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Highlights!

Initiatives thru ideation process among MGAs:

Main Points

MGA Website Launched on May 8, 2021. 75 MGAs and Brothers attended.

MGA Registration Completed.

MGA Global Meet 2022 To hold the next MGA Global Meet in 2022. Matter being actively pursued.

Montfortian Rosary Meet Montfortian Rosary Meet held on 30 May 21 **Ideas For Action** - Ideas that emerged during last Global Meet and during MGA Website inauguration listed to move ahead through meaningful action plan. **Involve-ment of Families in Pastoral Care** - as exhorted by the Holy Father. This could be one of the action plan for the MGAs.

Pope- May our Eucharistic celebrations transform the world.

Pope Francis celebrated the Solemnity of Corpus Christi inviting the faithful to embrace the Lord's gift of the Eucharist and to make a gift of our lives too.

- Pope expresses shock for Canadian Residential School discovery and prays for healing.
- Pope prays for Burkina Faso: 'Africa needs peace'
- Pope at Angelus: The Eucharist is the bread of sinners not a reward of saints.



Pope Francis ...

With great simplicity, he continued, *Jesus gives us the greatest sacrament in a humble gesture of giving and of sharing.* The greatest thing is to serve -Jesus shows us that the aim of life lies in self-giving, that "the greatest thing is to serve". It is on the night he is betrayed that Jesus gives us the Bread of Life- The strength of love that gives life". Respond to evil with good: "Jesus responds to Judas' 'no' with the 'yes' of mercy. He does not punish the sinner, but rather gives His life for him."-Eucharist is a mystery of love and glory.

Global Economic Outlook

Uncertainty about the post-pandemic economic landscape and policies has discouraged investment and trade; education disruptions have slowed human capital accumulation. If history is any guide, the global economy is heading for a decade of growth disappointments.

In the context of weak fiscal positions and elevated debt, institutional reforms to spur growth are particularly important.

The harsh reality amidst the furious unleashing of the new mutants and variants of Covid 19 across the globe including India is the availability constraint of vaccines when needed most

Involve Families in Pastoral Care- Pope Francis

The Church is invited to listen actively to families and involve them in pastoral care-Pope. Pope Francis underlines the importance of collaboration involving the clergy, married couples and families in the mission of evangelization in a video message to participants at a forum to reflect on the Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*.

Stimulating an ecclesial discernment on the family-The Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*, the Pope noted, “is the fruit of an in-depth synodal reflection on marriage and the family and, as such, requires patient work in implementation and missionary conversion.”

Involving families in evangelization-To bring God’s love to families and young people, he said, “we need the help of the families themselves, their concrete experience of life and communion. We need spouses alongside the pastors, to walk with other families, to help those who are weaker, to announce that, even in difficulties, Christ is present in the Sacrament of Marriage to give tenderness, patience and hope to all, in every situation of life.”

Co-responsibility for the mission-

The family, thus, is a ‘domestic Church’ where the sacramental presence of Christ acts between spouses and between parents and children, and “the experience of love in families is a perennial source of strength for the life of the Church.” Therefore, by virtue of the Sacrament of marriage, “every family becomes to full effect a good for the Church.”

A fresh look at *Amoris Laetitia*-The Pope called for concrete pastoral programme for family pastoral care, special efforts to be made in the formation of lay people, especially spouses and families, so that they may better understand the importance of their ecclesial commitment and the mission derived from being married couples and families.

The Holy Father went on to draw attention to some of the Church’s challenges on the family that require a renewed pastoral impetus, including “marriage preparation, the accompaniment of young married couples, education, attention to the elderly, closeness to wounded families or to those who, in a new union, wish to live the Christian experience to the full.”

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Listen to and Involve Families In Pastoral Care



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Quotes Inspire

If I can help at least one person to have a better life, that already justifies the offering of my life - Pope Francis

Idea.. Action

Say Yes to Action:

1. Telling Experiential Stories from Brothers and MGAs to share, care and nurture.
2. Inspiring Brothers and MGAs to bring out their talents for greater use.
3. Continuing to remain connected digitally through regular News Snippets
4. Reaching out to all MGAs scattered across countries and provinces: *Each One Bring One* for the Next MGA Zoom Meetings. *Share Joys and Sorrows* Birthdays, Anniversaries etc to greet and be greeted.
5. This issue features *Pope's invitation to involve families* in Pastoral Care
6. BO Sebastian reminds all to care for the environment with specifics to be nurtured from the school level
7. This edition features Ideas that sparked during the last MGA Global Meet and MGA Website Launch provide impetus to their logical sequence of drawing up meaningful action plan process.
8. This edition has two write ups - Remembering Dorai-Late Br VK Stephen (Br Robert) and Late Br John Vaniapura - both of which should take the readers through nostalgic journey.
9. Visit www.mga.life to access all MGA info and documents.
10. Montfortian Rosary Designed by L Jeyaraj is available in the Library of MGA website.

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Random Remembrances- Jo Pathyil ...



The Blue Mountains. . .

St Antony's Coonoor

nicular trains from the plains till Coonoor.

0.1 The Reminiscences

Jo Pathyil continues his Journey thru Time. This time he takes us to the Nilgiris and to St. Antony's Coonoor - from where the Spirit and Dynamism of Montfort launched the Montfortian Brigade in India from the 1940s onwards



Jo Pathyil Narrates. . .

St. Antony's was and still remains my school. I was admitted to Form IV in 1947, passed the SSLC examination in 1950, and returned to St. Antony's as headmaster from 1957 to 1962. Thus the school has given me much and I have profound affection for the institution. I have returned several times for brief visits to Coonoor, to breathe the salubrious air of The Nilgiris and revive my spirits seeking my lost youth.

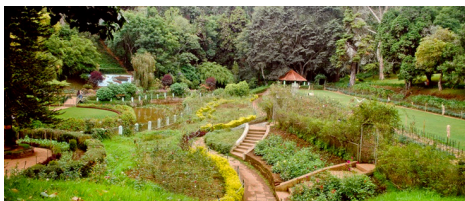
In 1947 Coonoor was a busy town, almost 2000 meters above sea level, important because of the sprawling market that catered to the hundreds of workers in the outlying tea plantations. Special spiked chain helped pull the fu-



Vintage Coonoor . . .

Coonoor was the second biggest "hill station" in The Nilgiris. Unlike Ooty, that had summer residences for The Madras Presidency and the kings of India, Coonoor had a quiet charm of its own. Dozens of estate owners or their proxies lived in Coonoor and commuted to their estates. The Club was the hub for all the Europeans and the rich Indians. There were verdant hills, ravines, and grassy meadows with profusion of sunflowers, marigold and rhododendrons growing wild all over. Madras Regimental Centre, a hub of military activities in Wellington was very much part of Coonoor.

Sim's Park, a beautiful jewel of a botanical garden with hundreds of varieties of trees and flowers and meticulously kept especially during the summer season, was the crowning glory of Upper Coonoor. Huge mansions, with acres of property surrounding them and gardeners tending the flowerbeds were on both sides of the circular road. Narrow lanes meant for cars and horses led to some of the most beautiful tea plantations. The numerous waterfalls that are only a few kilometers from Coonoor were treasures that the daring would explore. Dolphin's Nose, overlooking the vast expanse of the blue mountain and the plains, with a spectacular view of the Catherine Water Falls, Tiger Hill, Lamb's Rock, Law's Falls, The Droog and several other places of breathtaking beauty are only a few kilometers from the town.



Sim's Park Today . . .

0.2 The Story of St Antony's

The story of St. Antony's is integral to the story of The Nilgiris and, indeed, of India. The Paris Foreign Missionaries were in charge of the sprawling Mysore diocese. Coonoor was an important parish in that diocese. There were English language schools for boys and for girls. The parish needed a "vernacular" school and the French priests invited the French Brothers of St. Gabriel to run a school.



The Arrival Gate. . .

The Brothers had another reason to be in Coonoor. They were looking for a place where young men could be trained to be Brothers. A juniorate was started for young boys who would study in St. Antony's for a few years, and would decide if they wanted to become Religious Brothers. A Novitiate was established for those who aspired to become Brothers. Subsequently a scholasticate, to train young Brothers was also begun adjacent to the school. An emergency teachers training certificate programme, encouraged and approved by the then Government of Madras Province existed briefly after W.W II. The scholasticate was shifted elsewhere in 1948.

The Novitiate was relocated to Yercaud in 1952. As for the juniorate, it remained an integral part of St. Antony's till it was moved to Palakurichi in 1964. These institutions made St. Antony's a very unique place for the Brothers. It was not just a school, but also a home. Most Brothers in the early years studied and lived in St. Antony's, which they considered their motherhouse.

But St. Antony's was not merely brick and mortar. It was a place of warmth and hope and fun. The year I joined the school, for instance, coincided with the independence of India. Air was filled with aspirations, hopes and dreams

of a new nation. "Jana Gana Mana" replaced "God Bless our King"; we sang of the new age and of our political heroes who would change the face of the earth. There was electricity in the atmosphere. St. Antony's reverberated with the impending changes of the times. Bro. Amance, the headmaster took the lead in impressing on the school a sense of patriotism for the homeland. But let me, briefly go back to the early years.

(To be Continued - Jo Pathyil)

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Ideas That Sparked . . .



Back to the Roots, Together to the Future

'The thrill of coming home is always treasured in our hearts. Memories last forever. Finding an old friend is finding a lost treasure.'

Ideas From The Global Meet Dec 2019

01- Objectives - What and Why?

1. MGA Global Meet - A forum for a get together to meet and spend some time with our friends and families who have travelled together in our early life, with similar formation experiences in/for life.
2. MGA Road Map - Build on the "Montfortan Values", "The Marian Way", and "In the Congregation Values, Experiences" to collectively pursue activities that benefits the Society wherever MGAs live and express in some form of social solidarity:
Lives of pioneers of the Indian Missionary Brothers, role of education as a leveraging tool for development, initiatives like the "Poutha Experiment" by Late Br CM Joseph and Team, MCDS, MSI, Montfortian Education International etc..could help to build a dynamic Road Map in the future with evolving objectives and goals
3. MGA Registration- MGA registered as a Not For Profit Organization as Montfort Global Associates - Not For Profit (MGA-NFT).
4. MGA Membership - All ex-Brothers

02 Ideas

1. Support to the needy MGAs - financial, non-financial or in kind who are in any kind of need, financial or otherwise:
2. Start an information centre for student's career guidance in the rural areas of the country.

3. Sponsorship: to support the most deserving tribal students, economically poor, in the Brothers' schools, preferably the girl students in the hostels thru annual financial support either as a group or by individuals.

Creation of a database of relevant information needed to evolve a sustainable stable action plan thru discussion. Also needed a Funding Mechanism

4. Support other Social initiatives - Financial or in kind
5. Partnership Ventures under the Umbrella of MGA -in the field of education, youth formation, training and guidance centre/s
6. Collaborate with Congregation in Spiritual, Cultural movements and Business activities, etc. on the lines the Jesuits and the Salesians who engage their ex-religious in their respective institutions
7. Plan MGA visit to NE Region in India to explore avenues of Collaboration
8. MGA Project-“Total Literacy of India 2047” (2047 being the centenary year of Independence)
9. Setting up MGA Home on Commercial Basis : Setting up a MGA home for all in Kerala, near Cochin Airport, with family accommodation, common prayer room, dining hall, recreation facilities, with supportive staff, vehicle and even medical support, as and when required. Any member can avail the facilities with a minimum payment. Members from abroad can avail this during their holidays. Brothers those who are in the congregation or anybody who will be recommended by the group members could be provided the accommodation on nominal charges. The expenses to maintain the property can be managed by renting it out for retreats and conferences etc. as and when available.
10. MGA Membership - Presently all ex-Brothers are Members. Role of former candidates, teachers, students to be explored.
11. MGA Finances - Suggestions made were - Need based contribution, Annual Contribution such as 15 day's earnings every year by all members etc

More Action Plan may be identified and added from the suggestions made during the launch of the MGA Website www.mga.life on 8 May, 2021.

Key Take Aways of MGA Website Launch- 8 May 2021

Members may like to explore and interact to identify areas of activities which the MGAs could undertake in future.

1. Peter Arokiadas set the right tone and pitch for the MGA Website launch with his rendering the Montfortian Hymn.
2. The warm welcome by George Nellamattam infused energy and endearment among the participants
3. The launch of the MGA website would enable communication among the MGAs and Brothers and would remain as the focal point of reference for interaction and as a digital storage and library in future.
4. Thomas Kappen as the MC and Compere rocked the event with apt comments on persons and events that transposed the participants to their nostalgic period

from the teens in the Congregation. He made the event possible by enabling the exodus of memories from the past into a pilgrim journey in quest of avenues for the fulfillment of the Montfortian spirit in action in the fast changing world today.

5. A small step into the Journey towards universal fraternity thru being one for all and all for one through share and care was the core message of the Presidential Address by Chairman PD Wilson:

**** MGA Global Meet in Dec 2019 in Muvattupuzha Kerala India marked a significant milestone in this endeavour.**

**** Formal registration of MGAs as MGA NFT ie Montfort Global Associates- Not For Profit demonstrates this intent.**

6. Choice of May 8 for the inauguration of MGA Website www.mga.life is significant as this date is dear Brothers and MGAs- day when all of began to follow the Montfortian Way and the relationship began- till the divergent call led to the MGA way for some while the rest continued the Montfortian road.
7. MGAs has grown significantly in membership, reach out and its activities, meetings, newsletters etc.
8. Special expression of appreciation and joy poured in for Jo Pathyil- his mentorship and writings
9. *It is a joy to see how the Congregation nurtured the MGAs into what they are today while grateful to acknowledge the contribution of MGAs to the Congregation till their divergent call happened. Looking forward to greater synergy between the MGAs and the Congregation.*
10. Montfortian values still relevant- Scope exists for partnership with laity and MGA could be an integral part in the process of pursuing the Montfortian Spirituality alongside the Congregation thru a private commitment- as elucidated in the MGA Charter.
11. MGA invited to plan visit to NE Region and other areas to experience and explore avenues of collaboration.
Link www.fsgpartnership.org, www.meinet.org and www.stgarielinst.org with www.mga.life for better integration of thought and action.
12. Meeting between the then Superior General Rev Br Romain Landry and Jo Pathyil prior to the latter's second calling on 31, January, 1967 cemented the foundation for bonding and Mutual Gratitude between the Congregation and the Ex-Brothers. It has taken more than 50 years for this to be accepted, acknowledged and percolated.
13. MGAs, like the Brothers, are called to holiness by following the Montfortian Spirituality and one doesn't need the benchmark of vows- To do good, all that one needs is a good and generous heart.
14. *MGAs still have unfinished task in life because they had imbibed the charism of St. Montfort and want to do something more* - there are some living empirical evidences of this observation in the likes of George Nellamatta, Cyriac Lukose and others.
15. Partnership of MGAs and the Congregation is a grow-

ing need of the times in order to realize the Montfortian vision to be Socially and Politically relevant by imbibing the four Montfortian traits in one's thought word and deed:-

- Pursue the Quest for God
 - Prophesy the sign of the times thru retaining the ability to criticize because we love to and engage people to foster Hope
 - Be a Pioneer by responding to the needs of times and by never being mere copy cats
 - Be Scandalous by stirring those living in comforts to move from heirarchy to mutuality, conformity to risk and uniformity to plurality or diversity from right from the thought process to completion of tasks.
16. MGAs better equipped to enlighten on the ways of the world which can help the Brothers in their mission, brainstorming by MGAs and Brothers being one of the steps in this direction.
 17. • Grounding in sound religious and academic formation through value based holistic education helped most of the MGAs to carry with them the values, principles and ethos of the Congregation when they responded to their second calling:-
 - Many of MGAs are engaged in caring for the less fortunate or provide quality education to those who cannot afford or engage in the works of the Church in giving the Gospel Values.
 - Most of the MGAs are leading and living family life which is showing Gospel Values to the children and the community around them.
 18. Joining hands to work for the youth today who are the future of tomorrow- taking into account the dynamic realities of their evolving and changing values- is the need of the hour and pressing mandate to both MGAs and the Congregation.
 19. A reflective poser to all: *If Jesus Christ of St Montfort were to visit us today, would they be staying in our houses, schools or would they be going out to the streets to the people who are dying because they cannot breathe?*
 20. Suggestion was made for opening up the schools boarding houses to Covid patients and Covid affected people and provide oxygen for them to breathe and live. It was also suggested that local RSS/BJP leaders may be roped in through local councillor or panchayath member to don the role of interlocutor so that the Congregation could provide the facility against request (**It may be mentioned that at the time of writing this, MSI Hyderabad opened its doors for this charitable and humanitarian task by involving the local influenzers.**)
 21. The presence of the Superior General along with the Two Assistant Generals Br TK James and Br Pratap Reddy along with a number of Provincials, other Brothers and MGAs set the ambience for an unforgettable event.

The MGA Action Plan Process

1. Identify Areas of Operations by MGAs as a Body.
2. Identify Areas of Operations of MGAs as individual

entrepreneurs.

3. Identify Areas of Collaboration with the Congregation - (MGA invited to visit to NE Region, for example).
4. Identify Areas of Collaboration with the Congregation for development of the Youth in specific.
5. Identify Areas of Operations to be Socially and Politically relevant.
6. Segregate the list into those involving financial inputs, non-financial inputs and other resource inputs.
7. Resource Mapping of the MGAs to the identified areas of operations
8. Creation of database of relevant information for the above listed areas to evolve a sustainable stable action plan thru discussions and deliberations.
9. Setting up a Funding Mechanism.
10. Identify Resource Persons to work these out.

More Action Plans may be identified through further interactions and meets.

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International Days Of Events ...

Why do we mark International Days?

International days are occasions to educate the public on issues of concern, to mobilize political will and resources to address global problems, and to celebrate and reinforce achievements of humanity.

The existence of international days predates the establishment of the United Nations, but the UN has embraced them as a powerful advocacy tool. We also mark other UN observances.

Several events are celebrated around the world.

These are listed to invite the interest of the readers and stimulate their cerebral prowess.

- 1 June Global Day of Parents (A/RES/66/292)
- 3 June World Bicycle Day (A/RES/72/272)
- 4 June International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression (A/RES/ES-7/8)
- 5 June World Environment Day (A/RES/2994 (XXVII))
- 5 June International Day for the Fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (A/RES/72/72)
- 6 June Russian Language Day (Russian)
- 7 June World Food Safety Day (A/RES/73/250)
- 8 June World Oceans Day (A/RES/63/111)
- 12 June World Day Against Child Labour
- 13 June International Albinism Awareness Day (A/RES/69/170)
- 14 June World Blood Donor Day [WHO] (WHA Resolution 58.13)
- 15 June World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (A/RES/66/127)

16 June International Day of Family Remittances (A/RES/72/281; GC 38/Resolution 189)

17 June World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought (A/RES/49/115)

18 June Sustainable Gastronomy Day (A/RES/71/246)

19 June International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict (A/RES/69/293)

20 June World Refugee Day (A/RES/55/76)

21 June International Day of Yoga (A/RES/69/131)

21 June International Day of the Celebration of the Solstice (A/RES/73/300)

23 June United Nations Public Service Day (A/RES/57/277)

23 June International Widows' Day (A/RES/65/189)

25 June Day of the Seafarer [IMO] (STCW/CONF.2/DC.4)

26 June International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (A/RES/42/112)

26 June United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture (A/RES/52/149)

27 June Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day (A/RES/71/279)

29 June International Day of the Tropics (A/RES/70/267)

30 June International Asteroid Day (A/RES/71/90)

30 June International Day of Parliamentarism (A/RES/72/278)

3 July (first Saturday of July) International Day of Cooperatives (A/RES/47/90)

11 July World Population Day (UNDP decision 89/46 15, A/RES/45/216)

15 July World Youth Skills Day (A/RES/69/145)

18 July Nelson Mandela International Day (A/RES/64/13)

20 July World Chess Day (A/RES/74/22)

28 July World Hepatitis Day [WHO]

30 July International Day of Friendship (A/RES/65/275)

30 July World Day against Trafficking in Persons (A/RES/68/192)

MGAs may like to write on any of the above to demonstrate how these events have benefited human kind. Such writings would inspire others to nurture the humanity around us to demonstrate the Divinity that drives us on.

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The World Environment Day - BO Sebastian. . .

June 5- The World Environment Day- BO Sebastian writes

The bond between man and nature has been from time immemorial. William Wordsworth's 'The Daffodils' states how in vacant, pensive mood, they flashed upon his inward eye, and his pleasure filled heart danced with the

daffodils. In the 'Solitary Reaper' he concludes that he listened motionless and still and the music he bore in his heart long after. Alfred Tennyson's 'The Brook', H.W. Longfellow's 'The Welcome Rain or Rain in Summer', and 'Stopping by the woods in the snowy evening' by Robert Frost, depict the beauty of nature and how they inspired and stimulated them. This year too, since 1974, 'World Environment Day' was celebrated on 5th June, engaging students and citizens in an effort to address pressing environmental issues. The objective is prevention, halting and reversing in order to restore the ecosystem. As all of us agree, this day offers a global platform for inspiring positive change pushing individuals to think the way they consume; for businesses to develop greener models; for farmers and manufacturers to produce more sustainably; for governments to invest in repairing the environment; for educators to inspire students to take action; and for youth to build a greener future.



BO Sebastian on Environment . . .

Richard St. Barbe Baker 'the man of the trees' was able to plant 2600 crores saplings. His organisation 'the men of trees' is alive with branches in 108 countries of the world. Mr. Yoganathan a bus conductor from Tamilnadu is known as 'the tree man of south India'. He has planted thousands of saplings in different parts of the country and educates students conveying the message of preserving the nature. Mr. Kallur Balan a toddy tapper after schooling started planting trees. He is one man army ready to plant trees anywhere free of cost. He has planted more than 5 lac trees in Palakkad district. He plans to plant more than one crore trees in the district before he breaths his last. You might have read the story of the Acorn planter in 1930s in the French Alps. A bent over old man with a sack of acorn on his back and a length of iron pipe in his hand. He punched holes in the ground and put an

acorn into the hole. A young traveller who met him was informed that he had lost his wife and son. This was his mission in his final years. He had planted over one hundred thousand acorns in that desolate and forbidding stretch of waste lands. After twenty years the same traveller was awe struck admiring the beautiful forest with birds, animals and the perfumed air of the wild flowers and fruits. All these great men had the passion to do something constructive and the perseverance to set an example to the world to make this world a better place for the future generation. Last two years the pandemic stood in the way of the supply of saplings by the forest department to the school students. It had been a routine ritual to celebrate 'Vanamahotsav' without any follow up where they were planted and the years of growth. The governments must stop all activities that destroy the environment under the pretext of development. Unless and until a record of the saplings distributed, planted, projects to be given to school and college students to afforest the waste lands, vital importance given to the study of nature as compulsory part of the syllabus, there won't be much change with all yearly awareness programmes. Let our children be educated to think, feel, see, smell, taste, eat, drink, walk and live green. B.O. Sebastian

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The Global Overview...

Overview

- The global recovery gained momentum and broadened across sectors in April and May.
- Although vaccination has proceeded rapidly in advanced economies, it continues to lag across emerging market and development economies (EMDEs), some of which have seen a surge in COVID-19 cases.
- Global financing conditions have remained favorable as major central banks maintained their commitment to accommodative monetary policy.

The Month of May

- In May, India experienced nearly as many COVID-19 cases as the rest of the world combined.
- The outbreak in India is far larger than previous major waves in any country, with more than 14 million new confirmed cases since the beginning of March, and the true number of cases estimated to be far higher.
- The crisis has taken a severe human toll, put India's health system under strain, caused regional authorities to implement lockdown measures, and led to a sharp weakening of activity in the second quarter.

EMDE - Emerging Markets and Developing Economy

- EMDEs with pervasive informality face a wide range of development challenges, including lower per capita incomes, greater poverty, less financial development, and weaker output, investment, and productivity.
- Pervasive informality is also associated with significantly lower government revenues and expenditures,

less effective policy institutions, and weaker governance.

- Effective policy actions to address informality need to be broad-based, and include measures to enhance human capital, lift productivity, streamline regulations, strengthen governance, and improve the provision of public services and social safety nets.

Global growth: stronger despite outbreaks

- The global recovery is gaining pace. The global composite output PMI index rose from 54.8 to 56.3 in April, reaching an 11-year high. The latest PMIs point to a broadening of the global recovery across sectors, with both the services and manufacturing index above 55 for the first time since 2010 and the services index rising above manufacturing for the first time after eight months of severe contraction.
- Strong manufacturing demand, coupled with supply disruptions, has pushed up global input prices. Higher costs are being passed on to customers, as the global PMI for output prices hit a 12-year high in April 21.
- Vaccination progress remains highly uneven. Advanced economies have administered more than 50 doses per hundred people, which compares with only 15 in EMDEs. In May, COVID-19 cases declined in advanced economies, but surged in several EMDEs, particularly in the South Asia region (SAR) and in East Asia and the Pacific (EAP). In general, countries where vaccine rollouts have been faster have seen larger upticks in economic activity and consumer confidence in 2021.

Global trade: firming momentum despite supply disruptions.

- Global goods trade reached pre-pandemic levels in November and has continued to grow strongly, expanding by a further 2.6 percent between November and February. On a regional level, goods trade growth has been strong in advanced economies and EAP. In contrast, trade remains below pre-pandemic levels in Latin America, Africa, and the Middle East
- Survey data point to a further strengthening of global trade in the second quarter, with the manufacturing PMI new export orders rising to a 10-year high of 54.7 in April.
- Supply chains have been strained as the PMI delivery times index reached a 23-year high and container shipping prices rose to a new record high in April 21.
- Tight inventories and long delivery times have held up production in several industries; auto production, for example, fell by 1.3 million units in 2021Q1

Global financing conditions: still easy amid continued asset purchases.

- Market-based inflation expectations in the United States continued to climb in May, while market volatility picked up slightly and equity valuations retreated somewhat from historically high levels
- Overall, global financing conditions remained ac-

commodative in April, with spreads on high-yield and investment grade corporate bonds hitting record low levels and most sovereign borrowing costs holding steady **Others**

- EMDE financing conditions: stabilizing capital flows seen.
- Commodity markets: rising across the board. Oil demand to surge by end of 2021.
- United States: continued strong growth foreseen.
- Euro area: recovering from recession caused by Covid 19 impact.
- Japan: delayed recovery expected.
- China: still robust but signs of moderation seen.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has hit the informal sector particularly hard.

Special Focus- Impact on the Informal Sector - Serious Repurcussions

- The COVID-19 pandemic has hit the informal sector particularly hard.
Informal firms account for almost three quarters of firms in the services sector, and with low incomes and little savings to fall back on, informal workers have been struggling to comply with lockdowns.

A large informal sector is associated with more limited access to public health and sanitation facilities, which is making it harder to contain the spread of the pandemic. In addition, informal workers are largely excluded from formal social safety nets. The recently published study "The Long Shadow of Informality" reviews the linkages between informality and development and concludes that emerging market and development economies (EMDEs) with above median informality face a wider range of development challenges than other EMDEs.

- Informality is associated with a host of development challenges.

In EMDEs, the informal sector accounts for about one third of GDP and for more than 70 percent of employment, of which self-employment is more than half.

EMDEs with more pervasive informality tend to be less developed; rely more on labor-intensive activities; and have a higher proportion of unskilled and poorly paid workers.

Life expectancy, maternal mortality, and other human-development indicators lag behind in EMDEs with more pervasive informality.

Access to essential public services, such as electricity provision, is also more limited.

- EMDEs with widespread informality are making less progress toward development goals.

About one-quarter (26 percent) of the population of EMDEs with above-median informality lived in extreme poverty, much more than the 7 percent of the population in EMDEs with below-median informality

In countries with greater informality, income inequality was higher, in part reflecting the wage gap between formal and informal workers and less pro-

gressive tax policies

In 2020, EMDEs with above-median informality ranked significantly below EMDEs with below-median informality in overall achievement of Sustainable Development Goals.

- A large informal sector weakens policy effectiveness. *Informality is associated with less effective public institutions, more burdensome tax and regulatory regimes, and weaker governance. Government revenues in EMDEs with above-median informality are 5-12 percentage points of GDP below those with below-median informality. Limited fiscal resources constrain governments' ability to cover their citizens' through social protection programs, provide broad access to public sector services, smooth business cycles, and close the productivity gap between the formal and informal sectors. In turn, limited access to public services further discourages firms and workers from engaging with the government, resulting in more participation in the informal sector.*

- Greater informality is associated with weaker human development outcomes.

People living in EMDEs with more widespread informality suffer from a greater prevalence of hunger, poorer health and education, greater gender inequality, and lower human capital.

- More widespread informality is associated with poorer access to, and lower overall quality of infrastructure.

Widespread informality tends to limit government revenue and hence public expenditure on infrastructure; at the same time, poor access to infrastructure can discourage firms or workers from joining the formal sector and engaging with the government.

Lack of energy and communications infrastructure limits access to more and better job opportunities slows productivity gains from digital technologies.

Poor transportation networks restrict factor mobility and market access, thus slowing productivity growth. Weak within-city transportation networks prevent workers from accessing formal employment opportunities.

- Economic development, human capital, governance are particularly robust correlates of informality.

- Reflecting a wide range of reasons for informality, policy measures to address informality need to be broad-based and tailored to country circumstances.

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Celebrations and Events

Birthday Wishes to and Prayers for

June 3 Vincent Paul

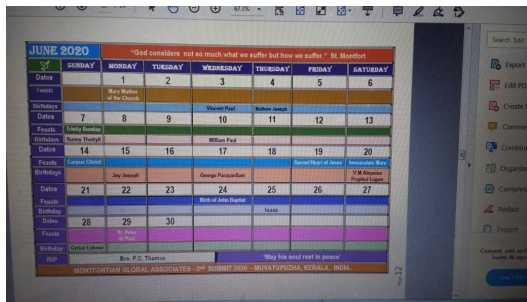
June 4 Mathew Joseph

June 7 Sunny Thottayil

June 10 William Paul

June 15 Joy Joseph

Jun 17 GeorgeMathewParayamnilam
 June 20 AloysiusValiyaparambilMathew
 June 20 PraphulLugun
 Jun 25 IsaacArulappan
 Jun 28 CyriacPLukose



Birthday Calander June 2021 . . .

Remembrances of and Prayers for

Jun 04 Br Abraham Puthenpurayil (1996/55) Pune
 Jun 04 Br Joy Alex (2013/51) Guwahati
 Jun 05 Br Othon Ronarch(1998/87) Bangalore
 Jun 06 Br Francis Xavier (1957/52)
 Jun 07 Br John de Britto (2012/86) Hyderabad
 Jun 08 Br Gabriel Dainam (1924/39)
 Jun 08 Br Stephen Provincial (1991/65) Kulithalai
 Jun 11 Br Raphael Joseph (2000/66) Chennai
 Jun 13 Br Oliver Ericatt (2014/82) Kerala
 Jun 16 Br Stanislaus Kostika (1954/66) Salem
 Jun 16 Br Antony of Padua (1992/57)
 Jun 17 br John Vaniapura (2018/72) Hyderabad
 Jun 19 Br Martin de Vertou (1959/83)
 Jun 22 Br Chandy Thomas (1992/34)
 Jun 22 Br VK Stephen -Rober Bellarmine (2007/76) Hyderabad
 Jun 23 Br Octavian (1938/43)
 Jun 23 Br Eric Davidsamy(2010/80) Virudhnagar
 Jun 27 Br Augustine Novello (1907/33)
 Jun 27 Br Victor (1969/39)
 Jun 28 Br John de Montfort – Pascal (1999/66)

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Remembering Dorai. . .

“Dorai” (By Joseph Pathyil)

Velupparambil Kuriako Stephen was born in Uzhavoor on June 9, 1931 (and died on 22 June 2007 after a prolonged battle with Cancer). V.K. Stephen entered the Juniorate in Coonoor in 1946 and started his studies in Form III in St. Antony’s High School. The next year a few of us joined Form IV, and became the classmates and buddies of

Stephen. Stephen was extremely fair, fair as a Caucasian. Therefore he was given the nickname of “dorai”.

Stephen was easily the best student in our group. He was diligent, punctual, and organized. He got the top marks in most subjects. When we stumbled, we looked up to him for answers, Stephen’s constant smile, his childlike face, his equanimity, and his innocence won him favour with colleagues, teachers and superiors. While he did not excel in anything, he was a reliable team player. He did not take easily to games and sports; but he participated in everything cheerfully.

While some of us risked violating the rules –big and small- such as having cash transactions that were expressly forbidden to the juniors, or indulging in the occasional cigarettes, or ganging up on some prudes or arrogant ones, or teasing, sometimes cruelly, the scrupulous and timid, dorai never did any of that. He was an obedient, faithful, dependent youngster. Teachers and superiors liked him. Mr. Dharmaraja Shiva, the interim headmaster of the school, also called him “dorai” affectionately.



Those Coonoor Days . . .

We completed our S.S. L.C examination in March of 1950 and joined the Novitiate in April of the same year. Stephen easily held first rank in most subjects. In 1951 when the nine of us had our vestition, Thatha, the Novice master, chose our names to ensure that our patronal feasts would occur on the same day. We were given the names of St. Symphorosa’s seven sons who were martyred in the early church. The feast fell on July 18 in the Catholic calendar. Along with those were added Camillus and Cyriac who also celebrated feasts on the same day. Announcements of the new names were at least as eagerly anticipated as the donning of the new garb. Thus did V.K. Stephen become Bro. Nemesius. Another year and we took our first vows, and were allowed a few days at home. We returned to Yercaud, where the novitiate was relocated. Thatha, (having consulted Fr. Kuriakose Myalil, who had been our chaplain and teacher in Coonoor), announced that Bro. Nemesius, Bro. Frederick and I would go to Loyola College, Madras, and the others, except Bro. Cyriac, would go to Tindivanam. Bro. Cyriac was sent to Hyderabad. The surprise was not that Bro. Nemesius was chosen to go to Loyola, but that Bro. Fredeick was chosen; and not Bro. Camillus and Bro. Justin. However, there were only three spots available in Loyola and the choice was made and God’s will was made manifest.



Eachinkadu Days . . .

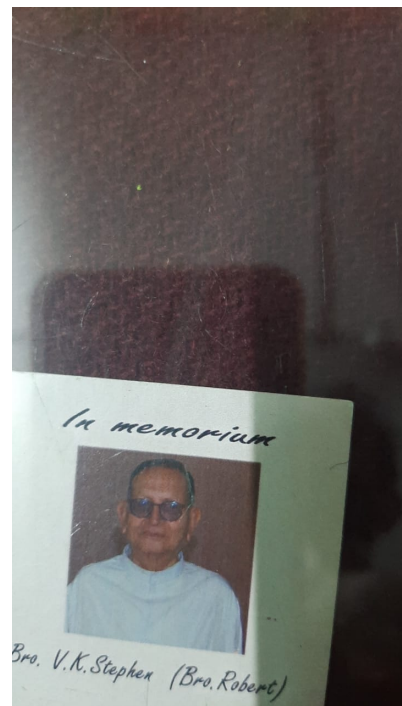
We started our studies in Loyola in June 1952. Bro. Frederick opted for the Mathematics stream, while I took history, economics and literature. Bro. Nemesius was expected to pursue science in which he had excelled in high school. However, he had doubts about it, and decided to join my stream. For the next two years we attended the same classes, listened to the same lectures, and did a lot together. Bro. Nemesius got first rank in the first term. After that I took over, secured first place consistently in all tests and examinations, received awards at the end of the year, with him as a close second. Bro. Nemesius had some difficulty accepting that someone did better than him. Perhaps due to that, after we completed our intermediate examination, he asked Bro. Eleazar, the Provincial Superior, to be sent to Hyderabad where he continued his studies.

Bro. John of God was the rector of All Saints in Hyderabad, and the uncrowned king of education in the city. He knew V.K. Stephen as Bro. John was his first headmaster in Coonoor. Bro. John received him with open arms. But he decided that the name Nemesius could conjure up mistaken notions of nemesis. Therefore he arbitrarily decided to change the name of Bro. Nemesius to Robert Bellarmine. Thus did my friend and companion, ne Stephen, a.k.a. Nemesius, become, willy- nilly, Robert Bellarmine. Needless to say his companions were not amused. Bro. Robert continued his studies in Hyderabad, completed his B.A. in two years and went on to obtain his B.Ed. and additional degrees including an M.A.. He served under Bro. John of God as headmaster of St. Gabriel's, Kazipet. for a few years. He was also the first headmaster of Palakurichy.

Bro. Robert taught in various schools, mostly in the center. He must have been an excellent teacher. He was meticulous in his preparations and in corrections. By 1965 he was miffed by the fact that while several of his companions were given positions of responsibility, he himself had not been made a director. The superiors asked him, therefore,

to take up the directorship of Kothagudam, when Bro. Amancius vacated the post to take my place in Kazipet. But Bro. Robert was disillusioned within six months of the new posting and requested his superiors to relieve him of his directorship. Thereafter he was content to teach in senior classes, and occasionally to take on more responsibilities. A brief stint in London did not satisfy him, and he was happy to return to India.

In 1997 Bro. Camillus and I arranged a reunion of our group in Coonoor, presided over by Bro. Charles. During that memorable week, Bro. Robert and I went for very long walks and shared our innermost feelings. Dorai was his smiling self. Youthful rivalry and jealousies had given way to genuine friendship. Years had matured him. But he remained the ever curious, ever concerned, friend. He was always ready with words of encouragement. He was my cheerleader and well-wisher. He liked my writings and my anecdotes. It was a pleasure being in his company as he boosted one's morale. As we were bidding goodbye in Coonoor, I asked him if I could do anything for him. He flashed his enigmatic smile, picked up my personally encrypted cross pen from my pocket and said he would have it. I was pleased that he would keep it as a memento.



Br VK Stephen (Br Robert) . . .

Whenever I went to India, I found some excuse to go to Hyderabad to meet him, or we met in Kerala, at least for a few hours. Those were very precious moments for both of us. The last time we met in Monippally, he told me about his bout with cancer and how he pleaded with the Lord to spare him for a few more years. His prayers were answered. Then a few months back I called him in Little Flower, Hyderabad. He sounded cheerful and full of pep. He asked me to write about our Coonoor days for the school magazine.(I complied with his wishes.) We

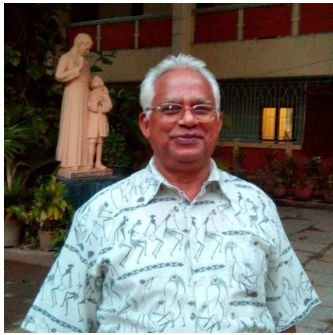
exchanged pleasantries and I concluded by promising to meet again. He expressed his doubts of meeting again, but in his own inimitable, gentle style, thanked me for the call. That was the last I heard his voice.

Bro. Robert insisted on anonymity and on being one among the others. But he was more intelligent than most; more analytical than many; more cynical than enthusiastic; he was a practical person, who thought much, and feared to dream. His constant refrain used to be, "Who knows!!" and, he hastened to add, "Who cares!!" But he cared deeply for his friends and community and students. He was a good and faithful servant of the Lord and of humanity. May my friend, my companion, my soul mate, rest in peace with the Lord whom he served so faithfully.

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Remembering Br John Vaniapura ...

June17: On this day in 2018, Br John Vaniapura passed away —silently while being taken for medical tests. He was born on 18, September,1945.



Br Vaniapura ... -End

THE TRAIN JOURNEY THAT BONDED US THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES..... As I recall Late Vaniapura , I remember that our journey began on Friday 12th May in 1961 from Alwaye Station...

June17: On this day in 2018, Br John Vaniapura passed away —silently while being taken for medical tests.

While nearly 40 youngsters were selected to study in Coonoor, 7 of us were selected for a longer travel....a journey that took two days. Most of us were in their teens - I being the youngest at 11 years, KM Joseph being a year older. We were 7 of us (Chandy Thottiyil from Uzhavoor, Joseph KM(Karimpanil from Palai), PP Joseph (Puthiyadam from Parippu), PJ Joseph(Paliyath) and MV Paulose(Mekunnel), John VV (Vaniapura from Thodupuzha (Nagapuzha and nearby Kodikulam) and I, Jacob MG from Arakuzha Muvattupuzha). Our parents/wards placed under the care of Late Br Stanislaus and we were to board the train to Madras (now Chennai) around 10 am in the morning. The train was jam packed in all the boggies. Our parents and wards and Br Stanislaus lifted us and pushed us through the windows (those days, there were no grills on windows) while our luggages were not lucky for any entry into the compartment as the

train moved away. After an hour or so, the parents and wards were waiting at trichur station to hand over our luggage..They hired a taxi. All of us were spellbound by their explosive first train entry thru the windows. All six except me were travelling for the first time in a train while at the age of 11, I claimed to be an expert train traveller between Alwaye and Calcutta from the age of 6 months and could remember five travels with my maternal grandmother and my mother between the age of four and seven - Godavary rail bridge and Madras central Station and waiting room at the left corner being the most prominent among my memories.. The 7 of us reached Chennai on Morning of 13th May and we were taken to nearby San Thome HS and sight seeing and by evening we boarded the New Delhi Train. On 14th May,1961 we stepped into the Kazipet Rly station and our leap into life began there on - the seven of us - the magnificent Seven....

The years in Kazipet were full of life, fast paced activities and purposeful. The weekdays would be full with furious pace of academics – both teaching and learning. One could still visualize the teachers in their fast paced hobbies to keep pace with the stride of the principal to reach their classes before the students could get in. One could still recall the echo of laughter in a class followed by a period of pindrop silence. Like the nightingales sing in the dark, the voice of serious teachings from two dozen rooms; only to be followed by the interval gong when the entire school erupts into a volcano of laughter and fun.



LIST OF NAMES ST.GABRIEL'S KAZIPET 1961-62

Seating/Standing Order:

T -4th Row (L-R): 1KV Joy, 2(Br)Vincent Kerekotta, 3(Br) Late Thomas Machapally, 4(Br) CT Paul, 5(Br) Jacob Mathukunnel, 6 PP Jacob, 7 KT Mathai, Fidelis Toppo, 8AJ Poomose
T -3rd Row (L-R): 1PV Joseph(PJ61), 2 PV Scorin 3.Showeriah 4.TP George 5.KP George, 6 (Br)MM Francis, 7 PJ Joseph(PJ61) 8(Br) Paulose Mekunnel(MVP61) 9 VM Kuruvilla
T -2nd Row (L-R): 1(Br) Late Sylvanus 2(Br) Stanislaus Joseph 3(Br) Late John Of God 4 Late Thampi Raja (Gregory)
B -1st Row (L-R): 1 Emmanuel Thomas, 2(Br)Sebastian Kuruvannakkal(KMS), 3 MM Joseph, 4 K C Reddy, 5 Jacob Mathachan(MG46) 6(Br)Joseph Kaimpanil (KM61)
7 (Br) John Vaniapura(VV61), 8 (Br) Chandy Thottiyil(KMC-61)

The Kazipetans. . .

NOTE-(Read Br Donald after Late Br John of God in the photo attached) In the Picture : Please note that Late Br Donald is sitting between Late Br John of God and Late Thampi Raja (Gregory).

When Bro.Sylvanus turns on the Murphy radio during the interval, the entire office corridor would be thronged by the cricket hungry kids to get the latest on the test matches between India and England, India and Australia and India and West Indies. Soon they would be back to the classes for serious learning.

The lunch break would be too short for a game of cricket but sufficient for others which the kids would play in teams – chasing one another by throwing a tennis ball. Other games included table tennis with tennis ball on the school corridor.

The evenings were even better. Post tea, the games in the three soccer grounds were full paced. First round belonged to the boarders. Then the juniors but the icing on the cake was the soccer games of the brothers which were of high quality and truly exhilarating.

The entire atmosphere was one of a carnival of a different kind – While the nearby theatres belted out the latest hindi songs and one could sing along with the great Rafi, Mukesh or Lata, or the songs of the Telugu Thespian Ghan-tasala, the extra curricular activities brought out the best of kids in one way or another. There was a purpose in every stride of a student – to become somebody, to achieve something and daring to go for it. There was purpose in the steps and words of every teacher – to give their best so that no kid lags behind. It was work and play at its optimum.

The weekends were even more attractive. One would look forward to the weekends – that began on Friday night – notwithstanding the half day school on Saturday. One would race with study time to complete the homework and assignments to greet the weekend in full measure of time. There was week end movies. The principal would preface the movie show with an outline of the story that begins weave in moving images.

There were games – friendly soccer matches between the Brothers and the School Team which were fiercely played to exciting finish till the final whistle. There were picnics to nearby forest grooves like Parkkal and Ramappa.

The great rowing expedition on a long log of wood in Ramappa Lake has etched a memory of heroism courage and inspiration – it was the Olympics for young kids like me in Kazipet. What Kazipet under Joseph Pathiyil gave us was a good launching pad to – to dare to do and dare to do without fear and inhibition; to live life to the full with its ups and downs and yet to reach the goal. To take pleasure in every activity one is engaged in. The great fishing episode in 1965 at Ramappa – we youngsters caught 12 big baskets of fish from the rivulets of the lake.

Thanks to gems like Late Brother Donald, Joseph Pathiyil, Bro. Dominic, Bro. John Bosco, Jaganmohan Reddy and the list goes on.. They gave roots to grow and wings to fly. No wonder Life is Beautiful.

Out of the Magnificent Seven, three of us – PP PJ Josephs and MG were destined to change tracks after about 10 years of bonding, four among us – KM Joseph, MV Paulose, Chandy and Late John – embedded their lives with that of St Louis De Montfort. During the period from the 70s onwards, we ran into each other on occasions and kept our bond in tact.



Br Vaniapura . . .

In 2017 and 2018 we celebrated the golden jubilee of KM and Chandy and in May 2018 celebrated the golden jubilee of 1968 batch – John Vaniapura, NF Joseph. Late Br John Vaniapura demonstrated his joy and love by personally cooking food for us – he just loved to see others happy.

A Runner towards Eternity.

On 17th June 2018 he left for his celestial banquet to celebrate his jubilee....As I recall, I see a John Vaniapura running with two or even three stones on his head racing from one hillock in Yercaud to the Eachinkadu estate while the rest of us would trudge behind him carrying a stone – this was a one year mission – to construct a huge water reservoir for the Novitiate.

Another memory that looms ahead is the cementing of a portion of Montfort School Yercaud in one single night – where all 120 inmates of Eachinkadu joined enthusiastically and one cannot forget the agility and enthusiasm shown by my dearest John Vaniapura.

The cricket match between the novices and Montfort school team showed how far we lagged in terms of temperament(Talents we had like MG, Paulose Mekkunel, Late AV Sebastiaian, Br Vaniapura, Br KM Joseph who later on coached Azuruddin). We however had the upper hand in soccer - with talents like Suruchi, Boas Tirkey, Herman Tete, Jacob MG, Br KM Joseph and others from Bihar and Thailand.



Br Vaniapura . . .

Br John just loved hardwork and labour and never shied away from any task. Picnics were fun with him around. Till the end, Br John retained his childlike simplicity and zest for life. His unwavering faith in Our Lady and trust in Her was very remarkable.

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Br John Vaniapura . . . -End

Part II - WB Global Economic Prospects June 2021 included as a separate Document and uploaded in the Library of MGA Website.

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