

# Msgr Nereus Rodrigues

## Every Cloud has a Silver Lining

### Ubi Crux Ibi Lux

Reminiscing about my principalship in **St. Andrew's High School** is a pleasant task indeed. Fresh from my post-graduate studies in London University and doctorate in Canon Law from Rome, I returned to St. Andrew's in 1957 (I was here from 1950 to 1953) and without much experience I was literally thrust in the Principal's chair of St. Andrew's High School. The years that followed, till I was transferred to Santacruz in 1968 were strenuous and laborious but **exciting, exhilarating and vibrant- every cloud has a silver lining.**

St. Andrew's is blessed with an infrastructure that is excellent.

Full credit goes to those who planned it. With a full sized playground and a stone building, the plans of which I was told were processed by the British Education Department in U.K. The school provides an ambience which is utilitarian and lends itself to quiet and comfortable accommodation in all climatic conditions. At first, I disliked the nickname 'dugree' (stone) school but realized how strong the structure was and how the classrooms were constructed for convenient teaching.

My eleven years in the school gave me ample opportunity to implement my vision and schemes to provide all round opportunities for students to achieve their potential. Which is why the school kept up the old traditions of encouraging sports and athletics on the field under Mr. Oliver Andrade and launched into new cultural avenues of staging **mega musicals** like **Mikado (12 shows), Pirates of Penzance, HMS Pinnafore of Gilbert and Sullivan** under the direction of our music teachers **Ms. Ann Selkirk and Ms Heather Fernandes and Ms Patty D'Sa (in charge)**. Believe me, those were the days when the entire staff, P.T.A. and the Student Body rallied round to electrify entire Bandra and have a ball of a time.

To help budding journalists and writers to bloom, the school

magazine '**Andrean**' was reinaugurated and maintained for many years. It unfortunately met a natural death subsequently.

Much hard work was required to raise and maintain the academic standard of the students. Our success was visible when our school obtained cent percent results the SSC Examination for three years in succession - a record to be emulated - **Ubi Crux Ibi Lux.**

On one hand our success was due to the students the school attracted from good homes with responsible parents who intended to give the best to their boys and on the other hand, to the zealous teachers we had — to mention just a few: **Ms. Mary Fernandes (K.G.), Ms. Doris Fernandes, Ms. Martha Rodrigues, Mr. Rocky Rodrigues, Mr. John D'Souza, Mr. Lewis Ratus, Mr. Ernest Machado, Ms. Corrine Rodrigues, Ms. Mary Noronha, Ms. Mary Fernandes,** and others - all these have gone to their heavenly home. God bless them. I think of them with fond and loving memories. May eternal light shine on them.

**Our Parent Teacher Association was active, co-operative and dynamic.** Always ready to execute the projects entrusted to its members - to mention just a few: distribution of milk to the primary students, to assist at all our cultural functions, to organize funds - raising drives by collecting advertisements and donations on the occasions of fetes or screening of the film 'Chalk Talk' at the Metro cinema.

The School Community and I had grown so close to one another that on my transfer which was a sad separation — (Crux), thanks to Msgr. George Fernandes, The Manager of the school, The Student Body, the P.T.A., the ex Andrean Association and my well wishers rallied round to present me with a surprise and an unexpected gift of a new Ambassador Car (**Lux**), which I treasured for many years. **Every Cloud has a Silver Lining.**

There are many more vivid memories about which I could write but for the present this is enough. Let me conclude by emphatically adding, I loved St. Andrew's School, **I loved the Students and the Staff and I loved my tenure from 1957 to 1968.** God bless you St. Andrew's.

**Ubi Crux Ibi Lux.**

