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## What next?

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### “WHAT WILL BECOME OF US ALL, MR. BENNETT?”<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>from *Pride & Prejudice* by Jane Austin

One of the challenges faced by both the orphanage and the priory is providing for the orphans so that they can provide for themselves one day. Some will continue in education after their Standard 10 exams (at 16 years), but others—maybe a majority—will have to seek training or work in accordance with their talents.

For those who do not have a religious or priestly vocations, or become fulltime mothers, there are opportunities in abundance as apprentices or trainees in traditional fields ranging from carpentry, masonry, metalwork, mechanics, electrics, information technology, tailoring, embroidery or secretarial work, but the hours are extraordinarily long and the remuneration, if it exists at all, is rather modest. Furthermore, the atmosphere of many colleges and work places could hardly be described as Catholic.

One thing we would like to develop, therefore, is our own company to fabricate ornate garments and other high value products mostly in the liturgical line. Al-



*Jacinta now works fulltime as a seamstress at the girl's orphanage.*

though the idea does not seem to be very original, there are a number of recommending factors: capital costs for space and machinery are low in India, raw material costs and availability are perhaps more favourable than anywhere else in the world, and, best of all, we have overseas contacts (in the extended family of the Society of St. Pius X) that most new companies could only dream about.

Our first step on the ladder of viability

is to establish a winning product range. We thought that affordable liturgical items might be a good place to start because, as every traditional priest knows, they are both difficult to find and are breathtakingly expensive. They can also be sent by post. Already one couple in the parish have created a pattern for a reversible travel vestment which could be made by the young ladies. Another member of the faithful has taught the children how to make indestructible rosaries.

Of course only a few of the children will be able to develop the talent required to fabricate the vestments, candlesticks, chalice boxes, missal stands etc., but there are many other skills required in the running of company such as purchasing, distribution, accounting, administration, cleaning, security, research and development, sales, marketing, human resources (what a dreadful name), IT, equipment maintenance, building maintenance, gardening, health & safety, climate change planning ... just think of the possibilities!

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