

SANDY REBELLO

A portrait of Sandy Rebello, a middle-aged man with short, graying hair, wearing a dark blue polo shirt. He is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is a solid dark blue.

75 YEARS

OF

MY LIFE

Journey and Work

DEDICATED

**To
MY PARENTS**



Father : Nepomociano Tedomiro Rebello

Mother : Paciencia Rebello

My beloved father Nepomociano Tedomiro Rebello and mother Paciencia Rebello whose memories live on through the pages of this book. I dedicate this autobiography with a heart full of love and gratitude to them. May their memory continue to live on and inspire me.



Residence at Altess Manor Caranzalem



Sandy Rebello

M.A, B.Ed., LL.B

PREFACE:

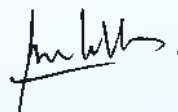
In the beginning of the month of August 2021 I had a strong inspiration and prompting of the Holy Spirit to write about my life story, it persisted for quite a long time and I tried to push it away, but it continued until I started writing the autobiography of my life, in my own hand writing. I have completed writing this autobiography a few days before my 71st birthday.

On my 71st birthday I received the following message from the Lord ***“My son you completed today 71 years of your life which you have recorded in the book at my command It is to be made known to all in the future to keep your memories alive even after you leave this world and come to me where I am My son today once again I bless you with a long and abundant life to proclaim my kingdom to pronounce salvation to all men and remove the devil from the face of the earth My son your abundant life full of joy and happiness will begin after my mission unfolds as revealed to you.”***

In this autobiography, I have written briefly about my birth, my parents, my grandmother, my siblings, my primary and

secondary education - both as boarder and day scholar at Don Bosco High School Panaji, about Don Bosco Past Pupil's Association Goa Unit, voluntary teacher in the free night classes, appointment as teacher at day school, about my graduation and post-graduation, B.Ed. studies in Bhopal and professional studies as a lawyer, about my stay at the Don Bosco Past Pupils Hostel, internship to join the Bar, starting an independent legal practice in Panjim, my marriage and retirement from the night school after 40 years of service and the night school service itself, as preparation ground to fulfill a greater call for the service of the kingdom through the mission of Jesus Centre Goa. In the year 2025 Holy Spirit inspired me to print the autobiography and release it on my 75th birthday on 16th November 2025.

I thank the Lord for His inspiration and direction to write my autobiography and His grace to write it. I hope and pray the same comes useful for the future generations to know and inspire them.



Sandy Rebello

AUTOBIOGRAPHY

Birth:

I was born on the 16th of November, 1950 to Nepomociano Tedomiro Rebello and Paciencia Rebello at Chinchinim Deussua Velor Salcete Goa along with my twin brother Dioginho Rebello who died within a month of his birth. At the time of my birth, my mother was very sick and even the last sacraments were given to her I was named after my late grandfather - Santano Rebello (my mother's father) who died in the Spanish flu epidemic of 1917 in Bombay. He passed SSCE and was one of the few educated people in the village at that time.



Pai: Nepomociano Tedomiro Rebello.

My Parents:

Pai

My father was born on 24th July 1900 to Sertorio Rebello and Encarnacao Pereira at Deussua Vellore Salcete Goa. He was the second child out of six children - three brothers and three

sisters. He did not like to study when he was young. He knew to read and write a letter in Konkani. We used to call our father Pai.

He worked aboard a ship at an early age, eventually to become a chief baker on the ship. He got married at the age of 32 to my mother who was only 14 years of age. During my childhood days, he was mostly on the ship and used to come home for one or two months after his voyage on the ship every year. I have not spent much time with him, though my memories of him in my childhood days were of a strict and fearful person. He did not know to take lessons, but knew tables in Portuguese. Whenever he took up mathematical tables it was a fearful experience. He loved to eat meat and good food, otherwise used to drink and fight at home. He was not much concerned about running of the house. Everything was managed by my mother. My father used to say she is like a giant and can do all things. The only thing he was interested and concerned was about the studies of the children. He did not want his sons to be seamen like him because he used to say, 'A seamen's life is very hard on the ship in the high seas'. He wanted us to study and be qualified to work in whichever profession we choose, but not seamen! He understood the value of education by toiling away on the ship. He was foresighted and his vision was broad. He took my elder brother to Bombay to study to become a doctor. He became the first doctor in the village. When he returned to Goa after passing his M.D, he was felicitated by the villagers of Deussua and given a reception outside St. Anthony's Chapel. The people in the village used to call my father 'Dotora Pai' and mother 'Dotora Mai'.

On the face or appearance my father looked to be a tough person but he was a very kind hearted person. He took several villagers and relatives, free of charge to work on the ship as

seamen through the kind offices of one Michael Dsouza from Parra who was a head clerk in British shipping company /P&O and was in charge of recruitment of sailors for the company. My father was one of the founding members to form a union of seamen who would represent the voices & demands of seamen. My mother would tell us that my father used to get telegrams from the seamen union saying 'Begin Bombay pau' calling him to Bombay immediately, which he used to respond without delay. He met Michael Dsouza while he was a union leader and dealings with union matters regarding the workers. Later he became his friend and the God father of my brother Michael.

My father was a workaholic and was very loyal to his work. Whenever he got call from his company, he used to leave the very next next day for Bombay, he never shied away from work. He was also a very impatient person, and liked to work fast. Sometimes, he used to make cakes at home and keep the whole house busy, to get things he needed to make cake. Mother used to discourage him from making cakes at home, but his cakes were very nice and tasty to eat. All of us would enjoy them and still remember the memory.

He retired from life at sea by the age of 60. I was around 13 years old, the same year I was admitted to Don Bosco's boarding at Panjim. I was only with him during holidays. He used to go fishing with Kantari (net) and bring lots of fish. During the course of his post-retirement years, he used to come and stay with my elder brother who, after finishing his MD got a job in Goa Medical College as a lecturer and was staying at the government quarters in St Inez after his marriage. He used to play with his granddaughter Gleena. I was also staying with my brother and going to Don Bosco High School Panjim.



Mae: Paciencia Rebello

Mae

My mother was born on 3rd December 1916 to late Santano Rebello and Ingleza Barreto. We used to celebrate her birthday every year on 3rd December on the feast day of St. Francis Xavier. They had a house on the hillock of Deussua in the property of one Cristovao Furtado of Chinchinim. In fact, they were tenants of the property consisting of cashew trees, mango trees, coconut trees and other trees. We used to call our mother as ‘Mae’.

My mother was very unfortunate to lose her father to the Spanish flu epidemic of 1917 in Bombay, where he was working as a clerk at that time. He had come to Goa to see her when she was born. My mother was only one year old when he died. My mother was brought up by her widowed mother and grandmother Mrs. Candolina Ferrao. My mother would talk and praise much her grandmother more than her mother. Her mother used to say, she has become like her grandmother. My mother used to tell us her grandmother was a very courageous, bold, competent and hardworking woman. My mother was proud to be like her. She too was courageous, bold, competent and very hardworking like her grandmother. Her courage was on display when she went to

the USA to meet my priest brother Michael and was not afraid to travel alone, inspite of the fact that she only knew Konkani and no other language. She used to say if her father survived the flu, he would have put her to school and for higher studies and would have been a great, educated person. Her mother was not educated and therefore, she did not care much for her studies. My grandmother used to say she did not understand how her husband who was well educated married to person like her.

My mother was married when she was just 14 years old to my father, who was almost double her age. She used to say her mother forced her to marry at such early age. My mother bore seven children - five boys and two girls. Two boys died - the eldest Sertorio at the age of 3 years and the youngest Dioginho who was my twin brother. She used to remember the eldest son Sertorio and tell us that he used to call her “Pacense” as she was called by her mother and not ‘Mae’ and many other things and cry. My mother was a housewife taking all the burden of the family, slogging in the paddy fields day and night to feed us. She cultivated rice, chilies, beans of all kinds, sweet potatoes etc. She looked after fields and three bunds consisting of more than 50 coconut trees. This was on tenanted land belonging to one Paulino Barreto from Cansaulim, inherited from my father’s side tenancy. It was a large tenancy of fields and coconut groves. My mother used to sublet the fields to the villagers who would cultivate the fields. She used to collect the rent (xidau) from all the cultivators and give it to Paulino Barreto on a yearly basis. She used to say that because of the tenancy of fields and coconut trees, which brought in a good income, were we able to educate our children and have a better life. She used go to the river to catch fish and prawns almost every day. She would make rice and prawns curry

which was very delicious and tasty for us to eat after we returned from school.

My father took no responsibility of taking care of children even when he was at home, except to find out about the results of each one when he came home every year from his voyage on the ship. If we did not do well in the exams he would shout at my mother. He wanted everyone to come first in the exam and would bring anything you ask for, if we got good results. My mother took the entire responsibility of taking care of the children on a day-to-day basis, as my father was on board the ship most of the time. After my sisters got married, I remained alone with my mother. During the summer and October holidays when I would come home, I used to help her in the kitchen and learnt cooking rice, curry, meat dishes, cleaning of fish etc. which stood for me in good stead in my life, as a bachelor living alone and as well as after I got married. I still remember her when I cook in my house. This blessing which I have inherited from my mother I taught to my children.

One of my mother's greatest love was to go for roce and peti ceremony in the village, for the bride or the bridegroom which was customary in the village at that time. She used to sing songs known as 'Ess' in Konkani. Very few people knew these songs in the village. My mother was especially remembered to be called whenever there was a Roce ceremony in the village. They enjoyed having her sing. It was usually held on the day before the wedding day ~ when bride and bridegroom are bathed in the customary coconut milk. I also used to accompany her many times, when I was small as she used to take me with her. She told us that she learned these songs from her grandmother and another neighbour.

Her second love was to see folk plays (Khel tiatrs) during carnival days and Easter. She also used to take me along with her. Khel tiatrs used to be held 3 days during carnival and they were played at the Dandeavaddo Mand and Maddant at Chinchinim. She also used to love to go for tiatrs at Ravindra Bhavan Margao and often Bab, my eldest brother used to take her for tiatrs regularly with him as they both, had a love for tiatrs. Many times, I also went with them while I was on holidays. Bab also used to take me for tiatrs with him held at Azad Maidan at that time when I was staying with him at St. Inez Government quarters and going to school.

My mother was a pious person following all the devotions of the catholic church. She would attend novenas at Pilar, Padre Jose Vaz at Sancaole and she used to go and stay at Old Goa during entire novenas of St Francis Xavier. She used to take me sometimes when I was young for these novenas. If anyone objected to going to attend novenas, she used to say “you will be obstacle in my journey towards heaven. If I am ever going up to heaven, you, my children both boys and girls will pull my legs and bring me down”. She went annually, irrespective of any objection from anyone. She used to attend regularly the preaching of Fr. Savio da Gama at Sirlim and she was very attached to him. She also attended novenas of St. Judas Tadeu held at Chinchinim on every Thursday conducted by one Fr. Rocha at that time, where thousands of people would attend. She would always attend the high mass whenever she went for feasts. She would regularly go for adoration of Blessed Sacrament when exposed in the church or chapel in the village.

In short, I can say, my mother was very concerned about going to heaven and she did according to her understanding and

teaching of the church all that is required to go to heaven. She gave first preference to matters related to God then world and also taught us as children to do so, she encouraged Michael to join the seminary to become priest. She used to say ‘I have taught you everything as children, now if you do not follow when you have grown up, it is your responsibility and not mine’.

After the death of my father on 1st October 1976, she lived alone at Deussua Chinchinim for about 28 years. Once he passed, we constructed a new house after demolishing the old house. My mother took all the trouble while building the house and thereafter, looked after the house when she was alive. Since her death in 2005, I do my best to take care of the house. I would visit her at least once in a month, stay with her on Saturday- Sunday, Diwali and summer holidays before my marriage. After marriage I used to visit her during week days in the afternoon and have lunch with her when I would go to Margao for my cases. Whenever I visited her I used to carry fish, meat, vegetable, fruits etc. to stock her fridge. I also used to get regular updates and information about my mother’s well-being through my cousin Arsenio Furtado, who used to come to Panjim quite often, while he was working for Govind Poy Company. My mother used to go to their house in the evenings sometimes, overlooking the Deussua lake. She would spend time with my cousins and other people who used come there too. Arsenio used to come to my office at 18th June Road regularly whenever he came to Panjim. Both of us used to go for lunch either at Rashdeep or Santa Rita restaurant. It helped me to know about my well-being of mother whenever I was not able to go to see her. I also took a BSNL phone connection at our house to communicate with her on regular basis.

Arsenio Furtado brought one Mathonkar working in Land Survey Department to my office. He brought one Antonio Dsouza from Candolim, who had a property situated at Baga beach, which we sold through him to Daryl Pereira one of my past student who wanted to build a resort in Baga in collaboration with a foreigner from UK by name Lee.

During summer vacation, our family used to stay at Deussua for a week or so, a tradition which continued for some years. In the last years of Mae's life, my wife took her to Divine Retreat Centre many times. She was very happy to go there. For the last 9 months of her life, she stayed at my brother's hospital as she was unable to live alone at Deussua. I used to visit her every Saturday evening and sometimes take her to Deussua to see her house as she desired. Somewhere in the early month of February 2005 as I realized her days on earth are slowly coming to an end. I asked her whether she wanted to go and see the house for the last time. She said 'No' and expressed that house, property, children all are immaterial and one has to leave them and go ***“ghor bhurghim gireskai soglem focand, maka ghara vospac naka”*** I do not want to go home. She got redeemed and detached from the world and was ready to accept death joyfully. She died on 23rd March 2005 during the holy week when I was away at the Divine Retreat Centre, Muringoor preaching the word of God. Her funeral was held on Easter Sunday and was attended by His Grace, Bishop Raul Gonsalves. I can say that I did whatever I could and was possible for my mother. She was blessed with a long life and passed away at the ripe age of 88 years. My elder brother used to take care of her whenever she was sick, by taking her to his hospital.

In short, I can say that although my father and mother

quarreled at times with each other, they never compromised the interests of their children. Their interest was always at their heart and therefore, they did all that they could through hard work, sacrifice and pain to bring up the family of five children. They got both daughters married, keeping with the expected norm prevalent at the time. It is because of their hard work, dedicated service, great vision and foresight, we have become what we are today. My parents deserve all the credit and praise for bringing up their children in discipline, educating them and establishing a God-fearing family. Mother use to tell us that Bab was not able to help her in the fields and when she asked him how he would fill his stomach, he use to tell "By Studying" and now he has become a doctor.

My Grandmother

My grandmother, my mother's mother was living alone on the hillock of Deussua in her house when I was small. Her house was about 200 meters from our house, I used to go to see her often. She was looking after cashew plantations and mangoes of the landlord Cristovao Furtado. I used to go there to pluck mangoes, cashews, jackfruits, kokum etc. She showered lots a love and affection on me, I remember it with nostalgia, she was also my Godmother and her late husband was my Godfather. Whenever I remember her, I feel sorry for her, because she suffered a lot after the death of her husband, in the Spanish flu in 1917, when she was only 25 years old leaving behind her one-year-old daughter with her to be brought up. When my other siblings were young, she used to live in our house and help my mother. All my other siblings remember her with love and affection. She was known and called 'Bomai' and the whole

village also called her Bomai. She used to go fishing in the river Sal. Whenever she needed any help she used to come and call us by name from the road. My mother used to supply rice, coconut etc. to her when she was living alone.

My Petname

I was the youngest of the siblings of three brothers and two sisters. When I was young, I received lots of love and affection from my siblings. My eldest brother Dr Rebello (*Bab*) chose and gave us the pet names. My eldest sister: Filomena to Filu, second sister: Clementina to Kelu and for me, from Santano to Sandy. Hence, at home and to my close associates and friends, I am known as Sandy. People in Deussua still call me Santan, while in the profession I go by Adv. J.S. Rebello, my students call me Sir Rebello and at Jesus centre Bro. Rebello. I am inspired by the Holy Spirit to take the name Sandy Rebello for everything that lies ahead.



Siblings with mother

Left to Right : Filu, Michael, Mai, Bab, Sandy, Kelu.

My Siblings:

My eldest brother was addressed as Bab by all in the house as a mark of respect for being the eldest. We continued to call him Bab right till his unfortunate death. When I was very young, he was in Bombay studying medicine. I did not have much interaction with him at that time.

Filu got married when I was young. I used to go her place in Velim during carnival time. In Velim they used to have a unique carnival parade organized by tribal people (*Kunbis*). Her father-in-law, Joaquim Andrade used to take me along to see the parade. Kelu, Michael and I were at home. We used to quarrel amongst ourselves sometimes on small matters, which did not last long, as Kelu used to be the peace-maker.

Michael and I used to go for fishing together during holidays in river Sal and Deussua lake during the rainy season. Kelu also used to come and join us at the Deussua lake. Thereafter in 1963, Kelu got a job at Panaji in the Garrison Engineers office, a military establishment of the Government of India. Michael joined the seminary to become a priest. So, I can say it was only with my siblings Kelu and Michael, that I spent some years when I was young.

I was alone at home with my mother, doing all kinds of mischief and my mother was not able to handle me, I could not be controlled by her. She used to say – ‘*Sandy should be sent to the boarding*’, and asked me which boarding I preferred - Monte de Guirim or Don Bosco’s Panaji, I used to say Don Bosco boarding.

Among the siblings, Kelu and I remained connected and close because we spent more time together, first at home and then at Dr Rebello’s house at St Inez before her marriage. While we stayed there, she used to help me, sometimes even gave pocket money and buy other material things like clothes etc.

While I was a bachelor, staying in the hostel, I used to visit Kelu often, who was living at Porvorim with her family after her marriage and have lunch at their place. She used to prepare Brinjal roasted on the fire, (*Baingan bharta*) which I liked very much. After my marriage, our family would go for her children's birthdays - both Noel and Nisha for many years until they grew up.

Michael and I were also closely connected when we were at home. After he joined the seminary, we used to be together only during holidays. After he became a priest he was posted at Mary Immaculate church Panjim as Asst. Parish priest along with Fr. Valmiki. During these years he used to invite me for lunch during the feast and his birthday celebrations. At that time, I was staying at Don Bosco Past Pupils Hostel Panjim. Later, he was posted as chaplain of Sataporio chapel at Moira, Bardez where I used to visit him often to spend a night and afternoon and come back. He used to prepare beef and pork roast which I learnt from him.

Later he went to USA and after a period of 10 years he came back to stay permanently in Goa. When he came back, he was posted at the Colvale church situated on bank of the Chapora river. He used to catch crabs by putting (*koblem*) and also fish with the rod. I used to go there sometimes with children spend a day and night as Neil used to like to see the catching of the crabs. We also went there for his silver jubilee celebrations of priesthood. We also used to visit him sometimes while he was at Veroda church and on his birthdays.

Mischievous and Playful;

When I was young, I was very playful and naughty, I spent time playing football in the village ground everyday. On holidays and Sunday, I used to go for fishing both with a rod and by hand

and *Kantari* (net). I also roamed on the hillock of Deussua, to eat mangoes, Binda's, rose berries etc. Then a group of boys from the village use to have bath in the village pond called "ogori" for hours together, mostly in the evening after 3 pm. In other words, there was no time for studies. I even copied homework in the class. I had one friend by name Menino, who had already left the school, I used to roam with him, I was around 13 years of age at that time. My mother was very worried about me and my studies and used to say "Sandy is going to be a loafer by roaming with Menino". I used to be out of the house whole day and come only for lunch and go out again and come back late in the evening after sunset.

I remember in my childhood when I was about 12 years old two life threatening incidents took place on the same day, one in the morning and one at night in which I would have lost my life.

1. In the morning I had gone to catch fish at ogor which was blocked by nets at high tide to catch fish during low tide and in Konkani it was called "ogor olla." I went there when it was low tide crossing river Sal. As I continued to catch fish, the high tide set in at river Sal and I did not realize. Soon the water rose up to a higher level and I was unable to cross on foot. I tried to cross by swimming but could not cross over. I was carried very far away by the running current and struggling to cross over. Suddenly one man who was also catching fish in the 'ogor' noticed me struggling, came and helped me, and finally I crossed over to the other side with his help. Otherwise, probably I may have drowned on that day.

2. On the same day in the night Michael and I had gone for a litany at the cross situated at Deussua hillock, as annual litany of the holy cross in the month of May were going on near my

grandmother's house. Before the litany started I tried to climb on the top of the cross, by catching the side stone to climb up, it suddenly came down as it was loose and fell on my head it made a big cut on my head. I shouted by saying "*Michael tokllechem oddhu guelem!*" - Michael half of my head is cut! I was bleeding severely. Finally, I was taken to Chinchinim by my mother and Ubelina Maxen (aunty) on their shoulders as there was no vehicle transport at that time, to Dr Olivio Mascarenhas at night time at around 10 pm. I received more than 15 stiches on my head. It was surely a miraculous intervention by God by which I was saved.

When I was small and was at home, I used to go to my cousin's house to play with my cousins Filandro Dias, Ivonne Dias and Chico Dias who were our next-door neighbours. Also spend time and play at the house of Mariquina Maxen with my cousins Cruzinho Furtado, Arsenio Furtado and Apolino Furtado near the Deussua lake. We also played both boys and girls game of squares in Konkani known as "*Mitanni Heddup*" near the house of Asterio Telles and Jerson Telles in the evening specially during rainy season.

My Primary Education:

I was put in primary school at Deussua near the chapel when I was 8 years old to learn the alphabet ABC, etc. which was in Portuguese medium at that time. Then, I went to a Portuguese school run by Professor Arsenio known as 'Arsenio Professor classes' in Chinchinim. I went first as a day scholar and later as semi boarder stayed at night for the purpose of studying came home only in the afternoon and went back after lunch. I remember him as a very strict man who used to wake up students early in the morning with one hand ringing bell and other hand carrying a long stick, those who did not wake up with the sound of the bell

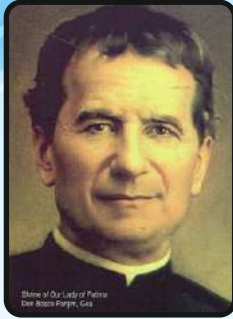
were beaten with the stick to wake up. I studied there for three years and completed primero grao, which was equivalent to fifth standard.

Schooling at Mount Mary's High School

After the liberation of Goa in 1961, all Portuguese medium run schools were closed. I was admitted to Mount Mary's High School, Chinchinim in standard 6th. I studied there for 2 years. I passed the 6th standard and failed in standard 7th. I used to walk to school from Deussua to Chinchinim which was more than two kilometers.

Results of std VII :

When the result of std VII was declared I was detained, failed miserably in all subjects, so much so we did not inform my father, who was at home on his retirement. As all results of other children came, my father went to the school and met Fr Artemio, the Principal. He told him, I have failed and Michael had already taken the results. He returned home with a long stick to beat me, when I saw him, I ran away and stayed with my grandmother on the hillock at her house for the whole day and did not return home even after nightfall. In the night, my mother, worried, began searching for me with help from our neighbors. My mother started crying loudly, as someone told her, that I ran towards the river Sal. As she was crying, all people gathered at the house. I could hear her cry at the hillock at my grandmother's house, so I came back home while all the neighbors gathered at home. My father did not beat me, thus I escaped a beating from him.



St. John Bosco

Admission at Don Bosco High School Panjim :

In the meanwhile, before I received the results of the 7th Std my mother had asked my brother-in-law Filonio Andrade who was working for Police Department at Panjim, to seek admission for me at Don Bosco Panjim. He sought and reserved admission for me to be admitted in std VIII as I was studying in std VII, presuming that, I will be promoted to std VIII. All uniforms, clothes and everything necessary to go and join boarding in std VIII, from June were completed in the month of May. Then there was a problem. Don Bosco fathers said, they have reserved the seat for me in std VIII and there is no place in std VII. Moreover, they usually do not admit any failures in the boarding. After much pleading, and telling them about my background, Fr Joseph Casti Sdb, the then Headmaster of the school admitted me in std VII in the Don Bosco boarding at Panaji for the academic year 1964-65. He was an Italian priest, a great missionary committed to serve specially the wayside and boys going astray, in true ideals of their founder St. John Bosco. Fr Joseph Casti admitted me as a boarder, inspite of being a failed student in std VII, it was an exception to the rule. Now looking back at it I can see, it was a truly inspired decision of the Holy Spirit both for my mother to send me as boarder in Don Bosco

Panjim, and for the Salesians to admit me with some exception to the rule. My mother used to say to me ‘ **Don Bosco Schollant Vosoun Tum Munis Zalla**’ - you have become a man by going to Don Bosco school’.

Don Bosco Boarding school:

Initially, I did not like the boarding with strict time table and routine.

- 6 am to 6.30 am: wake up
- 6.30 am to 7.00 am: Holy Mass
- 7.00am to 7.30 am: study hall
- 7.30 am to 7.50 am: breakfast
- 8.00 am to 1.00 pm: school
- 1.15 pm to 2.00 pm: lunch, change of clothes i.e., uniform
- 2.15 pm: break for games. Usually it was cricket or just be free till 2.45pm
- 2.45 pm to 4.00 pm: study hall
- tea break 4 pm to 4.15 pm
- 4.30 pm to 5.30 pm games: football, volleyball, hockey, basketball on different days. We were divided into different houses Red, Blue, Yellow and Green. The houses competed with each other in different tournaments.
- 5.30 pm to 6.00 pm: bath
- 6.00 pm to 8.00 pm: study hall
- 8 pm to 8.30 pm: dinner
- 8.30pm to 8.45 pm: break
- 8.45 to 9.00 pm Rosary
- 9 pm to 9.15 pm: Good night talk and then to dormitory to change and go to sleep. This was the time table for the day and daily routine until you go to sleep.

Initially I found it very tough. It was difficult to follow and accept

the system, especially for a person who had lived a free life before without any discipline or control until then. I desired strongly to go back home. The priests and the brother in charge noticed that I wasn't happy in the boarding - didn't participate in the games etc. One day during games time, without any permission, I went out of the compound and went to Altinho to Filu's place. Upon my return, I was caught, so they called my mother. Michael also came along with her. Fr Dennis Duarte Sdb, the then Rector was a very strict man and he told my mother, to take me home as I was not happy there. They pleaded with him to give me one more chance. After much hesitation, he agreed.

After some time thereafter, I got over the initial dislike for boarding life, I settled down and began to like the boarding and school at Don Bosco. In fact if I look back now, I can say those were the 2 best years of my childhood and adolescence life in std 7th and 8th which I spent as a boarder at Don Bosco. Initially Kelu used to visit me on Sundays as she was living nearby at 18th June Road in Eugene Dmello's house and working at the office of the Garrison Engineer. Boarding life was a happy one, as I used to get to play various games. I mainly played football, volleyball and hockey, however only one disadvantage was there in boarding, the food was mostly vegetarian and always the same. In the morning, we used to get chana bhaji every day, which we would refer to as "*bhorbhorem*". Br. Rocha was my group-in-charge of the boarding.

Day school at Don Bosco:

In std IX I was removed from the boarding, by my elder brother Dr. Rebello who returned to Goa after passing his MD degree. He got a job in Goa Medical College as a lecturer in the OBG Dept.

Thereafter he was allotted Govt Quarters at St Inez, but before the quarter was handed over and occupied, the school started, so I stayed for some days at Filu's place in Altinho and went to school as a day scholar for nearly a month. I still remember the nice beef curry she used to prepare which was very delicious and tasty. Thereafter, I shifted to St Inez. I went to Don Bosco school walking all the way. Kelu also came to stay there so three of us Dr Rebello Kelu and myself began to stay at St Inez. My mother used to supply provisions: rice, chilies, coconuts, tamarind, beans - everything grown by her own hands.



Don Bosco High School Panjim, Goa

After three years of school as a day scholar IX, X and XI, I passed SSCE in March 1969 and obtained 49% marks. It was the first batch of SSCE students who passed out through the new school building and obtained 100% results. The credit for the same goes to Fr Thomas Pamparel Sdb, who was the then Headmaster, a very strict disciplinarian and his very presence around was enough to put fear in students. Remo Fernandes the

famous Pop singer and Lobato Faria were my batchmates. They used to play the guitar and sing on different occasions for the school day singing competition etc. One classmate Mario was nicknamed as '*Popai*' and another classmate nicknamed as '*Pinocio*' were entertainers of the class.

School friends

Bento John Vaz, from Taleigao, Lawrence R. Rodrigues from Tonca and myself, who stayed at St Inez, were school friends. We were also classmates and passed out SSCE together. John and I while doing SSCE, did a typing course together - choosing typing as one of the subjects in an institute near old Panjim bus stand behind Post Office. We then joined Dhempe college at Miramar. John and myself went for Arts stream and Lawrence for Science stream. It was compulsory to join NCC. All three of us joined together, in the naval wing. Prof. Joe Menezes was in charge of the NCC naval wing of the Dhempe college. We also went together for two NCC Camps, one at Ratnagiri and another at Visakhapatnam. We went to Ratnagiri by steamer boat which used to take sea route to Mumbai and had halt at Ratnagiri.

For the Visakhapatnam camp, 5 cadets represented Dhempe college: namely John, Lawrence, Nelson, Roy and myself, along with an officer in charge accompanied us while travelling in the train, who had reservation in the First class AC coach. Nelson and Roy entertained us with English songs. While returning from the camp Nelson and Roy had plans to go to Bangalore. They made us to get down at Guntakal station and lured us to go to Bangalore without informing the officer in charge. We did not have enough money to stay in hotel. So, we spent one day at railway station until I could go and borrow some money from one of our relative, daughter of Michael's god father

who was living at Bangalore. On our return to Goa, we were summoned to NCC office and the officer in charge threatened to take disciplinary action. Prof. Menezes intervened on behalf of us and we were let off with a stern warning.

I joined Dhempe College in XI (Arts). I had a second-hand cycle during SSCE to go for typing classes near the bus stand, which I also used to go to Dhempe college at Miramar.

Member of Don Bosco Past Pupils Association :

After passing SSCE in March 1969 I joined the Don Bosco Past Pupil's Association as a member which was very active at that time. Mr. Conrad Marchon was the President and Mr. Hermogenes Lobo was the Secretary. Fr Albano de Melo, Sdb was the Delegate of Past Pupils' Association. He was later appointed as an Administrator of Don Bosco from 1970-71 onwards.



Fr. Alfred Mariota (National Delegate) and Carlisle Curry (National President) attending dinner of Centenary Celebrations in 1970 of Don Bosco's Past Pupils in Goa.

The year 1970, was the year of Centenary celebrations of the Don Bosco Past Pupil's Association worldwide, since it was founded, it completed 100 years. Fr. Alfred Mariotta, Sdb was the National Delegate and Mr. Carlisle Curry was the National President at that time. The Centenary Year of the Past Pupils Association was celebrated all over the world, where Salesians and past pupils had their presence, so also in India and Goa. They came specially for 3-day Centenary celebrations program in Goa. Fr Mariotta's famous words were "once a pupil of Don Bosco, forever a Past Pupil". Both of them closely connected with all the units of Past Pupils in India through a monthly magazine: "ALUMNUS" published at Matunga Mumbai, giving information about the activities of Don Bosco Past Pupils units in different parts of India.



Fr. Albano de Melo Sdb

Founder of the

Don Bosco Night High School Panjim.

Free Night Classes:

One of the activity proposed as a part of Centenary celebrations programme in Goa, was to start free night classes at Don Bosco Panaji. It was a pet project and idea of Fr. Albano de Melo and he was very much passionate about it. Even when I was a boarder, there were already some night classes going on in Don Bosco, meant only for the boarders working in workshop during the day, run by Bro. Joseph Kesi sdb. The students were trained to be mechanics in various trade, by Bro. Joseph who was in charge of the work shop.

Now Fr. Albano de Melo Sdb intended to open night classes for the poor and under privileged youth, working elsewhere during day time and could not attend a day school. To him goes the indisputable credit for nurturing the idea of providing adult education for the economically backward students in Panjim and surrounding villages. This was in line with Salesians mission of the founder St. John Bosco, who initially started Oratory for street boys and welcomed them to come and play at Oratory and later started night schools to teach them. Thereafter his congregation opened day schools for all students worldwide for the boys, which are presently managed known Don Bosco institutions all over the world, run by the Salesian Society.

Appeal for volunteers:

During the Centenary programme in January 1970 Fr. Albano de Melo announced the opening of the night classes from the next academic year from 1970 -71. Fr. Albano de Melo made an appeal to the Past Pupils Association members, to come and help to teach in the night classes. In response to his appeal, I along with my two other friends Bento John Vaz from Taleigao and Lourenco R Rodrigues from Tonca, volunteered to teach in the night classes. So, we joined the night classes somewhere in the month September in 1970.

When I went to the night school, I found everything in disorder, there was no proper timetable for the students as well as teachers. Moreover, students detained in previous classes in the day schools were admitted to higher classes without passing, so all repeaters flooded the night school without understanding anything.

Seeing the mess, something inspired me to take an interest

to put it in order - step by step. I began to do all kinds of work, to put night classes in order: set out a proper timetable for the students and teachers, teaching, typing examination papers and even ringing the bell after each period. There were plenty of students as it had the name of Don Bosco, although they were unrecognized classes preparing the students to appear SSCE Examination conducted by the Poona Secondary Board of Education as Private candidates. The first batch of 14 students were prepared to appear for SSCE as private candidates in 1973-74.



First Batch of SSCE Students in the Night School to appear as private candidates in the year 1973-74 along with teaching staff.

Sitting: Baptista Vaz, Lawrence R Rodrigues, Rajendra Chari, Bomfilho da Cruz, J.S Rebello (Headmaster), Juvenal Torres, Pascoal Afonso and Bento John Vaz.

Fr Albano de Melo promised to pay Rs 50/- per month for volunteer teachers, but he was not able to do so. Fr Joseph Casti, the then Rector of Don Bosco who gave Fr Albano de Melo the green signal to alight on his humanitarian program, began to pay Rs 50 to each teacher per month in the ‘night classes’ as they were called at that time. Rs 50 had great value at that time, unlike today. The amount grew to Rs 75 and eventually to Rs 100 at the time of his transfer to Bombay.

Fr Albano de Melo, the founder of the Don Bosco Night School Panjim.

Fr Albano de Melo was a very simple, kind and a loving person. Always cared for the needs of others. Highly affable and affectionate person to the poor people and students. His loving touch was always felt by everyone who was associated with him. He gave me unconditional support and all kinds of help in the initial years to establish the night school. We used to have annual picnics for the night school students. He provided the school bus to take students for picnic. Yousuf was the driver - he used to take us wherever we wanted to go. We used to go 2 or more places on the same day. On account of his support, help and animation during his tenure, the past pupils were attracted and closely connected to Don Bosco and the Past Pupils Association (Goa Unit) greatly thrived at that time. Towards the end of 1974, Fr Albano de Melo opted to go to Assam to work as a missionary and continued there till his old age. He returned to Goa and was at Don Bosco, Fatorda until his death.



Fr Joseph Casti Sdb

Rector of Don Bosco who wholeheartedly supported Fr Albano de Melo to start the night school at Panjim.

Fr Joseph Casti Sdb

Fr Joseph Casti was a great Italian missionary who came to India. He is remembered by everyone who was associated with him in Goa. He brought finance for Don Bosco through his sources to run ventures for the poor and give them free education during his tenure at Don Bosco. His qualities of head and heart and his loving touch is remembered by all who knew him

even now. My mother used to refer him as gorelo padri ekdom boro. He built the new church the Fatima shrine at Don Bosco. Every Friday he used to distribute alms in form of cash to the poor people. Lots of poor people used to come to receive the alms. Fr. Joseph Casti was very active during my boarding days in Don Bosco. I remember he used to regularly play basketball with the boys.

Night college:

In the meanwhile, I was looking out for job during daytime as I could see that it was becoming a burden on my elder brother to pay my college fees. He also suggested I take up a half day teaching job somewhere. Therefore, in my second year of the Inter Arts, I joined Dhempe night college along with my friend Bento John Vaz, who too was looking out for a job.

Appointment as Teacher in day school:

When Fr Albano de Melo came to know I was looking out for a job during the day, he spoke to Fr Benedict Furtado Sdb ,

Headmaster of then day school and Fr Joseph Casti Sdb Rector of Don Bosco to employ me in the day school as a teacher so that, I could continue to be in charge of the night classes and also working during the day time at Don Bosco's day school. In that year fortunately for me, one school teacher Mr. Vivian Pereira resigned from the day school to go to the gulf, so in his place I was immediately taken on a temporary basis as a teacher to teach History and English for the month of February, March and April in 1972. I was appointed as a regular teacher in the day school for the new academic year on 5th June 1972 as an undergraduate teacher. The first salary was something like 240 Rs per month. I once again admitted myself in day college at Dhempe Miramar as the classes for junior and senior BA(History) were in the afternoon. My daily routine was as follows 8.00 am to 1.00 pm to teach in the day school, 2.15 pm to 5.15 pm Dhempe college and 6.00 pm to 9.00 pm at night school.



Staff of Don Bosco High School, Panjim in 1972-73 Standing left to right: Alec Dsouza, Stanley Fernandes, Cosme C Pereira, Wilson Paes, Agnelo Crasto, P.D. Xavier, P.O. Chandy, Melchedes Vaz, Sitting J.S Rebello



Fr. Benedict Furtado Sdb,
Headmaster of Don Bosco High School
Panjim in 1972-73.

Fr Benedict Furtado

He was a living saint very kind loving and caring to all specially the poor and the marginalized. He admitted students in day school coming from poor families and backward communities like fisherfolk from Caranzalem and Britona. The day school catered to the students from the surrounding villages of Taleigao, Santa Cruz, Mercedes, Ribandar, Betim etc. He is remembered by the students with nostalgia for all his good works and help he gave to them to come up in life.

He was also very nice to the staff without much talking he got the work done by the teachers by his suave and kind hearted nature. Everyone loved him and did the work in the school out of love for him. Once he told me if you are not getting married, as I was over 30 years old, you become a salesian lay brother.

In short, I can say that during the tenure of Fr Joseph Casti as Rector, Fr Albano de Melo as Administrator and Fr Benedict Furtado as a Headmaster of the day school and Fr. Edward Dsouza as Director of Oratory, Don Bosco Panjim, made great progress and development in the educational and all other fields, because of their dedicated loving and caring service to the community in Panjim and surrounding areas. They are remembered even today by those with whom they were associated. Because of their hard work, dedication and selfless service they laid strong foundation for Don Bosco Panjim to be what it is today.



Sandy

John

College friends:

Bento John Vaz and myself became close friends while studying at Don Bosco. Even after we passed the SSCE, our friendship continued. We joined Dhempe college together and completed our inter arts. I used to go to his house and stay at Taleigao at night sometimes. His father used to prepare a beef dish which I still remember was very tasty. We would often go and sit at Marieta Bar and Restaurant in the evening mostly on Saturdays or holidays to enjoy beer and beef cream chops, beef e sangue and other snacks. The owner Mr. Moti used to welcome us and himself serve us in the restaurant.

I joined the day school as a teacher, and John got a job as a clerk in River Navigation department Government of Goa. Then we used to meet at night school. I got John and another teacher Juvenal Torres, who was working at Goa Medical College, special permission from the Government of Goa, so that they could also continue in the night school as teachers. I also got the transfer of John to Daman cancelled and got him back in the school after approaching Mr. Sheikh Hassan, who was the then River Navigation Minister.

John continued to be my close friend till I got married. After I got married, he went to Gulf to Muscat. He used to come to

meet us whenever he came back from gulf and would bring for us chocolates and other things. He later got married in Bombay. Currently he lives in Porvorim with his family. The last I met him and his family was for my sons wedding in the year 2018. We still exchange greetings for our birthdays and new year regularly.

Friend at Don Bosco Day School

Another friend who remained closely associated with me was Cosme C. Pereira. He joined day school in 1973-74. from then we were friends. Later, I brought him into the night school after its recognition as he was a trained teacher. He worked in the night school for 7 years right until his marriage. He married to Mariola, the sister of Mimosa a friend of my sister Kelu through her introduction. I was the best man for his wedding. After his marriage, he used to stay at St Cruz in a big house. I used to visit his home many times and stayover at his house. We even had school staff parties at his house in the evening. Thereafter, he built a house at Raia in his home village. We have enjoyed stays at Benaulim beach cottages during the summer vacations too.

I used to visit him at his house at Raia and stay some times there at nights. He also used to visit us at our house in Panjim and bring cakes and biscuits for our children. Sometimes he used to come for our children's birthday. I used to regularly connect with him through phone calls when Mariola was alive. Mariola died some years ago and now he is staying alone in Raia and is being looked after by his nephew Tadeu and family. I visited his home in August 2024. I last met him on 7th January 2025 at Don Bosco for the 50-year reunion of the SSCE Batch 1975. I always remember and cherish the time we spent together. He was a very loving, jovial and friendly person.

In charge of NCC in the school

I was in charge of NCC wing in the day school. I took over from Sir. Domnic Fernandes who was in charge of NCC after his term was over. I used to conduct parade on every Saturday evening for the students in the school. The NCC wanted me to go for compulsory training of three months outside Goa. I declined the same and submitted my resignation. There was no one to take over from me, therefore school closed the NCC wing from Don Bosco High School Panjim.

In April 1973, I completed my graduation with History and Political Science. In the same year I was sponsored by Don Bosco High School to attend a conference of teachers in Chanakya Bhavan, New Delhi under the banner of United Schools of India. I represented Goa and was the youngest member in the delegation. After the conference, we all teachers went to 7, Race course and met the then Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi and took a snap with her. On my way back I went to Kelu's place at Gwalior and stayed for some days where she was living along with her husband Joaquim, who was working in the army and was posted there. We visited Agra to see one of the seven wonders of the world - the Taj Mahal and other historical monuments over there.

In the same year, I moved out of my brothers place to stay separately. During my stay at Dr Rebello's home I did many odds jobs cleaning the car, getting flour ground from the mill, sometimes going to the market, getting milk every morning from government booth etc. I used to play with Gleena and Gleeson who were small at that time. I have good memories of Sicubai, my sister-in-law during my stay at their place. When I went for the NCC camp she used to prepare tiffin and give me.



Dr. F M Rebello

A couple of months before I moved out from my brothers' place, my grandmother also came to stay there. I was sorry to miss her, but also, I was happy to have my freedom after many years of living under my elder brother in his house. He was a very strict man, just like my father. Fear of him keeping a hawk's eye on me and my studies when I was under him,

forced me to study and pass my SSCE. My elder brother had the interests of our family at heart. He did whatever he could do in order to uplift the family especially myself, being the youngest. He always wanted the family to be united and together. He is remembered by the family for love, courage and strength. He was a compassionate doctor deeply dedicated to his profession.

A great lover of Konkani and Goa, he along with others started "*Novem Goem*" a Konkani daily in Roman script through a Trust: Novem Goem Pratisthan of which he was the Editor for some years. To collect funds, the Trust conducted a padyatra throughout Goa carrying Konkani Jyothi led by Christopher Fonseca who was one of the trustee. I participated in the said padyatra doing propaganda on loud speaker as it entered in different towns and villages of Goa. From the south Canacona to north Tiracol.

I left Dr Rebello's home somewhere in January 1973, went and stayed as a paying guest in the Shanta building at St. Inez, quite close to Don Bosco school with one aunty by name Lobo, who used to keep bachelors as boarders in her flat and also gave them meals. Cosme Pereira from Raia and myself, shared a room.

My new accommodation at Don Bosco old building

I stayed a few months as a paying guest at Shanta Building. Then Fr Albano de Melo offered me a free room in the old quarters, where Don Bosco oratory team players were living. The coach of the team Mr. Wilson Paes who was also staying there along with team members got married and vacated the room, so I was given his vacant room free of charge by Fr Albano de Melo, who was the administrator of Don Bosco at that time, as I was looking after the night school and was in charge of the school. In that room, I could cook with a stove, I started cooking and eating inspite of tight schedule for the whole day till 9.00 pm.



Fr Joseph Casti, the Rector inaugurating new past pupils' office at Panjim. Conrad Marchon, the President and Fr Albano de Melo are seen along with others.

Past Pupil's office

In the year 1971-72 Fr Joseph Casti inaugurated and gave the Past Pupils an exclusive office for their use, situated on the lefthand side of the entrance of the boarding section of the school. I used the same when I was the Vice President and also in charge of the night classes, until I shifted to new Past Pupils Hostel in 1975. Menino Furtado one of the past pupils, was the clerk and working along with one senior gentleman Galdino Furtado at Past Pupils Office who was brought by Fr. Albano de Melo.

Executive committee meeting:

In April 1974, the Executive committee meeting of the Don Bosco Past Pupils Association was held at the said office along with Fr Albano de Melo the Delegate, and Fr Joseph Casti, the outgoing Rector of Don Bosco. I was the Vice President of the Association. At this last meeting, I explained to them the requirement of 21 years of age for students as per Poona Board rules to appear for SSC examination, and many of our students who were in the SSCE were below 21 years of age and could not appear for the exam. Therefore, at that meeting it was decided to apply for the recognition of the night school under Don Bosco Past Pupil's Association Goa unit, because the night school was started under the aegis of the Association and sustained for four years. Thus, I was kept with the night school to handle alone. Fr Albano de Melo told me not to leave night school which is meant to cater for poor, underprivileged, dropout students, who have no other source or income to complete their secondary education, thus began my journey in night school which lasted for 40 long years. I can confidently say that I grew up with the night school. I started service in the school at the age of 20 years and continued until my retirement at 60 in the year 2010.



Bomfilho da Cruz.
Ex Director of Education

In the year 1973 Mr. Bomfilho da Cruz, the then Deputy Director of Education readily offered his services gratis to teach in the night classes at Don Bosco. He began to teach Geography for the 5th and 9th standard students. He came twice a week to teach in the school. He taught for four years from the year 1973-1977. I must record with deep appreciation his guidance, the help and support he personally gave to me and the school, both before recognition and after recognition which contributed to the steady growth and firm foundation of the night school in the following years. I learnt a lot from him, right from the administration and running of a school. In fact, it was much needed help for me at that time because I had no experience nor required qualifications at this point of time to run the school. He helped me out by his timely advice and guidance to come out of all problems facing the night school at that time. I want to thank God for bringing him to the night school and assisting us. He even used to come for our picnics in summer vacations when he was in the night school.

Post graduate studies:

I did my admission for M.A at Post Graduate Centre at Susheela Building Panjim quite close to Don Bosco. The classes for M.A were held from 2.15 pm to 5.30pm in the evening. With the busy schedule for the whole day up to 9.00 pm there was no time left for study for M.A. I used to study on Sundays and holidays in the Post Graduate Centre and Central Library. During the time of examination, I used to wake up early in the morning at

4.00 am and study up to 7 am. I was unable to go to Chinchinim to see my aged father even on Sundays and holidays as I had to study. My father used to wait for me to come home, by now he was much mellowed down by two paralytic strokes. Now if I look back, I regret that I could not do much for my father as I was working and studying at that time. I did not go home as often on Sundays and holidays to see my father but about once in two months or so I would make it. You do not get your parents always, so one must make time for them whenever possible when they are alive, even if it means some trouble and sacrifice .

Fathers illness and death:

In the meanwhile, my father had a third paralytic stroke. My mother admitted him in Hospicio hospital in Margao. In the meanwhile, during these years Dr Rebello left GMC and started his private practice in Margao and Vasco. Thereafter he bought a place in Margao and built a hospital known as “Dr Rebello’s Hospital” near the present bus stand. At this point of time, the hospital was getting completed but not inaugurated. When Dr Rebello came to know father was admitted to Hospicio, he came there and took father to his hospital. After sometime, my father was better and was kept in one room in the hospital. Soon the hospital was inaugurated. After inauguration, our father continued to be there for some months.

Suddenly one day, I received a call from Dr Rebello at Don Bosco, where I was staying informing me, that father got heart attack and Michael was also informed about the same. When we went there, he told us that father is going to die and to take him home, so we took him home. When my mother saw him, she said it was paralytic stroke and he is not going to die so soon. He did not get the most needed assistance and care required at this

time from his eldest son who was a doctor and had a hospital. It is sad that such was the fate of my father who spent all his life earnings on his eldest son, taking him to Bombay and educating him to become doctor and whom he loved the most. True to what mother said he remained bedridden for nearly nine months and died on 1st October 1976. During the nine months of his bed ridden state, my mother looked after him. In the bed ridden state my father suffered a lot as proper care was not taken.

Mother was very angry with Dr Rebello because he did not come home to see his father when he was bedridden. Dr Rebello came for the funeral. After the death of father, Dr Rebello started coming home with Gleena and Gleeson his children to see mother, slowly the relationship between mother and him improved over the years. After rebuilding of relations, I used to go and stay at night at my brother's place at Margao many times and used to spend time together, both of us used to have a small drink in "*copin*" before dinner. He used to be very happy when I used to visit his house at night. Later we along with mother and my family used to go to his place at Margao sometimes for lunch at Easter, Christmas and mother's birthday celebrations etc. which continued for some years.

Application for recognition of the Don Bosco Night High School:

I applied for the recognition of the school and signed the application form as a Vice President of Don Bosco Past Pupil's Association Goa unit for the year 1975 -76. The application was made one year ahead as required under the rules. The same was rejected by the Department of Education stating that "there is no need of another night school in the city, as there was already Institute of Instruction Night High School at Panjim".

Appeal to the Chief Minister, a final attempt

Reaching the dead end I did not know what to do next. Finally, I decided to make an appeal on behalf of the Association to Smt. Shashikala Kakodkar the then the Chief Minister of Goa and also the Education Minister. I prepared a memorandum with help of Head clerk of Don Bosco Mr. Armando Machado de Olivera, who was very good at drafting. At that time Yatin Kakodkar the eldest son of the Chief Minister was studying in day school in std IX in my class. I signed the memorandum as the Vice President and requested Fr Benedict Furtado Sdb the then Headmaster of the day school, to give the memorandum to Yatin Kakodkar and request his mother the Chief Minister, to help us recognize the school, so Fr Benedict gave the memorandum to Yatin to give it to his mother and requested her help through him. The Chief Minister promptly acted upon the request and ordered the Department of Education to recognize the school from V to X from the following year 1975-76.



Don Bosco night school staff in 1975-76 after the recognition of the school by the Department of Education.

Sitting Left to right: P.K Subramanyam, J.S. Rebello, Fr Benedict Furtado, Juvenal Torres and Cosme.C. Pereira.

Standing left to right: Bento John Vaz, Baptista Vaz, Nelson Fernandes, Suresh Redkar, Prakash Dessai and Melchedes Vaz

The Night school was meant for boys only. During my tenure I only appointed gents teachers and male clerical staff for 40 years. Most of the students at that time who were dropouts came from unruly backgrounds and were working during the day, sometimes were elder to the teachers teaching them. Moreover, many times electricity would go off and keep the classrooms in darkness. Under the above circumstances, I thought it fit and prudent to appoint only male staff in the night school. It blended well for comradeship and unity of the staff. After I retired, female teachers were recruited and also lately, the night school has been opened for female students as well.

In the meanwhile, Fr Benedict Furtado, the Headmaster of the day school was also transferred to Bombay by the end of the year 1973-74, so all the three pillars Fr Joseph Casti, Fr Albano de Melo and Fr. Benedict Furtado who supported and gave me unconditional support to run the night school were gone. I was alone left with the night school to manage, expected to fulfill all the formalities of getting trained teachers, etc. Fr John Samala came and took charge of the day school as Headmaster and the Rector of Don Bosco in place of Fr. Benedict Furtado. For the first year of recognition, Govt does not pay any grants, so Fr John Samala continued to pay the remuneration paid by Fr Joseph Casti earlier to night school teachers.



Don Bosco Past Pupils Hostel, Panjim Goa.

Don Bosco Past Pupils Hostel:

In the meantime, in the year 1975 a long standing demand of the Don Bosco Past Pupils Association Goa unit to have a hostel for college students and Higher Secondary students was fulfilled. A new hostel was constructed in Don Bosco campus and was inaugurated by the then Chief Minister of Goa Smt. Shashikala Kakodkar. I brought out the souvenir on the occasion on behalf of the Past Pupils Association Goa Unit.

As a Vice President of the Past Pupil's Association, I shifted from old building quarters to Past Pupil's Hostel to assist Fr. Mauro Cassaroti in running of the hostel. I was given an office cum room free of charge on the ground floor to stay. I helped him to furnish the hostel. Thereafter, I used to make admissions, accept the fees, supervise the hostelites etc. I assisted him in running the hostel for nearly a period of 5 years, in addition to the responsibilities in the night school, the day school teaching and my college studies.



Fr Mauro Cassaroti Sdb,

**Director of the Hostel,
Ex Provincial of
Bombay- Goa Province**

When Fr. Mauro Cassaroti was transferred and Fr Peter Gati was appointed as Director of the hostel, Fr. Cassaroti while leaving the hostel remarked to me “it won't be easy under him”. Fr Mauro Cassaroti was kind, understanding and helpful to all hostelites and very lenient with them. They loved him a lot. He never punished anyone but always gave help guidance and advice when needed to the hostelites.



Fr. Peter Gati Sdb

Fr Peter Gati was the opposite of Fr Mauro Cassaroti - a very strict disciplinarian. We used to have holy mass in the hostel on every Friday at 6.30 am. Fr Mauro Cassaroti kept it optional for the hostelites to attend the mass, whereas Fr Peter Gati made it compulsory for all hostelites to attend and if they fail to attend, they would have to give explanation to him. I also would attend the mass. I assisted Fr Peter Gati from 1980 to 1986. I left the hostel in 1986 and went to stay at Porvorim with my family.

With deep appreciation and gratefulness, I must say that assisting and working under them I learned a lot how to deal with students and youngsters in tune with Don Bosco preventive system of education. Both of them have completed their active service occupying various posts. Fr Mauro Cassaroti was the Provincial of Bombay Goa province before he came to the hostel and Fr Peter Gati retired as Vice Principal of Don Bosco Primary School, Matunga, Bombay.

Although they were both seniors, they were ready to accept any suggestion given by me and hostelites regarding the running of the hostel. They were great Italian missionaries who have dedicated their life to the ideals of Don Bosco. I learnt a lot from their experience, their expertise which stood in great stead for me to run the night school dealing with adult students who were much older to my age. My dealings with them were always cordial and friendly. I remember their love and affection for me. Fr Mauro Cassaroti along with the Rector Fr. John Samala came to our house at Chinchinim when my father died. Fr Gati once told

me “remain immaculate”. Their memory will always remain with me till I am alive.



J.S Rebello M.A (Principal)

photo published in the
ALUMNUS in 1975-76 on the article
Goa's Night School at Panjim.

establishment and recognition of Goa Night High School Panjim, run by the Past Pupil's Association Goa Unit.

Publication of article about Goa Night School in the Alumnus.

Fr Alfred Mariotta published an article entitled 'Goa Night School' written by me with my photo in the 'ALUMNUS' a organ of Indian National Federation Past Pupils of Don Bosco published by him in volume XIII of May and June 1976, detailing the

Fr. Benedict Furtado came back as Rector of Don Bosco in the beginning of the Academic year 1977-78 in place of Fr John Samala, who was transferred to Bombay after three years as a Rector and Headmaster of a day school. During this time although, I was running and managing the night school, I could not be official Headmaster as I had no B.Ed. degree, so Fr John Samala who was the Headmaster of the day school was also appointed Headmaster of the night school, and thereafter Fr Benedict Furtado was appointed in place of Fr John Samala.

Admission at the Regional College of Education, Bhopal(MP)

I had applied for admission at Regional College of Education Bhopal for B.Ed summer course but did not get admission. In spite of that I took risk of going to Bhopal, with two letters of recommendation from Deputy Directors, Mr. B. da Cruz and Mr. KS Kurade, Department of Education Government of Goa for my admission to one Mr. Saxena, the then Coordinator of the B.Ed. course at Regional College of Education requesting him to admit me for B.Ed. course. For a week, I was not admitted for the course. Mr. Saxena used to call me every day morning and evening to his office and made me sit outside the whole day and send me back to the hostel. Finally, he admitted me for the B.Ed. course by saying ,“you brought two letters from the Deputy Directors, hence I am admitting you for the course”.

I joined the B Ed. summer course because, I could teach in the day school as per rules and receive the salary whereas if I did the B.Ed. course at Nirmala Institute of Education it did not allow to teach and receive salary during the day as it was a full-time course. Although I got admission there, I preferred not to join it. Three of us from Goa Mr. L.M.T. Fernandes from Quepem, Reginald D’Souza from Raia and myself stayed in one room in the hostel. The food that was served to us was a typical North Indian Veg Cuisine which had a live counter to make fresh rotis. In order to have break at weekends, we used to go walking to T.T. Nagar market, which was about 20 minutes walking distance to have non veg food specially mutton. In the second year I took prawns and fish mole prepared by my mother and tendli pickle given by Kelu, specially brought at Margao station when I was to take the train to Bhopal. The climate during summer was much hotter than Goa, unbearable sometimes. We used to have lots of sugarcane juice to beat the heat.

Completion of B.Ed. course:

I completed the B.Ed. degree securing a first class in April 1978. Thereafter, I was officially appointed as a Headmaster of the night school in June 1978 onwards. I served unofficially as a Headmaster and in charge of the night classes from 1970 to 1977, for a period of seven years. During this time, I put efforts and got the school recognized by the government. By this time, I was exhausted with work and studies for all these years. I decided to take break from further studies for one-year in 1978-79.

Admission in the Law college :

For the academic year 1979-80, after a one year break of studies, I joined V M Salgaonkar's College of Law Miramar, for the night time course. I was unable to attend college either in the morning or in the evening night time course, as I was working in the day and night school respectively at Don Bosco's. I studied on my own. I finally cleared the LLB degree in the year 1982-83. In the IPC paper I got an award for scoring the highest marks. The award was a cheque of Rs 300.

From year 1975, after the Past Pupils Hostel was inaugurated, I started staying in the hostel, there was no provision for cooking as in the old quarters, so I started eating both the meals with one aunty by name Lourdina Fernandes at her small eatery in the market and later at her home in Susheela building. She gave rice, curry, fish, meat, soup, vegetables worth the price she charged. She used to call me 'sir' as her son Mariano Fernandes was studying in day school and even served me some special food on days when I'd eat alone. Many working people and our hostelites, used to come to eat at her place even on Sundays. I ate there for many years till I completed my LLB degree in 1982-83.

Working and studying

After my Inter Arts, I completed all my studies by working and studying - B.A in 1973, M.A in 1975, B.Ed. in 1978 and LLB in 1982-83. I must record my deep appreciation, love and gratefulness to Fr Albano de Melo, the Administrator, Fr Joseph Casti, the then Rector and Fr Benedict Furtado Headmaster, for appointing me as an undergraduate teacher in Don Bosco High school from 5th June 1972 on a regular basis when I was just 21 years old, while I was doing Junior B.A. Fr Albano de Melo gave me free accommodation at the old building to stay and later I shifted to Don Bosco Past Pupils Hostel to assist Fr Mauro Cassaroti to manage the hostel.

I was given free accommodation which had an office cum room on the ground floor, where I spent 10 long years. I did all my higher studies living in the serene atmosphere at Don Bosco campus. The stay at the Don Bosco campus helped me greatly to do my higher studies unhindered and to obtain a professional degree and eventually, join the legal profession.

Gratitude to Don Bosco Institution.

It was on account of my gratefulness to Don Bosco's institution that I continued for 27 years more at the night school even after I joined the Bar. I obtained special permission from the Bar Council of Maharashtra to continue as Headmaster and Principal of Don Bosco Night High School and Higher Secondary School respectively. There were many occasions when I was about to give up the night school for various reasons during the course of 27 years which I do not want to enumerate here. In those occasions, the words of Fr Benedict Furtado at his retirement function by the Night School staff at Don Bosco Panjim in 1983

rang in my ears. He said “Rebello, now you have become an advocate; you will have lot of money but do not leave and abandon the night school meant for poor students and dropouts”. This was just when I joined the Bar in 1983. I also remembered the words of Fr Joseph Casti spoken at his farewell function he said “The greatest thing happened at Don Bosco Panjim during my tenure is the establishment of the night school and I hope the Don Bosco Past Pupils Association Goa unit will continue this beautiful venture managed by them”. Till then, I was the only one who continued in the night school until my retirement. Most teachers and clerical staff gave up the night school after their marriage or after getting regular job elsewhere during the day. Nobody continued till retirement. My wife gave me full support to carry on in the night school and never complained that I’d reach home late (after 9.30 pm) once classes ended. She deserves appreciation and praise for the unconditional support she gave me to continue in the night school till my retirement.

Resignation from Don Bosco Day School:

My elder brother wanted me to practice as a lawyer. I was hesitant to leave my permanent teaching job in the day school at Don Bosco, but at this time Fr. Bonnie Dsouza came as a Principal and Headmaster of the school. He was very bossy and dictatorial in nature. I could not get along with him, so also I began getting bored in the day school after service of over 10 years. After giving a long thought and pondering over the matter, I decided to take a plunge in the legal profession. I think Fr Bonny’s arrival accelerated my decision to leave the day school, so somewhere in mid-August 1983, I gave my resignation by giving three months’ notice to the school to be relieved by 15th November 1983 and joined the Bar thereafter.

Internship at Margao:

To start a legal practice of your own, it was necessary to have an internship practice in the profession. I didn't know any advocate whom I could intern with. Dr Rebello put a word with his friends Gilman and Joana, both advocates having an office at Aliados building, Margao. He was a famous criminal lawyer in Margao. I started my internship under them, after my 33rd birthday. I used to travel by bus in the morning from Panjim to Margao and reach by 8.30 am. While I was doing my internship under Gilman, I did not receive any stipend, I managed my expenses with a salary of Rs 800/- which I was getting as a Headmaster in the night school. I used to go to Dr Rebello home to have lunch in the afternoon and after court work in the evening return back to the night school at around 7 pm.



Sandy and Doris, married on 16th December 1984.Reception at Clube Harmonia Margao.

My marriage in the year 1984:

My mother was always talking about my marriage but I had told

her I will get married after I finish my studies. Now that I finished my studies she was insisting I should get married as I was 34 years of age. I later learned that Michael and Sicubai approached Joana to find a match for me to get married, as she used to do match making for friends and close associates.

It so happened that the brother-in-law of Joanna one Mr. Alvaro was a friend of one John Fernandes in Africa, and he used to come to meet Alvaro at Gilman's office. So, the proposal came from Joana to me saying John has daughters eligible for marriage. Frankly speaking, I was not interested in marriage at this juncture because I had no income to maintain a family except the salary of the night school. But finally, I agreed to meet and see Doris because she was a trained teacher and working. I met her one evening along with her parents at Gilman's house. Finally, I said yes to Doris because she was a well-educated, young and trained teacher and fairly good looking. Soon, pressure began to build up from my mother to get married, as Michael was planning to go to America. I got married on 16th December 1984. Michael did not go to America for more than a year after my marriage for which I got married in a hurry.

After marriage I continued the internship with Gilman from January 1985 to May 1985. Now, I wanted to start my own legal practice. Again, my elder brother and Sicubai wanted me to start a practice in Margao by living in Deussua but it was always my intention to work in Panjim, as I grew up in Panjim. All the help was offered by Dr Rebello to start my practice in Margao. But I decided otherwise, to fulfill my intention of continuing to live in Panjim



My first office at 18th June road, Panjim.

Legal practice at Panjim on 18th June road

One of my teacher and colleague, Domnic Fernandes from the day school had a room in his house to give on rent. It was rented earlier to the Sports Department and they had just vacated the room. I requested him to give it to me on rent to start my practice. He readily agreed to give it on rent for Rs 300/- per month. He just gave it to me without signing any agreement or single paper in writing. I had got Rs. 7000/- of my provident fund from the day school after my resignation, with which I set up the office and furniture it needed. Thus, I started my own legal practice from June 1985. I carried out my legal practice for 20 years from that office until I shifted to Alfran Plaza in 2005.

I continued to live in the Don Bosco hostel as before, even after marriage. My wife was teaching in Veroda School, Cuncolim. After marriage, she stayed for some months in Deussua. She later moved to her ancestral house in Sarzora as she was expecting Lianne, our first child. After Lianne was born at Dr

Rebello's Hospital on 13th September 1985 she started living with at one Palmira aunty's house along with Lianne, quite close to her Veroda school. I used to visit them on every Saturday and Sunday. I stayed at Veroda in the night and would go to Deussua in the afternoon on Sundays to see my mother and return back to Panjim in the evening. This went on for academic year 1985-86.

In the new academic year 1986-87, she got a job as a teacher in Acdil High School Porvorim, through the good offices of B. da Cruz and Mr. Vincent Estebeiro, the Manager of Acdil High School, whom I knew closely when I taught Dip. Ed. students for a year at Acdil Training College at Porvorim, before my marriage. She was transferred through Department of Education to Acdil High School protecting her pay and continuation of service from Veroda High school. In the month of May 86, I took cupboards and things from Deussua and kept them at Santa Cruz, where I had rented one room residence to stay from June 86.



**Bella Vista Apartments
Porvorim.**

Flat at Bella Vista Apartments at Porvorim:

One Mr. Urbano Lobo, the Manager of Descon Company had built flats named Bela Vista Apartments at Porvorim. He was a friend and associate of Mathany Saldanha supporting the Ramponkar movement under the aegis of 'Ramponkaracho Ekvott' which later turned into political movement which overthrew the MG government led by

Shashikala Kakodkar. Mathany Saldanha was my colleague at Don Bosco Day school. As we became close friends I was also involved by Mathany in Ramponkar movement to help to fight for Goan causes. I came to know Mr. Lobo closely through Mathany and Fr. Braz Faleiro at Jesuit house, where Mathany was staying at that time. I used to visit him regularly in the evening and holidays. Goan weekly was started by Mathany to fight Goan causes through a Trust, of which I was a trustee. I was also the Manager of the Goan weekly. Mr. Lobo's three sons were also studying in the Don Bosco day school. Once at my meeting, I mentioned to him, that I wanted a flat in Porvorim where he was building. All of a sudden at this point of time, when I was about to shift to Santa Cruz to stay, he sent one of his employees John, to tell me he has flat F2 on the ground floor to sell, as one doctor for whom it was kept, changed his mind and does not want it.

I went and met him in his office at Velho Filhos building and I told him that I need the flat, but I do not have any money to purchase the flat. To my great surprise he removed the keys of the flat from his cupboard and gave it to me and said 'Sandy you go and stay there we will see about the money later'. The cost of the flat was Rs 1,50,000/-. I thanked him, took the keys of the flat and came back. In June 1986 I shifted to Porvorim and began to stay there. Later, I paid Mr. Lobo the flat amount, he reduced it to Rs. 1,35,000 since he saw I was struggling to pay it. I took some financial help from Julian Dias, of one of my students who was in Dubai. It took me two years to pay for the flat and complete the payment. I was elected Secretary of the Bella Vista Apartments Society, managed the Society for 10 years until I left Bela Vista and came to stay Altess Manor, Caranzalem where I am currently living.



With Neil and Lianne



With Clinton and Neil.



With Neil and Clinton.



Doris and Clinton.

Outings at Baga and Calangute

While at Porvorim, we were blessed with two other children Neil and Clinton. Our family used to go for outings on Sundays and holidays to places like Candolim, Calangute and Baga beaches regularly. We used to cook food and carry it along for the afternoon lunch at the beach. I like swimming in the sea. I also used to take the children into the Baga creek for swimming. They also used to like swimming along with me. After the property was given to Alfran construction company to build Alfran Plaza, I along with my family used to go to Dona Alcina resort at Candolim belonging to Alfran to spend a week during the summer holidays. Mr. Carlos Maurice Fernandes, the Managing Director sponsored the holiday package for us for some years.



Birthday celebrations of Alison.



Birthday celebration of Neil



Birthday celebration of Clinton and Daddy Mai



Celebrating Clinton's birthday.

Birthday Celebrations in the Family

We used to celebrate children's birthdays every year in the house a tradition acquired from my wife. In our house in Deussua, we never celebrated birthdays before marriage.



**Celebrating Mai's 81st birthday and Clinton's 2nd birthday
at Hotel Mandovi.**

Mothers' 81st birthday celebrations

I had a special birthday celebration at the Hotel Mandovi, Panjim for the 81st birthday of my mother which coincided with the 2nd birthday of Clinton on 3rd December 1997. I invited all our close relatives and well-wishers. On the same day, we blessed our new residence, a three-bedroom flat at Altess Manor Caranzalem where we are presently living.



Thereafter we used to celebrate Clinton and my mother's birthday together regularly in our house at Altess Manor. Mother used to love Clinton more than my other children because he was born on her birthday.



Daddy Mai and Clinton's birthday at home, Altess Manor.

Holidays at Bangalore



Seen in the picture Sandy, Doris, Lianne and Neil.



Seen in the picture: Lianne, Clinton, Alison and Neil.

When children were small, we visited Bangalore two- or three-times during Diwali and summer holidays. We stayed at St. Brigita Convent where they used to keep paying guests as well as serve all the meals.



Seen in the picture Sandy, Doris Neil, Clinton and Alison.



**Seen in the picture Sandy,
Doris, Neil and Lianne.**



**Entrance of the mall
at Bangalore with Clinton.**



Alison, Neil and Clinton.



Doris in the garden at Cubbon Park

Spiritual visit to Divine Retreat Centre Kerala

I was hoping that once we shifted to Porvorim we could live peacefully without any interference from my mother or anybody else. Instead of enjoying a peaceful life of husband-and-wife, only fights and quarrels began to take place without rhyme or reason almost every day. I pushed through amid starting up in the legal practice and tensions of the profession without telling anyone - either my family or friends for ten years. In 1995, on the birth of Clinton on 3rd December 1995, my wife's depression from which she was suffering from earlier, became acute. Quarrels reached an unbearable proportion and there was no peace at home. Finally, I was contemplating to go for divorce and separation, as I couldn't bear it anymore - it was a great mental torture, on account of which I went to Divine Retreat Centre Kerala in October 1996, at the behest of my wife. The rest is history. Meeting Fr Augustine Vallooran, my life conversion and call to serve the kingdom. I have written my detailed personal testimony and released it on 13th September 2004 which is available at Jesus Centre and one can download it from the website of Jesus Centre Goa.

I started my independent legal practice from 18 June road office in the month of June 1985. Initially, Mr. Cristopher Fonseca who was the union leader, whom I knew closely through Mathany Saldanha in the Ramponkar movement and during Konkani Padyatra, gave me labour, civil and criminal cases of his union in various parts of Goa - Margao, Quepem, Vasco, Valpoi, Panjim etc. and my past students also brought cases to me. I conducted some these cases for free but I gained lots of experience by conducting the same, thus my legal profession began with a good start.

Elected as President of Don Bosco Past Pupils Association, Panjim

I was elected as the President of the Don Bosco Past Pupil's Association Goa Unit for the year 1986-1989. During my tenure I started the "Dine and Dance" programme for past pupils and their families on 31st January, the feast day of St. John Bosco, with the live band of the Past Pupils 'The Purple Rain' led by Acacio Tavares. In the year 1989, we celebrated the feast on the cruise Santa Monica with dine and dance programme in River Mandovi after obtaining permission from Capt. Rebello, who was the Captain of Ports & River Navigation Department, and was known to me. The said tradition of dine and dance still continues on the feast day of Don Bosco, which is now open to all.

After I opened my office at 18th June Road, after some months one Mr. Agnelo Fernandes from Mercedes started to come to my office in the evening for the purpose of studying for his Ph.D. I knew Agnelo Fernandes when I was doing my MA at the Post Graduate Centre Panjim, both of us did MA in History together. We were just around 7 students for M.A History - more girls than boys. We were only 3 boys and were close to one another. Agnelo used to help me with some notes etc. at that time, now he requested me to allow him to do his studies in the evenings after I closed the office, so I permitted him to study in my office. He used to come regularly to study for Ph.D. Later, I came to know he was also doing real estate deals. I was not involved in it, I was only with my legal profession, he was with me in this manner in my office for many years.

One day, it so happened I had gone for tea at Café Bhosle, I met there an old friend Mr. Eloy Gonsalves who introduced me to one Mr. Victor Graca Pinto. He started talking about a property in Miramar. I suddenly remembered that, Agnelo was talking

about the same Miramar property in my office for real estate business. I brought Victor and introduced him to Agnelo in my office.

Later, we came to know Victor is a real estate agent. He came to Goa recently from Brazil, so he became Agnelo's friend and got stuck to Agnelo. He wanted company and foothold in Goa in real estate business. He is from Divar, this was somewhere in the year 1988-89. Slowly both of them began to involve me for the legal advice in property matters. I solved some of their legal problems. Victor was there in my office with Agnelo most of the time. Slowly I did all the title documents for the Miramar property, as he had his relative as a power of attorney of the owners, who were in Portugal. He continued to be there for many years with Agnelo and me.



**Staff of Don Bosco Night High School, Panjim Goa
Sitting left to right: Melchedes Vaz, Xavier D'Souza,
J.S. Rebello, B. da Cruz and Lawrence Rodrigues,
Standing left to right Diniz, Benny Nazareth, Michael Gracias,
Prakash Dessai, Jose, Francis and Nelson Fernandes.**

Night School upgraded to Higher Secondary School.

In the year 1984-85, I applied to the Goa Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Porvorim to grant permission to upgrade the Night School to Higher Secondary School in Arts and Commerce faculty. The application was rejected by the SSCE Board, stating that there is no provision in the SSCE Board rules to grant permission for a Night Higher Secondary School. I appealed to the Chief minister, Shri. Pratapsingh Rane. Fr Longinus Nazareth, the then Rector and I met him at Altinho residence and submitted a memorandum and explained to him the need of having Night Higher School for working students in order to pursue their education through correspondence after passing standard 12. He was quite favourable to the idea. He sent the memorandum to the Board to study and reconsider the matter.

Meanwhile we conducted a campaign through Goan daily 'Navhind Times' by publishing the memorandum given to the Chief Minister with the help of one of the journalist Camil Parke in favour of the same. Finally, the Board convened a special meeting of the Academic Council of the Board which granted the permission to upgrade the Night School into Night Higher Secondary School, in Arts and Commerce faculties in the year 1986-87.

I was promoted as a Principal of Night Higher Secondary School in addition to my duties as Headmaster of the night school. I was the Principal, Headmaster and Manager of both the schools. Don Bosco Night Higher Secondary School Panjim is the only Night Higher Secondary in the state of Goa which I started on behalf of the Past Pupils Goa Unit till today.



**Staff of Don Bosco Night Higher Secondary School, Panjim
Sitting left to right : Elvis Gonsalves, Lalit Shah, J.S Rebello,
Agnelo Fernandes and Rafael Fernandes.**

**Standing 1st row : Umakant Salkar, Anthony D'Lima, Benny Nazareth,
Vijay Parab, Saulo Palinekar, Vinod Malik, Pramod Surlikar**

**Standing 2nd row : Wilson Rodrigues, Jose Pereira,
Jude Mascarenhas, Dhiraj Vengulekar, Nelson Rebello,
Samir Hadfadkar & Herwin Furtado.**



Alfred Lourenco with Neil, Alison and Clinton.

Alfred Lourenco

After Clinton was born in 1995, I employed Alfred Lourenco from Cujira, St. Cruz to work in my office. In addition, I also gave him a job as a part time LDC in the Night Higher Secondary School. He helped me to collect the children from different schools and bring them to my office thereafter I used to take them home which continued for many years. He was like a family member. My children liked him very much. At present he is in UK and keeps connected to us and bring chocolates and things when he visits Goa.

Untimely death of Bab

In the year 1999, Bab, my eldest brother pillar and support of the house died on the 30th March at the age of 62, after a heart operation in Hinduja Hospital in Mumbai. It was great and irreparable loss to me personally and family.



Alfran Plaza a Commercial Complex

Property where Alfran Plaza is presently situated:

I was always thinking about having my own office, so one day a thought came to me, we can try to do the big property near Don Bosco and can get one office of my own from that deal, so I asked Victor to find out who are the owners of the property. He soon found out the property belongs to Fr Eufemiano Miranda's uncle Lamarck Clemente. So Agnelo and Victor used to visit Fr Miranda at Curca regularly, where he was a Chaplain at that time and requested him to introduce his uncle to them. Finally, he introduced his aunty Mrs. Leta Clemente, wife of Lamarck Clemente to us. Meanwhile, Victor introduced us to Alfran brothers Mauricio and Paulito, who were interested in purchasing the property near Don Bosco for development.

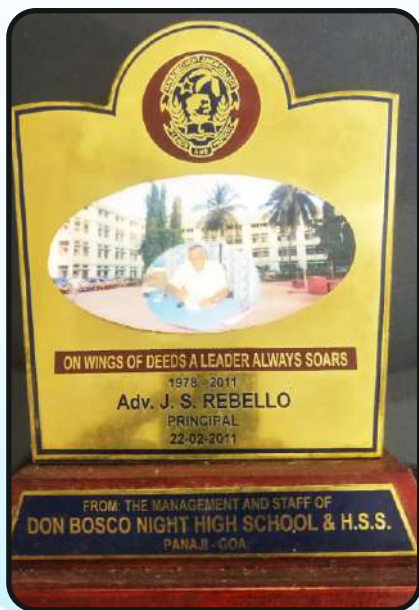
Finally, we introduced Leta to Mauricio, she somehow liked him as Mauricio and Leta came from the same village of Saligao. She said the final deal has to be done by her husband Lamarck Clemente, who is the owner of the property, so she told us to come to London to meet Lamarck Clemente to finalize the deal. Mauricio and I, went to UK in November 1992 the year Neil was born and finalized the deal with Lamarck Clemente. After 3 months from then on 3rd March 1993, the Agreement of Sale and Development was signed between Lamarck Clemente along with other co-owners and Alfran Construction Company Pvt Ltd, for the purchase and development of the said property.

In the previous year Victor brought Prof Antonio Rodrigues from Caranzalem and we signed the Agreement of Sale and Development with Mr. Savio Lobo, owner of Asiatic Estate Developers to construct a housing project known as Altess Manor in Caranzalem. From these two projects, I managed to get an office, a shop at Alfran Plaza and a 3 bed room flat at Altess Manor, thus God provided what was essential for me.

On 16th April 2006, Jesus Centre Goa came to be established at Alfran Plaza and now it appears that, the real purpose for which I initiated the move to develop the said property was to establish Jesus Centre. How Jesus Centre is established is recorded in my separate testimony entitled the “Divine Birth of Jesus Centre” and was released on 16th November 2015 available at Jesus Centre.

The mission in the Night School ends on my retirement

I worked in the night school for 40 long years - more than half of my life, until my retirement in November 2010. I worked for an additional four months up to the end of academic year in April 2011. I was given 3 farewell functions.



**Memento presented by
staff and students.**

The first farewell function by the staff and students of the school was held in the boarding school hall, presented a memento along with other gifts.

The second farewell function was hosted by the Don Bosco Past Pupils Association - Goa Unit, at Club Vasco da Gama followed by a dinner. Fr Ian Figueredo, the then Rector of Don Bosco Panjim and Dr Rufino Monteiro, the President of the Past Pupils Association, spoke on the occasion.



The staff presented me momento of a foot soldier and tortoise. Mr. Prakash Desai explained " Sir is a leader like a foot soldier, strong and steady, and slow like a tortoise."



**Mr. B. da Cruz
(Ex Director of Education)
addressing the guests.**



**Dr. Elvis Gonsalves presenting
Bouquet to Mr. J.S. Rebello**



**Mr. Prakash Dessai
(Ex-Chairman of Goa Public
Service Commission)
presenting shawl and
memento to J.S. Rebello.**



**Mr. B. da Cruz presenting
the memento**



Guest gathered at convention hall at Hotel Mandovi.



Dinner table



Teaching and non teaching staff who attended the farewell function at Hotel Mandovi.

And the third farewell function was given by Ex teaching and non-teaching staff at Hotel Mandovi who served in the Night High School and Higher Secondary Night School under me for last 40 years. Mr. B. da Cruz, the Ex Director of Education, who taught in the night school on voluntary basis for 4 years also came for the farewell function. It was preceded by a thanksgiving Eucharistic Celebration at Don Bosco Shrine at 6:00 pm Celebrated by Fr. Romulo Antao S.D.B

School handed over to Salesians.

At the end of my retirement from the school there was no competent and qualified past pupil to manage the night school and higher secondary school on behalf of Past Pupils Association as I did, therefore I recommended to the Past Pupils Association that, we should handover both night schools to the Salesian Society since it belonged to them and they are in the management of running schools. Thus, the night school was handed to Salesians Society from the academic year 2011 -12 onwards and presently managed by them.

Four important things stood for me at the night school.

1. I worked selflessly for the poor boys during my 40 years of service for the night school from 1970-2010. I formed the All Goa Secondary Night High School Association, and as its President liaised with government authorities and managed to get rules and regulations for the functioning of night schools approved by the government. The rules did not exist earlier, and they benefitted all Night Schools existing at that time.

2. Secondly, I employed youngsters, who were fresh under graduates, graduates and post-graduates who had no training and gave them the opportunity to do their further studies during the day and to teach at night. Many have grown to become teachers, Headmasters and Principals of Higher Secondary Schools during the day, and some others have become Advocates, Chartered Accountant etc. who worked under me in the night school, as I did in the day school. Many remember this and are grateful for it. Most of them came for my farewell function at Hotel Mandovi when I retired from the school.

3. Thirdly we worked hard but, enjoyed ourselves when it was time to do so. We organized many picnics during every summer vacation, even overnight ones at Baga for some days at the Xavier Retreat House. We also stayed at Benaulim and Colva cottages and even at the Tiracol Fort for some days. These regular picnics and outings specially during initial years during summer holidays created a great bond, oneness and connection among the staff. Juvenal Torres used to entertain the youngsters with his stories and life experiences and Bruno with his songs Even now, the staff remembers and recollect when we meet some times. It was a great relaxation for me to look forward to go for swimming etc. I enjoyed it and was a great relief from the boredom of the legal practice during the day and service all the time in the night school without any relaxation in the evening even after a hard days' work. After marriage, the picnics reduced and after going to DRC, everything almost stopped. Only we continued the yearly staff picnic during the day.

4. Fr Albano de Melo regularly used to come to visit the night school whenever he came to Goa from Assam where he had gone as a missionary in the service of the kingdom.

We celebrated the Silver Jubilee of the Don Bosco Night School in 1995 with a three day program. We had a cultural program at Kala Academy at Campal for which Dr. Wilfred D'Souza, the then Deputy Chief Minister was the Chief Guest. Fr Albano de Melo from Assam and Fr Joseph Casti from Bombay specially came to attend the Silver Jubilee celebrations which concluded with dinner at Hotel Mandovi. Fr Joseph Casti also brought along Fr Moya who used to be at the Don Bosco Farm in Sulcorná.

Mission of the night school;

Now, if I look back under the present conditions, it appears that the night school itself was given to me by God, according to His plan and purpose. Fr Albano de Melo always used to say God has planted you in the night school as His instrument and no one can remove you. This he said, when many attempts were made to dislodge me from the school. I did not understand what he meant at the time, but now I have now understood what he said to me - that it was God's will for me to run the school till my retirement.

Preparation for establishment of Jesus Centre

The night school was a preparation ground for me to establish Jesus Centre Goa during the last four years of my service in the night school. The seed for establishing Jesus Centre Goa was planted in the night school with the help of the staff members after my call on 11th March 2004. The period of two years was a period of preparation (2004-2006) in the night school and Jesus Centre was established and inaugurated on 16th April 2006.

The sapling from the seed that was planted in the night school to establish Jesus Centre was taken and planted at Jesus Centre. It has now grown, for the last 19 years and will become a big tree on which thousands of birds will come and sit, after the mission of Jesus Centre unfolds and begins again, since it was paused in April 2020 on account of covid 19 pandemic



Inauguration of Jesus Centre at the hands of Fr. Antimo Gomes, seen along with him Fr. Braz Faleiro Sj and Bro. Sandy Rebello on 16/04/2006.



**Guests attending the inauguration and blessing ceremony.
Front row centre: Mr. Carlos Mauricio Fernandes MD
of Alfran Company along with his wife Mrs. Terezina Fernandes.**

2006: A special kind of year

The year 2006 was a memorable year for me as Jesus Centre Goa was established on the second floor of the Alfran Plaza building on 16th April. It was in fulfillment of the prophecy I received in my call '*that I will establish a Centre at Alfran Plaza for the work of God*'.

Highlights - tours and pilgrimages

In the year 1982-83, Sicubai, Gleena and Gleeson went on a tour to southern India on a taxi belonging to Francis, who was a night school student. They also took me along with them for the tour. It was a very nice experience – where we saw many places, temples, etc.

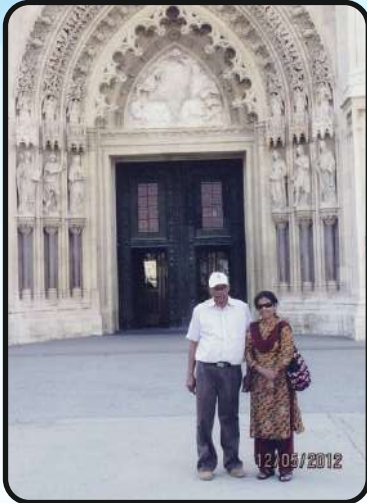
In the year 1989-90 my wife, Lianne & myself went on a pilgrimage to Velankanni. We also visited Mysore, the Brindavan gardens, palace, zoo, Bangalore and Ooty on the return trip.



Clinton, Neil, Lianne and Alison

In 2008, my wife and children went for a tour to Delhi, Shimla and Manali.

In 2012 my wife & myself went on a pilgrimage to



Pilgrimage to Medjugorje, Eastern Europe.

Medjugorje and Eastern Europe. We visited Poland, Czech Republic etc. It was a grace filled experience.

The spiritual journey that started at Divine Retreat Centre in November 1996, culminated in the birth of Jesus Centre Goa. From the year 2006 to 2020 I preached the Word of God at Jesus Centre. We conducted retreats in English, Konkani and Hindi throughout the year with a one-week break for Christmas and 2 weeks in May every year.

From April 2020, the Centre remained closed for retreats on account of the pandemic following orders of the government. However, day to day activities continue. During the period of closure, the Lord revealed his plan and purpose for Jesus Centre mission through revelations. As per the prompting and direction of the Holy Spirit, I have compiled them in chronological order in the book entitled ‘Chronicle of Revelations’ from the year 2004 since my call till 31st Dec. 2021. The same also have been printed and added to my private collection for the purpose of future records.

During this period of closure, I have also compiled a diary of events that led to the establishment of Jesus Centre at Alfran Plaza. I have also recorded the events and programs conducted at Jesus Centre from 2004 to 2020. A copy of this sits in my private collection as well. Also compiled and printed the book - “My Faith Journey” and “Final Revelations for the year 2024”.

Holiday in Bangalore

From the year 2020, I went to Bangalore in the month of May for a week to spend holidays at my son’s place. Neil moved to Bangalore in 2013 and continues to stay there after getting married to Romeena in 2018.

Reunion of SSCE students of the year 1975



**Reunion of class X 1975 batch of Don High School,
Panjim celebrating 50 Golden years,
after the Holy Mass at Don Bosco Shrine.**

Seen along with the students in the front row their teachers

Sir Rebello, Melchedes Vaz, P D. Xavier, Jose Kutty Mathew, and Cosme C. Pereira.

Behind row Priests concelebrating Mass along with Fr Clive Telles, the Provincial of the Konkan Province.

On 7th January 2025, the SSCE batch of students that passed in 1975 celebrated reunion of 50 years at Don Bosco High School Panjim with a concelebrated mass at the Don Bosco Shrine, celebrated by Fr. Clive, the Provincial of the Konkan province. The past students invited the teachers who taught them in the school. Mr. P.D. Xavier, Mr. Jose Kutty Mathew, Mr. Cosme C Pereira, Mr. Melchiades Vaz and myself attended the mass at Don Bosco. Tea and snacks were served after the mass. In the evening they had a programme at the provincial house at

Odxel, Taleigao followed by dinner. I was the only one among the teachers who attended the programme and dinner.

On 20th September 2025, the batch of XI Standard Class passed in 1975 celebrated their reunion with a Mass at Don Bosco shrine the same was followed by a dinner at Delmon Hotel Panaji. I attended the celebration and dinner. Mr. P.D. Xavier and Mr. Jose Kutty Mathew also attended the same.



Addressing the gathering

Life after retirement

After retirement, life has slowed down after I was relieved from night school responsibility which kept me busy up to 9 pm everyday for 40 long years. Now, I am still active during the day driving to my office and attending Jesus centre work from Monday to Saturday. On Saturday and Sunday evening I enjoy going for a long walk on the sea shore. On Sunday mornings I go to market to buy fish and on my return, I cook at home and spending time with children. On Sundays after my market trip, I go to café Bhonsle where I meet many students both from day and night school. Many times they pay my bill at the counter even without my knowledge.

I also meet many students who come to my Notary office at Alfran Plaza for their work. When I ask about their life, I feel proud to know that most of them have come up in life and doing well. By the grace of God, I am enjoying good health till date. I have been well provided with a pension that I receive from the night school is a bounty from God to me. Now, I await for the mission of Jesus Centre which is given to me by God to unfold and begin. Whatever years God grants me now I will use for the proclamation of His kingdom on earth which I am waiting. God willing you will see with your own eyes, as I said all my sufferings, pains, hard work and service to family and society till date, is a preparation to fulfill a greater call in the service of the kingdom which I am waiting. I have not written in detail about my spiritual journey after I went to Divine Retreat Centre in 1996, the renewal and the call on 11th March 2004 and the establishment of Jesus Centre at Alfran Plaza on 16th April 2006 in this autobiography because, I have already written about the same in my personal testimony and the account about the Birth of Jesus Centre released on 13th September 2004 and on 16th November 2015 respectively. The same is available at Jesus Centre and an online version for download on the website of Jesus Centre Goa.

Having written about the autobiography of my life I must say inspite of everything I managed to educate all my children well. Dr Rebello (Bab) was the first doctor in our village of Deussua from a middle class family, it was due to my father's great vision and Bab's potential that he got educated, became a doctor, and we too followed his lead in our studies.



Family Photo

**Sitting Left to right : Doris, Sandy, Angela Mary
Standing Left to right : Alison, Clinton, Neil and Romeena,
Alister, Lianne with Isaiah.**

My wife Doris, who is a double post graduate M.A. (Eco) and M.Ed. greatly helped to look after the studies of the children when they were growing up. She's been diligent, thorough and strict when it came to studies, especially with the boys, which laid a good foundation for them and led their steady growth in higher studies. She deserves all praises and credit for the same. This has been her greatest contribution to the family. I have never taken any lessons of any of the children as I had no patience or time for it. My wife had half day work as a teacher, so it worked well.

I have educated all the children well to the post graduate and professional level. Lianne has done M.A in Literature and B.Ed., Neil BCA and MBA, Clinton LLB and LLM a gold

medalist, Alison BE in Computers and MBA. Neil and Alison are in Bangalore and Lianne and Clinton are in Goa. Lianne and Neil are married. We are blessed with a son in law Alister Rodrigues a multi-talented and skilled person and with two grandchildren Angela Mary, Isaiah and a loving and caring daughter in law Romeena.

Reflections from my life

1. The decision of Fr Joseph Casti Sdb, the then Headmaster of Don Bosco Panjim to admit me as a boarder in 1964 after initial problem for my admission, changed the course of my life. It positioned me at Don Bosco to run and manage the night school, first as in charge of the night classes and later as Headmaster and Principal and Manager of Secondary and Higher School for forty long years. At the time of writing this autobiography, out of 74 years of my life, I spent and remained connected to Don Bosco Panjim on a daily basis for about 45 years, first as a student for 5 years, later as a Headmaster and Principal of Secondary and Higher Secondary Night School for 40 years. So, I can conclude from my life experience that even a failure can be successful person, if proper educational facilities and environment are provided to him.

2. It is my observation in today's family life to be successful, there can be no separation of work between husband and wife as before. Earlier husbands used to go for work to earn and wives used to maintain the house and look after the children at home just like my parents did. Now, wives too go for work. In spite of my professional job and the night school I have done all kinds of jobs to keep my family going. I dropped my four children to school

and collected them daily for nearly a period of 20 years.

I also did all the daily grocery shopping for the house. When children were small, we had servants to do cooking for some years. Thereafter, I also did cooking all along and still do marketing and cooking on Sundays. So, it is my experience which I want to share, if one needs to be successful in the family life growth and upbringing of the children, then one has to do all kinds of work and make a lot of sacrifices.

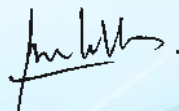
Also when children are small and growing up as adolescents' parents have to keep an eye on the children and not give them unlimited freedom. My mother's golden rule was to not to allow us to stay at night with friends or outside house when we were growing up, I too have followed the same with my children. So also, there needs to be some fear of the father or mother. My wife used to warn them, saying 'I will tell dada' in case they do any mischief and not listen to her. That was enough to stop them from doing anything wrong.

3. As a Teacher and Principal for nearly 40 years I have observed all students need not be good at academic studies. I have seen those who were the most mischievous and naughty in the school and even failed in the secondary school have succeeded in their lives by doing something with their hands. Some of those who didn't 'pass' in the night school have become successful businessman and flourished in life. So, it my advice to parents that if children are not good in studies or learning, they should not be forced to study, discouraged or compared with others, but rather, allow them freedom to do something what they like with their hands.

4. At the prompting of the Holy Spirit, I gave up the legal practice in court from the year 2001 -2002. Prior to giving up the practice, I reluctantly applied for a license to be a Notary in the year 1999, at the insistence of a friend Adv. Anand Dessai, who was my colleague at Margao while I was doing my internship with Adv. Mr. Gilman Fernandes. I was appointed Notary on 2nd August 1999. God blessed me with enough money through Notary work for the last 25 years to educate all my children and sustenance of the family all these years. God fulfilled his promise that he would provide and sustain me, if I give up the legal profession, so it is my conviction that if you trust God and hold on to his promise he never fails.

Unfinished

The journey of my life still remains incomplete on the completion of 75 years. The higher call to serve God to establish His Kingdom on earth as a lay person started with the birth of Jesus Centre - preaching the word of God from 2006 to 2020. It was paused by the Covid 19 pandemic and has remained unfinished. God willing, and by God's grace it will commence on completion of my 75 years after the Jesus Centre Goa mission unfolds and begins to glorify Jesus as a Saviour of the world to prepare for His second coming on earth given to Jesus Centre Goa by God.



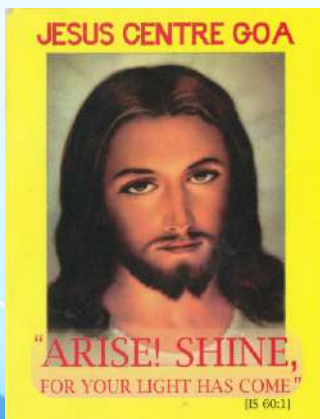
Sandy Rebello
Founder - Director
Jesus Centre Goa
16/11/2025



Director's Office



Director at work



JESUS CENTRE GOA

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UNFINISHED...

75 YEARS OF MY LIFE, JOURNEY AND WORK

SANDY REBELLO