

SHRINE OF THE INFANT JESUS

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IJ matters



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A word before.....

The month of August is a special month in India. This is because during this month we celebrate the Independence of our country from foreign rule and the freedom to express and realise ourselves as free human beings. Though we have overcome foreign rule, the challenge before us to free ourselves of all that continues to bind us. To be sure these are numerous and we will need to work long and hard with God's grace and strength to overcome these.



In this twenty-first century, it seems impossible that there are so many things which still bind us. It is surprising that we seem to look for things that separate us rather than unite as one human family. We seem to thrive on division rather than oneness. We make distinctions too easily and notice our differences too quickly. This ought not to be so. In my article **“India's Independence and the Assumption of the Virgin Mary into heaven.”** I suggest how we can live and work together in harmony.

In **INCOUNTERS – 1: THE FOREST**, Terry narrates an encounter with a holy man just before he can enter the forest. This encounter leads him to look at everyone and everything in a new way because he has changed though everything else may have remained the same.

Terry also offers assurance in **“Grace Perforations”** that God will come “through again” and indeed All will be well.

74 years ago a momentous event occurred in the life of Tony Jurschik. He links this with the momentous event that occurred in our country in **“74 years ago on this date.....”**

In **“THE HEART OF JESUS OVERFLOWS WITH EVERLASTING LOVE”** Bosco makes a strong case for prayer and not giving up. Prayer does changes things and can even change the mind of God. Then, in a novel and original poem titled **“LITTLE BIRD, ARE YOU TRULY FREE?”** he invites us all to introspect on freedom.



Our School teachers have been busy not only with their regular teaching and other activities, but also attend webinars regularly. Ms Priscilla Kolge, reports on one such webinar, titled **“To Foster the Art of Questioning”**.

The School had a novel celebration of **World Environment Day** and was able to gaze into the future with its feet firmly on the ground in the present.

Dion was following the Olympics when he could. However, more than reporting on who won which event and the medal tally at the end of the Olympics, he was inspired by the heroism of two athletes which brings out the true spirit of sports and of who we really must be. He narrates in his own words these events in **“Tokyo Olympics – True Winners”**

The Bishop of the Diocese of Nashik, **Lourdunada (Lourdes) Daniel** completed the 14th Anniversary of his Episcopal Ordination. Though there were no celebrations physically, we all celebrated virtually by offering Masses for him and for the Diocese. He is a true shepherd and is in many ways like Jesus, the Good Shepherd. Augustine D'mello has translated this into Marathi.

Augustine has also written a piece in Marathi on Collaboration titled **“स्पर्धा - परस्परातील सहकार्यातून सामर्थ्य सिद्ध करण्याची संधी”**.

We hope that the August issue of IJ Matters which contains a variety of articles all intended to offer hope will result in doing so.



Fr. Errol Fernandes SJ

Chaplain, The Shrine of Infant Jesus

India's Independence and the Assumption of the Virgin Mary into heaven.

The month of August is a special month in India. This is because on the same date in this month we celebrate two extremely significant events. One is the Independence Day of India and the other is the Assumption of our Blessed Mother Mary into heaven.

The common element about these events is FREEDOM and its implications. Independence is celebrated as freedom from foreign rule to self-rule and governance. The Assumption which means a “taking up into heaven”, may be seen as freedom from this limited and incomplete existence to the bliss of eternal and everlasting life.

India had been ruled for many decades by the British. Foreign rule meant limitations to the citizens of India in many aspects of life. In a word, it meant the absence of freedom. When after much struggle, India finally gained its independence it was thought that the people would finally be free. When the first Prime Minister of India Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru delivered his famous “Tryst with destiny” speech to the Indian Constituent Assembly in Parliament on the eve of India's independence towards midnight on August 14, 1947, he stated that it was his desire and the desire of all with whom he would work to bring

freedom and opportunity to all but especially the poor. He spoke of the tryst which the country had made with destiny and the need now to “redeem our pledge” as best we could. Now we hoped as a country to find utterance to our dreams and vision which had long been suppressed. On the 74th Anniversary we need to ask ourselves whether this is true.

Even a cursory glance at the history of India over these last 74 years will indicate that we are very far from achieving what was dreamed of on that first Independence Day. The poor have become poorer and many seem to have lost all hope of a new future. The rich on the other hand have not only become richer, but have become even more inward looking and selfish. The 'divide and rule' policy of the British government is still being practiced by our governments. However, we do not realise that in doing this we are shooting ourselves not only in the foot, but also in the head. Since independence, caste distinctions have increased and the so called lower classes are treated worse than objects. Women of these castes are raped and murdered by the hundreds by perpetrators who profess a blatant disregard for human life and who have absolutely no fear of being brought to book.

While there are no explicit texts in the Second Testament that speak of the Assumption of Mary into heaven, the scriptures do have instances of this. The book of Genesis (Gen 5:24) speaks of Enoch walking with God and being no more because God took him, which is taken to mean that he was assumed into heaven. This is reiterated by Sirach or Ecclesiasticus (44:16; 49:14) and in the letter to the Hebrews (11:5). Elijah was also assumed into heaven as stated in 1 Macc 2:58 and 2 Kgs 2:11. If God could take these two First Testament figures into heaven, it is more than certain that our Blessed Mother was also assumed into heaven. This is reiterated by Sirach or Ecclesiasticus (44:16; 49:14) and in the letter to the Hebrews (11:5). Elijah was also assumed into heaven as stated in 1 Macc 2:58 and 2 Kgs 2:11. If God could take these two First Testament figures into heaven, it is more than certain that our Blessed Mother was also assumed into heaven. This is not because of any merit or virtue on her part, but because of the graciousness and benevolence of God. To be sure, Mary did respond to God's invitations with unparalleled openness and receptivity. However, this too was grace from God. This openness to God's will was such that Mary let God do in and through her. This means that she was passively active. This attitude of passive activity goes beyond collaboration or cooperation with God. It was an attitude which resulted in her doing what she had to do to the best of her ability and then and only then trusting and believing that God would do what

remained and what was best. This attitude of Mary offers us hope in the light of the challenges mentioned above in our country.

Though caste distinctions are rampant in our country and they often result in murder and rape, though speaking the truth is met with physical violence and threat to life, we know that we will continue to work and strive for equality fearlessly inspired by the example of Mary. Though the incidence of female foeticide is very high in our country and in many places the girl child is seen as a liability and burden rather than a blessing, we know that parents will welcome the girl child joyfully as a gift from God and love the child unconditionally. Though we keep destroying our natural resources and then wonder whether we will have enough rain to see us through the year, we know that we will care for our beloved mother earth as tenderly as we care for ourselves. We know that even though so many atrocities are committed in the name of caste, creed, language and religion, we will be our example of harmonious living will be that leaven in the dough and the salt of the earth and light of the world. (Mt 5:13-16)

Let the celebrations of Independence Day and the Assumption of our Blessed Mother be wake-up calls for us to rouse ourselves from our slumber and do something tangible to right the wrongs.

Happy
Independence Day

&

Happy Feast
of

the Assumption
of our
Blessed Mother



SEVEN SPECIAL ASPECTS OF OUR BLESSED MOTHER MARY

1. Mary has inspired many of the world's greatest works of art, including sculpture such as Michelangelo's *Pietà* and music such as Franz Schubert's setting of the prayer “Ave Maria.”
2. Catholics pray to Mary, but not because she is a goddess. They pray to ask her, as the Mother of Christ, to pray with them to God.
3. Mary's motherhood of God was proclaimed as dogma — unquestionably true — by the Church at the Council of Ephesus in 431 CE. She is called Mother of God because she gave birth to Jesus, who is in the Trinity along with the Father and the Holy Spirit.
4. Mary does not make a request in Cana. She only points to the situation (Jn 2:3). Her final words in the Gospel of John are 'Do whatever he (Jesus) tells you' (Jn 2:5)
5. The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary is one of three feast days that celebrate the life of the mother of Jesus. The other two are the Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of God on January 1, and the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on December 8. All three are holy days of obligation.
6. In the Gospel of John, Mary is handed over to the “Beloved Disciple” (who is also anyone who loves Jesus) as Mother. The beloved disciple is also handed over to the mother of Jesus, Mary as son/daughter (Jn 19:25-27)
7. John's Ecclesiology (vision of the Church) is made up of three components – The Spirit of Jesus given from the Cross, the mother of Jesus and the beloved disciple (Jn 19:25-27)



INCOUNTERS – 1:

THE FOREST



Fr. Terry Quadros SJ

He met me at the edge of the forest, this holy man, and he asked me why I had not entered it yet.

"I am afraid," I said, "of leaving the town. I am afraid because I know the town and I don't know the forest. I am afraid of the dark in the forest. I will neither be able to see the paths nor know where they lead to. I am afraid of the noises. I am afraid of the silence. I have heard stories about the wild animals in the forest and I am afraid."

"Firstly, do you wish to leave the town?" he asked.

"I am tired of the town," I said. "I have lived with its people and its sounds. I have seen the colours and the lights. I have filled myself with its emptiness. Yet, everything I have is there. I wish to leave, but I do not have the courage."

"Come with me," he said.

Together we walked back to the town, the holy man and I. A great sadness enveloped me for I knew what was to happen. But the holy man smiled gently at me and the sadness lifted.

We entered the town. Every few steps I was greeted by someone I knew. Friends, companions, colleagues, people I loved. I introduced them to the holy man and I talked about them to him.

"Could I take them with me to the forest?" I asked.

"If you do, you will destroy the forest," he replied. "You will have to leave them here."

The sadness came on again very strongly, but the holy man smiled and the sadness dissolved once again.

Then I took the holy man to my room to show him all that mattered to me. He entered and sat down on my bed.

"Show me", he said.

I took out my writings and my posters and my cards. I took out all the creative and the artistic things I was proud of having done.

"Can I take these with me to the forest?" I asked.

"Destroy them," he said.

"But they matter so much to me," I cried out. "There's nothing like them in the whole world. How can I destroy them?"

"You don't need them," he explained. "They are within you. They are a part of you. They can never be lost. Destroy them."

I closed my eyes and did as he bade me to.

So also with the letters I had treasured for so long...

And the photographs too...

And the poems that were a record of the voices in my soul...

Then I sat on the floor amidst the ruins and I wept.

The holy man said not a word. He waited. When I had finished with weeping I looked up into his face. His eyes were kind with understanding. Inside himself he had also wept with me.

"Come, let us go," he said.

We left the room and walked out of the town. I felt stronger now. I was less afraid. The town no longer had any hold on me. We walked right up to the edge of the forest and stopped there.

"Do you wish to enter the forest?" he asked.

"I have told you earlier that I do not know the forest and I am afraid." I replied, "But yes, I do wish to enter."

"You must first make friends with the trees," he told me.

He took me to the first tree of the forest and he asked me to embrace it.

"Stay," he said, "and listen. I shall return tomorrow."

It was evening already. The holy man walked slowly into the forest leaving me alone holding on to the first tree. The night was dark and still. I could smell the forest and hear its quiet strength. I pressed my cheek to the rough bark of the tree trunk. I could feel the seasons come and go. The tree flushed me with its sap and washed away my fears. All night long it spoke to me of seed and shoot and roots and growth; of birds and animals; of travellers who had dared to walk into the forest. As the night passed, I became stronger.

With the first rays of dawn, the holy man walked out of the forest and came to my side.

"Come," he said, "We have a long way to go."

"I am less afraid now," I told him, " but I still cannot see the paths in the forest. Nor do I know where they lead to."

The holy man smiled once again at me.

"Close your eyes and follow me," he said. "The paths will form wherever you place your feet."

"I believe you," I said, as I prepared to follow him.

"It is more important to believe in yourself," he told me. "Now close your eyes and follow me."

I did as the holy man bid me to and stepped into the forest. At first I moved cautiously. I had not yet fully overcome

my fear. The earth felt soft and safe beneath my feet. And I grew more confident. Wherever I stepped, whichever way I moved, the path was always there. And my eyes were closed. I did not call out to the holy man because I believed. He was there and I followed him.

I spent a week in the forest, walking and running and leaping and dancing. I learnt the language of the trees and the undergrowth; of the wild animals and the birds. I learnt specially, the language of the dark and of silence. I had become one with the forest.

At the end of the week I felt the touch of the holy man on my arm.

"You may open your eyes now," he said.

I did so. It was early dawn. I found myself once again outside the forest.

"Go back into the town," he said.

"But I have nothing there," I reminded him. "I have destroyed everything. Don't you remember?"

"Everything will be the same as it was before you met me," he replied. "Only you will have changed. You have been to the forest. You can never be the same again."

I smiled at him and stepped lightly towards the town.

A new day was just beginning.....



GRACE PERFORATIONS

-Fr. Terry Quadros SJ

Dark clouds ominous
Foreboding angry portents
Gust sweep across
Surrender skies
Helpless submissive
Resigned yielding
Promise despair

Flash celestial perforations
Grace rays brush aside
Puncturing hopelessness
Beams blazing through
Resistance anger
Dismissing threat
Hope eruptions
Pulverising doom
comfort consolation
Celebration heart thrill

He breaks through again
All will be well all will be well
Yes, always will be well...

74 years ago on this date.....



I was born in Valencia in the year 1940. I was 7 years old in 1947, the year in which I received my first communion.

Providentially it was also the year in which India received its Independence. What is even more providential is that both these events occurred on

August 15 which is also the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into heaven.

My first communion was administered to me in the Church of The Jesuits in Valencia and near the altar of the Immaculate Conception by a Jesuit priest. My parents and brothers and sisters were all present and it was a lovely family gathering. Little did I know at that time, that the larger part of my life would be spent in the country of my dreams: India. I was not aware at that time that India has received its Independence. I learned this fact only after I final landed in India in 1964. In that year, I was able to celebrate the 17th anniversary of my first communion and India's Independence.

From the moment I took my first and perpetual vows in the Society of Jesus in

the year 1959, I always dreamed of coming to India. At that time I was told that it was impossible and was asked to go to South America instead. I knew in my heart, however, that God would grant my heart's desire and I kept asking God for this gift. God answered this prayer of mine. Looking back now, I can see that my will coincided with God's will and God's will was done.

I have been in India for 57 years. Though I am not a citizen of India yet, I know that God will grant me the desire of my heart to stay and work in India till my last breath. However, I am open to God's will and like Mary will keep praying "Let it be done to me according to your word" (Lk 1:38).

I thank God that he has gifted me the privilege of serving in this great country which is "the cradle of great religions" and so varied, diverse and rich in culture, language and food and yet so united.

My constant prayer to the Lord is "Father, I thank you for the gift of having sent me to India and for all those whom you have blessed with the vision and courage to knit us into one nation, one people. I thank you for the hope that this feast of our mother Mary inspires in all of us. I am confident that you will continue your saving work among us. I make this prayer in the name of the Infant Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Fr. Tony Jurschik S.J.



Fr. Bosco D'souza SJ

Asst. Chaplain The Shrine of Infant Jesus

THE HEART OF JESUS OVERFLOWS WITH EVERLASTING LOVE

From the moment of the Annunciation, Mary's womb was blessed by God. When the angel told Mary that her cousin was pregnant and that she was in her sixth month of pregnancy, Mary rushed to Elizabeth's home to be with her in her time of need. On reaching her cousin's home, Mary embraced Elizabeth and at that very moment, the babe in Elizabeth's womb leapt for joy. So close was our salvation, as the Infant Jesus greeted his cousin John.

Since the pandemic started, the wooden doors of the Shrine here at Nashik have been closed following the directives of the Government and the Nashik Municipal Corporation. However that has not prevented the heart of the Infant Jesus from flowing with love in great abundance to the thousands of hearts longing for and patiently waiting to receive his love through their fervent devotion and 'spiritual communion' they receive during the online Eucharistic celebration which is screened daily at 12 noon.

As the Infant Jesus is carried lovingly in the arms of his mother Mary, he in turn

carries our planet Earth in his loving hands so that we may experience his healing touch and his everlasting love in our lives. The love of Jesus touches our hearts, so that we in turn can become channels of love, peace, joy and forgiveness in our relations with one another and thus overcome the effects of Covid-19 in our world today.

“Pray with faith” says Jesus and the “impossible will become possible”. Hence, when we pray let us believe that everything will happen as God wants it to happen.

A question was once asked by a person, “Does prayer change things?” And the answer to that is “Oh yes, it does!” This is how it does:

1. It may not change the present situation, but it does change the way we look at these events.
2. It may not change shattered hearts and broken bodies, but it will change our source of strength and comfort.

3. It may not change our wants and desires, but it will change our 'wants' into what God wants and what God desires!

4. It may not change our regrets of the past, but it will change our hope for the future.

Hence we can say without doubt that prayer will change our lives in ways we

cannot explain. “All things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose” (Rom 8:28). Prayer guards hearts and minds and causes God to bring peace out of chaos. A heart of love brings peace to the world. Pray to the Infant Jesus with faith and experience his love in your hearts.



LITTLE BIRD, ARE YOU TRULY FREE??

T'was on the 15th of August in the year of happy memories,

As time stood still at the stroke of the midnight hour,

With the lowering of the Union Jack and the hoisting of India's Tricolour,

And the air resounded with our melodious National Anthem,

Brought thousands to stand by with marked attention

As the breath of fresh air heralded our Country's Independence.

74 years have come and gone, with “PROGRESS” on the lips of everyone,

In the fields of science and technology, to foster the growth of democracy,

But when elections draw near, votes are bought with bribes galore,

And so we end up with corrupt leaders, steering the ship to doom and despair.

Rape and murder and communal hatred are on the agenda to change the CONSTITUTION

By silencing those who raise their voices against injustice and persecution.

We still hope and believe that truth and justice will prevail,

And our country will experience the end of all travail.

While Mary our Mother has attained true and lasting freedom,

She will take us with her to our place of liberation,

So sing little bird a song to the Nation, freedom will soon appear on the horizon.



Fr. Bosco D'souza SJ





Ms. Priscilla Kolge

Asst. Teacher, St. Xavier's School, Nasik Road

A Report on the webinar - 'To Foster the Art of Questioning' held on 23rd June 2021

A webinar on 'The Art of Questioning' for grades 4 to 6 was conducted by Ms. Smitha Matai for the teachers of St. Xavier's School Nasik Road and St. Xavier's School Manickpur. She is the Senior Product Specialist for Orient Black Swan Limited, Mumbai. She trains teachers not only in India but also in other parts of the world.

Ms. Matai highlighted and discussed the following points:

- Ms. Smitha Matai began the session by asking, whether Questioning is an art or a science? The teachers came to a consensus that it is an amalgamation of both.
 - She stated that the art and science of asking questions is the source of all knowledge. She emphasized that a teacher should be grammatically correct whilst questioning the students. They should also ensure that the questions be thought provoking, this will help the teacher assess the student's ability to apply knowledge learnt.
 - Teachers were reminded that the National Education Policy 2020 stressed that student's assessment and evaluation would undergo a reformation in the academic year of 2022-23.
 - Ms. Matai emphasized that a teacher should pose questions that will cater to all levels of learners. Factual and thought-provoking questions need to be balanced and lengthy responses however also need to be encouraged so that even a below average child can attain passing marks.
- **Ms. Matai call attention to the characteristics of questioning:**
- Questions have to be brief and clear
 - Avoid too many factual questions
 - Questions have to be age appropriate
 - Questions should test the student's ability to apply the knowledge taught
 - Questions should vary in difficulty
- Her online class mantra of Pose, Pause, Pounce and Bounce would be very effective.
 - Pose: The teacher will pose a question to the class
 - Pause: Give the students time to think
 - Pounce: Nominate a child to answer
 - Bounce: Discuss it with all the students before disclosing the answer
- **Online assessment techniques:**
- Ms. Smitha Matai felt that the teachers needed to implement the principles of Blooms Taxonomy. This will enable teachers to assess the child accurately.

- The teachers were instructed to give a lesser priority to multiple choice questions, true or false, match the columns. Such questions only encourage memory work and not their ability to think, understand and reason. Therefore, questions asked should be based on points such as how, why, under what circumstances, to raise the quality of the thinking process in the classroom.

➤ **Survey report conducted by Azim Premji University:**

- A brief survey report which was shared by Ms. Matai showed the loss of learning gap in children during the pandemic period. It is been recorded that children have lost at least one specific ability in language and mathematics.
- She believes that Google forms are insufficient when it comes to evaluating students. They cover only 20 percent of the assessment. They are based solely on factual recalling of the information given. Analytical and applicational skills can only be tried and tested through the way they write their answers.
- Ms.Matai urged the teachers to publish the question papers online. The students then need to be told to submit their written answers via mail or other appropriate media. This will help them practice writing lengthy and explanatory answers. This is a good way of preparing them for post

pandemic physical school.

- Her recommendations were to give the students written online assessments every quarter. They could do this through a question bank or worksheets which tests their factual knowledge and reasoning skills. Teachers will then provide honest feedback, pin pointing areas for improvement.

➤ **Online tools:**

Mentimeter :

- Teachers can use *menti.com* during live online classes for quick responses from children. The mentimeter has 2 free questions after which it becomes a paid portal.
- Edpuzzle, Edulastic, Flipgrid, Kahoot, Nearpod and Padlet were a few tools mentioned by Ms.Matai which could be used for online assessment and evaluation. These are free to a certain extent.

The webinar was full of knowledge and informative. It indeed gave deep insights into the topic and also revealed some captivating facts. The inputs given by Ms.Smitha Matai will definitely help the staff to build a better generation for tomorrow.

World Environment Day – June 5, 2021

The World Environment Day is not just a celebration but also a reminder to take the best care of our surroundings and to make it look greener and better.

We at St. Xavier's School, Nashik Road, took up the initiative to incorporate the same. As part of the Environment Day celebrations, we undertook a Tree Plantation Drive, wherein students were encouraged to donate plants for the school garden. For the convenience of the students and their parents, the school had arranged for a Plant Nursery in the school premises. This nursery, made plants available at a reasonable price. This arrangement achieved a triple aim. First, parents did not have to carry plants from their home to the school, but could get them at the school itself. Second the nursery personnel were happy to come to the school premises because it meant brisk business for them and third, more plants were purchased by parents than would have been bought by them if they had to get them from home. This meant that the school campus would get a greener look in the not too distant future.

The collective involvement of parents, students and the school resulted in the successful celebration of the Environment Day.

"Let us together nurture nature so that we can have a better future."

Please click on the link to see our teaching and non-teaching staff, parents and students do their bit to nurture nature.

<https://youtu.be/XrGsvLHxvCw>



TOKYO OLYMPICS – TRUE WINNERS

WHAT WOULD HAVE BEEN THE RESPONSE OF MY MOTHER?

The world famous long distance athlete, Abel Mutai was completing the last very last lap of the 3000 metres Steeple Chase event. He had almost reached the finishing point and was only a few metres away from the tape. The other competitors were way behind. For all practical purposes the gold medal was his. Spectators were all cheering his superb performance.... when, due to some misunderstanding, he suddenly stopped...a metre short of the finishing line.

Ivan Fernandez, the competitor from Spain, was behind him in the race. He realized that Abel had misunderstood instructions; else why would he have stopped just before the finishing line!

He shouted in Spanish to Abel to move ahead. Abel could not understand Spanish. He didn't budge. Finally, on catching up with him, Ivan literally pushed him right up to the finishing line....and so, Abel stood first and Ivan, second.

Press reporters questioned Ivan, “Why did you do this? You had every opportunity of winning the gold medal, why did you let it go?”

Ivan retorted, " This was my dream that one day, the whole of humankind would be transformed into a body of persons bent on being of help to each other. And so, I didn't just let go of the first place.”

But you literally pushed the Kenyan forward. Why?”

Ivan retorted, " He had already won the race....this was his event.”

Not satisfied, the reporter probed further, “But you could have won the gold! It was yours for the taking. “

"That would have been a meaningless victory. Yes, the medal would have brought honour. But, **WHAT WOULD HAVE BEEN THE RESPONSE OF MY MOTHER?** What impact would that have had on future generations? What impact would I have made on them?”

"My mother had taught me never to take advantage of another's weakness or ignorance.”



Fr. Dion Lobo SJ

THE MOST TOUCHING MOMENT AT THE 2020 TOKYO OLYMPICS



The sporting spirit narrated below was the hallmark of the games.

It happened at the high jump event. Two athletes were the only ones left to compete for gold. GIAN MARCO TAMBERI from ITALY and MUTAZH ISA BARSHAN from QATAR.

Both had crossed the bar at the height of 2.35 meters with ease. The bar was then raised to 2.36 metres. Again, it was cleared successfully by both.

The bar was further raised to 2.37 metres. It was at this juncture that TAMBERI who had suffered a foot injury, announced that he could participate no longer in the event and was withdrawing.

MUTAZH ISA BARSHIM realized that he was now left with no competitor to challenge him. All that he needed to do was to clear the bar and the gold was his forever.

At the same time it dawned on him that there was no feat in achieving anything unchallenged. He went up to the referee and inquired of him as to whether both of them would be eligible for gold were he too to withdraw.

The referee consulted with other referees and, as per the new rules in force, concluded in the affirmative that both of them would then be eligible for the gold medal.

In the meanwhile, GIAN MARCO TAMBERI, had reconciled himself to being satisfied with silver.

BUT THEN..... MUTAZH ISA BARSHIM decided to withdraw, he too would not attempt the final hurdle...the implication being that both of them, TAMBERI and BARSHIM, would be eligible for the gold medal.

Becoming aware of the generous gesture of BARSHIM, TAMBERI was ecstatic with joy. He ran up to BARSHIM and hugged himone of the most touching , humane moments of the Tokyo Olympics..... which showcased that sporting spirit, the hallmark and the essence of every sport, that beckoned one beyond all categories of caste, creed, race , language and region.

Fr. Dion Lobo SJ

Fourteenth Anniversary of the Episcopal Ordination of Bishop Lourdes Daniel, Bishop of Nashik.

Bishop Lourdonada Daniel (known popularly as Bishop Lourdes) completed 14 years as Bishop on August 2, 2021. He was ordained priest on April 19, 1980 and ordained Bishop on August 2, 2007. He was Bishop of Amravati from the date of his ordination till the year 2010. In the year 2010 he was appointed Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Nashik and continues to this date.

I knew Bishop Lourdes when he was the Parish Priest of Our Lady of Perpetual Succor at Todiwalla Road, Pune. I was blessed to serve as a Deacon under his tutelage. It was from him that I first learnt the finer points of Parish life and a lot of my pastoral aptitude is because of what I saw and learnt from Bishop Lourdes.

When he was Parish Priest, the poor always found refuge in him and the doors of the Church and his heart were always open to them. Those who were rich also felt loved by Fr. Lourdes and were always willing to reach out and help whenever Fr. Lourdes asked for help for the poor. Now too as Bishop of Nashik, he is always ready and even eager to reach out to the poor and needy. The poor do find in Bishop Lourdes a friend, companion and guide.


While we congratulate Bishop Lourdes on the 14th Anniversary of his Episcopal Ordination we will pray that God keep him in good health of mind and body. We will ask out Blessed Mother Mary to place him near the heart of her son Jesus.

Since he is a true and genuine shepherd, the poem/song by Terry Q is an apt description of Bishop Lourdes.

**He'll be a sort of shepherd to you
Not a gold mine or a sugar tree
A sort of shepherd the world keeps wanting
Not only you and me
A sort of shepherd
A sort of friend who doesn't
Talk too big or look too wise
But who's honest as the sun
And when the day is done
Can look a fellow straight between the eyes.**

**A man who's strong as ten strong men
Because his heart is pure
Not soft not hard an all weather shepherd
Who steers a course that's sure
A sort of shepherd a sort of friend
Who whether out in space or here on earth
Will listen and obey to what his god will say
And bring humankind the secret of re birth.**



 [Click here to Play the Song](#)

नाशिक धर्मप्रांताचेबिशप लुर्ड्स डॅनियल यांचे बिशप पदाच्या दीक्षेचा चौदावा वर्धापन दिन

बिशप लॉर्डनाडा डॅनियल (बिशप लुर्ड्स म्हणून प्रसिद्ध) यांनी 2 ऑगस्ट 2021 रोजी बिशप पदाची 14 वर्षे पूर्ण केले. 19 एप्रिल 1980 मध्ये त्यांनी धर्मगुरू पदाची दीक्षा घेतली आणि 2 ऑगस्ट 2007 मध्ये बिशप पदाची दीक्षा घेतली. त्यावेळेपासून तर 2010 या वर्षापर्यंत ते अमरावतीचे बिशप म्हणून काम करत होते. 2010 साली त्यांची नियुक्ती नाशिक धर्म प्रांताचे बिशप म्हणून करण्यात आली. त्या वर्षी पासून ते आजतागायत ते नाशिक धर्म प्रांताचे कामकाज बघतात.

बिशप लुर्ड्स जेव्हा 'Our Lady of Perpetual Succour' ताडीवाला रोड पुणे या चर्चचे प्रमुख धर्मगुरू म्हणून कार्यरत होते तेव्हापासून मी त्यांना ओळखतो. त्यांच्या जवळच मला डीकन म्हणून काम करण्याची संधी व आशीर्वाद मिळाला. त्यांच्याकडून मी पॅरिश जीवनाच्या अनेक बारीक-सारीक गोष्टी शिकलो. माझ्या धार्मिक जीवनात अनेक गोष्टी

शिकलो. जेव्हा ते प्रमुख धर्म गुरु होते तेव्हा ते नेहमी गरीबांना आश्रय देत. त्यांच्या मनाचे आणि चर्चची दारे त्यांच्यासाठी नेहमी उघडी असत. जे श्रीमंत होते त्यांनाही फादर लुर्ड्स कडून खूप प्रेम मिळाले, ते सर्वांना प्रिय होते. जेव्हाही फादरांनी गरीबांसाठी आणि गरजूंसाठी मदत मागितली तेव्हा ती सर्वांनी पुरविली. आताही नाशिक धर्म प्रांताचे बिशप असताना गरीब आणि गरजवंताल पर्यंत पोहोचण्यासाठी ते नेहमीच इच्छुक आणि उत्साही असतात. बिशप लुर्ड्समध्ये गरीबांना एक मित्र, सोबती आणि मार्गदर्शक सापडतो.

बिशप डॅनियल यांच्या बिशप पदाच्या चौदावा वर्धापन दिनानिमित्त आम्ही त्यांचे अभिनंदन करतो आणि प्रार्थना करतो की प्रभू परमेश्वर त्यांना मनाचे आणि शरीराचे चांगले आरोग्य देवो. आम्ही पवित्र मरीया माता हिच्याकडे विनंती करतो की त्यांनी बिशप लुर्ड्स यांना प्रभू येशूच्या हृदयाजवळ ठेवावे.

अनुवादित ऑगस्टीन डीमेलो



स्पर्धा-

परस्परातील सहकार्यातून सामर्थ्य सिद्ध करण्याची संधी

अगस्टीन डिमेलो ये.एस.



स्पर्धा म्हणजे दुसऱ्याला हरवून स्वःताचे सामर्थ्य सिद्धकरणे. सामर्थ्य सिद्ध करण्यासाठी प्रतिस्पर्धीसुद्धा तेवढाच महत्वाचा. जर प्रतिस्पर्धीच नसेल किंवा प्रतिस्पर्धी लढण्यास तयार नसेल तर स्पर्धक आपले सामर्थ्य सिद्ध करू शकत नाही. याचाच अर्थ स्पर्धा जिंकण्यासाठी प्रतिस्पर्धी असणे आवश्यक आहे. फक्त प्रतिस्पर्धी असून उपयोग नाही तर तो लढण्यास तयार असणे गरजेचे असते. म्हणजेच सहकार्याशिवाय स्पर्धा होऊ शकत नाही. आपल्याला याचा अनुभव आताच्या टोकियो ऑलिंपिक मधील दोन स्पर्धेमध्ये पहावयास मिळाला. उंच उडीच्या प्रकारात दोन स्पर्धक शेवटपर्यंत समसमान गुण मिळवत असताना अचानक पायाच्या दुखापतीमुळे एका स्पर्धकाने स्पर्धेतून माघार घेतल्याचे समजताच दुसराही स्पर्धक स्पर्धेतून माघार घेऊन स्पर्धेचा विजय विभागून घेतो. तर, धावण्याच्या शर्यतीत आपल्या पुढील स्पर्धक गोंधळामुळे शेवटच्या रेषेपासून काही अंतरावर थांबल्याचे दिसताच पाठीमागून आलेला स्पर्धक पुढे न जाता थांबलेल्या स्पर्धकाला पुढे ढकलून पहिला नंबर देतो आणि स्वःता मात्र दुसरा नंबर घेतो जेव्हाकी त्याला पहिला नंबर मिळत होता. याचाच अर्थ, स्पर्धा जिंकणे हे प्रतिस्पर्धीवर अवलंबून असते. हे सत्य

ज्याला समजते त्याच्यासाठी स्पर्धा म्हणजे परस्परातील सहकार्यातून सामर्थ्य सिद्ध करण्याची संधी.

❖ शुद्ध आत्मांचे सहकार्य अफ्रिकीन मुलांची एक कथा आहे, ती अशी आहे की, जो कोण धावून जिंकेल त्याला चॉकलेटचे बास्केट देण्यात येईल, ते सगळे सोबत धावू लागले. याचा परिणाम असा झाला की, कुणीही प्रथम किंवा जिंकू शकले नाही. ते सगळेच जिंकले. त्यासगळ्या मुलांनी त्यांचा विजय व चॉकलेट्स, एकमेकांबरोबर वाटून घेतली. यालाच त्यांच्या भाषेमध्ये 'अबांटु' म्हणजेच एकत्रितपणा!

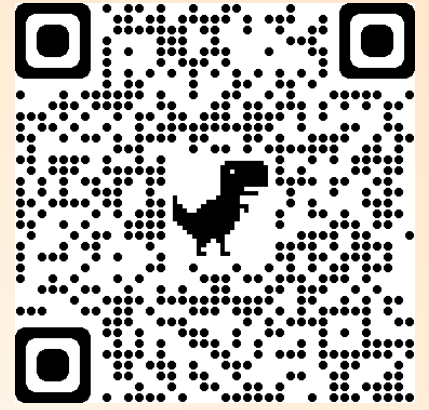
❖ स्पर्धाची भावना आणि सहकार्य स्पर्धेची भावना म्हणजेच कोणीतरी स्पर्धा करत आहे. तुमच्या बरोबर, तो तुमचा शत्रू नाही, परंतु तुम्ही एकात्रित आले आहात चांगले कार्य, शांतता, सुसंवाद व आपल्या अहंकाराची काळजी घ्या.

उदाहरणार्थ- आताच झालेल्या टोकियो २०२१ ऑलिंपिक मध्ये दोन विजेत्यांनी सुवर्ण पदक वाटून घेतले कारण त्यांनी स्पर्धेमध्ये सर्वोत्तम खेळ खेळला.



Daily Reflection

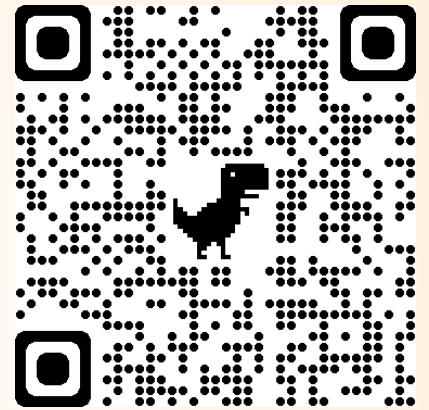
I have a youtube channel and I post reflections on it every day. You can reach my channel by scanning the QR Code or Tapping on the QR Code. Do subscribe to My channel. **Subscription is Free**



-Fr. Errol Fernandes SJ



The Shrine of the Infant Jesus, Nashik also has a youtube channel. On this channel the 12 noon Mass is live online everyday. You can reach this channel by Scanning the QR Code or Tapping on the QR Code. Do subscribe to this channel. **Subscription is Free**



We thank you for your generous donations and contribution to the Shrine. The money that you donate is used for the poor and the upkeep of the Shrine. If you wish to donate, you may do so by UPI (Unified Payments Interface) or by NEFT, the details of which are given below.

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