

Mangalore

Organ of the Catholic Association of South Kanara

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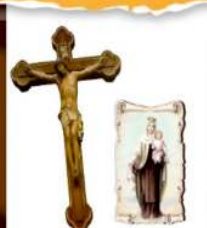
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Founded in 1914

(Regn. No. MNG/130/2024-2026)

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EDITORIAL

30th January is observed as World Leprosy Day in India. The day was chosen on the day Mahatma Gandhi, father of the nation was martyred in view of the abiding interest bestowed by Mahatma Gandhi on Leprosy Affected. Though the burden of leprosy has been substantially reduced in all countries including India, our country accounts for nearly 60% of the global new cases. This is a matter of concern and we should do everything possible to further reduce the numbers. We have the true life story of a leprosy affected person, who against all odds, triumphed with his two sons working as IT professionals in reputed companies. The Back Cover has the photograph of Pope Francis and WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy – Yohei Sasakawa with the banner **“Don’t Forget Leprosy”**. WHO has proclaimed the Goal of **“Zero Leprosy” by 2030**. I wish and pray that we will achieve this goal.

February 4th is observed as World Cancer Day. The Theme for 2024 is **“Close the Care Gap”**. All of us should support the theme. We have a testimony from a Cancer survivor with many lessons.

We have been featuring articles by Gilbert and Philomena Lawrence related to the Goan, East Indian and Mangalorean diaspora in the recent issues of the Mangalore magazine. We have one more of their article in this issue.

One of the recent hot topics in India has been the **“One Nation-One Election”** suggestion. We have the response from Indian Catholic Forum on this subject.

In the November 2023 issue of “Mangalore”, we devoted one page highlighting the placement of flowers/candles on 439 **“unattended” graves** in the Milagres and Angelore cemeteries. Many people appreciated this gesture courtesy but Mr Clement Silva of Bangalore has gone a step further and **donated Rs.99,000/-** to the CASK Centenary Trust in furtherance of this project. We thank Clement whole heartedly. We are looking into the best way to utilize this donation.

We are pleased to feature three books authored by Vinay Silva of Bangalore and a book where our member Mrs Eulalia D’Souza is one among 18 authors of the book titled “Women in Business Technology & Management” Edited by P.Koshy and Anita Joyce.

Our regular contributors – Norbert Shenoy, Joan Lobo and Veronica Shearer never fail us!

Until next time.....Patsy Lobo



THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS...

We are well into 2024 after a joyous beginning. After the New Year celebrations and the festivals that followed, we are slowly settling down. There is also a lot of instability in the world. War in the Middle East, the plight of the Palestinian people in

Gaza, who are sandwiched between the warring factions of Israel, Hamas and Hezbollah; Attacks by the Houthi militia on the main shipping route in the Red sea and the indirect involvement of Iran in the conflict; Ukraine Russia war; Tension in the Far East after the election in Taiwan. These are all worrying situations. We do not know the outcome of all these conflicts but we pray that peace is restored at the earliest.

This year we will also have the general elections in India. Omicron virus is also still hovering around. As we are approaching the Lenten season which starts on the 14th of February, let us focus more on our spiritual life 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.”

India Celebrated its 74th Republic day. The constitution of India upholds the rights of the minorities. However violence against religious minorities, disruption of services at the places of worship, and public

threats by the people in power is what we are witnessing. This is a jubilee year as we usher in 2025 at the end of this year. Christianity is surviving well after so many years and will survive for many more years to come, irrespective of the challenges ahead.

The centre and the state governments are preparing to present this year’s budget. With the elections round the corner, it is quite a job for the finance minister to do a balancing act. It is always the middle income and lower income people who are affected the most. Retired people suffer the most with the inflation reaching the sky; Savings meant for a comfortable living are 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. Let us pray that senior citizens get some relief in this budget.

Let us hope that the things will improve soon. Valentine’s Day is celebrated on the 14th of February. Our Christian faith is based on love. so let us show our true love towards the marginalised, and the poorest of the poor.

Our ever enthusiastic team conducted a teacher’s enrichment program for 35 teachers of St Aloysius English medium school at Urwa, and PDP program for the visiting Arunachal Students at St. Agnes College. We hope that this year too CASK programs will carry on with the support of our members.

God Bless.....Capt.Vincent Pais

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MAY THEY ALL BE ONE

chhotebhai

A person's dying wish is sacred. Jesus' last desire, when "he raised his eyes to heaven" (Jn 17:1), was "that they may be one like us" (v11) and again "May they all be one" (v21). Jesus' call to oneness (unity) of his disciples was based on his own deep relationship with the Father. That being so, can Christian unity be an optional extra for his disciples?

The word ecumenism is rooted in the Greek *oikoumene* that means "the whole inhabited world". It is not just about unity among Christians, even though that is what it is usually associated with. We have just concluded the Christian Unity Octave (CUO) that is celebrated between 18th-25th January every year. This is a joint effort of both the Catholic Church and the World Council of Churches. Is it an annual ritual or something that is deeply spiritual, like the Father-Son relationship?

The Second Vatican Council (1962-65) took ecumenism very seriously, with its decree "Unitatis Redintegratio". It affirms that "Promoting the restoration of unity among all Christians is one of the chief concerns of the Second Vatican Council" (UR No 1). "The Catholic Church accepts them with respect and affection as brothers" (UR No 9). "Worship in common is not merely possible, but is recommended" (UR No 15).

This is because the "Dogmatic Constitution of the Church" (*Lumen Gentium*) minces no words when it states "The Church recognises that in many ways she is linked with those who, being baptised, are honoured with the name of Christian ... Likewise in some real way they are joined with us in the Holy Spirit ... In all of Christ's disciples the Spirit arouses the desire to be peacefully united" (LG No 15).

Perhaps the most beautiful expression of unity is to be found in the Psalms, "How good, how delightful it is to live as brothers all together. It is like fine oil, on the head running down Aaron's beard onto the collar of his robes. It is like the dew of Hermon falling on the heights of Zion, for there Yahweh bestows his blessings, everlasting life" (Ps 133:1-3)

The saddest day in church history probably is 16/7/1054 when two papal legates left a papal bull (notification) on the altar of the church of Patriarch Michael Cacularius in Constantinople (Istanbul today) ex-communicating him and his followers. The bull was signed by Pope Leo IX, who ironically died on 19/4/1054, while his legates were still on their way to Constantinople. The Patriarch, in a tit-for-tat move, then ex-communicated the Pope and all the western churches. This came to be known as the Great Schism of the East.

I have two questions. How could a papal bull be executed when there was a sede vacante (the chair was vacant)? The death of the Pope at such a time could also have meant that the Lord of love and unity was not pleased with this divisive act!

This mutual ex-communication (I have never been comfortable with the term) between the Catholic and Orthodox churches took 911 years to be revoked; when Pope Paul VI and Patriarch Athenagorus embraced each other in 1965. That is one long wait. In today's fast paced world of instant and breaking news, can we allow any rift to drift for so long?

If I understand correctly, the Catholic Church's earlier attitude was that of the father looking out for his prodigal son(s) to return to the fold, in organic unity. In India this found fruition on 20/9/1930 when a part of the Malankara Church in Kerala, led by Metropolitan Archbishop Mar Ivanios, was received into full communion with the Catholic Church by the papal legate Bp Maria Benziger of Quilon. It is now known as the distinctive Syro-Malankara Rite, within the Catholic Church. This re-unification apparently was the fruit of 300 years of strenuous efforts.

I suspect that after Vatican II the emphasis or goal changed from organic to sacramental unity, especially with the Anglican, Episcopalian and Lutheran Churches, that seemed doctrinally closest to the Catholic Church. Here in India, members of sister churches are permitted to receive Communion in the Catholic Church under certain conditions; like belief in the Holy Eucharist, being free from serious sin, and non-availability of their own pastor. These are positive signs of a thaw in earlier frosty relations, couched in a superiority complex.

Christian ecumenism has moved a step further. It is no longer restricted to organic or sacramental unity. The emphasis now is on unity of purpose and action, and solidarity in times of crisis; the need of the hour. If not now then when? Armchair critics and wheelchair warriors (pardon the terminology), please note.

Pope Francis, like his 13th century namesake, St Francis of Assisi, is firmly committed to ecumenism and inter-religious dialogue. During this CUO he invited the head of the Anglican Communion, Abp Justin Welby of Canterbury, to Rome. The latter celebrated the Eucharist in St Bartholomew's Church in Rome.

This got the hackles up of some supercilious Catholics. They termed this a heresy (another word that I detest), claiming that in 1896 Pope Leo XIII had declared that Anglican Orders were "absolutely null and utterly void"; as reported by Robert Mickens in *La Croix International* this 27th January. These supercilious beings used derogatory language against both the pope and the archbishop, sarcastically referring to the latter as "Mr Welby"!

This reminds me of the superciliousness of the Pharisees and Sadducees who were reprimanded by John the Baptist. "Brood of vipers ... do not presume to tell yourselves – We have Abraham for our father – because I tell you God can raise children for Abraham from these stones" (Mat 3:7,9). This is a sinister warning to those who consider themselves doctrinally or chronologically superior.

Since I believe in practicing what I preach, I was again chosen the Co-ordinator for this year's CUO in my hometown, Kanpur. We had 5 services, 2 each in Catholic and CNI churches, and one in a Methodist one. I share some interesting sound bytes.

We ensured that the newly consecrated Bishop of Allahabad, Louis Mascarenhas, was present for one of the services. He gave two beautiful examples of lived ecumenism. In Allahabad, now Prayagraj, there is a Bible Seminary that has scholars from 32 different sister churches. In Etawah, also in U.P., there is St Mary's Church that is used for services of both the Catholics and CNI. Even their pastors live together on the same campus.

This year the organisers of the CUO chose “Unity is Strength” as their caller tune. Rev Nitin Cutting of All Souls’ Church (CNI) said that unity did not mean uniformity; there could be unity in diversity. Rev Nitin Lal of the Methodist English Church gave an example of the NCC, whose motto was “Unity & Discipline”. Unless we discipline ourselves we will never be united.

Rev Antony K.K., Parish Priest of St Patrick’s Church, made a fervent appeal for compassion and service to others, to attain this goal. Dr Clarence Daniel, Principal of Christ Church Inter College, said that our ego is the biggest stumbling block to unity.

It recalled to my mind this little formula: $EGO - E + D = GOD$. Sometimes just a minor course correction can work wonders. There is another course correction that I had proposed – to refrain from using the term “denominations”, normally used for currency notes. It was a term used by the colonial British to differentiate Christians. I always use the term “sister churches”, which is more scriptural. “Let anyone who can hear, listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches” (Rev 3:22). Notice that the word is used in the plural, not singular.

Kanpur has had a long ecumenical history. My own experience dates back to 1971 when we had organised a united Christmas Carol programme. Thousands of Christians came out onto the streets in the 1970s against the draconian O.P. Tyagi Bill. In 1990 we took 13 buses to New Delhi for the rally at the Boat Club Lawns, in support of Dalit Christians. During the floods on the banks of the Ganga we had organised a three day medical relief camp. At the time of the Kargil War in 1999 a large collection was made for the army welfare fund.

I am now reminded of the words of Rev Kenneth Sharp of the Brotherhood of the Ascended Christ, an Anglican religious order. ‘We may be divided on various issues – doctrinal, sacramental or ecclesiological. But we can always be united in service (diaconia). So be it (Amen)

** The writer is the Co-ordinator of the Christian Unity Octave in Kanpur.*

VALENTINE'S DAY WITH A DIFFERENCE!!

Veronica Shearer

This year, Valentine's Day falls on Ash Wednesday. Not many people in the world or even in our communities in the West would realise that the forty days of preparation for the Lord's death and His resurrection also begins on this day for lovers and for love. Ironically, I think it is the perfect day to begin Lent. Jesus died for LOVE and with LOVE. Catholics around the world will decide what they are going to give up. What sacrifices they will make for these forty days. But dear friends, let us look at Lent with a positive outlook. Let positive actions be our motto. Do good to those who have hurt you. Contribute your time and energy to charitable causes or donate to causes that need your help. Let us look at Lent with a different lens – put yourself in the story of the death and resurrection of Jesus. We are a resurrection people.

The story begins with Jesus's triumphal entry into Jerusalem. He is riding on a donkey. We then have the Passover meal that Jesus shared with his disciples. Jesus takes them to a garden from where he is arrested. Tried, beaten, nailed to a cross – CRUCIFIED. Hold a nail in your hands and feel Jesus is speaking to you. Try to put yourself into the equation by taking on the persona of each participant in the Passion of Our Lord.

We begin with the donkey. Let us for a moment become the donkey. Nearly all donkeys bear the mark of the cross on their backs...strange but true! We Christians also carry the mark of the cross, given to us in Baptism. We, the donkeys carry Jesus, invisibly. As the lovely hymn goes – Christ has no body but ours. So, on the days we are weighed down with by life's burdens, we remember that we are also bearing Christ to meet the world's pain.

The next participant in the Passion is Judas. Try to put yourself in his shoes. Judas thought that his friend and master was the Messiah. Jesus

spoke with authority. He knew all the Scriptures. He -was the first person that hungered for the Kingdom of God. Judas mistakenly thought that Jesus would fight the Romans too. But what shocked him was that Jesus only spoke about Love. Love your enemies, turn the other cheek, he said! He even washed his disciples' feet as if he was a servant. This is not the Messiah that Judas wanted. Something snapped inside Judas. He could no longer follow this man, Jesus and so betrayed him to the authorities! Now the world blames him for the death of Jesus. Judas couldn't face his betrayal anymore, so he took his own life, hanging himself on a tree. But world, look no further than ourselves. It was our sin, our pride, our refusal to love just as much as Judas's that put Jesus on the cross. We cannot deny it. We hammered in the nails, every one of them, every one of us.

Let us now take on the role of Peter. Yes, Jesus called him Cephas the rock. Jesus relied on Peter. But he denied him. Not once but three times! Wouldn't we have done the same if we were in his place? All the disciples panicked when Jesus was arrested and led away by the soldiers. Some ran away and others followed at a distance, not wanting to be arrested as well. So, when that nosey servant girl asked if Peter knew Jesus, he automatically denied it! She asked him this three times and he denied his master three times. Jesus was arrested, tried, beaten, nailed to the cross and crucified. End of story. Peter's stupidity, his fear and his cowardice, is the same as we feel when we deny our Christian identity for fear of the authorities and yet Jesus loves us.

Think now of the Roman soldier. He didn't know why he was stationed there! Just like us when we are faced with a predicament and we really want to be elsewhere. The Roman soldier had seen many riots but this one was different. When Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey, one would have thought he was God himself! Everyone around was cheering, waving palm branches and shouting 'Hosanna!'. But it quickly changed. He got squeezed in between his own Jewish leaders on one side and the Romans on the other. What did the cowardly

Governor, Pontius Pilate do? He just washed his hands off the whole decision and left Jesus in the hands of the people who cried “CRUCIFY HIM! CRUCIFY HIM!” Did they expect Pilate to bang the nails in himself? No, that was the job of the Roman soldier. He had killed many men and hoisted them up on a cross. But this one was different. Right through his trial – when he was led away, even when he was dressed in a purple robe with a crown of thorns on his head and mocked, derided, he didn’t flinch. Of course, it hurt him but he looked at the soldier without any anger. He was struck on the face, spat on and slapped, but even though he was in such agony, he just looked at the soldier with love and sadness. Even when the soldier nailed him to the wood, he didn’t struggle or rage. He just looked up at the heavens. This was such a godforsaken way to die, slow and very painful. But all he said was “Father, forgive them for they don’t know what they are doing!” He certainly didn’t deserve this shameful death. There was a strange goodness in him. He was if you like, a Son of God! The soldier was deeply ashamed. But what could he do? He was only obeying orders. We too are the same. We blindly obey those in authority.

Can it be that Jesus is speaking to us? For like Peter, there have been times when we pretended not to know Jesus. Full of easy courage we sought the easy way out. Lied to save our skins. Like the soldier who nailed Jesus to the cross we have done things we know are wrong but excused ourselves because we were only obeying orders. We have laughed at someone else’s expense. Like Pilate we have washed our hands off different situations, once again taking the easy way out. Like Judas, there have been times when we have betrayed our friends and geared up to the powerful.

During the three years of Jesus’ earthly ministry, he had hundreds of people listen to him, follow him but many of his closest friends and followers were noticeably absent at the crucifixion. Most had fled; others had gone into hiding. However, the Gospel writers all note the presence of several key individuals who had not fled and instead had chosen to follow Jesus all the way to the cross and beyond. The Gospels

tells us that it was the women who stood at the foot of the cross and greeted their Lord face to face at his resurrection. Who were they?

- Mary Magdalene, a woman from whom Jesus had cast out seven demons, but today is called the Apostle to the apostles. She was the first to arrive at the tomb to anoint the body of the Lord with oils and spices and was the first to witness the resurrection; Jesus entrusted her with taking the good news of his resurrection to his friends. and the other disciples would go on to follow her example.
- Salome, the wife of Zebedee and mother of James and John, the “sons of thunder” and two of Jesus’ disciples.
- Mary, the mother of James the younger and of Joseph
- Mary, the mother of Jesus, and her sister
- Many other daughters of Jerusalem, unnamed women and acquaintances of Jesus

YES, while the disciples fled, women followed Jesus, watching and weeping during Christ’s agonizing moments on and leading up to the cross. They were at the foot of the cross while Jesus’ disciples were in hiding. God entrusted the most powerful and important role in human history to women. Women will always have a role to play in spreading God’s Kingdom on earth. They must take their responsibility seriously. Pope Francis is known to be giving bigger responsibilities to women in the officialdom of the Vatican.

With Valentine’s Day fast approaching, let us live in love with all those we meet. Let LOVE be our Lenten resolution but let it not end at Easter. The journey through Lent into Easter is a journey with Jesus. We are baptized into his life, self-giving, and death; then, we rise in hope to life transformed. This Lent, let us walk with Jesus in his Way of Love and into the experience of transformed life.

FIGHTING MAN'S INHUMANITY TO MAN

Patsy Lobo

Leprosy is a bacterial disease primarily affecting skin and peripheral nerves. It is today considered as the 'LEAST' infectious among communicable diseases and is perfectly curable with 'Multi-drug Therapy' a combination of three drugs.

Unfortunately, in spite of the above facts, the leprosy affected are victims of stigma and discrimination and many of the age-old myths continue. Leprosy is probably the best example of **"Man's Inhumanity to Man"**. However, there are numerous examples of how some of the leprosy affected have turned their pain and anguish to joy and comfort. I wish to present one such **'True' Story**.

Karthik (name changed) "I am from Bidar in Karnataka State. I was in Class-7 when my parents and I were told that I have Leprosy. The first thing that happened was – I was given a separate plate in school and home. I was a kho kho and kabaddi player and I found weakness in my hands and the left foot. The Headmaster told my parents to take me to the Government Hospital in Bidar but my parents took me to a private Skin & Leprosy Clinic headed by Dr Sr Immaculate Rodrigues – she confirmed I had leprosy and comforted my parents by telling them that I would be fully cured within one year. My parents requested Sr Immaculate to keep me with her and were greatly relieved when she agreed".

"After one year of treatment at Bidar, I was sent by Sr Immaculate to Fr Muller Hospital in Mangalore for correction of my deformed hands and feet. This move to Mangalore gave me confidence that my life would be changed and put me on the right track. Prior to that and especially when I was still in Bidar on treatment, I had contemplated to end my life by jumping on the railway track many times. but somehow managed not to do it".

“In Fr Muller Hospital, Dr Nandakishore performed reconstructive surgery of my hands and corrected my left foot-drop. It was now time for me to be discharged and I was not keen to go back to my home in Bidar. I pleaded with Sr Immaculate to help me. She helped me in two ways. First she became a match-maker and arranged for my marriage with a beautiful girl Sujatha (named changed) who also had leprosy including a eye defect. I was delighted to marry Sujatha and start a new chapter in my life. Second, she arranged for my training in Shoe-making at GREMALTES (Greater Madras Leprosy Treatment & Education Scheme) run by the German Leprosy Relief Association). The Director of the Centre was Dr Derek Lobo. The 6-month training I received in shoe making was excellent. Producing special shoes for deformed feet is a specialized and challenging task and I was able to master it.”

“After the 6-month training in shoe making at Chennai, I came back to Mangalore and through the recommendation of Sr Immaculate, I was given the job of shoe maker at the Leprosy Unit of Fr Muller Hospital. I now felt energized and reborn – ready to face the world courageously.”

“In 1993, our first son was born. After his graduation and computer training, he got a job with HCL Technologies (Founder – Shiv Nadar) in Bangalore. He married one of his colleagues and they have given us a grandson. Our second son graduated from St Aloysius College of Management in Beeri and is now in Bangalore working for the Multi-national Wells Fargo. I retired from Fr Muller Hospital in 2021, after nearly 30 years of service. I had a challenging journey of life but in the end, it turned out to be a happy and satisfying journey. The person who shaped my life positively was Dr Sr Immaculate Rodrigues. My family and I shall remain ever grateful to those who have been my well wishers.”

“I am now 65 and my wife is 54. We have seen the good, the bad and perhaps the ugly too but through it all our faith in God has seen us through. Self worth is not dependent on physical appearance but both of us and our children feel good inside our hearts, we feel good psychologically and socially. God gave us the strength to keep trying when we failed, the courage to express our feelings and the determination to be socially responsible.”

Editor - It has been my privilege to know this remarkable family!

THE INQUISITION IN INDIA REVISITED

Extracted from: Insights into Colonial Goa by Philomena and Gilbert Lawrence

Recently a You Tube video circulated on the net entitled “Colonial Hangover & Christian Bias- - How Christians of Karnataka influenced the results in Karnataka”. This should be of interest to Goans and Mangaloreans and other Indo-Lusitanian groups.

This topic also coincides with recent moves made by Prime Minister Modi to develop cordial relations with Christians ... some say in light of the election in Northeast India which has a significant Christian population.

The host and guest did a good job, under the glare of cameras and technical difficulties, of covering the issues of colonial inquisition, current problems being faced by Christians in India, and the recent political impact. Yet from their dialog it would appear neither of them read the Bangalore based historian's book. *Goa's Inquisition: facts, fiction, factoids. 2022 by Alan Machado (Prabhu)*. Sadly, many who comment on the Inquisition have also not read this recent book, available in India. The first glaring claim was the free intermixing of the terms Inquisition and Persecution.

Here are some comments:

The above interview suggests the urgent need for all of us to educate our neighbors, friends, and peers about our culture and history to prevent persistence or spread of misinformation. In 2024, for us to do so, it is incumbent on us to know our history, and definitely stop passing on hand-me-down oral accounts. Many have spent much time and energy to put this information together. But that factual information has to move from books and periodical to daily life and knowledge. And only we individually can read it and pass it on. From personal experience those efforts helps us in our own work environment and life.

Persecution and Inquisition were used to target separate groups to achieve different results. The inquisition was introduced in Portugal

in 1536 and extended to OT in 1560. In both, it was a law and order system, where inquisitor was appointed by Portugal's king and solely responsible to him. The inquisitor did NOT report to church officials in Lisbon or Goa.

In Machado's update, for the entire period of the inquisition in the overseas territories 1560 to 1812 (252 years) a total of 177 persons underwent capital punishment and 154 burnt in effigy. Capital penalty average of seven per decade, for a society under existential threat in the 48+ footholds is well below what would be expected. Among those investigated by the inquisition were the behaviors of captain, chief-finance officers, acting and appointed viceroys, soldiers, tradesmen, and priests. As Machado emphasizes, the Inquisition did not condemn any Hindus for capital punishment.

Christians in India and in the diaspora are the victims of authors who have written our history and commentary with the baggage of being Indophile, Lusophile or Anglophile, bringing out their various biases. Yet before we can educate others about us, we have to educate ourselves. In 2024, we have to stop recounting hand-me-down oral accounts. We need to rely on well-researched and modern books about our history and culture that analyzes the contemporary events both in India and across the world as they impacted on local events. Every effort needs to be made to separate fiction from fact like:

1. Displacement of Indo-Lusitanians occurred from the early days of colonization, mostly due to wars and to a lesser extent famines and epidemics. The frequent wars were with Indian rulers (Bijapur sultan, and Marathas) and European powers (Dutch and British). Those from the Bassein region moved to Bombay and its suburbs along with their language (a dialect of Marathi) to ultimately form the East Indian community. Those from Goa moved along with their Konkani language to South Kanara to form the Mangalorean community. These migrations were NOT related to the Inquisition in Goa.
2. Per historian Machado's review of primary data, in the 250 years of the Inquisition "none of the capital punishment cases were Hindus or non-Christians,"

3. Goa has a long history of foreign rulers being INVITED to the region because of animosity among natives either at the palace or the people.

Some engage in religion-bashing with hand-me-down stories, sometimes to exhibit their false intellectual liberalism. Everyone is entitled to their own opinion, but no one is entitled to their own facts (Daniel Patrick Moynihan US Senator).

Best wishes for the New Year.....Gilbert Lawrence.

INDIAN CATHOLIC FORUM

(Towards a Synodal Church & Secular Society)

ONE NATION – ONE ELECTION (Our Response)

1. **NOTIFICATION:** For such an important issue that could have a major impact on the future of the nation, the notification, in a small newspaper advertisement and the small window afforded to the public for submitting written submissions, is grossly inadequate; raising a basic question, “Is the government really serious about ascertaining public opinion”?
2. **OBJECTIONS:** The Indian Catholic Forum hereby submits and raises serious objections to the idea of “One Nation One Election” (ONOE) for the reasons given below:
3. **LOGIC:** The main logic/ reason given for the ONOE is that it will reduce costs and limit the repeated abeyance of Government schemes because of the Model Code of Conduct. This does not hold water as the difference in expenditure, if at all, will be minimal. Whether elections are held simultaneously or at different times, the Model Code of Conduct will remain in force. In fact a nationwide halt at all levels, down to the Municipal/ Panchayat/ Cantonment levels would pose a GREATER DANGER to the nation, bringing it to a STANDSTILL.
4. **SECURITY:** At present elections in large States like U.P. are staggered over several phases because of security constraints. In a recent judgement on Article 370, the Supreme Court asked for

elections in J&K to be held, preferably with the Lok Sabha elections in 2024. However, the Government rejected the proposal for SECURITY REASONS! This flies in the face of its own convoluted logic for simultaneous elections.

5. **COMMON ELECTORAL ROLL:** This may seem good on paper for Parliament, Assemblies, Municipal and Panchayat elections. What about the 62 Cantonments that have a separate electoral roll that excludes those in municipal limits and vice versa. Cantonment Boards also have an unenviable record of postponing elections indefinitely. Hence this is NOT FEASIBLE.
6. **TERMS OF OFFICE:** It is a reality that various elected bodies have various terms of office that begin and end at different times, sometimes even years apart. It would therefore be grossly unfair to curtail or extend the terms of such bodies just to accommodate a notional ONOE. Some corrupt, criminal and incompetent representatives would get more time for their nefarious activities; while on the other hand some honest and competent representatives could find their good work abruptly cut short. This would amount to a FRAUD on the electorate.
7. **ISSUES:** The issues at municipal/ panchayat/ cantonment levels would vary from those at State or National level. Hence the ONOE would only OBFUSCATE, CONFUSE AND COMPOUND issues affecting the electorate.
8. **COLLAPSE OF ELECTED BODIES:** In the recent past we have seen elected bodies having their majority reduced by allurement or coercion of the representatives. This is making a MOCKERY of the electoral mandate. How will the ONOE respond to such scenarios? Will Governor's/ Administrator's rule be perpetuated ad infinitum? Besides, the role of Governors has become much more partisan and politicised in recent times.
9. **COALITION POLITICS:** When democracy in our country was in its infancy politics was largely binary in nature, with just two options. However, as the electorate has matured it has veered towards coalition governments and diversity at national, state or local level. Coalition politics is more pronounced in European

countries that have had a longer history of democracy. Israel that boasts of its economic and military prowess, is politically the most fragile, with repeated elections and coalition governments. This UNDERMINES the very basis of the ONOE that claims to strengthen the nation.

- 10. BYPOLLS:** They are often caused by the death, resignation of representatives, or adverse judicial pronouncements. Will such constituencies be deprived of elected representatives till the next ONOE? Bypolls cannot be deferred INDEFINITELY.
- 11. DIVERSITY:** We have diversity of language, caste and religion. We also have geographical diversity. If it is hot and dry in one part of the country, it is cold and wet in another part. The ONOE doesn't factor in this DIVERSITY.
- 12. PRESIDENTIAL FORM:** This proposal seems to be a backdoor entry for a Presidential form of government, where an individual becomes greater than the country or even the party. This is contrary to the nation's basic FEDERAL STRUCTURE. Even in the USA that has a Presidential election, with campaigning stretching over a year, there are separate polls for Governors, Senators and House Representatives. They are held by rotation, depending on their terms of office.
- 13. CONCLUSION:** In the final analysis, the ONOE is illogical, ill-conceived and seems highly motivated to favour those presently in power. It will bring the country to a STANDSTILL. It will be a SECURITY NIGHTMARE, IS NOT FEASIBLE; it is UNFAIR to the electorate that will be totally CONFUSED. It will hinder GOOD GOVERNANCE, it is UNDEMOCRATIC; it goes against the DIVERSITY and FEDERAL STRUCTURE of the country. Its only hidden agenda seems to be to introduce a PRESIDENTIAL FORM of government that is against the very idea of modern India. The BALANCE OF CONVENIENCE therefore rests in favour of the status quo ante and the ONOE should be given a swift burial.

For the INDIAN CATHOLIC FORUM,

chhotebhai - CONVENOR

WOMEN IN BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY & MANAGEMENT

ENTREPRENEURSHIP. GENDER, DIVERSITY and INNOVATION

CONTRIBUTORS

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NAVIGATING THE WAVES OF SUCCESS

THE JOURNEY OF MRS EULALIA MARIA D'SOUZA EMPOWERING WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS in TOURISM



In the Coastal City of Mangalore, Karnataka, India, Mrs. Eulalia Maria Dsouza, A visionary entrepreneur, has carved a remarkable legacy through her business, Lia Travels & Tours. Since its inception in 1998, Lia Travels & Tours has not only become a vital player in the tourism industry, handling a significant portion of cruise liners visiting New Mangalore Port,

but has also been a beacon of empowerment for women entrepreneurs.

As a one-person company operating with just four permanent employees and an additional 50 part-time staff, Mrs. Dsouza's journey serves as an inspiring example of resilience, innovation, and the unwavering commitment to promoting gender diversity in the world of business.

CASK CENTENARY TRUST TEACHER ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME

ST ALOYSIUS SCHOOL, URWA PARISH-13TH JANUARY 2024



Prayer Song



Welcome - Headmaster



Address - Correspondent



Lighting of the Lamp



Resource Persons



Resource Persons



CASK Places Flowers / Candles on 439 'unattended' graves at Milagres & Angelore Cemeteries on All Souls Day 2023



The November issue of “Mangalore” had an item regarding the cemeteries at Mangalore. In appreciation of this gesture by CASK, we have received the following message from Mr Clement Silva of Bangalore:

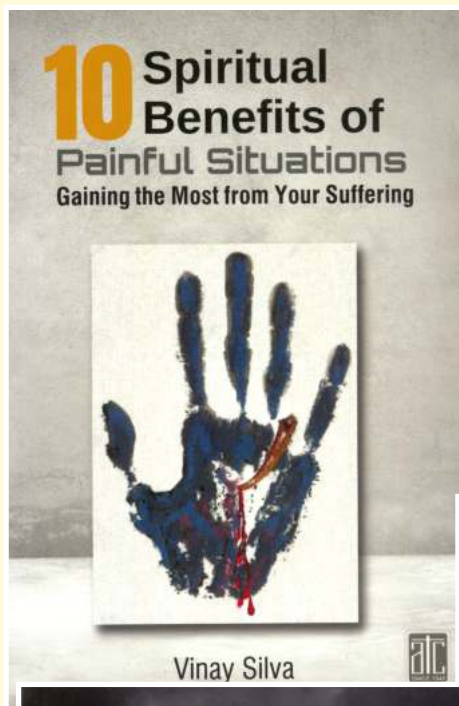
“I would like to support this programme with a donation and so I have sent Rs.99,000/- to CASK Centenary Trust by IMPS today.”

Many people have appreciated this gesture by CASK but **Mr Clement Silva of Bangalore has gone a step further by making a generous donation of Rs.99,000/-**

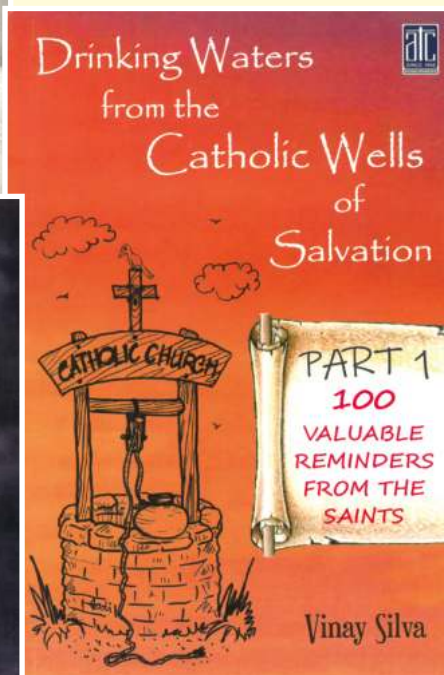
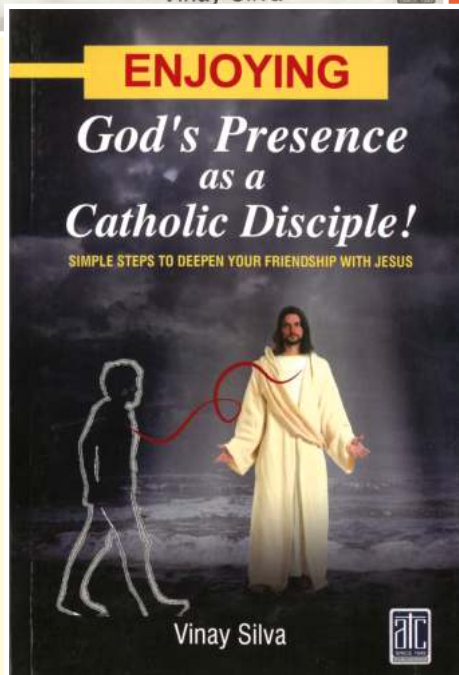
The gesture of Mr Silva highlights the role of the “Mangalore” magazine as a Fund Raiser for CASK and CASK Trust.

CASK Centenary Trust places on record our sincere gratitude to Mr Clement Silva for his encouragement and financial support to this Project.

THREE BOOKS authored by VINAY SILVA



Vinay Silva has shared profound thoughts on spiritual life through his books. Archbishop of Bangalore Most Rev. Dr Peter Machado has commended his efforts and initiatives in sharing his reflections



CASK CENTENARY TRUST TEACHER ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME

ST ALOYSIUS SCHOOL, URWA PARISH-13TH JANUARY 2024



Distribution of Certificates



Video - Mansi Poddar
Renowned Child Psychologist



Participants



Participants & Resource Persons with Fr Benjamin Pinto & Mr Aloysius D'Souza

INDIAN LAWS THAT HAVE IMPACTED INDIANS IN UNFORSEEN WAYS

Swaddle Team Denise D'Souza

1. 1952 - Habitual Offenders Act
2. 1956 - Young Persons Harmful Publications Act
3. 1958 - Armed Forces Special Powers Act
4. 1967 - Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act
5. 1972 - Wild Life (Protection) Act
6. 1976 - Equal Remuneration Act
7. 1976 - Bonded Labour System (Amendment) Act
8. 1985 - Narcotic Drgs & Psychotropic Substances Act
9. 1989 - Scheduled Caste & Scheduled TRibes
(Prevention of Atrocities) Act
10. 1994 - Transplantation of Human Organs & Tissues
Act
11. 1997 - Vishaka Guidelines for Sexual Harassment in
the work-place
12. 2005 - Right to Information Act
13. 2012 - ZERO FIR - following the Nirbhaya Episode

14. 2013 - Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation & Resettlement Act
15. 2015 - Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act
16. 2016 - Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act
17. 2018 - IT (Amendment) Act
18. 2019 - Citizenship Amendment Act
19. 2019 - Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act
20. 2021 - Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Act
21. 2021 - Police Act
22. 2022 - Explosives Act
23. 1948 - UN International Genocide Convention

THANK YOU

DONATIONS TO CASK CENTENARY TRUST

1. Dr Anand & Geeta Pereira - ₹.25,000/- Family Support project
2. Name withheld on request by the donor - ₹.25,000/- for Charitable Projects
3. Name withheld on request by the donor - ₹.10,000/- for Charitable Projects

TEACHER ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME

CASK CENTENARY TRUST organized a TEACHER ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME for Thirty Five (35) teachers of St Aloysius High School, Urwa Parish on 13th January 2024.

The Inaugural session commenced with a prayer song by the teachers followed by a Welcome address by Mr Aloysius D'Souza-Headmaster, Address by Rev Fr Benjamin Pinto-Correspondent and a address by Capt Vincent Pais, President-CASK and Managing Trustee-CASK Centenary Trust. This was followed by the traditional Lighting of the Lamp.

The Technical sessions started with an Ice-breaker – A Video by Mansi Poddar a renowned Child Psychologist, who was bullied as a student by her teachers as well as peers. Her life changed positively thanks to the care and understanding of her 9th Standard Teacher.

This was followed by the following topics by the Resource Persons :

Mindfulness & Self Enhancement as a Teacher – Patsy Lobo

How to be a Passionate & Inspirational Teacher & Teachers as primary providers of Career Guidance - Dr Derek Lobo

Personal Financial Planning - Mr Archiebald Menezes

Media Literacy & Modern Communication – Ms Vidya Shenoy

The Valedictory Session; Distribution of Certificates; Vote of thanks

The programme was highly appreciated by the Headmaster and the teachers who participated.

Please see Photographs on Page - 23 & 26

TESTIMONY OF A CANCER SURVIVOR

- *ANNIE*

Annie was 40 years old when she started experiencing stomach and gynecologic issues. When the symptoms persisted for nine months, she knew something was not right. She reported some of her symptoms to her primary care physician and her “female problems” to her gynecologist. At the time, no one suggested that she might have cancer.

One of Annie’s doctors found a mass thought to be a fibroid. In six weeks, the “fibroid” grew from the size of an orange to the size of a cantaloupe. After exploratory surgery, Annie was diagnosed with stage 2 ovarian cancer in 2004. Her grandmother and an aunt had been diagnosed with breast cancer, but they had been much older, and knowing about their diagnoses did not make her own diagnosis any easier to handle.

Annie struggled to trust herself and felt uncertain about whether she would be able to trust her test results as she moved through treatment. She reasoned: since a scan had not been able to confirm the diagnosis of cancer, how could a scan be trusted to confirm that the cancer was no longer there? She also felt that her body had betrayed her and created this disease.

Anti-nausea medication helped Annie manage side effects of chemotherapy. Unfortunately, there were additional challenges to come. In 2005, one year after completing treatment, Annie’s ovarian cancer recurred, and she received more chemotherapy. The cancer recurred again in 2007. Over the course of her treatment for ovarian cancer, Annie underwent three different surgeries and five different treatments and chose to participate in a phase 1 clinical trial. Then in 2010, Annie was diagnosed with breast cancer. She underwent a lumpectomy and was treated with radiation, Herceptin, and an anti-estrogen therapy. Although she had been sent for genetic testing after her initial ovarian

cancer treatment, now she was referred for more genetic testing, which again was negative.

During those particularly difficult years, when some of her treatments and medications failed, Annie changed her mindset from trying to get rid of cancer to learning to live with it. She made sure to be active in the decision-making processes throughout her treatment and sought out ways to maintain her quality of life and to continue to travel. She found comfort from her family, friends, and co-workers. Laughter proved to be an important medicine. Her sister frequently sent her Muppet movies and other funny videos to keep her spirits high. Annie's parents also came to visit and to support her every time she had surgery.

“And the amount of people who came out of the woodwork and were supportive was just amazing. And the kindness that I encountered, from the cancer center to just being out in the street. When you're bald and with a kerchief on your head and no eyebrows, people know, and it was just really amazing to encounter that much humanity in your darkest moment.”

Despite all the support that Annie had, she still felt like something was missing. Her husband had been concerned about her joining a cancer patient support group; he felt that it might bring additional emotional or mental difficulties. But Annie eventually decided to attend a meeting, and she found the validation that she needed in the group sessions. “I wasn't alone in what I was going through. The things that were happening to me weren't just in my head. They were common to many of us – not being able to sleep, the tummy troubles afterwards, learning how to live with the uncertainty.” Members of Annie's support group showed her that there was life before, during, and after cancer. They taught her how to handle things she couldn't control and how to identify things that she could. She was able to talk with people who had decided to try new treatments for their cancer and those who had

decided to just enjoy the time they had left, and she learned lessons from each and every one of them.

“I think if I could ask for anything sooner, I would ask for help with the stress and the sleeping. When I finally asked for the help, it was like – Why did I wait so long to ask for this?”

After her initial cancer diagnosis, Annie decided to make lifestyle changes. She began exercising more regularly, found ways to keep stress levels down, and made some dietary changes. She has found that perfection is unrealistic and now lives with an 80/20 rule: 80% of the time she will eat nutritional foods, and the other 20% of the time she will eat chocolate and whatever else her heart desires. “Life is sweet. And I think the point of surviving is to live it, to live your life, help others if you can.”

In 2022, Annie marked 15 years and counting since her last ovarian cancer recurrence. Today, she is a cancer research advocate and provides peer support to those going through recurrence(s). She aims to create a world where cancer patients don’t have to decide between survival and quality of life. She works with survivors to support them through their pain, trauma, and triumphs. She is a consistent reminder to others that while cancer is a difficult and challenging journey, there are resources and people in the world to support you.

“You know, there are tears. There’s yelling. There is a lot of pressure to stay positive. But once I let myself feel things and process that, it was easier to be positive. A positive attitude is like shock absorbers. Shock absorbers don’t change the bumps in the road but help make the road seem smoother.” Annie also wants other survivors to know that they should have trust in themselves. “I think there’s no right or wrong way to do cancer.... We’re all individuals. In my book, the survivor is always right. You know, whatever language fits, whatever coping strategy works for you, you do it.”

VISION & MISSION OF CASK

VISION

Striving to create and enrich a connected community that cares, of all those with roots in this beautiful corner of the globe, called Konkani Karaval

MISSION

Reaching out to the marginalized by extending support for their education, health care and housing needs. Preserving and promoting the unique culture of this region and joining hands with all those committed to the preservation of environment.

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.***

**After executing NEFT, please send an email to
caskmangalore@yahoo.com giving details**

Donation to 'CASK Centenary Trust' can be made by Cheque favoring 'CASK Centenary Trust', or NEFT to A/C No – 0046073000061495, South Indian Bank, Hampankatta-Mangalore; IFSC-SIBL0000046.

We are grateful to all members who responded to our appeal to settle pending dues and further renew their subscriptions to the Mangalore Magazine.

LOVE IS A MANY SPLENDOURED THING

Joan Lobo

February has arrived with its gentle embrace to ignite the spirit of love and renewal and to cherish the bonds that warm our hearts. I've always viewed February as a special month for more reasons than one. Met my hubby dearest in this month of love. Many people do not believe in love at first sight, but as someone who experienced it years ago, I can tell you it's magical and for real. However, whether it's about lovers, a spouse, partner, parent, child, pet, or even loving yourself being mindful of the importance of love is a vital life force. Many of us have easily gotten lost in the vortex of life and forget to love ourselves and our loved ones. About February another reason to love this month is that after January with a lot of trial and error that happens, you figure out which new year goals to keep and which to ditch. It is also the month when days are less but love is more.

Talking about love which is a powerful emotion that has the ability to transform lives and create deep connections between people expressing love can take many forms and it is essential to remember that it is not just about words but also about actions.

Love is a many splendored thing lifting us up where we belong, all you need is love." Beautiful lines from the character Christian in the movie Moulin Rouge. The splendour of love is difficult to define, difficult to measure, and difficult to understand. Love is what great writers write about, great singers sing about, and great philosophers ponder. It is a powerful emotion, for which there is no wrong definition, for it suits each and every person differently. Whether love is between family, friends, or lovers, it is an overwhelming emotion that can be experienced in many different ways. Family love is demonstrated through lessons of sacrifice, concern and compassion, from the cradle to the grave.

Caregiving often leads us into a world of love we possibly didn't know. We all need love no matter how old we are, who we've become, who we are with, what we do. Taking care of the elderly gives us an insight

to unconditional love and all they crave in their aging years is nothing but love.

A significant way of showing love is also by being present in people's lives. Whether it's celebrating milestones, happy occasions or even supporting them through tough times, being there for someone is a powerful way to show that you care. Recently celebrating Republic Day at Cheshire Home while the inmates enjoyed every moment of it at the end of the merriment, they expressed how happy they felt sharing a loving bond with get togethers like this. Well said by the great saint Dalai Lama, "Love and compassion are necessities, not luxuries. Without them, humanity cannot survive."

Love can be revealed through small acts of kindness which can go a long way in making someone's day a little brighter. This can be something as simple as a smile or a compliment, or something more substantial, such as offering to buy someone a coffee or helping an elderly person cross the road.. By being kind, we are investing in their happiness.

One of the most important ways to show love towards others is to give a listening ear to those who need it.. When we take the time to truly hear what someone is saying, we are demonstrating that we value them and their thoughts. Listening can be as simple as putting down our phones during a conversation or actively engaging with someone's ideas. From a visit to an old age home recently, I realised that entertaining them with song and dance dint matter as much as communicating with them and giving them a patient hearing.

Being there for others when they need us is an act of love. This can take many forms, such as offering emotional support during difficult times or lending a helping hand when they are in need. When we go out of our way to assist someone, we are showing them love and care. "Give the ones you love wings to fly, roots to come back, and reasons to stay".

Acts of service are another way of showing love towards others. I believe that actions speak louder than words. By offering our time and energy to help others, we convey silently that we care about

peoples well-being and happiness. Speaking the language of love through good deeds touches lives in more ways than one..

Finally, I believe that expressing affection is an essential way to show love. whether it's through hugs, kisses, or words of affirmation, expressing love in a physical or verbal way can be incredibly powerful. Telling our loved ones how much we appreciate them and expressing our love for them regularly can boost their spirits.

To me, love is greater than any other feeling and maybe a cure for all healing and also while knowing the faults of others, still seeing the best in them. There are many different things for one to love, from people and animals, to music or your favourite tv show. I love cooking,” “I’m in love, “ and “For the love of the game,” are ways we express . One type of love, is maybe the love you have for shopping while in your favorite store.”I’m lovin’ it,” is a phrase we hear from McDonalds. We hear about love in movies, in books, and in life most often between a man and his wife which is a love that comes straight from the heart and is sincere, while being passionate and joyous too. Expressing love is easy and you can show it many ways, be it gifting chocolates and flowers particularly on special days. Love may come and go, but the feelings you have shared with special people are priceless, even though it could be through good times and bad. Love is even being patient with the ones you care for extra more, protecting them and keeping them oh so close. Love is a simple word that finds a smile, because at the end of the day it is love that makes the world go round.

As we embrace this month of affection and warmth, let us remember to cherish and celebrate the love that exists in our lives to spread kindness and compassion, not only to our loved ones but also to strangers we encounter on our journey. Let the spirit of love guide us as we navigate the world and may it bring us closer to a future filled with love, joy, and renewal. If you root yourself in love and kindness, your heart will always bloom. Live life to the fullest and give with all your heart cos’ LOVE IS A MANY SPLENDoured THING and let us play our part.

Norbert Shenoy

Mutual Funds (MFs) – The Stream Swells into Mighty River

Market aficionados at the moment are quite possibly fixated on the imminent central budget, if only, to speculate the future course of capital markets. But budgets may come, budgets may go, MFs have continued their triumphant march. Every time Nifty makes a life time high, we witness some champagne popping, but hardly anybody seems to have noticed the aggregate AUM (Assets Under Management) of MFs crossing Rs 50 lac crore in December 2023, a five fold increase in 10 odd years. Of this 59 per cent, that is, nearly Rs 30 lac crores belongs to individual investors. This is almost the same as the money held by individuals directly in stocks, which Primeinfobase estimates at Rs 30.4 lac crores in September 2023. Although hardly recognized, this achievement of the MF industry as a vehicle for wealth creation by changing household saving habits is significant by any reckoning. This milestone was reached in a much shorter period since mid nineteen eighties (ignoring the lonely furrow ploughed by erstwhile UTI), while the stock exchanges have been around since 1875. Taken together, the wealth created by MFs and direct investment in stocks, has unleashed a palpable wealth effect for substantial number of Indian households. This possibly explains why even in spite of sluggish growth in their incomes, many a household is splurging on premium goods and services. In fact, the RBI data estimating household savings in stocks and mutual funds at less than 1 per cent of the GDP tends to downplay the wealth effect, because it computes these savings on the basis of inflows into these assets at cost.

Although there have been ups and downs, MFs have managed to build a long term track record on returns which has weaned the retail investors away from the guaranteed return schemes of dubious unregulated

entities such as PACL and Sahara. Large cap equity funds have delivered 11-16 per cent annualized returns over the last 20 years while debt funds have managed 7 to 9 per cent in a decade.

Even the dumbest investor can succeed in creating wealth over the long term through the MF route. The key phrase is “long term”. It doesn’t require rocket science to invest in an index fund and stay put. If one had invested Rs 1 lac in Sensex in 1980 (when the base value was 100), she would have had Rs 7.3 crores when Sensex crossed 73000 in January 2024! In other words the initial investments would have doubled every 4.25 years or so. Yet the reality is that far too many investors are not happy with their MF investments. Possibly because MF investments are chased for quick gains without any relation to the goals to be achieved over different time horizons, or return expectations have been far too unrealistic prompting investors to exit the schemes prematurely. Equity related funds do create wealth in the long run, but in the short term they carry the risk of wealth destruction as well! Well, the question then is how long is long term? If you take 10 year rolling returns of Sensex since 1980, it will be observed that the investor has never lost his capital. But if you reduce that period to say, 5 years, there could be instances where there would be of loss of capital. So empirical evidence would suggest that long term should be at least 10 years. This point needs to be conveyed to the investors (covered by nearly 14 crore fresh MF folios) who have entered the equity arena in the frothy post-covid market. Whether these investors are aware that equities can deliver capital losses is moot. The challenge for the fund industry is to effectively convey this message and tone down exaggerated investor expectations of returns. May be additional inflows in overheated categories or those with limited liquidity and resultant high impact costs may have to be gated or brought exclusively under Systematic Investment mode. A second issue is that of too much money chasing too few stocks. While AUM of MFs has swelled manifold, the number of investment-worthy stocks has not gone much beyond

500 or so listed names. SEBI could revisit definition of market cap segments in terms of percentiles instead of by groups based on their ranking in the listed universe.

But SEBI certainly has played a role in the stellar growth of the MF industry. Although, quite frequently industry lobbies have urged SEBI to go soft on consumer protection objectives to promote ease of doing business, it is now clear that SEBI mandated hard limits on fees, banning upfront commissions, opening up direct route and ushering in, true-to label rules have anchored the long term growth of MF industry on safe and sound footing. In hindsight at least, it is easy to appreciate that that tight monitoring and regulation have ensured that the size of MF industry has grown to surpass Rs 50 lac crores without any large fraud or scam where investors have had their capital wiped out. (The last such event was the US-64 bailout). However, despite SEBI writing new regulations at a brisk pace, there have been instances of mismanagement and lack of adequate governance. Thanks to quick intervention of the regulator and courts, Franklin Templeton managed to return capital to investors after the AMC abruptly barred investors from redeeming their units in six troubled schemes in 2020. Nevertheless, the shuttering of schemes subjected investors to opportunity costs and prolonged loss of liquidity. This calls for further refinement of the procedure for suo moto lock-in of investors by MFs in their schemes.

Also, how a dealer at Axis MF managed to run an elaborate scam to front run the fund's trade without it coming to the attention of his managers, calls for more stringent risk management, governance and hiring processes. The trust of the investors that the MF industry has earned during last couple of decades can be lost overnight should there be major scam in the industry.

Eternal vigilance is the price of abiding success.

NEWS & NOTES

ST ALOYSIUS COLLEGE-MANGALORE GRANTED 'DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY' STATUS

The University Grants Commission (UGC) and Ministry of Education, government of India, has approved the proposal for the status of Deemed to be University by the well-known St Aloysius College (Autonomous), Mangaluru and granted university status. With this coveted status the institution will from now on be called St Aloysius (Deemed to be University) Mangaluru.



The management of the institution expressed its delight at the prospect of the unique opportunity provided to serve the cause of higher education in this part of the world.



Addressing the media, Fr Praveen Martis SJ, principal of St Aloysius College, expressed his gratitude on this momentous occasion, stating, “In a historic move, St Aloysius Autonomous College becomes St Aloysius Deemed University. With a century-long legacy, this achievement showcases our constant commitment and excellence in education. As Principal, I am grateful for everyone’s

efforts in achieving this esteemed University status. Our journey includes four successful NAAC accreditation cycles, notable achievements in sports, drama, and culture, collaborations with TEDx, and international events, and numerous memorandums of understanding (MoU). We are also gearing up for admissions to PhD programs, which will commence very shortly.”

CASK offers congratulations to the Jesuit Community on St Aloysius College attaining “Deemed to be University” Status and wishes their institutions to be of International standards.

MCC BANK CROSSES RS.1,000 CRORE BUSINESS TURNOVER

It is a matter of joy and pride to the Mangalore Catholic Community that the MCC Bank LTD, which is serving for 112 years, has in 2023 crossed the milestone of **Rupees 1,000 crore** turnover.

A function to celebrate this significant milestone of the bank was held on 21st January 2024 at the Milagres Jubilee Hall, with Mr Michael D'Souza, renowned NRI Entrepreneur and Philanthropist as Chief Guest. CA Rudolf Rodrigues, renowned Chartered Accountant gave the keynote address.

The Chairman of MCC Bank – Mr Anil Lobo, presided. He was specially honoured in view of receiving the prestigious “Sahakara Ratna: Award.

CASK congratulates MCC BANK on crossing the milestone – Rs.1,000/- Crore Turnover and wishes the bank many more milestones and achievements.

CATHOLIC CONNECT MOBILE APP LAUNCHED



The new Catholic Connect mobile app was launched by Cardinal Filipe Neri Ferrão - President of CCBI, other Church leaders and Michael D'Souza - NRI entrepreneur & philanthropist, at St John's National Academy of Health Sciences in Bengaluru, on January 30, 2024.

Other dignitaries who were present during the launch included Cardinal Oswald Gracias - Archbishop of Bombay, Cardinal Anthony Poola - Archbishop of Hyderabad, Archbishop George Anthony Swamy of Madras Mylapore, Archbishop Anil Couto of Delhi, Archbishop Peter Machado of Bangalore, Dr Stephen Alathara - deputy secretary general of CCBI.

This app is set to spearhead a digital revolution within the global Catholic community, with a particular emphasis on India. It serves as a comprehensive platform, offering access to spiritual resources, relevant news and a range of Catholic life services, including health insurance, education, jobs, and emergency assistance.

LISA PINTO OF ST AGNES COLLEGE SECURES ALL INDIA AND GLOBAL RANKS



Lisa Pinto has secured All India Rank 1 and Global Rank 6 in the Advance Performance Management paper of the Association of Chartered Accountants (ACCA) during the Dec 2023 session.

She appeared for the last paper in Advanced Performance Management and successfully cleared all her ACCA papers to become an affiliate with the Dec attempt.

Lisa is a daughter of Lavina and Alwin Pradeep Pinto of Mallikatte, Mangalore and graduated in BCom in June 2023

BILKIS BANO VINDICATED!

Fr. Cedric Prakash SJ

On 8 January 2024, Bilkis Bano stood vindicated! Her relentless quest for truth and justice met with triumph, as the Supreme Court of India, quashed the Gujarat Government's decision to allow premature release of convicts in the gang-rape case where she was the victim; a heinous, brutal crime which took place during the Gujarat carnage of 2002!

In a landmark judgment, the bench of Justice B.V. Nagarathna and Justice Ujjal Bhuyan held that the eleven convicts (who were given remission) have to report back to the jail authorities within two weeks and have to continue to remain in jail. The bench clearly stated that the Gujarat government was not empowered to pass the remission order, since the appropriate government entitled to pass orders of remission was the government of the State where the trial had taken place; Maharashtra in this case.

The 251-pages judgment, is bound to have wide ranging repercussions!

**UZWAAD’ KONKANI FORTNIGHTLY OF UDUPI
DIOCESE COMPLETES TEN YEARS**



The decennial year celebrations of the ‘Uzwaad’, Udupi diocese’s Konkani fortnightly was held on Sunday January 28,2024 at Milagres College grounds, Kallianpur.

In his opening remarks, Fr Denis D’Sa expressed, “I congratulate the editor, writers, and all the trustees on this occasion. Uzwaad has faced many challenges, but it has remained steadfast in its goals. Today is a day to reflect on history, review, and move forward. With the inception of the Udupi diocese, many challenges and difficulties emerged. Uzwaad became the mouthpiece of the Udupi diocese, with Fr Chethan Capuchin as its founder editor, laying a strong foundation. Fr Royson Fernandes, the subsequent editor, led with resilience amidst the challenges posed by COVID.

CASK congratulates ‘UZWAAD’ Konkani Fortnightly on its Decennial milestone and wishes it continued success.

**‘BELOVED 2024’ – Young Couples Conference
by Missionary Families of Christ**

This programme for young couples was held at St Anthony’s Ashram on 4th February 2024. The essence of this event is empowering and nurturing relationships, with faith-building sessions and activities designed for this purpose. MFC’s young couples will share insights into their own lives, highlighting how God has worked in their relationships, inspiring and strengthening other couples. This is the

second of its kind in Mangalore, with the first program in 2019 being a resounding success.

Missionary Families of Christ (MFC) is a Catholic movement that works for the renewal of families in India and organizes a variety of programs each year that attract 50-3000 participants. These programs are aimed at welfare of families, couples, youth and children and are instrumental in imparting various skills to the participants besides motivating them to be instruments of change in society.

Formerly known as Couples for Christ, the present Missionary Families of Christ, Mangaluru is a lay Catholic evangelistic community dedicated to proclaiming Christ and defending faith, family, and life. The movement, initiated in 2003 in the Diocese of Mangalore under the guidance of Bishop Emeritus Aloysius Paul D'Souza, has now expanded to other dioceses such as Udupi, Bangalore & Shivamogga. In India, it operates under the Conference of the Catholic Bishops of India Family Commission, and under the family commissions in the respective dioceses. Fr Anil D'souza, Director – Family Commission is the Spiritual Director of MFC Mangalore.

JOB DESCRIPTION OF MOMS NOT CHANGED SINCE 480 BCE·

Faye D'Souza

An ancient Greek kylix showing a baby sitting in his pottychair and calling to his mother. ca. 480 BCE, the Royal Museums of Art and History, Brussels. And a 6th Century BCE potty found in the Athenian Agora.



OBITUARIES - DECEMBER 2023 & JANUARY 2024

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

- ❖ Gretta Pinto (80), Mangalore, wife of Richard Pinto, mother of the late Roshan Pinto, Rohan Pinto, mother-in-law of Smitha & Rashmi Pinto, on December 27, 2023.
- ❖ Delphine Rego (70), Bejai, Mangalore, wife of the late Richard Rego, mother of Renita Raina/Donald Fernandes and Delroy Rego, on December 28, 2023.
- ❖ Francis D'Souza (69), Mangalore, Propreitor Apollo Radiators, State Bank, husband of Valentine D'Souza, father of Darrel, Denzil/Delicia, Desmond/Sonia, on December 29.
- ❖ Joseph Gonsalves (74), Ashoknagar, husband of Sabina Gonsalves, father of Manisha/Wilson and Manoj/Preeti, on December 30, 2023.
- ❖ Lavina D'Souza (42), Chickmagalur, wife of Kiran J Menezes, mother of Kiara Menezes, daughter of Celine D'Souza, on January 2, 2024.
- ❖ William 'Willie' Castelino (104), UK, husband of Millie, father of Trevor, Jenny and Mark, on December 1, 2023.
- ❖ Richard Sequeira (76), Bangalore, husband of Felcian Sequeira, father of Royston/Shalaka and Roshan/Freda, on January 3, 2024.
- ❖ Severine Lobo (93), Bendorewell, wife of the late Denis Lobo, mother of Mary/the late Lawrence Fernandes, Benedict Lobo, Maria/the late Clifford Pinto, Regina/Francis Lewis, Francis/Janet Lobo, the late Augustine/Sunita Lobo and Aloysius/Zeena Soares, on January 3, 2024.
- ❖ Fr John Lobo (67), Baroda/Bantwal, Vicar General, Baroda Diocese, son of the late Thomas Santhan and Mary Lobo, brother of Lilly/the late Felix Carlo, Celine/the late Cyril Pinto, Walter Lobo/Hilda, Gerald Lobo/Lydia, the late Ronald Lobo, on January 4, 2024.
- ❖ Capt Maurice Jacob D'Sa (84), Bangalore husband of Lovie, father of Franz/Janice; Shaun/Shubira; Yuhana/Anusha and Dion/Andrea; on January 4, 2024.
- ❖ Adelaide Pinto (66), Bangalore, wife of Valerian Pinto, mother of Ann Priya & Annet Preethi, on January 6, 2024.
- ❖ Norbert Francis Patrick Saldanha (69), Balmatta, Mangalore, husband of Jacintha Saldanha, father of Cryslle/Nenson, Rochelle/Richie, Nigel/Nilisha, the late Daniel and Samuel on January 6, 2024.
- ❖ Helen D'Sa nee Gonsalves (82), Derebail, (Retired Headmistress, St Peter's Higher Primary School, Kottara, Mangalore) wife of the late Robert D'Sa, mother of Lavina/Wilfred, Merwyn/Canaline, Alwyn/Vandana and Sylvia/Austin, on January 8, 2024.

- ❖ Mary Cutinha (78), Valencia, Mangalore, wife of Joseph Cutinha, on January 9, 2024.
- ❖ Fr Henry Monteiro (76), Mysore, originally from Kulsheker, Mangalore, son of the late Sebastian and the late Theresa Monteiro, brother of the late Rosy Lobo, the late Louis Monteiro, the late Madeline D'Silva and Lizy Monteiro, on January 9, 2024.
- ❖ Hubert Noronha (59), Derebail, son of the late Joseph Noronha & the late Celine Noronha, husband of Sylvia Noronha, brother of Banet/Anitha Noronha, on January 11, 2024.
- ❖ Michael Fernandes (68), Kulshekar, husband of Celine Fernandes, father of Loy/Preethal Fernandes and Lovita/Clement Pereira, on January 11, 2024.
- ❖ Melvin Peter Lobo (68), Bendur, husband of Ivy, father of Melvika/Sahil and Mitun/Pavana, on January 13, 2024.
- ❖ Angel Smitha Saldanha (47), Farla/Bendore, wife of Naveen Cassian Saldanha, mother of Cleona Pearl Saldanha, daughter of the late Arthur & Albin Quadros, daughter-in-law of the late Baptist & Christine Saldanha, sister of Seema/Melwyn Lobo, on January 13, 2024.
- ❖ Oliver Fernandes (71), Chikmagalur, Husband of Gladys Fernandes, father of Owen-Vinoliya, Nevil-Alzin & Oniel, on January 12, 2024.
- ❖ Sr Mary Vincenza AC (93), Ladyhill, sister of the late Leonard Rego; Lindsay Rego; the late Jeoffie Andrade; Juliet Vaz, the late Fr Ladislaus Rego S.J; Jane D'Souza, Llewellyn Rego, aunt of Fr Juventius Andrade CSSR; Fr Anil Rego, Mumbai; Fr Dionysius Vaz SJ, Provincial Superior of Karnataka Jesuits, on January 14, 2024
- ❖ Jaison Rolf Nazareth (39), Karangalpady son of the late Joseph Nazareth & Romana Nazareth, brother of Dr Rashmi/Dr Prashanth, on January 15, 2024.
- ❖ Alwyne L. Pinto (84), Mission Viejo, California, USA (Ex-National Bank of Kuwait, husband of Maureen Pinto, father of Carl/Farah Pinto & Shereen Pinto/Lyn, on January 19, 2024.
- ❖ Vincent Lovet D'Souza (68), Bejai, Mangalore, husband of Shanthi D'Souza, father of Shwetha D'Souza and Shawn D'Souza, on January 20, 2024.
- ❖ Carl Lawrence Aranha (23), Bejai, son of Cherrie & Reggie Aranha, brother of Raisa, grandson of Mariette and the late Stany Mascarenhas and the late Maggie and the late Alpi Aranha, on January 22, 2024.
- ❖ Nicky Sawhney (72) Bangalore, husband of Sheela Sawhney nee Mathias, father of Meeka/Rohan & Viren/Monisha on January 23, 2024.
- ❖ Valerian Joseph Rego (96), London/Kadri, husband of Evelyn Cecelia Mathilda Rego, on January 24, 2024.

WORLD CANCER DAY - 4TH FEBRUARY

February 4th, each year, is observed as World Cancer Day. This important day is a chance to raise awareness about cancer, advocate for equitable access to care, and celebrate the progress we've made in the fight against this devastating disease.



Theme for World Cancer Day 2024

"Close the Care Gap." This theme highlights the disparities in cancer care that exist around the world. People in certain regions, socioeconomic backgrounds, and marginalized communities often face significant barriers to accessing quality cancer prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. These include :

- Lack of access to healthcare facilities
- Financial constraints
- Stigma and discrimination
- Lack of awareness

Closing the 'care gap' is essential to ensuring that everyone, regardless of their background or circumstances, has access to the cancer care they need.

WORLD LEPROSY DAY - 30 JANUARY



Pope Francis and Yohei Sasakawa - WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination with the banner "Don't Forget Leprosy" at the VATICAN

**If not delivered, please return to: Catholic Association of South Kanara,
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