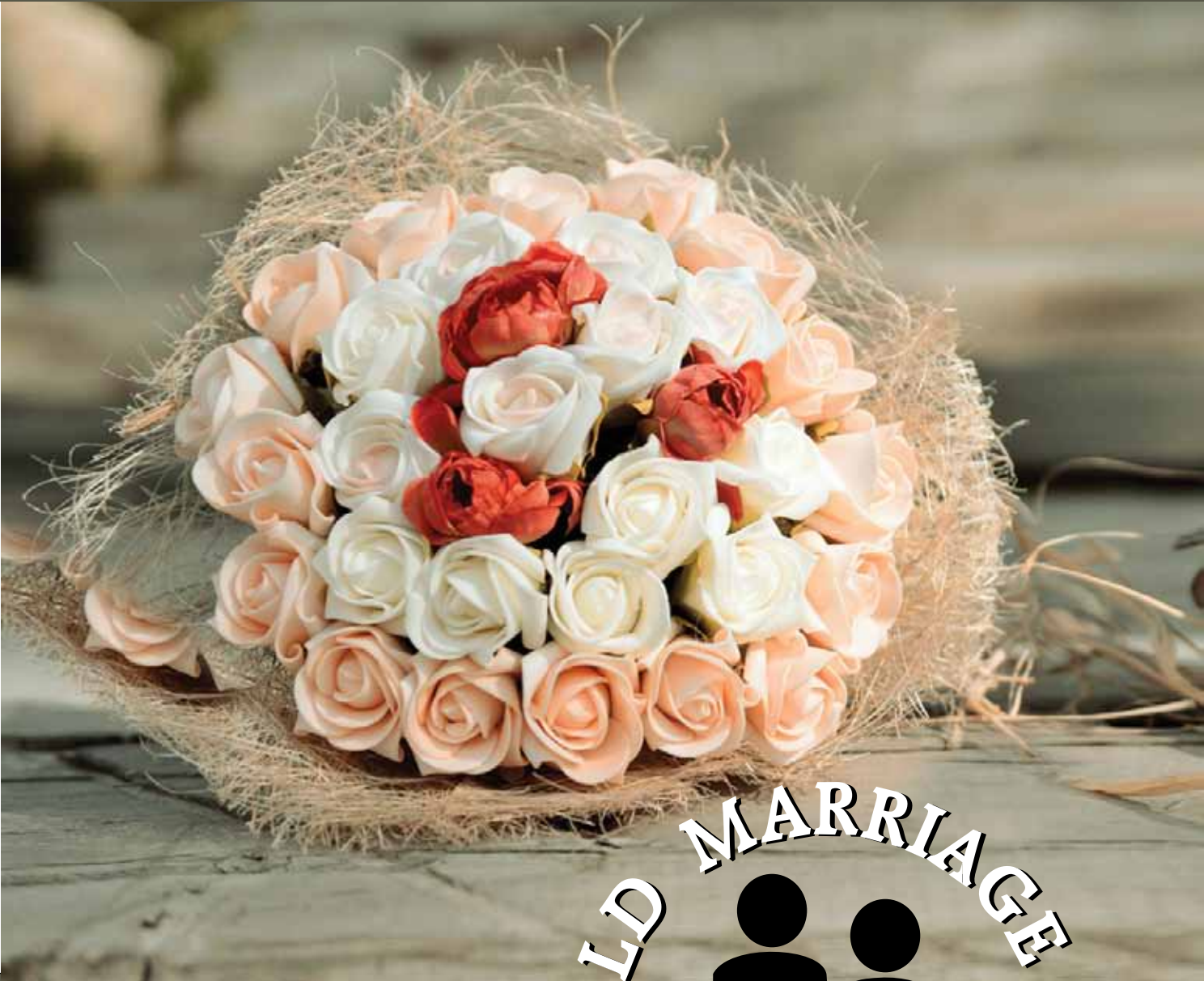




FR
AGNEL
SHRAM NEWS

February 2014



WORLD MARRIAGE DAY
LOVE ONE ANOTHER



FR. AGNEL
ASHRAM

NEWS

February 2014

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THE "REAL PRESENCE" IN MY LIFE

-Bishop Bosco Penha*

*My mother taught me a little poem when I was young. It
goes as follows :*

A Little Talk With Jesus

A little talk with Jesus
How it smoothes the rugged road
How it cheers and helps me onward
When I faint beneath my load.

When my heart is touched with sorrow
And my eyes with tears are dim
There's naught can yield me comfort
Like a little talk with Him.

I tell Him that I am weary
And fain would be at rest
That I am daily, hourly longing
For a home upon his breast.

And He answers me so sweetly
In tones of tenderest love
"I am coming soon to take thee
To my happy home above".

There in my Father's dwelling
Where His many mansions be
I will sweetly talk to Jesus
And Jesus will talk to me.

Thank you, dearest Jesus,
For always being available to us.

* Bishop Bosco Penha is
Emeritus Auxiliary Bishop of Mumbai.

*[Editor's Note: We apologize profusely to Bishop Bosco for
the inadvertent mistake in the version of the poem
that appears above, in the January 2014 issue, of "Fr. Agnel
Ashram News." The error is highly regretted!]*

Celebrating World Marriage Day

World Marriage Day is celebrated on the Sunday closest to Valentine Day (14th February). The purpose of WMD is to honour husband and wife, as the foundation of the family – the basic unit of society. It celebrates the beauty of their faithfulness, Christ's Cross-like sacrifice and his Resurrection-like hope and joy. Since WMD has emerged from the Church in the U.S., it expresses the importance the Church holds the Sacrament of Matrimony in.

The theme for every WMD is based on Jesus' commandment to "Love one another as I have loved you" (Jn. 13:34; 15:12). This is also the foundation of the Worldwide Marriage Encounter Movement, which actually initiated WMD.

WMD can be celebrated by couples refreshing their courtship romance, and reliving their Wedding Day, by flipping through pictures of that memorable event. The nuptial twosome can build excitement in the home, by narrating to their children how they met and fell in love. It is a time for spouses to prepare their favourite dish and eat it over candlelight dinner. They can share affirmations, exchange gifts or spend the day at their favourite place, alone, together. Love Letters can be written and dialogued over, to increase the bond of closeness.

What can the Church/Parish do? A special Mass, at which couples renew their Matrimonial Vows, can be held, at which special songs or hymns on love are sung. The Church may be decorated to bring about a wedding-like atmosphere. Photographs that capture the true spirit of marriage can be displayed in the Church or on the Notice Board. The Church and Parish Family Cells can use the digital media to send greetings, to show how much good or great marriages are precious and life-giving to the Church, Society and the world.

The Family Cell of the parish would do well to organize a grand fellowship programme in the evening, and give a festive touch to the event, to felicitate intermingling of conjugal lovers and fellowship. This can help build a like-to-like ministry for couple enrichment, which if sustained, can help strained alliances as well as build better marriages. At this get-together important marital milestones can be highlighted, where the oldest couple may be asked to cut a specially-made Cake, after which a grand march is held, and games and prizes distributed freely. And, of course, better rapport could be built over a meal!



The Catholic Church offers Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends, and Enrichment Programmes, for its members. Engaged Encounter Weekends, an offshoot of Marriage Encounter, and other Counselling Sessions offered by the Archdiocesan Family Welfare Centres, can be brought to the notice of prospective marriage partners, and those already married. Another gift of Marriage Encounter is "Retrovaille," which can help heal struggling marriages, why, even bring broken relationships together again! WMD can be used to popularize these wonderful avenues to help pledged lovers love as Jesus loved, unite the Body of Christ seamlessly, and help establish the Kingdom of God into a heaven on earth!

Why does the Church give pride of place to Matrimony? This Sacrament not only recalls God's covenantal love for Israel, but, more so, mirrors Christ continual love for the Church, his Bride! Further, the communion and intimacy of married life brings to light, the Creator God's interconnectedness and interrelationship with ALL Creation. Finally, what is amazing and awesome is that, marriage points to the Wedding Feast of the Lamb of God (Rev. 19: 7) – the Eternal Banquet of Love!

Marriage and its Future

- Fr.F. Diniz

Are our people drifting towards a “Society of Free-Love” in which marriage will be no more relevant to the happiness of family life? “Free-Love” is a practice of sexual relationship between persons who reject marriage. They feel that marriage as an institution and a permanent union between husband and wife with the responsibility of mutual love and fidelity is not needed for a happy family life. This trend was set up in Europe and North America many years ago. It played havoc in the lives of many families and young men and women. It is now catching up with people in India. We hear of marriages being on the rocks even within a few months of their celebration, let alone culmination. As it is a dangerous trend timely steps are to be taken to defuse it.

According to the Bible marriage has its origin in the very act of Creation by God. In the Book of Genesis we read: “God created man in the image of himself; in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them saying to them: ‘Be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth and conquer it’ (Gen. 1, 27-28). Later on the law of Moses allowed divorce under certain conditions; but Jesus Christ restored marriage to its original unity and indissolubility when he said: “What God has united man must not divide”. (Mt. 19, 6)

The above-mentioned trend towards free love in India is a reaction against some out-dated customs which still prevail among us. Accordingly, they hold that marriages should be arranged between persons belonging to the same community, caste and sub-caste; they should be arranged by the parents of the bride and groom; once married the woman should never accept a public job etc. They feel that outside these narrow

boundaries marriage will not be safe from disruption, corruption or perversion. Hence the exigencies of the modern life, and the need of adapting oneself to them are ignored and a strict code of conduct is enforced.

The old traditional method of “arranged marriages” had its advantages especially in the rural areas where most of our families lived according to the “joint-family system”. In case of any serious problem between husband and wife, they could easily turn for experienced and sound advice to the elderly members of the family. Today the joint-family system is out-dated and virtually extinct. Young married couples prefer to live in their own cellular families and rely on their own resources to solve their family problems.



Our young men and women today prefer to have as their partners in life, their own “friends” rather than those chosen by their parents. The modern practice of female education has greatly contributed to this change in old mentality. The great facility in communications due to progress in electronic media has also greatly contributed to the emergence of the present scenario, of boy meeting-girl-directly and vice versa. Add to this the fact that many boys and girls have their secure jobs with girls often earning larger salaries than the boys.

There is a negative side effect to the above-mentioned progress in modern life namely, the temptation to do away with marriage. It is argued that it holds one in bondage, and is an unnecessary obligation in life. They ask “Why can’t we enjoy life in peace without surrendering our liberty? Hence, they conclude that marriage is merely an arrangement of conveniences that can be easily dispensed with altogether. Though they are well educated they seem to know

Contd. on pg. 15

Are you Planning just a Wedding or a Marriage?

-Fr. Norman Almeida sfx*



Sigmund and Frieda had got down to the planning of their wedding more than a year in advance. Since the day they met and decided to marry, they were consumed with the plans

and preparations for a dream wedding. After all, this was to be the one big day in their life. They worked out every detail of the celebration, even the deco in the Church and the Hall. It turned out to be a grand bash. But in the bargain, they had blown most of their life-savings—just for a day’s festivity! More importantly, they hadn’t prepared for the marriage!

Oftentimes we use the words wedding and marriage interchangeably. While a wedding typically lasts only a day, a marriage is meant to last a lifetime. But we get so carried away with the hype of the wedding day – the Church ceremony and celebratory events -that we forget the larger reality of marriage, a lifelong love affair. In fact, as days go by, one may not remember too many details of one’s wedding ceremony. One may not even remember the wedding day, but one cannot but remember that one is married!

So, what does one need to know about marriage? “The greatest joy in my life has been the discovery and following of my vocation to marriage”, writes Caroline Dollard. Marriage is a vocation - a choice of life. While God calls a few persons to the Priesthood, Religious or the single life, he calls many to the state of marriage as the way of life in which they can best serve him and sanctify themselves. It is God’s invitation to those men and women to achieve love and union with Him through a life of dedicated service to their partner, and their families. As such, marriage is not just everyone’s calling! Often, people think the story of their love and the call to their marriage has been casual. They fail to see God’s finger acting in their

lives. “God guiding you to the moment of your marriage; God leading you to the house of your partner and finally, to the marriage altar – His Providence works through your free will and human sense”. As the author of humanity, God is the author of the primary partnership within it, namely, marriage.

Marriage is not a contract made for as long as both parties choose to live it; rather, it is a hallowed union whereby the spouses give themselves to each other and accept each other for an intimate sharing of life and love. It is called a ‘covenant’ because it springs from a solemn agreement between two individuals, and Jesus as the third partner, ushering in a binding and inviolable relationship. Contracts belong to the secular domain and are founded on law. Marriage, on the other hand, as a covenant, is founded on mutual trust and fidelity. It cannot be broken but only violated by infidelity. Such violation results in deep emotional and personal loss. That’s exactly why marriage is brought into a more pastoral realm, using the word ‘covenant’ rather than the legal term ‘contract’. Covenant brings with it the idea of committed, faithful partnership with unlimited responsibility, like that of an ever-faithful God and His people.

Scripture tells us that the coming together of man and woman in marriage constitutes a covenant which carries with it the fullness of fellowship and the good of humanity itself. When Genesis 2 speaks of an individual leaving father and mother for the sake of a woman and ‘cleaving to her’, it carries an obvious reference to marriage. Three fundamental



Contd. on pg.15

Marriage-Yesterday & Today

-Merlyn & Micky Brendish*

“And they lived happily ever after!”

As we look back fondly to us standing on the threshold of Marriage 51 years ago and reflect, we can see that like the youngsters of today, deep down, we believed that life -after -the -wedding would be smooth sailing. How could it be otherwise? We loved one another and we were committed to our relationship.

However, everyday life with its everyday problems of keeping house, budgeting, coping with in-laws and the domestic help, planning meals and adjusting to this new vision of spouse (so different from the ever-attentive boyfriend/girlfriend) brought us up front to cold reality. The sudden shift from independent young man and career girl to husband and wife was, in many ways a rude shock and quite disillusioning.

The 21st Century hasn't wrought many changes for the young couples except in terms of commitment to the relationship, for to be truthful the thought that, walking out was an option, never even entered our minds or that of our generation.

And, so, we muddled along finding ourselves getting into a rut and knowing no means of getting out of it. Then Marriage Encounter came into our lives and things were never the same again!! What we learned at the Weekend gave us hope for a brighter, happier future and not only that, but also provided us with various means -more particularly the use of “Dialogue,” for more effective Communication to enhance our relationship. Life did take a turn for the better and transformed into a more purposeful one when we became actively involved in the Movement. As our children have often remarked-- to tease us as much as to remind us—we

were such nice people, then. And so with our new-found understanding of our Sacrament of Marriage we have been living out the years, loving and being loved, supporting and being supported, coping as best as we could with the thorns and savouring the roses.

For the past few years we have been noticing young (younger than us) married couples everywhere. While some seem to have found a middle road to happiness, many others have resigned themselves to a mundane life together. Look at the young and not-so- young couples all around. Do you see joy in each other's company, accompanied by shared laughter and camaraderie? Or do you see more often than not, impatience and dissatisfaction-- grumpiness and grooves of frustration on their faces?

Where have all the flowers gone??

Times have changed, everyone says. True! But, has the quest for happiness changed and diminished? Oh, that goes on - but in a different direction. Financial independence has brought in its wake different expectations, usually unrealistic, of both spouse and marriage. Tolerance levels have dropped and egoistic attitudes have risen. Instant results are looked for and the 'Open Door' philosophy is the salve (saving grace!). Any wonder then, that more and more marriages are either on the rocks or completely shattered? Or do many prefer to just live together in quiet desperation? And who really cares about the children? Only Grandma and Grandpa of the old-fashioned generation believe Marriage is a Sacrament!!

How did things go so horribly wrong? Is it because of lack of remedial opportunities? No! No!



Contd. on pg 16

The Nuptial Sacrament and the Eucharist

-Leon Bent

For Catholics, especially, two spiritual gifts are inter-linked, memorable and life-giving: The Eucharist and Matrimony. These Sacraments are delicately intertwined, because a couple's intimacy points to the love of Christ. As Christ offers his Body and Blood for the Church, the marital lovers offer their lives for one another. Both, Matrimony and the Eucharist are enriched, in delicious word play, with the "heartbeat" of Jesus! The union of man and wife is so holy a mystery that, it participates in the love-life of the Trinity, symbolizes the marriage of Christ and the Church and the Paschal Mystery. Therefore, marital partners are on "God's Mission." The Most High seeks our consent, cooperation and commitment. God chooses us, nourishes us, gifts us, consecrates us and commissions us: To worship (leiturgia), to witness (martyria), to service (diakonia), and to fellowship (koinonia).

Nevertheless, Marriage and the Eucharist can easily be dismissed as utterly foolish. In the Eucharist we adore an ordinary-looking 'wafer' that contains Jesus' real Presence. It is certainly not tasty, much less, exotic! In marriage, we risk everything - our very lives, for a relationship that, often doesn't work, at best, limps, and is not too easily seen in all its glory! The depth of both ideas can so easily be denied and sneered at.

Nuptial Character

The Eucharist, as a sacrament of charity, has a particular relationship with the love of man and woman united in marriage. Pope John Paul II frequently spoke of the nuptial character of the Eucharist and its special relationship with the Sacrament of Matrimony. Marriage and the Eucharist have a

special connection as "Sacraments of the Body;" celebrations of the spousal love of Christ, and sources of unity of those who receive them (Eph.5: 31-32; CCC 1617-1621). The entire Christian life bears the mark of the conjugal love of Christ and the Church. Baptism is a nuptial mystery; a nuptial bath, which necessarily precedes both, the Wedding Feast and the Eucharistic Meal.

The Eucharistic words of Jesus at the Last Supper can be seen in their nuptial meaning, which anticipates the "self-immolation" (agony, suffering and death) of the Bridegroom, freely giving up his Body and Blood for his beloved Spouse, the Church. This total self-emptying love is what pledged lovers are called to; it puts one in remembrance of Adam giving a part of his own body for the creation of Eve (Gen. 2: 21-22). This 'kenotic love' is beautifully summed up in the key words of the Eucharist: "This is my Body/Blood given up for you! Do this in memory of me!"

The Vows

The Eucharist and Marriage are both, sacrament and sacrifice. They involve bodily union and require free-flowing offering. Marriage involves consent, which is a parallel of Baptism: Vows are essential to both. So also, in both Sacraments consent leads to consummation. Baptismal Vows are perfected in the one-flesh union of the Eucharist (Christ & the Congregation/Partakers). Marital Vows are completed in the oneness of marital intercourse.

Couples say, "I Do" at the Wedding Ceremony, and continue to say "I Do" throughout their married lives. Marital



partners grow and mature each time one of them responds, "I Do" to the question: "Do you love me?" The two little words "I Do" take on a richer and deeper meaning over time. The marital partners labour from infatuation, to romance, to disillusionment, to true love, in an unending 'process' that culminates in the Eternal Banquet!

Growing in Faith-full Commitment

At Mass, we celebrate our sharing of the one Bread and the one Chalice which binds the partakers, in general, and more particularly couples, to Jesus Christ, whose presence we encounter as we receive him in Holy Communion.

The Doxology to the Father seems to be subtly directed toward a vowed twosome: "Through him, with him, in him, in the 'unity' of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour are yours, Almighty Father, forever and ever, AMEN." This is a succinct, magnificent chant, and a way of life and love!

Celebrating a Wedding within the Eucharist, and sharing "Communion," can be a powerful symbol of what married life is all about: Growing in faithful, irrevocable commitment to one

another. The Eucharist and Matrimony draw us ever more deeply into intimate, holistic union of body, heart, mind and spirit, with Jesus, one another, and all creation!

Bodily Communion in Heaven

The Eucharist has often been seen as a foretaste of heaven, and the Kingdom of Heaven has invariably been described as a Wedding Feast. "Holy Communion" (interrelatedness, at-oneness, interdependence) in the Eucharist and Marriage, ultimately flowers in the Kingdom of God. Our heavenly life depends on our being united with Christ in the Eucharist. Marriage pre-figures the Wedding Feast of Heaven!

And, this final flourish: Marriage is God-designed, God-given, God-ordained! It is not something that has evolved over the ages. The first marriage between Adam and Eve clearly demonstrates that marriage was perfectly hand-crafted by God in Paradise. It will certainly be 'Paradise Regained,' if an iconic contemporary matrimonial pair, walks in the Lord's footsteps!

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 :

Rev.Fr.Superior

Fr.Agnel Ashram,

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Mumbai – 400 050.

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email: agnelashramnews@gmail.com

web: <http://ash.fragnel.edu.in>

*My most brilliant achievement was my ability
to be able to persuade my wife to marry me.*

-Winston Churchill

“Ven. Fr. Agnelo was A Zealous Apostle of the Eucharist”- Bishop Elias

One hundred and forty-five years ago a tiny baby boy was born in Anjuna, a small coastal village in Bardez Taluka of North Goa. He was named Agnelo in honour of St. Agnes on whose feast day he was born. During the 58 years of his life everything about him looked very simple and insignificant; yet he made a powerful impact on all those who came in contact with him. His soul was filled with the power of the Holy Spirit and his words led people to God. His Birth Anniversary was celebrated at Fr.Agnel Ashram, Bandra on 21st January 2014, with great fervor by his devotees, who came to the Ashram at Bandra, from all parts of Mumbai City and its suburbs. Fr. Agnelo, “A Zealous Apostle of the Eucharist,” was the main theme of the Celebration.

Very Rev. Elias Gonsalves, Bishop of Amravati was the main celebrant at the Solemn Concelebrated Mass. In his homily, the Bishop explained to the people how Fr. Agnelo’s devotion to the Eucharist had transformed him into a zealous missionary of Jesus Christ, capable of moving the hearts of people; even hard-core sinners to

repentance and reconciliation with God. *“Venerable Fr. Agnelo was a zealous Apostle of the Eucharist, who spent long and happy hours in the presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. He shared with others his own belief that, Jesus in the Eucharist is the chief means of enrichment in our spiritual life. The Eucharist alone can nourish our soul and offer strength for life’s journey,” Bishop Elias emphasized.*

Earlier Bishop Elias was given a warm welcome at the venue of the Celebration by the Ashram Community, and hundreds of devotees, who had gathered together for the occasion. Fr. Agnel Balbhuvan’s boys accompanied His Lordship in procession to the venue with a beautiful “lazim” dance. The children of Fr. Agnel Multipurpose School, Vashi, performed a classical Prayer Dance. The Choir of the Vashi School sang at the Mass, alternating with the Ashram Marathi Choir. The Celebration of the Fr. Agnel’s Jayanti was preceded by a Nine- Day Novena, from 12th to 20th January, with daily services in the morning and evening.

“Let Anjuna live the way Fr. Agnelo lived” Bishop Savio

The 145th Birth Anniversary of Ven. Fr.Agnelo was celebrated with great religious fervor at St.John the Baptist Chapel in Gaumvaddi, Anjuna on January 21, 2014. Hundreds of devotees participated in the religious services. A large pandal was erected in the compound of the Chapel to accommodate the crowd. Thousands of devotees from the North and South of Goa attended the Eucharistic Celebration.

The main celebrant of the Solemn High Mass was His Lordship Dr.Dominic Savio Fernandes, Auxiliary Bishop of Bombay. In his homily during the Mass Bishop Savio described Ven.Fr.Agnelo as a true disciple of God who saw the Creator in

his fellow human beings and was truly concerned about them.

“Today we are running after worldly pleasure which will soon die out. Fr. Agnelo had set his eyes on doing things in his life which will never die. He helped others, showed mercy and concern and tried to express the goodness of God in whatever he did. We are proud that Fr.Agnelo, a son of this village, has been declared Venerable and could soon become a saint”, stressed Bishop Savio. He said true faith can work miracles and just like Fr.Agnelo we need to have faith in God.

After the Eucharistic Celebration, Bishop

Contd. on pg 14

145th *Bir* Ven. *he*



The Ashram Fathers and Balbhavan Children



The Bishop Delivers Homily



Welcome Bishop Elias Gonsalves



A Prayer Dance by Fr. Agnel Multipurpose School (Vashi)



Bishop Elias on the Altar with the Concelebrants



The Choir of Marathi Speaking Community



Bishop Elias blesses devotees



th Anniversary of Fr. Agnelo D'Souza



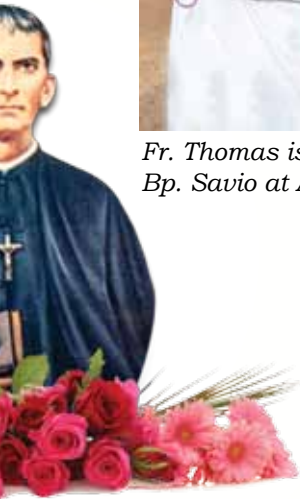
Bp. Savio at the Altar along with Fr. F Carvalho



Fr. Thomas is all smiles as he welcomes Bp. Savio at Anjuna



Fr. Carvalho, Fr. Kyriel and others with Bp. Savio



Our Children perform a Prayer Dance



A Message from Bp. Savio



Bp. Savio and a view of the Congregation



AGNEL HAPPENINGS

Pune-Pilar Fathers Celebrated Agnel Jayanti

For the first time Fr.Agnel's Jayanti was celebrated by the Pilar Fathers, Pune. Rt.Rev. Bishop Thomas Dabre was the main celebrant for the Holy Eucharist. In his message he stressed that like Ven. Fr.Agnelo we need Indian saints as role models. He also mentioned that he was closely associated with Fr.Agnelo and the Pilar Fathers since his childhood.

In the evening there was an Inter-Religious Prayer Service, where many religious communities associated with Agnel Ashram, Pune, along with the devotees of Fr. Agnelo, participated. Passages from different religious scriptures were read by selected persons.

Fr.Ivon Almeida explained very well the parallel between the life of Fr.Agnelo and the Ashram way of life. Rev. Fr. Joaquim Fernandes, Rector of the SVD Seminary, was our special guest. He made an appeal to all to imitate the exemplary virtues of Fr.Agnelo There was a Variey Entertainment Programme with songs, skits and dances which was much appreciated. Fr.Peter D'Souza thanked the guests for being present. The evening ended with a fellowship meal that was enjoyed by everyone.

- **Fr. Ivon D'Almeida sfx**

See Photos on Back Cover

Balbhawan Day in Delhi, A Day of Love & Joy

Fr. Bento, with his quintessential humour welcomed the gathering on Balbhawan Day at Fr.Agnel's, Delhi on 11th January 2014.

The Prayer Song and Dance set the tone for what was to follow. In a complete break from tradition, which upholds the belief that an invocation dance must be of the classical genre, the Prayer Dance to the Hymn "Mera Yesusab se Pyara" was a Bhangra – a lively, upbeat folk dance from the villages of Punjab.

The little ones from the pre-Primary danced in gay abandon to a lilting number celebrating God's creation. This was followed by a very hip-hop, trendy Marathi Dance number to which Radhas and Krishnas danced away gaily.

Fr. Cidloy addressed the gathering and expressed his gratitude to the guests, who in big and little ways are partners in this adventure of love that, the Balbhawan has come to epitomize, for many of us. He spoke of the inspiration that Fr. Carvalho and Fr. Bento have been and how it is their love that has transformed the lives

of the children here.

The children of the Balbhawan love music and singing. They have the most amazing band and a choir of singers. The guests were treated to some foot-tapping numbers from the good ol' days. The beat of drums, the strumming of guitars, the melodious voices synchronized beautifully, dispelled the cold and enveloped everyone in the warm glow of love. The children kept us entertained for over an hour.

The children expressed their love and gratitude to all their benefactors in ways they knew best – through music, singing and dance. And how can one ever forget the jokes. The songs and dances were woven together by Ramu and his hilarious attempts at letter writing which left the guests rocking with laughter.

Kusum, one of the children of the Balbhawan, who is now working with the Oberoi, Mumbai, Food & Beverages Department, spoke of what the Balbhawan means to her and others – HOME. It gladdened our hearts to listen to how well the children are doing as they move into

the world of jobs and making-a-living. Victor, the Music Teacher at Fr.Agnel School, Greater Noida is a Balbhawan boy and is virtually a celebrity for the children here. He keeps the tradition of music alive and the children go about their daily

lives with a spring in their steps, music in their being, a song on their lips, and with love in their hearts. And all of this is orchestrated by the loving hands of Fr. Bento, Fr.Carvalho and Fr.Cidloy

-See Photos on Back Cover

The Hope of Tomorrow



Education at “Vidyankur,” Fr. Agnel’s, Pune, aims at the holistic development of its Students. On 25th January, 2014

students of Std. I to Std.IV. a large number of spectators encircled the evergreen Playground to witness the traditional Opening Ceremony, which comprised torch- bearers, and a “Grand March-Past,” by our four “Houses,” named quite

uniquely, after personal values: Compassion, Honesty, Sacrifice and Courage. The School “Parliamentary Ministers,” led by the President, escorted the Chief Guest as he inspected a Guard of Honour. The Chief Guest

followed this routine with a soul- stirring and inspiring speech that motivated the energetic and enthusiastic athletes, in various track and field events, to give off their very best. There was further entertainment provided by a Musical Drill-Dance, and a Lezim Performance that brought to the fore, the participants’ agility and skillful co-ordination.

National Network Security Championship 2014

Organized at

Agnel Institute of Technology and Design, Assagao – Goa

The National Network Security Championship was organized by ACM (Association of Computer Machinery) IIT, Delhi at Agnel Institute of Technology and Design, Assagao, which was one of the Zonal Centers for Goa region. The event was inaugurated at the hands of the Chief Guest, Prof. Ramrao Wagh (Computer Department – Goa University) in the presence of ATEC Director Fr. Tony Fernandes and AITD Principal Dr. V. Mariappan.

In his Inaugural Speech, Prof. Ramrao Wagh spoke on the importance of such events, in giving students much needed exposure. He also promised his support for similar events in future. Fr. Tony Fernandes spoke on the importance of network security in today’s world,

which make such an event important. Dr. Mariappan praised the students for their enthusiasm, and wished them luck for the Competition.

The event consisted of a Two-Day Workshop revolving around the working of the OSI model, IP addressing, subnetting, creating real networks, remote access to networks using software like packet tracer etc. The introduction to IPv6 was also a major attraction. The entire training was conducted by Cisco certified trainers from Network Bulls Pvt. Ltd.

The trainers were all praise for the participants, who also consisted of students from Don Bosco College of Engineering, Fatorda, apart from Computer & Electronics and

Communications Engineering students of A.I.T.D. The participants ranged from the First Year to Third Year students. The trainers commented that the participants' quality was at par with that of Punjab University, which is among the best Universities in the country.

The Two-Day Event culminated with a competition which involved group tasks in the penultimate round and a written test in the final round. The top two finishers will be sent for the Nationals in Delhi. But, the performance by the participants was so good that the

trainers short-listed three students for the nationals.

The winners are as below:

- 1.) Ms. Chinmayee Giri
- 2.) Ms. Anusaya Vadji
- 3.) Ms. Aparajita Naik

The smooth management of the entire event was handled by the Faculty Co-ordinators, Prof. Yadnesh Sanzgiry and Prof. Snehal Bhogan, with unconditional support from the Principal Dr. V. Mariappan and the Institute's Management and Staff. Mr. Shankar Raut Desai was the student co-ordinator.

Contd. from pg 9 - "Let Anjuna live the way Fr. Agnelo lived" Bishop Savio

Savio called on the people to preserve and protect Anjuna village. "The greatest miracle will be if the whole of Anjuna lives the way Ven. Agnelo lived," he said.

Earlier, Fr. Thomas Gonsalves, the Parish Priest of St. Michael Church, Anjuna welcomed Bishop Savio and described him as most caring, loving, simple and a true shepherd who takes care of his flock. A large number of priests, including Fr. Francis Carvalho, the Superior General of the Pilar Society, Fr. Kyriel D'Souza, the Provincial Superior, Fr. Anisio Motta, Rector of the

Don Bosco Institute at Parra, and other priests took part in the Eucharistic Celebration.

On Wednesday, January 22, 2014, Bishop Savio Celebrated Mass in his Ward (Grand Chinvar) at (Our Lady of Piety Chapel) later, he met each parishioner personally and blessed them. He again assured the Anjuna people that they will always remain in his prayers. Bishop Savio is a loving and committed person; he is practical and down-to-earth. He mirrors the love of God.

-Domnic Fernandes

THE JOY OF GIVING



Letters from some Benefactors and Friends of our Balbhavan Children

Tessy George, Kerala

I am sending a cheque for £200 to be used for your charitable works, specially taking care of orphans. Kindly pray for me and my family.

George Menezes, Karnataka

Herewith I am sending a cheque for ₹12,000 being the yearly sponsorship of 2 orphan boys of your Balbhavan. Please request the children to pray for my family and that our business should flourish and all our problems resolved.

Susy Joseph, Kerala

I enclose a DD of ₹3000 to be utilized as follows:

1. ₹.1000 towards sponsorship of my ward Vijay Nair
2. ₹.1000 for 4 Holy Masses to be offered in

thanksgiving for favours received.

3. ₹1000 for the orphan children under your care.

Kindly pray for all our intentions especially for the early settlement in marriage of our daughter.

Celine Cherian, Kerala

I am sending herewith a cheque of ₹15,000 towards the maintenance and education of the orphans in your Ashram. Please pray for me and my family's well-being.

Jacob Puthur, Kerala

Enclosed is a cheque for ₹.6000 towards the sponsorship of my ward. We request your kind prayers for all our intentions. Thank you.

Marriage and its Future

Contd. from pg 4

very little about moral life and human behaviour and prefer to ignore the fact that marriage lends unity, security and stability to family life.

Vatican II offers the following advice regarding marriage: “A man and a woman who by the marriage covenant of conjugal love ‘are no longer two but one flesh, render mutual help and service to each other through an intimate union of their persons and their actions. Through this union they experience the meaning of their oneness, and attain to it with growing perfection day by day. As a mutual gift of two persons this intimate union as well as the good of the children, imposes total fidelity on the spouses and argues for an unbreakable oneness between them”. (Constitution of the Church in the Modern World)

What we need today is well-organized logistics, programmes and ministries to help married couples in their difficulties. There should also be a “life-line” to help young men and women who find themselves at the crossroads and threshold of marriage. The Catholic Church has introduced young people to special Enrichment Programmes and “Engaged Encounter Weekends” for young people preparing for marriage. But the candidates often find those courses not interesting enough and attend them just to fulfil a ritual. How can we make those courses attractive and effective? Various efforts are being made in the world to solve this important problem, on which the very foundation of our families and consequently of the whole society rests.

Are you Planning just a Wedding or a Marriage?

Contd. from pg 5

elements are introduced. First, it is the most important relationship, towards which even family-ties have to be set aside. This relationship is designed to be a lasting union as both partners will cleave to each other, becoming one flesh; and entering into a deep and unbreakable union. Lastly, it physically involves a most intimate fellowship: “their nakedness to the other is without shame”.

Love is at the heart of marriage. It is the primary meaning of marriage. Dietrich Von Hildebrand says, “The reason for getting married is to live in love just as the reason for being born is to exist humanly”. The biblical saying, “and the two shall become one flesh” implies the building and living in a communion of love. Vatican II said: ‘Authentic married love is caught up into divine love’ (Gaudium et Spes 48.2). When the spouses let the spirit of Christ into their marital love, it becomes holy and sacred. John and Mabel told me the other day that as husband and wife, they got to really look into their marriage

only four years after their wedding day. That eventually led them to actually listen to each other, as husband and wife, learning to value their differences, discover their strengths and weaknesses, and be reconciled, with all its attendant healing.

The marriage between two Christians is a sacrament. In other words, God himself provides the couple the right to the enriching grace of Christian conjugal love and to other graces necessary for living one’s married state of life according to His plan. Through the sacrament of marriage, the husband and wife reflect the love, forgiveness and respect which each experiences in the other. John Paul II in His famous encyclical ‘Familiaris Consortio’ places before us the model of the Holy Trinity, and tells us that, just as the three persons in the Trinity are other-centred in relationship, marriage as a sacrament represents the total self-giving of the Trinity. We who are created in love, are gifted the capacity for love and communion. Marriage as a loving, giving and committed relationship draws

us into the very life of God.

Spouses given fully to their marriage, recognize a mysterious power from on high in their married life, “sanctifying grace” that makes their love active, particularly when they don’t ‘feel’

loving or when tempted to call it off. It penetrates every dimension of their lives – physical, mental, spiritual and it inspires them to greater heights in spite of difficulties, hardships and sufferings. ‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon them... great is his faithfulness’.

**Fr. Norman Almeida sfx, has a doctorate in Moral Theology and he is Dean of Studies at Pilar Seminary Theologate.*

Marriage-Yesterday & Today

Contd. from pg 6

One dedicated source of help is the Marriage Encounter Weekend, where couples have quality time for honest reflection/ introspection of themselves and situations that are conducive to harmony; whether their expectations are realistic or not; and more importantly the solution lies in their hands. Awareness of the value of Communication is another great learning experience at the Weekend.

Other sources are desultory outreach efforts of priests and religious and various Cells to have enrichment programs now and again for Marriage

which is 24/7.

To be honest, everywhere the response from couples is poor. “No Time,” they wail--- when what they really mean is, “We can manage. We don’t want to rock the Boat!” We don’t want to upset the applecart of our marriage. Let things be as they are!

How can the ‘Joy of Yes - Forever’ become part of the fabric of their Wedded Life??—This is the Question!!

Perhaps new battle lines need to be drawn up: “An ever-new Evangelization through the Sacrament of Marriage!

**Merlyn and Micky Brendish were a Team Couple of Marriage Encounter, who gave inspirational “Sharings” at ME Weekends, and are still attractive in their “Coupleness”.*

Serenity

**King David gave us the magnificent Psalm twenty three,
That shows how over the world’s rigours,
We can triumph and be free;
Because the Good Shepherd leads us gently,
Through His Word, to “still waters” and “pastures green”
Refreshing our souls and leaving us serene,
Adding a sheen to our character even in our trials,
“For His name’s sake;”
Making us trust that no malice will prevail,
Because God in His clemency,
Promises that He will be with us “at all times,”
And that “goodness and mercy”
Will follow us, “all the days of our lives.**

*A successful marriage requires falling in love many times,
always with the same person*

-Mignon McLaughlin

To be a Good Student and a Good Person



I am Joseph Paul studying in 9th Std, at present residing in Agnel Balbhavan, Vashi. My family stays in Thane. My father used to work as an auto rickshaw driver. The money he earned, was used to cater our basic needs and

requirements. After a few years my father died. Now my mother is the head of the family. Being the head she didn't know what to do. On the contrary, we did not have a home to stay. By the Grace of God one social worker belonging to Missionaries of Charity took us to the Mother Teresa Ashram. There we had free accommodation. The sisters of that Ashram put me in this institution; Fr. Agnel Balbhavan, Vashi. It was because of Fr. Orlando's positive answer I am here, I started studying hard and began to develop my talents. I am proud today because of the position I have reached. I would say that this place is like a dream house for many youngsters; a place where you can fulfill your dreams. I would like to become a hockey player and my ambition in life is to be a marine engineer. My motto in life is to be a good person and a good student.

-Joseph Paul (Vashi)

My Life Changed for the Best



My name is Abhishek Kharat hailing from Kurla. I came to this Balbhavan in the year 2005. Now I am studying in 9th Standard Fr. Agnel Multipurpose School Vashi. I lost my mother when I was just three years old in a truck

accident. Then my father had been married a second time, and he never took care of us. I have three sisters who always care for and support me. Overall my grandmother is the head in the family and she is a second mother for me. She worked very hard for us and made my sisters well educated. As years passed by it was difficult for her to take care of us. So finally she thought of putting me in Fr. Agnel Balbhavan, Vashi. After coming here I became better, day by day and I got more friends to communicate and to learn from. After having experienced quite long years I would like to express my feelings the Balbhavan changed my entire life and made me a good student and good human being. Now I am proud to say, I am well talented only because of Fr. Agnel Balbhavan. Hence I promise to become good student and good player and overall good person and my ambition in life is to be a marine line engineer.

-Abhishek Mukesh Kharat (Vashi)

Pope to spend Valentine's Day with Engaged Couples

Pope Francis has invited engaged couples to spend Valentine's Day with him next month. In an announcement, the Holy Father said that couples in preparation for marriage could visit him for a special General Audience on February 14. A statement on the Vatican website said that "engaged couples who have already attended or are presently attending marriage preparation courses are invited to a meeting with the Holy Father." The Vatican's Pontifical Council for the Family is organizing the Audience, which will be called 'The Joy of Yes Forever'. Edmund Adamus, who coordinates a programme for Catholic couples called 'Smart Loving', said; "I am delighted to see such prominence being given by the Holy Father. Betrothal is a much forgotten and under-appreciated period...whereby the grace of Christ is at work in a new and exciting way in the build-up to the solemnization of the union at the wedding. This is why we encourage couples to ask for, and clergy to remember, to make available the Rite of Blessing of the Engaged to mark this incredibly important and precious moment of betrothal."

Mr. Adamus said Pope Francis echoes the teaching of Benedict XVI, "who exhorted us in *Sacramentum Caritatis* to 'devote maximum pastoral attention' to preparing couples for marriage."

Out of Their Bounty

T.R. Koshy	U.S.A.	62527	D. Varghese	Bangalore	2000	C. Alexander	T.N.	1000
P. Srivastava	Mumbai	35000	J. T. Abraham	Kerala	2000	Mary George	Kerala	1000
J.D. Jerome	Mangalore	25000	G. Marques	Goa	2000	M. Joseph	Kerala	1000
X. A. Shahiwalla	Mumbai	20000	G. Nellithope	Pondicherry	2000	M. Fernandes	Kerala	1000
F. Sharaon	Dubai	12001	Paul Mathai	Bangalore	2000	H. Antony	Jamnagar	1000
Z.J. Bharucha	Secunderabad	10001	S. Katakai	Mubai	1800	C. Hendricks	Australia	983
C. Thomas	Kerala	10000	A. Jayasimhan	Mumbai	1504	E. McNair	U.K.	842
R. Ambekar	Mumbai	10000	B. V. Asani	Mumbai	1501	S. Mathew	Kerala	750
A. Sebastian	T.N.	10000	A. Charkalayal	Kerala	1500	V. Mathew	Kerala	600
T.V. Anthony	Mumbai	10000	J. Andrady	Kerala	1500	L. Fernandes	Dahisar	600
Dr. M. Pereira	Mumbai	10000	A. George	Kerala	1500	J. Cherian	Kerala	600
R. Mathai	England	10000	K.M. Antony	Kerala	1500	Dr.V. Karani	Mumbai	501
W. D'Costa	Abu Dhabi	7000	C.J Johnson	Kerala	1500	I. Rathod	U.S.A.	501
P. Bajaj	U.S.A.	6070	John Thomas	Vadodara	1250	Mathew & Saji	Rourkela	501
P. Fernandes	Mumbai	6000	R.T. Hingorani	Mumbai	1100	J. Panchal	New Zealand	501
A. James	Chennai	6000	U. Koshy	U.S.A.	1076	J.A. C. Roche	T.N.	500
A. Varkey	Kerala	6000	T.D Anthony	Kerala	1001	A. F. Dalal	Mumbai	500
Grace Varghese	Kalyan	6000	E. Brunton	Canada	1000	Praveen Oberoi	Delhi	500
V.M. Lewis	Kolkata	6000	S. Thelly	Kerala	1000	J. Fernandes	Mumbai	500
K. D'Souza	Mumbai	6000	S. Jose	Kerala	1000	Farah H. Mistry	Mumbai	500
S.R.D'Souza	Mumbai	6000	F. Fernandes	Mumbai	1000	Sarah Gomes	Kolkata	500
R. D'Souza	Mumbai	6000	V.S. Biloliar	Mumbai	1000	N. Gunderia	Mumbai	500
H. Nachia	Australia	6000	D. Blanche	Kolkata	1000	V. Solanki	Ahmedabad	500
A.M Roche	Qatar	6000	V.N. Heldt	Secunderabad	1000	A.Bomanbheeram	Mumbai	500
Deepak Mathew	U.S.A.	5996	Tony P.L.	Kerala	1000	P.J. Varghese	Kerala	500
J. John D'Souza	Dubai	5500	Fred & Fabiola	Dubai	1000	G. Veeramani	Chennai	500
Joseph & Melini	Dubai	5500	A. George	Kerala	1000	L. Louis	Kerala	500
E. Remedios	Dubai	5077	K. Gorasia	Kolkata	1000	D.S. Dias	Nallasopara	500
M. Contractor	Mumbai	5000	J.P. Thomas	Hyderabad	1000	K.S. Dally	Kerala	500
V. Borges	Goa	5000	J. Jaipaul	Chennai	1000	James Xavier	T.N.	500
L. Philip	U.A. E.	5000	A. Varghese	Kerala	1000	L. Fernandes	Ahmedabad	500
S. Samuel	Saudi Arabia	5000	S. Thomas	Kerala	1000	P. Gond	Bankura	500
Hugh & Colleen	Mussoosrie	5000	M. David	Panvel	1000	J. Anton	T.N.	500
Mary Tom	Bangalore	5000	S. Joseph	Kerala	1000	C. Moncy	Kerala	500
Phyllis D'Abreo	Mumbai	4300	Mody Brothers	Mumbai	1000	K.P Chandy	Kerala	500
Subramanian	Mumbai	3500	R.A. Shaimon	Kerala	1000	Ram Louis	Kerala	500
Doreen Young	Canada	3374	V. Chacko	Kerala	1000	Gilbert Barretto	Karnataka	500
L. Remedios	Dubai	3170	Babychen	Kerala	1000	J.K Kattikaran	Kerala	500
A.V. Dawat	Navi Mumbai	3001	V.C. Joy	Kerala	1000	KP. Parmar	Ahmedabad	500
J.T. Surtee	Kolkata	3000	R.J. Martin	Thane	1000	E. Thomas	Kerala	500
G.M. D'Silva	Mumbai	3000	M. D'Souza	Mumbai	1000	K.I. Varghese	Kerala	500
S. Mathew	U.K.	3000	A.S. Lucien	Chennai	1000	E. David	Bangalore	500
G. Parmar	U.S.A.	2936	Premier Metal	Chennai	1000	Daisy D'Cruz	Kerala	500
J.A. Hutchins	Australia	2890	A. Tomy	Kerala	1000	M. D'Souza	Pune	500
A. Pragassen	Australia	2758	N. Kurien	Kerala	1000	M. Fernandes	Delhi	500
A. Karunaker	Canada	2500	A. Samuel	Kerala	1000	Dr. M Thomas	Kerala	500
A.J. Tibert	Kerala	2100	S.Natarajan	Dharavi	1000	M. Katherinal	Chennai	500
D.R. Desai	Gujarat	2100	S.P. Mary	Chennai	1000	D.H. Singh	Secunderabad	500
R. M. Shelke	Pune	2000	Joseph C.D.	Kerala	1000	R. A. Samuel	Pune	500
K.J. Mathew	Kerala	2000	L. Rajan	Keraa	1000	A. Paulose	Kerala	500
A. D'Souza	Vasai	2000	A.C. Stephen	T.N.	1000	L. Bennett	T.N.	500
S. Mannathukhavan	Kerala	2000	S. Selvappan	T.N.	1000	E. Victoria	Bangalore	500
Reji Viji	U.A.E.	2000	L.N. Kamble	Ahmednagar	1000	A. Thomas	Kerala	500
W. D'Mello	Vasai	2000	S. Inigo	T.N.	1000	C. Daniels	Chennai	500
A. D. Rosario	Goa	2000	J. Joseph	Kerala	1000	J. Benny	Kerala	500
L. D'Souza	Mira Road	2000	P. Selvaraj	Chennai	1000	D. Jones	Kolkata	500



FR. AGNEL'S BLESSINGS

SUCCESSFUL OPERATION

Sanpada: I am aged 86 and had to undergo an operation for Hernia. The doctors expressed doubt over the success of the operation, as I also suffer from a serious cardiac problem. The doctors were very reluctant to do the operation on me. At this critical time I surrendered myself into the hands of Ven.Fr.Agnel, and fervently prayed to lay his hands of protection and healing over me. I am now very happy to inform you, that to the great surprise of the doctors, the operation was very successful and I am now leading a normal life. With profound gratitude I offer ₹.1000.

-T.Mukundan

GIFT OF A CHILD

Vasai : We were praying to Ven.Fr.Agnel to fulfill our wish. I am happy to say that through his intercession we are blessed with a child. In thanksgiving an offering of ₹.5000.

-G.Gonsalves

VOMITING STOPPED

Colva (Goa) : I was having bouts of vomiting and motions. I was in hospital but treatment was of no help. The Doctor suspected that there was a swelling in the intestine. My Sister and I prayed to Ven.Fr.Agnel, and she applied Ven.Fr.Agnel's relic to my stomach. Through his blessing my vomiting and motions stopped. I am very thankful to Ven.Fr.Agnel and praying for his canonization.

-Emiciana Rodrigues

CURE OF SERIOUS SICKNESS

Bandra : I was very ill. My body was swollen. I was unable to get out of bed. As days passed by my condition became worse. As per the doctor's advice I was admitted to hospital in the ICU. I started praying to Ven.Fr.Agnel for a

speedy recovery. I am happy to say that through his blessing I am completely cured and was discharged from hospital. This happened on Ven.Fr.Agnel's Death Anniversary on 20th November 2013. In thanksgiving an offering of ₹.1000.

-Felira Fernandes

CURE OF STOMACH PAIN

Ambernath : My wife was suffering from stomach pain. The pain was unbearable. No treatments was of any help. With the pain she was also feeling giddiness. I prayed to Ven.Fr.Agnel for his help. Through his blessing she is alright now. In thanksgiving an offering of ₹.501

-C.Gasper

PERMANENT JOB SECURED

Vasai : I was praying to Ven.Fr.Agnel for his intercession before God. I am happy to say that through his intercession my son secured a permanent job in Canada. In thanksgiving an offering of ₹.10,000.

-Ruby I.Machado

ADMISSION SECURED

Thane : I was attending Ven.Fr.Agnel's Novena at the Ashram to secure admission in the USA for doing my Ph.D. Through his intercession, after completing a Nine-Sunday Novena I got admission to a college in USA with full funding. I thank Ven.Fr.Agnel. My thanks offering of ₹.1000.

-Anjali Krishnan

HAND PAIN CURED

Kandivali : I had severe pain in my hand and I could not easily move it. I prayed to Ven.Fr.Agnel and applied his mud relic. Within a short time the pain started subsiding and within a few days it was quite alright. I thank Ven.Fr.Agnel for helping me in this time of need. In thanksgiving an offering of ₹.1000.

-Manoj B.

Fr. Agnel's Jayanti Celebrated by Pilar Fathers, Pune



Bishop Thomas Dabre celebrating a special Mass in the morning



Mrs. Sangeeta Tiwari reading the Bhagwad Gita



The Ashram Community (Balbhavan, Brothers and Fathers) singing a "Fr. Agnel Song" in Konkani



The Kalanjali Bharatanatyam group being facilitated by the Chief Guest Fr. Joaquim Fernandes SVD



The Kalanjali Bharatanatyam group performing a Dance



The audience witnessing the programme in Fr. Agnel Vidyankur School hall

Balbhawan Day in Delhi – A Day of Love & Joy



Under the loving gaze of Fr. Bento



From strength to strength they grow every year!



A Music & dance Course by the Balbhawan Kids



Radhas & Krishnas dance to the beat of love



The Balbhawan choir – celebrities in-the-making



Ramu and his antics at Letter Writing