Aloysians salute U. R. Ananthamurthy (1934-2014)

I had personally known Ananthamurthy. Rated as one of the finer writers in the country who won acclaims from critics and fans alike, he breathed his last on 23rd August 2014. In his several decades of literary life, he has won the Padma Bhushan in 1998, Jnanpith award in 1994 and the state Rajyostava award in 1984. His nomination for the 2013 Man Booker International Prize brought him to the attention of a Western audience. An independent and critical thinker he had opposed communal politics, fought against caste, rites and rituals. An atheist committed to build a society of equality and fraternity he represented some of the finest characteristics of the human spirit. What disturbed me the most was the bursting of crackers and distribution of sweets at the news of his death by the forces of the Sangh Parivar – BJP, Hindu Jagrana Vidike, ABVP and affiliates in Mangalore, Mudigere and other places. Police of course had to register a case on instructions from the state under sections of the IPC relating to rioting, causing public nuisance and forming an unlawful assembly. Ananthamurthy who was known for his strong anti-BJP views had raised a storm during the Lok Sabha elections by saying he would leave the country if Modi became Prime Minister. In his statement he was expressing his opposition to the communal politics of the BJP. India is a free country and every citizen is free to express one’s views. The actions of the Hindutva activists were clearly aimed at creating communal discord and disaffection toward a celebrated national icon. It’s a shame that we have groups in the country who mock the death of a great secularist and celebrate it. All of us who are committed to nation building in the spirit of the Constitution should denounce these forces as we work to strengthen secularism and pluralism in the country. It is equally important to read some of the work of URA to emulate his rational and human spirit.

Dr. (Fr.) Ambrose Pinto SJ
Principal

NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

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Public Intellectual, Philosopher and Activist

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WE CONGRATULATE

In the Goodwill Christian College for Women inter-collegiate festival, “Rhapsody”, the following students won prizes:

Mad Ads – Third – Vinod, Lukas, Jayadhnam, Mani Marun, Naveen, Jerome, Earnest & Vicky

Collage – Third – Jackson, Ghoshik
At the Presidency College festival – Vrittanta – Sr. Saleth, Sr. Evita and Sweta won the third place in Stitch in Time

At the Exodus – inter-collegiate festival of St. Joseph’s College we won the second place in Ice Breaker. The team consisted of Jayadanam, Vinod, Vicky, Joseph, Ernest, Jerome, Naveen of II B.Com and Lukas of I B.Com.

BACHELOR OF SOCIAL WORK PROGRAMME
The BSW course has started in the college with six students. We are happy with the programme. It helps us to be useful to society. We go to field work every Thursday. We have visited several non-governmental organizations, special schools, orphanages, hospitals and slums. The course has helped us to understand society and feel for the people. We are grateful to the college for starting the course (Deepak and Rabi John, I BSW)

BSW STUDENTS VISIT HEALTH CARE GLOBAL HOSPITAL
It is a specialty hospital for cancer patients. There are patients there from the country and abroad. It excels in oncology care through clinical research and adopts global innovations with latest technology like cyber knife for high quality radiation therapy. We were impressed by the networking and co-operation among doctors and other staff to provide quality service. Dr. Basavaraj - the General Manager, Dr. Ravi Nair – Dean of Academics and Prashanth – the Head of the Social Work Department were amazingly cordial and were available to have an informal and long conversation. We were briefed about the services in the College and we were privileged to move around the various towers of the hospital to observe the blood bank, various equipments and high tech machinery used in the treatment of patients. We were also told that the hospital reaches out to the poor.

ALOYSIANS IN THE INTER-COLLEGIATE FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT
It is our first experience playing the inter-collegiate tournament. On 26th August we played against MES College and defeated them by 2 – 0. Albert of I B.Com. hit the first goal and Vignesh of III B.Com. scored the second. In the second match on 30th August we lost against RBANM by 1-0

KANDHAMAL SOLIDARITY DAY (25TH AUGUST 2014)

As a prelude to the National Solidarity Day on Kandhamal on 25th August 2014, the College held an exhibition of 20 Drawings from Shashi Memmuri, a prominent artist on 22nd August at 3.00 p.m. followed by a documentary of 25 minutes entitled “The Indomitable Women Survivors”, produced by Sr. Justine of Bhubaneswar. There were two shows – one for the college students and another for the public. On 25th August 2014 some staff members participated in the protest at Town Hall. We became aware of the injustice meted out to the victims in Kandhamal. There have been more than 3,300 complaints, but only 820 odd FIRs were registered. Among these complaints, only 518 cases have been charge sheeted. The remaining cases were treated as false reports. And out of these 518 cases, 247 cases disposed off. The rest of the cases are pending before the trial and session magistrate courts only. Only one person is behind the bar. 100 odd cases are closed citing no evidence. It is reported that out of 30 murder cases most are acquitted. Witnesses have testified in spite of intimidation and threats. Fast Track courts have been wound up abruptly half way. The pending cases are now transferred to local courts that would drag for years. On the other hand seven innocent persons were allegedly picked up randomly in Swami Lakshmananda murder case have been convicted, and life sentence awarded to all of
them in spite of the Maoist claiming responsibility of killing the Swami. A study commissioned by the National Alliance of Women, “Breaking the Shackled Silence: Unheard Voices of Women from Kandhamal” by Saumya Uma has documented not less than 40 cases of sexual assault of various kinds and threats. Only two cases were registered. While many survivors have returned to Kandhamal, they continue to live in fear. Some have compromised with their perpetrators, and decided not to follow up on their criminal complaints, prioritizing issues of immediate survival over that of justice.

Those who live outside Kandhamal have been having a tough time making ends meet, living on daily wage labour mostly. Deprived of land and housing, which they owned in their village, in places like Bhubaneswar, where many live in the slums of Salia Sahi, cost of living is extremely high. The democratic institutions have failed to salvage the rights leave alone protect and promote it. The failure of criminal justice delivery system, the trust deficit and biased executive to prevent and protect the most vulnerable ethnic religious community as well as establish the rule of law gave the radicals to strike at will with impunity. Even the watchdog of human rights, National Human Rights Commission has submitted the report after six years and that too terribly biased against victims. The change of guards in the centre adds up nothing, but owes. The victims’ survivors demand for impartial and independent federal probe is in catch 22 situations as the non-state actors, who were perpetrators, have become in the legitimate state power corridors.

**REFLECTIONS OF RAGHU OF I B.A.**

The Constitution promises justice to all. But the police and the government has betrayed the people. The minority community of dalits and tribals who profess Christianity have suffered with loss of lives, loss of property and loss of everything. The police has refused to file complaints. Six long years and yet no progress on justice to the people who have been treated unjustly. It is essential that the state administers justice in accordance with the secular precepts of the Constitution. All of us citizens should stand united against these forces.

**KHUSHBU VERMA I**

**BSW RESPONDS TO THE DOCUMENTARY**

Why do people divide society? Why do they threaten a community? If such divisions and threats are in the name of religion, it is a shameful act. For me, Hinduism is tolerance and peace. I was shocked to see those horrible atrocities and crimes in the name of Hinduism – burnt bodies, rape of women and displacement of thousands of people. It is the poor who have suffered the most. Such crimes are not acceptable. We need to generate awareness against religious intolerance. No God will accept such brutality. We should all stand up for humanity and not for any religion.

**MARATHON AT THE COLLEGE**

A long run for a cause………Rally for Safe Bangalore
St. Aloysius Degree College along with the other socially concerned activists held a marathon to say “Enough is enough” to the violence against women and children in the city and around. Fr. Arulappa, the Manager of the College declared the marathon open. The run was led by the cyclists. The groups ran across Assaye road, Frazer town, Queen’s statue to Cubbon Park with the banners. Some of the wordings were, “save women, save city”, “No to rape, Enough is Enough”. Slogans were shouted during the run to make the public aware of the atrocities taking place round the city. When the groups reached the college ground at around 8.30 they were welcomed with round of applause. Coreen Kumar from Vimochana narrated a story of hope of women and her experience of being of women. Three students from different colleges spoke on how they would like to proceed from now on to creating awareness. Marathon helped them to think what they could do in the future. The participants were all elated with the strength of the gathering. Padmini from Auxilium Navajeevana said “I am happy to participate in this event and provide awareness to the public regarding the violence which is prevailing in the city. We too need to be respected…Let every man give dignity to women which is her due”. Swathi of St. Joseph’s school said that “I am attending such an event for first time and I am happy to run for the safety of women and girls around”.

(Sr. Leema Montiero, III B.A.)

Citizens for Namma Safe Bangalore under the leadership of the College organized a marathon for a safe and secure Bangalore on Sunday 24th August 2014. There were more than 7000 students and the others. More than 600 students began their ten kilometer run from Cubbon Park through the M. G. Road to St. Aloysius College grounds while the rest began their run from the college grounds and return to the college grounds. The marathon began at 7.00 a.m. with a presentation by Sri Jagdish Chandra of New Socialist Alternative in St. Aloysius and Mrs. Dona Fernandes of Vimochana from Cubbon Park. The school students ran five kilometers and the others three kilometers. Runners started to return an hour to the thunderous applause of those who had already completed the race. The Chief Guest at the valedictory was Sri Narayanaswamy, former Member of the Parliament. The gathering paid a tribute to U. R. Ananthamurthy by a moment of silence before the beginning of the function. The Chief Guest expressed his happiness at the marathon and stressed the need for all to come together to make the city safe especially for girls and women.

(Sr. Evita, I B. A.)

The planning for the marathon had begun a month in advance. Though we had invited the Chief Minister for the valedictory, he had expressed his inability due to the passing away of URA. The NCC cadets and the cyclists were asked to guide. There were plenty of volunteers. There was a Kannada folk singer Kempaiha at the valedictory who sang for us. The students of St. Anthony’s School and St. Rock’s Girls School sang for us. The celebration ended with the national anthem.

(Ajay C, III BBM)

CERTIFICATE COURSE ON ENTREPRENEUR DEVELOPMENT

Sri Joseph Roch an Entrepreneur inaugurated 60 hours of certificate course on 9th August 2014 with Sri John Bosco as the Coordinator. The Coordinator of the Department Sri Arokiaraj Nicholas was present. The Principal of the College, Dr. Ambrose Pinto SJ in his address said that St. Aloysius should produce employment generators and not
Teaching is a mission and cake is a gift – the way Aloysians decide to greet their teachers

The Teachers Day celebration began on 4th September with the Manager greeting all the teachers with a gift. The students celebrated on 5th September at the College. At 11.00 a.m. the function began with a prayer song. Students greeted each teacher with a rose and a greeting card. A student from each of the departments spoke of their teachers and thanked them. A few teachers – Ms. Carol, Pavitra & Prema Latha – spoke. The Principal addressed the students and the staff. He said, a teacher is one who forms and not the one who merely teaches. Students had cakes for teachers. The function ended with the college anthem.

NUCLEAR, STAY CLEAR

4th September 2014 was the visit of Mr. Abbott, the Prime Minister of Australia to India to sign a nuclear deal. The students of the college during the lunch break joined the New Socialist Alternative for a protest against the uranium supply agreement. Fr. Principal in his note to the classes had told us why we need to oppose nuclearisation of India. “Our opposition to the nuclear deal was because nuclear reactors can cause damage to human lives and environment. Every nuclear power reactor makes massive amounts of radioactive waste. Nuclear power’s waste is deadly, can cause cancer and genetic mutations, and there is no known way to permanently contain, dispose or neutralize it. The explosion of the Chernobyl nuclear power station in Russia was the worst industrial accident of any kind in history. Tens of thousands of people have died and has caused permanent contamination of food and water. There have already been complaints about the ill-effects of radiation on the fishing community of Koodamkulam in Tamilnadu. Every radiation exposure increases risk of cancer. Nuclear energy is expensive in the long run if one considers the damage it can cause. Living with nuclear waste is a challenge; it constantly emits penetrating radiation, and when not contained, migrates easily in our environment. Nuclear Power reactors release radioactivity to the air and the water on an ongoing basis. Such releases contribute to radiation exposures in communities both near and far from the site. Coastal reactors have been shown to kill fish in the oceans, seas and rivers. The biggest reason to oppose nuclear reactors is that there are OTHER ways to make electricity that do not pollute, do not cause cancer and are AVAILABLE TODAY!!! Solar, wind and innovative low-impact hydro systems combined with efficient appliances, building design and construction that lower our energy requirements, can meet our needs at lower cost, with no waste!”

Sri Joseph Roch at the inauguration of the Certificate Course

Jobs seekers. The Chief Guest shared his experiences on how he became an entrepreneur. It was an interactive session. The Chief Guest provided us information about the necessity and importance of entrepreneurship to enhance economic development of the country. To be a successful entrepreneur one needs confidence, dedication, boldness, with a leadership and a desire for exploration and search. Sri John Bosco proposed the vote of thanks.

(Omer Khalid Faiz, III B.Com.)
GOVERNING BODY MEETING

The Governing Body of the College met on 2nd September 2014 under the Chairmanship of our Archbishop, the President of the College. While expressing appreciation for the improvement in the campus, the Government Body has asked the college to improve the quality of teaching and learning as well as to work on building confidence and self-esteem in students. Among other things the Governing Body would like the college to further improve on the involvement of the college with the community.

FEAST OF MOTHER MARY

Devotion, piety and religiosity at the shrine of St. Mary’s Basilica, Shivajinagar

With thousands of people visiting the shrine everyday of the nine day novena at the shrine of St. Mary’s Church, Shivajinagar nine students of the college went to find out the reasons for the pilgrims to visit the place. Ajay of III BBM met Stephen Raj of around 20 years studying in another college at the shrine. He told him the purpose behind his visit to the shrine was to express gratitude. His Uncle was half murdered and the doctors had given up hope. He had then come to the feet of the Mother and his Uncle was miraculously healed. He said he comes there when he has problems in life and to pray for all the members of his family. Philomena, aged 58 informed him that she comes here regularly ever since she was able to get her property back as a result of praying to the Mother. Murali is 38 and not a Christian by faith. He says that he believes in the Mother. “Thanks to her” he says, “he was able to retain his job, have a child after 10 years in spite of the doctors giving up hope and experience the healing of his wife from headaches”. Another woman he met was a convert. Her daughter was killed a month ago and the Police have refused to file the case. She has approached the Mother for justice. Anthony Sandesh of 1 B.Com met Joseph at the shrine. In 1990, he said when he was suffering from jaundice it is the Mother who cured him in a miraculous manner. He was told that he has a hole in his heart in 2013 and he needs an operation. He made 20 rounds to the shrine kneeling and he has now no pain in his chest. Joshua of the same class met Raj aged 60 from Tamilnadu at the shrine. He has a daughter married here. He said he had come to the shrine to ask the Mother for a job to his daughter who is a nurse last year. She found employment in no time. This time he has come to plead for a child to his daughter. Most people who were interviewed said that they find the visit to the Mother miraculous. She has granted several favours to them. While very few came to thank her, majority came asking for favours and a good number to pay their respects. One could raise several questions on the faith of the people. Is faith all about asking for favours and experiencing miracles? Those whom we met said that they experienced a feeling of the sacred as they enter the place and that makes them feel God’s presence. What impressed us however was the devotion of the simple people and their faith in Mother Mary.

DR. KANCHE ILAIAHA LECTURES

It was an evening where students, staff members, administrators, civil society members and teachers numbering around 60 were at the college for a stimulating and exciting lecture by Professor Kancha Ilaiaha, Director of the Department of Social Exclusion in the Maulana Azad Central University, Hyderabad. While exposing the hidden conspiracy of the central government that is determined to Hinduise the country, he asked the audience that as people committed to the principles of equality and human dignity we have common interests and we need to come together to struggle against the principles that are spearheaded by the party. Sri Narendra Modi, he said is an arrogant person but highly authoritarian and lacks democratic values. It’s a sad story that the person heading the Human Resource Minister, Smriti Irani is hardly educated and keen to tune education to the agenda of the hindutvavadis. We need an education that promotes dignity of labour. The Vedic texts advocated oppression of labour and women. Education has an important role to play in social transformation – freeing minds from ancient oppressive system. To counteract the Brahmanic
hegemony it is essential that English education is provided to SCs/STs/OBCs in villages across the country. This could bring about new awakening and awareness. There were questions after the presentation. The participants went excited and carried with them the need to stress manual work, dignity of labour and inculcate the norms of equality in education (Raghu V, I B.A.)

STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS
Dr. Ambrose Pinto SJ was invited for National Consultation on Building Consensus for a South Asia Human Rights Mechanism organized by regional initiative for a South Asia Human Rights Mechanism, Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development and Working Group on Human Rights in India and UN in Delhi on 26th and 27th August 2014. He was a panelist at a session and spoke about strategies for human rights defenders.

NAMMA SAFE BANGALORE FOR KASHMIR FLOOD RELIEF

Students of the college were once again in the forefront of organizing collection for Kashmir Flood Relief along with other groups. We joined with Vimochana and invited several colleges for a collection on the roads for the victims. The Director General of Police flagged off the collections at the M. G. Road on 14th September 2014 at 3.45 p.m.

The support we received was immense. We are still collecting money through the dumb boxes by visiting different parts of the city. We would be directing the amount to the victims through Goonj, an agency that is directly working with the victims. Joining us in the collection are Vimochana, R. B. N. M. College, St. Joseph’s

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Naveen on Income Tax and Tally

Naveen is a Chartered Accountant with a firm of his own. His was an energetic lecture with depth on the subject. All through his presentation he was interesting and took us to the depths of the subject helping us to understand the whole of income tax. We understood the exact location of our subject from his presentation. The Principal of the College came to thank him and told us the rag to riches story of Naveen. A slum boy who grew up in a slum, studied in St. Joseph’s Evening with none of his family members educated and yet caring of his family has made it through sheer effort and hard work. Fr. Principal said that if Naveen could make it, the others can also. We were struck by the person, his address and his humility.

(Tony Vijay Kiran, III B. Com.)

FIELD TRIP BY STUDENTS OF JOURNALISM

The students of Journalism went for field trip to Bannerghatta to the Hakki Pikki Colony. There are 100 houses there out of which 65 have been built by the Government. They were hospitable. Their main occupation of women is making of plastic flowers and garlands. Men work in works of sanitation. The main entertainment is playing cards. People are simple. We admired them. There is a sense of commonness and community in them.

(Sr. Evita and Vani, 1st BA)