

Mangalore

Organ of the Catholic Association of South Kanara
Pio Mall, Third Floor, Jail Road, Bejai, Mangalore 575 004 Ph: 0824-2491733
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“Just Remember,
the True Spirit
of Christmas Lies
in Your Heart.”

The silent night would
speak all the memories.

– Aviyrik

*The Christmas spirit will elude you 'til a selfless love
consumes you and the joy of giving moves you.”*

- Richelle E. Goodrich

CATHOLIC ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH KANARA (CASK) REUNION -2022



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CATHOLIC ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH KANARA

Founded in 1914
(Regn. No. MNG/130/2021-2023)

CATHOLIC ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH KANARA

Pio Mall, 3rd Floor,
Jail Road, Bejai,
Mangalore - 575 004
Ph: 2491733, 4271733

OFFICE BEARERS

President

Capt. Vincent P. F. Pais
vincent.pais@gmail.com
9343569302

Vice Presidents

Dr Rohan Monis
Archibald Menezes

Secretary

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GOVERNING COUNCIL MEMBERS

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Trisha D'Souza, Marjorie Texeira,
Stephen Mascarenhas,
Ullhas Rasquinha,
Mario Saldanha, Dr Derek Lobo

Editor

Patricia Lobo, 9986268404
derpatlobo@hotmail.com

Editorial Team

Joan Lobo, Trisha D'Souza,
Dr Anand Pereira,
Stephen Mascarenhas

Email

caskmangalore@yahoo.com
caskmangaluru@gmail.com

Website

www.caskmangalore.org

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EDITORIAL

Christmas 2022 is on the horizon. As highlighted on the front cover, the true spirit of Christmas lies in our heart and the heart of each of us should extend to our less fortunate brothers and sisters even as we indulge in exchanging gifts within the family and circle of friends.

United Nations has declared that the population of the world crossed the **8 Billion** landmark on 15th November 2022! It is a real worry whether there will be enough food, water and energy to support our growing population. While human activity is undoubtedly driving the climate crisis, population growth is a red herring. Elon Musk has said that “population collapse due to low fertility rates is a much bigger risk to civilization than global warming”. As Population experts have opined – Instead of wondering whether we have too many or too few people, we should be asking how we can sustainably meet the needs of the people we have. Education and development are certainly effective at reducing the number of children that people want, so should receive high priority.

The Back Cover of the November issue was dedicated to the International Day of Violence Against Women (VAW). We are happy to note that there is an organization in Mangalore that creates awareness in schools about this universal problem. Please read the article by Ratna Pinto – CASK GC member.

We have in this issue extracts from an interesting book ‘**Insights into Colonial Goa**’ authored by Philomena & Gilbert Lawrence related to “**Shippies**” from the Goan, East Indian and Mangalorean (GEM) communities. Many Shippies” are members of CASK including the current President-Capt Vincent Pais and Past President-Capt J.P.Menezes (2014-2016). We hope the extracts from this book will be of interest to all GEMs.

The Annual CASK Reunion was organized on 19th November 2022 at the Mangalore Club. As usual, it was a spectacular success with over 400 guests who had a very enjoyable evening. We are grateful to the Convener – Ms Nayana Fernandes and her team for their superb

planning and organization and to all the sponsors and donors.

I am in USA for the past two months and just celebrated ‘Thanksgiving Day’ with our son and family and a few dear friends. ‘**Thanksgiving**’ is a beautiful custom followed in North America which brings family and friends together to thank God for all blessings received. My thoughts went out to all our family and friends in India, including CASK friends. These thoughts extend to Christmas 2022 – I wish all the readers of “Mangalore”, a joyful Christmas followed by a happy, healthy and fruitful new year 2023!

Until next time.....Patsy Lobo



THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS...

The month of December brings in Advent. For us Christians, advent means hope, peace, joy & love. God's great love for mankind was shown when he became man and dwelt amongst us to redeem and save us. The thought of Christmas fills us with joy, excitement and exuberance. However things have changed a lot since our childhood Christmas and the present day Christmas. With more emphasis being given to the commercial aspect of Christmas these days than the spiritual

This year we had our CASK Reunion in November, ahead of all the other Christmas and wedding celebrations. For us this was special and we are really thankful to almighty God for the blessings he showered on us during the year. We are also grateful to all our donors and benefactors for their generous contributions towards our charities. At this event CASK tried to show-case the programs carried out during the year and we also raised funds for the running expenses. More and more people are becoming aware of the humanitarian work we do and the transparency in our accounts and affairs. We hope the next generation will carry forward the good work done by our organisation.

Christmas "Kuswar" and weddings are all part of the traditional Mangalore festivities at this time of the year. Everyone looks forward for this season and it is also a time when families come down to Mangalore to soak in the Christmas atmosphere

December sees us bidding goodbye to the old year and ringing in the new, a time for New Year resolutions and new beginnings. Let us pause for a moment to remember those members who have left us. May they rest in peace and intercede for us from their heavenly abode. We take this opportunity to wish all our members' patrons and supporters a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year. Do pray specially for the CASK organisation so that we may continue our mission of service and charity to the community around us. Our monthly magazine and our website "caskmangalore.org" highlight our achievements during the year and also our reunion pictures.

Capt Vincent Pais

CASK REUNION 2022

CASK celebrates 'Reunion' to the tunes of songs, musical extravaganza and entertainment

Stephen Mascarenhas

The annual CASK 'Reunion' was celebrated with all the fanfare and entertainment on Saturday, November 19, 2022 at the Mangalore Club. A housefull audience enjoyed the three-hour celebration in both English and Konkani with much gaiety and enthusiasm.

The program kick-started at 8.00 p.m. with a prayer service led by Joan Lobo, assisted by Olivia Pereira, Geeta Pereira and Rose Saldanha. They thanked the Almighty for all the favours and blessings received by CASK during the year and also on the numerous projects spearheaded by the association. The sponsors of the program, benefactors and contributors during the Covid times were also thanked. They also prayed for the good health of CASK members and eternal peace to the departed members, well-wishers, etc.

The president, Capt Vincent C Pais delivered the welcome address highlighting the people friendly projects initiated by the association over the years and thanked all the supporters, including the Governing Council members and other members who were instrumental in the implementation. He called upon the audience to enjoy every moment of the evening. The eternal song '**Showers of Blessings**' was sung in English and Konkani.

Music director Rajini Lobo Patrao recounted the music down the ages and in particular paid glowing tributes to the **late Vimala Lobo** who put Mangalore on the world musical map. She described her as a 'one woman institution' who during her times popularized music, performing art, classical songs which were then recreated by a group of singers in English, Konkani, French, Spanish, Tulu and Kannada. The singers - Brandon Braganza, Cheryl Colaco, Simona Fernandes, Neil Rego, Aarthi Rego, Dr Lennon D'souza, Tiala Rego and Trisha Lara D'souza brought these memories to light. They sang to the tunes of the band '**BLCK**'.

The compere for the evening, Sabrina Britto Hougaard in her inimitable style conducted the spot prizes. A cake made by Matarani

Mathias was taken around asking guests to guess the weight of the cake. Mrs Therese Saldanha was the lucky winner.

'BLCK' the musical band consisting of Roven Anchan-the base guitarist, Royster D'Cunha & Garith Moraes-on keyboard, Kenrick Pinto, playing the rhythm guitar, Issiah Fernandes, the lead guitar and Tarun Jian on the drums belted out some of the legendary songs of John Denver (Brandon Braganza), Annie Marie songs with dancers (Simona Fernandes), Hawaiian song, Ioha Mahalo, Elvis Presley, Abba (dancing Queen), Chris Norman (by Tialla Rego), Whitney Houston (Trisha D'Souza) with freestyle energetic dancers. Ramona Mathias showcased a beautiful 'Broadway versus Bharatnatyam dance; following this, the whole band and singers got together to sing Michael Jackson's all-time hit number - **Heal the World**.

In the Konkani segment, the icing on the cake was the three historic songs by the legendary Konkani Kogul Wilfy Rebimbus, rendered by his own son, Vishwas Rebimbus accompanied by Sheryl and Shireen Colaco. The threesome sang the great hit, **'Hanv Yetam'go Ghati Devon'**, then a song sung by the maximum number of singers worldwide - **Mog Tuzo Kitlo Ashelom** and the third mesmerizing song, **Suryachya Kirnani**. The awestruck audience listened to all the three songs with rapt attention.

Marjorie Texiera presented a humorous and satiric Konkani comedy skit, 'Sairik Zai' with her usual sporadic wit. The whole troupe then joined together for a dance sequence to the tunes of a Konkani song. The young and energetic Jake Texeria conducted a game of 'Housie' by involving all the people in the crowd. DJ Kiran Fernandes then took over and offered a blend of western and Bollywood songs to the delight of the audience who danced the night away.

Nayana Fernandes, the past president of CASK was the convener and the brain behind the Reunion event. She ensured that all arrangements were in place - the stage, seating arrangement, display of sponsors' banners, musical spread, skits and food at the end of the program. The well-known food supply chain in the city - Jo Jo Caterers arranged the food and beverages. Dr Anand Pereira, Secretary-CASK proposed a vote of thanks.

In summary, a delightful, very entertaining and well organized event.

CHALLENGES ON ‘WORLD DAY OF THE POOR’!

Fr. Cedric Prakash SJ

On 17 October 2022, the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), released its annual Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (GMPI) report ‘*Unpacking deprivation bundles to reduce multidimensional poverty*’. The GMPI 2022 compares acute multidimensional poverty for 111 countries in developing regions. These countries are home to 6.1 billion people - 3/4th of the world’s population. Of these people, 1.2 billion (19.1%) are identified by the 2022 GMPI as multidimensionally poor.

The report, for the first time, dedicated a special section focusing on the 15-year trend of poverty in India. It reveals that over the past 15 years, the number of poor people has declined by 415 million! However, India still has the highest number of poor people (almost 229 million) in the world. Besides, India hosts the highest number of poor children - 97 million children (21.8% of Indian children). Children (under age-18) account for 50% of poor people in India. This means that one in every three children, lives in poverty. About 94 million people (8.1%) above the age of 60 are poor. The 2019-2021 data revealed that around 16.4% of the Indian population is poor; of these, 4.2 % live in extreme poverty. About 18.7% of the population is vulnerable and could be pushed into extreme poverty. Of these, two-thirds fall into the category where one person is at least deprived of nutrition.

All this, is not good news for India, where corruption is rampant and climate change is affecting sectors like agriculture and fisheries. The poor are getting poorer. It is certainly not a compliment for the country, when in the ‘Human Development Report 2021-22 **“Uncertain Times, Unsettled Lives: Shaping our Future in a Transforming World”**, by the UNDP, India is ranked 132 among 191 countries and territories on the 2021 Human Development Index (HDI). India’s ranking in Global Hunger Index 2022, also released in October, is now an unacceptable 107 out of 121 countries!

It is this context, the reality which grips India and so much of the

world today, that the Catholic Church observes on 13 November 2022, the sixth **‘World Day of the Poor’**. Pope Francis in his powerful message for the day on the theme *“For your sakes Christ became poor”*, challenges not only Catholics but the entire world, to respond to the cries of the poor by addressing endemic issues and the structural causes of poverty! He sets the tone of his message in his opening para, *“Jesus Christ... for your sakes became poor”*. *With these words, the Apostle Paul addresses the first Christians of Corinth in order to encourage their efforts to show solidarity with their brothers and sisters in need. The World Day of the Poor comes this year as a healthy challenge, helping us to reflect on our style of life and on the many forms of poverty all around us.”*

Pope Francis addresses the global scenario including the current war in Ukraine. He strongly says, *“here the situation is even more complex due to the direct intervention of a “superpower” aimed at imposing its own will in violation of the principle of the self-determination of peoples. Tragic scenarios are being reenacted and once more reciprocal extortionate demands made by a few potentates are stifling the voice of a humanity that cries out for peace”*. Further adding, *what great poverty is produced by the senselessness of war! Wherever we look, we can see how violence strikes those who are defenseless and vulnerable. We think of the deportation of thousands of persons, above all young boys and girls, in order to sever their roots and impose on them another identity. Millions of women, children and elderly people are forced to find safety by seeking refuge as displaced persons in neighbouring countries. How many others remain in the war zones, living each day with fear and the lack of food, water, medical care and above all human affections? In these situations, reason is darkened and those who feel its effects are the countless ordinary people who end up being added to the already great numbers of those in need. How can we respond adequately to this situation, and to bring relief and peace to all these people?*

Pope Francis deals with critical issues which make the poor, poorer and the rich, richer. *“We know that the issue is not money itself, for money is part of our daily life as individuals. Rather, we should consider*

the value that we put on money: it cannot become our absolute and chief purpose in life - such attachment to money clouds our gaze and blinds us to the needs of others. Nothing worse could happen to us as a community than to be dazzled by the idol of wealth, which ends up chaining us to an ephemeral and bankrupt vision of life”.

According to the ‘World Inequality Report 2021, the top 1% of Indians now own 33% of the country’s wealth compared to 31.7% previously. The top 10% own 64.6% of the country’s wealth, up from 63.9%. The share of the bottom 50% cent now stands at 5.9%, down from 6% earlier. India thus stands out as a poor and one of the most unequal countries in the world with a small and very affluent elite. This is a disgrace and totally unacceptable!

Pope Francis then hits out at the traditional ‘charity’, ‘benefactor’ top-down approach, which has been a very comfortable way of proceeding for many Christians and others. He calls it the “*welfare mentality*”. He insists on a rights-based approach saying, “*no one must say that they cannot be close to the poor because their own lifestyle demands more attention to other areas. This is an excuse commonly heard in academic, business or professional, and even ecclesial circles. None of us can think we are exempt from concern for the poor and for social justice*”. *There is an urgent need to find new solutions and policies for the poor that include the poor in decision making and part of projects that brings people together” (Fratelli Tutti, 169).*”

Pope Francis may not endear himself to many of the rich when he says, “*The poverty that kills is squalor, the daughter of injustice, exploitation, violence and the unjust distribution of resources. It is a hopeless and implacable poverty, imposed by the throwaway culture that offers neither future prospects nor avenues of escape. It is a squalor that not only reduces people to extreme material poverty, but also corrodes the spiritual dimension, which, albeit often overlooked, is nonetheless still there and still important. When the only law is the bottom line of profit, nothing holds us back from seeing others simply as objects to be exploited; There no longer exist such things as a just salary or just working hours, and new forms of slavery emerge and entrap persons who lack alternatives and are forced to accept this*

toxic injustice simply to eke out a living.

Reading Pope Francis message in its entirety certainly provides much food for thought, for prayer and reflection, for internalization and action. In his final para, Pope Francis provides all authentic disciples of Jesus with an unequivocal direction “*May this 2022 World Day of the Poor be for us a moment of grace. May it enable us to make a personal and communal examination of conscience and to ask ourselves whether the poverty of Jesus is our faithful companion in life*”.

Will we in the Church) – hierarchy, clergy, religious and laity, have the prophetic courage to take the challenges of Pope Francis seriously and ensure concrete implementation in the here and now?

.....

POINTS TO PONDER - DECEMBER 2022

Norbert Shenoy

Conference of Parties (COP) 27 – Pilgrim’s Progress?

As in John Bunyan’s Pilgrim’s Progress, the climate pilgrimage from Glasgow (COP-26) to Sharm el Sheik=Egypt (COP-27), has made little progress. As the gavel went down on 20th November, 2022, to mark the end of COP27, the closing spectacle evoked the picture of siblings quibbling even as their ancestral home was on fire! After all the sound and fury, all that was achieved at COP27 was setting up of **“Loss & Damage Fund”**.

At the heart of the climate debate was the question of finance without which neither “mitigation” nor “adaptation” and compensation for “loss and damage”, the three broad approaches of the strategy to deal with climate crisis, would yield hardly any results. The Green Climate Fund has raised barely \$ 10 billion over about 8 years after

what now appear to be hollow promises made at the Paris climate summit to contribute \$ 100 billion annually. And the finance has morphed from grants to loans or insurance and guarantees. The latest UN report on “adaptation” says that international adaptation finance flows to developing countries are 5 to 10 times below estimated needs and the gap is widening with estimated adaptation needs requiring around \$ 160 to 240 billion by 2030. Developing countries need same level of funds for “mitigation”. The only hope seems to be a financially and technically feasible, public private global initiative for tech transfer, of the sort initiated during vaccines for Covid.

“Mitigation” refers to measures to prevent further global warming by reducing emissions, phasing out fossil fuels with accelerated adoption of renewable energy, electric mobility, etc. In spite of the efforts of the preceding 26 Conferences of Parties (COPs) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, what is achieved so far falls far short of what is required to ward off a climate disaster. As per the recent Emission Gap Report, 2022, even if all the countries do fully, what they voluntarily agreed to do, the world will be warmer by 2.6C by the end of the century as compared to the average temperature of the pre-industrialisation era. Today the planet is hotter by 1.1C and we are already witnessing horrific climate events like cyclones, hurricanes, heat waves, massive forest fires, rise in sea levels due to heat driven expansion of sea water and melting of polar and glacial ice. The secondary effects will be disease, displacement of people, water scarcity and the attendant social tensions.

Given the inequity and inadequacy of the “mitigation” initiative, countries are increasingly focusing on the “adaption” leg of the strategy to contain adverse effects of climate change. While mitigation calls for concerted action at the global level, adaptation is more locally oriented. At the city and township levels, adaptation measures would include, among other things, building storm water drains, rescue boats, shelters to house people affected by natural calamities, distributed electricity systems such as mini grids that can quickly come online, sufficient stocks of food and medicines, preserving and renewing wetlands and water bodies and regulatory and infra initiatives to preserve and recharge ground water table.

The third leg of the climate strategy is essentially to ensure climate justice. Climate justice calls for the recognition and acceptance of the fact that the developed world accounts for most of the stock of carbon in the atmosphere since the dawn of industrial era. So climate justice would have to play out not just in terms of the developed world spelling out emission goals, but also paying poor countries which are devastated by disasters caused by climate change. Hence the urgent need for “Loss & Damage” fund. It is some consolation that COP 27 was at least able to set up a Loss & Damage Fund. But as usual the devil is in the details. Much will depend on some crucial details, such as who will contribute to the fund and how much and more importantly who will be eligible for assistance from the fund. At the moment, there is no clarity on the size of the fund. Going by the track record of developed countries, such as their poor contributions to the green climate fund and their faltering commitments to mobilize \$100 billion for the developing countries to help them fight climate change, a lot of difficult negotiations are lying ahead. Typically, the can has been kicked down the road by setting up a “transitional committee” tasked with responsibility of operationalising the fund and determine the composition, mandate and timelines of the fund.

A case of Nero fiddling while Rome was burning?
