

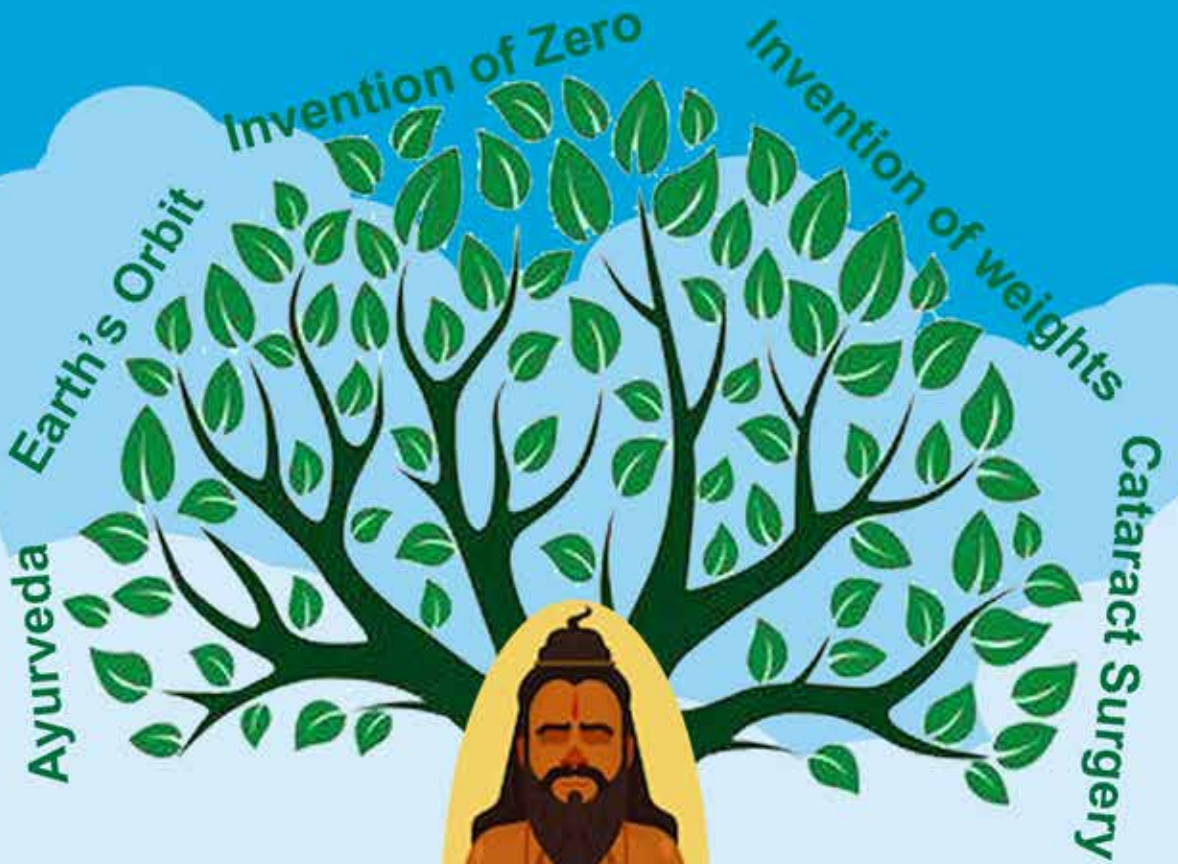


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September 2019

AGNEL

SHRAM NEWS



***India's potential
as Vishwaguru***

Contents

Fr. Agnel Ashram News

September 2019



03 Editorial
tr

05 The nativity of
Our Lady

06 Teacher's Day

08 Teaching a Noble
Profession

09 Agnel Happenings



15 Teachers ought to
renew faith
in the very meaning
of the vocation of
teaching

17 Fr. Agnel Blessings

18 Out of Their Bounty



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Fr. Peter D'Souza sfx
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Fr. Jose Alarico Carvalho, sfx

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For Advertisements Contact:

Jennifer D'Souza
022-67114000
agnelashramnews@gmail.com

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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>

*All the great things are simple, and many can be expressed in
a single word: freedom, justice, honor, duty, mercy, hope.*

-Winston Churchill

The Nativity of Our Lady

-Leon Bent

The Virgin Birth of Mother Mary is celebrated with much festivity, fanfare, flail and tenderness on September 8. People of diverse faiths have immense love, trust and devotion for the Virgin Mary, and come to the feet of the Mother of the Redeemer, in their thousands, where the feast is commemorated. They always carry Mary in their believing hearts as, primarily a caring Mother, and a powerful Mediator of grace and healing, and through Churches, Basilicas, and sacred places, wherever Christians memorialize the Virgin birth, or other Marian festivities. For Christians, this is an indisputable fact!

Our Lady was so important that her birthday marks a new era in the Old Covenant. The history of the Old Covenant was a long wait for the coming of the Messiah. After the original sin of our first parents, mankind had to wait 3,000 years, perhaps more, for the Messiah. But at a certain 'blessed moment', Divine Providence decreed that a woman should be born, who would deserve the coming of the Messiah. Her nativity represents the entrance into the world of the 'perfect creature' who found grace before God, and had impeccable merit, to end that extensive wait.

All the prayers, sufferings, and faithfulness of the just men, living and dead, reached their apex with 'her' arrival. There had been Patriarchs, Prophets and just persons among the Chosen People, and, certainly, some just men and women among the Gentiles, who had prayed, suffered, and waited; none of this was sufficient to attract the coming of the Redeemer. But, when God so willed it, He made the perfect girl to be born, to be the Mother of the Saviour. Therefore, the entrance of this exquisite village, innocent damsel into the world marks the presage of Salvation. The relationship between God and man began to change, and the gates of Heaven that had been tightly locked were semi-opened, permitting the light and breeze of hope to pass through.

The feast day of the nativity of Our Lady induces us to ask: What advantage did her birth bring for mankind? And why should mankind celebrate her nativity in a special way?

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Nativity of Mary, or the Birth of the Virgin Mary's birth represents the entrance into the world of a new era that was an incomparable presage of the presence, blessing and divine providence that would come with the Saviour. For all these reasons the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lady should be most dear to us. It is the event that announces the fall of Paganism.

Our Lady was conceived without original sin, giving her a singular and peerless value. She was a lily of an incomparable purity and beauty that appeared in the 'dark night' of this land of exile. She also had all the natural psychological gifts that a woman can have. God gave her the richest personality imaginable. To this, He added gifts of a supernatural order, the treasures of graces that were hers. She received the most precious graces God ever gave to any human person.

Scripture tells us that the tunic that Our Lord wore was a source of grace that cured those who touched it; this being the case, you can imagine how Our Lady, the Mother of the Saviour, was a source of grace for whosoever would approach her, even before she was born. For this reason we can say that at her nativity, immense graces began to shine on humankind, and the stranglehold of demonic power of the Devil, was crushed (Gen.3:15) under her weight – purity, as white as snow! Satan perceived that his sceptre had been destroyed, and his evil designs and influence would never be the same again.

Now, gold nugget! For those who desire Our Lady's victory, the celebration of her Nativity on 8th September, is especially important. These countless devotees should pray fervently, for the immediate coming of her reign, when the long dark night of sin will be eclipsed by her triumph.

And, this final flourish! Birthday celebrations bring happiness to the celebrant as well as to family and friends. After the birth of Jesus, Mary's birth offers the greatest possible happiness to the world. Each time we celebrate her birth, we can confidently hope for an increase of love, joy and peace in our hearts and in the world at large.

Teacher's Day.

-Christine D'Sylva.

A word of encouragement from a teacher can change a life.

Teacher's Day is celebrated on September 5 every year. Since 1962, this day has been a special day to honour Dr. Radhakrishnan as it is his birthday.

Who was Dr Radhakrishnan? He was India's President and a great teacher. He was a philosopher and awarded several high awards including a knighthood in 1931 and the Bharat Ratna which is the highest civilian award in India.

Teaching is a very important profession. It is a profession that has a great responsibility.

Our children are the future of our nation. Teachers are directly responsible in educating kids and inculcating in them a desire and thirst to gain knowledge that is just not academic but one that enables them to function as upright citizens.

Teachers ought to be the best minds in the country according to Dr Radhakrishnan. It is they who play an important role in the future of our nation because they have to encourage education and without sound education, our country cannot progress.

Dr Radhakrishnan said, "Books are the means by which we build bridges between cultures."

In saying this, he is emphasising that love of knowledge and education can inspire the young generation to become enterprising and forge ahead in life.

The progress of our nation is dependent upon our young generation. Teachers play a vital role in shaping their minds and encouraging them in

their pursuit of knowledge and also encouraging them by vocational guidance.

Today, there are various Counsellors attached to various educational institutions who counsel the young to choose the correct career. There are so many career choices available today compared to the past, that young minds get confused. Thus, these teachers help guide students along the right path.

We all have memories of our teachers. Some memories are good, some are painful.

Dr Radhakrishnan said,
"Books are the means by
which we build bridges
between cultures."

There have been teacher who were overly strict and not encouraging especially to the weaker students, while we recall teachers who were encouraging and took particular pains to make the subject interesting and easier to study.

It is a special kind of person who takes up teaching to encourage the young and make academic life interesting and not tedious. Such teachers are perhaps not very common, but they certainly will always live in our hearts and minds as being special people.

Yet, despite the criticisms attached to certain unpopular teachers, it has to be acknowledged that students have to respect their teachers and realise that while there may be imperfections each individual teacher is unique and striving to do the best they can. Each teacher plays a role in guiding the students in their own unique way. It is said that God does not make mistakes. Thus, teachers are chosen by God for it is a vocation. Thus, every teacher must be given due respect for teaching is more than a profession.

When a teachers trains in a college doing his/her B.Ed he/she is informed that teaching is a

vocation. A vocation he has to take very seriously. His or her role is to function not only as an educator, but an authority figure who guides the young in the absence of the parents for those few hours at school or college.

I really believe a good teacher makes the subject to be taught, interesting.

Albert Einstein once said, "It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge."

A teacher who believes in inspiring a student to enjoy the subject he/she is teaching is one who can make even the most boring subject come alive and become interesting.

It is also wholly untrue that the stricter a teacher, is in assessing papers, the cleverer he is. Infact, this only serves to cause discouragement to the young. A teacher must be fair and just and reveal great kindness and love for the students while teaching and assessing papers. It is, in fact, a very wise teacher who realises students who score better in a subject develop love for it, for the subject is no longer viewed as a hurdle to be hated, but it is now a joy to learn.

Therefore, the hands of education lie in our Teachers who really have a great responsibility in making education interesting and the educational institution a second home. One in which there are rules and regulations, yet one in which they enjoy attending and feel a sense of pride and belonging to.

Jesus was the greatest teacher (who has ever lived in the world.)

He was able to understand that when He spoke to the common people, He had to come down to their level. He had to be approachable in His manner of preaching as well as talking.

He used parables that are stories with a moral or meaning.

Through these parables, He was able to get across ideas that may have been difficult for the common uneducated man to comprehend.

His parables were using day to day situations and this highly appealed to the people.

For example, when He wanted to explain the importance of even having little faith, He recounted the famous parable of the mustard seed.

Jesus said, "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to the mountain move from here to there, and it will move."

A mustard seed is a tiny seed yet when it grows to maturity, it is a huge tree that is very impressive. Therefore, small faith like a mustard seed can sometimes grow into huge faith that can change our life for the better. All He wanted to tell the people was not to worry about how big or small their faith in God was. He wanted to tell them that it was sufficient to have little faith, for God only wants our hearts and minds to turn to Him. He knows our human fears and does not expect great faith. It is enough we pray and put our hope in His infinite mercy and kindness.

Thus, the people, in those times, who were fishermen, peasants, could readily comprehend His teachings and the simplicity of Jesus in teaching them was very remarkable.

Albert Einstein once said, "If you cannot explain things simply enough, you have not understood it well enough."

Jesus knew this piece of wisdom and with the result, He was the world's greatest teacher who through the birth of Christianity, after His death and resurrection, has touched millions of lives around the world.

The Bible is the world's best-selling book and the world's most educative book for it gives us ways to lead lives that are not just pleasing to God but to lead lives that will enable us to have a happy life on earth and look forward to eternal life in Heaven.

Let's celebrate Teacher's Day with reverence and thanksgiving, never forgetting, that at the heart of every teacher is some one who really wants to touch lives and make a difference.

Teaching a Noble Profession

- E.F Joseph

Every year the 5th of September is observed as Teachers' Day nationwide, together with the birth day of Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, a Scholar, who was the President of India. On this occasion, it will be very appropriate to reflect on the role of Teachers in Society.

There are dozens of professions and lakhs of professionals in the world. But, of all that, teaching at any level, is a noble profession and more dedicated to the humanity in its growth and formation. Teachers are those who mould the students who can mould the world to a better place. It is through their efforts, great Scientists, Leaders, Professionals, Business men and other outstanding personalities in the field of sports and games are formed in the world.

A Society, without Teachers, is like an untamed elephant which may cause greater damage to the world.

A Society, without Teachers, is like an untamed elephant which may cause greater damage to the world. It is Teachers who inculcate moral values such as honesty, patriotism, discipline, civic sense, manners and etiquette to students apart from academic matters, and thereby, they play a vital role in character formation of students which will finally help to make an order and discipline in their personal life and create a cultured society.

The place of a Teacher, according to Indian culture and tradition is next to God. It goes like this Matha-Pitha, Guru, Deivam (God). The service of a Teacher, therefore, should not be confined to the four walls of a classroom, as they are our life-time companions. And again, it is Teachers who instill confidence in students

and enable them to scale new heights and meet the challenges in life courageously. A negative thought, a scornful remark, and even a bad gesture on the part of a Teacher, may cause far reaching results in the character of a student.

Teachers, therefore, must be a Role Model to the students in every respect. It is Teachers, and must be Teachers, who have to find out the hidden talents in students and mould them to be better citizens for the benefit of humankind. Lack of a spirit of commitment to the profession, will result in chaos and disorder at every sphere in the life of a student.

If an Education Institute is well known for its academic excellence, discipline and the most sought-after by students and parents alike, the credit of it, to a large extent goes to the Teachers/Faculty.

A good teacher (Adhyapak) is one who removes darkness from the minds of students and make them respectable citizens. In such kind of students there is no place for hatred, spite or destructive mentality at all, for him there is one religion, that is, humanity.

Finally, Teachers are like a candle, shedding light to others on their life path, they burn out. Truly a graceful Mission which gives a right direction to the world that is groping in darkness. But, sadly, a few are honoured & remembered, and the rest goes beyond the scene like an unsung patriot. A bouquet of gratitude to all Teachers on this auspicious day, for their dedicated service to the world.

The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains.
The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires.

~William Arthur Ward

Dahi Handi Celebration

An exceptional ambience was created for the Dahi Handi celebration on 23rd of August 2019 in **Fr.Agnel's Vidyankur School, Pune**. The entire campus hummed to the tune of "Govinda ala re ala". Our little buds of the Pre-Primary section were dressed up as "Gopals and Gopis."

The Program began with a welcome speech where the students were informed about the importance of this festival. The tiny tots performed a musical skit which was followed by a dance. Tiny hands joined together to form the

human pyramid. The others cheered the little 'kanhas'. After continuous efforts as excited little "Kanha" was successful in breaking the pot.

All the students enjoyed dancing and singing together on the melodious tunes of Hindi songs. The efforts of the little ones making the pyramid to reach the handi was wonderful to witness and was appreciated. The celebration continued to stir excitement and enthusiasm in the minds of the children even after the vote of Thanks.



Our Little Kanhas



Musical Skit performed by Pre-Primary.



The Pyramid to reach the Handi.

Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues College of Engineering July-August Activities

Event 1: Yoga Day



The International Yoga Day was celebrated in our College-Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues College of Engineering on Friday 21 June, 2019 as an attempt to cultivate discernment, awareness, self-regulation and higher consciousness in the students, to train their body and mind to self observe and become aware of their own nature. The Session was conducted by Holistic Training and Development Centre (NGO) that aims to

empower individuals and further teach them skills which would help them live a happy and blissful life. The event was led by Mrs. Namratam S Kandoi, who gave us valuable information about how Yoga benefits in our daily lives. After the talk, Mrs. Mamta Agarwal demonstrated a few simple Asanas. The Staff and the students followed her demonstrations and had a peaceful Yoga session.

Event 2: Intra-Football



Intra football was conducted as an attempt to cultivate sportsmanship, enthusiasm and to involve the students

in as many sports competitions as possible. The students of different classes started practicing vigorously so as to win the tournament as it consists of maximum points needed to win the Sports Trophy. Every match of the tournament was refereed by professional referees, who were contacted personally to overlook and avoid any discrepancies during the match. The tournament was a complete success and the event was concluded within the time limit and all the students thoroughly enjoyed themselves and played every game with good sportsmanship.

College of Engineering, Bandra Activities, 2019

Event 3: Friendship Day

Friendship Day was celebrated in our College, in order to create an atmosphere of cooperation and friendliness, and work together for all the upcoming collegiate and intercollegiate events. This event was intended to give students a stress-free evening away from studies and placements with friends and have a good time. Friendship week began with the release of theme: VILLAINS, based on which various events were held throughout the week. Playing various games, classes earned cultural points as well as participation points. The purpose of this event was for us, as students, to understand the real meaning of friends which is to help each other and share the difficulties and joys, and to give the students some memorable moments during their College journey.



Event 4: Badminton

Badminton was conducted as an attempt to cultivate sportsmanship, enthusiasm and to involve the students in as many sports competitions as possible. All the participants of various branches, both boys and girls, arrived before time and they were informed about the rules and regulations beforehand. The Tournament commenced with a round of 16 matches. The boys and girls matches were simultaneously being played side by side on all three courts. The Tournament was a complete success. It was overlooked by our Sports In-charge Prof. Prasad Lalit. The event was concluded within the time limit and all the students thoroughly enjoyed themselves and played every game with good sportsmanship.

STUDENTS' COUNCIL 2019-20

Event 5: FE Orientation



Event 6: Synergy



Synergy is the most awaited and very first Sfest especially for the Freshers. This year it consisted of two days. The first day witnessed various games conducted by various Councils of their very own College. The students participated with great enthusiasm and were presented with various exciting prizes. The second day consisted of HACKATHON which involved rigorous coding throughout the day with coders completing finally to get their best project at the end synergy ended in a very high note with these great 2 days.

'Agnel Coach Wins Accolades'

Mr. Digambar Mali, the Basketball Coach at Fr. Agnel Multipurpose School, Vashi

was recently felicitated with the 'Utkrushta Krida Margadarshak' award. He was honoured for providing individual coaching and guidance to wheel-chair Basketballer, Ms. Minakshi Jadhav. Ms. Jadhav, an inmate of Sharan, Home for Differently Aabled, participated in the wheel chair Basketball Tournament held on 15th August 2019. She represented Maharashtra as well as India in this Tournament of National and International stature. Minakshi received the 'Utkrushta Krida Patu' award. The award has been instituted by the Sarvajanik Bandhkaam, Sarvajanik Upakram,

Sarvajanik Aarogy and



Mr. Mali receives the award



Ms. Minakshi receives the award

Family Welfare Department. The programme conducted at the Zilla Adhikari, Niyojan Bhavan, Thane was presided over by Guardian Minister, Hon Shri. Eknath Shinde. The Sports programme was organised by International Kabbadi player and Chatrapati Awardee, Mrs. Snehal Salunkhe, District Sports Officer, Thane.

73rd Independence Day Celebrations at Fr. Agnels, Vashi.

Fr. Agnel Multipurpose School and Jr. College, Vashi, ushered in the 73rd Independence Day with great pomp and splendour.

The morning began with the hoisting of the tricolour, followed by singing of the National anthem with fervour. Students then took a pledge to contribute whole heartedly to the Swacch Bharat campaign and to judiciously practice segregation of garbage.

Kabaddi is an indigenous Indian game and the felicitation of the U12 Kabaddi team, that made its mark in its debut participation in the 3rd Junior KBD Tournament by reaching the semi-finals, set the patriotic tone for the morning.

Two tiny tots of the pre-primary section indulged in an imaginary conversation between Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Nehru about their vision for India. The students of the primary section reinforced the meaning of being 'Bharatwasi' through a melodious number. Shlok Sharma of Std. 9 in his speech implored the students to accept pressures, challenges and

adversities with a brave heart for it is friction that turns a stone into a diamond. Ishaan Langote mesmerised the audience with a unique whistled version of 'Saare Jahan Se Accha.' The patriotic song 'Vande Mataram' presented by the middle school students moved the audience. The Balbhavan boys presented a mime to drive home the idea of saving every drop of water.

The Managing Director of Fr. Agnel Institutions, Rev. Fr. Almeida, addressed the audience and encouraged them to become true and responsible citizens of this great nation. On this special occasion, he officially announced the launch of a movement called "Save Water- every drop counts" in the whole school. Children of all the classes, (Nursery to Std. XII) will be involved in various activities to understand and spread awareness about the importance of water and its conservation. Fr. Almeida also added that this Movement will culminate with the Annual Day programme, wherein, the theme of India's life lines- the rivers, will be showcased.

Independence Day Celebrations at Fr. Agnel, Ambernath

Independence Day was celebrated with great fervor at **Fr. Agnel School** on 15th August. The day began with the hoisting of the National Flag by the Chief Guest, ACP Vinayak Narale .

This was followed by a cultural programme which included speeches, songs and dances showcasing the beauty of the nation and highlighting the need for citizens to awaken and walk in unity to rid the nation of all evils.

The power-packed speeches in English and Marathi focused on the need to move away from our self-centered lives and to put the nation first, also reminding all present that the mantle of responsibility to achieve the dream of

a developed India now lies on the shoulders of each Indian. The lively speech by tiny tots of the pre-primary section truly won the audience.

The Choir groups touched many hearts by their melodious patriotic songs. "Hoshiyaara", "Vijaybhava", "Teri Mitti" and "Bharat Humko Jaan Se Pyaara Hai" brought out thunderous applause from the audience.

The Chief Guest encouraged the students in his Address to give their best in whatever they do.

The programme came to a close with young hearts imbued with a desire to serve their Motherland to the best of their ability with unity and integrity.

Pathway to Leadership

The investiture ceremony of **Fr. Agnel Multipurpose School, Ambernath**, for the academic session 2019-2020, was held recently at the School campus with great pomp and dignity. The event was presided over by the Chief Guest, Rev. Fr. Cherobino Fernandes – Managing Trustee of Fatima High School & Jr. College Ambernath, and Parish Priest of Our lady of Fatima Church, Ambernath.

A spirit of unity and dynamism filled the air as the event commenced with a soulful hymn sung by the school Choir followed by the auspicious lighting of the lamp.

The ceremonial pinning of the badges and handing over the sashes to the newly elected candidates was done by the Chief Guest and the School Administrator, Madam Antoinette. The school Council took an oath to discharge their duties with sincerity and to the best of their abilities leaving no stone unturned to bring success and glory to their Alma Mater.

A Vote of thanks was presented after the Chief Guest's Address and the programme concluded with a motivational song 'Hoshiyaar' sung by the Agnel Choir and the newly elected Cabinet Ministers.

Report on Wellness Session 2019-20

A Wellness Workshop was organized by **Fr. Agnel's Wellness Center, Pune** on Saturday 31st August 2019.

Dr. Manoj Durairaj a renowned heart, specialist delivered a lecture on the topic "Prevention of Heart Attack". Dr. Durairaj has done his MS in general surgery from AFMC and MCH in Cardiac Surgery at AIIMS, New Delhi.

A gold medalist of AFMC Dr. Durairaj is known for pediatric heart transplant and for the help that he provides to the needy through his Foundation 'The Marian Foundation'. In his talk, he emphasized that prevention of heart attack is more important than treatment. He informed that healthy life style and stress management are very important.



A workshop on prevention of heart attack by Dr. Manoj Durairaj.



An interactive session with audience.



Felicitating the Guests.

Teachers ought to renew faith in the very meaning of the vocation of teaching

- Avijit Pathak

From Yajnavalkya conversing with Maitreyi in the Brihadaranyaka Upanishad to Rabindranath Tagore seeking to make a difference in a “poet’s school”, from MK Gandhi evolving with the children in Tolstoy Farm in South Africa to Paulo Freire nurturing the vision of a “dialogic” teacher: The great ideals and practices have always given a meaning to the vocation of teaching. However, ideals fall apart in the difficult times we live in.

Even though on Teachers’ Day we will repeat the usual rhetoric (“teachers are our noblest gurus”), the fact is that as teachers we have lost almost everything that is positive about the vocation. Yes, some of us are coaching centre “gurus”, or the traders of “knowledge capsules”, selling the packages of “success”. Some of us are mere “service providers”, disseminating the bundles of job-oriented technical skills, and further promoting the commodification of education that transforms young learners into mere consumers. And some of us are just “subject experts”, or routinised role-performers “covering” the syllabus, taking the exams and grading the students.

Let there be no illusion. Ours is a society that devalues the vocation of teaching; and no wonder, it also reproduces a system in which quite often wrong people join the vocation. Demotivated teachers, or teachers on election/census duty, or tired/exhausted teachers with poor salary, continually controlled by the principal or the school management — this is the harsh reality.

There could be many reasons for this sad state of affairs. However, I wish to stress on three factors. First, the dominant culture of learning in our educational institutions negates the possibility of an intellectually enriched and ethically sensitive relationship between the teacher and

the student. The recurrence of rote learning in over-crowded classrooms, the ritualisation of non-imaginative examinations and “summer projects”, the sole emphasis on the quantification of performance, thereby negating the significance of all qualitative/non-measurable experiences — everything transforms the teacher into a mere mediator between the prescribed “texts” and the learners. Under this system, no flower can bloom, no Nachiketa can emerge, and the ideal of the teacher, as Sri Aurobindo would have imagined, as being a catalyst making the young mind aware of the possibilities implicit in him/her, would be considered as laughable.

Second, in an age that worships technocracy and market-driven solutions, teachers as philosophers, inspirers and life-transformative agents would not be appreciated. Techno-managers come with a discourse of education that privileges the cult of the “measurable outcome” (not the inexplicable ecstasy of the expansion of horizons), “efficiency” (not wonder, or the non-utilitarian quest for learning), and “relevance” as dictated by the market (not any deeper quest). It is, therefore, not surprising if the teacher is reduced to a supplier of “data” — the “outcome” of the courses taught, the identifiable “skills” learned by the student, and the “impact factor” of the papers he/she has published.

Imagine the absurdity. Is it possible to measure the “outcome” or “productivity” of a class in which a professor of literature invokes Saadat Hasan Manto, and recalls the traumatic memory of gendered violence implicit in the ideology of communalism? Is it possible to identify the “skills” a student learns in a history class in which the professor narrates the tales of Gandhi walking through the villages of Noakhali in 1946? It is sad that with the triumph of a techno-managerial orientation to education, teachers would lose the

very meaning of their vocation.

Yes, in the coming years, like “disciplined” factory workers, they would wear special uniforms, get the structure of lectures approved by the “higher authority”, subject themselves to the ever-expanding machineries of surveillance, and obey the instructions and commands emanating from the castle of bureaucrats. This dystopia may not be altogether unreal.

Third, a political culture that seems to be inclined towards a totalitarian discourse would not be conducive to the growth of critical consciousness, creative ideas, dissenting voices and self-reflexive journeys. There is an inherent anti-intellectualism in such politics. With “nationalism”, “patriotism” and “cultural pride”, we may be asked to be “loyal”. Hence, as the message would be conveyed, it is not a good idea if a teacher encourages what Freire would have regarded as a “problem posing education”, or if, for instance, she asks her students to write a paper on the social construction of a macho “saviour” through the 24×7 “patriotic” television

news channels and instantaneity of Facebook and Twitter. Think of it. The vice-chancellor of a leading central university has already expressed his desire to install a military tank on campus to induce “patriotism” among students. Yet another vice-cancellor has argued in the Science Congress that “Kauravas were test-tube babies”. As teachers, we work under the shadow of such “educationists”. Who can stop our fall?

Yet, I believe, we have to resist, and with our rebellion as prayer, we have to strive for life-affirming education. We ought to renew faith in the very meaning of the vocation of teaching. No, we are not “loyal soldiers”; nor are we cogs in a bureaucratic machine. We are wanderers. We are explorers. We are poets, philosophers, thinkers, visionaries. And unless we begin to trust ourselves, none can save us, and heal the wound caused by an unholy alliance of techno-managers and practitioners of what Herbert Marcuse would have regarded as “one-dimensional” thought.

Can it be our pledge on Teachers’ Day?

-Courtesy Indian Express



There is no Joy Greater than the Joy of GIVING

Kiran Fernandes, Mumbai

I enclose a cheque of ₹.1500 for your charitable works. Please pray for me. May God bless you for all the good work that you do for the destitute children.

Sumati S. Solanki, Ahmedabad

I am sending a cheque of ₹.2000 as donation for the destitute children in your Balhuvan. Kindly pray for me and my family. Thank you.

Mariamamma P.J., England

Herewith a cheque of ₹.10,000 for the benefit of the poor children in your Balbhuvan.

Please remember me and my family in your daily prayers. Thank you.

Mathew Joseph D’Souza, Vasai

I enclose a cheque of ₹.5000 towards your charitable works, especially taking care of poor destitute children. Kindly do offer a Mass in thanksgiving on 2nd August being the birthday of my daughter Michelle.

Vijay Kumar Bakshi, Mumbai

I am sending a cheque of ₹.5000 as my Easter Gift for the destitute children under your care. Kindly pray for our family. Thanks and may God bless you.



FR. AGNEL'S BLESSINGS

BLESSED WITH GOOD JOB

PATNA-BIHAR: I was praying to Ven. Fr. Agnel for my daughter for a good job. We are now very happy to inform you that by his intercession, soon after her graduation she got a very good job in a reputed company. Secondly, my son could not continue his study due to some unfavourable circumstances. We fervently prayed to Fr. Agnel and through his blessing he was able to overcome all difficulties and resume his study. As a token of our sincere thanks an offering of ₹.15,000 to Ashram. Ten thousand from her first salary and five thousand for all blessings received through the heavenly intercession of Ven. Agnel.

-Annamma E.M., Patna

MARITAL RECONCILIATION AFTER 15 YEARS

DHARAVI: My husband was not on good terms with me for about 15 years due to some misunderstanding. As a result he was staying separate and did not take care of me and our 4 children. I had to struggle a lot to maintain the family. Efforts by relatives and other prominent persons for a reconciliation did not succeed. In this predicament, I sought the powerful intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel and tearfully prayed to him for a peaceful reconciliation. I am now extremely happy to inform you that Fr. Agnel heard our fervent plea as my husband reconciled with me. Moreover, whatever he has earned during these period including property and his bank balance were freely handed over to us without any coercion or pressure from others. With a grateful heart an offering of ₹.4000 to Ashram

-Sahaya Jayanthi Rajan

WISH FULFILLED

JOGESHWARI : I am an ardent devotee of Ven. Fr. Agnel since last many years and I would often visit the Ashram and pray for his blessings. I have received numerous blessings and favours through his powerful intercession. Recently I was praying to him for a particular favour and it has been granted to me in the right time. As a token of my sincere thanks a humble offering of ₹.20,000 to the Ashram.

-Anita Jitendra

GIFT OF A CHILD AFTER 4 YEARS

DOMBIVLI: We were issueless even after 4 years of our marriage. We were very upset and worried whether we would continue to be childless in life time. In our sorrow, advised by a friend we visited the Ashram and prayed for the gift of a child. We are now extremely happy to inform you that through the blessing of Fr. Agnel we are now blessed with a healthy son on Christmas Day. Today, we have come to the Ashram with our little son to give our thanks offering of ₹.3000 to the Ashram.

-Abhilasha Hiran Gala

BLESSED WITH BRIGHT ACADEMIC CAREER & GOOD JOB

TRICHUR-KERALA: From my very childhood I am a staunch devotee of Ven. Fr. Agnel and I would daily pray to him before my studies. Through his heavenly intercession I passed all the exams from SSC to MBA with flying colours and stood first in college. Moreover, I am now blessed with a lucrative job in a multinational company abroad with handsome salary and other perks. As a token of my profound gratitude an offering of ₹.21,000 from my first salary to the Ashram.

-Anita Varkey

Out of Their Bounty

P. Srivastava	Mumbai	5000	Joseph D'Souza	Vasai	1000	R.L. Alphonso	Vasai	500
Kalpna Thakkar	Mumbai	14000	R. S. Barretto	Vasai	1000	R.S. Pires	Vasai	500
Nilisha Shah	Mumbai	9000	P. Fredy Pereira	Vasai	1000	S.E. Luiji	Thane	500
P. Fernandes	Mumbai	6000	Santan Fernandes	Mumbai	1000	Sam Cooper	Mumbai	500
B. F. Edulji	Mumbai	6000	P.K. Raghuvansi	U.S.A.	1000	S. Furtado	Mumbai	500
M. Hsish	Kolkata	5000	Divya Pereira	Thane	1000	Chetan Asher	Mumbai	500
V. Dadarkar	Vashi	5000	A Lourdusamy	T.N.	1000	Aaron Konikara	Mumbai	500
A.J. D'Souza	Vasai	5000	Veena Machado	Mumbai	1000	G.P. Fernandes	Vasai	500
R.T. Chacko	T.N.	5000	P. Vora	Nallasopara	1000	M. Mehta	Mumbai	500
Ayesha Pereira	Mumbai	3000	Lily Moraes	Naigaon	1000	H.U. Gala	Dombivli	500
M. Noronha	Mumbai	3000	Rashmi Pereira	Vasai	1000	Sandip Patel	Jalgaon	500
Joseph Dabre	Vasai	3000	N.Glen D'Cunha	Vasai	1000	Machado & Sons	T.N.	500
Subramaniam R.	Mumbai	2600	F. A. Lopes	Vasai	1000	I. Adaikalam	Odisha	500
Ram T. Hingoran	Mumbai	2100	Vivaan Bhavsar	Mumbai	1000	N.A. Elavia	Mumbai	301
Mrs. Bahl	Mumbai	2000	Behroze Engineer	Mumbai	1000	P.J. Maru	Mumbai	301
Ravi Bahl	Mumbai	2000	H.M. Mahek	Mumbai	1000	B. Vadiyar	Palghar	300
Eesha Bahl	Mumbai	2000	B.C. Pawar	Mumbai	1000	Pascal Fernandes	Mumbai	300
John D'Souza	Mumbai	2000	K.J. Jose	Kerala	1000	J. Rattinam	Koliwada	300
Denis D'Souza	Mumbai	2000	M.V. Malaviya	Khopoli	750	Jay V. Maru	Mumbai	300
Agnes Rodrigues	Virar	2000	Wilson Vaghera	Mira Road	700	M. Rajathi	T.N.	300
Sebastiao Rebello	Mumbai	2000	A Fernandes	Vasai	600	N. A. Dastoor	Mumbai	250
Marie I. Rebello	Mumbai	2000	Narendra Patel	Mumbai	510	D.M. Gandhi	Gujarat	201
Anthony Miranda	Mumbai	2000	A.R. Elavia	Mumbai	501	N.M. Sahiar	Daman	201
C.A. Miranda	Mumbai	2000	M.f. D'Souza	Mumbai	500	L. John	Dombivli	200
B.H. Solanki	Gujarat	2000	Parth K. Macwan	Gujarat	500	D.S. Audhish	Mumbai	200
Savio D'Souza	Mumbai	2000	B. S. Narvekar	Mumbai	500	R.Parmar	Nadiad	200
Joseph Chettiar	Mumbai	2000	Jatin Desai	Valsad	500	Anil Seth	New Delhi	200
Nirmala Joseph	Mumbai	2000	P. D'Costa	Mumbai	500	S.B. Menezes	Vasai	200
Nancy Joseph	Mumbai	2000	Ashok Patel	Mumbai	500	John M. D'Mello	Virar	200
Vanessa Joseph	Mumbai	2000	Doreen Lopes	Kerala	500	B. Fernandes	Mumbai	200
Joyce Fernandes	Mumbai8	2000	Theresa Fernandes	Naigaon	500	J. Achuthan	Mumbai	200
Cynthia Mathias	Mumbai	2000	Rajesh Patel	Ahmedaad	500	A. M. Raj	Mumbai	200
Agnello Coutinho	Vasai	2000	Rita Pinto	Mumbai	500	A.S. Parab	Mumbai	200
V. Machado	Mumbai	2000	Peter D'Souza	Canada	500	L. Amalanayagam	Chennai	200
Flossy Machdo	Mumbai	2000	R.R. Vaswani	Mumbai	500	N.C. Parmar	Gujarat	150
D.P. Vora	Nallasopara	2000	Pooja Vaswani	Mumbai	500	C. Christie	Mumbai	150
H. Engineer	Mumbai	2000	Jerold & Senora	Nallasopara	500	S.. Mathi	Mumbai	105
H.S. Engineer	Mumbai	2000	Surekha & Jimmy	Nallasopara	500	B.A. Gandhi	Gujarat	101
Amal Gonsalves	Vasai	2000	Joslin Chenan	Mumbai	500	M.r. Patel	Mumbai	101
K.H. Mistry	Mumbai	2000	A. Thomas	Mumbai	500	K. Thorat	Mumbai	101
N. Chandan	Mumbai	1600	Thon V. Rebello	Nallasopara	500	J. Hariawala	Mumbai	101
Carl Sequeira	Mumbai	1500	C. P. D'Cunha	Vashi	500	P. Sachinbhai	Mumbai	101
Irene Bhagat	U.S.A.	1200	C.K. Achrekar	Mumbai	500	P.P. Ranjibhai	Bhavnagar	101
Sanya Paulson	Mumbai	1200	V. G. Naik	Virar	500	K. Mohite	Thane	101
K. Deshpande	Nallasopara	1120	Luiza J. D'Souza	Vasai	500	Kamdhenu Ent.	Mumbai	101
Ankur & Paula	Mumbai	1001	S. T. D'Mello	Vasai	500	R. Narkar	Mumbai	100
P. Kevin Dias	Vasai	1001	Mariel Lobo	Mira Road	500	R. Parikh	Mumbai	100
N. Rocha	Kerala	1000	S. M. Rigson	Kerala	500	P.C. Jesrani	Dahisar	100
Satish N.	Mumbai	1000	Rigson Alex	Kerala	500	S.A. Shetty	Kalyan	100
Harson D'Mello	Vasai	1000	N. R. Colaco	Vasai	500	S. Kurien	Nerul	100
John Alphonso	Kerala	1000	M.V. Dias	Vasai	500	Agnel Selvan	Dharavi	100
D. Achrekar	Mumbai	1000	Drifa Pereira	Thane	500	B. Popat	Mumbai	100
N.S. Pereira	Nallasopara	1000	T.P. Adarsh	T.N.	500	A. R. Ekka	Jharkhand	100
Delia Gonsalves	Vasai	1000	C. A. D'Silva	Mumbai	500	Antony R.	T.N.	100
S.M. Rumao	Virar	1000	C. Pereira	Vasai	500	L.P. Palande	Ahmednagar	100
Marie Pereira	Goa	1000	J. L. Alphonso	Vasai	500	S.A. Kanojia	Mumbai	51
			Rajesh Alphonso	Vasai	500			

Independence Day Celebration, Vashi



Patriotic song by Middle school students.



kabadi photo



Hum Bharatwasi - primary children

Independence Day Celebration



A Salute to the Tricolour



Our Little Jawans sing a Patriotic Message



A soulful Melody in Honour of our Motherland



The Agnel Prism Sparkles Anew

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The investiture ceremony of Fr. Agnel School, Ambernath



A floral welcome for Fr. Cherobino Fernandes



Enlighten our path, O Lord



Investing the mantle of responsibility



Service before duty



The pillars of Agnels



The blessings of our mentors leads us on

If undelivered please return to:

FR. AGNEL ASHRAM

PB NO. 6656, Bandstand,
Bandra (W),
Mumbai-400050. India
Ph: 022 67114000
email: agnelashramnews@gmail.com