

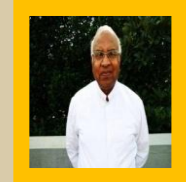
TRENDS & VIEWS – KRCE NEWSLETTER



Volume 15/January, 2016

Editorial

Education is essential for everyone. It is the level of education that helps people earn respect and recognition. It is an indispensable part of life both personally and socially. However, the unequal standard of education is still a major problem that needs to be solved. Education Spreads Awareness among people. An educated person tries to understand each and every thing on its own rather than blindly following anyone else. This results in spreading awareness everywhere. Educated Persons are a help in the Progress of Country. People of any particular country can live happily only if the country has all the resources, or simply say, country is rich in every aspect. Educated persons know pretty well that what is wrong and what is right.



The importance of education is undeniable for every single person. It goes without saying that education has a positive effect on human life. All people need to study. Only with the advent of education can people gain knowledge and enlarge their view over the world. For example, learning by watching TV or reading books gives people a huge amount of information about anything they are interested in such as mathematics, current news, exchange rates, other countries' cultures and so on. Apparently, people may become more useful and civilized if better educated.

At the same time education plays such a rudimentary role on our society that we cannot even imagine a life without it. It is a determined element for the civilization of human society. Not only does it helps us develop healthy surroundings but it also generates an advance community. As a matter of fact, everything we create today is based on the knowledge that we obtain throughout our life by way of education. This assists scientists in inventing equipment and devices, resulting in a high technology nowadays. The more developed life becomes, the more necessary education is for everyone.

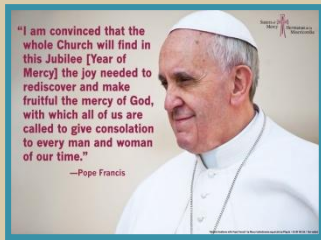
Although education has a significant influence on life, the average education is not the same in different areas. As a result, strategies are being made to resolve the problems. Without education, life would be disastrous and detrimental. There are still some places where the inhabitants are almost completely uneducated, causing a serious lack of knowledge. Additionally, every child should be given equal opportunities to learn and study. Because the development of a country depends vastly on the standard of education, it must do everything in its power to improve it.

Education is an essential human virtue, a necessity of society, basis of good life and sign of freedom. Education is a important for integration of separate entities. The things happening in the practical life also educate us. Education Makes Better Citizens. Education Brings Confidence. Nothing in the life can be achieved if we don't have belief on ourselves. Education is what brings self-confidence in us. Education also makes us better in communication with others. Education Ensures a Bright Future. An educated person lives a happy life always. He/she has a bright future that on one can pull from them. Education wakes the hidden talent and skills of any person. This hidden talent and skills give us employment and a completely secure future. It is the education that helps us in achieving new heights in our life. Ultimately if there is no education, then there is no life. All those of you who are reading in good schools and colleges are indeed very lucky. You all have the golden chance to own the ornament-like study and to get yourself counted in the list of educated people.

Fr . Eugene Lobo S.J

Year of Mercy: The Year of Mercy is an invitation—an invitation to love, kindness, and unbounded generosity.

Pope Francis is offering us the opportunity to encounter the incredible



mercy of God. Encountering mercy means encountering God. It can transform our life, our relationships, our work and our ability to embrace and experience all of life.

Seeing the great need for mercy and healing in the world, Pope Francis called for the Year of Mercy—a special period, also known as a Holy Year or Jubilee Year, for the Catholic Church. It is a time for the Church across the world to take approximately a year to focus on forgiveness and healing in a special way. Pope Francis has asked us as individuals and as a Church “to be a witness of mercy” by reflecting on and practicing the spiritual and corporal works of mercy (Pope Francis’ Announcement of the Year of Mercy). Beginning December 8, 2015, the Holy Year of Mercy will focus on studying and reflecting on mercy, receiving mercy and being merciful towards others.

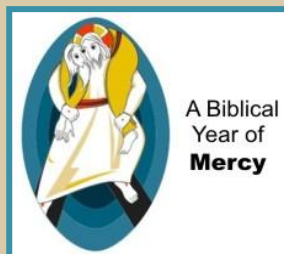
Pope Francis has called on Catholics around the world to use the ongoing Jubilee year of mercy to “open wide” the doors of their hearts to forgive others and to work against social exclusion, even of those that may have caused them bother or upset.

The Holy Year opened on 8 December 2015, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. This liturgical feast day recalls God's action from the very beginning of the history of mankind. After the sin of Adam and Eve, God did not wish to leave humanity alone in the throes of evil. So he turned his gaze to Mary, holy and immaculate in love (cf. Eph 1:4), choosing her to be the Mother of man's Redeemer. When faced with the gravity of sin, God responds with the fullness of mercy. The Pope adds that he has chosen the date of 8 December because of its rich meaning in the recent history of the Church. In fact, he

opened the Holy Door on the fiftieth anniversary of the closing of the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council. The Church feels a great need to keep this event alive.

A Jubilee Year is when the Catholic Church across the world takes approximately a year to focus on forgiveness and healing in a special way. Catholics are encouraged to join together in prayer, go to confession and share the genius of Catholicism with others. The purpose of a Jubilee Year is to help people grow spiritually, strengthen their faith and encourage works of service and to promote unity within the Catholic Church and society in general. The last Jubilee Year was in 2000, called for by Pope Saint John Paul II.

Pope Francis says that Mercy Jubilee means we must open our hearts, forgive others. While most Jubilees have been focused on calling pilgrims to Rome to receive such pardon -- normally by walking through a special holy door at a papal basilica – Pope Francis has widely expanded his Jubilee, asking that dioceses throughout the world open their own holy door at a cathedral or other church to expand the practice globally. The pope explained that he asked for doors to



be opened globally so that “the Jubilee is in the entire world, not just in Rome.”

“I wanted that this sign of the holy door might be present in every local church, so that the Jubilee of mercy might become an experience shared by every person,” said the pontiff. “The holy year, in this way, gets underway in all the church and is celebrated in every diocese like in Rome.”

“The first holy door was even opened truly in the heart of Africa,” he said, referring to the fact that he first opened a holy door for the Jubilee year during his November visit to the Central Africa Republic. “May this ecclesial communion become always more intense, so that the church may be a living sign of the love and mercy of the Father in the world,”

Francis asked. The pontiff also warned Catholics against people he called “a bit smart or too cunning” who try to charge for entry into a holy door. “You do not pay for salvation!” Francis exhorted. “You do not buy salvation. The door is Jesus and Jesus is free!”

“The door indicates Jesus himself who said: ‘I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture,’” said the pope. “Going through the holy door is the sign of our trust in the Lord Jesus who did not come to judge, but to save.”



Pope Francis also said that mercy and forgiveness “must not remain beautiful words, but must be realized in daily life. Loving and forgiving are the concrete and visible signs that the faith has transformed our hearts and allows us to express in ourselves the same life of God.”

“Loving and forgiving as God loves and forgives,” he continued. “This is a program of life that cannot know interruptions or exceptions, but pushes us to always go beyond without ever tiring, with the certainty of being sustained by the paternal presence of God.” The pope also asked people to consider going to confession during the holy year. “God forgives all,” said Francis. “God understand us, even in our limits, and understands us even in our contradictions.”

India celebrates Republic Day : While India is celebrating its Republic Day with great pomp, show and grace and is making full use of the opportunity to showcase its achievements and the pride of states; do we know everything that needs to be known as a proud Indian? How many among us, even the so-called patriotic among us fully understand the meaning of Republic Day? What it stands for and how different it is from Independence Day? As we all know India had to fight hard to attain independence and many lives were lost in the struggle for Independence. Under the

able leadership of Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and Maulana Azad and many others India fought a fair battle uplifting the principles of Ahimsa.



“Republic Day is an important day for every Indian. It is on this day that the Indian Constitution was adopted. This was the day when our rights and duties were brought to a concrete form. It holds a lot of value in every Indian’s heart and mind. India’s Constitution was displayed to the world on this day. Many great scholars and freedom fighters have put in their efforts to draft our Constitution.

We are very clear as to why Republic Day is being celebrated in India. It is on this day that many things like fundamental rights, preamble, the duties of the Union and states were all put together in a clear-cut manner. I also know that Dr Ambedkar was the chairman of the drafting committee of the Constitution. People like Sachidananda Sinha and K M Munshi have put in a lot of work for the Constitution.”

India has taken the duty upon itself to enlighten readers on the importance of Republic Day and what it means for the large number of Indians spread across the globe. The Republic Day was first celebrated when the Constitution of India came into existence and India formulated an establishment to rule themselves. This constitution came into effect on January 26, 1950, when India became a Republic. Therefore India celebrates this anniversary on January 26 as India’s Republic Day.

The day is also celebrated to honour the 'Declaration of Independence of 1930' from the British Rule. While there exists uncertainties in the minds of many on the difference between Independence Day and Republic Day, the most apparent difference being that while Independence Day dwells upon the past and remembers the struggles and achievements of the yore; Republic Day is

an occasion for renewing of the pledge and the golden words in the Constitution is highlighted. Another more visible difference being that while Independence Day is mostly rhetoric-based, Republic Day is an out-and-out visual spectacle with no speeches. Hope we have been able to give you a better idea on the importance of the Republic Day

10 Fascinating Facts about the Dead Sea: The Dead Sea, also known as the Salt Sea, is a salt lake bordering Jordan to the east and Israel and the West Bank to the west. It's a hyper saline lake that is truly one of Earth's unique places. Not only is it the saltiest body of water in the world, but it is also the lowest place on the entire globe, and one of the only bodies of water you can freely float in! Here are 10 amazing facts about this unique place the dead sea:



1. The surface and shores of the Dead Sea are 423 metres (1,388 ft) below sea level, making it Earth's lowest elevation on land.

2. The Dead Sea is 377 m (1,237 ft) deep, making it the deepest hyper saline lake in the world. A hyper saline lake is a landlocked body of water that contains significant concentrations of sodium chloride or other mineral salts, with saline levels surpassing that of ocean water.

3. With 33.7% salinity, the Dead Sea is one of the world's saltiest bodies of water. Although Lake Assal (Djibouti), Garabogazköl and some hyper saline lakes of the McMurdo Dry Valleys in Antarctica (such as Don Juan Pond) have reported higher salinities.

4. The Dead Sea's unusually high salt concentration means that people can easily float in the Dead Sea due to natural buoyancy. In this respect the Dead Sea is similar to the Great Salt Lake in Utah in the United States.

5. The Dead Sea is roughly 8.6 times saltier than the ocean. This salinity makes for a harsh environment in which animals cannot flourish

(hence its name). The high salinity prevents macroscopic aquatic organisms such as fish and aquatic plants from living in it, though minuscule quantities of bacteria and microbial fungi are present.

6. The Dead Sea is 67 kilometres (42 miles) long and 18 kilometres (11 miles) wide at its widest point. It lies in the Jordan Rift Valley and its main tributary is the Jordan River.

7. The Dead Sea area has become a major centre for health research and treatment for several reasons. The mineral content of the water, the very low content of pollens and other allergens in the atmosphere, the reduced ultraviolet component of solar radiation, and the higher atmospheric pressure at this great depth each have specific health effects.

8. Biblically, the Dead Sea was a place of refuge for King David. It was one of the world's first health resorts (for Herod the Great), and it has been the supplier of a wide variety of products, from balms for Egyptian mummification to potash for fertilizers.

9. An unusual feature of the Dead Sea is its discharge of asphalt. From deep seeps, the Dead Sea constantly spits up small pebbles and blocks of the black substance. Asphalt coated figurines and bitumen coated Neolithic skulls from archaeological sites have been found. Egyptian mummification processes used asphalt imported from the Dead Sea region.

10. The world's lowest road, Highway 90, runs along the Israeli and West Bank shores of the Dead Sea at 393 m (1,289 ft) below sea level.

Violence against Christians on the rise : On

average, Indian Christians reported being subjected to violent attacks for every day of 2015 but the actual



number of such incidents would be much higher. All across India, there were over 365 reported incidents against Christians last year, including seven cases of murder, the Mumbai-

based Christian rights group Indian Christian Persecution annual report published on Jan. 18. Among the other offenses committed against Christians documented in the report include rape, the vandalism of churches, and the disruption of worship and services.

The reported incidents against Indian Christians "are miniscule compared to the actual ground zero reality, where we work," said Joseph Dias who is the group's director. Dias reported cases are "much fewer" than what actually occurs for a variety of reasons. In some cases Christians did not want to report incidents simply because they "do not want to antagonize those in power ... or out of fear of repercussions," he said.

What is more, he said, the targeting of Christians has been getting worse. Incidents have increased at an average of 20-25 percent each year over the past five years, according to Dias. "Murders have almost doubled from last year's four or five cases," Dias said. "What is alarming is the geographical spread of the violence. In 2014, we had reports of violence from only 18 states, but in 2015 we have reports from 23 of India's 29 states."



The resurgence of right-wing Hindu groups in recent times "has made things worse" for Christians, Dias said. Following the 2014 general election, the pro-Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP, or Indian people's party) came to power in New Delhi and Dias said that several Hindu groups took this as a mandate to work for a Hindu-only India. As part of this, these groups stepped up their anti-Christian activities, he noted. "There has been a very marked rise in attacks on minorities with the swearing in of new BJP led governments in the centre [federal] and in states. The only respite has been Delhi and Bihar, where the BJP suffered humiliating defeats [in state elections]," the report said. Christians make up 2.3 percent of India's estimated 1.25 billion people.

Look Around You: A very special teacher in high school many years ago had a husband who unexpectedly died suddenly of a heart attack. About a week after his death, she shared some of her insight with a classroom of students. As the late afternoon sunlight came streaming in through the classroom windows and the class was nearly over, she moved a few things aside on the edge of her desk and sat down there.

With a gentle look of reflection on her face, she paused and said, "Before class is over, I would like to share with all of you a thought that is unrelated to class, but which I feel is very important. Each of us is put here on earth to learn, share, love, appreciate and give of ourselves... and none of us knows when this fantastic experience will end. It can be taken away at any moment. Perhaps this is God's way of telling us that we must make the most out of every single day."



Her eyes beginning to water, she went on, "So I would like you all to make me a promise... from now on, on your way to school, or on your way home, find something beautiful to notice. It doesn't have to be something you see - it could be a scent - perhaps of freshly baked bread wafting out of someone's house, or it could be the sound of the breeze slightly rustling the leaves in the trees, or the way the morning light catches one autumn leaf as it falls gently to the ground. Please, look for these things, and cherish them.

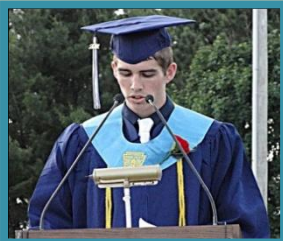
For, although it may sound trite to some, these things are the "stuff" of life. The little things we are put here on earth to enjoy. The things we often take for granted. We must make it important to notice them, for at any time ... it can all be taken away."

The class was completely quiet. We all picked up our books and filed out of the room silently. That afternoon, I noticed more things on my way home from school than I had that whole semester. Every once in a while, I think

of that teacher and remember what an impression she made on all of us, and I try to appreciate all of those things that sometimes we all overlook.

Take notice of something special you see on your lunch hour today. Go barefoot. Or walk on the beach at sunset. Stop off on the way home tonight to get a double dip ice cream cone. For as we get older, it is not the things we did that we often regret, but the things we didn't do.

A FRIEND: One day, when I was a freshman in high school, I saw a kid from my class was walking home from school. His name was



Kyle. It looked like he was carrying all of his books. I thought to myself, 'Why would anyone bring home all his books on a Friday?

He must really be a nerd.' I had quite a weekend planned (parties and a football game with my friends tomorrow afternoon), so I shrugged my shoulders and went on.

As I was walking, I saw a bunch of kids running toward him. They ran at him, knocking all his books out of his arms and tripping him so he landed in the dirt. His glasses went flying, and I saw them land in the grass about ten feet from him. He looked up and I saw this terrible sadness in his eyes. My heart went out to him. So, I jogged over to him as he crawled around looking for his glasses, and I saw a tear in his eye. As I handed him his glasses, I said, 'Those guys are jerks. They really should get lives.

'He looked at me and said, 'Hey thanks!' There was a big smile on his face. It was one of those smiles that showed real gratitude.

I helped him pick up his books, and asked him where he lived. As it turned out, he lived near me, so I asked him why I had never seen him before. He said he had gone to private school before now. I would have never hung out with a private school kid before. We talked all the way home, and I carried some of his books. He turned out to be a pretty cool kid. I asked

him if he wanted to play a little football with my friends. He said yes. We hung out all weekend and the more I got to know Kyle, the more I liked him, and my friends thought the same of him.

Monday morning came, and there was Kyle with the huge stack of books again. I stopped him and said, "Boy, you are going to really build some serious muscles with this pile of books everyday!" He just laughed and handed me half the books.

Over the next four years, Kyle and I became best friends. When we were seniors we began to think about college. Kyle decided on Georgetown and I was going to Duke. I knew that we would always be friends, that the miles would never be a problem. He was going to be a doctor and I was going for business on a football scholarship.

Kyle was valedictorian of our class. I teased him all the time about being a nerd. He had to prepare a speech for graduation. I was so glad it wasn't me having to get up there and speak. Graduation day, I saw Kyle. He looked great. He was one of those guys that really found him during high school. He filled out and actually looked good in glasses. He had more dates than I had and all the girls loved him. Boy, sometimes I was jealous! Today was one of those days. I could see that he was nervous about his speech. So, I smacked him on the back and said, 'Hey, big guy, you'll be great!' He looked at me with one of those looks (the really grateful one) and smiled. 'Thanks,' he said.

As he started his speech, he cleared his throat, and began 'Graduation is a time to thank those who helped you make it through those tough years: 'Your parents, your teachers, your siblings, maybe a coach, but mostly your friends. 'I am here to tell all of you that being a friend to someone is the best gift you can give them. 'I am going to tell you a story.' I just looked at my friend with disbelief as he told the story of the first day we met. He had planned to kill himself over the weekend. He talked of how he had cleaned out his locker so his Mom wouldn't

have to do it later and was carrying his stuff home. He looked hard at me and gave me a little smile. 'Thankfully, I was saved. My friend saved me from doing the unspeakable.' I heard the gasp go through the crowd as this handsome, popular boy told us all about his weakest moment. I saw his Mom and dad looking at me and smiling that same grateful smile. Not until that moment did I realize its depth.

Never underestimate the power of your actions. With one small gesture you can change a person's life. For better or for worse. God puts us all in each others lives to impact one another in some way. Look for God in others. 'Friends are angels who lift us to our feet when our wings have trouble remembering how to fly.' There is no beginning or end. Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery.

Today is a gift. That is why we call it present.

BUILDERS OR DESTROYERS?: I watched them tearing a building down, A gang of men in a busy town. With a ho-heave-ho and lusty yell, they swung a beam and a sidewall fell.

I asked the foreman, "Are these men skilled, As the men you'd hire if you had to build?" He gave me a laugh and said, "No indeed! Just common labour is all I need.

I can easily wreck in a day or two, what builders have taken a year to do." And I thought to myself as I went my way, which of these two roles have I tried to play?

Are we builders who work with care, measuring life by the rule and square? Are we shaping our deeds by a well-made plan, patiently doing the best we can? Or are we wreckers who walk the town, Content with the labour of tearing down?

Through you let there be kind words, a warm smile, and a caring heart. Through you let there be a willingness to listen and a readiness to understand. Through you let there be dependability, steadfastness, trust and loyalty. Through you let there be compassion, forgiveness, mercy and love.

Through us let there be every quality we find, O Lord, in Thee.

Life is like a mirror. It will smile at you if you smile at it. - Anon

SCARRED LAND

The trees were leafless, burnt, the branches charred, the ground covered by blackened forms; ashen. The golden soil turned gray, the earth scarred, nature's conversion in fearsome fashion. But then the world opened for a new life, first the harshness of land, and of being, to discover the richness, culture rife, of life, a land of plenty worth seeing. Landscape sculptured like a woman; to see, with beauty and form for eyes to adore. Breathtaking was the view, vast land and sea, life's gifts as female form's love to explore. Scarred would be life before revival, an inherent part of love's survival. **T.J Grén**

Education = Learning? Or Earning? (Youth and Education): Since it is necessary to earn



while we learn, we think and imagine this is just education. The attitude of learning is beyond our understanding. It has to be philanthropic in nature.

Education is a stepping stone to knowledge and with this knowledge we aim to earn our living. In these days more than any other time education becomes a costly affair. Reputed schools and colleges become good business centres of education. In such situation it becomes a tragedy when students search for knowledge and are unable to get it.

The need to 'Earn' applies both to students and to educational institutions. In this context real 'learning' remains far from everyone particularly from students and institutions. As days go by educational Institutions become places of manufacture like any other factory producing same products in large numbers. Our society is in need of creative persons who secure not just knowledge in a particular field. Only when they become learned men and women, they can be persons philanthropic in attitude.

In olden days knowledge began with the Ashram system at guru's feet, making a total surrender to the teacher. But today same knowledge is available from the teachers, located in good and reputed institutions. Here they need to pay their teacher and institution. The culture of learning is out of date. The parents run after the best schools and colleges for their children thinking that they will secure high marks or grades and will get good jobs. No one thinks that good education will make their children good citizens and respectable persons.

Our youth in metropolitan cities like Bangaluru want to study and work at the same time. It sounds like as if they are going through a process of study but do not achieve any growth. Education in modern era is taken up by a culture of learning to take them into a world of riches and possession. What they really need today is to look into meaning of life.

To conclude, we need students who become expert learners with the help of their teachers and from life. They cannot just depend on themselves for learning. We need teachers who impart knowledge and make them true human persons. We need today persons of character, who are ready to form men and women for others.

KRCE Governing cum General Body meeting will be held on February 11 & 12, 2016 at Regional Pastoral Centre (KROSS). Besides the General meeting we will have a few input sessions in Finance, RTI, Child Welfare and legal affairs. Secretaries, correspondence and principals are welcome. Inform in advance about your participation.



Urgent information: Fr. Joseph Manipadam sdb Secretary CBCI Education and Culture had met the diocesan and religious education secretaries of Karnataka on the 14th of December 2015. He explained how our institutions may be accredited to the CBCI on the basis of the All India Catholic Education Policy 2007. Accordingly a work book has been prepared with the pro forma to be filled and returned through KRCE. This Accreditation programme is under the Direction of Fr. Joseph Manipadam discussed in New Delhi at the All India Secretaries meeting and Fr. Mandipadam was asked to visit reach region and work out its execution. The books can be got from New Delhi Education office either directly or through KRCE.

Some schools have already purchased these books and filled pro forma. A few more schools have taken the books and are yet to submit the papers. Many more have neither taken the books nor ordered them from New Delhi.

This is an important and urgent matter. As per CBCI directive we have to complete the accreditation work by March 31, 2016. Indeed it is the implementation of the All India Catholic Education Policy in our schools and this must be taken seriously. I request each secretary through the principals to fill the pro forma and send it to us at the earliest.

If you wish KRCE to order the books from New Delhi kindly write to us immediately. Then you will be able to collect them as you come for the Governing cum General Body meeting on February 11., 2016. You are free to order the books directly from the CBCI centre, Ashoka Place, New Delhi.



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