



FR
AGNEL
SHRAM NEWS

February 2012

***“You Must Be The Change,
You Want In The World”***

-Mahatma Gandhi

FR. AGNEL
ASHRAM

NEWS

February 2012

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Cover: *Dandelion seeds move away and floats far from their parent plants. It travels for miles until it finds its home, and once it takes root, it evolves into a beautiful blanket of gold. Its journey is filled with challenges. This change in its life helps it masters every survival skill.*

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THE JOY IN GIVING



Letters from some benefactors and friends of our Balbhavan children

William & Dorothy, Abu Dhabi

Greetings from us. We hope all of you at Agnel Ashram are keeping fine. We send herewith a cheque of ₹7000 (₹6000 towards full sponsorship of Mayur Sakrecha and ₹1000 as our gift for him). Please keep us in your prayers.

Aloo T. Daruwalla, Mumbai

I am enclosing a cheque of ₹1000 for the orphan children under your care. May God bless you for the work you do for the poor children – it is due to your dedication and selfless effort that the boys are so well looked after.

Mrs. Teresakutty Joseph, Canada

Greetings from Canada. May our loving God bless all your hard work for the orphan children. Herewith I am enclosing \$50 for your charitable work. Please pray for our good health and all our other intentions. Thank you very much and may God bless you.

Ms. Geeta T. Teckchandani, Mumbai

Enclosed is a cheque for ₹200 towards the sponsorship scheme. Thanks for all the favours received through the intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel. Pray that God fulfils all our needs and keeps us under his loving care.

Ms. D. Young, Canada

Enclosed is a M.O. for Can. \$50 of which \$20 is towards the sponsorship of Isaac Anthony Fernandes, \$20 is for a bag of rice for the orphans and \$10 is for 2 thanksgiving Holy Masses. Please pray for our good health and happiness.

Mrs. Lissy Kochupurackal, U.S.A.

I hope everything is going on well. I am sending a cheque of \$50 for the orphans in your Balbhavan. Please say a Holy Mass for the souls in Purgatory and pray for my family.

Fr. Agnel Ashram - Bandra

MASSES ON SUNDAYS

MORNING

7.00 English 8.00 Konkani

9.30 English 11.00 Tamil

EVENING

3.30 Marathi 4.30 Konkani

6.30 English 7.30 English

NOVENA SERVICES

ON SUNDAYS MORNING

7.45 English 8.45 Konkani

10.15 English 10.30 Tamil

EVENING

3.30 Marathi 4.15 Konkani

6.15 English 7.15 English

Weekdays Mass in English at 6.00 p.m.

Favours obtained, petitions and offerings may kindly be sent to :

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We are the Change

*H*eraclitus, the Greek philosopher propounded his doctrine of change being central to the universe "Change alone is unchanging" Further referring to this change he stated: "No man ever steps in the same river twice".

You and me, we are born unique and have responsibility to be part of any change at different levels. From our childhood we are urged to be ambitious, to ascend, to be leaders.

However as life moves on and as we settle down, we tend to give up making our impact on society level. Bye and bye we accept the system as it goes and start blaming and cribbing about the system. Eventually we can forget that each of us has been gifted to create a platform, to do meaningful work, to leave a legacy behind us for the generations to come.

Somebody cautioned us thus "Don't be afraid your life will end, be afraid it will never begin." Indeed, if we do not decide to change, we cannot grow. If we do not grow, I am afraid we will stop living. Obviously, change will not occur, if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been working for it. We are the change that we seek.

William James said "The greatest revolution in our generation is that human beings who by changing the inner attitudes of their minds can change the outer aspects of their lives". This is an unique spiritual gift from the Omnipotent one. We cannot run away from change, we are called to embrace it. We are urged to be passionate students of change. Thus change and transformation begins with the awareness that God is at the centre of our life. The psalmist said "Be still and now that I am God" The transformation of the heart is the profound awareness that the Kingdom of God is within. And inner

transformation implies radical change. We cannot be transformed unless we have first become cleansed of whatever stands in opposition to transformation. It's in this change that we can gain a whole new life outlook. How can this change take place? If you are decidedly ready for a new step and a new you. You are absolutely convinced that you want to turn a healthy minute into a healthy life. Now that you have dared yourself to move out of complacency into a life of discovery, where do you begin to change? Above all identify those troubling conditions and situations. Make a self assessment. Know who you are and what are your goals. Low self-esteem negatively affects every facet of our life, chiefly our health, our relationships and our job. And when we blame others, we give up our power to change.

At every step we find people who want to change the world, but hardly anyone thinks of changing himself. When you are not happy with something, you try to change it. But if you can't change it, you change your attitude. Well, our attitude has more impact on our life. The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. Verily affirmed Chuck Swindoll, an educator and radio preacher: **Anything under God's control is never out of control...We cannot change our past...we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on one string we have and that's our attitude. I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% of how I react to it. And so it is with you...we are in charge of our attitudes".**

Fr. Ubaldo Fernandes sfx.



“Fr. Agnelo Became A Closer Model Of Holiness To Me”

-Archbishop Machado

(Homily delivered by Archbishop Felix Machado on the occasion of Fr. Agnel Jayanti)

The Gospel of Jesus according to St Mark, narrates Jesus calling some men to become his disciples whom Jesus will later send out as his Apostles. The ordinary men, like Peter, Andrew, James and John leave what they were busy with and immediately follow Jesus. Their availability and readiness to Jesus' call is indeed striking. The Incarnate Son of God, Jesus, was the concrete expression of the Will of God. The men whom Jesus calls, also makes them know that they were “available and ready” to do the Will of God. To know the Will of God and to put it into practice was of highest importance to these men whom Jesus called. Remember, these were ordinary men like all of us. They had their preoccupations, worries, problems, questions, dreams, aspirations. But they considered the Will of God the most important priority in their lives. “Here I am Lord, I come to do your Will”.

As a young seminarian I had heard of the holiness of Fr Agnel. He had been a Spiritual guide to the seminarians in Goa. When I joined the Archdiocesan Seminary of Bombay (Mumbai), as a young boy aspiring to be a priest, I felt the constant need of a good, holy and willing Spiritual Father in my seminary life to guide and encourage me. I had many doubts, questions, worries, etc., of which I wanted to talk to with someone and listen to his good advice. In spite of my determination to become a priest, I saw many options open before me. However, God's Will, more than my own desire and plan, was more important to me. When I remember the life of Fr Agnel and about his holiness (little

that I had heard), I thought to myself of the disciples of Jesus. Fr Agnel, I said to myself, must have been ready and willing, available and enthusiastic to do God's Will just as the disciples of Jesus did. Fr Agnel who was an Indian of our time, became a closer model of holiness for me; I thought to myself that Fr Agnel must have listened patiently to the seminarians he was guiding. Fr Agnel must have held close to his heart the words: “Here I am Lord; I come to do your Will”.

KEY TO A CONTENTED LIFE



Being available and ready to do God's Will is the sure key to a happy and contented life. We need to remember that God's Will is not some vague groping in the dark; it is not some ambiguous and abstract proposition. God's Will

is clearly expressed in His Word. The Word of God, par excellence, is Jesus Christ. Jesus, born of the Virgin Mary, who suffered under Pontius Pilate, who died on the Cross, who rose from the dead on the third day, who is seated at the right hand of the Father and who will come again to judge the living and the dead. Each one of us, in our given situation, is called to obey the Will of God by following Jesus. For us priests, it is radically following Jesus, as we have freely chosen this life. For you as lay faithful, it is to pursue the vocation you have chosen, namely to raise your family according to the Church's life and guidance. To do the Will of God is not necessarily to keep on changing our vocation; it is to accept the Will of God in the given situation and to collaborate with God the Father in the footsteps of Jesus and under the inspiration of the

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The World Around Us: Can We Change It?

-Fr F. Diniz

Corruption has become today the great pre-occupation of the people of India. It is an evil that is well established in our society resisting every move for its change. In fact corruption is not a new phenomenon on the soil of India. It has been with us right from the days of British Raj. However, the gigantic stature it has acquired today with mind-boggling figures of illegal transactions tumbling down like corpses from cupboards of persons occupying responsible positions in society, is stirring the conscience of many a citizen of India to do something to eradicate this great evil from our country.

What is happening in India is not something unheard of in the history of the world. Immorality, corruption, erosion of moral character have been pestering nations all over the world throughout the ages. Mankind has also seen great social Reformers appearing from time to time whose message and exemplary life has brought about radical change in the lives of the people and the evil was eradicated from the society. Their teachings and example are a beacon of light for us to follow.

We have in the Bible the story of Prophet Jonah who was sent by God to the great city of Niniveh to preach repentance threatening the citizens that the city would be ruined within 40 days if they refused to follow his advice for a change in their moral behaviour. The people acceded to his call. Even the King adopted the state of a repentant sinner and Niniveh was saved. We see on the other hand great Empires like Rome which had succeeded in bringing under their sway many nations of the world, ultimately crashing to their utter ruin

not because they lacked in armed forces to defend themselves but because their people had lost their moral character.

It happens very often that the very progress that a nation makes regarding material wellbeing of its people becomes the cause of degeneration of their moral character. Material progress lures the minds of the people to take short cuts and become prosperous overnight; hence the temptation arises to break all codes of conduct and indulge in deals which are illegal and harmful to the interests of society. As they are clandestine deals it becomes very difficult to detect them and with the covert cooperation of corrupt government servants those deals assume a semblance of normalcy.



What is happening today in India is that corruption has become a respectable practice. There is a parallel economy floating over a powerful current of unaccounted black money. "Everybody does it", it is said and those who don't, are called fools and unfit to live in today's world. There is also a powerful Mafia supporting the whole movement of parallel economy with their bases well established in India and abroad. They are ruthless in their methods and it is almost impossible to get out of their clutches once you are caught in their nets.

Is it possible to change the above situation and save our country from moral degradation? A preliminary question needs an answer. Do we as citizens of India feel it to be our duty to bring in a change in the above scenario? If we really believe that it is our duty and are determined to do it whole heartedly then a way will be found to accomplish our purpose. But if we think that it is none of our business to be concerned

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Holy Spirit. For the Will of God and our own will need not be opposed to each other; they need not clash and conflict. We must obediently make all our desires submissive to that of God's Will and allow God to take hold of our lives. That is what the people of Nineveh did as we heard in the first reading today. The sinful people of Nineveh became a model of holiness for others when they heard the message of God through Prophet Jonah. The Will of God, far from diminishing our life, makes it full and complete.

The will of God is always powerful. It is useless fighting against and opposing the Will of God. God is wise and mighty. It is to our advantage to obey the Will of the Lord. It is in being available and ready to do the will of God that we find our life fulfilled, happy and content. The Apostles of Jesus and holy people like Fr Agnel show us the way to an authentically happy life; they did the Will of God. I find my life full of happiness because I have tried to follow the example of the Apostles, Saints and the holy men and women. Obviously, I find so much more wanting, when it comes to holiness, in comparison to the Apostles and holy men and women. The Blessed Virgin Mary is the shining example before us; she said to God, through the angel Gabriel: "May it be done to me according to your Word". Who, among human beings, can claim to be happier, fulfilled and contented in life than Mary, Mother of God, the God who gave her to be our Mother as well. It is wise for us to submit to the Will of God and taste the real meaning of our life which is God's precious gift to us.

LORD MAKE ME WALK IN YOUR TRUTH

The responsorial Psalm today exhorts us to discern the Will of God in our life. The way to discern the Will of God is to pray to him: "Lord, make me know your ways; teach me your paths; make me walk in your truth". The Lord "shows the path to those who stray, he guides the humble in the right path, he teaches his way to the poor". No matter in which situation we find ourselves, do not forget to invoke the Lord who will answer our prayers and will make known to us his Will. The Second reading today warns us not to procrastinate our response to do God's will. We may be tempted to delay responding to God's will because we want to be very sure on our part. Of course, hasty decisions are dangerous but pushing our willingness to do the Will of God beyond God's patience is only detrimental to our own life. Let us remember that God's Will is manifested in Jesus who "is always present in the Church, especially in the actions of the Liturgy. He is present in the sacrifice of the Mass, in the person of the Minister (it is the same Christ who formerly offered himself on the cross that now offers by the ministry of priests) and most of all under the Eucharistic species. He is present in the Sacraments by his power, in such a way that when someone baptizes, Christ himself baptizes. He is present in his word, for it is he himself who speaks when the Holy Scriptures are read in the Church. Finally, he is present when the Church prays and sings, for he himself promised: *where two or three are gathered in my name, I am in their midst*" (Constitution on the sacred Liturgy of the Second Vatican Council, Sacrosanctum Concilium, n 7).

A little philosophy inclineth man's mind to atheism,
but depth in philosophy bringeth men's minds about to religion.

-Francis Bacon

Coping With Inevitable Change

-P K Ravindranath

Science is not enough, religion is not enough politics and economics are not enough, nor is love, nor is duty, nor is action however disinterested, not, however sublime, is contemplation. Nothing short of everything, will really do.

- Aldous Huxley

No truer words were said in the last century, which saw huge strides and spurts in the pattern of human lives. The changes that came over mankind in the last hundred years has been the result of the cumulative and synergistic impact of preceding changes, discoveries and inventions in science and technology. Undreamt of jumps brought in hurtling changes in the application of science and technology that changed human lives and lifestyles in manifold ways.

Humankind is still changing, underlining the dictum that change is the only constant in the world. What faces us today is rapid change, faster and more complex than all that the world has seen till now. The dreams and fantasies of Jules Verne and H.G Wells have all been surpassed except for man's inability to become invisible at will, as Wells prophesied.

The fantastic developments in communications that came in with the radio, television and computers are now producing waves of synergistic impact at the speed of sound and lightning.

Man is still yearning to go into areas "where no one had gone before." changes came about initially as an evolutionary process in tune with the biological, psychological and spiritual yearnings of Mankind. Then science

and technology took over to provide jumps in time and space for man. In his quest of the unknown, Man has now found new planets and galaxies, much like our own. Experiments are on in laboratories to produce the perfect man in test tubes. Initial experiments with monkeys have produced a new breed out

of an amalgam of eight embryos. The quest is still on.

The UFOs and Extra-Terrestrials science fiction had been tackling so long, could still be in the realm of possibility.

All this change and those still in the crucible of time, have come to challenge several beliefs, faiths and

truisms that man had sworn by. A new set of holistic, organic and spiritual changes is evidently on the way. This enjoins on all of us the need to change ourselves, our ways of thinking and living. Such changes, in any case, do creep in without much effort, on their own.

The fact that today anyone could access the soul of the planet by pressing a computer key connotes the kind of changes that are in the offing.

In all this spurts of change what man has to ensure is that he does not lose sight of humanity and humanism. The link that binds Man with Homo Sapiens.



Embrace Change Even If You Want To Run From It

-Fr.Victor Rebello

There once was a handsome prince who had a hunched back. This defect kept him from attaining his full potential as the kind of prince he dreamt to be. One day the king had the best sculptor in the land carve a statue of the prince. It portrayed him, however, not with a hunched back but with a straight back. The king placed the statue in the prince's private garden. And whenever the prince gazed at it, his heart would quicken. Months passed, and people began to say, "Do you notice, the prince's back, it doesn't seem as hunched as it was." When the prince overheard this remark, he gained more confidence in himself. Now he began to spend hours studying the statue and meditating on his personal dream. Then one day a remarkable thing happened. The prince reached high overhead, stretching himself. Suddenly, he was standing straight and tall, just like the statue.



Is there a defect keeping us away from attaining our full potential as the kind of person you dream to be? Like a kaleidoscope changing shapes and patterns spectacularly with every turn, are lives our filled with all kinds of changes. Circumstances change as quickly as they emerge and situations change as quickly as they develop. Seasons come and seasons go; one reality supersedes another even before we are able to understand the implications of the first one. A mighty tide breaks upon the shore, just as another one forms not far away.

The one constant thing in life is change. Change is everywhere in our environment; in the natural world, in the way we do things, the way we act and react, in our thinking, our code of conduct; how we generate change, what

we do with change, determines our growth in life.

In spite of the fact that change is constant we have a strong tendency to resist it. We are suspicious, reluctant and afraid to accept change. We are quite comfortable with what is familiar, what we know and what we like. Change presents an unknown factor in our lives and activities. Even though we may have problems, we are often tempted to maintain the status quo rather than venture into the unknown, that we may feel secure and things seem more predictable and more manageable.

Life is but different. It does not always keep us on familiar shores, smooth paths - sometimes we are flung into the troubled waters of failure and frustration. Then we isolate ourselves as much from the impact of change and try to feel safe even with our problems and unhappiness.

To participate in change is to grow. Nothing grows that does not change. We watch the dry blade become a tall grass, the bud becomes a flower, an egg hatches into a bird and a child grows to an adult. The very act of living is change and growth. Whenever any kind of change uproots us from one setting and plants us in another we must remain open to growth, to seek and to dare. Those who do not accept change do not grow: they die a physical mental and spiritual death. Nature gives examples that accommodating growth is a difficult process. A river winds its way a thousand miles, through rocky terrain and treacherous valleys before it merges with the sea. The plant breaks through the earth's hard crust and pushes away a stone to make way for

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AGNEL HAPPENINGS

Balbhawan Day – A Treat To Our Friends

Being unwanted, unloved, uncared for, and forgotten by everybody, I think that is a much greater hunger, much greater poverty than the person who has nothing to eat.....we must find each other.

- Mother Theresa

It's that time of the year when Agnelites in Delhi and Noida journey to the temple of love - The Agnel Balbhawan at Greater Noida - for their annual pilgrimage. The Balbhawan Day is special for it is a testimony to the Agnel Fathers' spirit of kindness and compassion. Even as we braced ourselves to brave the winter cold, we were filled with an eager anticipation of what the day will have in store for us. For 12 years, the Balbhawan Day has been a treat to the visitors, always surprising us with its highly creative entertainment programme.



This 14 January our hearts were aglow with pride as we watched the children present the variety entertainment of dance, music and theatre....all of it coming together like a well orchestrated symphony. And pride in being associated with an institution that has tirelessly invested in humanity.

The programme began with an invocation dance. This was followed by a stirring message by Fr. Carvalho where he said that the Balbhawan was a celebration of hope and the power of the people. The Rock n' Roll dance truly rocked, each one of the little children shook and danced away with a smile on their faces and enjoying every moment of their performance. These little angels deserved every applause from the assembly.

But the show stealer was the play – an adaptation of excerpts from Mitch Albom's 'Have a Little Faith' a true story,

condensed into a 45 minute play. The theme song and dance – “Falling in love with Jesus” sung and choreographed by the children themselves drew the audience to the play that followed.

Scripted and directed by Fr. Bento, this was poetry in motion. The rabbi came alive and the audience was captivated by his sermons just as Albom had been. The street play, the music, the songs composed by the children themselves, the dances....all masterstrokes. Fr. Bento, yet again, spun out a story that left everyone spellbound.

The street play was marvelous. The songs

– ‘God is one’ and ‘One

People’ did make us think “yes” we need to see the world through the eyes of children and learn to be ‘just one people, just one world, you and me’. The message shall remain with us as we wait for the next Balbhawan Day.

God sings and we hum along, and there are many melodies, but it's all one song – one same wonderful human song.

We did not just soak in the sun drenched morning but experienced how the compassion of a few good men has the potential to turn life around not just for the children of the Balbhawan but of the innumerable lives they've been associated with. The Balbhawan Day is a reminder that is our duty to....'find each other'.

*-Shreeja and Shalini
(Teachers of Fr. Agnel School, Delhi)*

Balbhan Day - A



Faces turned heavenward in the poetry of motion.



*The towering strength -
Fr. Carvalho addresses visitors*



Beating the chill with mouth watering delicacies.



Music transcends all barriers. The



The Dance of Love - in praise and in adoration.



It's smiles all around. A sunny mo

treat to our Friends



A beautiful family built by beautiful hands



the Balbhawan Choir.



A Requiem - in celebration of life. Adaptation of Mitch Albom's "Have a little faith".



ment with Fr. Cidloy.



Making Peace to the masses. A Street Play.

Junk d' junk

-Fr. Agnel School, Gautam Nagar, New Delhi

The battle against junk food got a whole new meaning when the young ambassadors of the campaign, students of Fr. Agnel School, Gautam Nagar gave a clarion call to all the children and adults to wake up to the harmful effects of junk food. Their fervent appeals were not only to the children of their own school but to all the other schools as well.

With this lofty aim of creating a healthy India, students of Fr. Agnel School created a human chain involving more than 600 students sending their message across in the most unique way. Students were heard reiterating Fr. Carvalho, distinctly stating their protests against 'Junk food' and their resolution to 'ban junk and to eat healthy'.

The primary children were not far behind echoing their seniors and expressing their views. The K.G. children with the guidance of their teachers decorated the venue with their little paper plates displaying all the necessary ingredients required for a well-balanced diet. To promote healthy eating habits and to share their healthy recipes, the school invited parents for a live demonstration. It was conducted by Ms. Geetika Jhamb, an aware parent herself. Beginning with a thought provoking question, "Why has God Almighty created fruits, vegetables, nuts etc. but not toffees, colas or burgers?" she went on sharing valuable information with the audience restating the maxim, "we are what we eat". The parents not only made simple, appetizing and energy rich dishes but

also quoted various nutritional benefits of each. The students were all ears to the quiz rounds which followed these recipes as they were rewarded with the same. At the end, students posted their views and resolutions on a 'nutritional wall' created by the teachers of the primary section.



The campaign included other events too like T-shirt painting and street play, both highlighting the adverse effects of unhealthy junk food and persuading everyone to ban it. In the 'street play' enacted

by the students they appealed to their parents to provide them with junk-food-free lunch boxes because they are not only healthy but also cheaper choices.

A post card writing drive was also organised. In order to ban junk food in schools, a petition had been filed by an NGO, U day Foundation. Students of class 6 wrote their messages, requesting a ban on junk food in schools which were sent to the Chief Justice of India to make him aware of the children's wishes and to support the cause.

Fr. Carvalho supported the children, saying that it is our children's fight against the processed food industry. The students also said that they want to tell the government that, "we have the right to make our choices about the good food to eat, and we would like to do it with respect to our parents, to managements of our schools and of course to the processed food industry as well".

The Dick Delusion

-Ivan Arthur



Ivan Arthur

(At the recently concluded Jaipur Literary Festival, while the media rattled like a tin can with one pebble in it – Rushdie and his Satanic Verses – another voice at the Litfest exhorted people to stop wasting their time on looking for God who didn't exist. Here's an innocent response to that literary gentleman.)

Dick is a very, very clever man
He does what every other man can:
He thinks!
 Only he does it much better.
Or so he thinks.
 For he follows the rules
Of that god called Science. He uses the
 tools
Of Reason, Mathematics and Logic.
(Not God with a capital G. Or Magic.)

Peering through electron microscope
Looking up the great Hubble telescope
He can see what every other man can
Only better than any other man.
Using pure theorem and syllogism
To demonstrate to one and all: the chasm
Between Rational Man and a thing called
 God
That made the earth with a word and a
 nod.

Nay says Dick, the only god he knows is
A blind watchmaker who fashioned all this
With a series of accidents that fell into
 place
In a book by Darwin, a charlie who says
Your great-grandpa was an ape and that
 you
Are what you are today because a few
Million years ago you or rather your genes
Did some selfish cherry picking, the means
By which Evolution separated
The boys from the men who grew up and
 dated
Your great-grandma. And so you are today
What you are today, hip hip and hurray!
Here in Jaipur, attending the Litfest

Reading from Satan and thumping your
 chest
And chanting "Aye! Aye !" in unholy fusion
With the author of The God Delusion.
Will someone please tell this clever man,
 Dick
That Truth is revealed to Science and
 Logic.
As well as to Metaphor, Intuition
Fairy Tale, Myth and Imagination
That God does not play hide-and-seek
 under
Microscopes and telescopes. His wonder
Is not unravelled by sums and equations
Or clever syllogistic deductions.
He is not a Q.E.D. at the end
Of a theorem, my dear memetic friend.
He may not be seen by the curious eye.
Or fathomed by crafty brain.
 The High
Priest and theologian too may not see
Through ground glass lenses of theology
Dogma, doctrine and apologetics
And all their studied catechetics
The true vision of that divinity.

Get real and accept that Infinity
Lies beyond the finite grasp of Logic
Even the logic of a very clever Dick.

The eyes that see Eternity are not
Up in the head but in the human heart
Magnified by Infinity's lenses
Of Faith and Love -- not the senses.

Faith will see through a multitude of sins
What till now has been hid from Dick
 Dawkins.

Contd. from pg 8 - Embrace Change Even If You Want To Run From It

its leaves and flowers - this meeting of the difficulties strengthens the plant and encourages it to survive. Without its ability to overcome difficulties it would die but undergoing this change to grow, it brings forth blossoms that will bear seeds to produce descendants.

We too, in our journey through life must be prepared for the unexpected with a spirit of adventure for a turn or a twist just around the bend. The plant and the river are not much different from you and me, all have to accommodate to change even though this means meeting difficulties. Many of us are not happy with what goes around us, in the political, social, moral and even in the religious sphere - things make us sad, they make us sick with rebellion and disappointment, we see poverty, injustice, violence, exploitation but merely feel dissatisfied and complain, change. Yes, there have been people who have "been the change"- they

shook things up, they bore witness with their lives and their presence changed the world - Mahatma Gandhi, Mother Teresa, Nelson Mandela, to name only a few. Need we wait, hope and pray for the right person to appear?

Change is a sign of life. We are the ones who are to step in and do our best to bring the change. As the Chinese proverb says, "The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." God created the world and entrusted it to us - we can be the change in our home, our society and the little circle we live in. Every day offers us the possibility of doing something to improve the lives of those around us. If we have a spark, we can start a fire. Every change is a beginning of a new chapter and it is life enhancing; with courage and faith when change is accepted, we understand that it is very much part of our life, just as winter is part of the seasons year after year

Contd. from pg 5 - The World Around Us: Can We Change It?

with other people's moral character, and are satisfied in working out our own salvation, then we will allow our nation to go down to the precipice of its ruin and we too will be dragged into it.

It is not expected of everyone of us to be an activist in the work of bringing about a change in the moral behaviour of our people. But everyone of us should contribute with his mite however small it may be towards the attainment of the purpose. The first step on this road is to have a clear vision of our mission in life. Just as we have obligations towards the maintenance of our families and education of our children we have also an obligation towards our nation. There is a strong inclination in us to ignore it as we are afraid of getting entangled in the problems of the society. But by overcoming this fear our minds will be enlightened to see clearly what is our mission in life and to pursue it faithfully. The second step is to have courage of conviction. It is always difficult to make

a change for the better because it is like climbing a steep mountain; but once we are convinced that such change is needed for the good of the individual and of the society we must persist courageously to tread the chosen path and to carry on with our efforts despite all the difficulties we may find on the way.

We may conclude therefore, that it is our duty as citizens of India to contribute towards the efforts for eradicating corruption and other moral evils which prevail in society. With the grace of God we can do it. Cooperation of all the concerned persons is needed; cooperation of Communication Media is very important; support of the civil authorities is needed. God's blessing on such important project is essential. With the support of all these forces and mutual cooperation among social workers this idea is bound to be soon a reality.



News from Our Missions

“Jesus Christ is the Temple We are to Worship”

-Archbishop Pennacchio, Apostolic Nuncio

On the 22nd of January, 2012, the closing ceremony of the Silver Jubilee of the Stella Maris Cathedral Church, Port Blair was celebrated with great pomp and gaiety. It was, indeed, a very memorable day. His Excellency Archbishop Salvatore Pennacchio, Monsignor Gianfranco Gallone, the Counselor to the Apostolic Nunciature, Most Rev. Alex Dias, sfx, the Bishop of Port Blair, Most Rev. Patrick Nair, the Emeritus Bishop of Meerut, Most Rev. Paul Lakra, the Bishop of Gumla, and Most Rev. Binay Kandulna, the auxiliary Bishop of Ranchi, were joined in by His Eminence Telesphore Cardinal P. Toppo, the Archbishop of Ranchi.

They were led in an open vehicle to the tune of the Police Band and were greeted in a very unique and special way by the four committees, the local, Adivasi, Tamil and Malayalee. More than 7000 faithful were present for the celebration.

The Holy Eucharist began with a dance from three directions leading the celebrants to the altar. In His homily the Apostolic Nuncio said that God dwells in His Temple. **“We all come to worship this temple who is Jesus Christ. We are immensely blessed in this temple of God who blesses and guides us by dwelling in us”.** The Liturgy was very well conducted. His Eminence Telesphore Cardinal P. Toppo took over the place of the main celebrant from the Offertory.

After the Holy Eucharist a very beautiful



Archbishop Pennacchio inaugurates the New Adoration Chapel

and enriching cultural programme followed. There were speeches by His Excellency the Apostolic Nuncio, His Eminence Telesphore Cardinal P. Toppo, Most Rev. Alex Dias, sfx. Mr. Fabianus Toppo, the President of Andaman and Nicobar Islands Catholic Association delivered the welcome address while Mrs. Vinita Bage, the President of Catholic Maha-Mahila Sangh presented the vote of thanks. The different dances added more gaiety and joy to the programme. Memories of the past of the Stella Maris Cathedral were presented through Multi-Media technology. It was an eventful day in the history of the Catholics in the diocese of Port Blair. Everyone heaved a sigh of relief as the curtain drew down as they were satisfied, joyful and happy with the good and pleasant memories of the day. All the dignitaries, distinguished guests and others were presented with mementos.

PILAR NEWS

SPECIAL AWARD TO FR.SERGIO AND FR.COSME

At a function organized by the ‘True Value Foundation’, Margao and presided over by the Chief Minister of Goa, Shri Digamber Kamat and the Commissioner for NRI Affairs, Shri Eduardo Faleiro. Fr.Sergio Mascarenhas was awarded as social worker and litterateur. Fr.Cosme Costa was awarded for his contribution to heritage conservation, literature and history. They were among the four eminent

persons who were given awards. The True Values Foundation was started in 2009 to foster and promote Goan values such as honesty, respect, hard work, etc, which were the basis of the Goan ethos. They organize camps and encourage people who are working for the welfare of Goa and Goans.

Mr.Rui Mascarenhas is the founder member.

My Second Home



My experience in Balbhavan started the day I came to Balbhavan. I was very young at that age of 5 and this place was looking like another planet. I used to cry a lot and

when I grew bigger I came to know that this place is a place of love and care and there were eight mothers to help me and now it is my second home with all the loving, caring and a sweet father who helped me a lot. When my sister came father helped her a lot and whenever I was mischievous he helped me and under his loving care I now have reached class tenth

-Savio (Delhi)

My Experience Says It All



Talking about my experience in Balbhavan is like telling my life story. When it started, how it moved on, what obstacles I faced, what I learned from them. They say:

“Education is what is left when what has been learnt is forgotten”. Same is the case with me and my experience whether good or bad is what matters most and not the fact that I have spent precious 10 years here. Life is too short for complaints and that’s how my experience has been. I don’t remember if I ever fought with

someone or got scoldings or anything bad. The times I remember are the ones when I was happy, I received appreciation for my good work, for being a good friend, student. These 10 years how they have passed is a wonder to me. As a child I was very conservative didn’t like to share my feeling, things or any belonging with anyone. But after coming here I learned and experienced the joy of giving. I also developed a feeling of care towards people I meet in my daily life. I have also learnt to be independent and outspoken. I would like to thank fathers, sisters, brothers, mothers, wardens and each and every person who took care of me and made me the person I am today.

-Pratiksha (Delhi)

A man without ethics is a wild beast loosed upon this world.

-Albert Camus



FR. AGNEL'S BLESSINGS

PAIN STOPPED

Kanyakumari: I am working on a merchant ship. Three months after joining the ship I met with an accident and I hurt the left side of my chest by dashing against the corner of a table, and there was big swelling in the chest and great pain for 3 weeks. I could not do any work. I started praying to Ven.Fr.Agnel for his help. On the 9th day the pain suddenly stopped and I was totally cured. In thanksgiving an offering of ₹500

-A. John Tharance

GIFT OF A BABY BOY

Azamgad: We have 4 girls. We wished to have a baby boy. We started praying to Ven.Fr.Agnel to fulfill our wish. Through his intercession we are blessed with a baby boy. In thanksgiving an offering of ₹1001

-Arun Singh

CONFIRMATION OBTAINED

Vasai: I was not getting confirmation letter of my job. I started attending Ven. Fr.Agnel's novena at Fr.Agnel Ashram. Within a week I got a confirmation letter. In thanksgiving an offering of ₹500

-Shaila Sequeira

CHANGE OF MIND

Nalgaon: My daughter was getting good proposals, but she was quite against getting married. I was very tense. I started attending Ven.Fr.Agnel's novena for his intercession and prayed that she may change her mind. I am very happy to say that through the intercession of Ven.Fr.Agnel she changed her mind and got married with a boy from a respectable family. In thanksgiving an offering of ₹551

-Annie D'Souza

MULTIPLE FAVOURS

Vasai: 1) My brother was suffering from diabetes. He was bedridden

for one and a half year. He could not walk. Treatments were not helping. We prayed to Ven.Fr.Agnel for his help. Through the intercession of Ven. Fr.Agnel he is alright now and able to walk. 2) I was suffering from asthma. I was under treatment. I prayed to Ven.Fr.Agnel for my speedy recovery. Through his blessing I am alright now. In thanksgiving an offering of ₹2000 to Ven.Fr.Agnel from me and my brother for these 2 favours.

-Helen J.Lemos

PAIN SUBSIDED

Santacruz (Goa): During June I was experiencing severe pain in my lower back which at times became unbearable. Visit to doctors proved to be futile as all of them said that the pain was due to wearing off of the vertebrae and nothing could be done about it. After 2 months of suffering I started to pray to Ven. Fr.Agnel in August and within a week my pain has vanished and has not recurred ever since. I am very grateful to Ven.Fr.Agnel for this miracle.

-Christopher Fernandes

HOUSE CONSTRUCTION COMPLETED

Jabalpur (M.P.): By the grace of Ven.Fr.Agnel I received a favour viz. renovation and construction of our house without any problem. In thanksgiving an offering of ₹5000 to Ven.Fr.Agnel

-V.C.James

GIFT OF A CHILD

Ghatkopar: I was attending Ven. Fr.Agnel's novena on Sundays at the Ashram, Bandra. I am happy to say that through Fr.Agnel's powerful intercession we are blessed with a baby girl after 11 years of our marriage. In thanksgiving an offering of ₹756 to Ven. Fr. Agnel.

-Dimple Thakkar

Out of Their Bounty

S. Emmanuel	U.S.A.	44068	A.N.Rebello	Mumbai	2000	D. Fernandes	Thane	1000
K. Vaz	Mumbai	40000	P. J. Fernandes	Pune	2000	N. Unni	Kerala	1000
R. Thomas	Mumbai	25000	T. Job	Kerala	2000	F. Almeida	Mumbai	1000
R.S. Cruz	Mumbai	25000	D. Thomas	Kerala	2000	L. Monteiro	Mangalore	1000
D. Varghese	U.K.	20875	P.K. Pronce	Kerala	2000	Pushpam P.L.	Dubai	1000
R. Patel	U.S.A.	11105	Techno Products	Chennai	2000	V. Machado	Qatar	1000
A.M. Rebello	Palghar	10000	H.L. Castelino	Abu Dhabi	2000	L. Benedicta	Pondicherry	1000
F. Kurian	Kerala	10000	P.D. Jose	Kerala	2000	K.M. Jomy	Hathras	1000
H. Wilson	Australia	9947	Thankadurai M.	Kerala	1800	P. Pinto	Karnataka	1000
L. Philip	U.A.E.	8500	H.G.Norton	U.K.	1717	E. Johnson	Kolkata	1000
J. Mascarenhas	Kuwait	8062	A. V. Iyer	Mumbai	1700	M. Nazarene	T.N.	1000
H. Mampara	U.S.A.	7161	J. Baldrey	U.K.	1655	F.P. Colaco	Riyadh	900
D. Jackson	Australia	6892	R. Shetty	U.K.	1582	S. Mistry	U.K.	800
M.J. Tibrewala	Nashik	6000	J. Thomas	Gujarat	1500	U.N. Patel	U.K.	736
V.M. Lewis	Kolkata	6000	B. Suresh	Pune	1500	M. MacAskill	Glasgow	698
J. D'Souza	Mumbai	6000	L. Pinto	Mumbai	1500	S. Babulal	Mumbai	666
F.P. Dharia	U.S.A.	5140	R.v. Deshpande	U.S.A.	1500	M. McNair	U.K.	665
A.F. Gomes	Mumbai	5018	L. Jacob	Kerala	1500	D. Welsh	England	627
T. Ravindranath	Mumbai	5000	M. Martin	Kerala	1500	R.P. Maroan	Mumbai	600
C.J. Antony	Kolkata	5000	B. Doloi	Nagaland	1500	M.J. Lam	Nashik	525
J.N. Correa	Mumbai	5000	J.A. Clarke	London	1426	R. Chitalia	Mumbai	501
J.P. Fernandes	Bhayander	5000	S. Katak	Mumbai	1200	S. R. Somaiya	Rajkot	501
B.K. Raju	Jeddah	5000	B. Eveline	France	1199	A.Varki	Chennai	501
T. Philipose	Kerala	5000	R.J. John	Delhi	1100	A.R. Wadia	Mumbai	501
J. Thomas	Kerala	5000	A.T. Elavia	Surat	1100	A.F. Dalal	Mumbai	501
Lancy & Bessy	Mangalore	5000	J.J. Steven	Ahmedabad	1100	R. Ananthan	Chennai	501
Rajan Pandalom	Kerala	5000	M. Fernandes	Delhi	1100	C.V. Vincent	Kerala	500
N. Varghese	Qatar	5000	G. Parmar	U.S.A.	1086	M. Mukerji	Mumbai	500
Ally Joseph	U.S.A.	5000	T. Bunting	Australia	1073	M. Kumble	Mumbai	500
L. Remedios	Dubai	5000	K.A. Abraham	U.S. A.	1057	D. H. Algotar	Ahmedabad	500
S. D'Souza	Dubai	5000	E. Sequeira	Delhi	1050	J. Mary	Kerala	500
J.A. Patel	U.S.A.	4777	T. Joseph	U.S.A.	1015	T. Atheyil	Kerala	500
G. Lobo	Mangalore	4500	C. Gandhi	U.S.A.	1009	G. Veeramani	Chennai	500
S.V. Rebello	Thane	4350	R.M. Thakkar	Mumbai	1001	J. Jaipaul	Chennai	500
A. Gandhi	U.S.A.	4314	Y. Mehta	Mumbai	1001	A. Antony	Kerala	500
S.R. Patel	U.K.	4000	J. Shaju	Kerala	1000	A. George	Kerala	500
L. Johnny	Delhi	3165	F.M. Fernandes	Mumbai	1000	M.T. Devasia	Kerala	500
A.M. Olpadwala	Mumbai	3000	C. D'Mello	Vasai	1000	J. Serrao	Bangalore	500
J. Patrick	Bahrain	3000	A. Anturayose	Kerala	1000	J. D'Souza	Mumbai	500
R.P. Lima	Mumbai	3000	J. Paul	Mumbai	1000	L. D'Souza	Mumbai	500
Urvi Agency	Bhyanader	3000	A.Serrao	Mumbai	1000	S.A.M. Chettiar	Mumbai	500
A.T. Monis	Goa	3000	H.N. Nagarwalla	Mumbai	1000	Dr.Rayswani	Kerala	500
T. Petus	Malaysia	3000	P. Bahl	Mumbai	1000	M. Antony	U.S.A.	500
M.W. Patki	Vasai	2500	S.J. Eustachius	Nagpur	1000	P. Arockal	Kerala	500
S.J. Rangoonwala	Mumbai	2500	J.M. Pamani	Mumbai	1000	M. Anto	Kerala	500
A. Karunaker	Canada	2500	R. Natasha	Karnataka	1000	S.B. Gondal	Ahmedabad	500
C. Pathiyal	U.S.A.	2442	S.V.S. Rama Rao	Mumbai	1000	P.J. George	Kerala	500
T.V. Rodrigues	Mumbai	2400	Mathew K.F.	Kerala	1000	L. Thundiyil	U.S.A.	500
M.D. Mistry	U.K.	2400	M. Ildephonsa	Kerala	1000	E.I. Annamma	Kerala	500
A.P. Patel	U.K.	2400	K. Hari	Chennai	1000	J. Mathew	Kerala	500
M.B. Patel	U.K.	2400	A. Fernandes	Hyderabad	1000	V. Chacko	Kerala	500
H. Z. Bharucha	Secunderabad	2211	H. R. Waghela	Surat	1000	A. Catherine	T.N.	500
M. doshi	U.S.A.	2133	Adolf	Bangalore	1000	O.V. Kurian	Kerala	500
U. Das	Mumbai	2000	A.E. Philip	Kerala	1000	S. Malushi	Ratnagiri	500
R. C. Fernandes	Mumbai	2000	I.A. C. Roche	T.N.	1000	A.R. Mary	T.N.	500
S. Ramaswamy	Mumbai	2000	L. D'Souza	Mumbai	1000	L. Miller	Orissa	500

Ven. Fr.Agnel Jayanti Celebration

The 143rd Birth Anniversary of Ven. Fr.Agnel was celebrated with great religious fervour by his devotees at his Shrine at Fr.Agnel Ashram, Bandra, Mumbai on 21st January 2012. His Grace Archbishop Felix Machado of Vasai was the main Celebrant at the Solemn Concelebrated Mass in which over a thousand people participated.

It was very touching to hear the Archbishop narrate what the Man of God Ven. Fr.Agnelo did to bring about spiritual transformation in the people and what all of us can also do. The children from Fr.Agnel Multipurpose School, Vashi sang melodious hymns during the Mass. Earlier the Archbishop was heartily welcomed by the community of Fr.Agnel



Ashram and the people gathered for the occasion. A little boy of Fr.Agnel Balbhuvan offered the Archbishop a bouquet of flowers; the Superior of Fr.Agnel Ashram Fr. F.Diniz delivered

the welcome speech. The children of Fr.Agnel Multipurpose School, Vashi performed an artistic prayer dance to the delight of all present.

The Jayanti Day Celebration was preceded by a Novena of preparation from 12 to 20 January in which the devotees of Ven. Fr.Agnelo from all over Mumbai participated invoking his powerful

intercession and praying for his early Beatification.

See pictures on the back cover

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Near Railway Opp. Shankar Mandir, Jawahar Nagar, Khar (E), Mumbai -400051.

BRANCH NO .3 (SANTACRUZ)

Nr. Railway Station, Jucu Club, Opp. Yatri Hotel, Santacruz (East), Mumbai-400 05 5.

BRANCH NO. 4 (JOGESHWARI)

Opp. Railway Station, 4th Platform, Subhash Nagar, Behind, Satellite Park, Jogeshwari (East), Mumbai - 400 060.

BRANCH NO. 5 (MALAD)

Sainath Road, Behind Tel. Exchange Malad (W), Subway Road,Mumbai -400064

Ven. Fr. Agnel Jayanti Celebration



Archbishop Felix and concelebrants during the Eucharist



Ms. Shalomi Rao the music teacher led the Vashi choir



Archbishop F. Machado along with the Clergy



Fr. F. Diniz, Superior of Agnel Ashram welcomes Archbishop



Fr. Victor Rebello compering the function



Budding singers & musicians praise the Lord (Rishab -Guitar, Pradhyumana-Flute, Jordan & Ethen-Casio)



Fr. Agnel Multipurpose School children dance & sing joyfully