



THE CATHOLIC CLUB

A Community of Faith, Fellowship and Belonging

A DREAM TAKES SHAPE

A Message From
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Promoter - Vision Konkani

GOLDFINCH HOTEL, MANGALURU
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Dear Friends,

I am sorry that I cannot be with you this evening. I am travelling, but I did not want this important moment to pass without sharing a few thoughts.

For many years, the idea of a Catholic Club in Mangalore has lived in our conversations and in our hopes. Today, that idea has taken a very real step forward. We have secured one acre of land at Church Road, Valencia. That, for me, changes everything. The dream now has a place.

But what comes up on that land must be much more than a building. It must become a place where families feel welcome, where friendships are strengthened, where children grow up with a sense of belonging, and where our senior members feel at home. A place for fellowship, sport, culture, conversation, celebration and friendship. In short, a place that people will want to return to.

But I hope we aim for something more than creating a successful Club. I hope we create an institution.

There is a difference. A building can be completed in a few years. An institution is built over generations. It is built on trust. It is built on the quality of its people. It is built on sound systems, fair rules and responsible leadership. And above all, it is built on the understanding that what is being created today is not for us alone. It is for those who will come after us.

That is why I am particularly happy that The Catholic Club has been structured with written Rules, a clear framework for elected management, financial accountability and safeguards for the future.

Facilities can be improved. Buildings can be renovated. Tastes will change. Generations will change. But the values on which an institution is founded must endure.

And one principle, in particular, should never be forgotten:

The Catholic Club must always belong to its members.

Not to one individual. Not to one family. Not to one group. And not to any committee that happens to be in office for a few years.

Those who are involved at the beginning have the privilege of helping the Club take shape. But with that comes a responsibility to ensure that what is handed over to future generations is stronger than what exists today.

I happen to be Permanent Member No. 1. Naturally, I am proud of that. But I do not see Number One as a privilege.

I see it as a responsibility.

A responsibility to support this Club in its formative years and to contribute, in whatever way I can, to its future.

I hope every member who joins us will eventually feel the same sense of ownership. Because membership should not only be about asking, "What will the Club give me?" It should also be about asking, "What can I give to the Club?"

And that contribution can take many forms. For some, it may be financial support. For others, professional expertise. For many, it may simply be time, ideas, encouragement, participation and goodwill. Every contribution matters.

Because ultimately, the success of the Catholic Club will not be measured only by the size of its building, the quality of its facilities or the number of its members. It will be measured by the kind of place it becomes.

If people feel welcome there. If friendships are formed there. If families enjoy being there. If differences are handled with respect. If members feel that it truly belongs to them. Then something worthwhile will have been created.

And if enough people give something of themselves to this Club, it will acquire something that cannot be drawn on an architect's plan and cannot be included in a construction contract.

It will have a soul.

That is what I hope for most.

Many years from now, our children and grandchildren may not remember the names of all those who were involved in the beginning. That does not matter. If they walk into the Catholic Club and feel warmth, friendship, dignity and belonging, then we will have succeeded.

We are fortunate to be present at the beginning of something. We are not inheriting an institution.

We have the opportunity to see one take shape.

I would also like to place on record my sincere appreciation for the tremendous work done by Ivan and the entire team, and by everyone who has worked behind the scenes to bring The Catholic Club to this important stage.

But a Club cannot be created by a team alone. Each of us must reach out, bring people together and do our part to create a strong, welcoming and closely knit community around it.

That, I believe, is how this Club will truly grow.

So let us support it well. Let us encourage generosity, but also prudence. Let us encourage ambition, but also responsibility. Let us insist on transparency. And, above all, let us move forward together.

I thank all of you who are here this evening for showing, by your presence, that you too believe this is something worth supporting.

I may not be able to raise a glass with you tonight, but wherever I am, I shall certainly raise one to The Catholic Club, Mangalore –

To its beginning.

To its members.

And to the generations who will one day call it their own.

God bless the Catholic Club, and God bless all of you.

Michael D'Souza
NRI Entrepreneur & Philanthropist
Promoter - Vision Konkani



Michael D'Souza is a distinguished NRI entrepreneur and philanthropist from the Mangalorean Catholic community, with roots in Puttur, Karnataka, India.

Born into the renowned Souza entrepreneurial family of Puttur, he began his business journey by establishing Souza Metal Mart in his hometown. He later moved to Mangalore and went on to expand his business interests to the UAE and the USA. Over the past five decades, he has built a successful career across real estate, equity investments, and hospitality. He is the Founder and Managing Director of Ivory Grand Real Estate, Dubai, UAE.

Beyond his business achievements, Michael D'Souza is widely respected for his far-reaching philanthropic work in education, healthcare, housing, family welfare, community development and the preservation of Konkani language and culture. His charitable initiatives have benefitted individuals and families across the Dioceses of Mangalore, Udupi, Karwar, and Gulbarga.

His major initiatives include, supporting higher education for economically disadvantaged students with interest-free loans, through EDUCARE, assisting underprivileged patients with medical treatment at Fr. Muller Medical College and Hospital, through MEDICARE, addressing the housing needs of marginalised families, through SHELTERCARE and supporting families with a third child, through FAMILY CARE. His Michael D'Souza Vision Konkani Programme promotes Konkani cinema, drama, music, literature and culture.

