



CATHOLIC ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH KANARA

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EDITORIAL

How can we forget February 14th ? **‘A life lived in love will never be dull’**. We all need those very close ties to feel safe and secure and function properly. Are you ready to lead a life with LOVE as your central focus? Or, do you try to live a superficial life and just go on drifting ‘getting and not spending’ always looking for something new. The choice is yours! You need to decide. **‘All you need is love’** is our cover page mantra.

The Covid Pandemic has resulted in large-scale job losses all over the world. In such a situation, you would expect that people will do everything possible to hold on to their jobs. However, trends show that a large number of people ‘RESIGNED’ during the last two covid affected years. We have an article on **‘The Great Resignations’**.

It was shocking to note that the prestigious Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore decided to remove ceiling fans as a preventive measure against student suicides. This was in response to suicides of four IISc students in 2021, three of them by hanging on ceiling fans. **The management of IISc has justified the action explaining that the fans are removed** ‘to restrict access to any means of self-harm on campus’, **on the advice of mental health experts. Plan is to use table or wall-mounted fans instead.** Here is yet another classic example of a knee-jerk and irrational solution to a problem. Instead of studying the causes of the student suicides and then taking corrective actions, IISc has “surgically removed the nose for a blister on it”. We have an article by Dr Derek Lobo on this subject.

Mrs Margaret Alva has written a very forceful letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi objecting to the proposed ‘Anti-Conversion’ Bill in Karnataka. We sincerely hope that the bogey of ‘conversion through inducements’ which is totally false, will be looked at impartially and without bias and the bill withdrawn in Karnataka. Thank you Mrs Alva.

The removal of Gandhiji’s favorite hymn “Abide With Me” from the ‘traditional retreat’ post Republic Day has hurt a lot of people across religions and political hues. We have an article by Fr Cedric

Prakash on this unfortunate development and we have a few responses to share.

My childhood friend Ursula Scudder has nostalgically written about her memories of the Garden City – Bangalore. It brought back memories of my own childhood in Bangalore. It is heartbreaking to see the transformation from a city of gardens to a city of a concrete jungle. I suppose that’s the price we have to pay for overdevelopment and over-population and a total lack of aesthetics in planning of cities!

On the CASK front, we conducted a very successful Teacher Enrichment Programme at St Ann’s College of Education on 17th January 2022. A total of 100 future teachers participated. ‘**To teach is to touch a life forever**’ was our theme’ and I think we succeeded in conveying this to the 100 future teachers!

Until next time.....Patsy Lobo

APPRECIATION

“It was indeed a wonderful programme. It elevated my spirit. I felt that I needed to be different. I should take care of the young ones whom I handle with lots of love and affection so that they feel they are important” – **Prescilla Pereira, one of the participants of the CASK Teacher Enrichment Programme.**

THANK YOU

1. Ivan and Renny Fernandes, Dubai - Rs. 50,000/- for Education and Health Project.
2. Mrs. Jessie Vas, Mumbai - Rs. 50,000/- for Teacher Enrichment Programme.
3. Anonymous - Rs. 25,000/- for CASK Charitable Projects.
4. Preethi and Sheryl, Mangalore - Rs. 10,000/- for COVID support project.



THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS...

After the culmination of the New Year festivities and the festivals that followed, we are yet to settle down in 2022.

India celebrated its 73rd Republic day on 26th January 2022. The constitution of India upholds the rights of the minorities. A memorandum was presented to our chief minister by **a group of academics, former bureaucrats, scientists, social workers, artistes, and writers** pertaining to the violence against the minorities, disruption of worship of religious minorities, and the hate speeches and public threats by the fringe elements followed by ‘silence’ by people in power.

There is a lot of instability in Europe with Russian troops amassed on the border of Ukraine. There is political uncertainty in the UK with their Prime Minister himself involved in scandal after scandal. We do not know the outcome of all this. The world seems to be in turmoil!

With the Omicron virus rampant, we too are not spared and our day to day routine is being disrupted. However we are happy to note that the Mangalore Magazine came out on time as scheduled. All kudos to the Editor and the Editorial Committee. As we are approaching the Lenten season which starts on the 2nd of March, we should focus on our spiritual life more than on worldly things. Pope Francis says “Hospital walls have heard more honest prayers than churches, people pray more earnestly and sincerely in the hospitals these days, than in the place of worship.” Let us learn to pray before some crisis comes to haunt us.

The centre and the state governments are preparing to present this year’s budget. With the pandemic affected economy, it is quite a job for the finance ministers to do a balancing act. It is always the middle income and lower income people who are affected the most. Retired people suffer maximum with the bank interest lowered and inflation sky rocketing. Savings meant for a comfortable living is not enough now, the aged find it difficult to survive. In India, senior citizens are not eligible for medical insurance. They still have to pay all taxes,

with no social security or any other benefits. The Government should think of some relief schemes for the senior citizens.

Let us hope that the things will normalise soon. Let us not forget the lessons learnt and take care of ourselves in the days to come. Valentine’s Day is celebrated on the 14th of February. Our Christian faith is based on love. God is love, so let us love each other and specially show our true love towards the marginalised and the poorest of the poor.

Our ever enthusiastic team conducted a Teacher Enrichment Program for 100 teachers of St Ann’s College of Education – graduate and post graduate future teachers, in the month of January. We have two more Teacher Enrichment programmes planned for this month.

God Bless you all.....Capt Vincent Pais

ALL WE NEED IS LOVE...

Patsy Lobo

In the 1970’s, if some of us remember there was a very popular song sung by none other than Frank Sinatra... **‘Love and Marriage go together like a Horse and Carriage’** which was a big hit.

In the past few years my young friends (believe me I have many) – my seven grandchildren, my friends Natasha Menezes, Dr Emy Edwin, Dr Sheetal Savor and 80+ of my students from Carmel School-Dhanbad, who I taught in 1980-1983, now scattered in different parts of the world, have been my guiding lights showering me with **LOVE**, care and concern.

Love is all we need. This article coincides with 14th February highlighting Valentine’s day. As Abdul Kalam quoted “ Never leave your loved ones. If you find a few faults in them, just close your eyes and remember the best times you spent together”.

All this spurred me on to write on Love and commitment. Incidentally the last words of my Mother before she passed away were “in the end there is only **LOVE**” and these words always ring in my ears...

Talking about Marriage and Relationships, I spoke to several friends of different ages, scanned the internet to look for quotes and would like to share the same with our readers. ‘A Successful Marriage requires falling in love with the same person many times’ says Migenon Melayntu. It is truly like watching the colour of leaves in the fall: ever changing and more stunningly beautiful with each passing day.

And so the adventure begins :

Love- Be together for the right reasons. Both must be involved; requires a genuine and deep level of admiration for each other, Mutual of course.

Love - itself is neutral, helpful or harmful; healthy or unhealthy depending on why and how you love someone else and are loved by someone else. Love itself is never enough to sustain a relationship.

Love - Have a realistic expectation about relationships and romance. A love that is above is constantly evolving. It expands and contracts and mellows and deepens. It is not going to be the way it is...

Love - True love is a constant commitment to a person regardless of the present circumstances. Commitment is an act, not a word. It’s a commitment to a person who you understand isn’t always going to make you happy – nor should they and a person who needs to rely on you at all times. Just as you rely on them at all times.

Love - Connect spiritually. This happens when the couple experiences harmony, understanding and peace. Let your partner be your soul mate. Build your spiritual life as a couple. Merging form “me” to “we” It takes time to negotiate differences.

Love - In a relationship, it is not communication but respect, an unerring respect for each other. In fact hold each other in high esteem, and believe in one another.

Love - Talk openly about everything especially that stuff that hurts... it builds trust. Accept and respond. No Secrets... Secrets divide you.

Love - Learn to discern your partners own study because from you can arise insecurities and vice versa. Learn to own up to it and strive to be better.

Love - Trust is like a china plate. Drop it and break it enough times it will smither into many pieces that you will never be able to put back

together, no matter what you do.

Love - A healthy relationship means two healthy individuals with their own identity. Little things matter. What ever you do on a daily basis can be your “Bell of Mindfulness”

Love - Sacrifices-consistently, sacrificing yourself for your partner, their wants and their needs. Every relationship chooses to give up something at times. But when people are constantly in the state of sacrifice ... this cannot be sustained.

Love - Give each other space. Lack of trust / insecurity builds up. Let your partner be who they are. The inability to do so is a subtle form of disrespect. You and your partner will grow and change in different ways. A friend who is married for 55 years once told me that on her wedding day she received a card from her Grand Dad Saying “After 20 years and more there will be changes. One day you will wake up and find your spouse is a different person; make sure you fall in love with that person too.”

Love - Get good at fighting / arguing. Talk to anger and let it go. One cannot hold on to the stress for long. Recently, it amused me when a spouse suddenly came on the phone and told me that they normally put the speaker phone on when a common friend calls... ‘Oh’ I said... This is to avoid an argument on who said what !!!... was the reply.

Love - “Little things add up to big things. A simple I LOVE YOU when going to bed, holding hands when seeing a movie, helping with household chores, and a division of labour makes couples feel better!

Love - Learn to ride the waves; be patient and learn to accept the qualities that still exist that caused you to fall in love in the first place. Look back. Finally write down why you fell in love. Gratitude and appreciation helps us turn towards joy and gladness, which create chemicals of wellbeing and peace. Kids will come but spouses will remain first on the list; pamper and admire your spouse. A life lived in love will never be dull.

Love - Last but not the least, practice mindfulness. Look around you and live longer.

‘ABIDE WITH ME’ WILL STAY FOREVER!

Fr Cedric Prakash SJ

Outside St. Michael’s Church in Mahim, Mumbai is a powerful slogan “*God will always abide with me, even if I retreat!*” In many ways this creative caption sums up the raging controversy on ‘Abide With Me’ that has been on prime time news and on social media for a week now!

A recent Defence Ministry communique removed ‘Abide With Me’ in this year’s ‘Beating Retreat’ ceremony, held post Republic Day each year. It was one of the staple tunes at the ceremony since 1950 and was Mahatma Gandhi’s favourite! The Government had planned to drop ‘Abide With Me’ in 2020 from the Beating Retreat ceremony but had later retained it after a huge nationwide uproar. This time there is also a groundswell of protest. But the Government will be unrelenting this year; there is an attempt to diminish the secular, and impartial credentials of the defence establishment!

‘Abide With Me’ was composed by a Scottish Anglican Henry Francis Lyte in 1847 as he was dying from Tuberculosis. It is a prayer to God to stay with the one praying throughout life, through trials and tribulations and even in death. Lyte first wrote it when he visited an old friend, William Le Hunte, who was dying. As Lyte sat with the dying man, William kept repeating the phrase “*abide with me...*”. After leaving William’s bedside, Lyte wrote the hymn and gave a copy of it to Le Hunte’s family. Though the hymn has clear Christian references and is regarded as a Christian hymn, ‘Abide With Me’ actually transcends the narrow confines of any religion. Its lyrics (translated into several languages worldwide) are undying and its melody so haunting!

It doesn’t need much of a ‘rocket science’ knowledge to know why the government has decided to obliterate a song of such nostalgia, importance and meaning. Some superfluous reasons like the colonial past, indigenization etc. hold no water! Will the powerful vested interests stop sending their children to study abroad or mint money in flush jobs in foreign countries, predominantly Christian?

India is in danger of sidelining everything that is precious in the

country: from the Constitution to democratic principles, from pluralism to Gandhian values.

One person who has resolutely espoused the cause of ‘Abide With Me’ is Tushar Gandhi, the great- grandson of Mahatma Gandhi. In a communication to me a few days ago Tushar writes, **“Hello Father Cedric – I am forwarding this appeal I am making to Christian clergy.....**

“Mohandas Gandhi believed that it was the duty of every human to study and respect every religion; in pursuit of this he studied the holy scriptures of every religion. All his life, in all his Ashrams in South Africa and in India, prayers were held every morning and evening; prayers from all religions were included and given equal importance. The Hymn ‘Abide With Me’ was one of his favourite Hymns and would be sung many times. After Independence and after India became a Republic, Republic Day commemoration would end with the Beating The Retreat Ceremony on Rajpath on 29th January. Marching Bands of all three Services performed several songs. ‘Abide With Me’ was always played all these years. It symbolizes the syncretic culture of our nation where all religions were included and given an equal status and respect. This year inexplicably ‘Abide with Me’ has been replaced. It is hurtful more so because the next day January 30th is the day Bapu was martyred in 1948. In his memory and as a tribute to his desire for an inclusive, all embracing, respectful and loving nation, Citizens of India should take it upon themselves to perform, recite or play, ‘Abide with me’ as a tribute to Mohandas Gandhi.

My Appeal to the Church is to sing ‘Abide With Me’ in as many Churches as possible all over India on 30th January this year, as a tribute to Mohandas Gandhi and as an affirmation of our syncretic culture and our secular belief of equal respect to all religions. Unfortunately, today hate has taken center stage in our nation, changing the narrative of so many decades and corrupting the ideal on which our nation was founded. Gandhi said that hate must be countered solely with love. Let us all make the singing, reciting or playing of ‘Abide With Me’ our reply to hate. Let love prevail.

*Sincerely... **Tushar Gandhi***

“I promised Tushar that I would do the needful, that is why I am writing this article with a few more suggestions:

- i. Sing/play ‘Abide With Me’ as often as possible, at Church Services or any other assembly.
- ii. There are several renditions of the song, particularly on YouTube, share them on social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, WhatsApp etc)
- iii. Get a choir/ensemble together to sing the song

Above all, let us not be cowed down; when we give in to irrational people and just acquiesce to their demands - we not only lose something for ourselves, but for the people of the country and for the future. Perhaps we need to take a cue from the words of ‘Abide With Me’

*“I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness
Where is death’s sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if Thou abide with me”*

Yes, to fear no one, because God is with us and we will triumph! ‘Abide With Me’ will stay forever!

REFELCTIONS ON ‘ABIDE WITH ME’

The decision to stop playing the Christian hymn 'Abide with Me' at the Beating Retreat ceremony, which honours the country's armed forces, has divided opinion in the country. The divide has played out across social media and television channels and WhatsApp groups.

This year, the tune of the hymn, 'Abide with me', was replaced by the tune of a famous Lata Mangeshkar song "Aye Mere Vatan Ke Logon" composed by Music Director-C Ramchandra. Its lyrics, penned by Kavi Pradeep, commemorate the supreme sacrifice made by Indian soldiers during the 1962 Indo-China war. The effort was to make the event more Indian.

According to a BBC report, for many Indian armed forces veterans, 'Abide with Me' is a defining moment of the ceremony. "Cutting it out seems like cutting out a piece of tradition and throwing it into the dustbin," Pavan Nair, a retired army colonel who served for 30 years, told the BBC. Col Nair remembers watching the ceremony as a child and in later years attending in person. "The highlight of it was listening

to Abide with Me and hearing the chimes from the ramparts. It was a beautiful, soulful thing."

Maybe we should not be cynical about change - haven't we moved from the grinding stone to the Mixie? From an old education policy to a New Education Policy? From an Old India to a New India?

We did so, sometimes out of compulsion, sometimes out of hope and often out of a combination of the two. We cannot beat a retreat now - it's not an option anymore. But as we charge forward, let's pray that God does not abandon us as we have, his hymn!

**Brian Fernandes, Director, Spearhead Media Pvt. Ltd and
Managing Editor, Karnataka Today.**

I have attended many 'Beating Retreats' in Delhi ... and indeed 'Abide With Me' abides with me forever.. This beautiful 'bells tinkling the tune up high' will always remain in our hearts.- **Beba Tauro**

Mahatma Gandhi father of the Nation, could't forget the tenderness and serenity of 'Abide with me'. Unfortunately, today some citizens don't understand what tenderness and serenity is. A sad state of affairs but I hope not a precursor to a sad future. - **Mrs. Jessie Monis**

The hymn strikes a chord among a cross section of indian citizens. Then why go after a hymn that's a prayer to God to protect us from harm? It was Gandiji's favourite hymn, that was played at every Republic beating the Retreat parade. The hymn had something in it for everyone. - **Prof Matilda Pinto**

The hymn 'Abide with me' connected us with our Creator, and helped to maintain a positive outlook on the future for our country, challenging each one of us Indians to accept our uniqueness and plurality as one country. - **Astrid Carvalho**

I sang it every day as I sat by my Mother as she lay dying ... for 21 days, I sang this to her. So it stirs huge emotions in me. My dad used to play it on the violin too. And yes, all my growing years, I've heard this every post 26th January parade. - **Veronica Shearer**

Dr Derek Lobo

This article is prompted by the recent news that consequent to four students committing suicide during 2021 in the prestigious **Indian Institute of Science (IISc)-Bangalore**, the management decided to remove ceiling fans, since three of the four suicides were due to hanging from ceiling fans. What is surprising is that the IISc management said the decision to remove ceiling fans was taken on the advice of Mental Health experts. This is certainly a knee-jerk, unreasonable and irrational action which fails to look at the root cause and initiate corrective action.

The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data shows that **9,478** students committed suicide in 2016, **9,905** in 2017, **10,159** in 2018, **10335** in 2019 and **14,825** in 2020. The increasing numbers of student suicides in India, is a matter of concern and needs to be addressed by all stakeholders.

“Live a little every day, ek hi zindagi mili hai (You have got but one life).” These were the last few words found on a 8-page note written by a postgraduate student at the Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad (IIT-H). The student was found dead on July 2, 2020 in his hostel room.

Every hour one student commits suicide in India, with about 28 such suicides reported every day, according to data compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). Maharashtra had the highest number of student suicides in 2018 with 1,448 followed by Tamil Nadu with 953 and Madhya Pradesh with 862. Karnataka was a little behind with over 500 suicides. Between 1999 and 2003, 27,990 students ended their lives; 28,913 between 2004 and 2008; and 36,913 between 2009 and 2013. The 2014-18 period saw a 26% jump from the preceding 5-year period to 46,554.

Hold a Mirror to the Education System

Suicides in premier institutes such as IITs hold a mirror to the education system. As per data from the Department of Higher Education, (Ministry of Human Resource), 27 students across 10 Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) committed suicide between 2014 and

2019. IIT Madras tops the list, with seven student suicides in this period.

In April 2019, 19 students in Telangana committed suicide in a week after the State's intermediate results were announced. A total of **9.74 lakh** students appeared for the intermediate examination, of these **3.28 lakhs** were declared 'failed' (**33%**). Two years back, in another tragic incident in Madhya Pradesh, 12 students ended their lives in a single day after the release of the board exam results.

Obviously, there are many "fault lines" in our 'Examination' System but the Education Department has never initiated corrective measures and most importantly, never critically evaluated the Examination System.

An engineering student from Karnataka's Hassan district died by suicide in October 2020, after making a 13-minute video appealing to the government to make changes in the state's education system.

Bharat Ratna Dr CNR Rao, one of the stellar Educationist of India had famously said *"We have only an Examination System but not an Education System. When will our students move away from Examinations and do something more worthwhile?"*

Rate highest in the 15-29 age group

According to a 2012 *Lancet* report, suicide rates in India are highest in the 15-29 age group-the youth. Mrugesh Vaishnav, president of the Indian Psychiatric Society said, "Stress, anxiety disorder, depression, personality disorder - all these result in mental illness that leads a student towards suicide. This happens when the students are not familiar/satisfied with his or her surroundings." In the case of IISc, students had previously alleged that the institute didn't pay heed to the mental health of the students who had to stay back at the hostel during the months of pandemic-induced lockdown. A student had disclosed "Since science students need to be in the laboratory as experiments cannot be done online, several students stayed back in the institute. Those who stayed back were only permitted to go to class and come back to the hostel." She said: "We would collect our food from the cafeteria and eat it in our rooms. A '**Covid brigade**' was set up. It monitored what students were doing and who they interacted with. We were not allowed to even speak with our batch

mates on open grounds. It was extremely unnerving and the act of living there in isolation took a toll on our mental health.”

In 2017, Lokniti-CSDS released a survey which showed that 4 out of 10 students went through depression or suffered from depression, loneliness, worthlessness and suicidal thoughts. 6% of them got suicidal thoughts at least once.

Obviously, “A student commits suicide when he/she doesn’t get emotional support at the time of crisis. This might happen when individual expectations are too high. Parental and peer pressure and pressure from school managements aiming at 100% Passes or 100% First Classes also have an adverse effect.”

Academic stress is an obvious factor for students taking their own lives. They feel supportless, worthless, useless and unable to fulfil their own and their parents’ role expectations. In this type of situation students feel they are left without any choice and so they take such an extreme step.

Pradip Kumar Saha, Director of Institute of Psychiatry, Kolkata, said, “Fear of failure is a leading cause for suicide among students. When students pass through an unsuccessful phase, everything seems pessimistic to them. They feel their future is bleak and this may result in committing suicide.” Such students need professional help and counselling. Most schools in India do not have a full time Counsellor or has one for a 1000 students. This situation has to change.

In the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) there is an attempt to give less weightage to Examinations and more weightage to Skills but the term ‘Examination’ creeps in any case and the preoccupation with Examination, Ranks and Results among Universities, Managements, Teachers, Parents and Students is bound to be sustained and consequently, student suicides are bound to continue – Many precious lives prematurely lost!

PLEASE NOTE THE CASK UPDATED WEBSITE

www.caskmangalore.org

WHY STEFON DIGG'S GOOD DEED REVEALS A BAD SYSTEM

Systems that allow income and wealth disparity are a form of violence

Daniel P. Horan, OFM, Courtesy - NCR

On Christmas Eve 2021, the National Football League star **Stefon Diggs**, the Buffalo Bills wide receiver, visited a McDonald's fast food restaurant in West Seneca, New York, and **tipped all the employees \$200 each**. I had earlier noted that Striking McDonald's workers in Las Vegas demanded a \$15 minimum wage.

When I first heard this story on Christmas morning, my reaction was normal: a very kind gesture of a generous man filled with the Christmas spirit. Indeed, what a striking sign of unexpected largesse! But upon further reflection, I became uncomfortable with the uncritically positive response to the situation, including my own initial feeling. Then I realized that what wasn't being taken into consideration in any of the news stories applause was the larger context that provided the backdrop to this story.

Despite the widely debated "**great resignation**" hitting headlines about the pandemic trend of employees quitting their jobs that failed to satisfy financial or creative expectations, there is a category of people who cannot simply wait until a higher-paying or otherwise preferable job appears. Such people might very well be the kind of folks working low-paying jobs at McDonald's on Christmas Eve.

Those workers who do not have the luxury to stop working, even with the temporarily increased social safety net of pandemic unemployment relief, often not only work one low-paying job, but frequently juggle multiple low-paying jobs in order to make ends meet. The accrual of minimum wage hours across several jobs still does not provide the other fundamental necessities required for basic human flourishing, such as health insurance.

I believe Diggs was in fact being genuinely kind and I do not dispute his gesture to be a sincere act of goodwill. Still, I recognize that two things can be true at the same time. Diggs' generosity notwithstanding, the stark disparity in the ability of a multi-millionaire

professional athlete to hand out a cash tip amounting to more than twice the average daily pay of the fast-food workers without a thought and economic precariousness that necessitates a class of people working at McDonald's on Christmas Eve, reveals something terribly wrong about our society.

While many have rightly argued that it is better to share one's surplus wealth with those in need, than it is to hoard that wealth for oneself, how often do we step back to think about the twisted social and economic systems at work that allow some to obtain unthinkable wealth while others are condemned to struggle to survive?

I can already hear the defensive right-wingers accusing me of being a "communist" or some brand of "socialist" for daring to ask an honest question about the obscene income and wealth gaps in this country. In response, I find myself channeling the late Brazilian Archbishop Helder Camara, who said: **"When I give food to the poor, they call me a Saint. When I ask why the poor have no food, they call me a Communist."**

The startling income and wealth disparity in this country as reflected in Diggs' good deed revealing a bad system also reminded me of the 2008 book by Slovenian philosopher and cultural critic Slavoj Žižek titled *Violence: Six Sideways Reflections*. This insightful little volume looks at several social phenomena in our modern world and analyzes them from the perspective of violence.

Žižek, who is actually a scholar of Marxist philosophy, states from the outset that when we think of violence, we typically think of what he calls "subjective violence," which is "violence performed by a clearly identifiable agent." We think of "obvious signals of violence" that are "acts of crime and terror, civil unrest, international conflict" and the like.

And yet, this is only the most superficial level of the nature of violence in our society. Žižek suggests that, "we should learn to step back, to disentangle ourselves from the fascinating lure of this directly visible 'subjective' violence" in order to "perceive the contours of the background which generates such outbursts."

When we are able to step back and analyze the larger picture, we

come to see an “objective violence” always already at work within and throughout the system itself. It is not easily recognizable because it is, as •i•ek notes, “precisely the violence inherent to this ‘normal’ state of things. Objective violence is invisible since it sustains the very zero-level standard against which we perceive something as subjectively violent.”

Among the threads of objective violence present within the social order is that it is tied to the economy. •i•ek uses some of the best-known philanthropists in history as case studies of how the very condition of the possibility of their philanthropic largess is objective violence. He recounts how Andrew Carnegie “employed a private army brutally to suppress organized labor in his steelworks and then distributed large parts of his wealth to educational, artistic, and humanitarian causes.”

More recently, one only has to look to Bill Gates and his wife (now former wife) philanthropic foundation to see how this plays out in real time. •i•ek writes: Bill Gates is already the single greatest benefactor in the history of humanity, displaying his love for neighbors with millions freely given to education, and the battles against hunger and malaria. The catch, of course, is that in order to give, first you have to take - or, as some would put it, create.

Put bluntly, Slavoy •i•ek writes: **“Charity is the humanitarian mask hiding the face of economic exploitation.”** I think he is on to something here, that helps diagnose my discomfort with an uncritical celebration of the Christmas Eve show of gratuitous charity.

Just a few weeks before Diggs passed around hundred dollar bills at McDonald’s, The Washington Post published an in-depth story about the conditions within a branch of the same fast food chain in Bradford, Pennsylvania, just 80 miles south of Buffalo. The story describes the circumstances that led to the local manager organizing a walkout. These low-wage employees had finally reached their breaking point. As the Post reported, “The discontent driving the Bradford workers and so many others had been there for years, an ever-present aspect of an economy that could be especially cruel to anyone without an education.”

With few or no options or recourse, those workers who walked out of the terrible conditions of their McDonald's job found themselves in comparable employment at other fast-food restaurants or in low-skill work. While several had landed in jobs that paid a few dollars more an hour, the objective violence of an economy that dehumanizes and dismisses the working class continues to crush their spirits.

At Christmas, we celebrate God becoming one of us, entering into our human experience as one of the most precariously situated in another unjust social context two millennia ago. The message of Christmass is one in which God reveals most fully how the social systems of oppression and injustice are antithetical to God's intention for humanity.

It is therefore sadly ironic that a well-meaning Christmas gesture draws attention to the objective economic violence that lies in the background. And while those who without doubt could use some extra cash graciously received the \$200 gift, it does little to change the reasons they don't have sufficient resources in the first place.

GENTLE REMINDER

To all subscribers of 'Mangalore' in India and Abroad. Please renew your subscription to 'Mangalore'. The validity of your subscription is indicated on the postal slip on the back cover.

*Cheque in favour of Catholic Association of South Kanara.
NEFT transfer to Catholic Association of South Kanara -
Account No: 0046053000043007; IFSC: SIBL0000046-
South Indian Bank Ltd, Hampankatta, Mangalore.*

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS OF CASK

1. Mr. Kevin Stanislaus Rodrigues - Dombivli
2. Mr. Melwyn DSouza - Shirva

LEARNING THE HARD WAY

Joan Lobo

Our life revolving around the COVID-19 pandemic, has been stressful and life changing causing unprecedented havoc and emotional turmoil. We never anticipated that the 21-day lockdown would actually go on for months, which would then extend to a year and beyond eventually turning our lives topsy turvy. It altered life for us individually as well as collectively from our daily routines to our life's goals and priorities. Many say the world has changed forever. So, Is there anything we have learnt from this gruelling experience? And at this point, what can we glean from it? Is it about silver linings or bitter lessons? We've read enough about how tough life has been due to COVID-19, but what positives can we take from the pandemic and what has the lockdown actually taught us?

“Humanity’s memory is short, and what is not ever present fades quickly,” is an apt quote. I often ponder the extent this pandemic has affected us, the lessons it has taught us and how much is there that we have not known of ourselves and of our lives whilst continuing to battle a global mission to save the world. Life had almost come to a halt, and we were living on the edge while our major life goals took a backseat. While time was dragging, we either spent it as constructively or wasted it. With all the time at our disposal, it was normal to be overwhelmed. All the energy floating around our homes needed to be constantly channelized. Having given us so many once in a lifetime experiences and with the innumerable amendments to our definition of ‘Normal’, to a point that ‘Abnormal had become the new normal’, I am sure all of us have had our share of lessons learnt.

Yess...To find joy in the simple things of life...Only when you grope in the dark you realise how light means bright. As we were sorely deprived or shut off from our old happy world did the joy of little happy moments respark in our lives. The things we didn't think of too much in 2019, have ever since become our moments of true happiness. The one connection that most of us had lost because of our hectic life styles was with ourselves. This lockdown slowed the pace and gave us an opportunity to lie back and look at things from a

different perspective. As I poured over old albums and pictures it was rewarding to relive those years and connect with the memories of the old is gold days. While we were so consumed by the larger events we had failed to appreciate the little moments.

Family became of utmost priority. Before the lockdown, families were struggling to strike a balance. Extra hours at work, tiring commutes, and additional responsibilities made families ignore the value of living in an intergenerational household and spending quality time together. Now with the unlimited free time the pandemic offered, one could cherish family moments of togetherness.

Could we have even slightly pictured in our minds what the past 2 years would do to humanity? This only brings a realisation in us that nothing in life can be taken for granted. We cannot undermine the fact that to be happy, we have to make the world around us happy, live in peace on a sustainable planet where resources should be used judiciously, not exploited. We have learnt to cherish the moments and memories with our near and dear ones and reach out to old people, the sick, the lonely.

We experienced nature's miracles and were so fortunate to have seen our planet heal. Every cloud has a silver lining indeed. As we went back to our homes, wildlife started getting back to theirs with no fear of losing their freedom. Climate change will devastate our planet soon if we don't change - but the resilience demonstrated to the coronavirus showed us that we are capable of anything. This will be necessary for our survival, because "It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent; it is the one most adaptable to change" — Charles Darwin.

These past two years taught us that life doesn't wait for anyone, so why waste precious hours doing nothing. Being shut indoors for weeks or months at a time required creativity and reigniting some old hobbies to stay entertained and doing the things that lit a fire in our hearts. It was the best opportunity that brought our latent talents out.

One of the great joys of life is to learn new skills, new languages, new recipes, new crafts, new sports etc. When the world stopped around us, travel obsessives found ways to keep exploring from home. We

watched TV shows that took us to far flung locations. We experimented with new recipes from cuisines we hadn't attempted before.

The past two years were the years of the birdsong. Under lockdown roads were now places of peace, quiet and calm. The beautiful birdsong was everywhere; a reminder of the life force of our planet, and the importance of stopping to look and listen.

Following my contemplative sitting I found our earth was giving us a mighty shudder. But can we find happiness in hardship? Absolutely - because it has reignited the flame of humanity and goodwill inside people all over the world. Generosity, caring and helping others; these wonderful traits have never displayed themselves more. Irrespective, everywhere people have risen to the challenge, and the response has been heart warming. Children drawing rainbows to bring joy; volunteers working tirelessly day and night to help vulnerable people and health workers to simply bring joy into the lives of others; incredible fundraising efforts and generous philanthropists donating money for deserving causes; health workers risking their lives to save others, have been heroic acts.

The pandemic has given many of us a chance to pause, slow down, reflect and take a break from the chaotic modern life. Nowadays our fast paced world rarely stops, so a chance to reflect can be invaluable. Peace is an often sought after commodity, and while key workers were working tirelessly others were given a perfect opportunity to relax and find tranquility and calm.

Although meeting in person was difficult, there was a newfound sense of togetherness which has infected us across the world. It is amazing to see the power that technology has had to unite us video calls, live broadcasts, zoom etc have allowed new friendships to form over the internet, new organisations to spring up and people everywhere to have learnt new skills - coronavirus and technology has united us so we can learn, laugh, and help others.

So, how can we find happiness in hardship? The answer was in looking around us and accepting what we can't control, finding joy in simple things, adapting to the situation and making change where we could. With happiness and hope we are stronger; and can advocate for a better world.

Lastly, let us be united in this battle. My battle is everybody's battle. Let us stay safe and positive as we fight hand in hand. We will get through this crisis together and we will be multiple steps closer towards a new world with a healed humankind. With a brave heart amidst the uncertainties of the future, let us hold on to each other, shall we? But on hindsight hasn't the pandemic been **learning the hard way** for you and me??

THE GREAT RESIGNATIONS

The Covid Pandemic has resulted in large-scale job losses all over the world. In such a situation, you would expect that people will do everything possible to hold on to their jobs. However, trends show that a large number of people 'RESIGNED' during the last two covid affected years and surprisingly, the resignations were higher among low-wage workers in comparison to those earning higher salaries. The most affected sectors were hospitality, healthcare, transportation, warehousing, education, retail etc. While these sectors have lost a large number of people, almost all sectors have seen higher resignations last year and the trend seems to continue in 2022.

In India, too, the IT industry witnessed a record attrition rate in 2021 as more employees quit their jobs in search of better opportunities. This has led to a hiring overdrive among Indian IT firms in 2022. While the situation in India is still not as dire as in the USA, surveys indicate that the situation is gradually becoming alarming.

Employees Seek Better Opportunities: More employees are quitting their current jobs in search of better job opportunities, not just in terms of salary but also with respect to new challenges.

A September 2021 survey conducted by Amazon India suggested that over 50% of job seekers are looking for opportunities in sectors or industries where they have little or no experience.

GDP at record high but unemployment continues to rise: Most job seekers are looking for new challenges due to exhaustion and stagnancy as a result of following a similar working pattern on a daily basis, especially in a work from home setup. Another reason that fuelled resignations is also the desire among people to move to more stable jobs.

Toxic Culture Driving Great Resignations: A study conducted by MIT Sloan School of Management highlighted how a toxic culture in workplaces was a major reason why many employees decided to call it quits in 2021. The research indicated that more than 40% of all employees were thinking about leaving their jobs at the beginning of 2021. It further suggested that “more-innovative companies, including SpaceX, Tesla, Nvidia, and Netflix, are experiencing higher attrition rates than their more staid competitors”.

“The pattern is not limited to technology-intensive industries, since innovative companies like Goldman Sachs and Red Bull have suffered higher turnover as well,” the study added.

Contrary to the belief that most of these employees quit over salary dissatisfaction, the study indicated that the problem is deeper than it seems. The study said toxic corporate culture is a bigger reason behind employees considering switching jobs rather than compensation. “A toxic corporate culture, for example, is 10.4 times more powerful than compensation in predicting a company’s attrition rate compared with its industry,” it said.

Other factors that are driving the ‘Great Resignation’, were job insecurity and lack of reorganization, high levels of innovation, failure to recognize employees, and poor response to Covid-19.

Can The Great Resignations Be Stopped?: The growing number of resignations across the globe could become a major concern for the worldwide economy and for major corporates. This is why most companies have started offering bigger and better benefits to new employees.

Not just higher pay packages, but employees also want more flexibility to work from home, and for some, this would be a greater factor than a hike in compensation. Therefore, many companies are trying to introduce shorter and more flexible work weeks to hire and retain employees.

Among other things that companies can do is to provide employees with new challenges within the organisation to prevent them from facing stagnancy. The MIT Sloan study has found out that most employees faced burnout due to lack of new challenges or the opportunity to try their hand at something new.

MEMORIES OF A GARDEN CITY – BANGALORE

Ursula Scudder-Chennai

Bangalore used to be a Garden City. Some of my earliest memories are of going to the Flower Show at Lalbagh and visiting gardens that had won prizes.

My family was lucky to live close to three houses with beautiful gardens. The first was the Kuppuswamy residence, one house away from ours. As you entered the gate, there was a huge beautifully kept lawn with a circular bed of colourful flowers, mostly cannas surrounding tall ferns. All around the lawn was a path with small hedging plants on one side and big banks of flowers along the wall on the other side. The flowers were planted according to colour. So there were yellow, white and red flowers with a background of green ferns or a variety of pink and purple flowers. Sometimes it was a riot of colours with dahlias and zinnias. In the corner there was a weeping willow tree protecting delicate pansies and poppies. On the third side was the house, with potted plants below the windows – geraniums in all colours, chrysanthemums and a collection of cacti.

Around and through the porch was the greenhouse with its glass roof and heady scents from roses, lillies, carnations and violets. In front of the greenhouse were pots of crotons with leaves of all shapes and colours. Along the fourth side of the lawn were varieties of coleus and ferns.

Further down the Brunton Road was the Webb's Garden – beautifully laid out with a pond of lillies, lotus and goldfish. I remember ornamental fruit trees – orange, pomegranate and cherries. There were beds of nasturtiums and delicately coloured portulacca. Archways of bright yellow alamanda and bougainvillea of all colours grew riotously over the wall. I remember a little Japanese bridge too, in the garden.

Next door to us were the Ramachandrans. A small garden, well laid out around a small lawn. They also had a pond with pretty phlox and pink around it. Their 'crazy' paving was beautiful – broken coloured tiles formed a mosaic with small flowering plants coming up between the tiles. As a small girl, I remember hopping from tile to tile, while

trying not to step on the flowers. They also had a big tree with a parasite creeper, which had large cup-shaped flowers with an extremely strong perfume. At night, the scent of the Queen of the Night, which grew in profusion at one end, was overpowering.

I have faint memories of our house – Ashley Park. We too had a big lawn but not as well-kept as our neighbours. I remember my brother and his friends playing cricket on it! At one end was a spreading carpet of pink-white bridal creeper. There were hedges of plumbag and hibiscus. A curtain of orange honeysuckle fell in front of the verandah. Trained bougainvillea grew near one wall. An archway of alamanda led to a round pond. I seem to remember one big lonely goldfish and heaps of tadpoles and frogs in it. Small bushes of waxy white camellias, one large silver oak and a row of fruit trees – coconut, guava, mango. During the season, two men would bring down the mangoes using a long stick with a hook and a bag attached. The mangoes were kept in baskets layered with straw and every day my eldest sister would check them, taking out the ripe ones, discarding the spoilt ones and turning over the others so that they would ripen evenly.

We had two Cyprus bushes and in November/December we would get up early just to see the dew-drops sparkle in the sun, caught in the cobwebs on the bushes. There was a big shady tree at the side of the house with pale pink and white blossoms. You could hear the hum of bees underneath it and by evening, there would be a carpet of white flowers on the ground.

Sadly today, gardens have been replaced with apartments. My childhood home ‘Ashley Park’ is Ajanta Hotel! There is no garden left, only parking space!

However, Bangalore still boasts of some of its famous flowering trees – the orange flame of the forest, the purple jacaranda, acacia and some more but in dwindling numbers. In the summer, bougainvillea used to grow abundantly in a variety of colours – orange, pink, red, white, purple....In December there used to be the striking scarlet of poinsettias, bringing a lovely Christmas spirit.

Indeed Gardens may come or go but memories are there forever!!

Norbert Shenoy

India – An Emerging Start-up Central?

That change is the only constant over time may sound a bit trite to most of us. Yet the rate of change is changing so rapidly that we sometimes have to hark back to poets to make sense of the turmoil that is overtaking our lives. Following memorable lines from T. S. Eliot might be of help!

Do I dare disturb the universe ?

In a minute there is time

For decisions and revisions which a minute will reverse.

I have measured out my life with coffee spoons

After the stunning burst of April 2000, when America's technology dominated Nasdaq stock market plummeted and wiped out countless dotcom and telecom companies, many had written off internet led technology revolution as so much froth signifying nothing. But there were enough prescient minds who surmised that it was the crunch of gears that occurs when the heady upswing part of a Schumpeter cycle gives way to mature growth.

Now this wave of disruptive technologies is steadily but surely engulfing India. With over \$38 billion in funding spread across 2055 rounds, 12 initial public offerings (IPOs) and the emergence of 40 unicorns, 2021 proved to be a landmark year for Indian start-ups. As per Economic Survey 2021, the Government has recognized 41061 start-ups so far, more than 39000 of which have reported 4,70,000 jobs. An encouraging trend is that, start-ups are increasingly veering round to focus on business to business (B2B) space. At present almost half of the country's start-ups are offering services targeted at other enterprises. This is a significant shift from the initial rush of young entrepreneurs who were merely replicating models from Silicon Valley, primarily aimed at retail customers. While these businesses have made services such as booking a cab or a hotel room more affordable and convenient, Indian start-ups are way behind in creating products as Google and Microsoft do. But now deep-tech start-ups are fast catching up. There are over 2000 such companies in India engaged in high-end

engineering, which is 70% higher than the number of deep-tech companies in 2018. For instance, with the Government opening up space sector, there are more than 40 private start-ups working on space and satellite projects.

While pandemic disrupted life in many ways, 2021 witnessed a booming digital economy, with crypto currencies, unicorns, decacorns, new age IPOs, super apps, data breaches, et al becoming part of the drawing room conversation! But as the noise and hoopla of new age IPOs from Zomato, Paytm, Nykaa, etc, captured investor fancy, there were clear signs of yet another promising trend gathering momentum. Although legacy conglomerates like Tata and Reliance expanded aggressively into the digital space through quite a few acquisitions and launches, the underlying trend of start-ups per se, scaling up was unmistakable. Nasscom estimates the start-up ecosystem to add 250 more scale-ups by 2025 in emerging areas like Edtech, Logistics, Automotive, Fintech and Healthtech. However, India's start-up ecosystem has miles to go before it catches up with countries like Israel, China and the US. India has deep technical and scientific talent. But the best Indian minds look for better opportunities in other countries because of better infrastructure and a strong focus on R&D there. According to OECD, India has 3.12 million highly educated migrants working abroad, compared to 2.25 million of China. Israel for instance, decided early to invest in intellectual capital and create a knowledge based economy. As a result Israel today has more high-tech start-ups per capita than any other country. Tech start-ups with their capacity to grow, relatively quickly, from a novice to a giant, benefit the economy by increasing productive investment and creating jobs. They also spur growth in auxiliary trades (Eg. e-commerce spiking growth in logistics) and among local suppliers. Successful tech firms spawn more start-ups, either by example or, through staff leaving to form other enterprises. This sort of cutting edge innovation is closely linked to economic growth. What then are the policy initiatives that are necessary to encourage and promote start-ups? Following are some recommendations for sustainable ecosystem to promote continuous growth of start-ups.

Start-ups require a multi-pronged approach: 1. Increasing access to

capital; 2. Improving access to talent; 3. Opening up access to markets; and 4. Cutting red tape and instituting a pro-innovation regulatory and fiscal (particularly taxation) policy.

i. Start-up-friendly policies do not necessarily require large amounts of money or incentives. They do, however, require governments to do things differently than before; **ii.** Start-ups need access to overseas markets, which means supporting cross border data flows and limiting trade barriers; **iii.** Strong leadership can bring together universities and businesses to create talent pools that attract start-ups. Moreover, pro-innovation policy on the part of local political leaders can clear away some of the regulatory obstacles that hamper start-up growth; **iv.** An overall lowering of the corporate tax rate would help the most successful new businesses put more money back into their business and the economy, and free up capital for large companies to invest in new start-up growth through corporate venture capital, angel investment, and R&D; **v.** Entrepreneurship has to be taught at an early age. The school should provide students with mentors from the start-up community in addition to project-based learning to spur entrepreneurial thinking and integrating technology and computer science into all aspects of the curriculum; **vi.** The government needs to invest more in research and development in order to fuel the next start-up boom; **vii.** Instituting a permanent start-up visa program would help. We need an immigration policy that encourages entrepreneurs to come and stay, rather than making them jump through hoops or wait in an endless line filled with red tape.

On their part, Indian start-ups could focus on areas that cry out for innovation such as agriculture, air purification and water management. Also, before long there has to be a realization that profitability cannot be sacrificed indefinitely in pursuit of valuation. It is essential that founders pay enough attention to the sustainability of the business model even as they strive to raise increasing funds to scale up to the unicorn/decacorn status. As Uday Kotak, Chairman, Kotak Bank says ‘The Cinderella Party fuelled by negligible cost of funds in a milieu of low or, even zero interest rates seems to be getting close to the midnight strike! The current copious flow of VC/PE funds could be a thing of the past with the advent of tighter monetary policy across the globe. In

such a scenario, start-ups that have neglected profitability and a carefully thought out strategy could easily perish and the momentum built up over the last decade could come to naught.’

NEWS & NOTES

SIX PERSONALITIES CONFERRED ‘EMINENT ALOYSIAN ALUMNI AWARD’ 2022



The ‘Eminent Aloysian Alumni Award’ was established in 2007-2008, by the management of St Aloysius Institutions and St Aloysius College Alumni Association (SACAA), to recognize Aloysian Alumni who have significant achievements to their credit and made

commendable contributions to society and/or to the institution.

In the last thirteen years, **39 Eminent Aloysians have been recipients of the Award.**

Six achievers from different fields were conferred the ‘**Eminent Aloysian Alumni Award 2022**’, on 12th January 2022 at St Aloysius College (Autonomous).

Mavila Vishwanathan Nair is the non-executive chairman of the TransUnion CIBIL, India’s largest credit bureau and also the non-executive chairman of KFINTECH Pvt Ltd, a leading registrar and transfer agent.

Dr L C Soans is a renowned practitioner of organic farming in Moodbidri. He is also a recipient of Karnataka Rajyotsava Award-2016.

Jeeth Milan Roche is an accomplished entrepreneur and renowned environmentalist. He is the founder of Mangalore Green Brigade and

has been on a mission to make Mangaluru a green city. He and his team have planted thousands of trees in and around Mangalore and also nurtured the saplings.

Prof Edmund J B Frank has donned various managerial positions of some of the top notch business organizations. He lives the true vision and mission of the college, being a person for and with others involved in several philanthropic and charitable ventures.

Dr Cletus J M D'Souza is a renowned professor of Biochemistry, University of Mysore, known for his erudition and superior research credentials. He has established himself as one of the most sought after mentors and research guides in the field of Biochemistry.

Lt General (Rtd) Ravi Eipe fought in the 1962 China war at the battle of Namka Chu as a 22 year old captain. He took part in 'Operation Pawan' in Sri Lanka for which he was awarded 'Ati Vishisht Seva Medal' in 1989 and was awarded 'Param Vishisht Seva Medal' in 1997. He is the third awardee to be given the award in absentia – the others being Dr Devi Shetty and KK Venugopal.

CASK offers its congratulations to all the Six Eminent Aloysians and wishes them further success.

AN UNIQUE GESTURE OF GRATITUDE BY THE 1971 GOLDEN BATCH OF ST ALOYSIUS COLLEGE



In an unique gesture of gratitude to their Alma Mater, the students of the '1971 GOLDEN BATCH' of St Aloysius College have donated an '**Advanced Instrumentation Center**'

consisting of machines and equipment to aid Research studies, at a cost of **Rs One Crore and 71 Lakh**. This is an unique and commendable gesture, the first in the history of the College.

The Golden Batch students were escorted by the NCC cadets of SAC after which a unique Golden Batch Flag was hoisted by Walter D'Souza, the Chairman of the Golden Batch Reunion.

The programme began with a solemn commendation ceremony, a replica of the Convocation ceremony for graduating students. Each of the 1971 batch was given a stole and memento by the college management and given a commendation certificate acknowledging their role as ambassadors of their Alma mater and for having lived in full the motto of the college by being men and women for and with others. The batch of 1971 now in their 70s were happy to be attired in the Convocation gowns and caps since they never had the opportunity to be attired in gowns and caps when they graduated.

Walter D'Souza delivered the welcome address and said, "It's nice to note that 50 years after we graduated from this prestigious institution, we have all joined to give back to our Alma mater. 10 January 2022 will go down memory lane as a remarkable day in the history of St Aloysius College when the 1971 batch made a unique contribution to the college. Out of 268 who passed out from the 1971 batch, based all over the world, we were able to track 157, while about 50 had passed away.

Rector, Rev. Fr Melwin Pinto SJ, released the souvenir. Thereafter, Walter D'Souza, handed over the cheque for Rs 1 crore 71 lakh to him.

M V Nair, who is the non-executive chairman of the trans union CIBIL, a proud alumnus and one of the recipients of distinguished eminent Aloysian Alumni Awardees 2022 delivered the keynote address and said, "I want to share two topics: 1) Aloysian contribution to the Community, and 2) Aloysius as My Dream. This has made me reach greater heights. When I was admitted to a hospital I learnt that in giving you also receive. Since then, I made a strong decision that I should make a contribution to my Alma mater.

Addressing the gathering, Rev Dr Praveen Martis SJ said, "Every reunion is that time of the year to reunite, reminisce, celebrate and a nostalgic trip down memory lane. But this reunion is going to be unforgettable as the GOLDEN BATCH OF 1971 has made it special with several projects for its Alma mater as it is on the threshold of becoming a university.

Rector Fr Melwin Pinto SJ in his presidential address said, "1971

batch is an inspiration for other alumni to follow and give back to their Alma mater. With support and encouragement from our alumni, we can take our institution to greater heights.

During the programme, the Golden Batch felicitated six of their professors/lecturers who had taught them during their study at St Aloysius: Prof K R Upadhaya, Prof K V Rao, Prof P Shantharam, Prof J W F Saldanha, Prof Francis Crasta, Prof Richard Pinto and Prof Lambert Rodrigues.

To mark and relive this tradition the batch of 1971, their flag was handed over to their next batch by Walter D'Souza, the chairman of the 1971 golden batch to Archibald Menezes, the chairman of batch-1972.

The programme was ably compered by Ms Alita D'sa, a faculty in dept of English, St Aloysius College. Prof Edmund Frank, the Secretary, delivered the vote of thanks.

MAJOR NEIL SILAS LOBO AWARDED THE SENA MEDAL



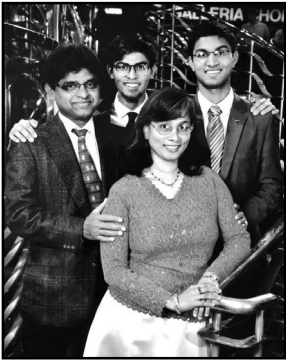
We are pleased to know that Major Neil Silas Lobo, was awarded the 'Sena Medal' on National Army Day – 15th January 2022. Major Lobo is a member of the 8th Light Cavalry of the Indian Army and was seconded to the 'Rashtriya Rifles'. He was awarded the Sena Medal for his gallantry during the cordoning operations in Jammu and Kashmir on 19th October 2020, when he led a counter terrorism operation and successfully neutralized two terrorists.

Major Neil is the son of Leo and Matilda Lobo, originally from Neermarga in Mangalore and now settled in Bangalore. Leo Lobo retired as Professor of Electronics at St Joseph's College-Bangalore and Matilda is a teacher by profession.

CASK congratulates Major Neil Lobo on being the recipient of the prestigious 'Sena Medal' and wishes him further success in the service of the Nation.

NEW BIOPIC FILM “PIT TO PALACE” ON THE LIFE OF HAROLD D’SOUZA TO BE ANNOUNCED AT CANNES FILM FESTIVAL IN MAY 2022

‘Pit to Palace’ is a true-life inspiring journey of this crusader Harold D’Souza from Bajpe to Bollywood. Harold has proved that desire changes nothing; decision changes something, but determination changes everything.



Harold D’Souza is the voice and hope for those who are victims of Human trafficking. He and his wife Delna were victims of human trafficking in USA and after a courageous struggle, they ultimately came out victorious. Thereafter, they established ‘**Eyes Open International**’ an International NGO to support victims of Human Trafficking and Debt Bondage. Harold D’Souza has journeyed from Slavery to Silver Screen.

In his address to the Press, Harold D’Souza said “Tears and emotions were running high during my recent visit to Mumbai, when I listened to the amazing script. I learnt a lot about the film making process for Bollywood Films-the amount of work that goes into the making of a film is awe inspiring. This film is dedicated to Harold’s father; “Henry D’Souza” a native of Bajpe, Mangaluru.

Recently, an Indian family from Gujarat froze to death on the Canada-US Border. This family paid Rs. 65 Lakhs to enter America undocumented. Jagdish(39) & Vaishali Patel(37), and their children Vihangi (11), Dharmik(3), died from severe exposure to cold on January 19th, 2022. Commenting on the above tragedy Harold D’Souza said “Paying agents a hefty sum to enter USA illegally, is actually paying for your own ‘Coffin’ and not ‘Comfort’.

The 75th edition of Festival de Cannes will take place from May 17 to 28th, 2022. This world renowned festival was founded on September 20th, 1946, at Cannes-France.

The Bollywood Biopic Blockbuster Silver Screen Film on Harold D’Souza is expected to create ripples at Festival de Cannes, and other

Film Festivals like Venice Film Festival, the Berlin International Film Festival in Germany, the Toronto International Film Festival in Canada, and the Sundance Film Festival in the United States.

CASK is proud of Harold D’Souza and his contributions through Eyes Open International and wishes him well.

VENEZELA ANNIE CARLO WINS FOUR GOLD MEDALS IN POWERLIFTING & BENCHPRESS CHAMPIONSHIPS AT THE INTERNATIONAL MEET IN TURKEY-DECEMBER 2021

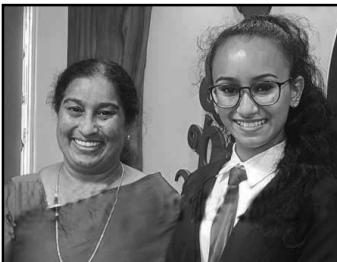


We are pleased to know that Venezela Annie Carlo, belonging to Bajjodi Parish-Mangalore, secured four (4) Gold Medals in the Powerlifting and Benchpress Championships held at Istanbul-Turkey at the end of December 2021. She has to her credit a rich haul of 26 Medals in National Events and 8 Medals in Asian International Events.

Venezela is the daughter of Vincent Prakash and Flavia Carlo. Vincent and Venezela were both recipients of the DK Rajotsava Awards 2021.

CASK congratulates Venezela on her Medals tally and wishes her continued success.

REMONA YVETTE PEREIRA - RECIPIENT OF ‘RASHTRIYA BAL PURASKAR’ 2022



We are delighted to know that 17 year old girl from Mangalore – **Remona Yvette Pereira** was one among 29 children from all over India, and one among two in Karnataka who were recipients of **The Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar** (‘Prime Minister’s National Award for Children’) 2022. This is a civilian honour in India for Child Achievers. The award was presented on 24th January 2022 – National Girl Child Day by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, virtually through

Block Chain Technology. Remona received the award for her achievements as Classical Indian dancer.

Prime Minister Modi asked Remona how she was attracted to Indian classical dancing and Remona gave full credit to her mother Gladys Pereira who initiated her into Indian dancing when she was three years old. Gladys lost her husband and in spite of the many difficulties she faced as a young widow, ensured that her children Remona and her brother received good education and that Remona pursued Indian dancing.

CASK congratulates Remona on receiving the Rashtriya Bal Puraskar and wishes her continued success. CASK salutes Gladys Pereira for her stellar role in encouraging Remona in Indian dancing.

OBITUARIES - December 2021/January/February 2022

CASK offers its sincere condolences to the families of the following members of our community, who passed away recently:

1. Lauren Patrao (69), Thane/Mumbai, wife of Simon, mother of Akshay/Margaret & Ahliyah, SIL of Late Jimmy and Joan, on December 16, 2021.
2. Stanislaus Menezes (95), Mumbai, husband of Late Agnes Menezes, father of Maryanne, Judy and Denise, on January 4, 2022.
3. Flavia Aloysius (88), Bendur, daughter of late Chev. Aloysius U. Kannappa and late Mary Rego, sister of late Sr Antoinette, late Sr Beatrice AC, Leena, late Arthur and late Eric, on January 9, 2022.
4. Lilly Alvares (96), Kulshekar, wife of late Monthu Alvares, mother of Lawrence/Meena, Victor/Stella, Cyril/Margaret, Jerome/Prescilla, Maria/Stany, Richard/Jane, Therese/Ejidore, on January 9, 2022.
5. Stany Miranda (87), Bendur, husband of Severine Miranda, father of Leslie/Minetta Miranda and Rayan/Janet Miranda, on January 10, 2022.
6. Xavier Antony Rodrigues (68), Kulshekar, husband of Rita Rodrigues, father of Reena & Rolson Rodrigues, on January 10, 2022.
7. Mathias Lobo (83), Bendur, husband of Monthi, father of Rita/Cyprian D'Souza, Lancy/Patricia & Rayan/Preema, on January 15, 2022.
8. Edward J D'souza (85), Bendur, husband of Cynthia D'Souza, father of Sabrina, Kevin and Sharon, on January 15, 2022.
9. Theresa Tauro (94), Kulshekar, wife of late Silvester Tauro, mother of Florin/late Antony Miranda, Gretta/Baptist D'Souza, Robert/Mary Tauro, late Stany Tauro, Irene/Bazil Coelho, late Rony Tauro and Jerald/Shaila Tauro, on January 16, 2022.

10. Florine D'Souza (87), Valencia, wife of late Mark D'Souza, mother of Wilma/Wilfred Pinto, Thelma D'Souza, Agnes Sylvia D'Souza, Jacintha/Richard Fernandes and Lavina/Lesli D'Souza, on January 17, 2022.
11. Lorna Fernandes (88), Urwa, wife of late Archibald (Archie) Fernandes, mother of Aloysius/Elaine, late Francis, Rita/Dr Anthony Pais, Joseph/Mercy, on January 17, 2022.
12. Benedict S. D'Mello (82), Kulshekar, husband of Lilly D'Mello, father of Stephen/Joyet D'Mello, Agnes/Patrick Lobo, Gretta/Shalako Francis, Maria/Inacio Reverado, on January 18, 2022.
13. John Tony D'Souza (60), Bendur, husband of Wilma D'Souza, father of Allistar and Aaron, on January 18, 2022.
14. Victor Colaco (90), Valencia, husband of late Molly Colaco, father of Supriya/Derrick Lobo, on January 20, 2022.
15. Molly D'Silva (88), Bendur, mother of Violet, late Maureen, Pamela/Alvin, Nelson/Prema, Reginald, Rachel/John, Desmond/Lovely, Steeven/Liliana, on January 23, 2022.
16. Joel Terence Fernandes (29), Kulshekar, son of late John Fernandes and Teresa Fernandes, brother of Jason Fernandes, on January 23, 2022.
17. Alice Rodrigues (82), Bejai, wife of late Jerome Rodrigues, mother of Rainer, late Ivan, Arun Loy/Regina, Pamela/late Frany Santos, Nirmala/Felix D'Costa, Vishala/Rajesh D'Souza, on January 23, 2022.
18. Charles Crasta (73), Bejai, husband of Hilda D'Costa, father of Denzil Francis Crasta, brother of Celine Rego, on January 25, 2022.
19. Michael Colaco (62), Rosario, son of late Harold C Colaco and late Assumption (Assie) D'Sa, brother of late Joseph/Purnima, late Gerard, Maryann/Eric Sequiera, Philip/Vijaya, Eugene/Tina, on January 26, 2022.
20. Lawrence Pereira (Lawrie) (97), Milagres, husband of late Valerina, father of Dr Brian/Dr Sunita, Dr Kevin/Iona & Mervyn/Iona, on January 29, 2022.
21. Vincent Madtha (81), Bejai, husband of Hilda Madtha, father of George Rayan/Shyla, Sunitha/Joe Almeida & Praveen/Suman, on January 31, 2022.
22. Mark Pinto (86), Kulshekar, husband of Mary Pinto, father of Marvin/Raina & Martin/Mellisa, on February 3, 2022.
23. Cecilia D'Souza (89), Bendur, wife of late Michael D'Souza, mother of Alphonso/Suzan, late Francis/Jacintha & Rudolf/Juliana, on February 3, 2022.
24. Lydia Saldanha (101), Milagres, sister of late Sr M Carmelita AC, late Laura Pais, late Aileen Pinto, late Lou Lobo, Celine Rebello, late Therese Saldanha, late Marjorie Martis & late Ronald Saldanha, on February 4, 2022.
25. Mary Mendonca (88), Shirva, wife of the late Louis Mendonca (retired Principal, St Mary's PU College-Shirva), mother of Juliet/George Castelino, Merlyn/William Vaz, late Dionysius, Dr Norman/Nancy Mendonca, Edrian/ Venkatesh Sethuraman & Manohar/Mayola Mendonca, on February 7, 2022.