!
4. Three fastest Communication Systems

Telephone, Television, Tell a woman.

Still faster?

Easy! Just tell her not to tell anyone.....

Did you know? Strange facts about saints.

- St. Francis of Assisi is the first saint who received the Christ wounds on his hands called Stigmata.
- St. Fabian was a novelist, uninterested in any church work or ministry. But when he was on vacation in Rome, the ruling Pope Anterus suddenly died. Fabian went for his funeral. A new Pope election took place randomly with the help of a pigeon. The pigeon fell on Fabian's head and the people made him the new Pope of Rome.



Riddle Me

1. What has a thumb and four fingers but not a hand?
2. What building has the most stories?
3. You see a boat filled with people but there is not a single person on board. How is that possible?



Answers

Quiz:

1. Jupiter 2. Venus 3. Mercury 4. Uranus 5. Mars

Riddles:

1. A glove 2. Library 3. They are all married.

Well, that's all for this month. Till next time then.

Take care, God bless.



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

Nilesh Parmar, Ahmedabad

I am happy to contribute Rs. 50,000 towards the sponsorships of orphan boys at Balbhavan and the various activities of Fr. Agnel Ashram.

Melinda D'Souza, Bandra

I would like to donate Rs. 20,000 to Fr. Agnel Ashram, Bandra. It has been doing yeoman services to the community ever since it was established in 1957, under the inspiration and guidance of Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues.

Diana Deb, Kolkata

I have transferred Rs. 20,000 towards the care of the orphan boys at Balbhavan. Fr. Agnel Ashram is doing good work of providing the boys with the best education and moulding them to become honourable members of Society.

Antonio H. Carvalho, Goa

It gives me great pleasure to transfer Rs. 10,000 towards the care of an orphan boy at Fr. Agnel Ashram, Bandra. It is good to see them growing up under the guidance and mentorship of the Ashram Fathers.

Ritesh Ratilal Thakkar, Mulund

I have transferred Rs. 10,001 to bring a ray of sunshine and joy into the lives of the orphan boys at Balbhavan. We have to share God's love with our less fortunate brethren.

Sunanda Sudhakar Mhatre, Dombivli

I have transferred Rs. 3000 to Fr. Agnel Ashram, Bandra, for providing snacks to the Balbhavan boys and making them happy in my small and humble way.



FR. AGNEL'S BLESSINGS

THANKSGIVING FOR SUCCESS IN EXAMS

VASAI: I am thankful to Ven. Fr. Agnel for helping me pass my exam. I have come to the Ashram and made an offering.

-V. Dabre

NORMAL BLOOD REPORTS

NALLASOPARA: Through the kind intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel, my blood reports are normal. A thanksgiving offering has been given to the Ashram.

-P. D. Lopes

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

VIRAR: I am thankful to Ven. Fr. Agnel for my birthday celebration and the blessings received. With a grateful heart, I have come to the Ashram and made a love offering.

-Enid & Ciara

GIFT OF A CHILD

VASAI: Through the kind intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel, my prayers have been answered. I have been blessed with a baby. With a grateful heart, I have come to the Ashram and made a love offering.

-D. Colaco

THANKSGIVING FOR GOOD HEALTH

NALLASOPARA: Through the kind intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel, I have received the favour of good health. A thanksgiving offering has been sent to the Ashram.

-A. V. Gonsalves

SUCCESS IN BUSINESS

UTTAN: Through the blessings of Ven. Fr. Agnel, I have my own fishing boat called St. Jerome and a flourishing fishing business. In

gratitude, a thanksgiving offering has been sent to the Ashram.

-M. Cinchak

THANKSGIVING FOR BLESSINGS & FAVOURS RECEIVED

VASAI: Through the kind intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel, my prayers have been answered. I have been blessed abundantly. A love offering has been given at Fr. Agnel Ashram, Bandra.

-P. Lopes

SUCCESS IN EXAMS

ANDHERI: Through the kind intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel, I have been passed the first semester LLB exams. A thanksgiving offering has been sent to the Ashram.

-A. Sebastian

THANKSGIVING FOR LONG LIFE

LONAVLA: As a couple, we have been blessed with a long life, through the kind intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel. A love offering has been sent to the Ashram.

-D. Royan

THANKSGIVING FOR GOOD HEALTH

KURLA: My prayers have been answered. I have received the favour of good health. A thanksgiving offering has been sent to the Ashram.

-R. Britto & family

BLESSED WITH A CHILD

SANTA CRUZ: Through the kind intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel, we have been blessed with a baby. With a grateful heart, I have come to the Ashram and made a love offering.

-L. D'Souza

Out of Their Bounty

D. D'Souza	Mumbai	30,000	Jason/Charles	Pune	2,000	M. D'Souza	Vasai	1,000
H. Tamore	Palghar	10,500	L. Mendonca	Mumbai	4,000	M. Jacob	Kerala	1,000
B. Manohar	Mumbai	10,000	L. Kajar	Palghar	2,000	M. Joseph	Pune	1,000
C. Fobler	Canada	10,000	L. Rajan	Kerala	2,000	M. Patel	Gujarat	1,000
D. D'Silva	Mumbai	10,000	M. John	Kerala	2,000	N. Asher	Mumbai	1,000
M. D'Souza	Mumbai	10,000	Monanetta	Pondicherry	2,000	N. Cerejo	Palghar	1,000
M. Pereira	Mumbai	10,000	N. Thomas	Kerala	2,000	N. Saldhana	Karnataka	1,000
P. Prajapati	Mumbai	10,000	P. Fernandes	Mumbai	2,000	O. Lobo	Mumbai	1,000
R. Fernandes	Pune	10,000	Praveen/Benitra	Tamil Nadu	2,000	P. Blaise	Kerala	1,000
S. George	Oman	10,000	R. Carvalho	Vasai	2,000	P. Gourabian	Mumbai	1,000
V. Dias	Vasai	10,000	R. Francis	Kerala	2,000	P. Mehra	Mumbai	1,000
V. D'Souza	Thane	10,000	R. Karanjra	Canada	2,000	P. Rayaappa	Pune	1,000
M. Mathew	Kerala	8,000	R. Pinto	Palghar	2,000	P. Thakkar	Thane	1,000
Elton/Esther/Lloyd	Mumbai	7,000	R. Valladares	Mumbai	2,000	R. Daniel	Mumbai	1,000
L. Mathias	Mumbai	7,000	S. Pinto	Mumbai	2,000	R. Johnson	Kerala	1,000
H. Bharucha	Palghar	6,000	T. Varghese	Palghar	2,000	R. Karanjra	Canada	1,000
J. Diney	Kerala	6,000	U. Macwan	Gujarat	2,000	R. Mendonca	Mumbai	1,000
A. Crasto	Thane	5,000	V. D'Silva	Goa	2,000	R. Noronha	Thane	1,000
A. Lobo	Mumbai	5,000	Vincent K. J.	Mumbai	2,000	R. Swati	Tamil Nadu	1,000
A. Thoppil	Kerala	5,000	W. D'Sa	Mumbai	2,000	Sylvester D.	Mumbai	1,000
C. Vinjor	Ahmednagar	5,000	X. Salve	Thane	2,000	S. D'Souza	Mumbai	1,000
J. Puthur	Kerala	5,000	N. Carlo	Mumbai	2,000	Silviya F.	Mumbai	1,000
K. Kapadia	Pune	5,000	B. Antony	Kerala	2,000	S. Fernandes	Mumbai	1,000
L. D'Souza	Mumbai	5,000	M. Kurian	Karnataka	1,503	S. John	Mumbai	1,000
M. J. D'Souza	Vasai	5,000	A. Kuttikadan	Thane	1,500	S. Joseph	Tamil Nadu	1,000
P. D'Souza	Vasai	5,000	G. Fonseca	Mumbai	1,500	S. Pandya	Mumbai	1,000
P. Pinto	Karnataka	5,000	G. Parmar	U.S.A.	1,500	S. Rajesh	Mumbai	1,000
S. Fernandes	Mumbai	5,000	S. D'Mello	Vasai	1,500	S. Lobo	Mumbai	1,000
S. Mascarenhas	Goa	5,000	S. Mansque	Mumbai	1,500	V. Gaikwad	Nasik	1,000
Subramaniam R.	Mumbai	5,000	T. Trivedi	Mumbai	1,500	V. Kurian	Mumbai	1,000
T. Antony	Mumbai	5,000	N. Manmoawqai	Africa	1,010	V. Nadar	Thane	1,000
U. Patel	UK	5,000	M. Patel	Mumbai	1,002	V. Pijwala	Gujarat	1,000
V. Kalivda	Mumbai	5,000	N. Bhattacharya	Pune	1,001	W. D'Sa	Mumbai	1,000
Gracy/George	Kerala	5,000	A. Doshi	Mumbai	1,000	A. Parmar	Gujarat	1,000
A. Sonawane	Thane	4,000	A. Gonsalves	Vasai	1,000	Pachickara/Neena	Kerala	800
C. Alvares	Mumbai	4,000	A. Jadhav	Kerala	1,000	J. Thomas	Kerala	750
Sebastian A.C.	Kerala	3,500	A. Pereira	Mumbai	1,000	H. Gala	Mumbai	700
S. Cyriac	Thane	3,370	A. Santhappan	Tamil Nadu	1,000	S. Chaudhar	Jalgaon	600
G. Kelawalla	Mumbai	3,000	A. Solanki	Mumbai	1,000	B. Mehta	Mumbai	502
L. Kajar	Palghar	3,000	A. Stephen	Tamil Nadu	1,000	C. Joshi	Vasai	501
R. Radha Krishnan	Tamil Nadu	3,000	B. Baghat	Thane	1,000	P. Patel	Mumbai	501
S. Inigo	Tamil Nadu	6,000	B. Dutt	Kolkata	1,000	R. Patel	Mumbai	501
S. Kalivda	Mumbai	3,000	C. George/Fly	Mumbai	1,000	S. Sohel	Gujarat	501
B. Philip	Kerala	2,500	C. Mange	Thane	1,000	A. D'Cunha	Mumbai	500
J. Chal	New Zealand	2,500	Capt. E. Rebello	Mumbai	1,000	A. Fernando	Tamil Nadu	500
L. Soares	Mumbai	2,500	D. Alphonso	Mumbai	1,000	A. Jose	Kerala	500
N. Natekar	Mumbai	2,500	D. Gonsalves	Vasai	1,000	A. Kalkumbe	Maharashtra	500
S. Lopes	Palghar	2,500	D. Patrao	Mumbai	1,000	A. Pereira	Solapur	500
Techno Products	Chennai	2,500	Darragh Smail Co.	Kerala	1,000	A. Raj	Tamil Nadu	500
A. Karmokar	Mumbai	2,100	Devdut Timbers	Palghar	1,000	A. Vaz & Fly	Mumbai	500
A. Kumar	Mumbai	2,100	G. Arputharaj	Tamil Nadu	1,000	C. D'Souza	Mumbai	500
S. Venkataramanan	Mumbai	2,100	G. Katak	Mumbai	1,000	E. David	Karnataka	500
J. Desai	Gujarat	2,001	G. Rajesh	Ahmednagar	1,000	E. D'Costa	Mumbai	500
A. Ansari	Vasai	2,000	G. Sheikh	Mumbai	1,000	E. Xavier	Kerala	500
A. Elavia	Mumbai	2,000	Gloria	Mumbai	1,000	G. Asher	Mumbai	500
A. Fernandes	Vasai	2,000	H. Pereira	Vasai	1,000	G. Mathias	Madhya Pradesh	500
A. Fernandes	Mumbai	2,000	H. Shah	Mumbai	1,000	I. Lobo	Palghar	500
A. Joseph	Kerala	2,000	I. Dabre	Vasai	1,000	I. Menon	Kerala	500
C. Engles	Punjab	2,000	Irudayaraj M.	Tamil Nadu	1,000	I. Raj	Karnataka	500
C. Soumil	Mumbai	2,000	J. Doshi	Mumbai	1,000	J. Mistry	Mumbai	500
F. Thekketh	Kerala	2,000	J. Gonsalves	Gujarat	1,000	Jelso-Basilica Boat	Mumbai	500
I. Hendricks	Tamil Nadu	2,000	J. Gupta	Vasai	1,000	J. D'Souza	Thane	500
J. Chackochen	Kerala	2,000	J. Saldanha	Mumbai	1,000	K. Kochala	Kerala	500
J. D'Silva	Mumbai	2,000	K. Bhesania	Mumbai	1,000	K. Martins	Mumbai	500
J. Thomas	Kerala	2,000	L. Brito	Mumbai	1,000	K. Olivera	Navi Mumbai	500
J. Wong	Mumbai	2,000	M. Antony	Kerala	1,000	K. Thakar	Mumbai	500

Cardinal Filipe Neri Ferrao ordains ten Society of Pilar seminarians as deacons

Cardinal Filipe Neri Ferrao, Archbishop of Goa and Daman, has ordained ten Society of Pilar seminarians as deacons.

The rite of the diaconate ordination was held on October 2022, in the seminary's chapel in Pilar, the headquarters of the congregation, officially known as the Society of the Missionaries of St. Francis Xavier.

It was the prelate's first visit to Pilar after he was elevated as a cardinal on 27th August in Rome.

He was led by a motorcade from the Pilar Junction

During Mass, the cardinal said the ten receiving the precious gift of the diaconate accept their responsibility to continue the mission of humble, joyful, selfless and caring service made present in the world by Jesus.

In his homily, the prelate called upon the ten young men to be rooted in Jesus just like St. Teresa of Child Jesus who lived her life rooted in Jesus and with an attitude of total surrender to God that enabled her not only to grow in holiness but to become a missionary even by remaining within the four walls of her convent room.



to the Pilar Hillock. He was welcomed by Father Nazareth Fernandes, the congregation's superior general, priests, seminarians and people.

The superior general in his felicitation speech congratulated the cardinal and said the Society of Pilar rejoices at his elevation, a recognition of the Archdiocese of Goa's centuries-old immense contribution to the Universal Church. He also said his congregation shares a special bond with the archdiocese right from its foundation in 1887.

The superior general presented the cardinal a shawl and a wooden art as a token of congratulations.

The Society of the Missionaries of St. Francis Xavier was founded in 1887 in Goa. It is an indigenous congregation that serves 31 dioceses in India and nine overseas.

The ten deacons hail from various parts of India – Alton Abranches, Velroy De Melo, Baltazar Fernandes, Salten Monteiro, Agustinho Baretto and Jovito Vaz from Goa; Rohan D'Souza and Rolson D'Souza from Mangalore, Johnson M. from Tamil Nadu; and Christopher Joseph from Delhi.

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Pope Francis in Bahrain



Pope Francis is greeted by King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa at the Sakhir Royal Palace, during his recent visit to the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Relics of Ven. Fr. Agnelo at Fr. Agnel Ashram, Bandra



Ethnically designed Cenotaph that contains the relics of Ven. Fr. Agnelo at Fr. Agnel Ashram, Bandra, where thousands of devotees pay homage to the saintly priest and miracle worker.

If undelivered please return to:

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