



The Agnesian

Issue No. 21, 2017-2018

Alumnae Association Newsletter



Join us in celebrating 100 glorious years!
1921 - 2021

List of Executive Committee Members 2017-18

President: Sr Dr Jeswina AC, **Vice President:** Ms Sanchia Nazareth,
Secretary: Saramma Jayaraj, **Joint Secretary:** Jyothi Cutinha, **Treasurer:** Mrs Adelaide Saldanha.

Members

Anitha D'Souza, Asha Menezes, Carol Pais Coelho, Carolyn Lobo, Clotilda Fernandes, Delsy D'Souza, Edil Gonsalves, Edith D'Souza, Hardika Shetty, Joyce Maben, Judith D'Silva, Lyra Pinto, Marissa Noronha Prabhu, Meera Aranha, Molly Pinto, Myline Pinto, Nayana Fernandes, Nayana Ballal, Patra Saldanha, Rajini Patrao, Ramona Mathias, Rosy Pais, Shaila Crasta, Suchitha Shetty, Sr Vanessa AC, Silwin Miranda, Usha Fernandes, Usha Shetty, Vidya Shenoy.

From the Editor's Desk....

"Wherever you go and whatever ends you pursue, you must always fulfill the trust reposed in you by your nation, your parents and your alma mater...."



The year gone by since my last edition of "The Agnesian" has been bustling with activity on the Alumni front. On campus, our Association started the year with a bang with the "Agnesian Day at Home". Kudos to the team for putting up such a fun event. We moved on with full gusto through all our annual events, this year seeing a larger participation and greater enthusiasm from the members.

Agnesians world over are waiting with bated breath for the great milestone.... the Agnesian Centenary in 2020-21. To this end, a core committee has been formed with Dr. Meera Aranha as convener, which meets regularly, chalking out plans for the grand event. The launch of the Centenary celebrations on 12 January 2018 was a super success, with the unveiling of the centenary logo and the Alumni website (<https://www.agnescentenary.com/>), amid the release of a hundred balloons by past principals, dignitaries, representatives of the PTA, present students, and of course the precious alumni from different chapters. Videos of the flash mob near the gates and the malls in the city, went viral, and rekindled nostalgic memories of college days in Agnesians all over the world, as evidenced by messages of love, joy and pride that poured in.

Sr. Jeswina and Sr. Olivia attended the reunions at various places last year. Sr. Olivia, with her relentless energy and love for the college and its students, set up Agnesian chapters in Auckland, Melbourne and Sydney, during her visit there. This year, our team from Mangalore, Sr. Jeswina, Meera Aranha and Vilma Pais, visited the Gulf and joined the alumni reunions there. At every alumni meet, the love for and gratitude to their alma mater shone through.

We are grateful to the donors who have contributed towards the Centenary Memorial Block and are sure many more will join us to make this dream a reality....let this be our contribution towards the continued goal of St. Agnes College—to empower women. Our alma mater gave us our future, and its time now for us to help her give the same to coming generations of young women who will pass through her portals.

We were sent out of these gates with this message—"Go into the world and do well, but more importantly, go into the world and do good". Here is our chance to give back to our college... our chance to do our bit for women empowerment... our chance to do good and feel good... Let's do it with love, with pride and with gratitude....

Executive Committee 2017-18

Patra Saldanha
(Batch of 1991)



The President Speaks.....



Dear Agnesians

Warm and loving greetings to each one of you....

The launch of the centenary celebrations of St. Agnes College on 12 January 2018 was a milestone in the history of the college. We ushered in the momentum of the centenary with the unveiling of the centenary logo and the launch of the website of the Agnesian Alumni. Hundred balloons were released to announce to the world, especially the Agnesians in different parts of the world, the glorious hundred years of empowerment of women. The flash mob by the students, faculty and the alumnae created ripples of joy and the good news went swiftly around the globe through the wide-spread Agnesian network.

It goes without saying that time spent in school and college creates golden memories to be cherished, and I am sure each of you can recall vividly your days at St. Agnes. It has been my joy and privilege to be there at the Agnesian Alumni Reunions in Bombay, Bangalore, U. A. E, Kuwait and Muscat, where many of you showed your love and respect for the institution, the Principals and the teachers. The most admirable aspect was the turnout in good numbers and the enthusiastic sharing of memories of the time spent in the college. While being a witness to the enthusiasm you harbour for your Alma mater, I also realized that there are many Agnesians world over who studied right from their kindergarten to their graduation in St. Agnes and have imbibed the ethos of this institution as their way of life. It is our social responsibility to keep the banner of the institution flying high in the arena of higher education and ensure that the next generation of learners receives as much as we did, and even more, in terms of learning inputs. It is towards this end that the management and the teaching faculty of the institution dedicate their time and energy. Our endeavour is to better what others consider the "best".

The task of completion of the Centenary Memorial Block is a mammoth one for a private management like ours. Yet, with the blessings of God almighty and our patroness St. Agnes; the prayers and sacrifices of the sisters of the Apostolic Carmel and the generous contribution of Agnesians, their parents, philanthropists and well-wishers, we are confident that the edifice will be a reality giving opportunity for the coming generations of young women to bloom forth from where you once studied.

It is impossible for one to repay the debt one owes to one's parents and alma mater. However, your generosity and goodwill towards your elders and this institution will go a long way in nurturing an educational haven for the coming generations. I have been touched by your gestures of love and admiration for your college and thank you earnestly for the same. I also thank the Core Committee of the Centenary who meet up regularly on the campus under the leadership of Dr. Meera Aranha to chalk out plans for the centenary. While remaining grateful to those who have contributed towards the Centenary Memorial Block, I say, give and you shall receive. Your reward lies in the youth of tomorrow, who will conduct themselves as responsible Agnesians in diverse spheres of life. I am sure there are others who want to partner with us in this noble cause, and to them I say, please feel welcome to contribute in any measure, great or small. You may contact me at my office or on my email address. You may also visit the Centenary Desk at the campus for any queries.

St. Agnes is your legacy, and your presence in the centenary celebrations will add that special touch to the occasion. I look forward to your active participation.

Sr Dr M. Jeswina AC
(Principal)



AGNESIAN DAY AT HOME

A day to reconnect and rekindle memories, the Agnesian Day at Home 2017 was held at St Agnes College auditorium on 23 July 2017. The event witnessed 200 Agnesians from across the globe visiting their alma mater.

The programme began with a prayer song led by Patra Saldanha and group. President of the Agnesian Alumni Association, Sr Dr Jeswina AC welcomed the gathering with encouraging words to the ex-Agnesians and informed them about the grand milestone—The Centenary in 2020-21. Sr Jeswina spoke about Dr Jessie Tellis Nayak, the recipient for this year's "Lifetime Achievement Award" and our chief guest for the day, giving us an insight into this highly accomplished personality. Dr Jessie Tellis Nayak was not able to attend the reunion due to ill-health but the executive committee later visited Dr Tellis and felicitated her at the hospital where she had been admitted.

Alumni Association Secretary, Saramma Jayaraj read the minutes of the last year's AGM followed by a presentation of the Alumni Association activities for the year 2016-2017. Treasurer, Sheryl Preethika put forth the accounts for the past year. Jyothi Cutinha, Joint Secretary, invited new members to join the executive committee. Vice-president Usha Fernandes expressed her words of gratitude, which concluded the formal programme.

With the formalities done with, Sanchia Nazareth, compere for the day, organised a couple of games for the audience. The Agnesians which included mothers, daughters, mothers-in-law, aunts, best friends and many more, participated wholeheartedly and enjoyed themselves thoroughly.



St Agnes College staff showcased a dance performance. A danced led by Meural Furtado and the Agnesian "dancing divas" got the audience to join in which led to memories of the "mass dancing" of their days in college. Dr Adelaide Saldanha, HOD mathematics, engaged the audience with her mono-acting skills.

Sr Maria Roopa AC, superior and joint secretary of St Agnes Institutions and former principal Sr Dr Olivia AC, were also present and took part enthusiastically in the day's events. Sr Olivia also applauded the committee for organizing one of the best reunions and encouraged more Agnesians to attend the future activities.

With an innovative twist to the reunion (and since women love shopping), a flea market was organized for the guests which definitely was a big success. The stalls included jewellery, apparel and art from leading exhibitors in the city, as well as a refreshment stall.

A scrumptious lunch was served during the meet-and-greet session and plenty of photos were clicked to create fond memories. The day ended with a game of housie.



Sanchia Nazareth
(Batch of 2006)



CELEBRATING WOMEN

True to our tradition of empowering women, we celebrated Women's Day on 8 March 2017 by honouring six young achievers of the college for excellence in their respective categories.

The guests of honour were Sr Dr Jeswina, Principal of the College and president of the Alumnae Association; Usha Fernandes, vice-president and Saramma Jayaraj, secretary.



Aneequa of III BA was conferred the Agnesian Outstanding Leader of the Year Award. This award has been instituted by Carol Pais Coelho in honour of her parents, Philip and Mariette Pais. Aneequa was introduced by Sanchia Nazareth.

The Most Talented Student of the Year Award went to Freeda of III BSc who was introduced to the gathering by Edith D'Souza. This Award has been instituted by Marjorie Texeira.

The Agnesian Scholar of the Year Award went to Athira of III BSc who was introduced by Carol Pais Coelho. The Award has been instituted by Dr Meera Aranha.

Hancil of III BCom was the recipient of the Agnesian Sportswoman Award, instituted by Daisy Menezes Coelho. Hancil was introduced by Jane D'Souza.

Agnesian award in the field of NCC was awarded to Ashwitha of III BSc. This award was sponsored by Usha Fernandes. Ashwitha was introduced by Sheryl Preethika.

Agnesian award in the field of NSS was awarded to Savitha of III BSc. This award was sponsored by Saramma Jayaraj. Savitha was introduced by Jyothi Cutinha.

The Awardees were presented with sashes, mementos, certificates and stocking flowers crafted by our very own Nayana Ballal. Zeena Machado ably compered the programme.

Agnesian Scholarships

This year 170 Undergraduate and Postgraduate students received the Agnesian Scholarships which were instituted for the deserving students of St Agnes College by the Agnesians of the UAE and Kuwait Units. Sr Dr Jeswina A.C., Principal, handed over these scholarships to the recipients of 2017-18.



REACHING OUT

"Kindness is the opportunity we all have everyday to change the world..."

Bhagini Samaj 14 August 2017

At Bhagini Samaj the Agnes Alumni met
To spend a fruitful evening, we were all set.

Dressed in the colours of the flag, orange, white and green
With big smiles and enthusiasm, all were seen.

We started the day with a Kannada prayer song
And were happy our Alumni nightingales came along.

Suchitha and Jyothi, loads of trouble with the games did take
After which eats were distributed—puffs, juice and cake.

Carol, Patra and Sanchia, gracefully did dance
Followed by two inmates who kept us in a trance.

It was wonderful to see each Agnesian willing to take part
A sense of camaraderie coming straight from the heart.

Thank u all for a wonderful noon
Happy Independence Day and hope to see u soon.



Ramona Mathias
(Batch of 1996)



White Doves Home 11 December 2017

Christmas is a season for love, we do know
To share the same, to the White Doves Home we did go.

Dressed in our Santa caps and attire of red
We started with carols, which Edith ably led.

Games we had for the ladies and the men
Then Usha and Edith danced and entertained us again.

Carolyn, our Santa, brought them joy untold
Their cheering and laughter was a sight to behold.

We gave them treats to eat and to drink
This sharing and caring, with them made us link.

Music followed, and all merrily danced
Their enthusiasm and moves, our joy enhanced.

Just seeing their radiant smiles made our day
We left happier, reassured that "little kindness goes a long way".



Patra Saldanha
(Batch of 1991)



PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

"Personality is to a man what perfume is to a flower."



The Agnesian Alumnae Association in association with the Catholic Association of South Canara (CASK), kept up its annual practice of conducting a personality development workshop for the final year students. The workshop was conducted over six sessions by Mrs Patsy Lobo (coordinator), along with her team of experienced facilitators, Dr Derick Lobo, Dr Anand Pereira, Ms Natasha Menezes, and Mrs Nayana Fernandes. Interpersonal skills, soft skills and communication, family values, leadership, teamwork, self-confidence, social entrepreneurship, embracing vulnerability, stress management, importance of the first impression, and hygiene were some of the topics covered. At the end of this programme the students went back feeling enriched and well-equipped with the necessary skills to face the challenges that await them ahead.



RELEASE OF MARGARET ALVA'S "COURAGE & COMMITMENT"

Former governor of Rajasthan and Uttarakhand and distinguished Agnesian, Margaret Alva on Saturday 11 March 2017 unveiled her autobiography "Courage & Commitment", in a ceremony held under the auspices of the Catholic Association of South Kanara (CASK) and the Agnesian Alumnae Association at St Agnes College. Richard Rodrigues, president of CASK welcomed the gathering. Addressing the gathering, Margaret Alva said, "It is a privilege to release my autobiography in my homeland, the place where I was born and did my schooling and spent many years of a memorable life". Principal of St Agnes College and president of the Alumni Association, Sr Jeswina AC; vice-president Usha Fernandes and secretary of CASK, Mario Saldanha were present on the dais. The book release was followed by a panel discussion. About her book Mrs Alva said, "It is not a political thesis, it is simply a life of a person who had a good, long innings both in private and public places. That is what 'Courage & Commitment' is all about."



AGNESIAN ALUMNI MEET BENGALURU CHAPTER



*"Let us meet each other with a smile,
for a smile is the beginning of love"*

– Mother Theresa.

And truly emulating this great saying, our Agnesians piled into the Indiranagar Club on 12 March 2017 with cheerful smiles, anticipating a day of fun, frolic and bonhomie, to relive the days gone by. 175 Agnesians graced the occasion from various parts of Bengaluru.

The day began at 11 a.m. with all of us singing "God is Our Strength". We were honoured to have in our midst Sr Dr Jeswina-Principal, St Agnes



College and Sr Olivia-former principal, St Agnes College. Their zeal to be a part of our meet, in spite of the tedious journey from Mangalore, is inspiring and we are grateful for their leadership. Our host for the afternoon Mrs Vibha Marla invited Sr Jeswina, Sr Olivia, honorable President Mrs Hilma Roach, and the committee members to the dais. Mrs Hilma Roach then welcomed all the Agnesians gathered there.

The report of the past year 2016 was then read by Mrs Prajwal Mathias followed by Mrs Sheela Blaze who presented the statement of accounts, receipts, and payments. Mrs Vibha Marla then proceeded with the election of the office-bearers and nomination of members to the executive committee for the year 2017-18. It was unanimously agreed that Mrs Hilma Roach would continue at the helm of affairs and would be supported by the previous year's committee.

With the formalities out of the way, the fun began in full swing. Entertaining games were then conducted for the group. These games were a means to interact with each other and relax. The game of Housie saw the Agnesians at their best.



The vote of thanks was given by Mrs Shoba Pinto, to all those who had made it to the AGM and to those who had toiled for it, after which everyone tucked into a sumptuous lunch.

Agnesians recalled and narrated events in small groups. Everyone had something to share. Our fun morning ended, and we dispersed, with promises to meet again.

Shobha Pinto
(Secretary)

THE AGNESIAN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, MUMBAI

The annual Alumni Get Together was held on 12 February 2017, at the Apostolic Carmel School Hall, Bandra. It was indeed heartening to see the Agnesians mingling with each other. Keeping with the tradition, the day began with the Eucharistic Celebration. The theme for the occasion was "Joy of Giving" and Rev. Fr Harry Vaz in his touching homily said that each one of us has a responsibility to give back to the society. Ms Nirmala Mehendale, Director, JOG Foundation, in her talk on the said theme reiterated the same.



The AGM commenced with Ms Jane Harindran, President, extending a warm welcome to Sr Dr Jeswina AC, Principal, St Agnes College and Sr Dr Olivia AC, former principal, who had travelled all the way from Mangalore, to meet the Mumbai Agnesians. She also gratefully acknowledged the commitment of the committee members, both past and present. Ms Usha Kumar, Secretary, read the minutes of the previous AGM and gave details of the social service activities conducted during the year. Ms Irene Fernandes, Treasurer, presented a brief of the accounts and Ms Pratibha Rai, Vice-President, rendered the vote of thanks. Sr Jeswina and Sr Olivia spoke about the progress of the college over the years and the approaching centenary and asked for the collaboration and cooperation of the alumni in making the centenary project a reality.



As part of the outreach activity, the association hosted a lunch for the under-privileged boys studying at the Bandra East Community Centre. In addition, a scholarship is given for a deserving girl child of the Apostolic Carmel School, Bandra, on a continued basis. The entertainment programme began with a classical dance performance by a guest artist and then a dance by Sridevi, a committee member, which everyone enjoyed. There was an interesting quiz on St Agnes College. Then, the DJ set the auditorium on fire with interesting team games inviting participation of all. Mother Dr Jiovana, of the Ursuline Congregation led all with a beautiful prayer ending in "Bon Appetit".

Jane Harindran
(Batch of 1978)



AGNESIANS OF SYDNEY



The Agnesian Alumnae of Sydney, along with their families, got together on 2 September 2017 at 3.30 pm to meet former principal Sr Dr Olivia AC. Mrs Gem Castelino graciously hosted the event at her home.

It started with a brief introduction of the Agnesians present, followed by a small video presentation of the growth of St Agnes College over the years and a briefing by Sr Olivia on

the plans and projects of the centenary year 2020-21. Office bearers were elected for the Sydney Chapter along with a coordinator for the various activities to be organized.

Once the formalities were over, the Agnesians and their families enjoyed an evening of games for the children, a delicious dinner, and lots of catching up on memories from our days at St Agnes.

Fiona Miranda
(PUC Batch of 1999)



AGNESIANS OF MELBOURNE



26 August 2017 was a very exciting day for all Agnesians who have settled here in Melbourne, as we got together for our first-ever reunion. At the onset, we thank Sr Dr Olivia AC for her presence and for getting us together along with the help of Smitha Pinto, which made this meet possible. We all met at St Joseph's Parish Hall, Northcote. The get-together commenced with an introduction by the MC Anitha Selvaraj and a prayer by Anita D'Souza. Maria Hubert introduced Sr

Olivia to the gathering and Mrs Bina Nivas presented a "thank you" card to her on behalf of all present. Thereafter, all the Agnesians introduced themselves. Sr Olivia started her presentation with a 5-minute video about the college and then a talk narrating the progress of the college from its humble beginnings to where it has reached today under the able Apostolic Carmel



congregation. She highlighted the love and companionship among the members of the Melbourne chapter which made it a model group for alumni around the world. She encouraged us to contribute in our own way and make the coming centenary celebration a grand success.

This was followed by election of the office bearers, with Suzan Fernandes nominated as President. The MC then thanked Fr Prakash for his generosity in giving the hall and its amenities free of charge for the reunion. Sr Olivia gifted him the amount which was collected voluntarily from all the attendees. Smitha Pinto proposed the vote of thanks. This was followed by sharing of snacks brought by the members and social interaction with chit chat, fun and laughter. Indeed, it turned out to be a truly memorable day.

Anita D'Souza
(Batch of 1991)

AGNESIANS OF AUCKLAND



The Auckland Agnesian Chapter was launched in Auckland, New Zealand on 24 September 2017. Thanks to the initiative of Sr Olivia, we could bring together 15 Agnesians. Since then, a few more members have joined the group. We have made a remarkable and impressive beginning by electing the Office Bearers and Committee Members for

the Centenary Year Celebration. We hope to have a meaningful year ahead binding us together and deepening our response of love and loyalty to our Alma Mater.

Edith Rego
(Batch of 1971)



UAE AGNESIANS REUNITE



The former students of St Aloysius College and St Agnes College, gathered at Crowne Plaza, Dubai for the Aloysian-Agnesian Alumni meet on 19 February 2017. It was an evening to cherish for the young and old alumni of these two reputed institutions where they celebrated the spirit of their alma mater in the presence of the representatives of the two colleges who had come from Mangalore especially for the occasion.

The programme began with lighting of lamps by the guests Fr Swebert D'Silva, principal and Fr Dion Vaz, rector of St Aloysius College; and Sr Olivia AC, ex-principal and Sr Jeswina AC, principal of St Agnes College. The chair persons Vincent and Rosetta Pereira, and the committee members were present on the dais.

Vincent Pereira, on behalf of the organizing committee welcomed the gathering. Thereafter, Fr Swebert D'Silva, Fr Dion Vaz, Sr Olivia and Sr Jeswina spoke and thanked the alumni association for their generous contributions to the institutions during the past years. They also briefed how the generosity of the alumni is helping the needy and poor students studying in these institutions. The sisters from St Agnes also spoke about the upcoming centenary of the college to be celebrated in 2020-21.



"Fusion Again" band made the crowd go wild on the dance floor. DJ Joel



enthralled the audience with his mesmerizing tunes. A dance performance by Sandesh dance troupe was appreciated by the crowd. The organizing committee members presented a line dance during the programme.

There were spot games, quizzes, a raffle draw and a jive competition to add more fun to the evening. The sponsors too were felicitated. Rosetta Pereira proposed the vote of thanks. The well-known compères Errol Goveas and Rowena Pereira rocked the event and made it an evening to remember.

Rosetta Pereira



AGNESIAN ALUMNAE KUWAIT (AAK)

Annual General Body Meeting : The AGM was held on Friday, 17 February 2017 and commenced with a prayer led by Lydia Misquith. The eloquent compere, Maria Coelho, ensured the smooth flow of proceedings. President, Diany Coutinho briefed the gathering on the highlights, activities and contribution of the Alumnae—the prime one being the AAK scholarship to financially deprived and deserving students identified by the college to pursue education at the Alma Mater; the newly instituted AAK Excellence Award for the highest scorer in St Agnes College; and the AAK Scholarship at Carmel College Modankap, Bantwal. Shanthi Fernandes gave a detailed Annual Report and Treasurer, Shalet Luis read out the Statement of Accounts. The list of new office bearers for the term 2017–19 was read out, with Felcita Dsouza taking over as President and Jackie Alphonso as Vice President. Brunch buffet was set up by Samrat Restaurant. The meeting concluded with the closing prayer and singing of the College anthem.



AAK Ladies Take A Walk in the Park : Saturday, 11 March 2017, 6:00 am—The Salmiya Garden looked busier and brighter than ever with colorfully attired and energetic ladies walking cheerfully along the designated path for an hour. A photo contest got the ladies to capture beautiful scenes on their cameras. This was followed by a fellowship which started off with a prayer led by Maria Coelho. Prizes were announced for the best

WhatsApp caption contest conducted on Women's Day, the best photo capture, and the longest distance walked. A light south-Indian breakfast was served to all before they dispersed.

AAK's Classy Classic Movie Night : was held on 27 April 2017 in Mishref with the screening of the age-old favourite, "Sound of Music". The evening started with a hymn. Lyrics of



songs from the movie were distributed and taught prior to the start, so the children could sing along as the movie played out. Popcorn and snacks were served. There was an interesting written quiz on the movie. The Roberto Cavalli 75ml Raffle-Fundraiser Draw was held and the proceeds of the raffle helped sponsor the school fees of a child in Kuwait. A special thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Allen Alphonso for their home theatre space and kind hospitality, and to Mr Anand D'Souza for the movie theatre effects and set up.

AAK Supermoms Go Out to Lunch : The AAK ladies organized a “Supermoms Out to Lunch” event for its members on Friday, 26th May 2017 at Hotel Samrat, Kuwait. An introduction and welcome by the President, Felcita Dsouza was followed by the group being led in prayer by Maria Coelho. The elegant Mrs. Liza Chacko, an ex-Agnesian, was the Guest of Honour at the lunch. Songs like “Maa” and “Mother of Mine” were sung, adding nostalgia to the event. A personalized Supermom Bingo and various other games followed by a sumptuous buffet added to the fun and frolic. The event was ably put together by Vera Rodricks, Premilla Pinto and Reshma Lobo.



Chit Chaat with Dad—A Fathers' Day Special: was held on Friday, 16 June 2017 at Better Books, Salmiya. This event focused on making the dads feel special and honoured. Rashmi Menezes welcomed the gathering. Jackie Alphonso and Ivy Sequeira gave glory to God by singing Don Moen's “Our Father”. Five-year-old Garon Mascarenhas and his father Elwyn sang the all-time Jim Reeves favourite “But You Love Me Daddy”— the utterly cute and

melodious highlight of the evening. The children were made to answer a questionnaire on “Who Knows Daddy Best”. A photo contest was conducted in honour of the occasion. The children were taught the basic art of “Knotting the tie” by Mr Allen Alphonso. Group games, forfeits, spot prizes, and performances kept the dads and the gathering entertained. With the theme of the evening being “Chit Chaat”, the various chaats that were instantly mixed and prepared by the AAK ladies had everyone smacking their lips and wanting more! Jackie Alphonso delivered the vote of thanks.

Karaoke : was held on Thursday, 12 October 2017 in Salmiya for the members and their families and friends. There were various contest categories, viz., solo, duet, trio, as well as group, making the evening a melodious and enjoyable one. To commemorate October as the month of Breast Cancer awareness, pink ribbons were pinned on every guest. Leaflets on Breast Cancer awareness—self-examination, myths and facts—were distributed to the female guests. Dinner was served after the singing session.



Felcita D'Souza
(Batch of 1992)

These are just some of the events that this dynamic team of Agnesians in Kuwait had during the year....



CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS – LAUNCHED IN STYLE



12 January 2018... the ripples of excitement that started near the college gates spread quickly all across the globe, as St Agnes College kicked off her centenary celebrations with the launch of the centenary logo and Alumni website. Mangalore South MLA, J.R. Lobo who unveiled the logo, hailed the selfless service of the sisters of the Apostolic Carmel in empowering women through education. Sr M. Carmel Rita, Provincial Superior, Karnataka Province, launched the alumni website—a portal linking the Agnesian alumnae world-over with their alma mater. Adding the special touch to the occasion was the presence of our past principals—Sr Aloysius, Sr Olivia, Sr Carmelrita (Provincial

Superior) and Sr Supriya along with Sr Maria Roopa, Joint Secretary of St Agnes Institutions and Sr Ida, Educational Secretary, Karnataka province. Principal, Sr Jeswina welcomed the gathering after which Ms. Geralyn Pinto elaborated on the significance of the day. Ms Devi Prabha ably compered the special event and Ms Nayana Fernandes thanked the gathering. A hundred balloons in blue and white were released into the clear skies by the dignitaries and representatives from management, former principals, teaching and non-teaching staff, students, parents, worldwide alumnae chapter representatives and the centenary core committee, thus representing the unison of all the stakeholders of the college. Undoubtedly, the attraction of the evening was the unprecedented flash mob comprising students, staff and Agnesian alumni in front of the college and later at the two major malls in the city. It was a spectacular, one-of-a-kind event, which made headlines and evoked emotions of love, gratitude and a flooding of old memories of college days for our alumni in all corners of the world.....truly a day of pride for every Agnesian!





AGNESIAN ACHIEVER



Dr Geralyn Pinto, Associate Professor and Head, PG Dept. of English, won the First Prize for her story, "The Never-Melt Crib" in the Christmas-themed international short fiction contest organized by the Scene Magazine, Battle Creek, Michigan in December 2017.

Her poem "A Study in Blue and Black" was featured in 'The Healing Muse', a journal published by the Bioethics Center of the Medical University of Upper New York State (SUNY) in October 2017. Geralyn was invited to the launch as also to dinner and a poetry reading session at Wells College, New York.

Another poem of hers, "There Was Beauty in That Graph" was published in 'AntiBody: A Journal of Medicine and Poetry' in the U.S.

MANGALORE TEAM VISITS THE GULF



A three member team from Mangalore comprising Sr Dr M. Jeswina A.C. (Principal), Dr Meera Aranha (Alumni Centenary Convener) and Vilma Pais (member, centenary core committee) visited the Gulf in May 2018 to meet and greet the Agnesians in Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Kuwait and Muscat. The reunions were filled with love and bonhomie and sparked in the alumni there the feeling of pride and love for their alma mater. Read on to get a glimpse of the reunions...

Abu Dhabi

The Agnesian community in Abu Dhabi was treated to a memorable evening when they met for a formal reunion at the colourful premises of Leen's Nursery on 4 May 2018. As the evening wore on, the atmosphere turned electric, resembling a college class room (albeit, before the lecturer arrives!). Agnesians attending the reunion traced their days back in the college and the hall reverberated with their happy chatter and spontaneous laughter. A warm-up game, held at the start of the meet, helped set the tone for the reunion.





Sr Dr Jeswina joined in the camaraderie of Agnesians with an informal talk that traced the history of the College, leading to its centenary celebrations in less than two years. Responding to Sr Jeswina's request, attending Agnesians shared their experiences as students and recalled interesting moments of campus life. This proved to be a nostalgic experience for everyone as they spoke about their favourite lecturers and the much sought after 'Honeymoon Tree'. Dr Meera Aranha, Centenary convener, in her speech, attributed her personal success to the College, and all present agreed with her that if not for St Agnes College, most of them would not have had the good fortune of an education. Dr Meera also chalked out the plans for the centennial year 2020-21, which will feature a host of fun activities, in addition to cultural events and fetes. She also spoke about the Centennial Memorial Block enthusing all Agnesians to join hands and make this dream a reality.



This was followed with more catching up and light refreshments, making the evening a relaxed and fun-filled one. All the attendees were very appreciative and thankful to Mrs Angelina Goveas & Mr Schuster Goveas who generously let the Agnesians use the nursery premises for the event. Special thanks was also accorded to Cynthia Fernandes, Jolly D'Souza and Inez D'Cunha for organising this reunion.



Dubai

The Agnesian Alumnae in Dubai met on 11 May 2018. It was a very exciting moment for a number of Agnesians as they came together to rekindle memories of their college days. It was remarkable that the Agnesian spirit was vibrant and alive in every Agnesian assembled for the reunion.



The highlight of the event was the meeting with the principal Sr Dr Jeswina. She addressed the Agnesians on the growth and development of the college for the past 98 years. Dr Meera Aranha, centenary convener, shared with the group the details of the centenary project and appealed to them to join hands with their alma mater to empower the coming generations of women. Shobha Mendonca, an Agnesian achiever, was felicitated by the group. Speaking on the occasion, Sr Dr Jeswina highlighted Shobha's achievements and thanked her for all the support she has been giving her alma mater over the years.



Kuwait



Over 40 empowered Agnesians from Kuwait attended the Agnesian Reunion, held at the Avanthi Palace Restaurant on 15 May 2018.

The vibrant community of ex-Agnesians was welcomed at the reunion by AAK (Agnesian Alumnae in Kuwait) President, Felcita D'souza. It was followed by a hymn by Kavitha D'souza and Wanisha Fernandes. Sr Jeswina joined in the devotion with a group prayer, invoking God's blessings on all Agnesians. 'God is our Strength', the college anthem, provided a fitting tribute to the reunion, as all the attendees joined in, singing with pride and in harmony.

Maria Coelho, compere of the evening, set the pace for the reunion proceedings, which saw AAK members presenting their joint contribution to the centenary fund. The members had initiated efforts to do their bit for the Centenary celebrations early on, raising the money through house-to-house carol singing during the last Christmas. A cheque of three lakh rupees was handed over by Diany Coutinho, Felcita Dsouza and Jasmine Cutinha to Sr Jeswina. This was followed by a session of self-introduction by the ladies.



Sr Jeswina, through her power-point presentation, walked the attendees through the hallowed portals of St Agnes College and down memory lane—a wonderful reminder of the institution that moulded their characters and set their destinies in the right direction. She briefed the members about the centenary project and the celebrations planned and extended a personal and warm invitation to be a part of the grand event. Presenting details of the project, Meera Aranha highlighted the financial facets and took the alumni through the construction phases and the facilities that will be made available through the centenary project. The evening fared cheerfully, as the gathered Agnesians took on the opportunity to pledge their support to the project; with many of them contributing directly, showing eternal support to their alma mater.

The evening concluded with the ever dynamic and charismatic Diany Coutinho, founder of AAK, being honoured by the visiting delegation for her dedication and selfless hard work in uniting the Agnesians of Kuwait. As a finale, Maria Coelho proposed a vote of thanks and called on all Agnesians present to be a part of the great centenary celebrations.



Muscat

The first-of-its-kind Agnesian reunion in Muscat held at the Golden Oasis Hotel on 18 May 2018 to greet and honour the delegation from Mangalore turned into a festive evening with stories of the past spicing up the plans for the centennial project.

Organised and hosted by the Mangalorean Catholic Centre of the Parish (MCCP), the reunion set the stage for Muscat to play an active role in the ongoing centenary activities and plans. Agnesian alumni, who attended the reunion with their spouses and children, were treated to light-hearted repartee from Sr Jeswina, who invited guests—empowered Agnesians, as she called them—to share their memories of college days. While the talk invariably shifted to the unforgettable influence of the 'Honeymoon Tree' in the campus, the quintessential presence of 'Chaddi Peter' at the gate and the incurable rounds of 'Aloysian' boys around the area, the focus of the meet was completely on the 'Centennial Memorial Block', which, when completed, will set a benchmark for other institutions in and around Mangalore to emulate. Dr Aranha presented details of the project and exhorted the Agnesians to make this dream project a reality by contributing symbolic bricks to raise the structure without any hitches.

Eula Pinto, a long standing benefactor of MCCP and an Agnesian alumnus, was honoured for her unstinted support.

Welcoming the guests, Sunil Furtado, the outgoing president of MCCP, spoke of his association with St Agnes and extolled the virtues of the institution which is celebrated for its quality of education and the values ingrained in the students. The evening culminated with a formal vote of thanks from Ajith Walder, the incoming president of MCCP, to all the people involved in making the reunion a success, including the team from Mangalore and local supporters, Mariette Fernandes and Jessie Pereira. Special mention was made of Vijay D'Cunha, who coordinated the venue for the event and the menu for the evening. In response to the vote of thanks, Sr Jeswina took to the mike to credit Stanley Fernandes for hosting them and sacrificing his time and effort to make their visit a success.

Following the speeches and the photograph session, all the attendees snacked on the scrumptious array of finger food and bid adieu, until they meet again to see St Agnes College wear its centennial crown in 2021.



We Agnesians continue our life's journey



'neath her protection