

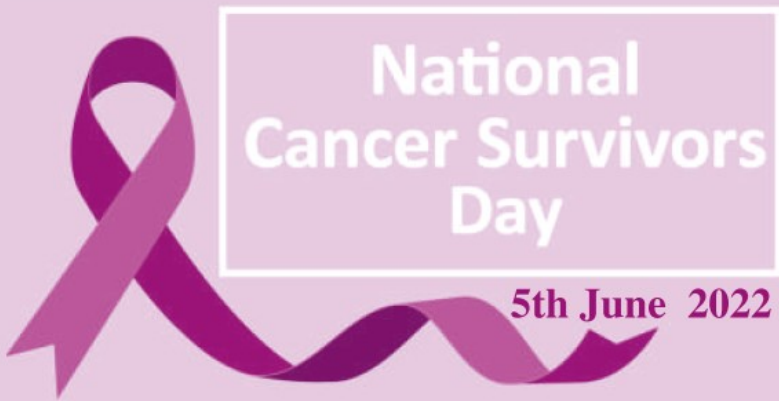
# Mangalore

Organ of the Catholic Association of South Kanara  
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**“Optimism is the faith  
that leads to achievement.  
Nothing can be done  
without hope and  
confidence.”**

**-Helen Keller**



# CATHOLIC ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH KANARA

Founded in 1914

(Regn. No. MNG/130/2021-2023)

## CATHOLIC ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH KANARA

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## EDITORIAL

As a teacher and educationist for over five decades, the recent shooting in Uvalde-Texas killing 19 children and 2 teachers was to me heartbreaking and deeply sorrowful, As usual after such a horrific crime in USA {and in many other countries}, there is a lot of hue and cry but nothing really changes. Bishop Daniel Flores of Brownville-Texas said “I’m sick of hearing that gun’s aren’t the problem but people are. Our children kill other children using guns that are easier to obtain than aspirin. We sacralize death’s instruments and then are surprised that death uses them”. Let us wish, hope and pray that some concrete action will come out of this tragedy.

At our CASK Teacher Enrichment Programme, we always try to sensitize the teachers on the need for understanding and empathy for ‘Special’ children suffering from dyslexia, autism and other cognitive disorders. These children are now mandated to attend regular schools but the teachers are not trained to deal with such children and generally lack empathy towards them. I speak out of personal experience.

I was therefore not surprised that the ground staff of Indigo Airlines in Ranchi refused boarding to one such teenager and his parents on the grounds that the teenager was “in a state of panic” and a threat to other passengers - A classic example of inhuman behavior and lack of knowledge and empathy. I am happy that the Director-General of Civil Aviation as well as the Union Minister Jyothiradithya Scindia took appropriate action against the airline. As for me and my husband, we will avoid flying on Indigo, as far as possible!

A report related to the above titled ‘The tragic story of the lack of Assistive Products to those in Need’ published jointly by WHO and UNICEF reproduced in this issue, is an eye-opener.

The results of the Karnataka SSLC examination are out and 145 students have scored 625 out of 625, including 17 from Dakshina Kannada district. Obviously, the marking system has become student-friendly and one can score 100% even in languages. What is inspiring is the fact that among the high scorers, there are students

who performed in spite of being from marginalized families. For example – Amit Malar from Vijayapura is the son of a single parent – his mother is a daily wager working in neighbouring farmlands; Madhu Shersanadi is the daughter of a watchman working in Haveri. The children from such backgrounds scoring high marks need to be specially recognized and supported in fulfilling their dreams! They need not necessarily be the toppers.

As usual, we have a mix of some serious articles, some interesting articles, one humorous article – most of them from our regular contributors. We thank all of them.

The Front and Back Covers of this issue are dedicated to Cancer Survivors – the first Sunday of June is observed as Cancer Survivor’s Day in many countries. It is said that a diagnosis of Cancer is not a Death sentence but rather it is a Life sentence – it pushes one to Live. Let us salute all those who fought a successful battle against this disease specially those among our family and friends.

This message is penned from Rome! Derek and I are spending some quality time with our daughter and family based here. As you can see “Mangalore” accompanies us wherever we go! Happy Reading.....

**Until next time... ..Patsy Lobo**

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## THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS...

May has gone by and June is here, we are halfway through another year. There is nothing else to say or do, just wish joy and happiness to all of you. Let this new month be good to you and bring you nothing but happiness, smiles and good times.

The monsoon season is here; schools have reopened after a long holiday break. Luckily, we had a few showers in the month of May to satisfy our water needs. However, we have to wait and see whether it will be a normal monsoon or not.

At CASK, we are getting ready to distribute scholarships to the needy students which is our annual exercise. Applications have been distributed to various institutions, schools and colleges and the response is good. There are two types of scholarships: 1) COVID support scholarships and 2) Annual Scholarships mainly for deserving students from marginalized families irrespective of religion, caste or creed. The criteria required are clearly mentioned in the application form. Any queries will be clarified by our office staff.

The month of June is also dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The church calendar mentions many important occasions this month. Pentecost Sunday is on the 5<sup>th</sup> of June and after that is the feast of the Holy Trinity on the 12<sup>th</sup> of June, followed by Corpus Christi on the 19<sup>th</sup> June. Friday the 24<sup>th</sup> June is the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

On 29<sup>th</sup> May, Pope Francis announced 2 new Cardinals from India – Archbishop Philip Neri Ferrao of Goa-Daman and Archbishop Antony Poola of Hyderabad. Thus, the strength of the Cardinals in India has increased to 6. Pope is giving great importance to Asia including India, where faith is quite strong. Blessed Devashayamm Pillai, an upper caste Hindu convert to Christianity was martyred and later declared a Saint on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May.

We conducted a few Teachers Enrichment Programs during the summer vacation. This just shows that the educational institutions in Mangalore are keen on improving the standard of teaching. At CASK, the Governing Council/Editorial team of Mangalore Magazine strive hard to serve society. I further feel it is appropriate to mention the

concerted effort and special role played by Dr Derek and Patsy Lobo in this endeavour. They put their heart and soul in the functioning of CASK.

5<sup>th</sup> June is being celebrated as World Environment Day. But the sad reality is that our environment gets increasingly degraded every year. We humans are self-centered and do not give a thought to the environment we pass on to our future generations. The devastation caused to the environment is immense and the war in Ukraine has added to the devastation.

Let us remember to observe World day against Child Labour which on June 12<sup>th</sup> and World Blood Donation Day on June 14<sup>th</sup>. Let us not forget to celebrate Father's Day on the 21<sup>st</sup> and International Widows day on 23<sup>rd</sup> June. These days are designated by the United Nations to instill public awareness.

Take care and God bless... .. **Captain Vincent Pais**

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## **WE NEED MORE JUDGES OF THE CALIBRE OF LATE JUSTICE HOSBET SURESH**

*(Recall of a Tribute to Justice Suresh by Flavia Agnes-15th June 2020)*

**Born on July 20, 1929, in Hosabettu near Suratkal, DK District, Justice Suresh received a Bachelor of Arts (BA) from Mangalore University, Master in Arts (MA) from the Visvesvaraya Technological University Belagavi and then acquired his Legum Magister (LLM) from the Mumbai University and enrolled in the Bombay HC as an advocate in 1953. He taught at the Government Law College & KC College, was appointed as the assistant government pleader, Bombay City Civil & Sessions court and then appointed as an additional judge in the sessions court on November 29, 1968.**

Justice Hosbet Suresh who passed away on 12th June 2020, is well known for the various fact-finding commissions he headed and the reports subsequently published on the denial of basic human rights of the marginalised. The reports put the spotlight on victims of communal or ethnic violence, and on the atrocities committed on Dalits and Adivasis in almost every nook and corner of our country. They provided a voice to the voiceless.

However, the various obituaries published in print and social media have failed to focus upon the human side of him and his deep commitment to women's rights. It will come as a surprise to many that he was a trustee of the Majlis Legal Centre, a forum I founded for women's rights and legal initiatives, for over two decades. So in this article, I will focus on the man that he was.

**Those of us who were closely associated with him regard him as the ultimate feminist man of our times – a women's rights defender, both in his public as well as personal life, who never wavered from his ethical and moral values, even when faced with the greatest of challenges. Despite several adversities that he faced, his faith in the judicial mechanism remained firm and unshaken till the very end.**

I first associated with him when he was on a fact-finding mission about the riots in Mumbai, post the Babri masjid demolition-December 1992 & January 1993. The work of this commission, the **Citizen's Tribunal**, was time bound and the report, the **People's Verdict**, had to be brought out within six months of its institution.

His faith in this legal instrument devised by the renowned Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer was so strong that he did not blink even when the official commission headed by Justice Srikrishna sent a legal notice to the tribunal, restraining it from proceeding with this enquiry.

All this is public knowledge. But what very few people are aware is that during this period in 1993, his ailing wife, about 56 years old, passed away. I vividly remember going to his residence for the funeral at Bandra on St. Martin's Road. We felt that this would pose a great setback for the time bound work of the commission. But that was not to be. Within a day he was back and continued the work of hearing the victims and survivors first hand. Such was his deep commitment to the work of the tribunal.

At the same time, he did not neglect his four children – 3 daughters and a physically challenged son. He took on the role of a father and mother to them. Recently at a condolence meeting his eldest daughter Rajni shared that he had taught her to cook and involved himself in preparing sweets for them!

These qualities also reflected in his official duties. Way back in the 1970s, as a judge of the City Civil and Sessions Court, he introduced the novel concept of involving counsellors to solve lingering marital disputes but without compromising women's entitlements. This innovative strategy of mediation then became the cardinal principal for the functioning of the family courts which were set up two decades later in 1990s. In most of his public lectures on women's rights, he referred to this and highlighted the wide scope for a judge to bring in innovative reforms even without the aid of a statute. He emphasised- **Where there is a will, there is always a way.**

He prioritised having his ear to the ground, always listening to the narratives of young lawyers of the Mumbai family courts, to understand how, over the years, the concepts of women's rights were being shaped.



He would be deeply distressed if women's rights were trampled upon using technicalities and rigid rules which would cause inordinate delays.

But it was destiny that he experienced this first hand while providing much needed support to his daughter Rajni, in the custody battle she was facing against her husband, a Swedish national residing abroad. Two children were involved, a minor son and a daughter who was of age, but suffering from Downs Syndrome. Justice Suresh was emotionally attached to these children and had raised them without adequate financial support from the well-to-do father. There were endless delays in the family court and the High Court and the final drama took place in the Supreme Court.

He witnessed and noted how custody issues get decided, how the issue of maintenance are put on the back burner, how children are brainwashed, how skewed the process of interviewing children is, how opposition lawyers adopt strategies and how the press reports it all in a warped way. By the time the final verdict came to hand over the custody to the father, along with permission to take them abroad, he was completely shattered. Yet his faith in the legal mechanism did not deter and he carried on.

He was no ordinary man. He had a realistic picture of the trauma which victims of domestic violence face in the process of litigation in family matters. And experiences such as these deepened his respect for the young lawyers in Majlis who were litigating for a pittance of maintenance, or for restraining orders or fighting custody battles in highly contested cases.

He also listened attentively and with deep anguish while our lawyers and support persons narrated heart-rending stories of sexual abuse and untold violence on young children over a prolonged period by their own family members. He heard of difficulties involved in getting an FIR filed or in preparing a child to face cross examination in court.

Though a legal luminary of great repute and a senior in the profession, he was the personification of utmost simplicity. He freely interacted with young advocates and interns, and advised them. He

also encouraged us to experiment with innovative strategies and take up campaigns to bring about reforms in the functioning of family courts.

The ultimate test of his feminist principals came when his own son wanted to grab the entire proceeds received from the developers for his residence on St. Martin's Road, thus denying the daughters their share. He did not hesitate to file a case against his own son to protect the rights of his daughters. His desire was that the amount be divided in five parts, each child taking one share and his own share earmarked for charity but the son was insisting on getting the entire amount which ran into some crores.

In order to reach a compromise, settlement meetings were held in the chamber of Justice Chandrachud who persuaded the son to receive 50% and Justice Suresh retaining 50%. This litigation caused him immense mental trauma, but he would not buckle down under pressure. Rarely do we find a man of such immense moral strength and values.

I personally regarded him as my mentor and guide and he treated me like his own daughter. At my age which runs into the seventies, it is difficult to find someone, one can respect as a mentor and guide but one could, without hesitation, confer this title on Justice Suresh.

When the litigation unit faced its worst challenge, Justice Suresh stood firmly on its side. He had the moral strength to counter the allegations hurled against the legal centre and its functionaries. He provided us much-needed legitimacy. Because of his support, the legal centre survived. I am deeply indebted to him and miss his loss very acutely at a very personal level.

He led an active life till the very end. His last public lecture was fittingly the prestigious M.C. Chagla Memorial Lecture which he delivered on March 7, 2020 at the Mumbai University. He appeared very pale and delivered the lecture seated. But his mind was sharp as he highlighted seven decades of human rights in India, tracing its successes and failures and lamented that various institutions set up with high expectations have been reduced to just token mechanisms.

The issue of the flagrant violations of basic human rights of the unorganised sector workers, now called "migrant labourers," and the loss of life and livelihood thanks to the sudden lockdown, had not

even surfaced then. It is my hope that the legacy he has left behind will be carried forward by all those who have worked with him and hold him in high esteem.

But at Majlis we know that the void he has left behind is irreplaceable because it is not just about defending human rights. It is about living by the values and principles one has set for oneself both in public and personal life for the personal is every bit the political.

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## **IT'S GREAT TO BE HITTING THE ROAD & MEETING PEOPLE AGAIN!**

*Courtesy - Michael Sean Winters, NCR*

Now that the pandemic is mostly! (?) in the rear-view mirror, it feels great to be hitting the road and meeting people again. I like working from home and my dog - St. Bernard, Damiana, loves it! — and Lord knows Zoom and the phone were lifelines during the shutdowns! But there is nothing like the opportunity to meet people when you go to a new city to give a talk or attend a conference.

Recently, on two different trips, I met two very bright students, one finishing his senior thesis at a Catholic university here in the USA. and the other, a doctoral candidate finishing his dissertation at the London School of Economics. Both were writing about neoliberalism, the ideology that we tend to call “neoconservatism” here in the U.S. which turns to market forces to flesh out the common good, both in the economic and the political sphere. And, both were surprised to learn that there was a detailed critique of neoliberalism found in Catholic social teaching.

How is this possible? The first student had spent four years at a Catholic university. The second was studying in the secular realm of the London School of Economics, but he was from a Catholic culture in Latin America. Both were intrigued by what I had to say on the subject. I pointed them to a review I posted in February of Anthony Annett’s wonderful new book *Cathonomics: How Catholic Tradition Can Create a More Just Economy*. Both new friends said they would get his book.

It is often said that Catholic social teaching is the church's "bestkept secret." It is time to make it a lot less of a secret. If I have come to any basic conclusion in my time here at NCR for these many years, it is this: There is no problem in American public life that is not made more solvable by viewing it through the lens of Catholic social doctrine. Politics, economics, culture, all benefit from the ideas and applications of Catholic social doctrine, from immigration to fighting fascist nationalism, from attacking income inequality and ensuring the dignity of workers, from creating a culture that is inclusive without lapsing into an identity politics that is corrosive of human dignity, that respects life at every stage and cares for our common home, the earth.

Catholic social doctrine should be taught in our schools, but it isn't. When I give a talk at a university, I always ask if they have a business school and if that school is named for a benefactor. The answer is almost always in the affirmative. Then, I like to tease my hosts a bit: "I would never send any child of mine to a business school at a Catholic university unless it was called the Dorothy Day School of Business." The comment gets a laugh but I wish it would get more than a laugh.

We Catholics in the United States live at a time when our conservative co-religionists complain that those of us on the religious left are guilty of being accommodationists with the ambient culture, but if there is a conspicuous instance of abandoning the Gospel in order to fit in to the ambient culture it is found in the ease with which we Catholics have adopted the norms and values of our corporate, consumerist culture. I seem to remember reading something about a camel passing through the eye of a needle in the Gospels.

I am convinced that Catholics need to bring our social teaching to the world.

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**PLEASE NOTE THE CASK UPDATED WEBSITE**

**[www.caskmangalore.org](http://www.caskmangalore.org)**

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# CANCER

**We have TWO Options  
Medically & Emotionally  
GIVE UP OR FIGHT WITH ALL ONE'S MIGHT**

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**"I survived because the FIRE inside me burned brighter  
than the FIRE around me"..... Joshua Graham**

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**LET US.....Support the Fighters  
.....Admire the Survivors  
.....Honour the Taken  
.....And Never Ever Give Up Hope**

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