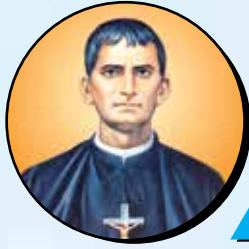


FR

February 2022



# AGNEL

SHRAM NEWS



FR. AGNEL  
ASHRAM

# NEWS

February 2022

## Contents

Editorial	3
The Delicate Dance: Trinitarian and Marital	5
Valentine's Day - A Day to celebrate Love	7
Agnel Happening	9
Whither Our Education?	15
Hope Our life Force	16
Fr. Agnel Blessings	17
Out of their Bounty	18

Printed & Published by:

Fr. Peter D'Souza, sfx on  
behalf of Agnel Publications

Editor:

Fr. Jose Alarico Carvalho, sfx.

Printed at:

S.B.M Printers  
C-130, Ansa Industrial  
Estate, Andheri East,  
Mumbai - 400072

Place of Publication:

Fr. Agnel Ashram, Bandstand,  
Bandra, Mumbai - 400 050.

Single Copy Price: Rs. 15

Annual Subscription: Rs. 150

## GOD'S BEAUTIFUL CHILDREN NEED YOUR SPONSORSHIP SCHEME



The Scheme offers the Benefactors/Well-wishers an opportunity to share in the noble work of bringing up over 600 poor children sheltered in our Homes (Balbhavan) at different parts of the country (BANDRA, VASHI, PUNE, GOA & GREATER NOIDA) People have the option to choose Full Sponsorship or Mini Sponsorship. The sponsorship amount may be paid lump sum or on installment basis at their convenience.

Full Sponsorship 10,500/-  
per year. Rs.875/- per  
month.

Mini Sponsorship (Co-  
sponsorship) Rs. 2000/- for  
one year.

NB :- Apart from this,  
people have the facility  
to sponsor Lunch/Dinner/  
Snacks/Groceries/Statio-  
nery etc. please contact the  
Ashram Office for further  
details.

The poor children are provided with free accommodation, food, education, medication and moreover with Technical Training and the right direction according to their flair and talent. They are enabled to settle down in a life of their own with a decent earning and status.

Of all the activities, initiated by Agnel Ashram Fathers, Balbhavan a Home for the destitute children stands apart with great pride. It runs on donations received from kind-hearted people. Through our dedicated service, rendered for the last 61 years, thousands of poor children, who could have been, otherwise, a burden on the society or even anti-social elements, have become respectable citizens of the country and are well settled down in their life.

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

# Faith, Hope and Love...

**the power of faith, that gives the reason to hope, and the strength to love**

---

There is an inspiringly beautiful, motivational story about Harry, a man who went trekking to a mountain top. Fascinated by the beautiful scenario around him, he decided to climb to the top of the cliff before returning home. He was hypnotised by the myriad colours that the setting sun, splashed on the sky above, and as he was drinking from that enchanting sight, he inadvertently went to the crest of the hill behind him, missed his steps and fell down.

After falling for about 30 seconds knowing not where he was, he went into a shock and became unaware about what happened to him. It was dark by the time he returned to his senses, when he found himself hanging on small branch of a tree, by the strap of camera he carried. The leather strap was too weak to support his weight and every effort he made to hold himself steady, made his dangerous situation even more dreary.

Bruised all over and bleeding, he slowly inched his loose left hand up to the branch of the tree where the strap of his camera was perilously kept him hanging. Having done that he heaved himself little closer to the cold dark face of the cliff, which he could not see, but could feel. He could not look down, because any movement he made, it felt that the tiny branch that he was holding on to, as dear life, was giving way. After several more minutes, as the cold slowly crept over his body, he was able to slowly lift his right hand too, towards the branch and half hold it, as there was little space to do so.

He tried to cry for help, although there was no chance anyone could hear him, but he could utter no sound, as he was completely overcome with fear and aware that he was dangerously close to his end. He thought of his wife and kids, unable to think any further. At last, he desperately cried 'Lord, help me'. He had no idea what he was doing, but that is the only thing that he occurred to him. After having said it several times, without any particular end in

sight, he heard a voice, softly at first, but more clearly later that said 'let go, I will take care of you'.

After hearing it more clearly, he was even more frightened and confused and felt that fate was playing him foul. As night grew and the cold numbed his body, the gentle voice, continued to be heard and he grew even more frightened until he froze himself to unconsciousness and stiff.

Night had not allowed any rescue but early morning as various rescue teams, searched for him on the top of the cliff, and at the bottom of it, they found him frozen and numb, but still alive. He was hanging only 3 feet from the ground.

## **THE CHOICE AND THE DILEMMA**

Man's (woman's) quest for meaning, has from time immemorial a dilemma of choices between the proximate and the ultimate, between what is visible and what is elusive but compelling. The lure, the delight and the proximate has always won the race but even in the midst of that delightful existence, man has struggled to adjust to the need of the ultimate elusive but always compelling eternal.

The choice though, although appears more complex, at a cursory glance, it is not so in reality, because man even in his/her choices of everyday life, decides on 'assumption', a kind of internal 'understanding'. We board a plane, thinking that it is fit and that the pilot is trained and experienced; we agree to allow the doctor to make a surgical intervention with a belief that all is fine with the doctor and his skill.

This beautiful story is a graphic portrayal of our life. The greatest certainty in our life, is uncertainty. We do not know what will happen to us next and the second wave of the pandemic brought us really close to such an uncertainty. Even if it be not so, all our plans, and all that we want to do and achieve, beyond the immediate

moment are uncertain. We choose not to look at life in that manner, because life would become too difficult to navigate. Our engagement with the immediate world around us, and our quest for wealth, power, fame and comfort, numbs us to the reality that is more compelling, more lasting. That is simply so, because for doing that we have to make, what we often call ‘ a jump in darkness’, although we do it all the time in our daily life.

Much as the fear of falling, kept Harry frozen to his immediate situation of pursuing goals of limited value, so too, our inability to see the future, which either appears too distant or too uncertain, compels us to become more and more engaged with what we are doing, which truly never satisfies us.

Faith is the power to see the distant, to touch the impossible and pursue it with courage. The strength of our belief (Faith) is intimately connected with our acceptance of the Supreme Power, of God, by whatever name we know Him, as a Real and Living Power, by our side at all

times, that protects us and handholds us to our destination (destiny).

When we accept this reality of the Supreme Power in our life, not as a distant unknown but Real and Living, we are equipped with the strength that makes us pursue that which God has destined for us. Our acceptance of that Power gives us the Strength (Urge/Hope ) to pursue that which is proper to us (our eternal goal) even in this life, **which becomes the ability to be a source of Joy, Peace and Blessing to others, which is LOVE.**

The story of Harry is an invitation to us, to look around us, and have the ability to distinguish between what is transitory and what is real. Even when we slip and fall and it will often happen to us, our Faith in Him, gives us the resilience (HOPE) to continue to pursue what is my destiny, a Life without end, **which is a life that shines, forth as a life well lived or of LOVE of BLISS.-**

- *Fr. Jose Alarico Carvalho*



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

### **George Lobo, Mangalore**

I am sending a draft for Rs. 8,300. This money is for the children of your Balbhavan for books, clothes and other necessary things they may need. Please ask them to pray for me and my family.

### **Kalpna Patel, UK**

I enclose herewith a cheque for Rs.6,000 to be utilized for the benefit of the children of your Balbhavan. Please pray for me to overcome all my health problems. Kindly send me a leaflet of the novena of Ven. Fr. Agnel.

### **Christina Noeline, Hyderabad**

Please find enclosed a cheque for Rs.5,000 towards the educational expenses of our ward. Please remember us in your prayers.

### **Doreen Mahony, Australia**

I am attaching a cheque for Rs.3,000 being my contribution towards the sponsorship of my ward. I trust he is doing well in his studies. Kindly pray for me and my family.

### **Kurian Thomas, Kerala**

Enclosed is a cheque for Rs.2,000. Please use this money as follow towards sponsorship of children of your Balbhavan Kindly pray for me and my family.

### **Selvaraj Chettiar, Mumbai**

I am donating Rs.500 to be utilized for the benefit of the children of your Orphanage. I appreciate all the good work your Ashram does for the poor.

May God bless you for it. Kindly pray for me and my family.

# The Delicate Dance: Trinitarian and Marital

-Lorraine & Leon Bent

Do not hoard, do not cling – not even to life itself. Let it go, let it be – “Not my will but yours be done, O Lord...Into your hands I commend my spirit.”

Thus he came and thus he went, giving himself fully into life and death, loosing himself, squandering himself, “gambling away every gift God bestows.” It was not love stored up, but love utterly poured out that, opened the gates to the Kingdom of Heaven.

Over and over, Jesus lays this path before us. There is nothing to be renounced or resisted. Everything can be embraced, but the catch is to cling to nothing. That’s the kenotic path in a nutshell. Very, very simple! It only costs everything!

Jesus opted for this more reckless and extravagant path, the radical simplicity of this kenotic way to full union, to oneness and intimacy that married couples are especially called to. However, an indescribable sense of beatitude flowed out of from their heart centre – a new person living in a new world!

We need to look briefly at one group of people that Paul had tossed in his Philippians hymn 2:6-11, and developed it in a powerful and beautiful new way. In Cappadocia, in the fourth century there arose a great contemplative wisdom school, the guiding lights of which were Basil of Caesarea, Gregory of Nyssa and Gregory of Nazianzus. These three great preachers and profoundly wise beings began to articulate and tease into comprehensible form the eternal archetype of the Trinity.

The Trinity may be no less confusing than kenosis itself. Most Christians think of it as “God in three persons” – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – and use it primarily to portray their conviction that Jesus is fully divine. The Cappadocian fathers, however, were not looking at individual persons, but at the flow of energy between the persons. In fact, the word “we” translates as “person” (*hypostasis* in Greek) does not mean an individual at all, but more a state of being – just as water can manifest itself as ice,

liquid or vapour, but remains the same chemical compound, throughout. The Cappadocians were interested in how this movement, or change of state, takes place. They saw it as an outpouring of love: from Father to Son, from Son to Spirit, from Spirit back to the Father. The word used to describe these mutual outpourings is the same word that we have been looking at – *kenosis!*

The Trinity understood in a wisdom sense, is really an icon of self-emptying love. What an astounding privilege, then, for conjugal partners! Love approximating to Trinitarian love, even to a small degree, can be looked upon with awe and mystery! To reach the pinnacle is obviously beyond us by a zillion miles. The three persons go round and round like buckets on a watermill, constantly over-spilling into one another. And, as they do so, the mill turns and the energy of love becomes manifest and accessible. The Cappadocians called this inter-circulation of love perichoresis (a doctrine of the reciprocal inherence of the human and divine natures of Christ in each other), which literally means “the dance around.”

Their wonderful and profound insight is that, God reveals his own innermost nature through a continuous cyclic dance of self-emptying – kenosis! On the great watermill of the Trinity, the statement, “God is love” brings itself into reality. The Trinity is being rediscovered today by some of Christianity’s best theologians for what it has essentially been all along – “pure relationship!” One automatically goes through a “willing suspension of disbelief!” When we, nuptial partners enter “the still, small point” in our being, we realize that not only is our darkness enchanted...the whole universe is! T.S. Eliot writes in “Burnt Norton,” this timeless masterpiece, which contains one of the most exquisite phrases ever written in the English language: “the still point of the turning world.” Please enjoy! For conjugal couples “the treasure is within,” all they need do is, “Ask, Seek and Knock! Ceaselessly! (Mt.7:7-11).

These words are seasoned in wisdom: At the centre of the-two-in-heart of a marital intimacy lies the

untainted, the exquisitely pure, inconceivably blissful, tranquil, immortal Trinitarian love. A kind of individual brilliance submerging itself in collective excellence. This could well be the balm of Gilead, for the wounded hearts of matrimonial couples, and a matchless goal for those aiming to reach the stars! “A vowed twosome can well become the beholder of a thousand moons!” (Tamil saying).

In our own lives both made it the cornerstone of their teachings, and see it as the tie-rod (Simply put, the tie rods help with steering smoothly and the front end alignment of your vehicle), connecting Christianity, not only to its own deepest wisdom, but also to the fluid, relational nature of consciousness itself, as mirrored in Eastern spiritual thought and in modern quantum physics.

You might call it Christianity’s yin-yang symbol. It describes how God moves and flows, so that, love becomes manifest, as the unified field of all reality.

## **The Divine Mystery and its Implications for Us**

The Trinitarian mystery has immediate implications for us, as we try to live Jesus’ path. All too often, our attempts of self-emptying feel isolated and pointless – “random acts of kindness,” seem like dead ends. Sometimes profligate generosity also appears to have been largely wasted. And, the crucifixion also seems another pointless waste! Why should a good and wise man who could have been a teacher of many die meaninglessly on a Cross? Often our own small acts of heroism and sacrifice, seem pointless in the same way – except that what the Trinity assures us. and what the Cappadocian fathers so perfectly caught is that, *no act of kenosis is ever isolated*, no matter how meaningless it looks, no matter how disconnected, no matter how unproductive in terms of reward and gain on their linear axis.

The reason is that because of the Trinity all kenosis is a tiny hologram (three-dimensional) of perichoresis. It belongs to that relational field of “the divine exchange,” and connects us instantly with the fullness of God, allowing divine love to become manifest in some new and profound

dimension. As Raimon Panikkar beautifully expresses it, “I am one with the source, insofar as I act as a source by making everything I have received flow again – just like Jesus did.

Jesus assures us that divine love is infinite and immediate, and will always come to us, if we don’t cling. This is a powerful statement, so simple, yet, so radical that, it needs to be ground-truthed (“ground truth” was coined in the geological/earth sciences to describe validation of data by going out in the field and checking “on the ground”), again and again, in our own lives especially as married couples. But, more than just a path, this is also a kind sacred alchemy. As we practice in daily life, in our acts of compassion, and self-emptying, both, at the level of our being, something is catalysed out of that self-emptying, which is pure divine substance mirrored in our own true face. Subtle qualities of divine love essential to the well-being of this planet are released through our actions, and flow out into the world as miracle, healing and hope. This is undeniably good news for conjugal partners.

The power of this sacred alchemy to transform even the blackest calamity (Sin, the Family Line of Contamination, Masks, Conflicts arising from the Family of Origin, like addictions and the like), in which there appears to be absolutely no redemption or saving grace, is attested by an unknown poet, who left the following beautiful prayer during a time of ‘unspeakable darkness.’

O Lord, remember not only the men and women of goodwill, but also those of ill will.

But do not remember all the suffering they inflicted on us,

Remember the fruits we have brought, thanks to this suffering – our comradeship,

Our loyalty, our humility, our courage

Our generosity, the greatness of heart

Which has grown out of all this, and when

They come to judgment let all the fruits

Which we have borne, be their forgiveness

What an extraordinary testament to the human spirit! Throughout the poem, but particularly in

*Contd. on pg 8*

# Valentine's Day - A Day to celebrate Love

-Christine D'Sylva.

**The measure of love is love without measure** -St Francis of Sales

**It is not enough to love, people must feel that they are loved-** Saint John Bosco

**The hunger of love is much more difficult to remove than the hunger of bread.**

- Mother Teresa.

February 14<sup>th</sup> is celebrated throughout the world as Valentine's Day.

It is a day of love and open displays of affection.

The Catholic Church recognizes at least three different saints named Valentine, all of whom were martyred.

However, most agree that it was Valentine a priest who lived during the third century in Rome who most likely was the saint this day venerates.

In Rome, Emperor Claudius the second, decided that single men made better soldiers than married ones. He outlawed marriage for young men.

However, Bishop Valentine felt this was unjust and he continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret.

However, when his secret was discovered, Emperor Claudius ordered him to be put to death. This Bishop Valentine was tortured and then decapitated in 270 A.D.

This day gained great popularity after the 14<sup>th</sup> century and it was often referred to as the Day of Love.

However, in recent times, this day has become highly commercialized.

It has become customary for a couple whether married or not, to express their love with a date or a present, the bigger and more expensive the better.

This is not a bad thing for it is a day of great happiness for many couples who vow their love for each other by exchanging gifts, flowers and cards.

To a mature man a woman he loves is not an object of pleasure or beauty. She is an angel of light that has come to reveal his own shadow and asks him to sacrifice his ego upon the altar

of unconditional love. Romantic love is beautiful but it is not the only form of true love.

However, as Christians we can look for the deeper meaning of this day.

Since this is primarily a day of love, it can be love that is universal. It does not need to be only a day of romantic love.

This is good because singles whether spinsters, bachelors or those uninterested in marriage can also celebrate this day joyfully. Everyone can participate in celebrating this day without feeling left out.

Jesus gave us two main commandments.

They are-"Love thy God with all thy heart and love thy neighbour as thyself.

So we see how Christianity is based primarily on love. Our faith stems from love, hope and a deep conviction that God loves us. This love is a seed that from our birth is planted in our hearts.

We are encouraged to love our neighbour and be good to others.

God created man with a desire to love and be loved. Our hearts thirst for love. Without love, we feel abandoned and life lacks meaning.

It is said that the saints have no need for romantic love but they are madly in love with God. Their love for God is boundless.

To be in love with someone takes a certain madness, a certain craving that makes the object of our desire almost like an obsession. Our love for God should be like this- encompassing and profound.

So romantic love is not the only love that is beautiful.

Of course love stories are very touching for they are between strangers who fall deeply in love with each other. Such romantic stories are very inspiring. But love for God and our neighbour is equally essential.

Without this basic love, this world would have chaos and confusion.

Peace in the world is often said to be like utopia-almost unreachable. But if there is love for our

neighbour and respect, then all men, irrespective of caste, creed, religion, skin colour can live in peace and harmony with each other.

I believe the best demonstration of love is tolerance, compromise and respect. Without these three, love is shallow and meaningless.

Today many relationships and marriages break up because while love may be present, it is more in the form of infatuation, very shallow. Real love is based on tolerance, respect and compromise. There is no greed, envy or intolerance, only open loving acceptance.

Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. This was the ultimate sacrifice God made for us. He gave up his only beloved son, Jesus Christ to die for us.

This greatest proof of love is the deepest level

of love that exists- to lay down one's life for someone.

When we act good towards our neighbour with no thought of rewards we are demonstrating true love.

Therefore this Valentine's day, let us profess our love for our partners but let us also remember to love one another.

Hate, greed, envy are all vices that are obstacles in our desire to love our neighbour.

Let us pray to the Holy Spirit to renew our hearts and minds and to plant a new seed of love in our hearts so as to be able to reach out to all living things great or small in love, kindness and brotherhood.

Happy Valentine's Day!

---

***The Delicate Dance: Trinitarian and Marital - Contd. from pg 6***

its completely surprising final word, the divine chemistry and wizardry is surprisingly at work, showing its power to turn even the deepest hardness of cruelty and atrocity into something new and soft and flowing. And the template for that alchemy is imprinted on our soul: The Trinitarian impulse which is both, the icon of divine reality within us (married partners), and the means by which that reality brings itself to fullness. As we learn not to harden and brace even in the face of what appears to be ultimate darkness, but to let all things flow in that great river of kenosis and perichoresis

(Perichoresis describes the relationship between each person of the triune God. The word circumincession is also used to mean the same idea), we come to know – and, finally, *become* – the river itself, which circulates through all things as the hidden dynamism of love.

This, I believe, is the path that Jesus taught and walked, the 'road less travelled' he called us to, the route he still calls us to.

**P.S. This essay is an extract from our unfinished book, *Incompatibility is a Myth and a Lie!* By Lorraine and Leon Bent**

---

## AGNEL CO-OPERATORS

You can join the Ashram Family by becoming a member of Agnel Co-operators and enjoy the fruits of a Special Daily Mass offered at Fr. Agnel Ashram, Bandra for all the members. You will also enjoy the fruits of all the prayers and good works of the Agnel Ashram Fathers and entire Agnel Ashram Family.

Membership Fees:-

Ordinary Co-operators : Individual ₹.100/-

Family : ₹.500/-

Benefactors : ₹.1000/-

Patrons : ₹.5000/-

Please contact :

Rev. Fr. Superior. Fr. Agnel Ashram, Bandstand, Bandra(W), Mumbai-400 050.



## Faculty Development Programme on Advance Cloud Computing - Docker And Kubernetes at FCRCE

The Department of Computer Engineering and Department of AI & DATA Science of Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues College of Engineering, Mumbai organized a **Two day Faculty Development Program** (Online) on “**ADVANCE CLOUD COMPUTING -DOCKER AND KUBERNETES**” on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> January 2022. This programme was a combination of Expert’s Speeches & Practical Demonstrations by eminent personalities from Industry and Academia. This FDP was aimed for teachers who are teaching various disciplines of science and engineering subjects in colleges or Universities and was also open for research scholars and Industry Personnel’s. The FDP received a good response with 38 number of participants registered for this programme from different Colleges. Owing to the COVID19

as sensors, communication, and computational processing. Technologies such as Cyber Physical Systems (CPS), Internet of Things (IoT), Cloud Computing, Machine Learning, Blockchain and Data Analytics are considered to be the different drivers necessary for the transformation. **Cloud computing** is one of the key enablers of modern Industry 4.0 automation solutions. So, **Cloud computing is considered as the third Revolution of the IT industry.**

This FDP was aimed to offer learners an introduction to technological advances in Cloud Computing, its applications in the business world. Learners gained deep insights into how smartness is being harnessed from data and appreciate what needs to be done in order to overcome some of the challenges. Participants



*Introduction to Advance Cloud Computing, Docker and Kubernetes*

situation the entire FDP was managed and hosted on online platform via video conferencing.

### FDP THEME AND OUTLINE

Around the world Digital transformation has reformed the ‘traditional’ industries to smart industries by exponentially growing technologies. In essence, Industry 4.0 concerns the transformation of IT industry processes through the integration of modern technologies such

understood the opportunities, challenges brought about by advanced Cloud Computing.

### OUTLINE:

**Advanced Cloud Computing:** A critical enabler boosting the IT Industrial Revolution.

**Docker:** A valuable cloud technology that enables developers to package applications into containers.

# Agnel Happenings

**Kubernetes:** A valuable cloud technology for container orchestration system for automating software deployment, scaling, and management.

## PLANNING:

Planning for the Faculty Development Programme began at the start of January 2022. FDP title was confirmed after brainstorming over multiple topics and with due permission of HOD and Principal madam. Meticulous planning was done to design the Brochure along with the registration form which were circulated over social media and messaging platforms. Invitations were sent out to different Industry personnel's using personal to join as resource person for the FDP. WhatsApp groups were created to communicate with the registered participants. Online Feedback was collected to validate the learning from the two days FDP. Attendance was analyzed from the online platform and a list was prepared of eligible candidates and certificates were distributed to them via Email. Course materials and recordings of the sessions were shared with participants for their future reference.

The FDP started with a welcome speech by Prof. Supriya Kamoji, she welcomed the participants for the online programme and introduced them to Fr. CRCE. She went on to introduce the session1 speaker for the FDP, **Mr. Thompson Naidu**, Senior Software developer @Quantiphi. Mr. Thompson Naidu later addressed the audience on Introduction to containers, Difference between VM and containers, Docker containers, Docker terminology (docker container, image, .dockerFile) and 5. Hands on ( Introduction to docker cli, Docker architecture, Docker

command, Some experiment)and Hosting an application inside docker container. Our next speaker for the day, **Dr. Bhushan Jadhav**, Assistant Professor, Artificial Intelligence & Data, shared his knowledge by hands on Implementation of Containerization using Docker. **Mr. Pranay Lobo**, Software Engineer (R&D) @ Protegrity introduced the audiences to the concept of advanced cloud computing and Kubernetes. How these cutting-edge technologies are being used in IT industries to gain better technological and business advantages to deliver reliable services to the customers. Session2 was continued by Dr. Bhushan Jadhav on Implement container orchestration using Kubernetes and hands experiments on Kubernetes.

Valedictory program was concluded by Prof. Kranti Wagle with a vote of thanks to Rev. Fr. Valerian Dsouza, Director for his constant motivation, Principal Madam, Dr. Mrs. Srija Unnikrishnan and HOD of Computer Department, Dr. B. S. Daga and HOD of AI & DS Department Dr. Jagruti Save for their best wishes and continuous support. Feedback was collected from the participants after the program concluded using Google form. The response received was amazing. Participants average rating for the FDP was 4.5 out of 5. Most of them praised the structure and contents of the programme and the way things were coordinated and communicated. Many of them gave their positive comments on the knowledge of the speakers. Also suggested to conduct five days programme on the same topic to get detailed insight.



*Dr. Bhushan Jadhav, Assistant Professor, Artificial Intelligence & Data*



*Mr. Pranay Lobo, Software Engineer (R&D) @Protegrity*



*Mr. Thompson Naidu, Senior Software developer @Quantiphi*

## A Fresh Start To The New Year

Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues College of Engineering organised an Orientation Programme for the newly joined First-year Engineering students on 3rd January 2022. The programme was held to welcome and acclimate the new students as they transitioned from Junior to Engineering college. Learners come from diverse backgrounds, experiences, and cultures; it is crucial to assimilate them into the new learning environment. The pupils and their guardians are keen to know about the institution, its culture, engineering degree, vision, and mission. The Orientation Programme lays down a perfect carpet to welcome and acquaint them.

The programme was held virtually on the Zoom platform at 10 am. The event was graced by Mr Prashant Maniar as Chief Guest, Honourable Director Fr. Valerian D'Souza, Principal Dr. Srija Unnikrishnan, Prof Mahesh Sharma, Training

and Placement Officer, spoke about the diverse avenues that opens up with Engineering. Students were made aware about different opportunities like campus placement, higher education and entrepreneurship. The importance of soft skills as a ubiquitous requirement was emphasized.

Mr Prashant Maniar, Chief Guest of the event, an alumnus of FR.CRCE, founder and Managing Partner of Encito Advisors LLP (an award-winning boutique investment bank), took up the mantle of motivating and inspiring the newly joined students.

Mr Maniar fondly recollected his days at

FR. CRCE. He congratulated the young and beaming crowd for their engineering admission. He spoke at length about why engineering is not just a degree but a mindset. A mindset that opens up array of opportunities not just in engineering but beyond. He encouraged the young and enthusiastic crowd not just to seek jobs but also to create jobs. To elevate their mindset to a point where they could leverage their education to solve real-world problems and create jobs for others believing in the same mission.

Mr Maniar emphasised on the value of friendship and trusted relationships that he developed at FRCRCE. He narrated certain powerful traits of his close friends that helped them climb their career ladder. This includes characteristics like discipline, consistency, intense focus, inner drive and many more. He listed certain practical tips that students can imbibe in the next four years.



Dr Srijja Unnikrishnan



Fr. Valerian D'Souza



Chief Guest - Mr Prashant Maniar

and Placement Officer. It was attended by pupils, parents, deans, HoDs and faculty members. The Humanities and Sciences Department, CRCE, organised the Orientation programme. Ms Prahelika Pai anchored the virtual event.

The programme was heralded with an auspicious prayer. Principal, Dr. Srijja Unnikrishnan welcomed all and gave a brief introduction about the institution and its legacy. Students were made aware of curricular, extra-curricular and co-curricular developments. A brief introduction regarding diverse teams, technical and non-technical councils, events, and alumni association was provided. Learners were made aware of outcome-based education, emphasizing on skill-based laboratories, mini projects with innovation, and self-learning. The address ignited spark and keenness amongst learners.

Honourable Director Fr. Valerian D'Souza gave

# Agnel Happenings

His message, in the end, was, “Not to fall in the rat race of getting good marks in exams, but use this opportunity to be who you are meant to be.” Mr Maniar’s speech left newly joined learners mesmerised and enlightened.

The programme ended with a vote of thanks where the chief guest, dignitaries, students, parents, deans, HoDs, teachers were thanked for their fruitful contribution. The programme motivated students to look forward to their academic journey in CRCE.

NOIDA

## Inter-Religious Meet

Fr. Agnel School, Greater Noida, together with Indian Parliament of all Religions organized an Inter Religious Meet to celebrate Christmas and welcoming the New Year 2022, on 30th

December, 2021. It was held at the Satrang Auditorium of The School and participated by various religious Leaders and attended by the guests from Greater Noida



## The Jubilant and The Grateful Balbhawan Family at Greater Noida

The Annual Balbhawan Day, as is the custom, was held on the second Saturday of the first month, i.e. 08 January, 2022.

The gloomy weather did dishearten the number of arrivals, and so did the pandemic but this did not stop anyone from being jubilant and grateful in return of the blessings received from the Almighty. Prayer has always been the stronghold of this Balbhawan family and therefore the day started out with prayer.

Count your blessings – This beautiful song started the programme in full swing. This song was performed by the children residing in the junior wing of the Balbhawan. Their smiles did give us another reason to rejoice and be grateful and helpful for the blessings we receive.

Fr. Bento Rodrigues did give a recap (2020-21) of the life of the students who have passed out and pursuing their careers in their desirable field. This was followed by a small introduction of the day's play which has been taken from the holy book of The Bible – namely "The Book of Esther"-aptly titled it as 'As You Sow, So Shall You Reap'.

This musical is scripted by the children of VERNA, GOA

Balbhawan, music set by them and dances choreographed with the guidance of teachers who are ex Balbhawan students and performed by the children.

The overture was read out by the main writer, director of the play (Miss Hinga, a post graduate student). Who had spent her time with the book and successfully adapted it as a play.

The main characters of the play were welcomed by a dance, performed by the Cute Little Ones of the family. And thereby the sun dawned with the play. The play was knitted together with songs and dances. The performers in their attire really gave the impression of Persia of the enacted era.

Each Song being an original was soothing to the ears, and the dances fitting to the play. The guests were greeted by the whole Balbhawan family at large after the final dance and a sing-along song – Every move I make.

The guests were welcomed with handmade flowers and were given a departing gift in the form of a hearty, sumptuous lunch.

This all took place with Satrang Auditorium as its eye-witness. *-Photos on Inside back cover*

## P.C.C.E., Verna Secures National-Level ARIIA Ranking

We are proud to inform that Padre Conceicao College of Engineering, Verna has secured a National Ranking in the "Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements" (ARIIA 2021) in the band "PROMISING". We have also achieved a 3.5 STAR RANKING for promoting Innovation and Start-ups on campus.

ASSAGAON

"ARIIA Ranking" is an initiative of the MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (MoE), All India Council For Technical Education (AICTE) and MoE's Institution's Innovation Council (MoE-IIC).

## A.I.T.D, Assagao participates in India International Science Festival 2021

The 7th edition of the India International Science Festival was held in hybrid mode (physical and virtual) from December 10 – 13, 2021, in Panjim, Goa. Union Minister of State

(Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoSPMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space,

Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurated the seventh edition of India International Science festival (IISF- 2021) along with Chief Minister – Dr. Pramod Sawant. India International Science festival (IISF) is a joint programme of Ministry of Science & Technology, Ministry of Earth Sciences and Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA), an NGO working for propagation of science. The main purpose of IISF is to celebrate science along with people in India and across the globe. Some of the events at IISF were Science Village, Traditional Crafts and Artisan Meet, Games and Toys, Global Indian Scientists and Technocrats Fest, ECO-FEST, New Age Technology and Mega Science and Technology Expo.

Agnel Institute of Technology and Design-Goa, participated in the IISF 2021 for the Science and Technology Expo under the Stall of Directorate of Technical Education, Goa. The Project which was displayed for Expo is as follows “Recycled Plastic composite bricks” by Fitzgerald Bruno S. Fernandes Chris C. Fernandes, Reagan F. Picardo, Mahadeo P. Narvekar. The above Innovative projects fetched the attention of numerous visitors at the expo.

The nodal officer from the college for co-ordinating the Expo for the IISF 2021 was Prof. Nora Naik. The coordinators for the event were Prof. Ashish Narvekar, Prof Basil Jose, Prof. Shivakrishna and Prof. Chaitali Haldankar.

VASHI

## **Agnels Athletics Coach awarded Best Coach Award by DSO Thane**

**F**r. Agnel's athletics Head Coach Shrinivas Gupta was awarded the Best Coach award for the year 2020-2021 by the District Sports Office, Thane. The award consisting of a cash award of Rs 10,000, a certificate and a trophy was conferred at a ceremony presided by the Thane District Collector Shri Rajesh Narvekar on 4th February 2022.

Shrinivas Gupta led the nominations with a total score of 33 points with several of the athletes coached by him having won medals at the National and the International level. His

protege, Agnelite Rosalin Lewis won a silver at the world school games while Diandra Soares won several medals at the Senior Nationals as well as the India Grand Prix among other events. Many of his trainees have been medalists at Junior Nationals and the School Nationals too. His efforts in grooming young athletes have produced many athletes who have tremendous potential to win at the National level. Prior to this, Agnel's basketball coach Shri Digamber Mali and Swimming Coach Shri Gokul Kamath have been awarded the same award in the year 2019 and 2015 respectively.



# Whither Our Education?

-Ibonio D'Souza

The key to what education can be is embedded in the word itself, which comes from the Latin root, *educere*, “to bring or lead out.” It implies a bringing out and developing of an individual’s full capacity for living.

In his book “The Direction of Human Development”, Anthropologist and author Ashley Montague wrote: “Instruction is the process of pumping information into the person; it literally means ‘to build into’; whereas education means the process of nurturing or rearing”. He explained, “We must recognise that today we have far too much instruction and all too little education. We are far too busy filling up the young with what we think they ought to know, to have much time left over for helping them become what they ought to be.” Or, in the words of the distinguished American educator Robert M. Hutchins, “The aim of education in an age of rapid change should be to do what it can to help everybody gain complete possession of all their powers.....this is what we ought to have been doing all along.”

Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, who took Transcendental Meditation from India to the West, in his classic book “Science of Being and Art of Living”, opines : “The purpose of education is to culture the mind of a man so that he can accomplish all his aims in life. Education, to justify itself, should enable a man to use the full potential of his body, mind and spirit. It should also develop in him the ability to make the best use of his personality, surroundings, and circumstances so that he may accomplish the maximum in life for himself and for others”. But, it feels like, Socrates, the Greek philosopher who is credited as a founder of Western philosophy, defined education the best, among other luminaries, stating: “Education is the kindling of a flame, not the filling of a vessel”. Considering how far we are from accomplishing these basic and sensible aims, we can say why there is such widespread dis-satisfaction with education. Students are asked to absorb and produce more, but as the demands on them increase, what is being offered to actually increase their abilities, to provide added

intelligence, insight, or emotional stability? What is being done to help them discover and create meaningful values and goals, and a direction in life? Shouldn’t education encourage and support students to discover and become who they really are, and prepare them to confront and solve the problems and answer the questions that life poses?

It is an ancient truth that the cultivation of the person is the root of all else. If society is to be improved, it will happen not by forcing a programme of social reform down its throat through the schools, or otherwise, but by the improvement of the individuals who compose it. In the view of philosopher Plato, “Governments reflect human nature. States are not made of stone or wood, but out of the characters of their citizens: these turn the scale and draw everything after them. The individual is the heart of society. Albert Einstein recognised this decades ago. “The school should always have as its aim,” he said, that the student “leave it as a harmonious personality, not as a specialist.....The development of general ability for independent thinking and judgment should always be placed foremost.”

What has been missing from education, then, is an effective methodology to upgrade our capacity for creative and humane action. We have known no successful way to sharpen the mind and expand the ability of the heart to express love and human kindness, and to help men and women attain full use of their potential for dealing effectively with all situations of life. The solution to the problems confronting people in every nation on Earth lies in the same place as the source of the problems: those individuals who make up the society. If we do not experience a significant deepening and expansion of consciousness, the nature of the problems may change, but we will continue to create many more. From this perspective, finding a way to unfold the inherent potential of every person is the greatest need of our age, and it is the legitimate province and fundamental function of education.

# Hope – Our Life Force

-Ubaldo Fernandes sfx.

Life cannot run along a straight line; rather it is a mysterious journey punctuated by a series of ups and downs. He who accepts the twists but maintains equanimity, inspired by faith and hope, is bound to rise high.

Here is a cute story of two frogs, both of which fell into a vat containing milk. One tried, but soon gave up its efforts to save itself and hence perished. The other undaunted by the unexpected calamity,

was egged on by courage and so went round and round inside the vessel, frothing up butter and using it as a launch pad and eventually jumped out and escaped.

Very often a human being tends to bemoan his fate. At times we hear someone say, “I am tired of living”. Even day-to-day, small problems snowball into major crisis. So often, unable to face small trials, our youngsters resort to suicide. This behaviour must change. Hope is the essence of life and a man should use it for his good.

It's said that a person can live forty days without food, three days without water, eight minutes without air, but one minute without hope. When a research was done on twenty five thousand prisoners of World War II, they concluded that a person can handle almost anything if she or he has hope.

The Book of Proverbs says “Hope deferred makes the heart sink, but when the desire is fulfilled, it's a tree of life.” Indeed, hope is one of

the elements that enables a person to live longer than medically anticipated. Realistic hope is the life force in and of itself. There is no medicine like hope. No incentive so great. No tonic so powerful as the expectation of a better tomorrow. The power of hope rekindles our inner force. Very often our day-to-day experiences and hardships are overwhelming; unless we are able to see that God has a purpose to bring about continual growth in us, we may

despair. Obviously hope sustains us. The more hope we have in God, the joy we will experience.

“For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. They are plans for good and not for evil, to give you a future and hope.”(Jer.29:11) To retain

hope in the midst of suffering shows we have an eternal perspective on our present trials. It is very significant that the Book of Revelation closes human history as Genesis opened it in Paradise. And there is a distinct difference in Revelation-evil is gone forever. Paradise is re-created in the new Jerusalem.”Come Lord Jesus” is the urgent plea of the Book of Revelation. In a world of problems, persecution and evil, Christ urges us to endure in our faith.

Revelation is above all a book of hope. It shows no matter what happens on earth, God alone is in perfect control. It promises that evil will not last forever. It also depicts the unique reward that is waiting for all those who believe in JESUS, our Lord and Saviour.



**When a research was done on twenty five thousand prisoners of World War II, they concluded that a person can handle almost anything if she or he has hope.**





# FR. AGNEL'S BLESSINGS

## HELP IN CRITICAL TIME

**LONDON:** My son was in dire need of large amount of money for the expansion of his business. Although he had approached his friends and some of our close relatives for financial assistance, none of them came to his help. They all were evading help on some or other reasons. In distress, we turned to Ven. Agnel who has been a source of help in critical time and fervently prayed for his blessing. To our great surprise, we received financial help from an unexpected source. His business is now running well. With a grateful heart an offering of Rs.10001 to the Ashram.

- Sharad Gandhi

## THE POWER OF INTERCESSARY PRAYER

**VASAI:** I had a dispute with my neighbour over the ownership of a bungalow adjacent to our ancestral house. The dispute was dragging for several years with arguments and quarrels. I lost peace of mind and it badly affected my health and wealth also. Fed up with case and quarrels, I sought the powerful intercession of Ven. Agnel and started his Novena. A Few weeks passed by, one day he came to my house and completely disowned his claim over the property and I took possession of the house peacefully. I do believe it is Ven. Fr. Agnel who inspired him to give up his claim and settle the dispute amicably.

My profound gratitude to Fr. Agnel with an offering of Rs. 1000 to the Ashram.

-Leena D'Souza

## BLESSED WITH SUITABLE LIFE PARTNER

**TRIVANDROM - KERALA:** My daughter was not getting a suitable life partner for the last two years. All our efforts through Ads and matrimonial bureau did not bring any result. Naturally we, parents were

much worried of her future. In our plight, advised by a friend we sent a petition to the Ashram and fervently prayed to Ven. Agnel. We are now very happy to inform you that through the intercession of Fr. Agnel our daughter has been blessed with a boy from a respectable family and her marriage was held peacefully. Our thanks offering of Rs. 1000 to the Ashram.

-N. Sukumaran

## CURED OF INTESTINAL INFECTION

**SURAT:** My son was suffering from Intestinal Bowel Syndrome (IBS) for over a year. Although he was under treatment by the specialist doctors it did not bring any relief to him, rather his health was getting worse. He became very weak as his digestive system failed to function properly. In distress, I sought the powerful intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel and started attending his Novena for 9 consecutive Sundays at 3. PM in the Ashram. I was coming all the way from Surat and by 7<sup>th</sup> Novena his health improved. He has now overcome critical condition and is fast improving his health. With a grateful heart an offering of Rs. 10,000.

-S.S. Christie

## SECURED VISA TO CANADA

**ANDHERI:** My daughter was trying to go to Canada for higher studies but her application was rejected due to some technical reasons. We were very upset. In this plight we entreated the intercession of Ven. Agnel and fervently prayed for his blessing. We are now very happy to inform you that through the intercession of Ven. Agnel all the legal hassles were removed and she will be flying shortly. Our sincere thanks to Ven. Agnel with offering of Rs.1000

-Reginald Noronha

## Out of Their Bounty

K. Vaz	Mumbai	40000	V. D'Souza	Mira Road	2000	M.V. Dadachanji	Mumbai	600
P. Srivastava	Mumbai	35000	M. D'Souza	Mira Road	2000	R.D. Parmar	Bhayander	600
A. Augustine	Kerala	15500	F. Bhada	Mumbai	2000	B. Doloi	Kolkata	600
M. Raymond	Sharjah	14770	M. Bidlan	Mumbai	2000	P. Jesrani	Dahisar	501
J. Berchmans	Chennai	12000	A.S. Rodrigues	Udupi	2000	R. Malukchand	Mumbai	501
P.M. Raiyan	Dahisar	11000	S. Inigo	T.N.	2000	S. Mohite	Airoli	501
R.V. Fernandes	Mumbai	11000	S. Gandhi	U.K.	1500	M.D. Gndhi	Virar	501
H. Nachia	Bangalore	11000	R. Joseph	Kerala	1500	G. Veeramani	Chennai	500
C. Gonsalves	Bahrain	10000	J. Donatius	Kerala	1300	P. D'Costa	Bangalore	500
J. Fernandes	Mumbai	10000	P. D'Costa	Thane	1200	K. S. Rao	Mumbai	500
S. Gujar	Kayan	10000	M. Don Bosco	Dharavi	1200	E. David	Bangalore	500
B.V. Asani	Mumbai	9999	K. Manekji	Mumbai	1100	Matilda D'Silva	Kerala	500
P. Mistry	U.K.	9460	K.K. Daruwala	Mumbai	1001	P. Jose	Kerala	500
V. Chavan	Mumbai	9000	V.S. Kamat	Mumbai	1001	M. Rajathi	T.N.	500
J. D'Souza	Mumbai	9000	V. Kadam	Mumbai	1001	D. Patrao	Mangalore	500
W. D'Costa	Abu Dhabi	8000	J.Fernandes	Mumbai	1000	V.B. Makwana	Mumbai	500
Reginald A. R.	Mumbai	8000	S. Kailasnath	Oman	1000	Z.J. Gonsalves	Vasai	500
Chintan V.M.	Mumbai	6000	M.S. Lucien	T.N.	1000	R. Chopra	Mumbai	500
V.S. Aditya	U.SA.	6000	A. Cruz	Dahisar	1000	B.S. Bayross	Vasai	500
D. Creado	Mumbai	6000	A. Sumesh	Mumbai	1000	A.K. Ferrao	Mumbai	500
Jose T.K.	Kerala	5001	P. Prithiveeraj	Mumbai	1000	V.F. Kasbe	Pune	500
V. Manancherril	Switzerland	5000	V.K. Pijwala	Gujarat	1000	C. D'Souza	Vasai	500
G. Sebastian	Kerala	5000	K.J. Jose	Kerala	1000	L.J. D'Souza	Vasai	500
K.P. Joy	Kerala	5000	S.J. Rangoonwala	Mumbai	1000	Joe D'Souza	Vasai	500
E. Sequeira	Mumbai	5000	M. Fernandes	Mumbai	1000	I. Sevaraj	Dubai	500
T.K.M. Das	Dombivli	5000	V.S. Bilolikar	Mumbai	1000	H. Fernandes	Mumbai	500
H. Patel	Mumbai	5000	A. Jayasimhan	Mumbai	1000	M. Fernandes	Mumbai	500
F. Fernandes	Mumbai	5000	Joy M.D.	Kerala	1000	D.H. Algodar	Gujarat	500
R.L. Barot	Mumbai	5000	Leela John	Kerala	1000	D.P. Dave	Mumbai	500
R. Natalwalla	Mumbai	5000	S. Sebastian	T.N.	1000	P.K. Rathod	Mumbai	500
A. J. DeSouza	Mumbai	5000	J. Jose	Kerala	1000	M.S. Mehta	Kharghar	500
A.N. Colaso	Vasai	5000	K.A. Joseph	Kerala	1000	C. Fernandes	Mumbai	500
B.S. D'Silva	Vasai	5000	S. Kamble	Ahmednagar	1000	V.J. Almeida	Mumbai	500
Tony Paul	Kerala	5000	A.G. Stephen	T.N.	1000	A. Gaikwad	Pune	500
M. Mistry	U.K.	4300	M. Shaji	Kerala	1000	F. Fernandes	Sawantwadi	500
V.R. Barot	Mumbai	4000	M. Fernandes	Mumbai	1000	J. Chenan	Mumbai	500
Usha N.	Australia	4000	N.T. Xavier	Mumbai	1000	Joseph C.D.	Kerala	500
D. Shresing	Mumbai	3500	R. Mendonca	Mumbai	1000	Dr. Sarosh Lath	Daman	500
D. Monsurate	Dubai	3000	L.J. Dias	Mumbai	1000	A. Rose	T.N.	500
J.A. Saldanha	Mumbai	3000	K.J. Rukadikar	Pune	1000	S. Thomas	Kerala	500
L.F. D'Souza	Vasai	3000	J.M. Asha	Dharavi	1000	N. Assey	Karnataka	500
A. Fernandes	U.K.	2580	T.N. Baria	Diu	1000	N.M. Amolik	Ahmednagar	500
S. Chathli	NOIDA	2500	Charlie Xavier	Mumbai	1000	T. Fernando	Chennai	500
B. Sequeira	Mumbai	2500	A.P. Gomes	Mumbai	1000	S. Sunny	Kerala	400
D.J. Pereira	Mumbai	2500	Annia Joseph	Kerala	1000	M. Antony	Kerala	400
G.D. Vora	Mumbai	2500	A. Mittathany	Kerala	1000	M.J. Pereira	Pune	400
M. Cicily	Kerala	2500	T. Joseph	Kerala	1000	D. Solanki	Gujarat	301
V.P. Khurana	Mumbai	2100	J.M. Augustine	Kerala	1000	S.P. Mistry	Keraa	300
Joe Jacob	Thakurli	2100	Dr.E. Engles	Amritsar	1000	V. Fernandes	Mumbai	300
E.I. Thomas	Mumbai	2000	P. Hendricks	T.N.	1000	M. Titus	Kerala	300
A. Pinto	Mumbai	2000	R. Jacob	Kerala	1000	J. Mathew	Kerala	300
F. Saldanha	Mumbai	2000	A. Kuriakose	Kerala	1000	H.W. Desai	Valsad	300
Savio D'Souza	Mumbai	2000	Antony A.K.	Kerala	1000	S. Merlyn	T.N.	300
H. Dias	Mumbai	2000	R. Johnson	Kerala	940	S. Mistry	Pune	300
Sonia Lopes	Vasai	2000	D. B. Wadekar	Mumbai	625	M.A. Swamy	Thane	300
A. Pashana	Thane	2000	J.E. Colaco	Vasai	600	S. Joseph	T.N.	300
			M. d'Souza	Nashik	600			

# The Annual Balbhawan Day at Greater Noida



Regn. No. of Publication RNI-9473/64.  
Date of Publication 10th of every month  
Date of posting 14th & 15th of every month.  
Single copy Price Rs.15/-  
Annual Subscription Rs.150/-  
Total pages including cover : 20

PRN - MCN/175/2021-2023  
to post at concession rate on 14th & 15th  
License to post without prepayment  
No. MR/TECH/WPP-87/NORTH/2021-2023  
at Bandra Post Office, (West), Mumbai – 400 050.

## The Best Educator Award - Vashi

Our Dear Talat Zafar Teacher has been honoured with 'Gloria de Souza international excellence award 2021' for 'The Best Educator' this year on 15th January 2022.

A very caring, dedicated and effective Teacher, Talat has touched thousands of lives!

Talat Teacher has received this award for her significant and outstanding contribution to the cause of children and education.

We at Fr. Agnels, Vashi, feel happy and proud.

Congratulations to Dear Talat Zafar, our Best Teacher.



*An investment in knowledge pays the best interest*

*- Benjamin Franklin*

If undelivered please return to:

**FR. AGNEL ASHRAM**

PB NO. 6656, Bandstand,

Bandra (W),

Mumbai-400050. India

Ph: 022 67114000

email: agnelashramnews@gmail.com