

Kalyan Lantern

MAHBIL/2015/63218 | MNE/353/2024-26 | MR/Tech/WPP-323/NE/2024-26

JUNE 2025

Vol. 11 | Issue 01 | MUMBAI | 28 Pages | Price: ₹17/-



Faith & Academics:
Time To Unlearn, Learn, Relearn



Leo P.P. XIV

When Technology Leads, Let the Heart Guide

The rise of Artificial Intelligence has impacted every aspect of modern life, and education is among the most profoundly affected. In schools and homes alike, we are witnessing a quiet revolution — and for many parents, teachers, and students, it feels like we're standing at a crossroads between the familiar and the unknown.

Technology has long played a role in education, but AI is different. It doesn't merely support learning — it's beginning to shape it. AI can now plan lessons, grade assignments, and guide students at their own pace. It can write essays, solve equations, and even teach languages. For students, this can feel like both a blessing and a burden. Tasks that once required time and effort can be done in seconds — but at what cost?

This is where we must pause and reflect. Because education is not just about answers; it's about the journey toward understanding. It's about building the capacity to think deeply, question boldly, and grow as whole human beings. In an age where knowledge is a click away, we must ask: Are we still teaching our children how to think, not just what to know?

The truth is, today's students are growing up in a world of constant noise — an endless stream of data, opinions, and filtered truths. Algorithms decide what news they see, what videos they watch, even what music they like. In this fast-paced flow of information, it's easy to lose the ability to pause, reflect, and think for oneself. That's why now, more than ever, we need to help our young people develop critical minds and compassionate hearts.

Education must continue to do what it has always done at its best: form character, not just careers. It must help students discover who they are, what they believe, and how they can

contribute to the world. It must give them the courage to speak their truth — even when it's not the popular opinion — and the wisdom to listen to others with openness and respect.

Amidst these changes, the role of parents remains more vital than ever. For many, this new world of technology can feel overwhelming. There's pressure to keep up, to understand devices, platforms, and apps that didn't even exist a few years ago. But here's the good news: children still need what parents have always given best — love, presence, guidance, and values. No AI tool, however advanced, can replace the grounding force of a parent who takes time to listen, to talk, to pray, and to walk with their child through life.

It is in this spirit that The Lantern dedicates this issue to exploring the impact of Artificial Intelligence on education and family life. From navigating the digital world as parents, to resisting the loss of individuality in a culture of collective opinion, we hope to offer reflections and guidance for these challenging times.

As Catholics, we do not fear progress — but we also don't embrace it blindly. Our faith teaches us to seek truth, to uphold human dignity, and to use our gifts wisely. This includes the gift of technology. As we step into this new era, let us do so with discernment, grounded in faith and guided by love. Let us teach our children not just to use AI, but to rise above it — as thoughtful learners, faithful people, and compassionate leaders in a world that desperately needs both wisdom and heart.

Dr. Rajesh Mathew
Editor-in-Chief



YOUR WORD IS A LAMP TO
MY FEET & A LIGHT TO MY PATH

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Vol. 11 | Issue 01

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Matrimonial: www.godsownchoice.com MAHBIL/2015/63218 | MNE/353/2024-26

In a world of Collective Opinion – is Individual opinion fading?



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While selecting a hotel to stay on a holiday, a movie on OTT, a product on Amazon/E-Commerce sites, do you find yourself looking at the 8+ star rating, reading reviews, pondering over the negative experience of others, looking for shoddy pictures uploaded? For that matter, any decision we are making today is governed by the “crowd” or the “collective” experience of that product or service. Today, aren't we in a world of taking decisions based on collective opinion?

While that has been defining a consumer's behaviour over the last decade or so (with easy



access to content on the internet and social media platforms), the communication experts have understood the power of persuasion of likes and reviews. Thousands of bots and paid (or unpaid) hands are available to drive up a sale through reviews and likes, based on the wishes of the pusher (the one with an objective or an agenda). And aren't we falling for the bait?

We all already know that Influencers are what they are because they are paid for it! To Influence their followers. It is as simple as that. Somebody is paying for that content. So that those who follow the influencer, get convinced of the narrative. This is not just for products and services. It applies to matters of geo-politics, faith, personalities, and a whole lot of other themes. There is someone funding for a purpose! Come to think of it, even St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta is not spared by these sponsored content creators.

At this juncture, for all of us in this era of data and content explosion, it is prudent to delve upon this extract from a Harvard Business Review article on 'The Elements of Good Judgement' which says, "Think carefully about where the underlying data is coming from and the likely interests of the people supplying it."

What Aristotle said 2300 years ago may hold true even today, when he asked each one of us to "Be a free thinker and don't accept everything you hear as truth. Be critical and evaluate what you believe in".

How do we navigate in today's world of information overload? Let's try and understand some basic steps:

Information Overload

Fact Checking

Critical Thinking

Personal Opinion



Problem is not with the content creators. They have their agenda and are paid for it. Issue is with those who get swayed by this content.

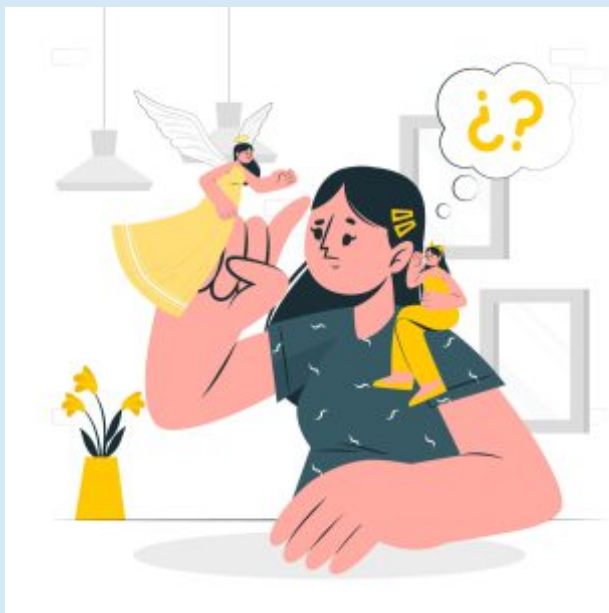
Information Overload:

This is bound to remain in years to come. With the "able" support of AI and GenAI, content is going to be superfluous and enchanting, everywhere we look. One simply cannot ignore this.

When a large number of content creators pitch for sympathizing for one side in a war, a whole generation of protestors line up at universities, embassies, public functions, and trade centers. Be it Gaza, be it Peta, be it Fossil Fuel, be it Ghar Wapasi. Look at it carefully. The problem is not with the content creators. They have their agenda and are getting paid for it. The issue is with those who get swayed by this content.

Fact Checking:

While fact checking has been a buzzword for a few years with a number of sites enabling the same, it is still a less relied upon tool. As long as few trusted players/entities endorse



What we mean by personal bias is that we already believe in something. Then, when a content is thrown at us, we try to justify it to ourselves as we are already biased. Any amount of counter narrative is not acceptable to us then.

a view or content, it is sufficient for mass followers to believe in that line of thinking/ narrative and as a result fact-checking goes to shreds. Instead of checking facts and the truth behind a narrative, we look for people (like us) who have endorsed the same narrative. Once confirmed, we ourselves are sure that there is no need to check facts.

Critical Thinking:

Our ability to look at multiple facets of a narrative will empower us to form a balanced opinion. This is not easy. We live in a time and era where patience to look for more angles of a particular story is limited.

Then there is this overhanging thing called 'personal bias'. What we mean by personal bias is that we already believe in something. Then, when content is thrown at us, we try to justify it to ourselves as we are already biased. Any amount of counter narrative is not acceptable to us then. An example would be, suppose, we have grown up watching and seeing that it's alright to physically hit a woman. Now, if we see content/ articles that say that beating one's own wife is physical abuse and against law. We will try to find memories, articles, or opinions which will confirm to us that

'beating is ok'. That is the impact of personal bias.

In critical thinking, it is important to not go by popular opinion or narrative that has huge likes and shares. What is needed is to think objectively, like:

- Why is this narrative being shared?
- What is the purpose of this narrative?
- Do I personally agree with this narrative or not?
- What is my own or my family's value system?
- What are my own elders' teachings?
- What do wise people say about this topic?
- Am I just following everybody else or do I have a point of view?

All of the above doesn't need time. It just needs self-reflection and a mind that is ready to think for itself and not follow the popular belief.

It's appropriate to reflect on one of our modern personalities that we consider as a self-made success, Elon Musk, wherein he says "I think it's important to reason from

first principles rather than by analogy. The normal way we conduct our lives is by analogy. [With analogy] we are doing this because it is like something else that was done, or it is like what other people are doing. [With first principles] you boil things down to the most fundamental truths, and then reason up from there.”

Personal Opinion:

As we grow up, we tend to have strong feelings about situations, themes and topics. Whether it's about customs, practices, religion, teachings, way of life, etc. This we call our personal opinion. We often defend these opinions vociferously in

Bishop Fulton Sheen emphasized that personal opinions, while important, should be grounded in truth and not simply based on personal preference or feelings.

One of his famous quotes states, “Counsel/ advice involving right and wrong should never be taken from someone who does not say their prayers”.

Lets connect the dots..

Bishop Fulton suggests that opinions should be based on truths and not personal feelings/preferences.

Critical thinking encourages us to search for the truth on first principles and not popular narrative.

Fact Checking allows us to understand the Why behind narratives, content, and trends.

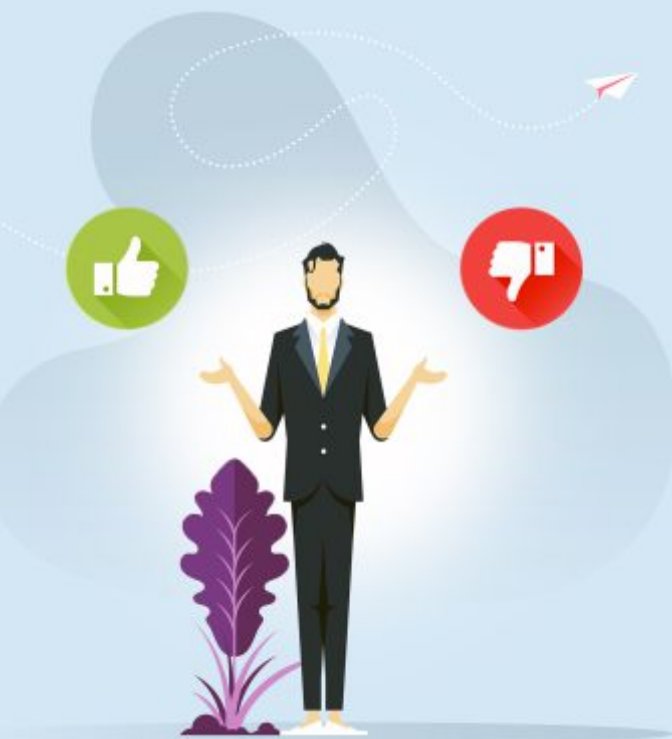
Information overload is then just a deluge of information. Just like hoardings on Marine Drive which we never see while walking or driving past. Because it is just content.

To conclude..

In this era of internet explosion and content overload (especially the ones that get viral, which are mostly negative or shaming), let us take a small pause. Do a bit of fact checking in terms of, Why is this being shared, by Whom, and for What. After that, put on the hat of a Critical Thinker – because, I am who I am – with a mind of my own. I am not the crowd. So, what is my own thought on this Narrative/Content? What are my value systems? What are my teachings? What are the wise thoughts on this?

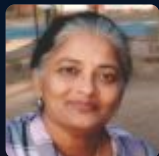
In today's time and day, FOMO also allows space for JOMO (Joy Of Missing Out). Mind you, JOMO does not mean standing out of the crowd, but for having the courage to fact check, critically thinking using your own brand and forming personal opinion.

families and friends groups. Whether it's about our career choices, our friends, music that we like & follow, even subjects like LGBT, Pro Life, Live-ins, wars, etc. We all have our own opinion. We must. That's what makes us a unique individual. A personality that is me. But there is a catch!



TECH SE TAKKAR:

A Parent's Journey Into the World of Technology



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Once upon a time, I thought 'Canva' was a new dish—turns out, it was my gateway into the world of technology. My first brush with "technology" happened when my young children taught me how to make personal greeting cards on Canva. I've always believed in adding a personal touch to everything I do—something I believe is

characteristic of my generation. With Canva, I found it easier and less time-consuming to create beautiful greeting cards with just the right personal message to make someone's day special. It saved me a lot of time while still keeping that personal touch intact.

In recent times, technology has advanced so rapidly that for parents from the '70s, '80s, and '90s, keeping up feels like a herculean task—especially with the recent shift in schools toward technology-based teaching.

When it comes to kids—regardless of the generation—parents always feel a step behind. For children today, whether at school or at home, any free time is consumed by technology.



Be it studies, games, videos, or movies—everything is done on mobiles, tablets, or laptops. Kids are constantly immersed in these gadgets. Their entire lives seem to revolve around them—unlike in our time.

With long work hours and commute times, today's parents find it extremely difficult to devote quality time to their children, let alone monitor or participate in their daily activities. Add to this the lack of familiarity with modern trends, technology, social media, and music, and the disconnect between parents and children only widens.

So, what's the solution? This is where a lot of learning, unlearning, and relearning becomes essential!

It can make a world of difference if we, as parents, let go of outdated mindsets and stay open to learning what's "in trend"—be it fashion, technology, or even social media. You might just find it easier to connect with your kids—and may even discover that you have plenty of common ground to talk and laugh about.

I remember, years ago, trying to learn how to use a computer. Many times, I wanted to give up midway. But the thought of doing it for the sake of my children kept me going. And I'm so glad I didn't quit. I eventually aced it—not only helping my children with their studies and projects but also aiding my own career as an HR Consultant.

This brings to mind a well-known quote by Alvin Toffler:

"The illiterate of the future are not those who can't read or write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn."

This quote highlights the importance of embracing change and acquiring new knowledge while letting go of outdated ideas.

Learning something new gives us a fresh perspective. It helps us see the world through the eyes of the younger generation. Learning

can be formal, informal, or through experience. Not only does it help us stand shoulder to shoulder with our children, but it also boosts our confidence. It enables us to stay relevant and adapt to the ever-changing world around us by gaining new ideas and letting go of obsolete ones.

Unlearning! Though it sounds simple, it is actually quite difficult. Changing habits and methods we've practiced for years is a challenge because they are so deeply ingrained in us. But evolving with time requires exactly that. We must analyze old methods, arrive at logical conclusions, and identify what is still relevant. Only then can we adapt meaningfully.

Relearning can sometimes feel tedious, but we shouldn't shy away from it. It plays a crucial role in our overall growth and development. Relearning means replacing outdated knowledge with new insights and applying new skills to keep up with changing circumstances.

Being open-minded about today's technology not only helps parents engage better with their children, but also plays a vital role in ensuring their safety. Educational technology has become an important part of parenting, offering access to countless resources like apps, tutorials, and age-appropriate games. These tools allow us to connect with our children more effectively. They also help us share timely feedback, relevant information, and support our children's learning at home.

Technology opens up opportunities for important conversations and shared experiences. From educational apps to communication tools, it helps parents stay organized, monitor their child's development, and provide enriching, supportive environments.

So, don't shy away from technology—embrace it. Who said parents can't be tech-savvy



BACK TO SCHOOL

Spiritual Preparation, Living the Gospel Daily & Embracing the Catholic Journey of Faith and Learning



Esther Jomy
St. Alphonsa Forane
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For many families, the start of a school year means new schedules, sharpened pencils, and packed lunches. But for Catholic families, this season invites something deeper; a return not only to learning, but to living out our faith more intentionally. Going back to school is not just an academic journey; it's a spiritual pilgrimage where both students and families are called to grow in holiness.

The Sacred Start: Spiritual Preparation

Before new uniforms are worn or books are opened, we must prepare our children spiritually. This begins at home — where family prayer becomes both foundation and fortress. Morning prayers, evening rosaries, or a shared reading from Scripture each night sets the tone for a Christ-centered school year.

Crucially, the sacraments — especially the Eucharist and Reconciliation are not optional extras, but the lifeblood of spiritual strength. Daily Mass, when possible, allows students to receive the very Body and Blood of Christ, the “source and summit of the Christian life” (CCC, 1324). This daily communion nourishes the soul and equips students with divine grace to face each day with peace, clarity, and courage.

Likewise, frequent confession clears the conscience and strengthens virtue. Through the sacrament of reconciliation, students are not only forgiven but formed — learning humility, accountability, and the mercy of God. As the Catechism says, “confession... helps us form our conscience, fight against evil tendencies, let ourselves be healed” (CCC 1458). A cleansed heart is more open to truth, learning, and love.

The Role of the Student: A Witness in the World

Catholic students are more than learners — they are young disciples. In classrooms, canteens, and sports fields, they are called to be the light of the world (Matthew 5:14). Their role is not passive. They must live the Gospel with courage: showing kindness to the outcast, standing firm in truth, and choosing honesty when it’s hard.

Students can set spiritual goals — like beginning the day with a quiet prayer, wearing a sacramental (like a cross, rosary

or scapular), or engaging in simple acts of charity. These habits strengthen identity and remind them that faith is not reserved for Sunday but woven into every day.

Forming Hearts Through Service and Community

Faith grows stronger in fellowship with the community. Catechism class groups, choirs, altar service, and outreach programs give students the opportunity to live out their beliefs through action. “Faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead” (James 2:17). These activities are not mere hobbies, they are formation.

Whether helping the poor, leading worship, or cleaning the parish grounds, students develop leadership, compassion, and a deeper love for the Body of Christ. They experience the Church as living, breathing, and joyful.

The Role of Parents: First Teachers of Faith

The Catechism teaches that parents are the “first educators of their children” (CCC 1653). A child’s faith journey begins and deepens through the rhythms and witness



of the home. As school begins, parents can anchor daily life in prayer, blessing children before school, praying the protection prayer, or setting Sunday as truly sacred.

Even simple family traditions like attending First Friday Masses, celebrating feast days, or ending the day with an examination of conscience, help children feel connected to a living, breathing Church that surrounds them with love and stability.

Navigating the Secular with Catholic Conviction

Today's students are often met with ideologies that challenge their faith. From moral relativism to pressure to conform, the secular world tests Catholic values. This is where formation must become conviction.

Ephesians 6:13 exhorts us: "Take up the full armour of God... that you may be able to stand firm." Students need to know why they believe, not just what they believe. Parents and schools must prepare them to answer

questions with clarity, love, and courage.

Teaching children to say, "I respect your view, but my faith teaches me otherwise," empowers them to stand firm without being hostile. Understanding Church teachings on life, identity, and love allows them to navigate a confusing world with the compass of truth.

A Practical Mission

So, what can Catholic families do as they return to school?

- Begin each day with a family prayer or blessing.
- Prioritize Sunday Mass and the sacraments.
- Choose Catholic media or saint stories over empty screen time.
- Volunteer in a parish activity or charity.
- Create a sacred space at home.

These small acts, repeated with love, become habits and habits shape saints, which we are all called to become.

A Holy Journey Ahead

Back to school is more than a change of schedule. It's a recommitment to our mission as Catholic families. With prayer, service, and courage, our children can enter their classrooms as apostles in disguise. Parents can lead by faith, and schools can remain beacons of truth in a noisy world.

As St. Thérèse of Lisieux said, "Holiness consists simply in doing God's will, and being just what God wants us to be." So, this year, may our students and our families be exactly that: joyfully faithful, courageously holy, and fully alive in Christ.

Let every lesson learned, every challenge faced, and every act of love offered be done *Ad Maiorem Dei Gloriam* — for the greater glory of God.



കൃത്രിമ ബുദ്ധിയുടെ (Artificial Intelligence) യുഗത്തിൽ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം: ലിയോ XIV മാർപാപ്പയുടെ ദൗത്യ വിക്ഷണം

ഇന്നു നാം ജീവിക്കുന്നത് വലിയ മാറ്റങ്ങൾ അനുഭവപ്പെടുന്ന കാലഘട്ടത്തിലാണ്. സാങ്കേതിക വിദ്യയുടെ അതിവേഗ വികസനം, പ്രത്യേകിച്ച് കൃത്രിമ ബുദ്ധിയുടെ (Artificial Intelligence – AI) വളർച്ച, മനുഷ്യ ജീവിതത്തിന്റെ എല്ലാ മേഖലകളിലും വളരെ വലിയ സ്വാധീനം ചെലുത്തുന്നുണ്ട്. വിദ്യാഭ്യാസരംഗം ഈ മാറ്റങ്ങളിൽ അത്യധികം ബാധിക്കപ്പെടുന്ന പ്രധാന മേഖലയാണ്. വിദ്യാർത്ഥികളുടെയും അധ്യാപകരുടെയും, രക്ഷിതാക്കളുടെയും സമീപനങ്ങൾ ഇന്ന് ആധുനിക സാങ്കേതികതയുടെ ചുവടു പിടിക്കുകയാണ്. ഈ വലിയ മാറ്റത്തിന്റെ ചുവട് പിടിച്ചുകൊണ്ട് ലിയോ പതിനാലാമൻ മാർപാപ്പ സഭയുടെ ഈ ആധുനിക കാലഘട്ടത്തിൽ ദൗത്യ ബോധത്തെക്കുറിച്ച് വളരെ മനോഹരമായി പറഞ്ഞു വെക്കുന്നു.

2025 ൽ കത്തോലിക്കാ സഭയുടെ ഇടയനായി തിരഞ്ഞെടുക്കപ്പെട്ട ലിയോ XIV മാർപാപ്പ, ഏകദേശം ഒരു നൂറ്റാണ്ടിന് ശേഷമാണ് “Leo” എന്ന പാപ്പാ പേ

രിലേക്ക് സഭയെ തിരിച്ചുകൊണ്ടുവന്നത്. അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ നേതൃത്വം സാംസ്കാരികവും സാങ്കേതികവുമായ വലിയ മാറ്റങ്ങളുടെ പശ്ചാത്തലത്തിലാണ് തുടങ്ങിയത്. കൃത്രിമ ബുദ്ധിയുടെ (Artificial Intelligence – AI) സങ്കീർണ്ണതകളും പ്രചണ്ഡതയും ലോകമാകെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസരംഗത്തെ മാറ്റിമറിച്ചു കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന ഈ കാലഘട്ടത്തിൽ അദ്ദേഹം സഭയുടെ ദൗത്യബോധം ആധുനിക ലോകവുമായി സംവദിക്കേണ്ടതിന്റെ ആവശ്യകത ഉയർത്തിക്കാട്ടുന്നു.

വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം: ദൈവികമായ ഒരു ദൗത്യ സേവനം

2025 മേയ് 15ന് Brothers of the Christian Schools അഭിസംബോധന ചെയ്തപ്പോൾ, ലിയോ XIV മാർപാപ്പ ഒരു പ്രധാനപ്പെട്ട കാര്യം എല്ലാവരെയും ഉദ്ബോധിപ്പിച്ചു. “നിങ്ങളുടെ ബലിപീഠം ക്ലാസ് മുറിയാണ്”. അതായത്, പഠനം ഒരു മൗലികാവകാശം മാത്രമല്ല, അതിന് ആത്മീയ പ്രാധാന്യവും ഉണ്ട്.



Fr. Albin Koonammavu
Parish Priest,
St. Sebastian Church, Amboli



അധ്യാപകർ വെറും വിജ്ഞാനദായകരല്ല; അവർ കൂട്ടികളിൽ ദൈവിക പ്രതിഫലങ്ങൾ വളർത്താനുള്ള ദൗത്യം പേറുന്നവരാണ്.

പാപ്പയുടെ അഭിപ്രായത്തിൽ, ഉന്നതമായ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം രൂപപ്പെടുത്തുന്നത് മാനുഷികതയെ ആധാരമാക്കിയാണ്. വിദ്യാർത്ഥിയുടെ മസ്തിഷ്കത്തിൽ ബുദ്ധിപരമായ അറിവുകൾ മാത്രം വിളമ്പിയാൽ പോരാ; അതിന്റെ കൂടെ മറ്റുള്ളവരെ സ്നേഹിക്കാനും കരുണയോടെ നോക്കാനും അവന്റെ ജീവിതത്തിൽ ഒരു കൈത്താങ്ങായി മാറുവാനും നമ്മുടെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം കൊണ്ട് സാധിക്കണം. ഈ സമീപനമാണ് പോപ്പിന്റെ ദൗത്യശ്രദ്ധയിൽ അത്യന്താപേക്ഷിതമായ മാറ്റം.

Artificial Intelligence: സാധ്യതകളും വെല്ലുവിളികളും

2020കൾക്കുള്ളിലെ ഏറ്റവും വലിയ സാങ്കേതിക പരിണാമം AI ആണെന്ന് പറയുന്നത് അതിശയമല്ല. അത് വിദ്യാഭ്യാസരംഗത്ത് അറിവ് പകർച്ചയെ വേഗത്തിലാക്കുകയും, വ്യക്തിഗത പഠനമാതൃകകൾ അവതരിപ്പിക്കുകയും, കാര്യക്ഷമത വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നു. എന്നാൽ, ലിയോ XIV മാർപാപ്പ മുന്നറിയിപ്പ് നൽകുന്നു: “മനുഷ്യന്റെ ഹൃദയവും ആത്മാവും കണക്കാക്കാതെ, കൃത്രിമ ബുദ്ധിക്ക് ഓരോ വിഷയത്തെയും വിലയിരുത്താൻ അനുവദിക്കരുത്.”

AI അധിഷ്ഠിത പഠന പ്ലാറ്റ്ഫോമുകൾ, അധ്യാപകരെ പകർന്നുവെയ്ക്കുന്ന ചാറ്റ്ബോട്ടുകൾ, വിദ്യാർത്ഥികളെ ശേഖരിച്ച ഡാറ്റയുടെ അടിസ്ഥാനത്തിൽ റാങ്ക് ചെയ്യുന്നതിന്റെ വ്യാപനം - ഇവയെല്ലാം മാനുഷിക ബോധത്തിന്റെ അഭാവത്തിൽ അപകടകാരിയായിത്തീരാം. ഒരു യന്ത്രം ഒരുപാട് കണക്കുകൾ പഠിപ്പിക്കുമെങ്കിലും, സ്നേഹവും കരുണയും ഉത്തരവാദിത്തബോധവും അതിന് നൽകാനാവില്ല. ഇതൂടെയും ഒന്നു ചേർന്നുപോകുമ്പോഴാണ് വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം അർത്ഥവത്തായി തീരുക.

വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം പൂർത്തിയാക്കുക എന്ന് മാത്രമല്ല, രൂപപ്പെടുത്തലായിരിക്കണം

ലിയോ XIV മാർപാപ്പയുടെ ഉപദേശ പ്രകാരം, വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം ഒരു ‘formation’ ആയിരിക്കണം. അതായത്, കൂട്ടിയെ സമഗ്രമായ ഒരു വ്യക്തിത്വമായി ആത്മികവും ബൗദ്ധികവുമായ വളർച്ചയ്ക്ക് വഴിയൊരുക്കണം. AI അധിഷ്ഠിത പഠനം വിദ്യാർത്ഥിയുടെ ബൗദ്ധിക ഉന്നതിക്ക് സഹായകമാകുമ്പോഴും, അതിന്റെ നീതി നിഷ്ഠയും സാമൂഹിക ഉത്തരവാദിത്തവും ക്രമീകരിക്കേണ്ടത് മനുഷ്യ സമൂഹം തന്നെയാണ്.

അദ്ദേഹം ഊന്നിപ്പറയുന്നതിലൊന്നാണ്, “തെറ്റായ ഡാറ്റയും മറഞ്ഞ ആൽഗോരിതങ്ങളും വിദ്യാർത്ഥി

യുടെ ഭാവിയെ നശിപ്പിക്കാം.” അതിനാൽ, സാങ്കേതിക വിദ്യയെ ഉപയോഗിക്കുമ്പോൾ അതിന്റെ പരിമിതികളും, ആൾക്കാർക്ക് ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്ന മാനസിക സാമൂഹിക ബാധ്യതകളും വിലയിരുത്തേണ്ടത് വിദ്യാഭ്യാസ സ്ഥാപനങ്ങളുടെ കടമയാണ്.

അധ്യാപകരുടെ ഇടപെടലിന്റെ അപരിമിത ശക്തി

AI അധ്യാപകനെ പകരം വെയ്ക്കുകയാണെന്ന ആശങ്ക ഏറെക്കാലമായി നിലനിൽക്കുന്നു. എന്നാൽ ലിയോ XIV മാർപാപ്പയുടെ കാഴ്ചപ്പാട് ഏറെ വ്യക്തമാണ്: ‘അധ്യാപകന്റെ പ്രചോദനാത്മക സാന്നിധ്യത്തിന് AI പകരം വയ്ക്കാൻ സാധിക്കില്ല’. അധ്യാപകന്റെ കണ്ണിലെ കരുണ, അവന്റെ സ്വർഗം, ഒരു വിദ്യാർത്ഥിയിലേയ്ക്കുള്ള വ്യക്തിപരമായ പ്രചോദനം - ഇത് യന്ത്രങ്ങൾക്ക് തരാൻ കഴിയില്ല. അതിനാൽ, പുതിയ കാലഘട്ടത്തിൽ AI സഹപാഠിയായിത്തീരട്ടെ, പക്ഷേ അധ്യാപകൻ ഗുരുവായിത്തീരണം എന്നതാണ് അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ ആഹ്വാനം.

വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിന്റെ നൂതന ദിശ: വിശ്വാസം + സാങ്കേതികത

പോപ്പിന്റെ സന്ദേശം ഒരു ഉണർവ്വാണ്: വിശ്വാസത്തെയും സാങ്കേതികതയെയും സമന്വയിപ്പിച്ചുള്ള പുതിയ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസ മാതൃക ആവിഷ്കരിക്കേണ്ടത് സഭയുടെയും സമൂഹത്തിന്റെയും ദൗത്യമാണ്. വിദ്യാർത്ഥികളെ ജ്ഞാനപരമായും ആത്മീയമായും പരിശീലിപ്പിക്കാനുള്ള ശ്രമത്തിൽ, AI ഉപകരണങ്ങൾ ഉപകരിക്കാം. എന്നാൽ അവയുടെ ഉപയോഗം സുതാര്യവും നീതി പുർണ്ണവുമായിരിക്കണം. മാർപാപ്പയുടെ വാക്കുകളിലെ ആഴം ഇതിൽ വ്യക്തമാണ്: കൃത്രിമ ബുദ്ധി (AI) ഒരു ഉപകരണമാണ്; അത് മനുഷ്യന്റെ ആധികാരികതയെ മാറ്റി സ്ഥാപിക്കരുത്. വിദ്യാർത്ഥിയെ മനസ്സിലാക്കുക, ഉണർത്തുക, അവനിൽ ദൈവിക തേജസ്സ് തെളിയിക്കുക - ഈ ദൗത്യത്തിനാണ് നാം വിളിക്കപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കുന്നത്.

ലിയോ XIV മാർപാപ്പയുടെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസ ദർശനം കൃത്രിമ ബുദ്ധിയുടെ (AI) പുതിയ യുഗത്തിൽ വലിയ പ്രസക്തിയുള്ളതാകുന്നു. ഇന്നത്തെ അധ്യാപകരും വിദ്യാഭ്യാസനേതാക്കളും മുന്നിൽ കാണേണ്ട ഒരു ഉത്തമ മാതൃകയാണിത്: വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം പ്രബുദ്ധതയുടെ മാത്രം ഒന്നായിരിക്കരുത്, അത് മനുഷ്യന്റെ ആന്തരിക ഉന്നമനത്തിന്റെ ദീപവുമാകണം.

AI ഒരുപാട് കാര്യങ്ങൾ പഠിപ്പിക്കും, പക്ഷേ ജീവിതം എങ്ങനെ ജീവിക്കണം എന്നത് പഠിപ്പിക്കുന്നത് അധ്യാപകരാണ്, ആത്മിക ഗുരുക്കന്മാരാണ്. അതിനാൽ, പൊതുവിദ്യാഭ്യാസം ആധുനികമാകട്ടെ, പക്ഷേ അതിന്റെ ഹൃദയം മറ്റുള്ളവർക്ക് ആത്മീയ പ്രചോദനമേകട്ടെ.





Adieu, Pope Francis

Thank you, Pope Francis, for being a guiding light—not just for Christians, but for the whole world. You embodied the spirit of Christ with such humility, compassion, and authenticity that your legacy will forever live on in our hearts.

Like, St. Francis of Assisi, you dreamed of “a poor Church for the poor.” And you lived that dream with striking simplicity. You set aside the grandeur of the papal office—the throne, the finery—and chose instead a plain white cassock and an iron cross. You declined the opulent papal apartments and made your home in a modest guestroom at Santa Marta. You reminded us all that true greatness lies in simplicity and service.

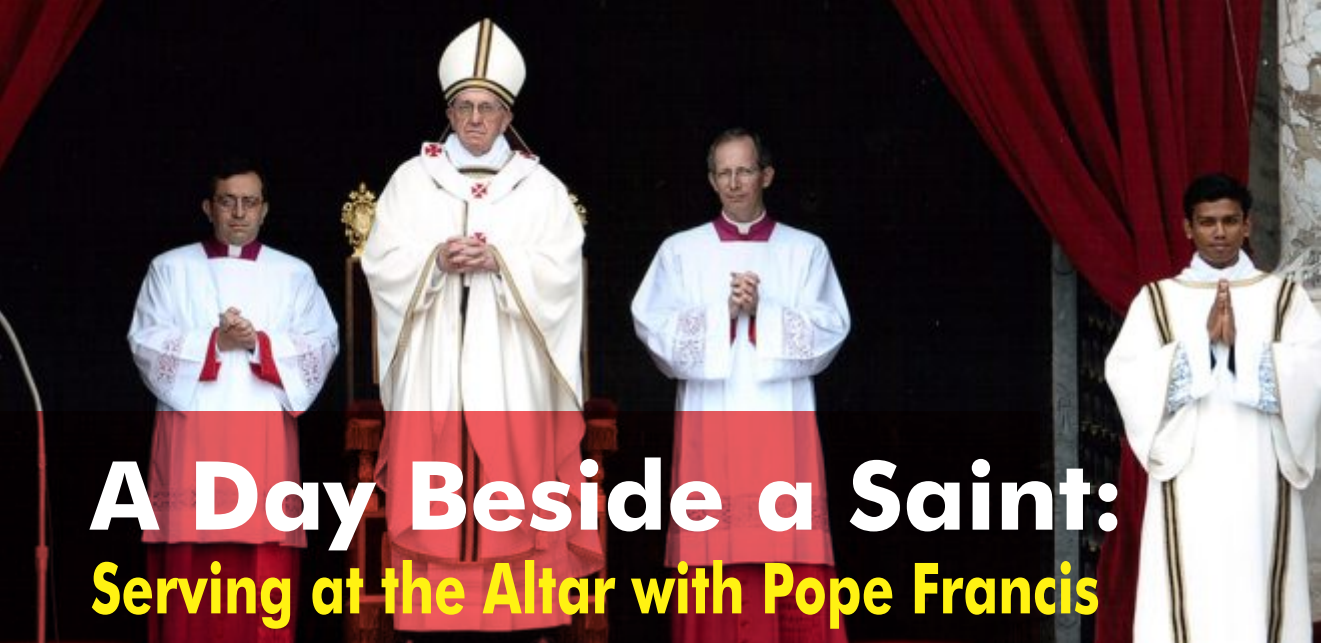
Your papacy was marked by a deep and unwavering love for the poor, the forgotten, and the excluded—especially migrants. You saw the Church not as a fortress, but as a field hospital—open to all who are wounded, no matter their background, beliefs, or identity. To you, it was enough that they were human and in need.

You never placed yourself above others as a master of doctrine. Instead, you walked among us as a shepherd who bore the “smell of the sheep.” With tenderness and love, you reminded us what it means to be close to the people, to listen, to embrace, and to heal.

Now, as you return to the Father’s house, many of us feel the ache of losing someone dear—like a beloved grandfather who has left us. But we take comfort in knowing that our Papa, our Holy Father, now prays for the Church from heaven, continuing to guide us with his spirit.

As a tribute to his profound life and legacy, Kalyan Lantern is honored to share personal reflections and encounters from members of our diocese who had the blessing of meeting Pope Francis. Through their stories, we remember a man who truly lived the Gospel—and who helped us fall in love with Jesus all over again.

Editor



A Day Beside a Saint: Serving at the Altar with Pope Francis

Fr Lijo Velliyamkandathil

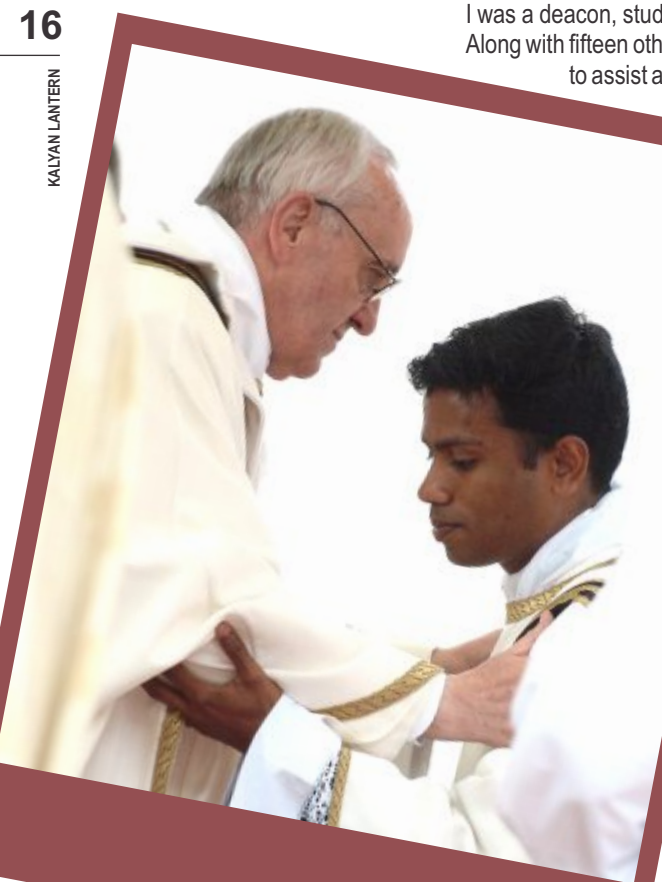
On May 5, 2013, I was blessed with a moment I will carry in my heart forever. That day, the Catholic Church celebrated the *Day of Confraternities and Popular Piety* with a solemn Holy Mass at St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican. I was a deacon, studying in Rome, preparing for priestly ordination later that year. Along with fifteen other deacons from different parts of the world, I had been invited to assist at this special Holy Mass and distribute Holy Communion to the

cardinals. It was already a great honour. But God's plan, as always, held more than I expected.

The day before the event, we gathered in front of St. Peter's Basilica for a practice session. The Master of Pontifical Liturgical Ceremonies, Msgr. Guido Marini, approached me and said: "You will be standing next to the Holy Father assisting him at the altar." For a moment, I was stunned. Out of all the deacons, I and one other had been chosen to serve directly at the side of Pope Francis. That night, I could barely sleep. The thought that I would walk beside the Vicar of Christ, assisting him in offering the Eucharist, was humbling beyond words.

The next morning, I made my way to the Vatican. We vested in silence and prayer. Then Pope Francis entered. He greeted us with simplicity and warmth, and began vesting. I stood silently, watching him. There was something radiant about his presence - calm, humble, holy. In my heart, I felt: A saint has come down from heaven.

As I walked beside Pope Francis, during the procession to the altar set in the open air of St. Peter's Square, I felt that each step was a prayer, each moment sacred. The Holy



Mass commenced, and as I stood beside the Vicar of Christ, facing St. Peter's Square filled with faithful, I felt as though I were standing at the gates of heaven, surrounded by the profound beauty of the liturgy - the prayers, the hymns. At the time of the Sign of Peace, the Holy Father turned to me, took my hands gently in his, and said: *"Peace be with you."* It was not just a liturgical phrase - it was a moment of divine encounter. In that instant, peace didn't just pass from his lips - it flowed into me. I felt an overwhelming stillness, as though heaven itself had leaned down and embraced my soul. It was not simply a greeting. It was a moment of deep spiritual transmission. A saint had touched me, and I would never be the same.

After the Mass, we returned to the Basilica. Pope Francis met each of us once again. When he reached me, he looked kindly into my eyes and asked, *"Where are you from?"*

"I am from India," I replied, "and I will be ordained in December this year."

He smiled, extended his hand in blessing, and then handed me a rosary. As he gave it to me, he said gently, *"Catch hold of the hands of Mamma Mary."*

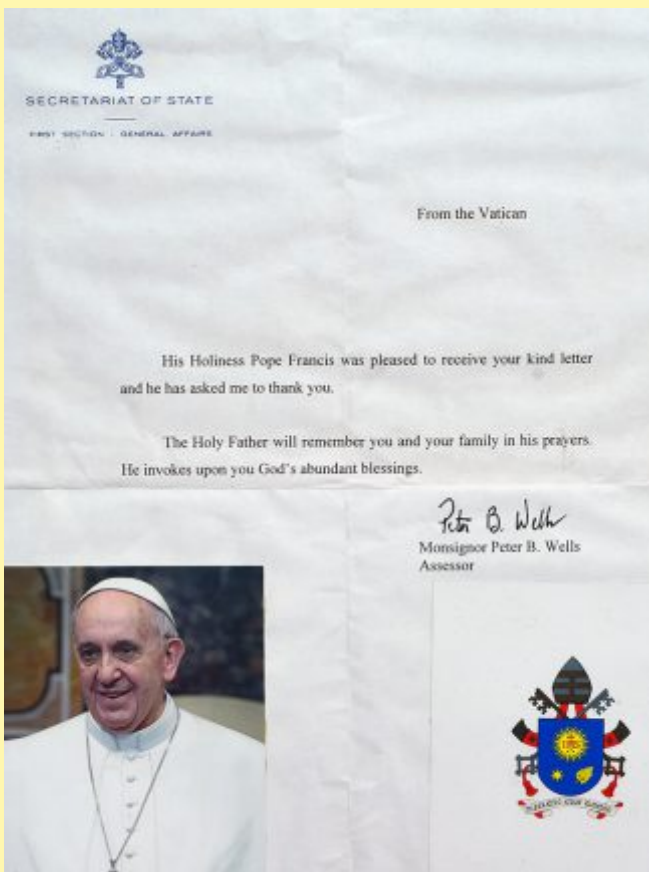
Those words sank deep into my heart. They were more than advice - they were an invitation to live my priesthood in the loving care of Our Lady. The rosary was not just a gift - it was a spiritual anchor, a reminder to always trust in the intercession and maternal care of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

As I look back, I see that this was not just a personal honour - it was a call to greater humility and deeper faith. To have served Pope Francis, to have walked beside him, and to have felt the touch of peace in his hands was indeed a blessing. But greater still is the call to serve Christ in His people every day with the same joy, simplicity, and love that I witnessed in the Holy Father Pope Francis that unforgettable day.

A LETTER FROM CITADEL

Clare Lonappan

I was only 7 years old when I decided to write to our dear Pope Francis. Since 2013, he was always mentioned in our family prayers, so he was like a part of our family. Through my grandmother's sister, who was a nun in Italy, I found out that Pope Francis was fond of children. So, with the help of my beloved mother, little me, a 1st-grader set to work and wrote a letter to him, in pencil. I expressed my love for him and for Jesus, and happily wrote about my ambitions, dreams and my family. When my mother wrote the address, I was over the moon to know that his residence and mine has the same name, "CITADEL". With the letter, I enclosed a photo of me and my younger sister, Annabell. My youngest sister wasn't born yet. A few months later, one sunny afternoon, I found my mother staring at a piece of paper. Her eyes were welled up. She hugged me tightly and said, "He considered a little child's letter and responded!". Now, when I reminisce these fond memories, I feel proud that Pope Francis has seen my handwriting as a little girl.



God has chosen you!

Dr. Ajoy Joseph

Director, Ajosha Bio Teknik Pvt. Ltd (a Mumbai-based organization involved in the manufacturing and export of medical devices and diagnostic kit accessories)

I'm a devoted parishioner of Christ the King Church in Bhandup and was raised in a deeply religious household by my parents. I attend daily Mass and make time each day to praise the Lord.

In November 2024, I had planned to attend a medical expo in Germany. Alongside this, I nurtured a long-held dream: to see and receive blessings from our beloved Pope Francis. I've always admired him for his humility and his commitment to serving the poor and needy.

While browsing the Vatican website, I came across a special conference that included a private audience with the Pope. Filled with hope, I registered for myself and my parents, praying for a miracle.

One of Pope Francis's quotes often echoes in my heart:

"God never gives someone a gift they are not capable of receiving."

A month later, I was overwhelmed with joy to receive confirmation for the visit. The anticipation filled me with excitement and nervousness as I looked forward to this once-in-a-lifetime moment.

room held around 200 attendees from around the world, including Cardinals, Bishops, Priests, Nuns, and a few laypeople like us.

The event marked the final day of a conference organized by the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints. Pope Francis spoke about the process of canonization and shared deeply spiritual reflections. One of his remarks touched me profoundly:

"To be a saint does not only require human effort or personal commitment to sacrifice and renunciation. First of all, we must allow ourselves to be transformed by the power of God's love, which is greater than us and makes us capable of loving even beyond what we thought we were capable of."

After his address, each attendee had the opportunity to approach him for a personal blessing. As I waited in line, my heart pounded with anticipation. But when I finally stood before him, his warm, joyful smile calmed every nerve. His presence radiated peace, love, and compassion.

I gently held his hand, bowed, and said in Italian:

"Buongiorno Papa, Benedica me e la mia famiglia Papa" (Good morning beloved Father, please bless me and my family).

He smiled warmly, blessed me, and said, "Pray for me too." That simple request deepened my admiration and emotional connection to him.

Afterward, we took photos with him and received blessed rosaries—gifts that now hold immense spiritual significance for us.

This experience was more than just an audience; it was a divine reality check. I found myself reflecting:

Why me? Why was I chosen for this moment?

The Bible answered my questions:

"Because God has chosen you and set you aside for a special purpose." — John 15:16

I realized this moment had a purpose. As a Pilgrim of Hope, I now feel called to spread the message of love, faith, and service.

Since then, before embarking on any important task, I take a moment to pray to Pope Francis, seeking his blessing and guidance as I move forward.

November 14th, 2024—a day that will remain etched in our hearts forever.

We reached the Clementine Hall, a grand ceremonial hall in the Apostolic Palace of Vatican City, well before time. The



POPE FRANCIS

A SHEPHERD AFTER HIS OWN HEART... JER. 3.15

Fr. Stebin Cheriaparambil

The Election

13th March 2013 proved to be historical as it marked a radical and overwhelming change in the administration of the Catholic Church. Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, was elected as the **266th successor of St. Peter** and his very first public moments proved to be extraordinary. As Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran announced the pontifical name as Francis, it marked a change in the tradition as every pope for the past 470 years had taken the name of a predecessor to both honour them and signal their intention to emulate them. Cardinal Bergoglio had instead taken the name of Francis, a pontifical name never used in the history of papacy. The only pontifical name that hasn't been used more than once is Peter, the name of the first Pope. And it wasn't over yet as Pope Francis stepped on the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica without wearing the **red mozzetta, a short, red, cape-like garment** usually worn by the popes for their first public appearance. He didn't use a written text to greet the faithful, rather his words were very informal- straight from his heart. Before imparting his Apostolic Urbi et Orbi blessing he asked the people to pray for him as he bowed his head in front of the people.

A Shepherd Among the People

The Church witnessed a profound transformation: a theology grounded in humility, love, and mutual respect expressed through a simple act. The global perception of Church leadership shifted—from a traditionally formal and distant model to one characterized by warmth, solidarity, and genuine human connection. With Pope Francis, the papal role no longer stood above the people but among them, as one of their own.

Even when facing the horrors of war and the suffering caused by displacement, he did not retreat into the safety of diplomatic protocol. In the pain of refugees, the cries of the poor, the scars of abuse, and the loneliness of the marginalized, he recognized the presence of Christ. He knelt before them—not for show, but out of sincere love and reverence. These moments were not staged; they were genuine encounters with the divine on the edges of society.



Pope Francis dedicated himself to revitalizing Church structures, correcting what had gone wrong and restoring what needed healing.

Contribution towards the Syro-Malabar Church

The global Syro-Malabar community holds deep gratitude for Pope Francis. His support was not merely symbolic but grounded in a strong belief in the Church's apostolic heritage and its pastoral mission. Reflecting this, he granted the Syro-Malabar Church pastoral authority across India, affirming its ancient lineage dating back to St. Thomas the Apostle. He also advocated for proper pastoral care for Syro-Malabar faithful in the Gulf, honouring their liturgical and spiritual identity.

A Legacy to be Remembered

Expressions of love and gratitude pour out in remembrance of Pope Francis—a guiding light in a divided world, a shepherd who journeyed with his people, and a spiritual father who always welcomed his flock. His earthly journey has come to an end. As Peter's successor and Christ's representative on earth, he faithfully carried out his mission to strengthen the faithful. He now takes his place in history, not just as a pope, but as a transformative leader who reshaped the papacy for a new era.

HABEMUS PAPAM

On May 8th, 2025, the Sistine Chapel surprised everyone with white smoke earlier than expected. Within moments, St. Peter's Square overflowed with eager crowds, anticipation filling the air. Then, Cardinal Protodeacon emerged, breaking the silence to announce the new Pope's name: Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost. The initial reaction was hushed disbelief—few had heard of him before. Yet, after two days of conclave, the College of Cardinals had reached a resolute decision.

We welcomed a new Pope, unmistakably the result of the Holy Spirit's guidance. Following the passing of Pope Francis, media speculation ran wild with lists of Papabili and insider reports predicting a lengthy conclave. However, every expectation and hype fell short.



As he stepped onto the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica, the Pope appeared visibly moved, his demeanor shy yet composed. Unlike his predecessor, he appeared in the traditional mozzetta and red stole adorned with golden embroidery. Despite being American, he addressed the crowd in Italian, Spanish, and Latin—curiously, not a word in English. His chosen papal name hinted at a commitment to balance orthodoxy and modernity, tradition and progressive thought. He identified himself as a son of St. Augustine and invited all present to recite the "Hail Mary" together.



Robert Francis (L) as a young boy with brothers Louis Martin and John Joseph

As Catholics, we rejoice in our new Pope. Let us draw a lesson from his election: not to blindly trust media and social media narratives, but to listen directly to his teachings and writings. Above all, let us unite in prayer for his guidance, that he may lead the Church according to God's will and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, fostering peace and unity in the world.

Viva Viva Il Papa

Editor



“He suffered and was crucified in the days of Pontius Pilate, died and was buried.”

After our reflections on the Mysteries of Incarnation i.e. conception and birth of Jesus, we ponder on the first part of the Paschal Mysteries of our Lord, namely – passion, crucifixion, death and burial. On the eve of His Passion, Jesus instituted the Holy Qurbana and transformed the Last Supper into the memorial of His Sacrifice, His voluntary offering to the Father for the salvation of men. “Jesus includes the Apostles in His own offerings and bids them to perpetuate it. By doing so the Lord institutes His Apostles as priests of the New Covenant.” (CCC #611)

From the Upper Room, located on Mount Zion in Jerusalem; Jesus and his Apostles walked across the Kidron Valley to the Mount of Olives and entered the Garden of Gethsemane. In *Jesus of Nazareth: Holy Week*, Pope Benedict XVI reveals that on the way “Jesus may have sung the Hallel Psalms (Ps. 113-118,136).”

During the Good Friday liturgy, we read and meditate the Passion narrative of Jesus from the Holy Gospels, beginning with the agony in the garden, followed by His arrest, the trial, mocking, flogging, beatings, crown of thorns pushed into His skull, carrying of the cross, stripped bare, crucified on the Cross, His death on the Cross, taken down and eventually laid in the tomb.

At the garden, our Lord prayed, “Father, if it is your will, take this cup from me; yet not my will but yours be done” (Lk 22:42). Jesus foresaw the

sacrifice He faced. He Himself had said to the apostles: “My soul is very sorrowful even unto death.” (Mk 14:34) St. Luke, the physician notes that Jesus prayed so intensely that “his sweat became like great drops of blood falling upon the ground” (22:44).

“This phenomenon” Dr. Pierre Barbet explains, “is extremely rare, is provoked by some great mental disturbance, following on deep emotion or great fear and is known in the profession as *haematidrosis*, and consists of an intense vasodilatation of the subcutaneous capillaries.” His book *A Doctor at Calvary*, continues: “They become extremely distended and burst when they come into contact with the millions of sweat glands and the blood mingles with the sweat.”

Other than, the Virgin Mary, the Nicene Creed mentions Pontius Pilate. One of the fundamental reasons for this inclusion is to emphasise the historicity of Jesus’ Passion. The existence of Pontius Pilate can be verified by sources outside of the Gospels and his name provides a powerful reminder that Jesus’ death occurred within the context of Roman rule and at a specific date in human history.

“Jesus’ violent death was not the result of chance in an unfortunate coincidence of circumstances, but part of the mystery of God’s plan.” (CCC #599) By sending His own Son in the form of a slave, in the form of a fallen humanity, on account of sin, for our sake, God “made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God”. (2 Cor 5:21)

“During Christ’s period in the tomb, his divine person continued to assume both his soul and his body, although they were separated from each other by death.” (CCC #630) For this reason the dead Christ’s body “saw no corruption” (Acts 13:37).



Wise Wires, Foolish Fires: Will Your Brain Light Up or Burn Out?

**KIDS
CORNER**



ZAP! BEEP! BUZZ! The wires are alive – but are you?

Meet two techy twins: Sapius, who's wise with his wires, and Stultus, who sparks silly fires! One uses AI to learn, pray, and grow. The other? Well... he lets his brain go slow.

From the list given below, identify and write what Sapius would do and what Stultus would do?

- Using AI instead of studying
- Apps that help you learn new languages
- AI that helps write all the homework for you
- Tools that remind you when to study
- Getting answers from AI too fast
- AI that helps organize your school notes
- Wasting time on social media- Facebook, insta reels, YouTube shorts, games, etc
- AI that helps check if facts are true
- Talking with others in online study groups
- Letting AI make choices for you
- AI that helps with hard school subjects
- Depending on AI too much
- AI that helps you plan your ideas
- AI that helps you write better
- Trusting AI without thinking
- Not being careful with personal info
- AI that breaks problems into small steps
- Delaying work because of AI
- Using AI to cheat
- Using AI to find trusted information

Sapius uses AI wisely to **learn better**, **stay organized**, and **improve skills**; plan and use AI to upgrade and improve.

1.

2.

Stultus misuses AI, avoids learning, or makes poor choices by **depending on AI too much** or using it to **cheat or procrastinate**.

1.

2.

Think about how you use AI, which team are you on? Are you using it to grow in wisdom and faith, like Sapius, or to avoid hard work and distractions, like Stultus? (More than 7 points in any team, you are on that team) The choices you make today shape the person you become tomorrow.

As Catholics, we are called to use our gifts wisely. AI can help us learn and grow, but we must always ask: Is this serving my mission to become more like Christ? Use AI with purpose, prayer, and a heart open to God's guidance.

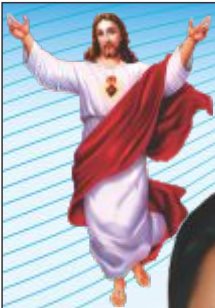
(ps: Pray before you use tech! The Holy Spirit will guide you)



Sophia Cyril
St. Bartholomew Church,
Kalyan (E)

THANKSGIVING TO ST. JUDE

Alphonsa Sunny — St. Thomas Cathedral, Kalyan (W)



6th Birthday in Heaven

20-06-2025

The call was too sudden to say goodbye
But the sweet memories of you will never die.
Close in our hearts, you will always stay.
Loved and remembered every day.

Dn. Ferine Joyson Chittilapilly

Born on: 19-06-1992

Ordained as Deacon: 13-04-2019

Abode on: 20-06-2019

Fondly Missed & Deeply Remembered by:

Parents: **Joyson & Mary**; Sister: **Mrs. Jusmi Joseph**
All Chittilapilly & Arikat Family Members,
All Kalyan Diocese Families, Relatives & Friends
Mary Matha Church, Sakinaka



"Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when
you come into your kingdom." (Luke 23:42)

1st Remembrance

17th June 2025

"Dear Pappa,
Obituaries are for the dead. But for me this is a just a
reminder that YOU are still around, as my first love,
my guardian angel and my steadfast rock!"

With Love and Prayers

Wife: Alice

Daughter: Theresa Sinoj

Son-in-Law: Sinoj Thomas

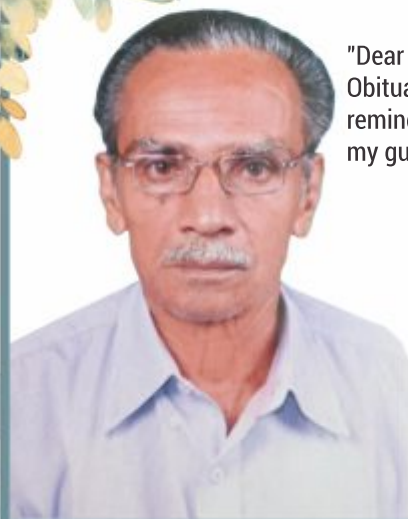
Son: Vincent

Grand Daughters: Sara & Selin

Mr. T.N. Varghese

01.11.1943 - 17.06.2024

St. George Forane Church, Panvel



4th Death Anniversary
27-06-2025



*"Those we love don't go away,
They walk beside us everyday,
Unseen, Unheard, but always near,
Still loved, still missed and very Dear..."*

*"Your love will light our way
Your memory will forever be with us."*

Kallukaran Devasy George

Born on: 07-11-1942

Born in Heaven: 27-06-2021

*Wife, Son, Daughters,
Son-in-laws & Grandchildren*

1st Death Anniversary
24-06-2025



*"I am the resurrection and the life,
Those who believe in me,
even though they die, will live"*

Fondly remembered by :

Husband: P O Joy

Children: Jolly, Joju & Jimmy

Son-in-law: Thomas

Daughters-in-law: Beena & Madhavi

**Grand children: Jerome, Jovina, Jiah,
Tria & Tiah**

Parakkaden Agness Joy

Born: 22/09/1953

In Heaven: 24/06/2024

San Jos Church, Wagle Estate, Thane



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