



INDIAN PROVINCE NEWSLETTER

Dear Brothers and friends of Edmund,

The message of Easter was first spoken to two women at Jesus' tomb, in these simple words: "Do not be afraid...for He is risen" (Matthew 28:5-6). Jesus is with us and gives us his ability to overcome any defeat.

As I read these words I began to reflect on how I was feeling at the end of March, 2024. And the word that summed up my feeling was: apprehensive. Why?

It has been 2 years since the war in Ukraine started and it is no closer to ending. In fact just now there is a threat of the use of nuclear weapons being introduced by one of the parties.

And then there is what has happened in the Gaza strip. Many commentators refer to it as reaching Genocide proportions. And all the world leaders are just indifferent to the number of people who have been killed in Gaza.

During this year, 50% of the population of the world will go to the polls to elect new governments. It is predicted that a number of authoritarian leaders will be elected. This is quite a daunting prospect.

A growing number of world leaders only pay lip service to climate change. In fact one of them has said the earth is getting colder.

A grim scenario. But yet no different to the one that Jesus faced when he walked the earth. He commenced his preaching ministry with the words, "The reign of God is at hand" How could he say this when his people were being ruled with an iron hand and a whip by an authoritarian regime that showed not an iota of mercy. And they crucified people who dared to question their authority.

Jesus was able to take this prophetic stance because of his total and absolute faith in his God. And he remained faithful to the end when he gave up his spirit.

This is why his message today is not to be afraid. And he promised that he would be with us to the end of time.

So I see myself today as a person of little faith.

Mark





A SURPRISING COMMAND

Be angry but do not sin. —Ephesians 4:26

Theologian Allen Dwight Callahan writes about a compelling biblical verse:

There are two imperatives in the opening phrase of Ephesians 4:26—two. One is a prohibition against sinning. The other is an exhortation—an exhortation to anger.

That's right: The Bible commands us to be angry.

"Be angry. That's an order." ...

Now, you may object that we've already got more anger that we know what to do with right now, and, of course, you'd be right. There is indeed a surplus of anger out there. With increasing frequency and intensity, people are voicing their anger, venting their anger, even voting their anger.

But there's anger, and there's anger.

Yes, there's the anger of being cut off in the turn lane, of having a wait time that exceeds four minutes, of being berated in the comments on your post by a misanthropic troll....

Then there is the anger that leaves us shaken and shaking because a sacred trust is being treacherously broken; because those who have done no harm are being gratuitously harmed; because those who have too little now have even less, and those who already have much too much now have even more; because egregious wrongs are being perpetrated, and the perps don't even admit that the wrongs they're perpetrating are wrong.

What has happened—is happening now, here, and everywhere—is not merely a sin and a shame. It is an outrage, and outrage calls for rage, rage that ought to come out. Anger in such instances is not merely permissible. It is obligatory, imperative.

Thus, the imperative: "Be angry."

Faced with an outrage, anger is the price we pay for paying attention. It is the rage that ought to come out, because, when faced with an outrage, it is a sin *not* to be angry.

Richard Rohr honours the wisdom contained in powerful emotions like grief and anger:



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Great emotions are especially powerful teachers. I'm so aware of this in the experience of grief, after experiencing the deaths of my mother, a teenage niece, and my father. Even anger and rage are great teachers if we listen to them. They have so much power to reveal our deepest self to ourselves and to others, yet we tend to consider them negatively. Yes, they are dangerous, making us reactive and defensive, but they often totally rearrange how we know—or if we know—reality at all.

Believe it or not, such emotions are ways of knowing. They have the capacity to blind us, but also the power to open us up and bring us to profound conversion, humility, and honesty. People who are too nice and never suffer or reveal their own negative emotions, usually do not know very much about themselves—and so the rest of us do not take them too seriously. Consider if that is not true in your own circle of relationships.

Richard Rohr

FACILITATION PROGRAMME

CONDUCTED BY BR. LARRY

**AT ST MARY'S MT ABU, ST AUGUSTINE'S, VASAI AND
REGINA MUNDI SCHOOL, GOA**

In November 2022, Simon met Larry while he was on a visit to Shillong asking him to consider a programme he could do with the teachers in some of the schools, the outcome of which, would be to enhance the performance of students in these schools especially in English and Maths.

Early in 2023, Simon, as Director of the MO held a zoom meeting with Sabino, Anish and Sebastian (the Principals of the selected schools) and Larry, possibly after he had spoken to these 3 Principals and had got their consent for this programme to be initiated. It would be a pilot project, the onus on the school only being the commitment of the administration of the schools and the teachers of Maths and English in the middle school to work with the programme.

The programme commenced in February '23 in Mt Abu and in March '23 in Vasai and Goa.

The programme was initiated with a brief session with all the staff in the school, so that they were aware of the programme being conducted and could understand the purpose of the initiative.

That programme was followed with an orientation with the teachers who would be part of the process. Because of time constraints – this was limited to 2 sessions in Mt Abu. However, in Vasai and Goa, this was extended over a week.

In order to achieve the purpose of the programme, the facilitation helped teachers





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1. To prepare and deliver lessons focused on skill(s) in those subjects which could be imparted in the 30 minute class, in a sequential manner in which the foundational pre-skills would be tested and strengthened and the new skill would be developed through development of sub-skills. Thus, the teachers were led from “completing syllabus” to the development of “skills” in these subjects.
2. Teachers were introduced and trained in student-learning through cooperative group work or through pair work or through row work. The purpose of this technique in learning was so that
 - a. The significant number of “weaker” students in each class were being given attention to in each class
 - b. Learning occurs better when learners are engaged in their learning rather than being considered empty jars which needed to be filled.

Larry made 3 or 4 subsequent visits o each of these schools during which he

- a. Observed (through sit-ins to the classes of each of the teachers in the programme) how the teachers were implementing the programme in their classes
- b. Each sit-in was followed by a Feedback session wherein the teacher was coached in strengthening his / her use of the teaching methods as well as given help to adapt to ground situations e.g. coping with teachers not in the programme having the seating arrangement in the classes oriented towards group work.
- c. Concluding group interactions to work through common challenges and to share innovative ideas which had come from different teachers
- d. The Principal and teachers in the programme were given each visit report and additional resource material through email and WhatsApp after each visit
- e. The MO was given a detailed report after each visit to each school





What were the outcomes of the programme ?

- 51 teachers were part of the programme (10 from Abu, 6 from Goa, 10 Vasai MS, 25 Vasai JS)
- The teachers
 - ◆ Are able to identify the skills which students will learn in each class
 - ◆ The teachers are able to
 - ◇ identify pre-skills required by students for a learning experience
 - ◇ have techniques (set tasks) of assessing the students' competence in these pre-skills
 - ◇ have techniques (set tasks) of quick revision of pre-skills
- The teachers are able to
 - ◆ Break down skills into sub-skills
 - ◆ Set tasks for developing sub-skills in the students
 - ◆ Set tasks which assess the competence of the students in those sub-skills
- Are able to form cooperative working groups
- Have techniques to help students learn through pair-share, row-share and cooperative group work
- The teachers received coaching in
 - ◆ The art of questioning and solicitation of answers
 - ◆ Blackboard usage
 - ◆ Use of appropriate power point and audio-visual aids
 - ◆ Setting appropriate class and home work
 - ◆ Skilling students in letter and essay writing as per requirements of Board exams.

Thanks to Sabino, Anish, Vinay and Sebastian; the coordinators – Trina in Abu and Racquel and Joyce





Pinto in Vasai; and the teachers who participated in the programme – it's up to you, or those who have taken charge (i.e. Griban in Abu) to see that the initiative is carried forward – I wish you all the best.

Larry Miranda



CALLED AND GIFTED

A RENEWAL PROGRAM FOR CCBI SCHOOLS (MARCH 2024)

The Called and Gifted Program is an opportunity for educators in Christian Brothers Schools across India to gather for prayer, community building, and self-reflection for personal growth. From 20th – 23rd March 2024, the Province Renewal Team of the Congregation of Christian Brothers in India organised the Called and Gifted Renewal Program for School Educators of the North and Western region Christian Brothers Schools. It was held at The Provincialate, St. Columba's School, New Delhi. Twenty junior, middle, secondary and higher school educators from St. Columba's School (New Delhi), St. Patrick's Higher Secondary School and St. Vincent's Higher Secondary School (Asansol), St. John's School (Chandigarh), St. Joseph's College (Nainital), St. Mary's High School (Mount Abu), St. Augustine's High School (Vasai) and Regina Mundi High School (Goa) were in attendance.

Each day began with a prayer service, followed by multiple sessions throughout the day conducted by Br Cedric, Br Conrad, Br Sameer and Mr Andrew Pinto. Every day concluded with a self-



reflection on the day's events and learnings. On day one, the topics covered included

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'Owning Your Story and Self-Love', 'A History of Ireland and Blessed Edmund Rice' and 'Personal Lifeline' wherein the participants reflected on themselves, marking the significant events in their lives, both fortunate and unfortunate, and understood the history of Blessed Edmund Rice's life and how the formation of the Christian Brothers came into existence.



On day two, the participants visited Prem Daan and Cheshire Home wherein they got to interact with physically and mentally challenged people thus listening to and understanding their stories and consequently gaining a different perspective to life. Post-lunch, sessions on 'Human Dignity' and 'Finding the Humour in the Absurd' were conducted wherein the participants got a deeper understanding that all people hold a special value by virtue of their humanity and that life is full of quirks and absurdities and therefore everyone must learn to laugh at themselves in order to stay happy in life. The day concluded with a fellowship dinner accompanied by music and singing.

More personal work and self-reflection was done on day three. The participants learned to find their FLOW – a state of being completely absorbed in a challenging but doable task in order to increase their happiness and well-being.



They were also made aware of living a life with greater purpose by finding the balance between discipline and freedom. Towards the end of the day, each participant got a deeper understanding of themselves in five categories using the 'Big 5 Locator' (a tool to assess one's self in negative emotionality, extraversion, openness, agreeableness and conscientiousness)





Day four saw the participants reviewing their own opinions of themselves and their self-esteem by understanding their qualities, talents, skills and relationships. The focus was on 'Wholeness, Not Perfection'. Each participant was also asked to write something positive for every other person at the program thus boosting each other's confidence, self-esteem and spreading good vibes. To mark the completion of the program, every educator was presented with a Certificate of Participation at the hands of Br Stephen Fernandes, Chairman, CCBI.

At the end of the programme, every educator was filled with a renewed purpose in life, a sense of joy, deeper compassion for their students and many new friends from the Christian Brothers Community.

Ms Clarissa Maria Pereira (Regina Mundi High School, Goa)

GENERAL VOCATION CAMP OF SAMBALPUR DIOCESE 2024

The General Vocation Camp of Sambalpur Diocese was on 7-10 March 2024 for boys and girls who have just completed their class ten board examination. The Camp was held at Utkat Jyoti Pastoral Centre, Jharsuguda. The recruitment for the Vocation Promotion was scheduled for 9th April. Seventy four boys and seventy two girls from different parts of the diocese were present.

The day began with Morning Prayer and the Holy Mass concelebrated by Most Rev. Niranjan Sualsingh, the Bishop of Sambalpur diocese. The Mass was followed by breakfast for all. At 9 am, the Bishop welcomed all the Vocation Promoters. There were ninety two women religious congregation and forty men religious and diocesan priests present at the venue. At ten o'clock, the boys and girls were given the opportunity go around and meet and interact with the vocation promoters for about three hours. A good number of boys met both Jayanti and me.



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They interacted with us and got information of our Congregation and brothers. On the following day the camp concluded after breakfast. Both Jayanti and I were present at the venue when the boys and girls went to their homes. We were satisfied with our interaction; we met a good number of priests, brothers, sisters and catechists. About fifteen boys have given their names, contact number and the name of



their parishes. We are hopeful that at least one boy will respond and join from this region. Let us hope and pray! Thank you for your prayerful support! May God bless us all!!

Willie D' Souza

Function in honour of Admiral Ronnie Pereira

Indian Navy and St Edmund's College, Shillong jointly observed the centennial celebrations of Admiral Ronald Lynsdale Pereira (1923-1993) at college on 08 Mar 2024. The Admiral fondly known as 'Ronnie P' rose to become the 9th Chief of the Naval Staff in 1979. He was an alumnus of St Edmund's during 1941-42.

The college celebrated his memory by conducting a Football match, an essay writing competition and tree plantation. The event was marked with festivities at the college and a team of Naval Officers from New Delhi joined the celebrations. Cdr Anup Thomas spoke about the life of Ronnie P and Cmde Edwin Jothi Rajan delivered a talk on





leadership.

The students were also provided an overview of the Maritime History of India and exciting career opportunities available in the Indian Navy by Cdr Gurbir Singh. On this momentous occasion, Indian Navy instituted a football rolling trophy in honour of the Admiral. Cmde Edwin Jothi Rajan presented the rolling trophy and awarded nautical memorabilia as prizes to top three essay winners.

Dr Brother Simon Coelho, the Principal and Mr Monotosh Chakravarthy, the Vice Principal felicitated the visiting dignitaries.

St. Mary's Mt. Abu introduces Horse Riding

The school has introduced horse riding as a *regular extracurricular activity* like swimming, in an attempt to attract more Boarders

Since a good many of the Boarders are Rajputs, this idea has gone down very well with both the parents and students

Congratulations to the school for this innovative activity.

commerce.

The High School is currently co-educational.



CONGRATULATIONS

TO OUR CANDIDATES AND JOHN PEREIRA

First year PUC results Karnataka Board

Sebrent Kerketta 91%

Perdik Barla 89%

Kitboklang Kurbah 86%

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Goodwin Hansa 81%

Donald Khyllait 79%

Blestar Kurbah 76%

Tenborlang Kurbah 68%

Nishant Lakra 62%

Poetry Section

IN THE GARDEN

I went to prune my roses and
 got lost in
 the beauty that was theirs.
 Clipping the while and apologizing to the roses for
 any pain I caused,
 I spotted my neighbour's child
 as she danced by.

She paused with innocent curiosity
 and stared.
 'Good morning,' I said to break the silence.
 She ignored me and
 Attended only to the roses.

'Your roses,' she lilted, finally,
 'your roses are very lovely.'
 She said it again, smiling,
 and then danced on.

I stood there, not sure if I
 should see to my roses, or
 gaze at God who
 danced by in
 the guise of a little girl.

Kevin Ward

