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Aloysians in Bombay

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NOT even a generation has passed since the Mangaloreans in Bombay were, as a rule, better known as Aloysians. It is significant they organized themselves at first under this name and on the occasion of the annual Aloysian Day they would hold high festival with many an honoured guest and all the available Fathers from the College, either on a visit to Bombay or resident at St. Xavier's, to remind them of their school-days and do homage to their Alma Mater. A glance through the pages of the *Mangalore Magazine*, the organ of the College, suffices to show how much they honoured their Alma Mater and how interested were the staff and students of the institution in the doings of the little colony in Bombay. Aloysian was then synonymous with Mangalorean, and Aloysians in Bombay seem to have been so full of life and love for Alma Mater. Though it be needless to give all the details of the past, a few reminiscent notes would be useful to the new generation, and even to the old one, to remind them of the traditions they might forget on account of changing conditions. It is necessary to observe, however, that this review does not purport to be exhaustive, as any such attempt would be futile. If names deserving honourable mention have been omitted, it is entirely due to the author's want of information.

When the pioneers of the matric. class of 1881 came to the new city in quest of bread denied to them in the land of their birth, they had friends to welcome and help them in the struggle for advancement. There were the late Mr. Em. Alvares, the most prominent of them, the late Mr. Jos. M. Colaco, the late Mr. Salvador Vas and the late Mr. E. F. Rego. Among those still living there were Dr. Cajetan Fernandes and Mr. F. A. C. Rebello. As regards the benevolence of Mr. Alvares, the memorial founded in his honour on his death is only a humble tribute. The assistance rendered by Dr. Fernandes and Mr. Rebello has borne fruit in the careers of many a successful Mangalorean in commerce and the professions. It is interesting to hear how many of the Aloysians had to be supplied with pants over night and free lodgings and food till a job was secured.

In this connection the name of "Culasam" should never be forgotten: he was an institution in himself with his modest establishment in the Fort open to European "borders" and "nattive" friends. The latter were really treated as friends because they were all non-paying guests until they got the money to pay the charges, which were "payable when able." Culasam's English idioms are still remembered by a generation which cannot forget his favours. A funeral or marriage was incomplete without

his stentorian voice to intone the *Libera* or the *Laudate*, and his well-known composition of the Angel's Alleluia, set to musical notation by Mr. "Bothi" Rebello, is still sure to win the applause of any comedy hall. The old man in his *thodop* and turban and mighty stick was a familiar figure in the mercantile offices where he was intimately known to the European bosses. The photographing of his establishment with himself in centre in full regalia, his European "borders" on the right and "nattive" friends on the left, was an annual fixture. Though not very much conversant with debating tactics, the old man never missed a single community meeting—and in those times these were many and memorable—and where work or assistance was wanted Culasam would say *adsum*—right till the last day when he had to bow *adsum* before the throne of his Creator.

Gradually more and more Aloysians came in and soon won a reputation for industry and intelligence. They quickly adapted themselves to the new surroundings and the new demands of city life. The European commercial community were so pleased with the new recruits that they were taken up in their offices as favourites. The valuable endeavours of these early pioneers had the effect of raising the community in the estimation of the public, and the later comers found this a great asset. In the year 1890 we read there were 12 Aloysians in Bombay, of whom only 2 were married. By 1898 their number had grown to 70, of whom 20 were married. It is also recorded that 17 of these aspirants to matrimonial honours had made a trip to Mangalore for the purpose and 10 returned with their wives and 7 with their brides. As many as 20 were in Government Service and 35 in commercial offices. Among those then in Bombay we must first mention Dr. F. X. De Souza of the Indian Civil Service, just retired after a brilliant career. Mr. Camillo Saldanha passed through

St. Xavier's and then went to Burma, from where he proceeded to America on a lecturing tour. Mr. L. M. Seldon, now retired in Bangalore, was in the Telegraphs. The Secretariat employed the late Mr. Cyprian Noronha, in the Public Works, the late Messrs. A. F. Theodore and Jos. M. Saldanha and Mr. A. G. Saldanha, one of the most energetic of the Aloysians in Bombay, now in Delhi, recalled in his old days after having seen long service in the Railway Board. Mr. F. L. Silva, still going strong in Bangalore, the late Mr. Bon. L. Sequeira and the late Mr. R. Roche and Mr. G. S. Rego, now in the Railway Board, were forging ahead in the Accountant General's Office. Mr. J. A. Saldanha, the industrious and enterprising ex-M. L. C. of Mangalore, and the late Mr. David Pinto were doing their Law. Drs. L. P. Fernandes, P. P. Fernandes and J. F. Fernandes were studying for medicine. Mr. Lazarus Silva, having passed through the School of Arts, left for Bangalore to teach in the local schools and later on proceeded to Rome for higher studies. Mr. N. F. Noronha, L. C. E., was in the Engineering Department and Mr. Piedade Vas, L. C. E., in the Bombay Improvement Trust. Mr. Eliseus D'Mello, now retired, was in the High Court, while Messrs. John F. Vas and Jerome Noronha, both retired in Bangalore, were in the Sea Postal Office. Mr. Salvadore Saldanha and the late Mr. Alex Gonsalves were in the Marine Department and Messrs. James Vas, B. A., Martin Gonsalves, B. A., and Jocklis Saldanha, B. A., and L. F. D'Sa were in the Postal Department in Bombay. Mr. Thomas Mascarenhas had opened part-time commercial classes in the Fort. Messrs. Crispin Rebello and F. X. Mascarenhas were getting through the course of the Veterinary College. Rev. Frs. Ign. Rebello and J. Patrao were chaplains in the mofussil. There is a comical story of the Plague Riots when Dr. Paul Fernandez, with his aquiline features, found it convenient

to escape in a Parsee dress, while the late Mr. Bon. Sequeira was disguised as a Hindu; Mr. F. A. C. Rebello with his beard was easily taken for a Moslem and Dr. L. P. Fernandes got away in time from the fury of the mob. We read also at this time of some marriages being recorded, such as those of Messrs. A. G. Saldanha, R. Roche, Hormisdas Vas, Gildas Vas and others. Besides the Catholics, two other Aloysians shed lustre on the College. These were Dr. R. Row and the late Dewan Bahadur A. K. Pai. The fame of the former is almost international. It must be mentioned here that the feelings of the late Dewan Bahadur Pai to his Alma Mater were as tender and fresh at the time of his death as they were in the 19th century. He had more than once complained that the Catholic Aloysians seemed to have forgotten the Hindu Aloysians and had wished once again for those old Aloysian Gatherings which were held thirty years ago.

The Aloysians used to forgather on the feast of St. Aloysius in June and hold an annual social to celebrate the occasion. In 1898, on May 5th, they even inaugurated the Aloysian Association of Bombay which might act as a bond of union for all the Old Boys in the Presidency. At a meeting presided over by the late Mr. D. Pinto, the rules so assiduously drafted by Mr. Alex. G. Saldanha were adopted with modifications. The office bearers for the year were: President—Mr. Jerome A. Saldanha, Vice-President—Mr. Bon. L. Sequeira, Secretary—Mr. A. G. Saldanha, and Treasurer—Mr. M. Pinto. The members of the Committee were Messrs. D. Pinto, A. F. Theodore, A. M. Coelho, C. F. Noronha, A. P. Tellis and S. D'Souza. The sixth annual Aloysian Social Gathering that was held soon after was presided over by Dr. C. Fernandez; and among those present were many prominent figures in the public life of the city and at least two who have since graced the High Court Bench.

A tragic record of early deaths explains the hardships which the pioneers had to undergo in this city. Many were the promising young men who died on the threshold of brilliant careers, and most of them fell victims to the dread diseases of plague, typhoid and consumption. The first few Aloysians were poor but they had to maintain the style of the local Christians. Not all of them were graduates or undergraduates but all aimed high. They worked hard and they succeeded, if not in obtaining wealth, at least in creating a reputation for the community they represented. Their names are little known but none can deny the merit of their endeavours. If some of them could only describe the hardships which were not adequately rewarded! Many died, their dreams unfulfilled, but many have remained to tell of the laurels won by struggling youth. The indispensable Mr. Jos. L. (Babi) Sequeira, the dogged Messrs. B. P. Mathias and Robert Aranha, the unostentatious Mr. C. M. Sequeira and Mr. Michael Noronha, the silent Mr. Bon. D'Souza, Mr. Jos. Pius Rego, whose pious disposition places him at the disposal of every Mangalorean nun and priest passing through the city, Mr. A. P. Louis, as substantial in wealth as in body, and Messrs. Jos. Bennie and Isidore Coelho—these are a few of those who have risen through sheer industry and no favour. A new generation has come, and they know only those of the older ones who had been fortunate enough to possess degrees and are now prominent men. But let us not forget the others who, despite all difficulties, have blazed the trail as struggling, though not always successful, pioneers.

One of our misfortunes, it has to be regretfully admitted, is the silent dissolution of its activities. The Aloysian Association disappeared. There was soon founded, however, the Kanara Catholic Association, which, besides enlarging the scope of the communal

organisation, maintained the most cordial relations with Alma Mater. The Aloysian socials continued to be held as usual, money was frequently contributed for memorials and scholarships in the College and the Association's greetings on the College Day figured prominently in its annals. Even as late as 1913, a High Mass and dramatic and social entertainment at Jacob Circle celebrated the occasion of the feast of St. Aloysius. The activities of the Association, the record of its meetings, the scores of its cricket players—all these are faithfully detailed in the *Mangalore Magazine*.

In the meanwhile, the Mangaloreans who had gone to Karachi and Poona kept the Day, as they had done in Bombay. As early as 1908 a gathering took place at Mr. L. M. Seldon's residence at Poona, with Mr. J. D. Gonsalves in the chair. Among those who took prominent part were Messrs. P. V. Domingo, F. X. D'Cruz and the late Mr. John M. Coelho. In far away Karachi the tiny colony containing Messrs. Basil Mathias and Philip D'Cunha, Clement Vas, Gabriel D'Souza, S. L. Aranha and others never failed to congratulate the Rector and Staff on the College Day.

The first decade of the present century saw a very active combination of Aloysians in Bombay. Besides the members already mentioned, there were the new comers who have now risen to high places all over the country, and among these we may name a few. Mr. Marcel D'Cunha, B. A., is now Assistant Collector of Customs at Bombay, Mr. J. Paul Rego, B. A., is Assistant Secretary to Government at Bombay, Mr. M. L. Aranha, B. A., is Deputy Post Master at Bombay, Dr. Paul Fernandes is Civil Surgeon at Ratnagiri, Mr. P. V. Domingo is Deputy Collector at Bombay, the late Mr. Raymond Rebello rose to be an officer in the Currency Office, and Mr. Martin D'Souza, B. A., LL. B., now Registrar of

the Court of the Judicial Commissioner in Sindh, had just joined the Law Class. Very soon, however, Messrs. Alexander Saldanha, Jerome Saldanha, James Gonsalves, P. F. Vas, B. P. Mathias, L. F. D'Sa, and L. Noronha, now at Ramna, and others had to leave the city on official transfers. Messrs. D. B. Pinto, B. A., and D. A. Andrade, B. A., were cut off in the prime of life. The late Mr. Sylvester Noronha, B. A., S. T. C., who died only a few years ago, was one of the most promising additions to the community about this stage and he attained a high position in their councils.

About this time there was also a literary quartette of learned Aloysians. The most prominent was Mr. Jerome A. Saldanha, whose lectures and papers on various subjects are too numerous to be detailed. In the late Mr. Joseph Saldanha the community possessed a poet of no low degree. His short sojourn in the Secretariat and at St. Xavier's endeared him to all, and his poetic compositions on the Aloysian Day were full of beauty and patriotic sentiment. He soon returned to Mangalore to pursue the Muse further and to complete his monumental work—the Puranna of Fr. Stephens. Yet another literary figure was Mr. Jos. Victor Saldanha, lately retired from the *Statesman* and now at Bangalore, who was for a long time in the *Advocate of India*. He was in intimate contact, like the other two namesakes of his, with the active Catholic writers then resident in Girgaum. We have still among us the fourth littérateur in Mr. J. E. Saldanha, B. A., who has for long enjoyed an important position in a leading firm of Solicitors, and who was then studying Law and working in the *Bombay Gazette*. Those who used to see the pensive look on his face as daily he walked along Queen's Road to his office could scarcely guess the fund of humour and literary grace which render his articles a pleasure to read in the *Mangalore Magazine*. But nowadays, excepting what he contributes at the call of Alma

Mater, his literary joys are all his own. Along with Mr. Jerome Saldanha, Mr. F. L. Silva was responsible for not a few of the laudable activities of the little colony. The ambitious proposals they then put forward in lectures and papers read to the community point to aspirations our people have yet to attain.

The approach of the second decade saw another batch of Aloysian graduates and others who have made their mark. Of these Mr. Albin Rebello, B. A., O. B. E., is now Examiner of Local Fund Accounts at Madras, Mr. Stephen Fernandes, B. A., is city Magistrate of Bandra, Mr. Mark S. Noronha B. A., LL. B., is our only Small Causes Court Judge, Mr. A. A. Monteiro is Live Stock Expert to the Government of Mysore, Mr. E. J. Vas, B. A., B. L., lately Presidency Magistrate, is a prominent member of the G. I. P. Railway organization, Mr. Marcel Coelho, another lately Acting Presidency Magistrate, is an advocate, Mr. Michael Alvares and the late Mr. Alban Mascarenhas returned to Mangalore to practise, and Mr. Mark D'Souza M. A., LL. B., is in the Directorate of Information. Mr. Alex A. Pais, B. A., LL. B., was along with Mr. F. A. C. Rebello, for a time a prominent figure in the All-India Catholic activities in the early years of the present decade, and we hope that they will once again bestir themselves and don their armour to place the Mangaloreans and Aloysians in the forefront of Indian Catholic Action. The traditions of Aloysians in the teaching profession are maintained in Bandra by Messrs. St. Anne Menezes, M. A., LL. B., and Eusebius Rodricks, B. A. Dr. Abundius Abreo, M. B., B. S., is now in Ireland, after having practised for a short period in Mangalore. Mr. F. X. Saldanha is a District Forest Officer, Mr. F. S. D'Souza is prospering as a pushful Insurance Agent, and Fr. Baptist D'Souza, B. A., is in charge of a parish in Salsette, while Mr. Jos. Menezes is an Officer in the G. I. P. Railway. Mr. S. E. Coelho, B. A., and Mr. A. C. Sequeira, B. A., LL. B., who

came some years later, are now both in Government service, the former in His Majesty's Customs and the latter as a Sub-Judge in the mofussil. The late Mr. James Coelho, B. Com., G. D. A., had he lived, would have made his name as the first public accountant of our community.

The next batch of Aloysians were mostly devotees of medicine. Dr. John Rebello, late of the I. M. S., is a district Health Officer in the mofussil, Dr. William Mascarenhas, late I. M. S., is the first M. D. among the Aloysians, Dr. George Coelho, M. R. C. P., is Superintendent of the Children's Hospital at Bombay, and has large practice as a consulting physician, Dr. Frank D'Souza is in the Bombay Medical Service, Dr. Louis Coelho is in Mangalore, already a Municipal Councillor, and Drs. Denis Vas and Max. Rasquinha are in Railway Service, while Drs. Stanislaus Patrao, Titus Sequeira, Joachim Pais, James Saldanha, William Aranha, Stanislaus Pinto, and others are nobly toiling in this disease—infested city of ours. The death of one of the most brilliant of this band, Dr. Aloysius Saldanha, was a shock to all. Among others Mr. F. T. C. Vas is in the Indian Forest Service and Mr. Frederick Coelho is in the Bombay Forest Service, while Mr. John F. D'Souza is in the covenanted service of the Imperial Bank of India. We have recently had a new addition in Mr. Julian Colaco, who is an electrical engineer.

Still more have come and the cry is still "they come." The city is becoming a stepping-stone to countries beyond the seas and the first Mangaloreans who went across, Messrs. Thomas G. Vas and Saturnine D'Souza to Africa and Mr. T. M. Aranha to Iraq can claim to have been the pioneers of an expanding movement. The pages of the *Mangalorean Review* and lately of the *Mangalore* contain a fairly detailed account of the Aloysians who have passed through Bombay to found Mangalorean Colonies in Persia, Iraq and Africa, and the recent issues

of the *Mangalore Magazine* show how intensely sensitive they are to the memories of Alma Mater.

In Bombay, we notice, a slow but steady change has been taking place. For a long time the benefits of the experiences of the earlier Aloysians and, particularly, the good reputation they possessed as the favourites of the predominant commercial community assisted in no small measure those that came later on in a stream and mostly reaped the advantages of belonging to the Mangalorean community. But, unfortunately, they did not treat the good beginning as only a start; they imagined it would last permanently and its benefits would never be lost; and adjusted themselves accordingly without any thought of the future. Alien manners, an alien standard of living, even an alien outlook have almost converted our community into a new entity; and what is more significant, the cost of living has gone up unduly high while the income has not increased proportionately. The pioneers deserved the favouritism shown to them because they won it by sheer industry as against local talent and a comparatively higher grade of intelligence; and naturally every individual who was of their community was respected. Later on, however, the very membership of this community was considered a merit and often it became the sole merit. They sought too long to taste the sweets of favour and preference accorded to the

vigorous and competitively superior pioneers. But now conditions of employment for Aloysians have changed. The city is an economic unit where competition alone regulates the life of commercial offices and only individual merit counts. There is no more a place for the members of any particular section. The ultimate effect has been the curtailment of savings under increasing expenses but comparatively decreasing salaries.

Another change has taken place as regards the Aloysians. The predominance of the Aloysian is gradually diminishing, particularly in numbers. The Mangalorean in Bombay is ceasing to think of Kanara as the land of his birth: it is more the land of his community's origin. He is considering seriously of settling down in the land of promise and plenty and is not so well disposed as formerly to return home or even to remit home freely. He has not, however, lost his love for Alma Mater and he can never forget his College. The spontaneous sympathy felt at the demise of Fr. Baizini and the generous response to the appeal to found a scholarship are a good testimony of this feeling. Though he might have come to Bombay to stay, the Aloysian still takes pride in the achievements of his people in the homeland. There is a conflict of feelings and of interests,—a state of mind well reflected in the *Mangalorean Review* of 1925, when the new spirit of the independent entity became insistently vocal.

Where are they gone, the old familiar faces?
 I have had playmates, I have had companions
 In my days of childhood, In my joyful schooldays,
 All, all are gone the old familiar faces.



The late Father Gilbert Saldanha, S. J.



FATHER Gilbert P. Saldanha, S. J., was born at Kodialbail, Mangalore, on the 29th of April 1865.



He had his elementary studies in the Kodialbail School, located on the present site of the Diocesan Printing Press. When on January 12th 1880, St. Aloysius' College opened with three classes, Gilbert was among the first batch of boys to be registered on the rolls of the Pre-Matriculation class. Shortly after passing the F. A. examination, the highest University qualification then available in Mangalore, he sought employment in Government service in the Registration Department. He rapidly got through the departmental tests required for promotion. When prospects seemed brightest to a young man of distinct capacity such as Gilbert was, he astonished his parents by a letter informing them of his intention of entering the Society of Jesus. His father strongly pleaded the needs of the family, and advised at least postponement of his resolve. Several months passed by, until one day his mother happened to hear a sermon preached by the late Father John Sergeant, S. J., at the Clothing Ceremony of a Sister at St. Ann's Convent. Incidentally he dwelt on the wrong done by parents who placed obstacles to their children's vocation. This was enough for the good lady. She went home and told her son to go whithersoever the Lord wanted him. Gilbert had ever an eye for dramatic effect, and for this reason he seems to have selected Christmas Day for taking leave of his home and of the prospects that the world held out to him. The old noviciate at Jeppoo witnessed an unusually gorgeous sight when Gilbert

decked out in a silken turban and dhoti and followed by a goodly retinue of relatives and friends presented himself before Fr. Zanetti, the holy Master of Novices, in the poor unadorned parlour of St. Joseph's Seminary. Never again in all his long life in the Society was he heard referring to person or incident connected with his home or his life in the world. Nor could he ever be got to answer any query

regarding it.

One half of the old St. Joseph's Seminary was once the House of Probation for the Mission of Mangalore. Here Gilbert passed the two years of his noviceship, two of classical studies and rhetoric, and two of Philosophy. We next find him on the teaching staff of St. Aloysius' College with a crowded time-table of teaching and prefecting. But Heaven had dowered him with mental gifts of a high order and physical strength, too. Crowning these was a large measure of good sense, a sunny temperament and genial manners. He could thus face difficulties before which an ordinary soul would have quailed. He seemed to get through the duties assigned him by obedience with ease, and he found energy and time for much else. With an eye to future needs he applied himself to the study of Sanskrit and Malayalam.

In 1889 he left St. Aloysius' College to begin his theological course. He had his first year at Kodaikanal, owing to lack of accommodation at St. Mary's College, Kurseong. During the next five years he devoted his spare moments to the study of French and Tamil and succeeded in acquiring a fairly thorough knowledge of them. And yet there was no

abatement of attention and ardour for priestly studies. Such, indeed, was the opinion formed of him by his professors that he was told in his third year to hold himself in readiness to fill the place of the Professor of Moral Theology whose health was beginning to fail. The young theologian seemed already cut out for the professorial chair. He was blessed with a marvellously clear head, an easy flow of words, a pleasing voice, and above all, a rare rectitude of vision and judgment.

He was ordained priest in 1899, passed his *examen ad gradum* in 1900, and made his third year of probation at Manresa House, Ranchi, in 1901 and returned to his dear old Mission of Mangalore in 1902. He was ordered first to Calicut and appointed Head Master of St. Joseph's School which had just been placed on a sounder basis as a European School. Over and above his duties of Manager and teacher, he came in for a generous share of parochial ministry in Calicut. He was, moreover, Military Chaplain to the British Troops at Mallapuram. Writing about this time to a fellow-Scholastic at Kurseong, he naively observes that he has become a veritable *factotum*. And no wonder that he should have become one, as being equipped with the four languages spoken by Catholics in Malabar, all of which he spoke with equal elegance in the school-room, in the pulpit, in the confessional and in the homes. But Malabar though he loved it ever so dearly was not to be his permanent destination.

St. Aloysius' College was Fr. Saldanha's next destination and it continued to be for the remaining seven-and-twenty years of his life. In a short account like this it is not possible to do justice to the work he accomplished in those many years packed with duties of great variety and yet so thoroughly and so whole-heartedly done. Enthusiasm was the quality he infused into everything. Hence the interest he could impart to the doing of the driest duty and the

teaching of the driest subject. If you look into the Status Missionis or the Province Catalogues, you will find that he lectured in History, Latin and Logic, each for more than a dozen years, at different periods of his life in the College. Responsible work and successful work it was, as evinced by the results of the University examinations and the verdict of his admiring students. The Professorship of French was first started by him privately as a hobby, and as some one remarked, it continued for eighteen years as an outlet for the residue of his energies and time. A complete account of his services for the College ought to include the offices of Headmaster and Vice-Principal which he held for eight years; of Director of the Boarding House for two years; and of Director of the Men's Sodality of Our Lady and of the Catholic Union Club for two years.

In 1929 Fr. Saldanha begged his Superiors to be relieved of the Headmastership of the High School, though he was willing to retain every other item of his status. When, however, the Bursarship of the College was offered him he promptly accepted it. That was the last service he was to render to the College. Just then the variegated branches of the College accounts were increased by the Golden Jubilee and kindred Funds which brought him in touch with persons of all sorts. He attended to every detail of business with the accuracy and despatch of a professional accountant, and for each one he had a smile and a kindly word.

The above is little more than a table of contents indicating the activities of Father Gilbert Saldanha's life. There yet remains unrecorded the purely priestly functions he performed in the pulpit and in the confessional of the College Church. To the very last day of his life he was faithful in attendance at the confessional. That his priestly duties received from him no less a measure of loving attention was proved by all sorts and conditions of men that sought his spiritual guidance and the

readiness with which he undertook the spiritual charge of souls in the parishes of Kanara and of Malabar. His was, indeed, a life of many-sided activities, spiritual and temporal, of a life lived vigorously, whole-heartedly, enthusiastically. He made the fullest and the most generous use

of the talents which the Lord had entrusted unto him. But the secret force and motive he derived for the fullness of that life was the many hours of the night he spent in prayer, unknown to the world which only admired and applauded the outward successes that it witnessed.

On visiting the College Museum

BY J. A. SALDANHA, B. A., LL. B.



THE term "Museum" is Latin and is derived from the Greek "Mouseion," originally a temple of the Muses, the nine goddesses, daughters of Zeus and Mnemosyne, who presided over music, poetry, painting, rhetoric, astronomy, etc. It is now used to denote a repository of interesting objects connected with literature, art or science, a cabinet of curiosities, a collection of objects in natural history, antiquities, and the like. Our College has a large room next to its Library allotted to a Museum, with fine artistic cupboards, drawers and cases of all sizes, which contain various kinds of interesting and curious objects. The only complete set is that connected with minerals from the lowest kind to the highest developed conditions, in five large cases. The sections of coins, stamps, shells and corals have made a good beginning, and deserve to be helped by contributions from Aloysians dispersed all over the world, especially in Africa, Mesopotamia, Persia, China, Malaya and the Indian States. With a spirit of patriotism and scholarship combined, Aloysians will find it easy to make collections with which to endow the College Museum.

The manuscript section is represented by only two volumes of what appears to be one of the oldest and most accurate editions of Fr. Thomas Stephens's *Puranna*. The drawings of Br. Moscheni, the great Italian painter of the College Chapel frescoes, are an unique collection of which the Museum should feel

proud. There is plenty of room for new sections, for hundreds of curiosities which our Aloysians should deem it a pleasure to search for, find and send to the Museum. There may be a section of comparative religion, with descriptions of the various religious ideas the objects represent. Photos and pictures of the ancient monuments of Karnataka, especially of this district, will serve to give the visitor an idea of the antiquities which not all have the opportunity to see. One of the most interesting of modern sciences is Anthropology. Skulls and skeletons of the several communities in India, especially in Kanara, with all its racial types—the Aryan, the Dravidian and the pre-Dravidian—will help to enlighten us as to the origin and growth of races in India. Botany, forestry and natural history selections should be in the lines of our young men in the forest and civil service, who as *Shikaris* need not go far out of the way to make collections of timbers, plants, stuffed animals, birds and reptiles, dressed skins, horns and heads. While ornamenting their own parlours with such curiosities and even making a profit by selling some of them to firms in European and American capitals where there is a large demand at high prices for them, Aloysians could well spare some of them for the College Museum. If every noble and patriotic Old Boy were to make up his mind, as a labour of love, to secure something or other with which to enrich the Museum, we may rest assured that in another ten years we shall have an institution worthy of our great College.

Father Nicholas

CHAPTER I

I AM BORN



AM an Aloysian priest. I was born at Cordel on the 6th of December, feast of my patron St. Nicholas of Bari, in the year of grace 1872. My parishioners call me Father Niklaūm, my mother called me Niku. To my sisters I was only known as *Thapo*. They say that as a baby I was very fat and—I could not help it—very pretty. Whoever saw me wanted to eat me. Had there been Baby Week in those days, I should probably have won the first prize. At present I am not fat and, God knows, anything but pretty. I was the youngest of twelve children, six boys and six girls. Large families were and still are a common feature among the simple, God-fearing people of Cordel, and my father welcomed the advent of every child as a fresh blessing from Heaven. His trust in God, like my mother's, was boundless. He was a sturdy farmer, a prosperous *mulgeni* tenant of Bornerobe, and he used to say that the number of moorahs yielded by his fields had steadily risen with the increase of his family. He was a well-built man and very strong. I doubt if the whole of Mangalore possesses the like of him at the present day, unless it were Fr. George of the Seminary. He was one of the first batch of workmen employed in the construction of the college chapel, and quite a favourite with Fr. Mutti. But he would take no wages, for, as I one day overheard him telling my mother, it was work done for God's house. The large crucifix which Fr. Mutti

gave him has ever been treasured up as an heirloom in our family and is now, I believe, in the possession of my youngest sister, a septuagenarian at Barkur.

All the twelve children, thank God, lived to be the joy and consolation of their parents. But the last comer was, at least in his infancy, a true imp of mischief. As I grew in years I retained but a faint recollection of my childhood. But on the day of my First Mass my mother made several interesting revelations to me. She told me among other things that immediately after my birth, at which I had given her more trouble than any other of her children, her soul was flooded with a sweet heavenly joy such as she had never tasted before. This she understood to mean that I was one day to be a priest. Now a Cordel mother can cherish no fonder hope in her heart than to see one of her children ministering at the altar. The conviction that God had great designs on me made it impossible for my mother to be seriously angry with me in spite of my endless upsetting of her pots and pans in the kitchen. Reckless in my mischief, I was equally reckless in my affection for her. It was useless to birch me, for however much I might scream and dance under the *sarūn*, the moment she stopped I would throw my baby arms round her neck and fairly stifle her with kisses. Only once did she lose her temper with me, when on a Sunday morning, having painted her *vole* all over with my hands and mouth full of mango pulp, I made it

The writer of this story wishes to assure the reader that Father Nicholas is an imaginary person and that nothing could be more futile than an attempt to identify him with any priest living or dead.—ED.

impossible for her to go to Mass. But she told me that on the whole I was a source of delight more than worry. I had an insatiable thirst for her stories of the Infant Jesus, especially those relating to the Flight into Egypt. My favourite story seems to have been the one in which a bunch of dates comes down as the hungry Child stretches his little arms towards the overhanging branch. My mother said that every time she related this story I would smack my lips very demonstratively. Once, when I was resting on her lap, she put in my hands a picture of the Mother of God with the Divine Child. I kissed the Child violently fifty times over, and then suddenly rolling the picture into a ball swallowed it before anybody was aware what I was up to. Knowing my mother's scrupulous regard for truth, I think this must be a true story, though it brings my infancy perilously near that of St. Thomas Aquin, with whom alas! I have little in common in the field of theology. But I sincerely hope that I do share a particle of that saint's tender devotion to the Mother

of God, and I feel most grateful to my earthly mother that I sucked in this devotion with her milk. As to the souls now entrusted to my keeping, my first care is to imbue them thoroughly with the same devotion. But what a wonderful thing it is! In my sermons on our Blessed Lady I relate a hundred examples culled from a hundred sources, for in my Seminary days I read every book on the subject recommended by Fr. Diamanti. But the stories my people like best are precisely those I heard from my mother half a century ago. During my twenty-five years of parochial administration at Tendelthot I have made many a bad mistake. But I shall have one great consolation when I die—all my children love the Mother of God as much as I do. My Bishop has told me that my invincible genius for blundering has repeatedly led him to make up his mind; but every time he has written out the order to remove me from the parish I love so dearly, the fair vision of my people singing the *Rusari Saibini* in the month of May has floated before his mind and he has invariably torn up the letter.

TO OLD SODALISTS

Dear Sir,

With the greatest pleasure we, in the name of the whole Sodality, invite you to join us in celebrating the Golden Jubilee of the College Senior Sodality. Fifty fruitful years will have passed since on the 21st June 1881 seventeen youths led by the Rev. Fr. John Sergeant, S. J., knelt before Our Lady's Altar at Kodialbail to consecrate themselves to her as their Patroness, Queen and Advocate. Of this first band, our eldest brothers, eleven are still among the living. Is it not therefore becoming that in union with them, all of us that have come after, should render thanks to Almighty God for the many blessings He has conferred on us as the privileged children of our heavenly Mother?

For many reasons, especially the uncertain weather in June and the reopening of the College late in that month, it has been decided to hold the greater part of the festivities between the 3rd and the 6th of January.

We are anxious that whoever has been at one time a member of our Sodality should renew the holy memory of the happy days he spent as a "Senior Sodalist" and be with us in spirit, if not in person, at our Family Feast. With this view we shall gladly receive such suggestions as you, a former Sodalist, would wish to make with regard to the subjoined the

programme which we have drafted according to our limited means.

Thanking you in anticipation for your kindly co-operation,

Yours fraternally in our Lady,

Gelasius Coelho,

Prefect.

Salvadore J. Fernandes,

Secretary, Jubilee Committee.

DRAFT PROGRAMME

- Jan. ^{15, 16, 17} ~~2, 4, 5~~ — High Mass (one day Solemn Requiem for deceased Directors and Members).
Evening—Choral Office, Short Sermon and Benediction.
- Jan. ~~6~~ 18 — Solemn High Mass, General Communion.
11 a. m.—Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Adoration.
4 p. m.—Solemn Vespers, Sermon, Procession Te Deum and Benediction.

To honour and entertain our Former Directors, Prefects and Members (especially the very first batch), we shall give a Musical and Dramatic Entertainment on one of these four days as convenient.

Editorial



HIS Supplement to the *Mangalore Magazine* is the first of its kind to be published. As was announced some time ago, it will be issued three times in the course of a year. It is meant to be the special organ of the Aloysian Association, and as such its scope is more limited than that of the *Mangalore Magazine*, which will be published as an annual on the occasion of the feast of St. Aloysius and will continue to be what it has been in years past—the organ and record of St. Aloysius' College.

* * *

The tragic death of Fr. Saldanha, one of the earliest Aloysians and the President for some time of the Aloysian Association, has deprived the College of one of the most important members of the staff. His is an irreparable loss. The biographic notice that appears in our columns has been written by one who knew him long and intimately, and will appeal as a true picture to the very large number of Aloysians to whom Fr. Saldanha was a familiar figure at the College. The many telegrams and letters of condolence received by Fr. Rector from Old Boys testify to the love and esteem in which Fr. Saldanha was held. Fr. Rector wishes to thank all those that wired or wrote to him for their sentiments of touching sympathy.

* * *

The feast of St. Aloysius brought the Golden Jubilee celebrations to a close. On the 21st of June there was solemn High Mass at 7 a. m. and in the afternoon, sermon and Benediction at which *Te Deum* was sung in thanksgiving to God for all the blessings conferred on the College during the half century of its existence, and particularly during the course of the Jubilee year.

On the 22nd inst. took place the Jubilee Dinner for the Benefactors and the Staff. It turned out a very pleasant function. The toast was raised right loyally by Mr. M. S. Sreshta, and there were speeches in the true Aloysian spirit by Rao Bahadur B. Mahabala Hegde and Mr. J. A. Saldanha. The College Band was in attendance.

It won't do to detail the menu, though much art and more French were spent upon it. But who could forbear mentioning at least a few of the savoury dishes which the far-famed Komala Vilas sent round the vegetarian table: *Delhi Durbar, Punjabi Roti and Sema Payasam, Thuppa Dhosai and Potato Bhaji!*

Fr. Rector cordially thanks the Aloysians who sent congratulatory wires to Alma Mater on the feast of St. Aloysius. He wishes to make particular mention of the Mangalorean Catholic Association and the Suburban Aloysian Association of Bombay. In connection with the same feast we are glad to publish the following communication sent to the Editor by Mr. B. Tellis of Karachi:—

“The Catholic ex-students of St. Aloysius' College, Mangalore, resident in Karachi have decided to offer a Solemn High Mass in St. Patrick's Church on Sunday the 22nd inst. in celebration of the Golden Jubilee of that College. Father J. B. Lobo, an ex-student, will be the celebrant. This function is due to the initiative of Mr. P. D'Cunha, an ex-student, who holds the appointment of Head Appraiser, Karachi Custom House.”

We are grateful to Old Boys and friends for the welcome accorded to the Golden Jubilee Souvenir published on the feast of St. Aloysius. The reviews in the papers were generous in praise, and generous in particular the letters to the Editor from esteemed friends. To quote but one of the latter, Dr. F. X. D'Souza, I. C. S.,

wrote: "I have received the Golden Jubilee issue of the College Magazine kindly sent by Rev. Fr. Rector. It is an excellent volume which I read with very great interest. The arrangement is masterly; the character sketches of the principal actors most vivid; the style is attractive. To read through the volume is like witnessing a cinema representation of the life of the College during the last fifty years."

* * *

A few errors with regard to names and dates inevitably crept into the Golden Jubilee Souvenir. We feel thankful to those who have pointed them out. To have made the Duke of Wellington play foot-ball at Rugby instead of Eton was no doubt a bad blunder on the part of our nameless historian. But that is not likely to have disturbed the rest of the victor of Waterloo. We are more anxious to apologize for slips pertaining to the living. One mistake in particular calls for rectification. Mr. E. C. Minezes had subscribed Rs. 100 to the Poor Students' Fund. Though his photo appears in the Souvenir, his name has by oversight been omitted from the list of Donors. Was it by the law of compensation that one or two names slipped into the list of Donors that had no right to be there? Their subscription of a hundred has not yet been paid up. But we hope it will soon be, and then we shall effect a *sanatio in radice*. We also owe it to our subscribers in Calcutta to say that every one of them has fully paid up his amount.

* * *

We earnestly recommend to all Aloysians Mr. J. A. Saldanha's remarks on the College Museum. It is still in its infancy, but Old Boys could easily contribute to its growth. So far their contributions have been few and far between. May they multiply faster in the future. The Museum thankfully acknowledges two splendid volumes on Anthropology recently presented by Mr. J. A. Nazareth of Abadan.

* * *

The Golden Jubilee Poor Students' Fund amounts to-day to Rs. 16,253—7—11 paid up. This is a highly respectable figure. For all that, it is somewhat ugly to have to record arrears to the extent of about three thousand. In view of the considerable amount that has still to come in, it has been thought well to extend the period of payment till Easter. Some one has suggested that our final appeal for payment should be in the heroic accents of 'Awake, arise or be forever defaulters.' But we have no desire to tamper with the harmony of Milton's 'grand style,' much less to borrow an exhortation from Satan's mouth.

As was announced in the *Bulletin*, the cherished idea of publishing an Aloysian *Who's Who* on the original plan has had to be abandoned owing to insufficient information regarding a large number of Old Boys. But a complete list of subscribers to the Golden Jubilee Poor Students' Fund, containing, as accurately as possible, the titles, the degrees, the occupation and address of each subscriber, is in preparation. Every subscriber will receive a copy.

* * *

On another page are published the minutes of three meetings of the Managing Committee of the Aloysian Association as well as of the General Meeting held in October. We would draw the reader's particular attention to the fact that a large number of over six hundred Aloysians who had sent in their names to the Editor to be enrolled as members of the Association have not yet paid their annual subscription, which for the Jubilee year was Re. 1-8-0. 'The letter killeth,' and according to the letter of the rule they should have by now ceased to be members of the Association. But the kindly spirit of the General Meeting recently held decided that the present issue of the supplement should be sent to them also that it might serve them as a last reminder. It is our earnest hope that defaulters will avail themselves of this benign extension and remit

the small sum to the Secretary without delay. It would be a thousand pities if owing to such a trifling negligence hundreds of Aloysians who rallied so loyally round Alma Mater on the occasion of the Jubilee, were cut off from the solid advantages which that Alma Mater intends to offer them through the channel of the Association.

* * *

At the General Meeting of the Aloysian Association an interesting discussion took place on the subject of the Rule: "From time to time, on the occasion of the annual social gathering, the Association shall award a Gold Medal to a member who will have distinguished himself for social service or scholarship." When shall the first Gold Medal be awarded? Who shall decide to whom the honour is to go? Is the decision to lie with a Committee or shall the General Meeting put forward its candidate by acclamation or at least by a vast majority of votes? What class of Aloysians is eligible? May a vigorous young man adding laurel to laurel be thus honoured, or must we wait until he has fairly completed his work, at least in a particular walk of life? These were some of the questions asked. No definite conclusion was arrived at, except that it was agreed on all hands that the medal should be awarded, as far as possible, in recognition of one's life work. The Editor of the Supplement was requested to ascertain what Aloysians not present at the General Meeting might think on the subject. We shall be glad to have their opinion.

* * *

On June 21, 1931 the Senior Sodality of the College will be half a century old. Lord! does that mean yet another Golden Jubilee? Of course it does, but it is to be a Jubilee of quite an extraordinary kind—a Jubilee without the subscription list! It may sound as odd as the Ramayana without Rama, but that is the plain truth. And who is responsible for this strange measure? Bastian, who last year drained the purse of every Aloysian, Sodalist and non-Sodalist. The actual members of the

Sodality are indignant that his reckless begging should have driven them to take such a step. The other day they circumvallated him, and would have done him to—but the clever fellow got out of the scrape by procuring for them a hundred from his aunt. He has also filled up a whole book of Fr. Lopes's lottery and has promised to make over to the Sodalists all the prizes he is sure to win.

We publish elsewhere the letter addressed by the Sodality to its former members, as also the draft programme of festivities.

* * *

Christmas is at hand and we wish every Aloysian the sacred joys of the season. It is unnecessary to remind Old Boys that the best way to share those joys abundantly is to make a good Retreat before Christmas. Last year the Jubilee Retreat at the College was attended by an uncommonly large number of Aloysians. We earnestly hope that at least an equal number of Aloysians will follow the Retreat to be given this year. But besides the Retreat to the public in the College Church which will begin on Thursday evening the 18th of December, a Closed Retreat will be given in the College Boarding House from Sunday evening the 14th to Thursday morning the 18th of December. Intending exercitants are requested to inform the Director of the Boarding House. As usual, the boarding fee for the whole Retreat is Rs. 5.

* * *

As we go to press, there comes a wire announcing the death of Fr. Michael Chiappi, S. J. Years have passed since he was transferred from the Mangalore to the Bombay Mission. But it is impossible to forget the debt of gratitude the College owes to him. It would be no easy task to enumerate the services he rendered in connection with the class room, the stage, the choir, the splendid laboratories he set up and, above all, the electric installation which his wonderful initiative planned and carried out in spite of untold difficulties. It will be our pleasant duty to speak of it more at length in the next annual of the *Mangalore Magazine*.

1930 College Chronicle*

June 21. Feast of St. Aloysius. 7 A. M. Solemn High Mass. 4 P. M. Sermon by Fr. L. Proserpio. *Te Deum* at the close of the Jubilee Year. Mgr. V. R. Fernandes gave Benediction. The Secular Clergy were invited to dinner.

June 22. 8 P. M. The Jubilee Dinner for the Benefactors and the Staff. Speeches by Mr. M. S. Sreshta, Rao Bahadur B. Mahabala Hegde and Mr. J. A. Saldanha.

June 27. Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 11 A. M. Sermon by Fr. J. P. Noronha. After Benediction, the Consecration of the College to the Sacred Heart was renewed in front of the statue placed in the atrium.

July 1. Mass of the Holy Ghost.

July 10. The opening Cricket Match of the season, St. Aloysius' College vs. M. C. C., ended in a draw.

Rev. Fr. Peter Willikens, S. J., Visitor to the Jesuit Colleges in India, arrived here.

July 16. Our XI lost the match against the M. C. C.

July 24. College XI vs. M. C. C. The College won.

July 30. St. Aloysius' College XI vs. Government College XI—drawn.

July 31. Feast of St. Ignatius. Vespers sung on the eve. 7 A. M. Solemn High Mass. The Choir sang Perosi's *Missa Te Deum Laudamus*. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 2.30 P. M. Sermon by Fr. Ferroli. Very Rev. Fr. B. Aranha gave Benediction. The Senior Sodality was At Home to the College Fathers.

August 7. College XI vs. M. C. C.—drawn.

Our Hockey Eleven played the Government College Eleven and won by 2 goals to nil. This is the first match for the Monsoon Hockey Cup.

August 9. Our Hockey team lost against the Bolar team by 2 goals to nil.

August 11. Our Hockey XI beat the Police XI by 3 goals to nil.

August 15. Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady. The Sodalists sang the *Missa de Angelis*. Fr. Leo D'Souza preached the Sermon.

August 18. Requiem High Mass for the repose of the soul of the late Bishop Valerian D'Souza.

September 15. The University Exams. held in the College hall.

September 23. Scout Trip to Brito Villa (Cordel).

September 24. Our Junior Cricket XI played the Cathedral School team for the Inter-School tournament and won.

September 29. Fr. Gilbert Saldanha died of heart failure, while following the funeral procession that carried the remains of our late Bishop Valerian D'Souza to their last resting place.

September 30. 7 A. M. Requiem High Mass for the repose of the soul of Fr. G. Saldanha. The Office for the Dead was sung before the funeral at 5 P. M.

October 1—3. St. Aloysius' College XI vs. Government College XI for the Inter-School Senior Cricket Cup. Our boys lost the match.

October 4. Inter-School Junior finals. Our boys played the Ganapathi High School, and won.

October 16. His Excellency the Governor of Madras visited the College at 8.30 A. M.

October 21. Distribution of Prizes. Mr. P. C. Lobo presided.

October 26. For the first time rain forced us to abandon the Votive Procession, and to hold the Service in our Chapel. Fr. Modotti preached on the Kingship of Christ.

October 30. Competitive examination in vocal music open to the Middle Schools of the Diocese was held at the College. The College won the Diploma and the Prize.

November 6. The St. Aloysius' College XI played the Government College XI for the Albuquerque Cup. The match ended in a draw.

November 10. Fr. Ignatius Fernandes arrived.

November 13. Our Cricket team won the match which was played over again.

November 27. Our Juniors won the Athletic Sports Cup.—Bishop Perini returning from his *ad limina* visit, was our guest.

November 28. The College lost the Senior Athletic Sports Cup to the Government College.

December 1—3. Solemn Triduum in honour of the newly canonized Jesuit Canadian Martyrs: High Mass each morning and an Academy with a Lantern Lecture and some very effective *tableaux* each evening, after Sermon and Benediction.

December 2. Rectors' Day. Rev. Louis Mascarenhas, S. J., arrived.

December 4. Father Rector was At Home to the Lay Staff.

A fuller account of the events will be given in the Annual—Ed.

Proceedings of the meetings of the Managing Committee of the Aloysian Association

The Managing Committee met on three occasions during the period under report, with an average attendance of 10.3, and conducted business as follows:—

15th January 1930. After the election of the Treasurer and the Secretary the Committee drew up a programme of activities for the year. The work of the Information Bureau was entrusted to a sub-committee consisting of the Revd. President, the Revd. Editor, of the *Mangalore Magazine*, the Secretary, Mr. J. A. Saldanha and Mr. C. J. Varkey. Mr. J. A. Saldanha undertook to start the work. The initial expenses for providing an almirah, a notice-board, and stationery were then sanctioned, and provision was made for re-opening accounts with the Catholic Co-operative Credit Society.

13th March 1930. The publication of the Jubilee Souvenir was posted for the feast of St. Aloysius, and the motto and crest of the Association suggested by Mr. J. A. Saldanha, were adopted. Further a few amendments to the drafted rules were proposed to be placed before an Extraordinary General Meeting.

4th August 1930. The expenses incurred in supplying copies of the Jubilee Souvenir to the members were passed and the Agenda for the Extraordinary General Meeting drawn up. The Editor of the *Mangalore Magazine* was next empowered to open correspondence with influential Aloysians residing in the principal cities of India, asking for co-operation in carrying out the objects of the Information Bureau.

Proceedings of the Extraordinary General Meeting of the Aloysian Association held on 12th October 1930

Twenty-seven members attended. At the outset the meeting resolved to place on record the deep sorrow felt by the Aloysians at the sudden passing away of their beloved Bishop and of Revd. Fr. G. Saldanha S. J. Then the business for the day was taken up.

(1) The following amendments to the Rules were passed:—

Rule 6. Amended as follows:—That the election of the Managing Committee be held by rotation every year with five members going out by ballot, these outgoing members being, however, eligible for re-election. That the office-bearers other than the President and the Editor be elected every year.

Rule 22. Amended as follows:—That the Aloysian Supplement of the *Mangalore Magazine* be the Organ of the Association, published thrice a year, towards Easter, Michaelmas and Christmas, and sent to the members free of charge; that the subscription per year be rupee one; and that to those who fail to pay the subscription by 31st August the Michaelmas number be sent per V. P. Post. Also resolved that the Rules be printed and a copy sent to every member.

(2) Resolved that the Requiem Mass with absolution for the deceased Aloysians be sung at the College this year on the 27th November.

(3) Resolved that in the Aloysian Supplement of December this year an appeal be sent to all those members who have not yet paid their subscription for the current year, and that the cost be borne by the Association.

(4) Resolved that the Association contribute Rs. 10 to the College Prize Fund, as formerly.

(5) Resolved that the Managing Committee be empowered to hold the Aloysian Social Gathering on the appointment of the new Bishop of the Diocese.

(6) Resolved that the Editor of M. M. be requested to ascertain the opinions of Aloysians with regard to presenting the Aloysian Gold medal.

(7) Resolved that the subscriptions to the Association be fixed as follows:—

Founders . . .	Rs. 50
Life Members . .	Rs. 25
Ordinary Members.	Re. 1 per year.