

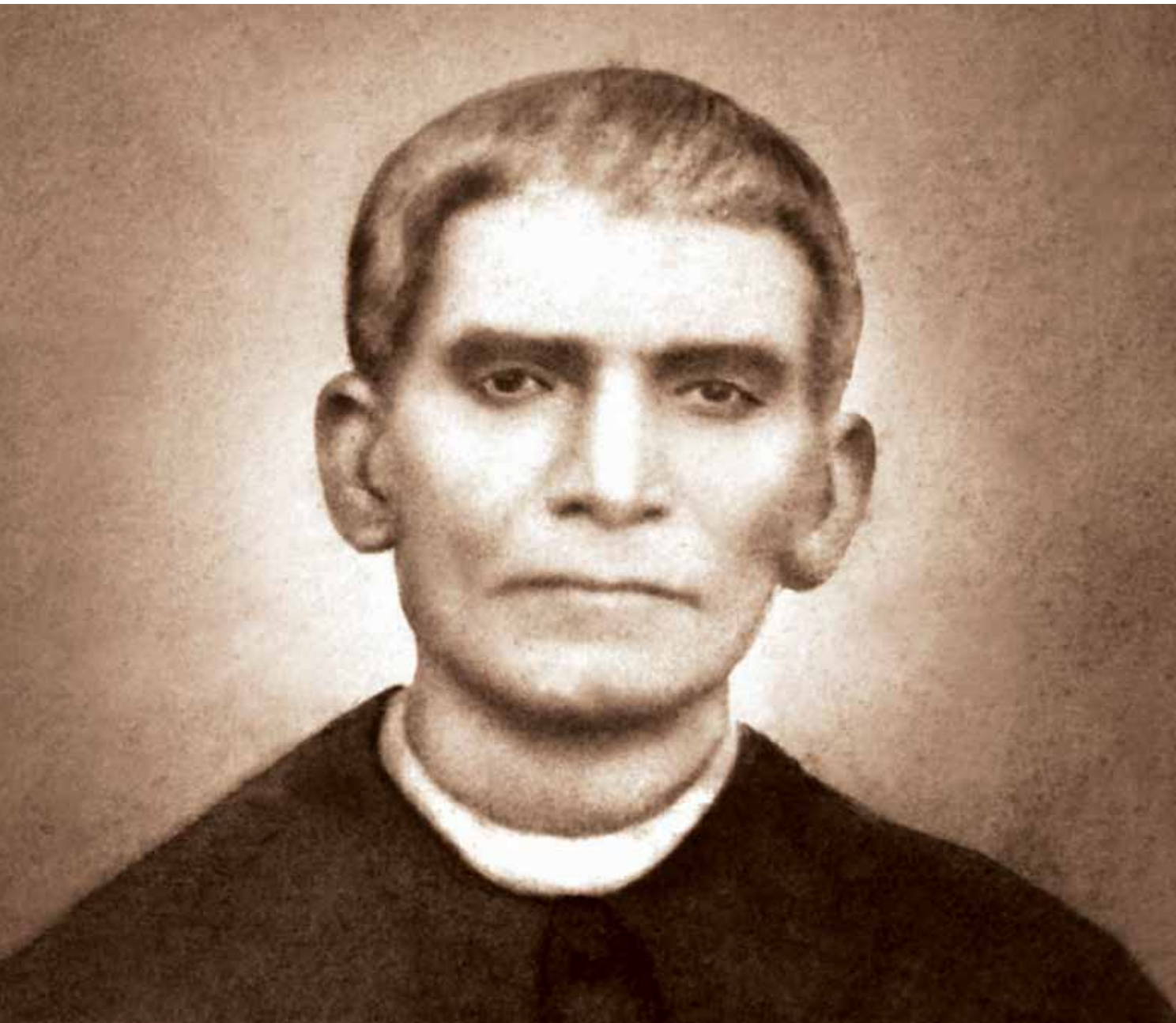


FR

November 2019

AGNEL

SHRAM NEWS



*Ven. Agnelo encountered Jesus and
zealously proclaimed Him,*

“Go and do likewise”

Lk 10:37

FR. AGNEL
ASHRAM

NEWS

November 2019

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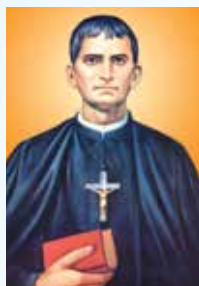
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VEN. FR. AGNELO'S 92nd DEATH ANNIVERSARY Wednesday, 20th November 2019

PROGRAMME

SPECIAL NOVENA SERVICES From 11th to 19th November 2019

Everyday

Morning : 7.00a.m. & 9.30 a.m.: Holy Mass and Novena Prayer in English followed by blessing with the Relic.

Evening : 5.30 p.m. : Novena Service in Marathi & Gujarati followed by blessing with the Relic.

Evening : 6.00 p.m. : Holy Mass and Novena Prayer in English followed by blessing with the Relic.

N.B.

On Sunday, 17th November, all Masses and Novena Services will be held as on normal Sundays.

20th November (Wednesday): 92nd Death Anniversary of Venerable Fr. Agnelo

Morning: Masses followed by Prayers for favours in English and blessing with the Relic at 7.00 a.m. & 9.30 a.m.

Evening: A Solemn Concelebrated Mass will be held at 6.00 p.m. in the Ashram Compound followed by Prayers for favours.

Most. Rev. Salvadore Lobo, Bishop of Baruiapur, will be the Main Celebrant on 20th November 2019.



Thousands of devotees will participate in this Annual Novena and celebration. Over one lakh of favours, some of them truly miraculous such as cure of cancer, T.B., Paralysis etc. have been received through the powerful intercession of Ven.Fr.Agnelo.

Favours obtained and petitions to be placed at the Shrine of Ven. Fr. Agnelo may be sent to the following address :

Rev. Fr. Superior.
Fr. Agnel Ashram
Bandstand, Bandra (West),
Mumbai - 400 050. India.
Tel. : 67114000.

Bus No. : 211 :Special Bus Service to Ply from Bandra Railway station (W) to Fr. Agnel Ashram Gate.

Stamp of Humility Cannot be Traded

- P.K.R

“Humility,” it has been said, “is one of the qualities left out of a self-made man.” Not all, one would say. For there are any number of self-made men, the world over, who have been the epitomes of humility.

Among such figures one could count Jesus Christ, Mahatma Gandhi, Gautam Buddha and by all accounts Fr. Agnelo. All of them suffered for the cause of other people-so that they would be happy and liberated, some from their sins, others from eternal damnation.

All of them without exception considered themselves as “Servants of the people” and dedicated their lives to the people at large. Their examples and their sacrifices have lived down the ages. They will continue to inspire people and enlighten their lives.

Some of them, like Ralph Waldo Emerson believed in the dictum: “Do not go where the path leads, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.”

All those who have trodden their own path in life, have been deified by those who believe in them and by their followers. And thereon lies greatness.

Men who dare to hew out their own pristine paths are destined to live long in people’s memory and to provide them inspiration to follow their own chosen paths. All this for the greater glory of mankind.

The world teachers had one thing in common: their humility, their realization that what they had achieved in life was a small contribution to the good of Mankind and for the benefit of all men on earth. Men the world over accepted

their teachings in that spirit.

Christianity, being an organized religion, is almost the same everywhere- from Africa, to Europe, to India and Australia. But Buddhism or Hinduism is not the same in various parts of the world where they are practiced.

The Ramayana and Mahabharata are interpreted in a totally different manner in Java, Indonesia and Malaysia. Buddhism is practiced in different ways in Myanmar, Tibet, India, China and Japan. And yet there is some binding common factor in all these varying practices. And, one remarkable factor one notices in the ardent devotees of these religions is their selflessness and their utter humility.

Men who dare to hew out their own pristine paths are destined to live long in people’s memory and to provide them inspiration to follow their own chosen paths. All this for the greater glory of mankind.

They imbibed these sterling qualities from their mentors, who initiated them into the faith they believe in and practice.

Gandhism, one suspects is slowly slipping into that mode of divergent practices. From what one once practiced as Gandhism- abstinence, Self-

abnegation, Deprivation, Suffering if necessary for a cause one believes in, are now restricted to a fringe group of his followers, the costliest fountain pens one could think of.

When the element of humility goes out of faith and trust in great men, who have trodden their own paths to show to mankind some new revelation of life on earth, it is but natural that some element of commercialism would creep in.

This applies to all great men of humility and forbearance. Their examples have to be followed with full faith, not in bits and pieces as one thinks fit. Therein lies the nobility of ordinary men and women who seek to follow the great men of the past.



There is no Joy Greater than the Joy of **GIVING**

Lina Greiff, Mumbai

I am sending a cheque of Rs.10,000 as my contribution for an orphan under your care. Please pray for us.

M.J. Sheth, Mumbai

Please find enclosed a cheque of Rs 1000 for the education and maintenance of the poor children in your Balbhavan. Please remember us in your daily prayers.

Mrs. Kamla N. DeSouza, Mumbai

Kindly accept my donation of Rs. 7000 for the welfare of the destitute children in your

Balbhavan. Kindly pray for me and my family. Thank you.

Oswald Herbert D'Souza, Mumbai

I enclose a cheque of Rs 10,000 for the poor children on the occasion of Our Lady of the Mount. May Our Lady shower her blessings on all of you. I shall appreciate if you will pray for me and my family.

Antonio H. Carvalho, Panjim

Please accept my kind donation of Rs 5000 which you may utilize for the benefit of the destitute children in your Ashram. Kindly request the children to pray for us.

Mini Sponsorship Scheme

*Our Orphan Children
need your Helping Hand*

The scheme offers the Benefactors of Fr. Agnel Ashram an opportunity to share in our noble work of bringing up 800 underprivileged children in our Balbhavans at: Bandra in Mumbai, Vashi in Navi Mumbai, Pune, Goa and Greater Noida.

- You can become a Co-Sponsor of an underprivileged child by paying ₹.1,200 or more per year. You can pay the amount in monthly installments of ₹.100 or more.
- We also have a Full Sponsorship Scheme for members paying ₹.9,000 or more per year. The amount also can be paid in monthly installments of ₹.750.

Please contact :

Rev. Fr. Superior,
Fr. Agnel Ashram, Bandstand,
Bandra (W),
Mumbai – 400 050.
Tel.: 022-67114000.

Morality is The Backbone of Life

-Ibonio D'Souza

The social, economic, political and religious ideals are centered in ethics. The blood of life is love, and morality is its backbone. Without virtue life cannot stand, and without love, life is dead. The development of life depends upon the development of virtue and the overflow of love rises when virtue rises.

Morality is not, for instance, a matter of clothing. The dress that is suitable for one climate, period or civilisation may be considered indecent in another; it is entirely a question of custom, not in any way involving moral considerations, yet these conventions are continually being confused with principles that are valid and unchanging.

The path of righteousness is only the right one. When righteousness has been rightly practiced, man becomes fit to proceed higher. Without a moral base, there can be no spiritual edifice. One who has not rested from wickedness, one who has not gained equanimity, one who has not controlled his senses, cannot aspire to attain this knowledge. This is the verdict of the sages of all times.

Morality and discipline amongst many members of our younger generation are deteriorating every day. Their behaviour and habits violate social standards. Innocent and peace-loving people are facing enormous sufferings, worries and miseries due to their inhuman acts and behaviour. Parents are responsible for these unfortunate incidents since they have given so much room to their children to behave as they like.

Generally speaking, there are two ideas of morality: (i) to be good and (ii) to do good. The first is the real morality whereas the second may be only a means to an end. One can be good in order to do good, but this is rare. People do good actions which appear entirely altruistic yet fundamentally are egoistic, motivated by acquisitiveness, desire for merit, bliss, heaven, reward or motivated by fear of resulting

punishment or hell. All, so called, "good" actions are inspired by selfishness. The idea of "being" good is the only true morality.

One may be rich and fortunate, enjoying all the rewards of past good deeds. But, if he be not virtuous, charitable and benevolent, he is like a man living on his capital, drawing from his bank account of good deeds, without replacing anything. When it is all exhausted, can he blame God or fate for his miserable state?

If practice of religion makes no improvement in a man's outward actions - if he continues to be just as greedy, spiteful, envious or impulsive as he was before - if he cheats those who work for him, or robs his neighbour, if he shows no compassion for a suffering fellow-being, then his "practice" is largely illusory. Fine feelings, new insights, greater interest in 'religion' mean nothing unless they make our actual behaviour better. A tree is known by its fruit.

Rank, caste, colour and even wealth and power cannot necessarily make a man great and worthy of honour. It is the character that illuminates wisdom. According to philosopher Aristotle: "The ideal man takes joy in doing favours for others but he feels ashamed to have others to do favours for him". It is considered a mark of superiority to confer kindness; but one of inferiority to receive it. Poet-educator Longfellow says: "The talent of success is nothing more than doing what you can do well, without a thought of fame."

Your wealth can decorate only your house but not you. Your dress can decorate your body but not you. Only your own virtue and good conduct can decorate you.

(The writer is the author of his widely read motivational tome: "Rise And Shine...the lotus way", and a social activist promoting holistic thinking.)

Remembering Ven. Fr. Agnelo's Holiness

-Leon Bent

Venerable "Fr. Agnelo's Day" is celebrated on 20th November every year, with Novenas beginning on 11th November, especially in Pilar, but, also in various places in India and other parts of the world. He is said to have wanted to die on this Feast of Christ the King, and God granted his wish. An official 'Feast Day' is granted only to the beatified or canonized persons. Venerable Fr. Agnelo is not yet beatified or canonized like Blessed Joseph Vaz or Francis Xavier.

The process for being named a Saint in the Catholic Church is called "canonization," the word "canon" meaning an authoritative list. Persons who are named "Saints" are listed in the "canon" as Saints and given a special day, called a "Feast," in the Catholic calendar. It is our hope and prayer that Venerable Fr. Agnelo D'Souza attains this magnificent and sacred honour as early as possible.

Father Hilario Fernandes claims Venerable Fr. Agnelo is second in popularity among people in Goa only after Saint Francis Xavier. Fiona Carnerio, an Agnelo devotee, says having a Saint of the soil would help keep people's faith vibrant and alive. Devotees have even more reason to rejoice as they celebrate the Day of Fr Agnelo. However, the process of putting Venerable Fr Agnelo on the road to sainthood has been fast tracked.

Every Thursday, and especially from 11th to 20th November, many devotees flock to Pilar, or climb the hillock of Pilar, to thank God for the favours received through the intercession of Venerable Fr. Agnelo. Rev. Fr. Remedios do Rosario Gomes, a member of the old Society of Pilar, and a colleague of Venerable Fr. Agnelo wrote: "When our Pilar Society was steadily diminishing in numbers, I was planning to join some other Congregation, preferably the Salesians. I consulted the Superior, Msgr. Lucio Vaz, the Vicar-General Fr. Thomas. F. DSouza and, finally, Fr. Agnelo, who told me as follows:

"Don't be afraid, the Pilar Society is not going to die. The finger of God is here (Pilar)!"

Ven. Fr. Agnelo's brightest dream was to spend his life for others. Once a poor woman knocked at his door and told him that she could not get her daughter married for lack of money. That day, Ven. Fr. Agnelo was penniless. However, he borrowed money from a Professor and gave the same to the woman. In Rachol Seminary, Ven. Fr. Agnelo was pained to see a Seminarian failing in his exams. So he wrote to his colleague, a Professor of Rachol Seminary as follows: "Be kind and helpful to this boy who has been failing for the third time." Msgr. Claudio Alvares, who knew Ven. Fr. Agnelo very well, in Rachol Seminary, bearing witness about Ven. Fr. Agnelo, said: "Fr. Agnelo was quiet, simple and a loveable person. He would never turn a blind eye to those who came to him for help." Today, Ven. Fr. Agnelo reminds us that, we too should do the same in this era of hatred, violence and terrorism. Venerable Fr. Agnelo followed the advice of Christ by loving the poorest of the poor. During his lifetime, Ven. Fr. Agnelo showed that he was a true disciple of Christ by loving God and his fellowmen.

Ven. Fr. Agnelo was a deeply spiritual man. A man of interior silence, humility, meekness and was totally dependent on God for everything (poor). He spent hours in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. He slept little and mortified his frail and weak body, by fasting, by being frugal and austere, and practising the forms of penance that were in vogue at that time.

A true shepherd of souls, Ven. Fr. Agnelo, "Padres do Pilar", served the people as Priest, Preacher, Retreat Master, Confessor and Administrator in all humility and meekness. Fr. Agnelo was also an impressive Preacher not because of rhetorical flourish, but because every word he spoke from the pulpit came out from the depths of his heart. The fire of Jesus' love burned brightly in his

heart, and he was quickened by the Holy Spirit.

Ven.Fr. Agnelo was a man of strong faith and a zealous Priest and worked in several places in the Portuguese jurisdiction. Ven.Fr. Agnelo was a fiery Preacher and much sought after for his Ministry in the Archdiocese of Goa and Daman. Ven.Fr. Agnelo was a “living pulpit”!

Later, appointed Spiritual Director of the Patriarchal Seminary of Rachol on 20th May 1918, Padre Agnelo came to be known as a model Priest - humble, prayerful, self-denying and saintly- by the Professors and students of the Seminary. He was caring and loving to the Staff and was already referred to as “Our Saint”, in Konkani, “Amcho San”.

The Ven. Fr. Agnelo, a member of Pilar Society reminds us that, the “true fuel in the life of a Priest” is “trust in God,” which stems “from a profound union with him in prayer,” and this was Ven. Fr. Agnelo’s “way of life”.

“Without Divine breath we would be reduced to nothing, “the Goan missionary used to say. For this reason, he urged everyone to pray with his or her entire “soul, heart and mind and spirit,” because “if we do not pay attention to what we ask God, how can he hear us?”

The Ven.Fr. Agnelo also urged the faithful to “approach confession as if it were the last,” telling Seminarians and young Priests that “a sinner, in order to convert and return to the righteous path through penitence and perfection, must meditate each day for at least 15 minutes and ‘examine his conscience’ before going to sleep.”

What Ven. Fr. Agnelo taught and said is simple. In a modern world, full of uncertainties, his words are a breath of fresh air that knows no boundaries. A London Church, where his death was commemorated last year, was filled, not only with people from Goa, but also many locals as well.

What attracts people to the Ven.Fr. Agnelo is not so much the “extreme austerities and sacrifices” of his life, but his capacity of being “in complete union of heart and body with Jesus Christ.”

The missionary from the Saint Francis Xavier

Society attracts thousands of faithful who visit his tomb on Pilar Hill in Goa. Fr Mascarenhas, now Auxiliary Bishop of Jamshedpur, an official of Goan descent who worked for the Asia Desk at the Pontifical Institute of Culture, talks about Ven.Fr.Agnelo’s life of “simplicity, humility, renunciation and asceticism.”

Ven.Fr. Agnelo would say, “Trust in God, rest like a dog at the feet of its master;” words that today’s priests must follow, according to Fr Mascarenhas, in a world where they are too often tempted to perform their, Ministry using technology and media.

In addition to his constant prayers, Ven.Fr. Agnelo is remembered for his focus on the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Such a thing “must be reasserted among men and women today because it is at the root of reconciliation with God and our fellow human beings,” Fr Mascarenhas said, “as well as the basis for everyone’s inner peace”.

He had a very holy death on 20th November, 1927. It was on the Vespers of the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Fr. Agnelo was the Preacher. Towards the end of the sermon, he collapsed on the pulpit. When he was brought down, he insisted on being allowed to remain until the Benediction of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Even in his last moments he showed the tranquillity of a saintly man. Upon his death, all around the Seminary, people said, “a Saint has passed away”. But he was still conscious and desired to be laid on a bench in the corridor from where he received the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament that followed the end of the Vespers. Fr. Agnelo had suffered Coronary Thrombosis with paralysis of the left arm and leg! He received the last Rites and then lapsed into a coma. He had often desired to die on the Feast of the Sacred Heart, and the Lord heard his prayer.

On the following day, the funeral was very largely attended by people from all corners of Goa eager to pay their last tribute to a saintly Priest. The Parish Priest of Rachol, who conducted the last rites, said after the funeral, “I have just laid a Saint to rest”.

Even before his funeral had taken place, the

Staff and students from the Seminary began picking up the few possessions of Ven.Fr. Agnelo. Latecomers began cutting his nails and even hair to keep as “relics”.

From then, the people began to flock to his grave and even pick up mud from his grave only to mix in water and drink to be cured from various sicknesses.

“Today a Saint has died” was the murmur that echoed and re-echoed, in Goa and far and wide. Ven.Fr. Agnelo is, indeed, a Saint! Immediately after his death, devotion abounded and spread far and wide. Today, hundreds and thousands of people all over the world are blessed through his intercession. He was declared “Venerable” by Pope Paul II, and we await and pray eagerly that he may be declared “Blessed” soon.

Fr. Mascarenhas said: Through ‘Friends of Fr. Agnelo’ groups, devotion to him has grown worldwide, including Canada and the United States.” He also said Ven.Fr.Agnelo’s brethren mentioned that , “Fr Agnelo helped and favoured 200,000 people, noting that his popularity is spreading across India. The Novena in his name, has in fact, been translated: Konkani into Tamil, Marathi, Konkani, Gujarati as well as English.

Now, this gold nugget! In the Catholic Church, however, a “Saint” has a more specific meaning: someone who has led a life of “heroic virtue.”

This definition includes the four “cardinal” virtues: prudence, temperance, fortitude and justice; as well as the “theological” virtues: faith, hope and charity. Venerable Fr. Agnelo displayed these qualities in a consistent and exceptional way.

And, this final flourish! Death is a common denominator to all living things. But, the death of a Saint is viewed, by God, as something special and it is a time of rejoicing, as the Saint leaves this world of sin and goes to a perfect place to be with Our Lord.

Please put these treasured words in the folds of your subconscious! Let us sing, with the Angels and Saints, the Praises of God for the gift of Ven.Fr. Agnelo to the world! The hour of the Lord has not yet come, and everything that must happen, has not yet been fulfilled in Ven.Fr. Agnelo’s case! In the mammoth choir of Angels, we will one day hear the name of “St. Agnelo” in the Eucharist.

The last word! Let us all pray with shameless persistence, like smoke rising heavenward, in fragrant curls of incense. May the odour of sanctity, freshen our lives, so that, we too become Saints like Ven. Fr. Agnelo, by living “for the greater glory of God!” May the Father’s will be done in us!

Fr. Agnel Ashram - Bandra **MASSES and NOVENAS ON SUNDAYS**

MORNING			
TIME	MASS	TIME	NOVENA
07:00 a.m.	English	07:45 a.m.	English
08:00 a.m.	Konkani	08:45 a.m.	Konkani
09:30 a.m.	English	10:15 a.m.	English
TIME	NOVENA	TIME	MASS
10.30 a.m.	Tamil	11.00 a.m.	Tamil
EVENING			
TIME	NOVENA	TIME	MASS
03.00 p.m.	Gujarati & Marathi	03.30 p.m.	Marathi
06:15 p.m.	English	06:30 p.m.	English
07:15 p.m.	English	07:30 p.m.	English

Weekdays Mass in English at 6.00 p.m.

Novena Prayers and Kissing of Relic are held on every Saturday after 6.00 p.m.

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

Rev. Fr. Superior

Fr. Agnel Ashram

P.O. Box – 6656, Bandstand,

Bandra (W), Mumbai – 400 050.

Tel : 67114000.

Fax : 67114100.

Email : agnelashramnews@gmail.com

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

Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues College of Engineering, Bandra, Mic Drop 2.0 organized by Rotaract Club

The Rotaract Club of Fr. CRCE organized one of its most anticipated events of the academic year on 9th October 2019, MIC DROP 2.0. The Event made a comeback after a very successful first edition during the previous year. This year, we had the honour of having 6 artists with us, all from different genres of the performing industry.

We invited stand-up comedians, a slam poet

observational comedy paired with his infectious energy, had the room chuckling throughout. Simar Singh, a slam poet and the Founder of the very popular Un Erase Poetry, touched everyone's hearts with his stirring words and evocative recital.

In addition to this marvelous lineup, we also had the pleasure of witnessing Yeda Anna, a multitalented freestyle rapper who had everyone

on the edge of their seats. He also did something very unique- on the spot rap, which was appreciated by everyone. Last but not the least, we had the immense honour of having Samay Raina, the winner of Comicstaan 2, perform live at our



Samay Raina

and a very acclaimed rapper to our Event. It was conducted on account of National Poetry Day and we celebrated the various modern manifestations of poetry through our multi-genre Event. Our lineup consisted of Munawar Faruqi, our host for the Event, who had the audience



Munawar Faruqi



Simar Singh



Yeda Anna

captivated with his fresh humour and captivating antics throughout the show. Kajol Srinivasan, another upcoming comedian, had everyone in fits of laughter throughout her set with her witty anecdotes.

We also had Nathan Gomes whose sharp-witted



Kajol Srinivasan



Nathan Gomes

Event. Armed with an eclectic set, paired with his persona and charm, his performance truly made it a memorable night for everyone to cherish. To sum up, Mic Drop 2.0, was a very successful Event night which will be remembered fondly.

The Salon Event a

TEDxCRCE had organized The Salon Event, their first event, exclusively for their college students on the 7th of October, 2019, at 4:30PM. The Salon Event is a small version of the main event, TED talks.

The Council members had put together a well-structured plan to make the Event a success. Preparations for the Event began weeks before. The planning began with the Speakers who were to be invited for the Event. Four Speakers from the domains of Business, Art, and Entertainment were invited to share their life's journey and inspire us Engineers. From the domain of entertainment, we had the honour of Mrs. Suchitra Pillai, from the domain of Art Mr. Vinod More, from the domain of Business Mrs. Sujata Deshmukh, from the domain of Music and Mr. Jigar Rajpopat to grace the Event with their presence. The Event started off on time with the 'Give your own TED talk' segment, which was an opportunity for the students of our College to come forward and give a motivational talk on the hardships in their own life and how they overcame it.



The audience are all ears!



Anish Dias inspiring his juniors.

'Give Your own TED talk' started with Mr. Anish Dias from final year of Information Technology. He spoke about the time he almost got a drop (got cleared in re-evaluation) and had to leave his position as the Editorial Secretary of the Student Council, but he did not let his situation or others' thoughts get him down and he worked hard on his Grades and today, he has the highest paying job among his batchmates in IT.



Chyankk Kumar giving his perspective of life.

Chyankk Kumar from third year Electronics, a survivor of a major accident and a medical miracle, spoke about how he overcame FOMO (Fear of Missing Out) because he realised life is precious and nothing else in this world is worth doing that would risk his life.

The next TED talk was given by Mr. Vinod More, in which he spoke about the importance of Art in our life, and that we should perceive it and understand the flow of thoughts that went through the artists' mind while creating their masterpiece.

t Fr. CRCE Bandra



Pranay Bagrecha in all his confidence

Pranay Bagrecha from third year Computer Science, inspired young minds to be a part of technological advancements and narrated his journey from preparing for hackathons to acing them.



Sujata Deshmukh encouraging the students that they can do more!

Next, we moved on to Ms. Sujata Deshmukh. She gave the students tips and words of encouragement to acing HR rounds, emphasising on what it takes to become an entrepreneur.



Suchitra Pillai talking about her Engineering days.

We then moved onto our special guests of the evening. The first guest to give the TED talk was Ms. Suchitra Pillai. She spoke about her life journey which began with her pursuing Engineering in our very own College, Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues College of Engineering but she went on to become a renowned actress.



Jigar Rajpopat talking about his passion.

Our final guest to give the TED talk was Mr. Jigar Rajpopat. He narrated his story of how he started as a Sound Engineering but then he found his passion as a Dhol and Tasha performer. He also spoke about how important music is in one's life.



Vinod More's Masterpiece of Steve Jobs

With that, the main part was over, and Mementos were distributed to our dignitaries. Our Co-organizer, Meera Ghaskadvi, delivered the Vote of Thanks at the end of the Event. Refreshments were provided for our special guests as well as our audience.

Agnelites Dominate Basketball Tournament

In the DSO Division Basketball Tournament conducted by **Fr. Agnels at the Agnel Sports Complex, Vashi**, from 5th October to 7th October 2019, the Agnel Teams made their mark in all the categories. 5 out of 6 teams qualified for six categories in the Division Championship which will be conducted in Solapur. The Agnel team U-18 boys represented Thane and won the Junior State Championship conducted by the Maharashtra State Basketball Association at Nagpur. Agnel players Parth Kale, Aquib Zariwala, Stephen Dias and Argha Ghanta have been selected for the Junior National Camp

to be conducted in Nagpur from 10th October onwards.



Gastronomix 2019 at Agnel Institute Of Food Crafts And Culinary Sciences, Verna.

Agnel Institute of Food Crafts and Culinary Sciences conducted their annual Nestle Gastronomix 2019 a Hospitality Students Cooking, baking and Mixology Competition on 11th October 2019 wherein 9 Institutes participated namely Institute Of Advanced Management, Nuvem, Guardian Angel Institute Of Hotel Management & Catering Technology (Curchorem), Institute of Hotel Management Catering Technology, Porvorim, Agnel Vocational Training Institute, Goa College Of Hospitality & Culinary Education, Goa University, Gesto Culinary And Hospitality Academy, Margao Gesto Culinary And Hospitality Academy Porvorim and Agnel Institute of Food Crafts and Culinary Sciences, Verna

The judges for the Chef Competition were Chef Sunit, Vice President of Culinary Forum Of Goa, Chef Suresh Mathpal, Executive Chef of Taj sats, the flight Catering Kitchen in Goa, Chef Abhay Kumar, Executive Sous Chef at Kennilworth Beach Resort and Head Chef of Salute Italian Restaurant. The judges for the Bake Competition were Chef Kunal Anolkar,

PHI Managing Director and Head Chef of Foodie Breaks, Bakery and Pastry Institute, Chef Ryan Furtado, Bakery and Head Chef of American Cruises and Culinary Institute, Margao and Chef Vijay Nagpal Pastry Chef and Consultant. The judges for the Bar Competition were Mr. Balbir Furtado, Restaurant Manager on P & O Cruises, Mr. Glen Dias, Beverage and Flair Trainer at the European Bartending Academy, Verna Goa..

The Winners for the Chef Com Mahale Achut from Goa University. 1st Runners Up : .Shrey Bhatt from Institute of Hotel Management Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Porvorim 2nd Runners Up : Sayali Sanjay Patil from Institute of Advanced Management, Nuvem. The Winners for the Bake Com were Gaylin Mendes from Agnel Institute Of Food Crafts And Culinary Sciences, Verna ,1st Runners Up Snehal Chris Alex Sequeira from Agnel Vocational Training Institute, Verna, 2nd Runners Up Abigail D'Souza from Institute of Hotel Management Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Porvorim. The Winners

for the Bar Com were Viraj Naik from Gesto Culinary & Hospitality Academy, Margao. 1st Runner Up

Eldridge Rebello from Agnel Institute Of Food Crafts And Culinary Sciences, Verna and 2nd Runners up Chandrashekhar Lodhe

from Institute of Hotel Management Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Porvorim.

Participants were awarded Trophies, Certificates and Prizes sponsored by Nestle Professional, Mumbai. Also all the judges were presented with Nestle Gift Hampers.

Feast of Our Lady of Pilar Celebrated at Greater Noida

The Balbhawan Family celebrated the Feast of Our Lady of Pilar at **Fr. Agnel Noida**. We the Balbhawan Family celebrated the Feast of Our Lady of Pilar on 12th October 2019. To celebrate this Feast we had Women and children carried the statue of Mother Mary to their house and prayed together.

On that day, we first prayed to Our Lady to intercede for us. Fr. Bento placed the statue in the Palki and we went in procession and paused at different places to recite the Rosary. Finally, we reached the School auditorium. We had a Solemn Mass and the main celebrant was Fr. Roy D'Sa. After the Mass, there was a Dance.

Fr. Agnel School, Noida wins Football Trophy at Uttarakhand

CBSE Cluster Girls under 19 held in Uttarakhand at Kashipur. Girls from **Fr. Agnel School, Noida** won the matches 12-0, 5-0, 4-0 and final match played against last year winners. They won the match 1-0.

Seema was awarded best Player in the finals. Neelu as the best goal-keeper and Sherin as the best Player. Sherin was given a trophy and Rs 5100/- We thank God, Fr. Bento and our Principal for giving us such opportunity.

Celebrate Life. Care for others and share whatever you have with those less fortunate than you. Broaden your vision, for the whole world belongs to you.

-Sri Sri Ravi Shankar

Religion is not a cultural conditioning

- Osho

The word 'dharma' comes from a root meaning, 'That which gives support to everything, which maintains everything.' It is not a concept, but that which sustains everything. That which supports this vastness, the moon, stars, sun, trees and birds, man and the endless expanse of existence – what supports all this is dharma.

Religion is not related to concepts. Your concept may be Hindu, someone's may be Christian – but it is not related to dharma. These are concepts; these are intellectual ideas. Religion is the name for that essential truth which sustains everything, without which everything would be dispersed. That which joins all, which is the totality of all, which bridges all.

It is like making a garland of flowers. Here is a heap of flowers and there is a garland. What is the difference? The pile is chaotic. No flower is connected with any other flower; all the flowers are disconnected. The garland is strung on a thread. The thread is not visible, it is hidden in the flowers, but it joins one flower to another.

This whole existence is strung on a thread called dharma. This which joins us to trees, the moon and stars, which joins stones and pebbles to the sun, which joins everything, which is the connection of all – this is dharma.

Culture is not created from dharma. Culture is made from cultural conditioning. Dharma is known when all conditionings have been renounced. Sannyasa means renouncing conditioning.

Cultures will remain on earth, and they should remain because the greater the diversity, the more beautiful is the earth. I don't want the world to have only one culture – that would be idiotic, very dull and boring. Hindu culture is needed on earth; Islamic, Christian, Buddhist,

Jaina, Chinese, Russian – thousands of cultures are needed because variety makes life beautiful. Many types of flowers are needed in a garden. Just one type of flower will make the garden monotonous.

Cultures must be numerous but religion should be one, because dharma is one. There is no other possibility.

I call Hinduism a culture, I call Islam a culture – not religion. It is good; cultures are beautiful. Make mosques in their unique style, temples in a different architecture. Temples are beautiful; so too are mosques. I would not want only temples and that mosques should disappear – beauty would be greatly diminished. I would not want only Sanskrit to remain with us and Arabic to disappear – beauty would be much diminished. I would not want only the Quran to remain with us, and the Vedas, the Gita and the Upanishads to disappear – the earth would become very poor.

The Quran is beautiful. It is a rare literary masterpiece, it is poetry of great height – but it has nothing to do with the religion I am talking about. The Vedas are lovely, a rare proclamation of the earth's aspirations to touch the sky. The Upanishads are very sweet. All these should remain – but as culture.

Religion is concerned with your being. Religion is your pure existence, your nature. Culture is your outer shell, your etiquette, your behaviour in everything concerned with these – how to stand, how to speak, what to say, what not to say.

Tradition never becomes religion. Religion is timeless, eternal truth. Man makes traditions – religion already is. Traditions are man's creation. Religion precedes man; man has been made by religion. Understand this difference.

- Courtesy *The Times of India*

Saints

- Christine D'Sylva

Let us always meet each other with a smile, for the smile is the beginning of love- Mother Teresa

Teach us to give and to not count the cost- St Ignatius.

The definition of a Saint is a person who has an exceptional degree of holiness, likeness or closeness to God.

Where did this word originate from?

The word Saint comes from the Latin word "Sanctus".

A Saint is more than just an extraordinary holy person. Often, Saints are attributed to have miraculous powers and they seem to exert a powerful influence on their followers and touch and transform the lives of others as well.

While the word "Saint" may be used loosely to describe a pious person, the official word denotes a person who has been canonized by the Catholic Church.

The Catholic Church does not create Saints but the Church agrees that it gives due recognition to people who display extraordinary holiness.

A Saint is often designated as a patron Saint of a particular cause, profession and invoked as a protector of certain diseases. This occurs either by popular custom or by the official declarations of the Church.

It must be noted that Saints are not attributed to possess any special powers by themselves but it is emphasized by the Church that all miraculous powers attributed to Saints comes from God.

When we pray to Saints in sickness and a miracle occurs, then it can only be considered a real miracle when the medical recovery is instantaneous, not attributable to medical treatment and the illness vanishes for good.

Once a person has been canonized then the body is holy as a relic. The remains of Saints are called holy relics and are usually used in Churches.

Is canonization easy?

Unfortunately, it is not easy at all, and this is a very lengthy process that takes many years or even centuries. The Church is never quick to call someone a Saint and rightly so, unless supported by plenty of evidence and time taken to study their lives in great depth. To be considered a Saint, there must be at least two important miracles obtained from God through the intercession of the candidate.

It is never necessary for a person to become a Saint to have led a very pious life always. The fact is that many Saints like St Augustine were not pious at all but in their later years, they transformed their lives and became Saints. St Augustine Of Hippo is called the patron of brewers because of his conversion from a former life of

loose living which included parties, entertainment and worldly ambitions. He was the son of St Monica and born in Africa. Though, he had been brought up as a Christian, he committed many sins. However, through the fervent prayers of his mother, Monica, and the preaching of St. Ambrose, he finally became convinced of Christianity as a true religion and he began to follow Christ.

This did not happen overnight. One day, he heard two men who were converted on reading the life of St. Anthony, and he felt terribly ashamed of himself for he had not yet embraced Christianity fully.

Full of bitter sorrow, he flung himself into the garden and cried to God, "How long more, O Lord? Why does not this hour put an end to my sins?"

Just then he heard a child singing, "Take up and read."

He picked up the book of the Letters of St Paul and read the first passage his gaze fell upon. St Paul said in the passage to put away all impurity and to live in the imitation of Christ. From then on, St Augustine began to lead a new life.

In the wall of his room as he served as a priest, he had this sentence put up in large letters- **Here we do not speak ill of anyone.**

He once cried to God, "Too late have I loved you."

But with his holy life he certainly made up for the sins he had committed before his conversion. His feast day is August 28th.

There are many saints both male and female. Some of the most popular ones are St Francis of Assisi, St Anthony and St Joseph the foster father of Christ.

Amongst the female saints we have St Catherine, St Theresa of Liseux, St Monica and St Maria Goretti. They are often venerated in Churches and people pay homage to them lighting candles, giving alms and offering prayers for their intercession.

Finally, we can conclude that when we pray to saints, we must remember that all the miracles that occur come from one source and that is God our Heavenly Father. Saints only offer prayers for us because they have the listening ear of God in a way we might lack at times, due to our lack of faith and trust in God.

We pray that more and more people are venerated as saints. Their lives are surely a stairway to Heaven because their lives are an incredible example of holiness and goodness. It is something we can only try to emulate.

Let us conclude with the words of St Francis of Assisi- *Lord make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love.*

LIFE-LESSONS :

We practice them in our Balbhavan

-Igggy

It will be almost a year, since the Boys of **Fr. Agnel Balbhavan in Vashi**, began the practice of distributing food for the homeless. It began as our “Experiment in respecting the Food”(by not wasting it) and it grew into an “Experiment in Caring”. Every evening, after dinner, a group of around seven boys (each day a different group), carry the left-over food from our Canteen and distribute it to the homeless people.

We leave around 9 p.m. with utensils in our hands, each filled with rice, dal, vegetables, chapattis, or any other left-over. We serve around 15 to 35 people each evening.

Through this practice, we learn about people who look forward to our visit, for this is their only meal of the day. We learn about children, who are not as fortunate as we are to have four meals a day. Some boys choose to go on their birthdays to distribute food, even though it is not their turn to do so. Why, I wonder! Perhaps they have learnt that giving joy to others is the best birthday gift they can give to themselves. Life-Lessons, practiced!

Two weeks ago, five boys of Middle School were returning back to the Balbhavan after their Remedial Classes. They saw a poor lady begging for alms with people in front of their school gate, but was being denied by all. Our five fellows approached her and struck a conversation. She told them that she had a son, and that both of them had not eaten anything for the day. The boys emptied their pockets and handed seven biscuit packets to the lady and suggested to her that she come along with her son to the Campus gate around 9:00 p.m. when the boys go to distribute food. The lady grateful for their gesture, placed her hand on the head of each of them and blessed them. This simple gesture was the best thing that happened to them that day, for they felt blessed. A touching Life-Lesson, lived out!

Ten years ago, we began celebrating Ganpati

Puja at the Balbhavan as a family festival. This year, the main theme of the decoration was ‘Kashmir.’ Against the backdrop of green valleys and snowy mountains, we did “aarati”and prayed to Ganpatti for harmony and peace among people.- As we prepared together to honour Bappa, we learnt to cooperate, to solve conflicts, and to work together for a common cause. Valuable Life-Lessons, indeed !



Let me wind up with a success-story of the year. Ten Balbhavan boys appeared for 2019 S.S.C. Board Exams. Among them were excellent dancers, artists and players. But when it came to

Academics, they were like a hard nut to crack. No tutor was good enough; those who volunteered to help them, gave up on them and politely walked out. Their lack of seriousness, ‘aramse’-attitude, their care-less approach to Board Exams worried everyone involved, including the teachers. While the rest of the boys went home during Christmas vacation, Sir-M cancelled his Christmas break and stayed with them in the Balbhavan, enforcing ‘Discipline, ‘Hard work’ and ‘Striving for the Best’ attitude in their studies. Slowly things began to change for the better. For the next two months, they applied their mind diligently for studies. When the Results-time approached, 3 boys secured Distinction; 5 had First Class; and 2 secured Second Class. Most of them now, are in the Polytechnic and I.T.I. They have calmed down, have matured, and best of all, carry on their responsibilities, all on their own. Life-Lessons learnt, good for life-time.

By the way, I am Igggy, in my Final Year of Diploma in Mechanical Engineering. All that I wrote above are true stories of our boys and I am one of them. I have lived here for 9 years, and in a few months, am ready to move on, equipped with Life-Lessons...practiced in the Balbhavan... Good enough to last me life-time.



FR. AGNEL'S BLESSINGS

BLESSED WITH JOB IN BANK

BELAPUR: I am an ex-student of Fr. Agnel Institute in Vashi, Navi Mumbai. During my academic years I was praying to Fr. Agnel to bless me with a good job in bank. I am now very happy to inform you that through the intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel I got a job in a leading Bank (HDFC) soon after my graduation. As a token of my profound gratitude an offering of ₹.10,000 from my first salary to the Ashram for its various charitable activities under his Patronage.

-Aditi Avinash Shinde

LONG CHERISHED WISH FULFILLED

GHOGLA-DIU: Once I visited the Ashram in my childhood with my parents. I had placed down my petition at his Samadhi with a wish that I wanted to become a doctor in future. Ever since I was praying to Fr. Agnel for my bright career. Years passed by, I passed MBBS with flying colours and got admission for Post Graduation in Surgery (MS). Through his blessing I passed Master in Surgery with high marks and got job as a surgeon in a reputed hospital. Moreover, I am blessed with a suitable life partner from the same profession. We are leading a happy married life. With profound love and gratitude a humble offering of ₹10,000 to the Ashram.

-Dr. Sandipkumar Solanki

CURED OF STOMACH PAIN AND ULCER

MAHIM-MUMBAI : My husband was

suffering from severe stomach pain due to ulcer. Although he was under medication it did not bring any relief for him. I prayed Fr. Agnel and applied his mud relic together with blessed water brought from the Ashram on his stomach. I am very happy to testify that through the blessing of Fr. Agnel he has been completely cured. With thanks an offering of ₹.500 to the Ashram.

-Nergish Phiroze Dastoor

PASSED SSC WITH 90% OF MARKS

BORIVALI : Ever since my son was promoted to 10th class in ICSE Board, I was praying to Fr. Agnel for his blessings upon my son. I am now extremely happy to inform you that by the grace of Fr. Agnel my son passed SSC with 90% of marks and secured admission for higher study in a reputed college, despite stiff competition. With a grateful heart, a humble offering of ₹10,000 to the Ashram to buy sweets for the inmates of the Balbhavan.

-Jaya Sunil Sawant

HELP IN CRITICAL TIME

NEW JERSEY-USA. I was passing through some difficult situation in my life. I lost my peace of mind and I was in a mentally run-down condition. In this plight, I sought the heavenly intercession of Ven. Agnel and fervently prayed to him. I am now very happy to inform you that through the blessing of Fr. Agnel I was able to overcome the situation. My heartfelt thanks to Fr. Agnel with an offering of \$.100 US dollars \$\$.100

-Uma Datta

When you focus on being a blessing, God makes sure that you are always blessed in abundance.

-Joel Osteen

Out of Their Bounty

P. Srivastava	Mumbai	5000	Laxmi	Virar	500	A. Patel	Mumbai	500
Ashok Patel	Mumbai	500	C.G. D'Cruz	Vasai	400	M.D. Lopes	Mumbai	1000
Neha S. Naik	Nallasopara	2000	Agnelo Rodrigues	Dahisar	2000	L D'Mello	Vasai	1000
Jatin Desai	Valsad	500	Abigail Rodrigues	Dahisar	1000	S. Tiwari	Mumbai	500
C. A. Gogri	Mumbai	100	Jerome Rodrigues	Dahisar	1000	S. Desai	Mumbai	2000
A. H. Carvalho	Panjim	5000	Alvina Rodrigues	Dahisar	1000	Sumit Desai	Mumbai	2000
Baby J. Manuel	Navi Mumbai	1000	Milton	Mumbai	500	Sonal Desai	Mumbai	2000
J. M. Machado	Mumbai	8000	A.M. Amaladasan	Mumbai	500	Saroj Desai	Mumbai	2000
Shaila Mathias	Mumbai	2000	P. Thyrajan	Mumbai	1000	Amit Desai	Mumbai	2000
Ashok, Geeta,			M.F. Colaso	Bhyander	500	J. Menezes	Mumbai	500
Clement	Mumbai	100	S.A. Shetty	Kalyan	100	S.S. Mohite	Mumbai	1000
Louandra Gomes	Mumbai	2000	S.V. Shetty	Kalyan	100	Dr. A. Shelke	Kolhapur	10000
V. Bathena	Panchgani	1200	Ashok Kanyilal	Thane	500	A.I. Bhurke	Mumbai	1000
T. Menezes	Goa	2000	V. Sebastian	Mumbai	8000	S. Fernandes	Mumbai	1000
Felix Menezes	Goa	1000	S.J. D'Souza	Mumbai	500	Jason D'Mello	Vasai	2000
Francis D'Souza	Mumbai	100	S. Popat	Mumbai	2500	Wilma Macwan	Mumbai	500
B. Rathod	Mumbai	201	Vinod Shetty	Mumbai	100	P.P. Rodrigues	Mumbai	500
T. Desai	Mumbai	1001	J. Hariawala	Mumbai	101	H.A. Miranda	karnataka	4000
B.R. D'Souza	Mumbai	500	Priyanka K. R.	U.S.A.	1000	N. Jain	Mumbai	500
Leena Pereira	Mumbai	1000	J.D. Patel	Mumbai	251	J. Machado	Mumbai	8000
R. D'Souza	Mumbai	500	J. Achuthan	Mumbai	200	A.. Shirsat	Akola	500
S. Ignatius	Vasai	5000	P. E. Ferrao	Mumbai	1000	J.P. Gilder	Mumbai	1200
S. Fernandes	Mumbai	1000	Marlene Dias	Mumbai	2000	Z.J. Bharucha	Vasai	2000
B. Rodrigues	Mumbai	1000	F. K. Daruwalla	Mumbai	1000	N.M. Karekar	Dombivli	101
R.R. D'Silva	Mumbai	500	J.K. Daruwalla	Mumbai	1000	D. Reginald	Mumbai	2000
S. Poojary	Mumbai	200	A. L. Cardozo	Mumbai	15000	Reginald A.R.	Mumbai	2000
Soma Paruli	Mumbai	2000	M. Mohandas	Oman	1800	S.B. Corera	T.N.	200
P.A. Fernandes	Mumbai	1200	A. Parhana	Mira Rd.	1000	V.V. Solanki	Anand	501
S. Natarajan	Mumbai	1000	P. Sequeira	Vasai	2000	S.D. Tuscano	Vasai	350
K.J. Manek	Mumbai	1000	V. Sequeira	Vasai	1000	Celine D'Costa	Mumbai	100
V.A. Varghese	Kerala	4000	Peter Fernandes	Vasai	2000	L.J. Bar	Mumbai	500
S.M. Menon	Mumbai	5000	C. Fernandes	Vasai	500	G.f. Miranda	Vasai	2000
Denzil D'Souza	Virar	14500	J. Sequeira	Vasai	500	R.G. Miranda	Vasai	1000
C. Gigool	Naigaon	2000	T. Sebastian	Kerala	150	Nikita D'Souza	Vasai	500
Phalguni Desai	U.S.A.	201	Alexander K.	Kerala	200	Shane Fernandes	Mumbai	500
Celine Fernandes	Mumbai	25000	Mary Paul	Kerala	300	L. Rumao	Vasai	5000
D. Dadachanji		1200	Mercy Poulouse	Kerala	1000	S. Kapoor	U.P.	150
R. Rodrigues	Mumbai	2400	Rita Johnson	Kerala	800	Madhuri M. Pant	Titwala	20000
M. Dadachanji	Navi Mumbai	2000	Mary Philomina	Kerala	500	Rupal Desai	Gujarat	2000
V.H. Dadachanji	Navi Mumbai	1750	P.K. Alphonsa	Kerala	500	N.P. Dastoor	Mumbai	200
J. Joseph	Mumbai	2000	Mary Joseph	Kerala	300	Zubin Sadri	Mumbai	1000
L. J. Dias	Mumbai	1000	Anna Mathew	Kerala	150	P.Shah & Fly.	Mumbai	100
J. Baraiya	Mumbai	500	B.M. D'Cruz	Kerala	300	J.G. John	Dombivli	9000
M. R. Mathias	Karnataka	2000	I.T. Tailor	Gujarat	101	K.N. Pate	Mumbai	2000
D. D'Sa	Mumbai	2000	A. Amaldass	Karnataka	100	Subramaniam R.	Mumbai	5000
F.A. Cordeiro	Mumbai	500	George Xavier	Kerala	3000	J.N. Patel	Mumbai	1600
E.J. Fernandes	Mumbai	2000	Jain Alex	Kerala	100	S. Menezes	Mumbai	9000
Michelle D'Souza	Mira Rd.	2000	J.R. Lobo	Mumbai	500	Chavda & Fly.	London	2000
C.F. Hanso	Thane	500	J. Carmel	Mumbai	100	M. Kuvadia	U.K.	500
S.S. Dabre	Vasai	5000	H.D. Shah	Mumbai	500	Jason Koolman	U.K.	1000
J.N. Cardoza	Mumbai	2000	R. Vora	Mumbai	1000	Sandra koolmon	U.K.	1600
Ryan Nazareth	Mumbai	2000	AN. Panchal	Mumbai	500	K.B. Karsham	Diu	500
Celine Nazareth	Mumbai	1000	S.I. Pipul	Mumbai	500	D. D'Sa	Mumbai	2000
D. Kumar	Mumbai	500	J.S. Bhavsar	Mumbai	50	A. Lobo	Mumbai	500
A. Rodrigues	Mumbai	2000	J.P. Doctor	Mumbai	200	Anita Varkey	Bangalore	25000
L. Rodrigues	Mumbai	2000	K.S. Shah	U.S.A.	2000	K. Malani	Mumbai	8000
			Stacy Carvealho	Mumbai	2000			

Feast of Our Lady of Pilar Celebrated at Greater Noida



Our Lady of Pilar



Fr. Roy D'Sa Placing the statue of Our Lady of Pilar before the Altar



Fr. Bento Rodrigues carrying the statue of Our Lady



"Palki" of Our Lady of Pilar Statue



Devotees worshipping Our Lady of Pilar Statue



Balbhawan Children carry the Statue of Our lady of Pilar



Welcome speech by Fr. Bento Rodrigues.



Eucharistic Celebration by Fr. Roy D'Sa and other Frs.



Welcome Dance by Balbhawan Children

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Gastronomix 2019, Verna



Award winning mocktail by Mr. Viraj Naik from Gesto Culinary.



Bake com winner Mr. Gaylin Mendes from Agnel Institute of Food Crafts and Culinary Sciences, Verna.



Final presentation of dish by participant.



Participant at Gastronomix.



Participant with one of the award winning bakery product.



Chef com winner Mr. Mahale Achut from Goa University.

If undelivered please return to:

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