

SHRINE OF THE INFANT JESUS

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It matters

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A word before.....

The month of January is a month of newness. The old is gone. The new has come. This newness is manifested in a variety of ways. One way in which many live out this newness is by making resolutions. The act of making resolutions is both a courageous and faithful act. It is courageous because the one who makes it is not afraid to fail. It is faithful because the one who makes it, trusts that God will give the grace and strength required to live out the resolution.

If one fails, it does not matter. This is because it need not be just the first of January that begins a new year, it can be from the moment that one decides that failure will not set one back. It is from the moment that one decides that one will keep on keeping on despite failing and falling. It is from the moment that one decides that one will keep doing what one has to do and leave the rest for God to complete.

We have made every attempt to write positive articles in this issue which is the first for the current calendar and the seventh in our Volume I series.

We begin with “Waves 2022”, in which Fr. Terry reflects that “new faith dreams beckon us ahead” and that the New Year is “full of exciting promise and challenges!”.

Since we celebrated the Republic Day of our country on January 26 every year, I reflect on some challenges of present day India and ask where we are as a country on our 73rd Republic day.

In “Living waters flow on...” Fr. Bosco reflects on the challenges of the present Covid-19 pandemic and believes that since Jesus is in “Total Control”, we have nothing to fear.

Teacher Veronica John Daniel also reflects on the pandemic from the challenges it poses to education and children.

We often think of how old we are on our birthdays and when asked {if we are brave enough} tell people when asked “Today we have completed 75 years on this earth” or “I am 75 years old today”. My suggestion is that we reflect on how new we are and not on how old in my short piece “How new are you?”

Beginning with a quotation from the second letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians where he says, “So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!” (2 Cor 5:17), Fr. Vincy D'mello reflects on Newness in the context of the New Year. Fr. Vincy is a prolific writer and especially in Marathi. His writings are based on research and are often on social themes. In recognition of his relevant and practical writings, he was awarded the “Savitribai Phule Inspiration award”.

Fr. Tony Jurschik is the youngest of the Spanish Jesuits in the Mumbai Province of the Society of Jesus, who came to India many years ago. In recognition of his service in both villages of Maharashtra and the city of Mumbai he was given a certificate of appreciation.

In the penultimate article Fr. Terry suggests that the sweetest revenge you can take on those who put you down is to succeed in life.

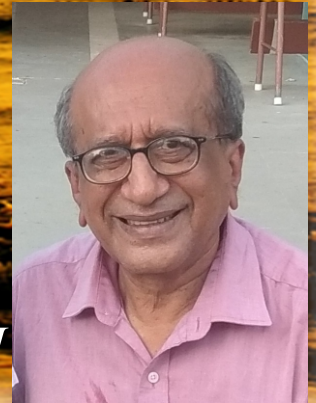
Finally I suggest that we must not let our life be a series of “If only”. We do what we have to do at every moment and the results will follow.

WAVES 2022



Devbaug shore
photo: manu

Fr. Terry Quadros SJ



Yet another year has begun and is well
on its way.

Promises, surprises, excitement,
challenges and so much more.

Waves of these, coming at us... receding
from us...and our weathered boats sail
on taking us to uncertain shores...

New dance waves race reforming shores
Different patterned each fresh wash
Ebb and flow re-coaxing change
unfolding swift paced textures new

Old flowing histories glow re-foamed
To bubble-froth delights and times

old rugged boat heaves launching out
T'wards horizon's distant stretch
Old mended nets splash cast again
Uncertain now the promise catch

the men await largesse from sea
they will return with gratitude

We carry forward all the old
Weather-worn enriched by toil
challenge crusted tempered lives
full flowered through crest and trough of
days

each battle fought with common dare
unscathed not still strong survived

new faith dreams beckon us ahead
we trust new winds and water depths
we trust old hearts and habits learned
our lives in ever caring hands.

for all that has been: gratitude
for all that will be: "YES!" again!

terryq

**Wonder beginnings for all of us
to a new year full of exciting
promise and challenges!**

Happy
Republic Day



Whither India on its 73rd Republic Day?



Fr. Errol Fernandes SJ
Chaplain, The Shrine of Infant Jesus

Republic Day in India marks the day on which the Constitution of India came into effect. The Constitution was accepted by the Constituent Assembly of India on November 26, 1949 and became effective on January 26, 1950. It replaced the Government of India Act of 1935. From this day on, India became a Republic. This meant that India decided from this day on to be a country in which power would belong to the people as a whole and not to an individual or a small group. The Constitution was that sacred document which contained the values and guidelines by which the country would be governed. It declares India a **sovereign, socialist, secular and democratic republic**. It assures all its citizens irrespective of caste, creed or economic status the values of **justice, equality and liberty**. It endeavours to promote **fraternity**.

Where is our country with regard to its Constitution on its 73rd Republic Day? Have the values enshrined in the Constitution been the values by which the country has been governed? Has the intention of the writers of the Constitution and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in particular become a lived reality?

The word '**Sovereign**' is translated as independent, free, self-determining and

autonomous. In the context of the Constitution of India it meant that unlike when India was ruled by the British, now there would be no outside interference. The nation would act independently without coercion or undue pressure from without. For a few years after the Constitution came into effect the nation truly acted independently. The newly gained freedom prompted the leaders to act wisely and in the interest of the whole nation. They made every attempt to include all peoples and avoided distinctions, except when it was necessary to make them in order to give the marginalised an advantage.

Can we say that this is the situation today? Have the poor, the marginalised and the downtrodden been cared for or have the rich become richer and often at the cost of the poor?

Socialism is based on collective and public ownership of the resources that are used to manufacture goods and provide services. This way of life advocates the means of production, distribution and exchange should be owned and regulated by the community as a whole.

With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need." The main point of Socialism is that there would not be even one needy person in the whole group. Everyone would have enough to live a healthy and whole life.

The percentage of those who lived below the poverty line according to the Indian Government in 2019 is 6.7% of the population. However according to other estimates two-thirds of the people live in poverty in India. In figures this means that over 800 million people in India live on Rs. 26 per day in rural areas and on Rs. 32 per day in urban areas. This makes India one of the poorest countries in the world; women and children, the weakest members of Indian society, suffer most. Those of us who live in cities know that it is almost impossible to sustain oneself with these amounts in any village or city in the country. As a matter of fact to have even one meal with this amount would be difficult. Does this not mean that the country has failed the larger majority of its people? It is even more frightening that with each passing year, the percentage of the poor keeps increasing. India is also one of the countries with the highest child mortality rates, and close to 12.5 million children between the ages of 5 and 14 are working. Most of these are working in unhygienic and unhealthy conditions in factories, fields, quarries

and private households. Around 25% of children in India have no access to education. The number of children excluded from school is higher among girls than boys. Although women and men are treated equally under Indian law, girls and women, especially in the lower social caste, are considered inferior and are oppressed by their fathers, brothers and husbands. Without education, the chance of finding a living wage from employment in India is virtually hopeless. Now with the onslaught of Covid-19 the situation has worsened. Even those who had the opportunity to go to school in rural areas, have now to stay home because internet facilities which are required for online learning are almost non-existent. What does the future hold for these?

Secularity is not connected with a particular religious tradition. The focus is on a spirituality that is Universal. There is no mixing of religions and State power. While each person is free to practice the faith that he/she desires, no one is allowed to impose it on another. It also means that one will not talk disparagingly or judgementally about another's faith or beliefs.

The US Commission of International Religious Freedom classified India as Tier-2 in persecuting religious minorities, the same as that of Iraq and Egypt. In recent times according to reports from independent agencies, the incidents of persecution of religious minorities is increasing. Communal violence is seen by many as a big national problem.

There are some who subscribe to the view that to be Indian is to be Hindu. This attitude results in fundamentalism. Because of this stand the religious minorities who think that they are as much Indian as others often feel left out and marginalised. In recent years, conversion from one religion to another has been a contention issue in India. In 2021, nine states have enacted laws against religious conversions. Though allegations have been made and blame thrown about, the fact is that the changes in India's religious landscape over time is largely the result of a difference in fertility rates among different religious groups and not conversion. Conversion from one religion to another has a minimal impact on the overall size of India's religious groups.

In a **democratic** republic, the government is formed by the people choosing their leaders by voting. In it, every adult citizen has a right to vote and express his/her choice of an individual or political party.

The value of **justice** means that every individual is treated fairly. Everyone whether rich or poor, of a particular faith or no faith, male or female is equal in the eyes of the law. In a just society, a person is given the opportunity to defend him/herself against allegations that another might make. It implies fairness, equality and impartiality especially with regard to the punishment of wrongdoing. Rules and laws are meant to help to figure out what is right and wrong. They are means and can never be ends in themselves.

In a society in which **equality** is practiced, everyone has the same rights. Different

groups of people have the right to receive the same treatment. When equality is practiced, there is no rich or poor, black or white and male or female. Everyone has the same rights and the same opportunities.

Liberty is the state of being free. There are no oppressive restrictions imposed by authority on one's way of life, behaviour, political, religious and personal views. One has the scope to express oneself in the way one wants as long as it does not interfere with another person's right and freedom to express him/herself in the manner in which she/he wants.

The Constitution hoped that justice, equality and liberty would lead to **fraternity** which is a state in which there would be friendship, brother and sisterhood and all in the country would live as friends or members of one family. There would be mutual support to one another and the concerns of the others would be as real to each as his/her personal concerns. It would be a state where everyone would love the other and follow the Golden rule "In everything do to others as you would have them do to you" (Mt 7:12).

Can we truly say that this is a reality in our country? If not, what am I going to do to make this a reality in my family, my neighbourhood and my city?

Can we truly say that this is a reality in our country? If not, what am I going to do to make this a reality in my family, my neighbourhood and my city?

'LIVING WATERS FLOW ON.....'

Stagnant waters breed mosquitoes, which in turn spread Malaria and other types of sicknesses, sometimes even resulting in death. On the other hand, flowing rivers bring life and a change for the better. As the year 1999 was coming to a close, there were a lot of question in the minds of people. e.g. what will the new millennium be like? Will it be the end of the world? Will all the computers crash, etc. etc. But then as the mid-night hour struck twelve,' the world ushered in the year 2000 with horns blowing and sirens blaring, and the darkness of night turned bright with fancy and glittering fire-works, while the roads were packed with crowds of people cheering the start of a new year and greeting each other with smiles and laughter that would continue forever. The beautiful river of 1999 was flowing peacefully and un-hindered into a gorgeous beginning of the year 2000, thus turning all unnecessary fears into moments of joy and happiness, Days turned into weeks, and weeks into months, and the river flowed gracefully from one year to another.

Then in the beginning of the year 2020, one huge rock appeared in the path of this river as it flowed peacefully along. The rock was given the name, 'COVID-19'. This rock seemed to grow in size and it cast a shadow of darkness and gloom all over the world, and once again people were caught in the grip of fear and anxiety. Man fell prey to the virus. People started falling sick in thousands, many were dying, others lost their jobs and loved ones in a matter of days. Pharmaceutical Companies worked overtime to discover and manufacture a drug or vaccine that would be able to fight and arrest the spread of this killer virus. Wearing of masks, keeping social distance and frequent washing of hands, became the daily norm. The river was preparing itself to face various types of rocks ahead, so that it would be able to navigate

itself, and flow peacefully once again.

While dark clouds still loom above, we seem to be better prepared now, to face the challenges ahead with renewed vigour and optimism. Just as Jesus calmed the storm that had terrified his disciples while He was in the boat with them, so too will He calm the storms in our lives, if we approach Him with total faith and trust. Let us place ourselves and our troubled world in His hands, so that He will help us to return to normalcy of pre-covid times. Jesus is the 'LIGHT' of the world. Let us pray that He will dispel all darkness from our lives, so that we may experience His brightness to the fullest in ourselves and in the world around. May the forgiving love of God heal us, and bring us back to the joys of His Kingdom.

The graceful flow of the mighty river, now seems to be gradually returning back to normal, thanks to the ever-loving presence of Jesus, who has been and will always be in TOTAL CONTROL of everything that moves and breathes. On our part let us take all the necessary precautions and safe-guards to see that we follow all the rules and regulations in a well disciplined manner. With God's help and guidance, may we do our best to make our world a happier place for all of us to live in peace and harmony with ourselves and with nature as well. May the flowing waters of the river generate new life, and bring about a change for a better tomorrow.



Fr. Bosco D'souza SJ
Asst. Chaplain The Shrine of Infant Jesus

CORONA - How clever you are!!

Corona, how clever you are!
You don't come down the street.
You do not come to the market.
You are not travelling.
You are not religious.
You don't come to government offices.
You do not come to rallies.
You do not come to meetings.
You do not come to polls.
You do not attend weddings.
You do not come for funerals.
You don't come to salons.
You don't come to gyms.
You don't come to restaurants for tea and meals.
You come only to the children's school.
Why???????

That's just because the school kids will become smarter than you!
You are against kids, are you not? Do you like to stay in school?
Why do school teachers have corona? Or do you live on the walls of the school?
Oh, do not compete with our little ones. It won't do you any good.
They only have one wish. They should be able to read and write.
They should be able to do some calculations, just so that they can survive.
As people around the world are taking precautions to protect themselves, their families and their communities from the deadly coronavirus (COVID-19), it is also important that children continue to learn, and that they can do so in an environment that is welcoming, respectful, inclusive, and supportive to all.
Schools and teachers play a vital role in this regard. Sharing accurate information and scientific facts about COVID-19 will help

diminish students' fears and anxieties about the disease and support their ability to cope with any secondary impact in their lives. Since its outbreak in late December 2019, COVID-19 has wreaked havoc across the world and like any critical sector, education has been hit hard. Students, schools, colleges and universities have been deeply impacted. According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), over 800 million learners from around the world have been affected, 1 in 5 learners cannot attend school, 1 in 4 cannot attend higher education classes.

What hope do we have during this time of trial?

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart; and lean not to your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct your paths.” - Proverbs 3:5-6

During this pandemic, let the Lord speak to your heart: "Be not afraid." ... That our time will come and we will appear before God.

... Hope is a feeling based on our faith that things will turn out alright.

You can show your faith by staying positive and praying for the good of others. Also, by helping the ones who are losing hope that this will end, by reading the scriptures and praying together. You can help strengthen each other's faith by sharing the word of God. Most of all, by thanking God for all the blessings you have received amidst the pandemic.



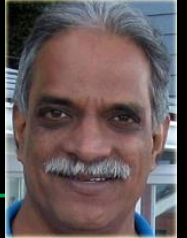
Mrs. Veronica John Daniel

Asst. Teacher, St. Xavier's School (ICSE), Nashik

How ~~old~~ new are you?

How New are you?

Fr. Errol Fernandes SJ
Chaplain, The Shrine of Infant Jesus



On birthdays, we sometimes ask those we wish how old they are. This question is asked in order to find out a person's chronological age. There are various reasons why we may need this information. Chronological age is one of the ways in which we can count the years we have spent on this earth.

The question, “How new are you?” refers not to chronological age, but to the age of the mind and the heart. People are only as old or new as they think they are. The mind is a powerful organ which can control a great deal of who we are. It can help us feel much younger than our chronological age. The phrases, “It's all in the mind” or “It's all in the head”, are usually understood to mean that one has imagined something which does not exist in reality. However, we can also look at

these phrases to mean that if we decide with our minds that we are new, it will have a positive impact on our newness. We can use the thoughts of our minds to refrain from giving in to anything that is negative and which does not enhance life. It is therefore in the mind or head to decide how new we are.

Another way to understand “How new are you?” is to ask whether we have kept in touch with the changes around us. Change is indeed the order of the day and as the Greek Philosopher Heraclitus said “The only constant in life is change”. Instead of focussing on the old and passé, we can focus on the new and relevant.

If you were asked, “How new are you?” what would your answer be?



जुने ते होऊन गेले. पाहा, ते नवे झाले आहे"

..... वेन्सी डिमेलो एस.जे

"जर कोणी ख्रिस्ताच्या ठायी आहे. तर तो नवी उत्पत्ती आहे. जुने ते होऊन गेले. पाहा, ते नवे झाले आहे. (2 करिंथ 5:17)

जुने जाऊ द्या मरणालागून नित्य नव्याचा ध्यास धरा. जिवंताचा शोध मेलेल्यात करू नका.

अनंत आमुची ध्येयासक्ती अनंत

अन् आशा ह्या उक्तींप्रमाणे

नि ख्रिस्ताच्या शिकवणूकीप्रमाणे आपण नव्या वर्षाकडे पाहू या.

सकारात्मक तसेच आशावादी संकल्प करूया. आणि तसे नवसंवत्सर 2022 साजरे करूया.

आपल्या ह्या धर्मनिरपेक्ष देशात आज "पंथभेद" असमर्थनीय आहेत हे मान्य करावे लागेल. आणि त्या दृष्टीने ऐक्यासाठी तातडीने पाऊले उचलणे गरजेचे झाले आहे. त्यात सर्वांशी सहभाग ऐक्य साधून आपण मिशन कार्य करावे ही काळाची गरज आहे.

देशात आज हिंदुत्ववादी पंथ अत्यंत कडवट नि कर्मठ बनला आहे. तो देशातील इतर धर्मीयांबाबत भेदभाव करतो. असे आपण आज अनुभवत आहोत. मात्र हा भेदभाव हे वैगुण्य केवळ हिंदुत्वामध्येच नाही. आपल्या ख्रिस्ती धर्म पंथीयातही हे "जहर" आहे.

त्यासाठी आपण काय करतो?

पाश्चात्य मिशनरींनी बायबल सुवार्तेबरोबर पंथभेद भारतात आणले. हे पंथभेद भिन्नभिन्न

कारणांमुळे पाश्चात्य देशात तयार झाले आहेत. हे पंथभेद टिकून राहण्यासाठी तशा प्रकारची शिकवण भारतीयाना देण्यात आली. आणि एका पंथाचा प्रसार

दुसऱ्यापेक्षा अधिक व्हावा म्हणून हिरीरीने पैसा ओतण्यात आला.

परदेशात जी पंथीय स्पर्धा वृत्ती होती ती गरीब भारतीयांच्या माथी मारली. आणि ती वाढवली. आणि भारतीय पंथ ह्या पाश्चात्य स्पर्धाक वृत्तीचे वारसदार बनले.

एक पंथीय बांधव दुसऱ्या पंथीय बांधवास कनिष्ठ नि कमी लेखू लागले. दुसऱ्या पंथातील व्यक्ती आपल्या पंथात आणण्याची स्पर्धा सुरू झाली आहे. त्यांचा नव्याने बाप्टिस्मा होऊ लागला. इतर पंथीयांना प्रभू भोजनात सहभागी होऊ देत नव्हते .

हे पंथभेद टिकून रहावेत अशी पुष्कळशा सत्तापिपासू व स्वार्थी धर्मधुरीणांची इच्छा अद्याप कमी झालेली नाही. शुभवर्तमान नि त्यातील येशूच्या मानवतावादी शिकवणूकीपेक्षा भेदाचेच खतपाणी पंथापंथात घालण्यात रुजविण्यात आल्याचे आज दिसत आहे. कुठे तो येशूचा समतेचा, बंधुतेचा एकतेसाठीचा धर्म नि कुठे ही पंथभेद पाळणारी धर्मांध अशी पिल्लावळ?

पवित्र शास्त्राच्या आधारे पंथभेद टिकवून ठेवणे असमर्थनीय आहे.

ख्रिस्त अखिल जागतिक वैश्विक मंडळीचे मस्तक आहे. आणि मंडळी ख्रिस्ताचे शरीर आहे. (कलस्सै 1:18)

पवित्र आत्म्याच्या कृपादानामुळे मंडळीच्या कार्यात श्रमविभाजन होणे अनिवार्य आहे.

(रोम 12: 6-8).

दुर्दैवाने पुष्कळसे पंथ या एकत्रीकरणाच्या कारभारापासून काही कारणामुळे आजही दूर आहेत.

दर वर्षी नव वर्षाच्या प्रारंभी जानेवारी महिन्यात आपण Christian Unity Octave ख्रिस्ती ऐक्यासाठी सर्वपंथीय एकत्र येतो. पुन्हा वर्षभर आपण सर्व वेगवेगळे विभागत असतो.

येशूची प्रार्थना करूया...

"हे पवित्र पित्या तू मला दिलेल्या आपल्या नावात त्यास राख. यासाठी की जसे आपण एक आहो, तसे त्यांनी एक व्हावे. (योहान 17:11)

तरीही आपण आपल्या देशाशी त्यातील संविधानाशी प्रामाणिक नि एकनिष्ट आहोत का? काही यहोवा विटनेस (यहोवा साक्षी) सारखे पंथ राष्ट्रहिताविरुद्ध आजही शिकवण देतात. लष्करात नोकरी करू नये असा उघड प्रचार करतात. काही पेन्टेकॉस्टल उपपंथ राजकारणात

मुळीच भाग घेऊ नये असे सांगतात.

त्यांचा अद्यात्मवाद त्यांना ऐहिक जीवनाला पारखे करतो. आणि पारलौकिक जीवनावर अवास्तव भर देतो.

They believe that the Church's business is salvation from sin, which they understand in an "other worldly" manner, not fully related and sometimes even totally unrelated to the real issues man faces in this World, individually and corporately... संदर्भ :(The North India Churchman. Vol. 1.)

देशाशी असे एकनिष्ट न राहता आपल्या स्वताच्या देशाशी नि देवाशी प्रतारणा केल्याने. देशाशी प्रामाणिक असलेल्या इतर ख्रिस्ती धर्मीयांबरोबर देशातील जनतेत वेगळा संदेश जातो. अनेक गैरसमज पसरतात. धार्मिक दंगलीस कारण ठरतात.

आणि ते देशाशी प्रामाणिक असणाऱ्या आणि धर्मनिरपेक्ष देशाच्या ऐक्यासाठी लढणाऱ्या ते ऐक्य जपणाऱ्या अशा अल्पसंख्याक ख्रिश्चनांसाठी धोक्याचे ठरतात. हे हितावह नाही. या नवीन वर्षात पंथभेद दूर ठेवून धर्मांध शिकवण दूर ठेवून येशूला अभिप्रेत असलेल्या देवराज्याच्या नवमानवतेकडे वाटचाल करूया. तसा संकल्प करूया.

सावित्रीबाई फुले प्रेरणा पुरस्कार

धर्मनिरपेक्षतेचा सन्मान !!

.....ऑगस्टीन डिमेलो एस. जे.

होली क्रॉस चर्च नाशिक येथील फादर वेन्सी डिमेलो एस. जे. आणि त्यांचे चर्चमधील सहकारी यांचा नाशिक शहरातील कवीवर्य नारायण सुर्वे वाचनालयातर्फे अखिल भारतीय मराठी साहित्य संमेलनाचे माझी अध्यक्ष श्री उत्तम कांबळे आणि श्री लक्ष्मीकांत देशमुख ह्यांच्या हस्ते सावित्री बाई प्रेरणा पुरस्कारदेऊन यथोचित सत्कार करण्यात आला.

गेली अनेक तपे होलीक्रॉस चर्च नाशिक येथील कविवर्य टिळक वाचनालयातर्फे अनेक कार्यक्रम राबवित असते. त्यातील धर्मनिरपेक्ष सर्वस्पर्शी कार्य नि संविधान रक्षण नि प्रबोधन ह्याला अधिक महत्त्व नि प्रधान्य देण्यात आले आहे.

त्यामुळे चर्च आवारात सर्वांचेच स्वागत होत असते. प्रवेश दिला जात असतो. त्यात विद्यार्थी, धार्मिक, आद्यात्मिक, सामाजिक साहित्यिक, राजकीय पक्षीय क्रीडा मनोरंजन आदींचे वर्षभर कार्यक्रम आयोजित केले जात असतात. स्वातंत्र्य, समता, ऐक्य, बंधुत्व,

न्याय ही धार्मिक सामाजिक मानवी मूल्ये जपली जातात. धर्मापलीकडचा धर्म जपला जातो.

ज्या विद्यार्थ्यांना घरात अभ्यायाच्या सुविधा नाहित ते इथे रात्रंदिन अभ्यासिकेत येतात आदिवासी प्रवासी पक्षीही इथे वसतीगृहात रहातात. इथले पुरोहित सर्वमित्र आहेत. ह्याची दखल घेऊन हा पुरस्कार देण्यात आला आहे.

मंदिरे, मज्जीदी, चर्चस, गुरुद्वारे, बुध्दविहार धर्मविधी बरोबर इतर मानावतावादी सेवेसाठी सर्व नागरिकांसाठी खुली व्हावीत उघडी मोकळी असावीत हा मानवी पायंडा इथले धर्मगुरु सातत्याने जपत आहेत. त्या कार्यचा हा पुरस्कार सन्मान आहे.

देशात आज संकोचित धार्मिक वातावरण पसरविले जात असताना हा सन्मान दिला आहे. पोप फ्रान्सिस ह्यांच्या इतरांबरोबर सहभाग, ऐक्य आणि मिशन कार्य करावे ह्या सिनड मूल्यांचा हा पुरस्कार देऊन नाशिक शहरी जनतेने होली क्रॉस चर्च नाशिकचा सन्मान केला आहे.



Fr. Tony Jurschik receives “Certificate of Appreciation” for many years of dedicated service

The Spanish Jesuits came to Gujarat and Mumbai one hundred years ago. They came to serve. They were innovative and creative. Their service was of the highest quality and is visible even today in the institutions and village works in Gujarat and Maharashtra.

Of the four Spanish Jesuits now in the Bombay Province we are privileged to have in our community at the Shrine of the Infant Jesus, the youngest of the four, Fr. Tony Jurschik. Even at the age of 81 (he will complete 82 years of age on June 17 this year) he is still very active and involved in various ministries at the Shrine.

Recently, he was felicitated by being given a “Certificate of Appreciation” for the many years of selfless and dedicated service. We congratulate Fr. Tony and wish him the gifts of good health and God's blessings.

Fr. Errol Fernandes SJ



succeeding in life

Photo/quote: terryq

is the sweetest revenge you can take...



on those who put you down..!

SWEETEST REVENGE

Many of us have grown up with criticism related to who we are and what we might be capable of becoming.

The criticism often comes from well-intentioned parents or family or teachers who are disappointed with our efforts. We do not measure up to their expectations and our less than desirable performances might be seen as evidence of their own failings. They allowed us too many liberties, they did not control us enough and our performances are disappointing to them. Now they have to make up for that so they ridicule our performances hoping for a Jack-in-the-box consequence.

Many parents do not want only good children. They want better children. Quite possibly they mean well and by reverting to misguided reverse psychology they hope to make us feel bad enough to try harder and perform better!

The deriding criticism might also come from competitive peers and others who really want to put us down for whatever reason.

Hurt and upset by the criticism, in an understandably foolish kind of angry reaction we sometimes reduce our efforts and stunt our own development. And our performances drop still further proving our critics right in what they said about us.

How wonderful it would be if we did just the opposite. Without defending ourselves or otherwise reacting on the rebound, if we just put to optimum use the resources and talents we have and came out on top of things, consequences would be more desirable and our successes would be evidence of our true worth. Our critics might then have to humbly admit to having been wrong about us.

I remember being laughed at as a child because I could not quite hit the right notes when I sang. I remember having to leave the choir in school because I used to sing off key. I remember twice having to leave the choir when I was a Jesuit scholastic because I used to put the other brothers out of tune.... That was long ago.... the rest is new history I made for myself with music and song.

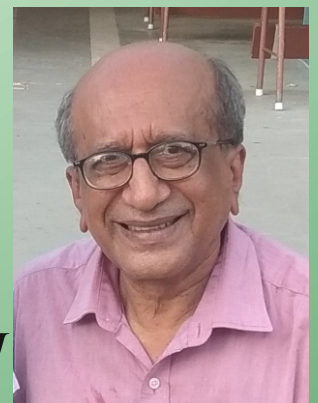
"Revenge" - sweet or otherwise- is not really the intention or motivation for this exercise. Optimising our own growth is! And in the end each one of us will become more beautiful and fulfilled for having done our best!

Some of us have done that too and it is nice for the world to see where we are now despite the challenges we have grown through. Or maybe precisely because of them!

So stand up and get your "sweet revenge" on the world.

Optimise your growth and celebrate your own wonderful becoming. You have my prayers and blessings for this.

Fr. Terry Quadros SJ



GARDEN THOUGHTS

For many years of my early life I never liked gardening.

I loved plants and flowers. And I was very attracted to anything related to a jungle. But I did not like gardening.

That had something to do with my growing up.

When we lived in Vishakapatnam we had a fairly large garden around our navy bungalow there. I remember my being given a little triangular plot in the garden to grow plants and vegetables. My interest did not last too long and the plants in that little triangular plot all died out on me!

Some years later in Lonavala we also had a fairly large garden around our bungalow. Between the end of my schooling (December 1960) and the beginning of college (June 1961) I spent six months almost every evening (nearly two hours a day) watering the garden there. There was a front garden and a back garden... and side gardens as well!

Dad loved gardening. It was his garden and I had to help him tend it every evening. I did not like doing that but I had no choice.

Maybe that is why I did not like gardening.

I am sure that the potted plants that were gifted to me later on in life sensed that.

Money plants, that can grow under any and difficult conditions, died under my care. I remember my brother gifting me with an artistically crafted cactus collection for my birthday. I managed to kill that also.

Later on my sister Joan gave me one of those fengshui bamboo plants. Same thing. More dead plants added to my history.



Until a few years back.

One of my students gave me another fengshui bamboo plant in a pot and asked me to please look after it. I did that, though rather casually. The bamboo shoots there must have noticed a difference and they survived.

A few months later another friend gifted me another prettily potted fengshui bamboo . More caring by me.... and that too survived.

I then started to care for the plants more diligently and affectionately. I paid attention to them. Watered them more regularly, put them out in the sunlight distributed them among other containers and pots, tried out new situations for them (growing them in closed bottles) and showing them off to everyone who came into my room....

All that attention and caring seems to have paid off. The plants grow beautifully and I had a little window-sill garden in my room ...

Just a little garden but it was my garden and it was growing beautifully under my caring.

The same things happens to us and we will surely be able to make the connections between the beautiful in our lives and the caring and affection that made these grow and become a part of us.. So much of the beautiful that there is in us is in large part the natural consequence of someone's affection and caring. Parents teachers... some elder... relatives and friends.

If it happened to us that way, then we can make it happen to others similarly... to children and people in our lives too.

Our affection and caring makes them grow more beautifully. Students in our classrooms, colleagues and subordinates in our work places, domestic workers.... all reflect in the way they relate to us and society at large, the care and respect and affection we ourselves poured out on them.

So if the world is a better place and people around us are better people then it often is because we ourselves have reached out and cared.

I am in Nashik now, and the garden continues... started almost from scratch. A splash of green with occasional glory flowers. I continue caring and the garden comforts and delights me in the way it responds...

Like people in the shrine do too.

I feel so blessed with all that is happening in plants and flowers and skies and clouds and people and the wonderful other reminders I get of God's continuing love for me.

You take care too.... of yourself, of people around you...and of the plants in your own life garden!

Fr. Terry Quadros SJ

Do not let your life be a series of "IF ONLY"

There are times in our lives when we retreat and look back at our lives. This is a good exercise to know where we are and to decide where we want to go.

Sometimes, when we look back there is much regret. There were things we could have done but did not do, decisions we could have made but did not, people we could have helped but did not and good that we could have done but did not. At times like these we may regard our lives as a series of "What if" or "If only" and our days will be filled with regret.

One can avoid this by making a practice of the twice daily Examination of Consciousness. In summary form, the Examination of Consciousness is a spiritual exercise in which I go through my day from morning till noon to become aware of areas in which I feel short. I end the exercise with a resolution to improve from noon till night when I make the Examination again. This twice daily Examination will help to stop procrastination and lethargy in their tracks.

Instead of a series of "If only" will you strive to be able to say "No regrets"?

Fr. Errol Fernandes SJ

SHRINE OF THE INFANT JESUS, NASHIK ROAD
NOVENA AND FEAST DAY THEMES AND READINGS



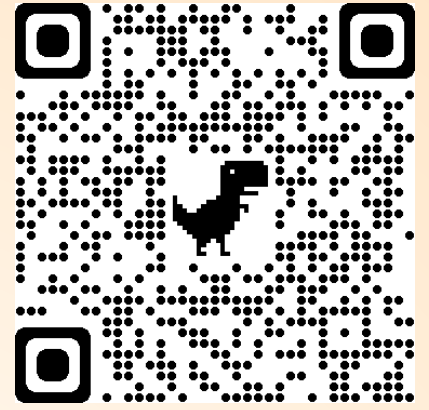
Date	Theme	Readings
February 3, 2022	The Church as one with the poor is Spirit	Isa 57:14-16; Ps 34; Lk 4:16-21
February 4, 2022	The Church as one with those who mourn	Job 19:23-27a; Ps 23; Jn 14:1-4
February 5, 2022	The Church as one with the meek	Num 12:1-8a; Ps 37; Mt 11:2-6
February 6, 2022	The Church as one with those who hunger and thirst for righteousness.	Isa 55:6-11; Ps 42; Jn 4:25-26; 31-34
February 7, 2022	The Church as one with the merciful	Col 3:12-17; Ps 34; Mk 10:46-53
February 8, 2022	The Church as one with the pure in heart	Heb 10:19-24; Ps 24:1-6; Mk 12:28-34
February 9, 2022	The Church as one with the peacemakers	Rom 14:13-19; Ps 4; Jn 14:27-29
February 10, 2022	The Church as one with those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake	2 Cor 4:7-10; Ps 118; Jn 15:18-21
February 11, 2022	The Church as one with those who are reviled and persecuted for the truth	Rom 8:18-25; Ps 69; Mt 10:26-31
Feast Day, February 12, 2022	The Church as a Pilgrim Community in Communion	Deut 26:5-10; Acts : 4:32-35; Jn 15:5,7-12

Fr. Errol Fernandes SJ
 January 20, 2022



Daily Reflection

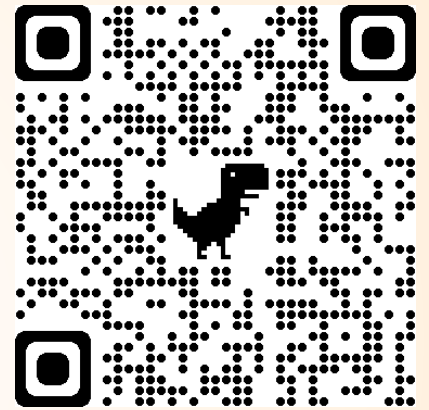
I have a youtube channel and I post reflections on it every day. You can reach my channel by scanning the QR Code or Tapping on the QR Code. Do subscribe to My channel. **Subscription is Free**



-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**



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