

# THE VOICE OF DELHI

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*Feast of the  
Nativity of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary*

SEPTEMBER 08



# HOLY FATHER'S

## PRAYER INTENTION FOR SEPTEMBER 2022

### Abolition of Death Penalty

We pray that the death penalty, which attacks the dignity of the human person, may be legally abolished in every country.

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## FROM THE EDITOR

### *Can we love Mary more than Jesus?*

FR. ALLEN GOMES



September month, time to celebrate the birthday of our heavenly Mother, Blessed Virgin Mary. In Catholic tradition from the early centuries of Church, we had numerous feast and way to celebrate this day. Varied from regions to countries. Catholic Church celebrates three Nativity Feasts,

viz., Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, Nativity of our Lady and Nativity of St. John the Baptist.

We have beautiful memories of birthday celebration of our heavenly Mother. This year let us reflect whether "we can love our dear Mother Mary more than Jesus himself?" Perhaps Jesus has the most intimate relationship with his mother on this earth and now continues in heaven. In Gospel according to John, evangelist has authored a contrasting image of Mother Mary, Wedding at Cana in the beginning and concluding episodes shows us, Mary at the foot of the cross. The "HOUR" Jesus must have intended to explain to his beloved Mother.

Yes, Jesus has given His Mother to all of us, and we are blessed to have her by our side every moment. Let us pray through her intercession and come closer to Jesus as we celebrate her birthday this year.

## HAPPY FEAST!



# 50 Glorious Years



## BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CHURCH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION(1971-2021) *by Brenda Noronha*

In the year 1971 Archbishop Angelo Fernandes erected the Greater Kailash Parish. He called it "Catholic Church", Greater Kailash. The Church functioned from the ground floor of E-142 Greater Kailash - Part I.

Fr. Valentine De Silva was the first resident Priest in-charge from 1971-1975, looking after the Catholics in the areas of Greater Kailash I and II, East of Kailash, Lajpat Nager IV, Garhi and Zamrudpur. The other priests that tended the flock of the Greater Kailash Parish for the last 50 years are: Fr. Charles D'Souza, Fr. Frederick Viegas, Fr. Joseph Thomas, Fr. Monthu D'Souza, Fr. Joe Lawrence, Fr. Lawrence Pinto, Fr. Jose TJ, Fr. Stanley K, Fr. Paul Roy, Fr. Albert Francis and the present Parish Priest is Fr. Periyannayagam. During the tenure of Fr. Joseph Thomas efforts were made to search for a plot of land to construct a new Church. The parish lay leadership along with Fr. Monthu D'Souza assisted Delhi Catholic Archdiocese in the search for a plot of land. It found and acquired a plot of land in Garhi. The Archdiocese built the new church entirely from the contributions of the parishioners, perhaps the only instance of this nature in the Archdiocese. Archbishop Alan de Lastic consecrated the new Church on 9th May 1999. The Church was named Church of the Transfiguration.

The Church of the Transfiguration has a large number of Tribal Catholics originally from the tribal belt of chota Nagpur, this parish has a number of Anglo-Indian families. The parish has a healthy mixture of ethnic and linguistic groups from different parts of India. The parish conducts faith formation programs. Sunday School, SCCs, Prayer moments, Youth and Mahila Mandal programmes.

Through the generous contributions of finance and time the Church has grown in structure and spirituality. At present we have a very vibrant Mahila Mandal group that adds colour, song and a touch of tribal culture to all celebrations. Our Youth group are working shoulder to shoulder with the youth of other zones and are very active in the Church activities. We have close to 140 children attending Sunday school and very enthusiastic altar servers and Young Christian Society members. The Sisters of both the communities (SCJM & Presentation) are actively involved with altar decorations, teaching Catechism and helping the needy with rations and assistance for education.

The Parish completed 50 years in 2021 but due to the pandemic and lock-down the celebrations had to be postponed. The celebrations were held on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2022 under the guidance of Rev. Fr. Periyannayagam. We were blessed

with the presence of the Archbishop Emeritus Vincent Consessao, Most Rev. Deepak Valerian Tauro, Vicar General Rev. Fr Vincent D'Souza, South Deanery in-charge Rev. Fr George Manimala, ex-Parish priests Rev. Fathers Jose T.J. and Fr. Paul Roy. We also had in our midst Reverend Fathers from various parishes, Religious Sisters and Brothers from Pratiksha to celebrate and pray for us. To mark the occasion the terrace of the Church has now been converted into a hall and was inaugurated by Archbishop Emeritus Vincent Consessao and Most Rev. Deepak Valerian Tauro, Auxiliary Bishop of Delhi and is named the 'Golden Jubilee Hall'. The celebrations concluded with a fellowship meal. We praise and thank the Lord for safe guarding and for all the blessings bestowed on the members of the Parish.





# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

*Archbishop Anil J. T. Couto*  
22-09-1954



**HAPPY  
1<sup>st</sup> EPISCOPAL ORDINATION  
ANNIVERSARY**

*Bishop Deepak Valerian Tauro*  
**29-09-2021**





**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY**

*Archbishop Emeritus  
Vincent M. Concessao  
28-09-1936*



# THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE



## GOD'S CHURCH FOR GOD'S WORLD LAMBETH CONFERENCE – JULY 29 TO AUGUST 7, 2022

'God's Church for God's World' was the theme of the 15<sup>th</sup> Lambeth Conference of the Anglican Communion that took place at Canterbury, England from July 29<sup>th</sup> to August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and brought together nearly 1500 international participants. I had the privilege of being an 'ecumenical guest' at this Conference having been invited by the Vatican Dicastery for the Unity of Christians to be part of the Catholic Delegation. The other ecumenical guests were representatives of the Orthodox Churches, the Old Catholic Church, the Lutheran World Federation, the World Communion of Reformed Churches, the Pentecostal and Evangelical Churches. The Catholic Church was invited because we are in dialogue with the Anglican Communion since the 1970's under the banner called 'Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission' which has produced many documents of 'convergence' almost bordering on 'consensus'; but the dialogues have slowed down in recent years because of issues of doctrine (e.g., ordination of women) and morals (e.g., homosexuality and same sex marriage) which have caused tensions within the Anglican Communion itself and with the Catholic Church. For instance, the Anglican Provinces of Nigeria, Uganda and Rwanda did not participate in the Lambeth Conference 2022 because of their firm opposition to same-sex marriage which some other 'liberal' Provinces have fully approved. It is important therefore, that we pray for healing in the Anglican Communion and the grace to witness to Christ in unity of faith, doctrine and moral teachings.

Besides ARCIC there are other platforms of ecumenical cooperation between the Catholic Church and the Anglican

Communion e.g., The International Anglican Catholic Commission on Unity and Mission (IARCCUM).

In the Vatican Council II document on ecumenism called *Unitatis Redintegratio* (The Restoration of Unity) it is clearly stated: "Among those in which Catholic traditions and institutions in part continue to exist, the Anglican Communion occupies a special place." (UR 13). Hence in the dialogues with the Anglican Communion there is so much of the Apostolic Tradition that the Catholic Church finds as a common heritage of the two Churches because, though influenced by the 16<sup>th</sup> century Reformation, the Church of England remained as a good blend of the Catholic and Protestant ecclesiologies.

The Lambeth Conference is one of the instruments of communion of the worldwide Anglican Church spread in 165 countries (the Church of North India and the Church of South India are part of the Anglican Communion). It is convened by the Archbishop of Canterbury to bring together all the serving Anglican bishops who are linked by faith, tradition and culture to the Church of England to renew their commitment to Christ and his Gospel within the Anglican charism but with the will to be united with the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. The Archbishop of Canterbury is only a spiritual leader of the Anglican Communion with no jurisdiction over the autonomous Anglican Churches (Provinces) outside England and Wales. This mammoth event takes place every ten years since 1867 when the first Lambeth Conference was held in the 'Lambeth Palace' of the Archbishop of Canterbury in London. Since 1978 the venue has been shifted to the University of Kent at Canterbury.

Lambeth Conferences have always been opened by the Archbishop of Canterbury presiding from the chair of St. Augustine in Canterbury Cathedral. This Cathedral, as you know, is the place of martyrdom of St. Thomas Becket in the 12<sup>th</sup> century.

The first Lambeth Conference met in 1867. The Conference has subsequently met at roughly ten years intervals till 2022, except when World Wars or a pandemic have prevented it. The 1920 Conference was significant for its Appeal to Unity, which in many ways anticipated what Vatican Council II would say years later in *Unitatis Redintegratio*:

- That all Christians are bound to one another through baptism and through the fundamentals of faith and tradition that all share and which are articulated in the Scriptures and the ancient creeds.
- That division is caused by sin and that Christians are therefore called to acknowledge guilt for the sins that cause division and to do penance.
- That God intends his Church to be a sign for the world, and that its unity must therefore be visible
- The goal must be a "Church, genuinely Catholic, loyal to all truth, and gathering into its fellowship all 'who profess and call themselves Christians,' within whose visible unity all the treasures of faith and order, bequeathed as a heritage by the past to the present, shall be possessed in common".

As *Unitatis Redintegratio* differentiates the Churches of the East from the communities of the Reformation, so the Lambeth Appeal distinguishes episcopal from non-episcopal churches. The



Conferences of 1930 and 1958 were significant in addressing the issue of contraception.

As the 15<sup>th</sup> Lambeth Conference has just come to a close, I earnestly request all our people to pray for the unity of the Church, and also for the unity of the world to which the Church is intrinsically related. Ecumenism or the movement for the unity of the Church is not an optional element in our Christian life but an imperative of love which flows from our relationship to Christ himself in baptism and which impels us towards unity with all our brothers and sisters within the Body of Christ. We cannot close the doors of our hearts to this summons to LOVE which is the foundation of our faith in Jesus Christ.

The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Justin Welby – the current Archbishop of Canterbury – in his welcome to all the delegates, underlined the role of the Lambeth Conference as an instrument of unity and an opportunity for bishops (and their spouses – for the Anglican bishops are usually married) to meet for Bible study, worship and fellowship. He reminded all that the Lambeth Conference has always been a gathering that wrestles with issues of common concern. In 1920, in the aftermath of the First World War, the Lambeth Conference met at a time of immense human need. Hence, the Church had to grapple with what it meant to work for peace and reconciliation in this world at that time.

However, one century on, and the global issues are not less significant – climate crisis, impact of Covid-19, conflict, discrimination, modern slavery, poverty and economic injustice. The Church's voice has to be heard in the midst of these complex issues and she has to stand firmly for the hope that Christ brings to the world. The task of the Conference was to shape a new vision for how the Anglican Communion engages with the world in the decade ahead. It requires deep listening, bold re-imagining, and faithful prayer.

Inspired by the 1st Letter of St. Peter which was like a pivot on which the entire dynamics of the Conference revolved, the delegates tried to reflect deeply on what it means to be 'God's Church for

God's World' as the churches walk, listen and witness together. The discussions centered on church and world affairs but more importantly it was once in a lifetime opportunity to share stories from different cultures, ministries and traditions.

Basing himself on the first Letter of St. Peter, Archbishop Justin Welby inspired the audience with his soulful reflections on faith, hope, love, hospitality, holiness, suffering, authority, pastoral ministry, discipleship, mission, justice, peace, reconciliation, faith and science, sustainable development, unity of the Church, unity of humankind.

The Conference did not pass resolutions, instead focused on 'Calls' on the following themes: Mission and Evangelism; Reconciliation; Safe Church; Environment and Sustainable Development; Christian Unity; Inter-faith relations; Anglican Identity; Human Dignity/Identity; and Discipleship. The 'Calls' suggested that the decisions are not binding on the Provinces and each province can decide on its own response.

The traditional Christian teaching on marriage and sexuality already given in Lambeth 1998 (which saw an acrimonious debate on homosexuality) and Lambeth 2008 was discussed but not put to vote because of its sensitivity and the insistence on the part of Archbishop Justin Welby and other prominent Bishops on 'Biblical faithfulness'. The Archbishop made his mind clear with a special address on this issue to the Conference.

The daily Bible Studies on themes from the 1<sup>st</sup> Letter of Peter in ecumenical groups were the nourishment for the soul everyone looked forward to with great delight. The questions were aimed at a deep examination of conscience and repentance. The first day was dedicated to the theme 'Called into Hope and Holiness in Christ'. It had three parts: Hope, Holiness and Mutual Love. The second day had the theme 'A Holy People following Christ'. The three parts were: Living Stones, Honourable conduct and Suffering for doing what is right. The third day focused on the theme 'Resistance and Resilience in Christ' and the parts

were: Empire, Authority, Hope. The fourth day was on the theme 'Suffering in Christ'. It had four parts, namely, Suffering, Suffering and Community, Suffering and Joy, Suffering and Hospitality. The fifth day was dedicated to the theme 'Authority in Christ'. It had three parts: Shepherd, Humility, Roaring Lions. Every session ended with a beautifully formulated Concluding Prayer.

The Collect of the Eucharist at the Opening Service of the Lambeth Conference on July 31 at the Canterbury Cathedral truly encapsulated the missionary dynamism of the Church:


Loving God, in your goodness you call us to your service, and in your mercy, you provide for our needs. Grant to all those who minister in your name the courage to speak your words, the humility to wash the feet of others, and the love to work for justice and reconciliation in the world, that you may be glorified in all things; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Let us pray that the Lambeth Conference of 2022 may mark a significant step forward in the journey towards the visible unity of the whole Church as was envisaged by the Lambeth Conference of 1920 over a hundred years ago.

And very specially, the presence of the Catholic observers at the Conference may help to heal the divisions within the Communion and strengthen within the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church a common sense of mission as expressed in the theme: 'God's Church for God's World'.

**+ Archbishop Anil Couto**  
ARCHBISHOP OF DELHI

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## PART 2: ST. JOAN OF ARC, AN INSTRUMENT OF GOD'S WILL

BY FR. AROCKIA DHAS

Joan's promising life reminds us that we too have a divine and political mission which finds its inspiration in our mystical experience of the Risen Lord, the "I AM WHO I AM." Just as with Joan's life, when genuinely and honestly carried out, this political mission, for the salvation of our beloved people and of humanity will cost us much even our very life. Since Joan herself was instrumental in the deliverance of France, an inquiry was initiated whether Joan was an instrument of God's will as were Moses, Deborah, Judith and Gideon. This article will attempt to answer this question in the light of the sacred scriptures and its portrayal of these four great biblical figures.

### **Liberation from the Egyptians**

Through Moses, the Lord saved His chosen people from the Egyptians. The Bible describes how Moses was sent by the Lord to Pharaoh with a message of salvation of the Israelites. The Holy Bible is magnanimous in its praise for Moses: "Since then no prophet has arisen in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face. He had no equal in all the signs and wonders the Lord sent him to perform in the land of Egypt against Pharaoh and all his servants and against all his land, and for the might and the terrifying power that Moses exhibited in the sight of all Israel."

As Moses was instrumental for the independence of the chosen people from Egypt, so Joan was for



the liberation of the French from the English. Both of their lives are marked by the union of mystical experience and a political mission.

### **Freedom from the Canaanites**

Through Deborah, the Lord saved the Israelites from the Canaanites. The Israelites sought the Lord for Divine help in their helplessness. In the name of God, Deborah, a judge and prophetess, commanded Barak to wage a war against the

Canaanites. In the battle led by Barak and Deborah, the entire army of the Canaanites was routed by the Israelites. The land of God's chosen people were in peace for forty years. As Deborah persuaded Barak to fight for the chosen people, in the name of God, so Joan, with a message from God, persuaded Jean d'Orléans, known as the "Bastard d'Orléans," to join her in the fight to liberate Orleans from the English.

### **Freedom from the Assyrians**

Through Judith, a God-fearing widow, God delivered His chosen people from the Assyrians. Judith gave spiritual and political rebirth to God's chosen people by brutally murdering Holofernes, commander-in-chief of the armies of Nebuchadnezzar. Her timely and historical intervention strengthened the faith of her people in God's abiding presence among them. "During the life of Judith and for a long time after her death, no one again disturbed the Israelites." In the Book of Judith, Judith bears an unshakable faith in the Lord Almighty who resonates with the God of Joan. As Judith risked her life for the salvation of the chosen people when she met with Holofernes in the camp of the Assyrians so too did Joan risk her life for France at the prime of her life. As Judith gave a spiritual and political birth to the Israelites, likewise Joan invigorated the French.

### **Freedom from the Midian**

Through Gideon, the Lord saved the Israelites from the power of Midian, who used to destroy the produce of the land leaving no sustenance, nor sheep, oxen and asses in Israel. The Lord commanded Gideon to save Israel from the power of Midian. Gideon considered himself as the most insignificant person in his father's house, and his family as the least important in Manasseh. Yet, the Lord found in him a 'champion.' Having being confirmed of his call, Gideon fought the Midian, and delivered the Israelites. The land of the Israelites had rest for forty years during the lifetime of Gideon. In like comparison, Joan was just seventeen when she was empowered with a Divine message. With the assurance of God's message for the liberation of France, she was a force to be reckoned with. She raised the rallying cry for French Freedom in her time.

### **The French Freedom from the English**

As the Lord saved the Israelites through Moses, Deborah, Judith and Gideon, so He liberated the French from the English through Joan's instrumentality. Glimpses of their heroic lives attired in the freedom of the chosen people are visible in the accomplishments of Joan. Their deeds drive home the message that the Lord is still the Master of history. The Lord 'I AM WHO I AM' is the agent of these providential activities. It is the Lord who established the victory of the Israelites. It is He who was reflected of old in the hand of Moses, Deborah, Judith, and Gideon, and then again in the hand of Joan during the French medieval time.

In time of crisis, their leadership provided an increase in faith as well as the means through which the Israelites experienced freedom and peace. Just like them, Joan's only vision was French liberation. She nurtured her passion for the French freedom through "God's Call." Through spectacular events, her passion took hold of her, and ruled her. For her, French freedom was nothing less than the will of God as it was for the Israelites.

She had an unshakable conviction in the divine project entrusted to her by God. She was convinced of God's mission. It was her *raison d'être*. Today French Catholics believe that it is through her, God saved them from the English. Thanks to Joan! From her we learn to live according to the fundamental value of centeredness on God, freedom, justice, and fraternity. Saint Joan of Arc was indeed an instrument of God's will comparable to the Biblical heroic figures who saved Israel from their enemies in the Old Testament.







# IN PRAISE OF A SNAIL'S PACE

BY SISTER COLLEEN GIBSON SSJ

As I made my way to the beach on an early June morning, the glint of a shell caught my eye. I smiled at the snail that bore it on its back, stuck to the vertical face of the stairs leading up to the boardwalk. "It looks like we're headed to the same place," I thought as I smiled to myself and scurried up the steps to the boardwalk and the beach beyond.

The morning sky had only begun to lighten, bearing the promising marks of the sunrise yet to come. In the stillness of dawn, the world seemed to pause before daybreak. No children dotted the sand. No planes cut across the sky, and no boats disturbed the sea.

Watching the sun come up over the Atlantic, I marveled at the beauty of a new day dawning as I walked the shoreline, sinking deeper into the serenity of the salty surf with each step. As the sun rose higher and burned brighter, I turned to make my way back to where I was staying. The day had begun and, with my heart at peace, my head had begun its foray into the day ahead.

Dusting off my feet as I crossed from the beach to the boardwalk, I saw the glint of a shell at the top of the boardwalk stairs. I doubt that the snail had come to see the sunrise, but still I rejoiced in its ascent. Stopping at the top step, I set aside my plans to head home.

With a soft, fluid motion, the snail made its way over gaps in the boardwalk and shards of stone and glass scattered in its path. This is a snail's pace: an almost imperceptible motion that gets it where it's going with minimal friction and fullness of presence as it searches its way to wherever it's headed.

Watching my little invertebrate friend, my mind began to get frustrated. Come on! Let's get going! The day has dawned, and you are watching a bug!

The beauty of my morning walk had

burned off, and yet still I sat there, watching the snail slowly sail along. Despite my mind's impatience, my attention remained intently focused on the action unfolding around and within me. The question that surfaced within me was that of the psalmist in Psalm 13: How long, O Lord? How long?

With everything happening in the world, this lament felt fitting. How long can this war, this drought, this virus, this suffering, this dissension go on?

If we continue at this pace — in religious life, in public discourse, in our church, and in our world — will we ever make the turn? That is, will we find our direction? Will we pivot to the point where the dawning light is one we can embrace and not a series of should-haves and could-haves?

As Nan Merrill translates the middle of Psalm 13:

How long will fear rule my life?

Notice my heart and answer me, O my Beloved; enlighten me, lest I walk as one dead to life;

Lest my ego fears say, "We have won the day;"

Lest they rejoice in their strength.

This, I fear, could and perhaps has become a part of our movement. That we might say, "This pace" — be it too slow or too fast — "is fine." We must remember, after all, that a snail's pace is fine ... for a snail.

We, however, are not snails. We belong to living, breathing communities; we are people seeking the light of dawn and called to press on toward that light. Justice presses us to move faster. It calls us to open our doors wider, to hear voices excluded, and to see who and what is missing. The Spirit assures us that if we follow, grace will never outpace us. Our call is to do this as best we know how and, at the same time, to improve our knowing along the way. This is a call to the church, our congregations, our persons, and our society.

Like the snail, we can't wait. The turn toward the future is not a theory; it's as real as the steps that stand before us. The snail shows us that we must press on, not just dealing with this moment or maybe the next, but the whole staircase ahead of us as best we can know and

see it. With agility and persistence, we must face our fears, interrogate our assumptions, hear laments, and embrace the pace God is calling us to. We may cry out, "How long?!", but what if God is asking us to pick up the pace and rise to the occasion? To see God's face in the world around us and to discover that God is with us each step of the way? To recognize and embrace the reality that, in fact, we have our home in Jesus?

This is the home that we carry with us in the world, the reality religious life witnesses to, the shell that sparkles in the sun. This home is the love of God. It is the blessing that we (and the psalmist) rejoice in — a steadfast love in which our hearts rejoice, a total union with God, a safe shelter we are called to share with all the world.

Carrying that love with us, we await those whose heads are buzzing with all our present day holds. We make space so that they might find a home in God too, and perhaps slow themselves long enough to sit beside us at the dawn of a new day and embrace the beauty and peace that a pace not unlike that of a snail has to offer us.

*The author is a Sister of St. Joseph (SSJ) of Philadelphia, USA. A recipient of the 2020 Award of Excellence in Reporting and Writing from the Associated Church Press, she is currently pursuing graduate studies at Boston College School of Theology and Ministry and was a member of the founding ministry team of the SSJ Neighbourhood Centre in Camden, New Jersey. The article is reprinted from the Global Sisters Report.*





# EXALTATION OF CROSS

DOMINIC MASCERANHAS

Catholics venerate the cross during the Stations of the Cross especially during Lenten. Some personally carry it while tracing the Via Dolorosa (the way of the Cross) during Holy Land pilgrimages. Later, in May, we have 'cross feasts' in many places in India. During this time, farming and other activities had ended. People had spare time. Catechists in many places invited the local populace to come and receive catechesis. It often happened near some cross where people gathered. In memory of the day the cross was erected, local priests and catechists also had 'cross feasts' each year. These celebrations, enthused local communities to come more often to these places.

In contrast, many sects nowadays consider having a cross akin to idolatry. These sects who even claim to be Christian want people to remove crosses even from churches. They have even more problems with crosses with an image of Christ crucified on it (some sects are happy with a plain cross, without any image on it). They say Jesus is risen; so showing a cross with an image of a person crucified is cruelty and unchristian. Some of these people perhaps never read the Bible; Paul says (1 Cor 1:23), "we preach a crucified Christ". Rather, talks of a crucified Christ even in Paul's time, was something of a stumbling block to Jews and what Greeks considered 'folly'. Some wonder and ask, "How could God die on a cross". Others mock that we worship a God who was 'killed'.

Yet others mock, "How can people wear symbols of instruments of execution?" They ask; do people would wear symbols of electric chairs or guillotines? Surprisingly though, some of them even wear symbols like battle axes (that were also instruments of execution). Many Christians in early days didn't wear cross symbols for fear of being singled out and marked for violent treatment (Romans treated



Christians, as 'anti nationals'). Tradition though speaks of the Blessed Virgin Mary coming repeatedly to Israel with John (the apostle) and tracing the way of the cross traversed by her Son.

September 14<sup>th</sup> celebrates the Exaltation of the Cross. This feast was instituted first in Eastern churches around 335 (and later in Roman Catholic Church in the 7<sup>th</sup> century) commemorating the dedication of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. This feast also honours the finding of the true cross by St Helena (King Constantine's mother). Tradition says; Constantine the Roman emperor was fighting enemies around that time. He saw a sign of a glorious cross with words, "in hoc signo vinces". It translates, "By this sign you will conquer." Constantine was victorious. Later Christianity became the state religion of the Roman Empire. After that, many became Christian. The cross became status symbols; even precious metals including gold and silver and precious stones were used. But perhaps we forget the meaning of the cross. When we wear a cross (or put up a cross) shorn of all beautification, it became as even in earlier days (when people

first travelled by land and sea, to spread the Gospel message), an open indication of faith. People who would come and see the cross, asked evangelists; what it symbolized and about the person on it. It became an opening point to preach Christ, who died for us.

When we wear such a cross, shorn of beautification, it symbolizes our faith and love of Him who died for us, and we boldly proclaim it. We are not ashamed. It is opportunity to tell others about Jesus who died for us, and now is glorious in heaven and waits for us too.



# TATTOOED OR CATHOLIC?

## JENNIFER FERNANDEZ

I am glad and feel blessed to be a Catholic. I always felt this way since my childhood days. My journey as a Catholic has been far from perfect. I have almost always been there for various church activities and ministries over the years, primarily because I found them fun, happy spaces. My mother still has a photograph of me 3 something years old, peeping out of a bevy of much older 'aunties', who are busy singing at mass – it was the 'then' church choir. My parents were part of it for as long as my memory takes me back. Over the years, I found my friends in the children's choir and youth group – who, at that time, were my best source of sing-song to a 'not too well tuned' guitar, after the meetings were done.

Today, I choose to write not about my Christian journey (will save that for another day), but to share a recent incident and how it made me think of how important is to catechise our younger generation about faith.

Right now I serve as the catechism coordinator for our parish. The Lord has blessed me with the opportunity of being a member of such a critical, crucial ministry.

So, here's what happened – A few weeks ago after mass, one of our teenage children from catechism class was standing alongside his mum and few other people. As I passed by, this wonderful young lad asked me – "Aunty, you are the catechism coordinator. Tell me why we are not allowed tattoos?" I looked at my arm and I looked back at him saying, "well, I have a really big tattoo" (as if he didn't already know!). All those who know me, know I have a wall hanging sized tattoo of the Rosary, spanning a large surface area over my upper back and arm – not one that can

be concealed or hidden at all. I've never tried to hide it either.

Now, I was just asked a pertinent question and I felt the need to answer him.

I went on to explain to this teenager, various aspects of the Christian way of living and getting a tattoo. He wanted me to record it and send it across on WhatsApp, probably to play it at home for his parents, as by now I figured he was keen to get a tattoo. Mind you, I know his parents and his mother especially. I went through this uncertainty of how to pitch relevant information to him and at all times, I was fully aware I never wanted to violate any teachings of Christ. Anyway, I got back home and over the next few days cobbled together as many authentic articles as I could, that spoke about tattooing and the Catholic faith. I oscillated between relevant excerpts of the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) and I looked for easy to use questions and answers in the YouCat and DoCat.

Most valid documents on the internet mentioned that there was no hard and fast 'No' to the famously infamous tattoo. Most of these articles spoke of the kinds of tattoos one could choose to get – not those belonging to the dark world, but indeed the kinds that give glory to God. Yet some other articles spoke about discerning the need to get one and the right personal reasons for getting a tattoo. Almost all of them written by priests or bishops, who were trying to help our much-loved youth, through this crazy time of peer-pressure, fame on social media and the love for all things in vogue. Once I had culled the information I needed, I sent it across to this boy. He promptly thanked me profusely, as if he had been waiting for it all his life.

I repeat, he is a wonderful boy – he's a great choir master and an accomplished musician at his age; the gifts of the Holy Spirit definitely being put to good use by him.

Let me share with you what I told him

and how my mind has kept dwelling on this topic, thereafter allowing me to see more and more of what the Lord calls us to.

I said to him – When I got my tattoo, I was sure I wanted a Rosary. I also told him, I had always considered getting a favourite scripture passage tattooed on my forearm – my way of allowing other people to read it, especially since I travelled by train most of my life and I could get others to read it. I never realized at that time, but over the years I have thought of this to be a good form of evangelizing. All that aside, I explained to this lad that our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit and my matured adult mind has allowed me to understand that we should cause no pain or harm to our bodies intentionally. When we plan to get inked, we know it will, in all probability, cause us pain, and therefore over sensitive skin types must definitely discern this process which can in fact cause some pain and discomfort. I summed it all up by asking him to speak to a few priests, get a few good healthy perspectives, evaluate his own personal reasons and how essential it was for him to have this conversation with his parents. I told him that the artwork he would consider getting tattooed on, should glorify our Lord. And on a closing note, I said – we are called to bring ourselves back to the Lord unstained, at the end of this earthly journey. Unstained refers to keeping our souls pure, primarily.

My mind just never rested after that as I felt the pressure of this conversation in so many facets of life. If my body is the temple of the Holy Spirit and I am to cause it no harm – have I done all it takes to keep a healthy mind and a healthy body? Have I said no to deep fried, extra sugary, unhealthy food so that it may not cause harm to my body? Did I turn down laziness and get up and get going each day to have those 40 minutes of recommended work out to keep my arteries from clogging? Have I kept away from aerated drinks that are

simply poison in a glass, being gulped into my body? Have I said no to gluttony and sloth – two of the seven deadly sins that cause my body harm and stain? And the obvious answer is 'No'.

Today, in the time and era of social media and the world calling us to diversity and inclusion – our youth are torn between what the world is throwing at them versus what we are trying to teach them about what our faith says and allows. We tend to make Christianity scary and punitive to our young minds. Have we forgotten that Christ came to love all of us and that we are called to live and share this message? Have we forgotten that many moons ago we were also in their shoes and that over time, our individual personal encounters with Christ have brought a Christianity stir in our own hearts?

The world today is full of things that are always up for debate and questioning – tattoos, live in relationships, LGBTQI+ and the list is endless. Are we able to engage our children in discussions around these topics? I am a mother to a pre-teen. I am plagued regularly by questions on so called 'taboo' topics and I am learning slowly to brush aside my 'this is right and this is wrong' attitude and engage her in a conversation that ultimately ends up being futile. But she is encouraged to talk about things like a crush she may have on someone, or some Korean pop that she may be enamored by. I find it better to have her ask uncomfortable questions to us at home, so I can help her seek Christ centered answers. I have experienced her being told off at times, by others, who think they are at liberty to judge her. I have sensed her pain and I have learnt this the hard way. Does that mean I am able to get it right always – No, in fact I get it all wrong most often. I'm left feeling helpless or irritated more often than not.

But I've learnt something special – all our youth, our children - they are looking for love and acceptance. Shouldn't we then pitch the teachings of Christ's love; His great and mighty love for each of us sinners? His endless mercy and grace, as he continues to love each of us for

who we are? Wouldn't Christ become the 'coolest' superhero for our kids, if only they were constantly reminded of how he loves each of them, no matter what? At the end of all our efforts to convince our kids, we need to make Christ the center of our own adult lives. Then we won't need to teach our children. They will watch us and learn. But if we ourselves continue to wake up to the worldly rat race of corporate lives, school tests, academic scores, competitive exams and successful careers, and put Christ on the back burner, then we'll always be bogged down by the right and wrong of a tattoo!

A friend and confidante, who is a catechism teacher, recently shared with me that there were atheist children in Sunday school class and they were able to engage very well in wholesome discussions along with the rest. Some of them were very actively engaged in areas of community service and service to the poor. I thought it was brilliant to have atheist minds kinesthetically engaged in teachings of Jesus, of service and love.

I am not trying to dilute any teaching of the faith; I am not saying 'hey you, go get inked'. I am not saying go violate the scripture. I am all for the fundamentals of the faith. I firmly believe as Mathew 5:17 says, "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish them but to fulfil them."

All I am saying is, let us collectively think – How does faith and Christ become a part of our everyday living? How can we draw our children closer and closer to the Lord? How can we tell them how much He loves them because they are each, a child of God? How do we make our own Christianity a way of life that our children fall in love with, and want to imitate? Are we willing to go the extra mile, study the Word of God and put it in the context of everyday living so our children see its relevance?

Do we have faith even as little as a mustard seed and do we believe in the unfailing power of prayer? Do we live our Christianity well enough to lead by example?

I am guilty on all counts, at failing to live my faith, as so many other baptized Christian adults out there, guiltier in fact, – the guiltiest perhaps.

It's time for you and me to start with ourselves, check what we are tattooing on our own hearts, souls and bodies, examine our own consciences, pray for our children, do a check on our own adherence to the teachings of the greatest commandment of Love and the greatest lover who ever lived – Jesus!







# BEGGING OUR LIFESTYLE

SR LINI SHEEJA MSC

FORMER CHIEF-EDITOR, PRISON VOICE

"So young you are! Are you in prison ministry? And you are here with a bucket to beg for prisoners! I'll come in 5 minutes. My house is very close by. Please wait till I come", said an elderly lady in 2019 from Kammanahalli Parish, Bangalore on Prison Ministry Sunday. Prison ministry volunteers go to the parishes as a team for Prison Ministry Sunday celebrations. After the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, we stand at every door of the Church with buckets in our hands asking for some help from these parishioners.

Something inspired the lady, by seeing sisters and priests standing at the door with buckets, she went back to her house, brought 2000Rs currency and dropped in a bucket which I was holding, gave me a kiss and said, "God bless you". The incident remain so fresh in my mind even today and this incident had motivated me to go out of my way many times and to beg for our brothers and sisters behind bars, for their families, for their children who are in our rehabilitation centres and released men/women brethren from prison cells who live in our rehabilitation centres.

## Begging: Definition

I was browsing for the meaning of begging in internet and the meaning Google gave me was 'begging is asking someone earnestly or humbly for something'. To bow down one need to have humility.

## Saint of the Gutter as Beggar

St. Teresa of Kolkata, a Saint of the Gutter was once living in a small house in Calcutta along with some orphans. One day it so happened that there was nothing for the children to eat. Mother Teresa did not know what to do. Mother Teresa called all the children and said, "Come children, today we have nothing to eat in the house. But, if we

pray to God, He will surely give". After 10 minutes of prayer Mother Teresa went out. She went to a neighbourhood shop and said to the shopkeeper, "Please give us something to eat". The shopkeeper looked at Mother Teresa with anger and spit saliva on Mother Teresa's hand. Saint of the Gutter gently wiped the saliva on her sari and said, "Thank you for what you have given for me. Now, can you give something for my children?"

The shopkeeper was shocked at the humility of Mother Teresa and asked pardon from her. Immediately he called his workers and send sacks of groceries to Mother Teresa's children. It did not stop with that day; he continued to help regularly to those orphan children. What fascinated this Mother to go and beg for someone? This Saint of the Gutter begged to give life for the ones who were thrown out in gutters. We the PMI volunteers beg for the ones who are thrown behind bars with the title of criminals. They are branded as criminals, thieves, murderers, rapists and what not? We beg for these lost brethren of ours to give hope. We stand at the Church doors and beg to tell those behind bars, we are with you! You are not alone! We beg, so that they may have a future.

## Begging: Part of Our Spirituality

"Then Jesus said to them, Suppose you have a friend and you go to him at midnight and say, lend me three loaves of bread; a friend of mine on a journey has come to me and I have no food to offer him" (Luke 11:5-6). This parable is one of my most favourite passage in which Jesus teaches about begging. Begging for whom? Jesus is addressing this passage directly to each of us. Is it for our families are we going and knocking at someone's door? No, it's not for our blood relation. It's for a friend. A

friend who had come to us, trusting that we would provide him/her something.

The disciples of Jesus came to Him and asked Him to teach them to pray. After having taught them the great prayer, "Our Father", Jesus continues His powerful teaching with the challenging message. Jesus makes this begging part of our spirituality. Jesus not only taught His disciples to stretch out the hands before His Heavenly Father. But He also taught His disciples to stretch their hands before human beings to give life for someone. Jesus who taught the disciples to go and knock someone's door to feed someone continues to teach us to go and beg for someone whom He has placed in our care today. The prisoners are our brothers and sisters for whom we stretch out hands in joy.

## Begging to Feed

Joyson, (name changed) jailed with his parents and younger brother in Parappana Agrahara Central Prison, Bangalore. His parents were arrested in murder case when Joyson was 4 years old and his younger brother 2 years old. What crime Joyson and his brother committed that these little ones have to go through jail experience having deprived of their childhood? When Joyson was 6 years old, he was shifted to our Kolbe Home, home for prisoners' children located at Carmelaram, Bangalore after all the legal procedures. And after two years Joyson's brother too got shifted and these children are growing up together with 33 children in our centres. All these 35 children who are under our care are God's precious gift for our PMI family and we beg at the Church doors to feed these vulnerable ones.

Whenever I give a talk to young religious and priests, the first question



that I ask them is to tell me about the core of their vocation or to write down the reason for God's call to them. I used to notice that on hearing what I said they would be engrossed in deep reflection and thought. "And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt" (Exod. 3:9-10). God heard the cry of the Israelites that resulted in the call of Moses. Israelites cried out to God and Moses received a vocation. Our brethren behind bars cried out to God and that's why we have Prison Ministry India.

### Begging as Blessing

Our vocation is to wipe out those tears which God saw and heard. How can we remain in our comfortable zones and make them cry continuously? Moses was called and sent on a mission. Remember, we too are called and sent on a mission to the ones whose cry resounded so loud before God. We have no foreign fund. Our only fund is God's providence and our very life-style is begging. God called us not only to counsel prisoners, but He called to dedicate our lives for the integrated human development of our brothers and sisters behind prison walls whose cry the Lord of the universe heard and called us. We beg, so that they may be liberated! We bent down, so that our brethren behind bars may look up. Begging is a blessing! Do you have the call to beg to liberate the chained? Please join us and receive the blessings in abundance.

### Prison Ministry Sunday

Prison Ministry Sunday is celebrated every year with a particular theme to create awareness across the country. Through Prison Ministry Sunday we convey the message to our brethren behind bars that they are not alone. On this special day every brother and sister behind bars is remembered in a special way by the Catholic Church and its faithful. Prison Ministry India from its inception works for the integral human development of prisoners who are created in God's image and likeness as you and I are. No mother gives birth

to a child with the intention of making her son/daughter a criminal. Each one of our brethren from the dark cells has a history to tell us. Are we ready to listen to them? Prison Ministry Sunday creates awareness about our brethren and asks the faithful to respond to their cry from the dark cells as Moses responded to the Israelites' cry by saying yes to God.

### Prison Ministry Sunday 2022

Prison Ministry India celebrates Prison Ministry Sunday on 14 August 2022 with the theme of Integral Human Development and Pastoral Care for Prisoners. Pope Francis invites the Mother Church to become mothers and to have the attitude of mothers towards our brothers and sisters behind bars. When Jesus asked His disciples to gather the left-overs, the disciples bent down and gathered the left-overs. The wounded ones behind the bars are left out by society. We enter through the prison gates to gather the ones left out. What joy it gives us when these left-outs are given hope and when these scattered ones get back to their lost lives! PMI volunteers offer their time, energy and life to provide a future to those labelled as criminals by society.

### Prison Ministry India and Integral Human Development for Prisoners

While the law looks back to the past with judgement, PMI looks towards the future with mercy. When the law condemns the failed ones, PMI commends them to our Father's care. When the law puts them down, PMI lifts them up. When the world fights for justice, a few chosen people cry out for restorative justice. When the world brawls for punishment, a few chosen ones beg for forgiveness. When the world wants to kill, a few chosen ones want to save. When the world closes the book of a criminal, a few chosen ones open a new chapter saying no one is beyond redemption. And they are our Prison Ministry India volunteers. Will you join us?

PMI volunteers together with Pope Francis invite every reader of this article to join hands for the vulnerable, rejected, lonely and the lost ones behind bars and to commit our lives in service to them. If you and I don't respond, who

else will? The Lord of the sea and sky calls us! Let our response be, "Here I am Lord. I have heard you calling. I will go Lord and you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart".





# A TRIBUTE TO PRIESTS

PRAVIN JOSE

O priests! Good Shepherds of God's flock,  
I wonder how gracious your words are  
That can make the lame walk, the dead rise  
As you preach and teach the flock the Divine Word  
The hearts of stone melt and distressed souls transform.

O priests! Descendants of Melchizedek, the High Priest  
I wonder how powerful your hands are  
That can turn bread and wine,  
Into His Body 'n' wine into His Blood  
They can make the universe bow, devils run.

O priests! In and for the world, not of the world  
I wonder how mighty your deeds are  
You can make men pure, lift souls above  
As you're given power and authority by God  
To bless, encourage, comfort, and strengthen souls.

O priests! The image and likeness of God  
I wonder how privileged you are  
Who can satisfy hunger, quench thirst  
As you offer the heavenly meal to every child of God  
Like the mother to her children the earthly meal.

O priests! Representatives of Christ on earth  
I wonder how fortunate and blessed you are  
To share all sufferings, heal all wounds  
As you go from men to God to offer Him their petitions  
And return from God to men to offer them His hope.

O priests! Handpicked from a myriad of souls  
I wonder how blessed you are  
Who can do miracles and the Holy Spirit on all to descend  
You're chosen, moulded, called by God  
His name to proclaim, his Mercy to every stray sinner.

# PARISH NEWS

## VIANNEY SUNDAY CELEBRATION

by Aleena Antony

HOLY SPIRIT CHURCH

ALAKNANDA

PARISH PRIEST: REV. FR. GEORGE MANIMALA  
ASSISTANT PARISH PRIEST: REV. FR. NELSON TELLIS



The Feast of St. John Marie Baptiste Vianney, the Patron Saint of all the Diocesans Priests was celebrated on 7<sup>th</sup> August at Holy Spirit Church, Alaknanda. The day began with a solemn Eucharistic Celebration with the Celebrants being Fr. Joe Thomas, SSP and Fr. George Manimala. The parishioners prayed for all the priests, especially for the two priests of our parish, Fr. George Manimala and Fr. Nelson Tellis to congratulate them and thank them for their dedicated service to the Lord and His community. We prayed to the Lord to help the priests to touch the hearts of people and open them up to the merciful love of the Lord and to hand on the enthusiasm and spiritual vitality to the communities with which the Lord entrusts them. The melodious singing by the choir also included the singing of a special hymn to St. John Marie Vianney. All the Catechism children wore Red to show their gratitude towards the priests for their faithful service. After the mass, Mrs. Shirley John, Secretary of the Catholic Association of our Parish gave a message about the significance of the day and extended her gratitude and respect towards the Priests on behalf of all the parishioners. The celebration concluded with the presentation of gifts by the Catholic Association wherein the elder members of the church felicitated our dear Fathers with a small token of our love and gratitude.

## GRAND-PARENT'S DAY CELEBRATION

by Aleena Antony



Grandparents are a family's greatest treasure, the founders of a loving legacy, the greatest storytellers, the keepers of traditions. Grandparents are the family's strong foundation. Through their special love and care, grandparents keep a family close at heart. We the members of Holy Spirit Church as a family extended our gratitude and respect towards our dear Grandparents on 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2022 with a Eucharistic celebration followed by a small programme put up by the Catechism children. The programme



started with a small video of the Catechism children with their grandparents. Then the children of classes 1-5 presented a small action song with their cute little smile, which showed their love and affection towards their grandparents. Towards the end of the Eucharistic celebration, all the grandparents were felicitated with a small token of love by our dear Priests, Fr. George Manimala and Fr. Nelson Tellis. The day was filled with oodles of blessings, happy faces, excitement and cheer as the children displayed their love and affection for their grandparents.

### INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

*by Vimal Maria Titus*



The Holy Spirit Church, Alaknanda, began the Independence Day celebrations, to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> year of Independence of our country India, and the celebration of the Feast of the Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mother Mary, with the Morning Masses in Hindi and English. The Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. George Manimala and Asst. Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Nelson Tellis hoisted the National flag after the Mass, which was then followed by the singing of the National Anthem. The Vice-President of the Parish Pastoral Council, Ms. Catherine Thomas gave a beautiful message on patriotism and remaining united, inspite of our cultural diversity. Finally, the melodious singing of patriotic songs by the Hindi Choir livened up the environment. Both children and adults proudly carried the National flag throughout the program. The whole program was wonderfully coordinated by Master of the ceremony of the day, Ms. Jennifer Titus. Both the English and Hindi mass were animated by the Catechism children. In the English mass, the introduction, readings, prayers of the faithful and thanksgiving prayer were done by the Catechism students of Class Nine under the guidance of their Catechism teacher, Dr. Julie Rose. As the prayers of the faithful were read out the different attributes of Mother Mary, her purity, her obedience to the Will of God, her prayerful nature and others, were depicted through a small role play and their significance in our lives were explained. After the mass, the Catechism students participated in the Drawing and Painting Competition organized by the Diocesan Catechetical Centre on the occasion of the Independence Day of our nation, on the theme – "Communion, Participation and Mission."

For the auspicious occasion, the display board within the Church was decorated by Mrs. Vinu Michael, Mrs. Catherine Thomas, and Ms. Anne Lisa Augustine. The other decorations within the church Premises were done by Mr. Piyush D' Souza. The Catholic Association of the Church distributed Ladoos at the conclusion of both the morning masses.

### NATIONAL YOUTH SUNDAY 2022

*by Rev. Fr. Nelson Tellis*





## PARISH NEWS

The Youth of Holy Spirit Church, Alaknanda Parish gathered on August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022 to celebrate the National Youth Sunday. Due to the pandemic the Youth group had become inactive. The Parish priests Rev. Fr. George Manimala and Fr. Nelson decided that it was time to revitalise the Church's Youth group. National Youth Sunday was the appropriate time to formally re-introduce the new Youth group to the Parishioners. The new Youth Group of the parish, animated both the Hindi and English Holy Masses by leading the liturgy and other sacred responsibilities. The English Mass was celebrated by our parish Priest, Rev Fr. George Manimala, which began with the introduction being read by the youth member outlining the Youth Day and the day's theme- "Praying to Mother Mary for peace and hope". The Scripture reading were done by the members and special prayers of the faithful were offered for the new Youth to revive, rejuvenate, and uphold the mission of Christ. The dress code maintained white dress code on the day, symbolising Mother Mary's purity and innocence. The Youth group members also wore badges to be distinguished and the celebration was concluded with the singing of the World Youth Day's anthem translated in Hindi.

### HANDING OVER & INSTALLATION OF PARISH PRIEST

by Vijay Toppo

#### ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH

AYA NAGAR

PARISH PRIEST: REV. FR. THOMAS CHAMBAKATT

ASSTT. PARISH PRIEST: REV. FR. THOMAIAR CHARLES



It was an auspicious moment on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2022 for our parish St. John the Baptist Church Aya Nagar as we celebrated the Feast Day of St. Thomas the Apostle, also we had the handing over by Rev. Fr. Francis Swaminathan and installation of new Parish Priest Rev Father Thomas Chambakatt. Handing over and Installation was witnessed by Rev. Fr. Vincent Dsouza Vicar General of Archdiocese of Delhi. The Celebrant Priests entered the Altar with a colourful Prayer Dance by our Mahila Sangh and a special song welcoming the priests at the Altar. After the Homily Vicar General Rev. Father Vincent Dsouza administered Oath of Office to Rev Father Thomas Chambakatt and Rev Father Francis Swaminathan handed over the Keys of Terbnacle to Rev Father Thomas Chambakatt to mark assumption of Parish Priest with Thunderous applause by the Parishioners.

The Church atmosphere was filled with mixed emotions as on one hand we were overwhelmed with the arrival of new Parish Priest but at the same time feeling sad to part off with the outgoing Parish Priest Father Francis Swaminathan. A Heart Touching Farewell song was sung by our Mahila Sangh and the Choir Group. All priests were felicitated with bouquets and sapling by various associations of our Parish.

### BEC-CHURCH IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

by Emmanuel Johnson

#### ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH

BHATTI MINES

PARISH PRIEST: REV. FR. JARDIS NAZARETH



The Commission for BECs/SCCs organized a BEC Orientation Program for the parishioners of St. Philip's Church, Bhatti Mines held on Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> August 2022. There were more than 100 participants for the orientation program.

Rev. Fr. Suresh Babu offered the Holy Eucharist for the parishioners in Hindi. During homily, he emphasized to the congregation on the deeper understanding of the Community relating it to the life of early Christian Communities. Why it is important to gather around the WORD in our neighborhoods. BEC/SCC is a grassroots program which carries out the task of the local Church of Evangelization and Witnessing. The participation in BEC brings total transformation in the community. After the Holy Eucharist, Parish Priest Rev. Fr. Jardis Nazereth, welcome Custodio Coutinho, DRT member who came to animate the session and thanked Fr. Suresh Babu for celebrating the Holy Eucharist and praying for the community. He also requested his parishioners to cooperate and support the diocesan initiative of forming BEC/SCC in the parishes.

The presentation started with an interactive session by Fr. Suresh Babu in which the participants were asked: What is their understanding of the BEC/SCC and why it is important to come together in the neighborhood? He explained that Pope John Paul II for instance, calls BECs are "A Concrete Expressions of the Church and Home and Family for Everyone (FC -85). Therefore, BECs/SCCs are not an association or any pious groups in the parish but a concrete expression of the church. This is called "A New Way of Being Church" just as the early Church captured the spirit of Trinitarian communion and lived it in and through their genuine sharing and oneness of heart as we read in the Act of the Apostles {2: 42 -47}. Today, we need to imbibe the same spirit and try to live an authentic Christian life by participating whole heartedly in the "New Way of Being Church" which is known as BEC/SCC.

The In-put session:

The deeper understanding of the Seven Steps of Gospel Sharing was presented and it was animated by Fr. Suresh Babu and brother Custodia Coutinho.

The Parish Priest Rev. Fr. Jardis Nazereth thanked the Commission members for taking the initiative of coming and conducting the informative sessions for the parishioners. He also formed the three members Parish Animation Team who will be responsible for training and forming the BECs in the parish. He also announced that by 7<sup>th</sup> September 2022, every area will have BEC unit and thereafter the formation program will begin in every unit. The orientation program came to an end by the closing of the Holy Bible.

### VISIT OF APOSTOLIC NUNCIO *by Edwin Jenis*

### MATA MARIAM CATHOLIC CHURCH

DHARUHERA

PARISH PRIEST: REV. FR. ANIL VALDER  
CO-PASTOR: REV. FR. ANTHONY FRANCIS



We the parishioners of Mata Mariam Catholic Church were so much delighted to have our Apostolic Nuncio in our parish on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2022. His Excellency Most Rev. Leopoldo Girelli had come to our parish in his Pastoral visit. We the parishioners welcomed his excellency with flower bouquet and we led His Excellency to the Church with entrance dance from the grotto to the Church. In the sermon His excellency emphasized on the life of St. John Marie Vianney and said that we the Christians should be the people of Eucharist and all the priests should reconcile people with God. His excellency also said that we should have one project in our lives to help people, His Excellency had prayed for all of us and blessed us during the Mass. Soon after the Mass we had a small program in the Church, in which the Mahila Sangh had welcomed His Excellency and Fr. Stephen Fernandes the secretary of Apostolic Nuncio with beautiful song. We have presented the history of mission at Dhuruhera, we presented the activities of our Parish and the A.C sisters presented their report. After the program his excellency had gone to Asha Kiran and met the orphan children there.





The Parishioners of Mata Mariam Church celebrated our Parish feast of our Patroness on 15-08-2022. Bishop Deepak Valerian was the main celebrant for the celebrations who also administered the Sacrament of first Holy Communion and Sacrament of Confirmation for the children of our Parish. Sr. Agnes from Prasad Nagar led the choir in our Church. We began the celebration with Rosary and the Mass started with a traditional dance by our Parish's Mahila Mandal. We had photo session with Bishop. This was followed by the time of fellowship meal together. The people of other faith i.e., CHRIST-BHAKTAS came to seek blessings from the Bishop at end of the service.

## PASTORAL VISIT

*by Rose Mary Peter*

## GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH

HAUZ KHAS

PARISH PRIEST: REV. FR. JAMES PETER RAJ  
ASST. PARISH PRIEST: REV. FR. RICHARD MINJ



July 31<sup>st</sup> was very auspicious and blessed day for the parishioners of Good Shepherd Church as Bishop Deepak Tauro made his first Pastoral visit in our parish. On arrival of Bishop Deepak, Fr. James greeted and presented welcome bouquet to his Grace, followed by entrance dance procession from the main gate to the Church entrance with traditional hymns on Mandar prepared by parish council members and other church leaders. The Holy Eucharistic celebration began with the entrance dance by the Youth Group followed by washing of the hands and putting tilak on forehead of preceding celebrant. Bishop's homily was very simple, meaningful and clear. According to the scriptures he laid emphasis that all is waste everything is vanity, the world is becoming high-tech, people are being materialistic, we all should have the hunger and thirst for the Word of God and attain for spiritualism, be and work like St. Teresa of Calcutta. After the Eucharistic celebration we met Bishop Deepak in the Church hall. All Associations - Parish Council, Finance Committee, SCC, Youth Group, Legion of Mary, Altar Servers, Catechism Teachers, Prayer Group, and Bethany Lay Association etc. presented their yearly report, followed by an interactive session. Bishop was very happy to be in our parish and he mentioned that as he entered the premises of our Church, he got all positive vibes, he was glad to see that our church was fully packed and everything was being done well in good order He complemented both Fr.



## PARISH NEWS

James and Fr. Richard for carrying the good work. Bishop Deepak carried with him fond memories of our parish community and noted all the main highlighted points with immediate action to be taken through census with both the Priests and members of the associations.

### INDEPENDENCE DAY & SOLEMNITY OF ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY *by Rose Mary Peter*

15<sup>th</sup> August, Feast of Assumption and Independence day was celebrated with great zeal and enthusiasm followed by Flag hoisting and football tournament. Youth group had organized various competitions for various groups of catechism children like drawing, coloring, essay writing, games and bible quiz. It was a day of enjoyment especially with football match within the wards of our parish.

### VIANNEY SUNDAY CELEBRATION *by Rose Mary Peter*



On 7<sup>th</sup> August we celebrated the Feast of St. John Mary Vianney, Patron of Priests. We prayed for both our priests, Fr. James and Fr. Richard and felicitated them with a bouquet and sweets were distributed.

### CATECHISM ORIENTATION PROGRAM *by Rose Mary Peter*



On 24<sup>th</sup> June we had organized Catechism Orientation program for our Catechism children. Fr. Manikya Raju, Director for Catechetical Commission conducted the same. Fr. Raju presided over the Holy Eucharistic service conducted by catechism children with special entrance procession carrying flowers to the Sacred Altar. Fr. Raju laid emphasis how important is the role of parents in the faith formation, how should you teach catechism to children with ease and less burden. It was a very meaningful session thru his 15 minutes talk with the parents of our parish after the Mass and with clear cut message through his sermon, and had a very fruitful interaction with the catechism children and teachers during the Orientation program. Fr. Raju awarded certificates to catechism children for securing good percentage in Catechism exam. Needless, to mention that our lay catechism teachers along with religious sisters are doing very well in our parish under supervision of our Priests.





On 19<sup>th</sup> June, Father's day was celebrated in our parish a small sapling plant on behalf of all the fathers of our parish, were presented to Mr. Kullo and Mr. Toppo of our parish as a sign of love, respect and prosperity to all fathers of our parish for the untiring love and hard work towards their family and children. June/July is a month of transfers we welcome Sr. Gloria Xavier, Sr. Alphonsa Koyikal, Sr. Mariam Topno, Sr. Suma Kumari, Sr. Anju Rubee and Sr. Manisha Tirkey of St. Anthony's Convent and Clara Niwas, Sr. Basanti Priya, and Sr. Theresa Anthony of Bethany Convent for joining our parish community. We bid farewell to Sr. Joyce Thadathil, Sr. Gratia Noronha, Sr. Wilma Lewis, Sr. Nancy Toppo, Sr. Shalini D'Souza, of Clara Niwas and to Sr. Janet Carvalho and Sr. Pricilla Kerketta of Bethany Convent for doing the wonderful God's work in our parish and wish them success in their new endeavors and whole heartedly welcome the new sisters into our parish community. May God bless all of us.

## NATIONAL YOUTH SUNDAY *by Richard Hilton*

## ST. FRANCIS DE SALES CHURCH

JANAKPURI

PARISH PRIEST: REV. FR. DOMY VELLOMKUNNEL  
ASST. PARISH PRIEST: REV. FR. LALIT TIGGA MSFS



We are always at the helm of all parish activity and never say no to any task assigned to them are always making us proud by participating and winning great laurels for Janakpuri Mahima Parish through the various competition they take part at various levels, so from the time it was announced in the Parish Council meeting by our Parish Priest that International Youth Day is approaching, it became the single largest agenda of all members to do something for our youth who are always tirelessly working to keep our Parish shining. With this thought in mind the members were assigned duties from Liturgy - Planning to Gift Purchasing, on the given day the four front benches were reserved specially for the youth members, the choir which otherwise is normally lead by youth was organized by the seniors of the Church, the youth entered the Church to a beautiful flower decorated altar done by our Holy Family Sisters. In her introduction Jessy John, former President of our Youth Group wished our youth many more successes in life and urged the young people to continue making that difference in their families, Church, workplaces

and surrounding through Simplicity and Kindness. In his Gospel Reflection our Parish Priest Rev. Dr. Domy Thomas MSFS emphasized the importance of how the Youth play an important role in the community first as Church builders and ultimately as Nation Builders. Mr. Anugrah Ekka Vice-President of the Parish Council, in his concluding message thanked the Youth for working dedicatedly, and rising to any occasion whenever, called upon. Gifts and Bouquets were distributed by the Parish Priest and Asst. Parish Priest Assisted by the Women cell members to the entire youth team of our Parish, concluded with a photo session involving the Youth and Distribution of Chocolates to all parishioners.

## NATIONAL YOUTH SUNDAY *by Mahima Bor*

### ST. MATHEW'S CHURCH

LAXMI NAGAR

PARISH PRIEST: REV. FR. SAVARIMUTHU SANKAR

ASST. PARISH PRIEST: REV. FR. RICHARD JOSE



21<sup>st</sup> August 2022 was a day dedicated to the youth of our church and our nation. The National Youth Sunday was joyfully celebrated in our parish. We began the day with a Solemn Mass offered by our Assistant Parish Priest Rev. Fr. Richard Jose. The Liturgy of the day and the choir was taken by the youth. The message of the day that was spoken to the youth was that youth are never be afraid to listen to the spirit who proposes bold choices and the church wishes to listen to their voice and the expectations of the church from the youth is to maintain a healthy growing relationship with God, be regular in youth related activities and to participate in all the parish activities with enthusiasm. On the same day, a free Medical camp was organized in our parish by the youth at noon. They did all the registration work, volunteering and took care of other works too. The camp was a great success as the majority of the parishioners and outsiders took part in it. It was indeed a memorable day for all of us. The youth is looking forward to participating in more activities like this.

### ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CHURCH

PALAM

PARISH PRIEST: REV. FR. JULIUS CAESAR

ASSISTANT PARISH PRIEST: REV. FR. DORAIRAJ BRITTO

## INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION *by Sumita*



On 15<sup>th</sup> August 2022, 75<sup>th</sup> Independence Day and feast of Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary was celebrated at St. John the evangelist church, Palam. The day began with the celebration of Holy Mass at 7:30am, followed by hoisting of national flag by Lakshmi Narayan (SHO of Palam village police station) and all saluted the national flag and sang the national anthem. Around 9:30 am cultural program began for the day. The guest of honor was our Rev. Fr. Julius Caesar our New Parish Priest. As every celebration begins with invoking God's presence by a small prayer or lighting of the lamp, we too started off with a beautiful prayer dance by Mahila Mandal of our church. Thereafter, the youth of our parish presented a patriotic song. Followed by fashion show competition for class 6-8 catechism students with the theme "best out of waste". Subsequently, the youth of our parish presented a beautiful dance. Lastly a fancy dress competition was also held for classes 1-5 on the theme – "unity in diversity" or "Freedom Fighters". At the end, Fr. Dorairaj Britto our assistant parish priest, distributed prizes to the winners. He encouraged us with his speech and final blessing was given.



## INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION



On 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2022 as the Mother Church commemorates the Solemnity of Assumption of Our Lady and our Mother Nation celebrates Independence day. A Day of hope and joy. To reflect on the theme 'Freedom'. We had Holy Eucharistic Celebration followed by flag hoisting and our parish youth group actively participated and executed as per the planning.

## INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

by Rose Mary

## ST. THOMAS CHURCH

R.K. PURAM

PARISH PRIEST: REV. FR. VIJAY BARETTO

ASSISTANT PARISH PRIEST: REV. FR. REMJIUS TIRKEY



The Solemnity of the feast of Assumption of our Lady and Independence Day of our country were celebrated on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2022 in our parish. Rev. Fathers. Vijay Baretto and Remjius celebrated the Eucharist in the morning, in which Fr. Remjius gave an inspiring homily on the virtues of Mother Mary. Soon after the mass the parishioners assembled on the St. Thomas play school ground. National flag was hoisted by Rev. Fr. Vijay Baretto. Representatives of various age groups joined him. Rev. Fr. Vijay spoke on true freedom. He said that we can experience freedom in our lives only if we free ourselves from the bondages of evil tendencies of the world. A short cultural programme was presented by the students of Prabat Tara. Mrs. Carmala Panna proposed vote of thanks. All were refreshed at the end.

## GRAND-PARENTS' DAY CELEBRATION

by Rose Mary



We celebrated Grandparents day in our parish on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2022. Grand-Parents were welcomed and given seats in the central part of the church. Rev. Fathers. Vijay Barreto, Remijus & Anthony D'Souza celebrated the Eucharist. They were taken to the



Lord in prayer during the Eucharistic celebration. Rev. Fr Vijay Bareto exhorted the faithful to love and take care of the grand parents as they are the living saints who will always pray for us. Not only that, they will be role models for our new generations. There was a short felicitation at the end of the mass. A cake was cut and the joy was shared. Each one was given a bouquet of flowers and a gift. During the sharing session grandparents expressed their gratitude for making the day special for them. All were refreshed at the end. Really it was a memorable day for each of them.

### DRAWING & PAINTING COMPETITION

*by Sujeet Kandulna*

**ST. LUKE'S CHURCH**

**DEFENCE COLONY**

PARISH PRIEST: REV. FR. VINCENT CRASTA  
ASSISTANT PARISH PRIEST: REV. FR. SAMPATH KUMAR



In "Every child is an artist" said Pablo Picasso. Keeping this in mind, on 14<sup>th</sup> of August 2022, our Parish organized a drawing competition for all the catechism children under the guidance of our Parish Priests. Children were excited and happy to partake in this competition. As per the directions of Vishwas-Kiran Catechetical Centre, Archdiocese of Delhi the motive of this competition was not only to have fun but to help children to recognize and explore their hidden talent and inculcate the solemn thought of SYNOD. Therefore the theme for the drawing and painting competition was Communion, Participation and Mission. Fr. Sampath and Catechism teachers helped children to understand the theme. All the participants showcased their best skills and thoroughly enjoyed. Our Parish youths also volunteered to assist the catechism teachers in smooth functioning of the competition.

### SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

*by M.S.Stanislaus*

**CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF GRACES**

**VIKASPURI**

PARISH PRIEST: REV. FR. IVAN MADTHA  
ASSISTANT PARISH PRIEST: REV. FR. AJIT BAXLA SCJ



Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> August 2022 was a momentous day for the parishioners of Church of Our Lady of Graces, Vikaspuri when 36 of our bright adolescents received the sacrament of Confirmation, recalling and renewing the promises made at baptism and invoking the Holy Spirit in exuberance. Most Rev. Deepak Valerian Tauro, Auxiliary Bishop of Delhi, the main celebrant of the day being his maiden visit to the Parish was welcomed at the entrance gate by the Parish Priest, Assistant Parish Priest and the Parish Council members and the ladies performing a welcome dance. At the Holy Eucharist Bishop Deepak was felicitated with a bouquet of flowers and the concelebrants were Rev. Fr. Ivan Madtha and Rev. Fr. Ajit Baxla. In his homily Bishop Deepak brought out the need for us to live with the Grace of God which is brought through the sacrament of Confirmation. He exhorted how we all are becoming the soldiers of Christ and the 7 gifts of Holy Spirit which are wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord are given to us by the Sacrament of Confirmation. After the homily the gift of the Spirit was communicated to the children through laying on of hands and anointing with sacred chrism by the Bishop. One of the Confirmands thanked the Bishop, the Priests, Rev. Sisters and the catechism teachers for preparing and making them worthy to receive the Confirmation. After the mass certificates and mementos were presented by the Bishop to the Confirmands.



# SCHOOL NEWS

## WORLD AQUATIC DAY

by Vincy Varghese

ST. MICHAEL'S JUNIOR SCHOOL

PRASAD NAGAR

MANAGER: REV.FR. GEO JACOB

PRINCIPAL : SR. AGNES JOSEPH



A special assembly was conducted to celebrate World Aquatic Day. The Chief Guest of the day was Rev. Fr. Suresh Babu, Assistant Parish Priest of St. Michael's Church, Prasad Nagar. The assembly was conducted by Class II students, they highlighted the need and significance to celebrate the day on aquatic life. The students performed a mesmerising dance holding the cut outs of various aquatic animals like star fish, jelly fish, crab, octopus, sea horse, etc. The students looked adorable as they were filled with excitement to deliver their performance. In the process, the students shared and imbibed the timeless value of kindness towards animals, be they in water or land. It was a wonderful feeling to see the little ones perform their roles with such passion.

## AQUATIC DAY ACTIVITIES CLASS NURSERY TO CLASS V

by Vincy Varghese



The students were geared up for the various activities on 'World Aquatic Day' that educated and enlightened the young brilliant minds of St. Michael's Junior School, Prasad Nagar. An opportunity was given to the students to showcase their creative ideas. The objective of the activities was to make the students aware of the importance of aquatic life, to love and preserve it. The students participated in the activities with immense zeal and enthusiasm. It was a great joy to see the young minds creating and displaying their ideas creatively.



Our school celebrated Independence Day on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2022 with great joy and pride. The Chief Guest of the programme was the Auxiliary Bishop of Delhi, Most Rev. Deepak Valerian Tauro. The programme started with the welcome and lighting of the lamp, Guest, Judges and the students offered the flower petals to Mahatma Gandhi, Lal Bahadur Shastri, Jawaharlal Nehru and Rabindranath Tagore after whom the four School Houses are named.

The students and class teachers of standard IV were given the responsibility to conduct the days programme: special assembly for the nation and the leaders, prayer service, dramatization of Jallianwala Bagh massacre, Inter House Patriotic Song Competition and Grand Finale. The participants of Patriotic Song Competition expressed the true feeling of being a true Indian through their melodious patriotic songs and actions. They dressed up embracing the shades of our National Flag. They were looking like beautiful flowers in the garden.

Our chief guest Most Rev. Deepak Valerian Tauro in his speech, reminded the students of the sacrifices of our great freedom fighters for the country and said that "We as students can build our country by being good, respectful, loving and kind to our parents at home, and to our Principal, teachers and friends at school". He thanked the Manager, Principal and teachers for training the students so well in the field of education and especially the days programme was much liked and appreciated by him. The programme ended by reciting the National Anthem. All the students were given chocolates bars after the programme. The day marked by paying tribute to the selfless sacrifices of the great freedom fighters of our country.

## ONLINE & OFFLINE MODE OF EXAMINATION

by Dinya Jyoti Tete



As the school shifted from the online to the offline mode of teaching and learning, it was essential to change the mode of assessment as well. The last two years went in the pandemic phase and it was difficult to assess the students by the methods used during the pre-pandemic times. There were challenges faced by the students and teachers while taking examinations in the digitally inclined examinations. Various digital tools and applications were used by the school to make the process of education as efficient as possible. But it can never be wrong, when it is said that the best method of assessment is the traditional method i.e., the paper and pen method. So, keeping that in mind, St. Michael's Junior School, Prasad Nagar, shifted back to the traditional method of taking offline exams which included both oral as well as written papers. The First Term Evaluation was conducted from 4<sup>th</sup> July till 14<sup>th</sup> July for the entire school. The Open Day for the same was held on 6<sup>th</sup> August, 2022 along with class exhibition : three months' competitions, activities, art and craft articles made by the students were displayed for the parents to gaze upon.

The purpose of sharing my view about the offline examination is that from offline to online and online to offline was a period of transit. It is a great challenge for the teachers, parents and the students. Pandemic Covid-19 brought this phase of change in life. This transit means change of time and mind. Kudos to students who accepted this mode and changes from offline to online, online to offline, likewise the parents and teachers too played a vital role to mould and keep up the learning spirit of the students. Thanks to God Almighty who have helped us to bring the pandemic under control and resume life as normal as we can.





There is a famous saying by Anne Leonard which says that, "There is no such thing as 'AWAY', when we throw anything away, it must go somewhere." The ECO club of St. Mary's Sr. Sec. School thus, organized an informative assembly on 'Waste management -Techniques and Necessity' on 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2022. This was conducted under the able guidance of our Principal, Rev. Sr. Deepti CJ, the school management and along with a few ECO Club members to sensitize all the students about the importance of waste segregation- which is the need of the hour. Banners, posters, placards were used to highlight the topic – 'Recycle more and Pollute less'. With this an impressive presentation on 'Say No to Mixed Waste' was given. Students shouted slogans and explained to the gathering regarding the ill- effects of mixed waste and the damage done to the soil and most importantly to our environment. Students were further reminded of the different coloured dustbins kept in the school, for the segregation of waste. They were urged to continue this practice which was started before we could close down due to the pandemic. Lastly, a pledge was taken by the entire gathering for creating a new, clean, healthy and a plastic free India. The School's JPIC club also contributed to this event with their ideas and giving their wholehearted support to the Eco Club in their initiative towards waste management techniques.

## INVESTITURE CEREMONY SENIOR WING

by Nisha K. Saji



"Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant" (Mathew 20:26)

St Mary's Sr. Sec. School, Mayur Vihar Phase 3 held the investiture ceremony for the senior wing on July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022. The Investiture Ceremony is one of the momentous occasions when the school entrusts hope, faith, and the mantle of responsibility to the newly appointed school cabinet. This ceremony signifies the reliance and confidence that the school places in the newly elected office bearers. The ceremony began with a welcome dance and the lighting of the lamp by our Manager, Rev. Fr. Jose T.J. our Principal, Rev. Sr. Deepti CJ, coordinator Ms. Antara, head boy Aagney S Madhavan, and head girl Annett Mary Jacob. The Principal, Rev. Sr. Deepti CJ, inspired and encouraged the elected leaders to be dutiful and responsible in her address to the gathering. The head boy, head girl, captains and vice captains were then vested with badges and sashes by the Manager, the Principal, Headmistress, and house moderators respectively. The student leaders took the oath to hold the school motto "Competence for Commitment" in high esteem and promised God that they would carry out their responsibility to the best of their ability, be loyal to the school and its authority. The class monitors also took an oath to shoulder the responsibility of being the monitors of their classes for this year and promised to fulfil this responsibility faithfully and to the best of their ability. Our manager, Rev. Fr. Jose T. J. addressed the gathering and enlightened the student leaders with his views on leadership. He also motivated the Student Council Members to be role models and fulfil their responsibilities sincerely as the nation's builders of tomorrow. He stressed the words, "May the force be with you." He also advised the students to inculcate the values of

punctuality, dedication, discipline, and determination as they are the torch bearers of tomorrow. On behalf of the new student council, the head boy thanked the management for giving them the opportunity to be the leaders and promised to work for the betterment of the school. It was a proud moment for all the parents to witness their children being invested in as they embarked on a new journey as leaders. The ceremony concluded with the singing of the school anthem.

## INVESTITURE CEREMONY PRIMARY WING *by Vandana Singh*



“Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality.” —Warren Bennis

St. Mary's Sr. Sec. School Mayur Vihar Phase III, Delhi organised the Investiture Ceremony of the Primary Wing, on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022 and the students' council for the session 2022-23 was formed. The Investiture ceremony signifies the reliance and confidence that the school consigns in the newly invested office bearers. Donning the mantle of accountability, they also pledge to bestow their duties to the best of their abilities. We believe that the child-centric approach will frame a responsible citizen. The Manager of the School, Rev. Fr. Jose T. J., graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The ceremony began with the lighting of diya(lamp) followed by the Bible reading and the intercessory prayers. The oath taking ceremony was initiated by the Headmistress, Rev. Sr. Tomsy CJ, by declaring the names of the students' council for the session 2022-23. The newly appointed Head Boy, Shivam Gupta and the Head Girl Anushya were vested and presented the flag by our Manager, Rev. Fr. Jose T. J. and the Principal, Rev. Sr. Deepti CJ. The Captains and Vice Captains were presented the flag by the Headmistress, Rev. Sr. Tomsy CJ after being vested by the moderators and co-moderators. The choir presented a melodious song, felicitous to the occasion. The Manager, Rev. Fr. Jose T. J., encouraged the students' community and the elected leaders in his inspiring address. The ceremony was concluded with the School Anthem.

## SCIENCE EXHIBITION ARTICLE *by Lorraine Raven Fernandez*

**SAHODAY SR. SEC. SCHOOL**  
HAUZ KHAS  
MANAGER: REV. FR. JAMES PETER RAJ  
PRINCIPAL : SR. JOYCE FERNANDES



Sahoday Sr. Sec School, Delhi, celebrated the 75<sup>th</sup> Independence Day on 13<sup>th</sup> August, 2022 with great patriotic fervour and zeal. Msgr. Susai Sebastian was the Guest of the Day. Our Manager Rev. Fr. James Peter Raj, Principal Rev. Sr. Joyce, Chief Guest Msgr. Susai Sebastian, unfurled the National Flag followed by the National Anthem. Our Principal Rev. Sr. Joyce encouraged all students, teachers, other staff members and parents to hoist the National Flag at their respective homes. This entailed a big celebration including patriotic group songs, speech, dances, and skit on freedom fighters by the students. The Chief Guest Msgr. Susai Sebastian addressed the gathering and told about the importance of National Flag and freedom. He also urged the students to realize it, understand and cherish our freedom and work towards a progressive nation. He also explained significance of the preamble in the Indian constitution. Our Manager and Principal also extended warm greetings to the teachers, students and parents on this joyous occasion.



## INVESTITURE CEREMONY

by Meeru Kapoor



On the fine morning of 25<sup>th</sup> July, 22 deserving young talents of our school were bestowed with the responsibility of leading their school from the front with their commitment, confidence and competence. The Investiture Ceremony thus marked the inaugural of the junior and senior student council for the Academic Session 2022-23. The ceremony began with an ethereal and angelic prayer service by the school choir. This was followed by a gallant and ardent showcase of discipline and conduct by the newly elected leaders, house advisors, coordinators and staff secretary, as they marched with vigor and zeal to raise high their flags. The Investiture Ceremony denotes investment in being leaders and the trust and confidence we bring in newly invested office bearers for the involvement of the students' community in day to day functioning of the school, since we believe in child centric approach. The ceremony was held with lots of enthusiasm and gusto. It was initiated with a prayer song and special prayer for our newly elected school cabinet.

The newly elected School Council comprising the Staff Secretary Mr. Sebastian Mathew, the school coordinators Mrs. Meeru Kapoor, Mrs. Anita Jojo, and Mrs. Christina along with the Head Boy, Head Girl, House Captains, Vice Captains and the Sports Captains marched smartly onto the stage to the beat of the School Band. Our newly elected student council took an oath in front of the whole school to be true to their posts and duties assigned to them. The Principal and Headmistresses were called upon to present the newly elected Council Members with sashes and badges. The newly elected office bearers pledged to work honestly and uphold the honour and glory of the institution. Principal Rev. Fr. Savariraj in his speech gave guidance to the newly elected cabinet members so that they may passionately and diligently serve the Rosarian family as responsible and hardworking leaders. The programme concluded with a formal Vote of Thanks by the Head Boy and the Head Girl and the singing of the School Anthem. It was a memorable occasion for the young leaders as they look forward to a new, eventful and enriching academic year.

## HUNGER DRIVE

by Vandana Joseph



12<sup>th</sup> August 2022, the day when our institution Rosary Sr. Sec School, Radio Colony celebrated the 75<sup>th</sup> Independence Day with grand celebration. On that auspicious day The Good Samaritan Club of Rosary Sr. Sec School with the support of our Principal Rev. Fr. Savariraj launched a mega food distribution drive in collaboration with Robin Hood Army Mission- "Serve the Hungry Citizen" to help out all those who are in need of a square meal. The students donated ration with open hands and the entire



Rosarian family came forward for this drive. It is through their generous contributions that we had the chance to help and serve the poor and the needy on the 75<sup>th</sup> Independence Day. The members of Robin Hood Army collected the ration and thanked Fr. Principal for helping and supporting their mission. It was a great gesture to serve hungry people and salute our Tricolour with pride. We thank the Almighty for giving us the opportunity to be a part of this mission.

## LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

*by Meenu Kapoor*



On the 25<sup>th</sup> of July, 2022, Rosary Sr. Sec. School under the able guidance and leadership of their school management and Principal Rev. Fr. Savviraj conducted a 'Personality Development and Leadership Seminar' for the students of Class 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> and the newly elected cabinet of the session 2022-23. Mrs. Reena Charles, a Vice President of the National Council for Communal Harmony (NCCH) and Founder and Chairperson of Ek Ehsaas Foundation (EEF) was the speaker for the day. She was welcomed gracefully by the Head Boy and Head Girl and was presented with a memento and bamboo shoot by the Principal as a show of appreciation and respect. The seminar was done in two segments, Personality Development and Leadership Skills. The personality development seminar discussed what exactly one's persona and personality is, the various aspects and qualities that make up one's personality and how one can improve their personality by implementing various practices and how one's company affects one's personality.

The leadership seminar conducted for the newly elected Cabinet of the session 2002-23 entailed a detailed explanation of what being a leader is, and how they can become better leaders of today and tomorrow. Mrs. Reena Charles went in depth about the personality, qualities, and abilities a leader has. They also had an activity where they were to make their victory flag, a symbol of their strengths, weaknesses, diligence and visions for the future. The program ended with all the members dancing to a melody reminding them that they can be the best.

## YCS PARENTS' ORIENTATION PROGRAM

*by Deepak Mamgai*



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## INVESTITURE CEREMONY 2022-23

by Seema Narang

ST. MICHAEL'S SR. SEC. SCHOOL

PUSA ROAD

MANAGER: FR. FRANCIS SWAMINATHAN

PRINCIPAL : REV. FR. JAS ELANJIKAL



The Investiture Ceremony 2022-23 organised by St. Michael's Sr. Sec. School, 3 Pusa Road successfully inducted the newly elected and selected members of the school cabinet on 22nd July, 2022. The ceremony started with a prayer followed by the importance of the day. The Principal, Rev. Fr. Jas Elanjikal examined the candidates wherein they were asked for their consent to take up the responsibilities and to cooperate with the school authorities for the smooth functioning of the school. The Cabinet members marched boldly and confidently toward the stage to be vested with duties and responsibilities by the principal. Sashes, badges and flags were given to the cabinet members holding different posts and responsibilities. The cabinet body then took the oath along with monitors and assistant monitors of the classes to delegate their assigned work to the best of their abilities with complete dedication and discipline.

The principal congratulated the Head Boy Harshit and the Head Girl Angelina M., the cabinet members and monitors also enlightened them with the message to be role models to their fellow school mates and to use the power vested to them responsibly as true leaders of the student council and the school.

The event was a great success with the Head Boy Harshit leading the cabinet with the St. Michael's prayer. The ceremony came to its conclusion with a powerful speech by Head Girl Angelina M. thanking all the people who had made that day special for them.

## BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION OF THE MANAGER

by Seema Narang





30<sup>th</sup> July 2022, was a day of great pomp and joy as the members of St. Michael's family came together to participate wholeheartedly in the Birthday celebration of our dear School Manager Rev. Fr. Savari Muthu Sankar. With the desire to wish our Manager good health and long life, a special programme was organised by the school staff under the guidance of our Principal Rev. Fr. Jas Elanjikal. The programme commenced with a Special Prayer followed by scintillating performances on foot-tapping numbers which left the audience spell-bound. Also, a splendid PowerPoint presentation was a treat to watch. The Principal Rev. Fr. Jas Elanjikal then wished and felicitated our Manager Rev. Fr. Savari Muthu Sankar with a card and a bouquet. Student representatives from various classes added colour to the programme by expressing their gratitude in the form of handmade cards and bouquet. It was a delightful moment for our Manager to cut his Birthday Cake with the Principal, Staff members and Students. Rev. Fr. Savari then expressed his joy and gratitude to one and all in his short address. The celebration concluded with a Vote of Thanks and singing of the School Anthem in unison.

## ORIENTATION PROGRAM FOR TEACHERS

*by Nelson Mandela*



In the present situation, the teachers' role and responsibility play a pivotal role in helping the students have a positive outlook on education. To help teachers enhance their vested role and responsibilities, Rev. Fr. Jas Elanjikal, Principal of St. Michael's Sr. Sec. School, Pusa Road organised an Orientation Programme for Teachers on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2022. Rev. Fr. John Ravi resource person for the occasion guided the teachers on an essential topic of discussion 'Educating for Excellence for a Hope Filled Future'. The interactive session led by Rev. Fr. John Ravi focused on various strands of education to achieve human excellence a shift from academic excellence to the development of worthy human beings. This shift is necessary in a time when students feel alienated from themselves and others. Right choices and decisions help students to understand the void filled in them. It can be better understood with the Ignatian Pedagogical Paradigm using the dynamic five-step method of Context, Experience, Reflection, Action and Evaluation. Further, Rev. Fr. John Ravi reflected on stress management for overburdened teachers. The goal of stress management isn't to get rid of it completely. A healthy diet, exercise, relaxation, music and reading were some of the few necessary steps that Rev. Fr. John focused on to manage stress for a healthy life.

Teachers were also delighted to discuss the education policies, classroom scenarios, and curriculum along with current affairs, and National and International News. The session was quite an enriching experience for teachers who participated in the session with full zeal and enthusiasm.

## ORIENTATION *by Jeslin Joseph*

**ST. MARY'S SR. SEC. SCHOOL**  
**BAHU AKBARPUR, ROHTAK**

MANAGER: REV. FR. DEEPAK KINDO  
PRINCIPAL : REV. DR. SABU JOSEPH



St. Mary's Sr. Sec. School organized Parent's Orientation on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> July 2022. The aim was to ensure a positive atmosphere for learning as well as building healthy relationships between parents, teachers and students. It was well-organized and executed. Parents are the first teachers, and guiding them is the best way to encourage positive changes in children's life. Our Principal, Rev. (Dr.) Fr. Sabu Joseph's determination towards betterment of the school, is what motivates us, the staff of St. Mary's to envision a bright future for the school.

The orientation began with the lighting of the lamp, prayer song by students invoking the blessings of the almighty, followed



by the welcoming of the parents. The chief speaker for the programme, was Fr. Sandeep Massey, and it was truly an enriching experience for the parents as well as teachers, to listen to his insightful message, which was intended to make the parents aware of the impact they make on the lives of children. He gave tips on how to nurture a child with love and care to build strong foundation. In each session, there were separate instructions prepared for the students, in accordance with the requirements of each class, to familiarize the parents with the curriculum, rules and regulations of the school. The Principal, Rev. (Dr.)Fr. Sabu Joseph enlightened the gathering by his inspirational speech and emphasized on the strong connect between the school and the parents. One of our staff, also demonstrated through a Powerpoint presentation, the changed pattern of education in schools which will come into effect soon with the implementation of NEP 2020. There was vibrant dance performance given by students of St. Mary's to entertain the parents who were gathered. The programme ended in a beautiful note. The orientation programme proved to be a sincere effort made by the school to, and parents appreciated the efforts took by school for the upliftment of the students.

## INVESTITURE

*by Jeslin Joseph*



The Investiture Ceremony for the year 2022-23 was held in a grand and fitting manner on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2022 in the school premises. It was a proud moment for every Marianite as they witnessed the oath taking ceremony of the newly elected members of the Student cabinet. Our chief guest Fr. Jesuraj Perkmans, along with the Principal, Rev Dr. Fr. Sabu Joseph, Vice-Principal, Fr. Umesh and Fr. Julius graced the occasion with their benign presence. The school witnessed the beaming faces of the selected School Cabinet Members, Class Leaders, House Captains and prefects. This was aimed to inculcate leadership qualities in the students and to give them a feel of the functioning of the administrative body. The office bearers were encouraged by an inspirational talk by our chief guest, who emphasized on the essential characteristics of a leader. Sachin was sworn in as head boy and Kirti as head-girl. Other than that, vice-head boy and head girl, house captains and vice-captains, cultural captain and vice-captain, eco club and kripa club in charges were also appointed. Our Principal Rev.(Dr.)Fr.Sabu Joseph congratulated the badge holders and encouraged them to shoulder their responsibility with full commitment and loyalty. The teacher in charges of each house were also photographed along with the house in charges. The Head-prefect and Head monitor, along with discipline in charge, Amit took a pledge to honour the school's overall responsibility. The ceremony concluded with the National Anthem. The new cabinet members are our shining lights who will uphold our school motto in high regard and esteem- "Every day every way, we are Marianites"

## CYCLE RALLY

*by Innocent*



The "Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign" spearheaded by the central government as part of the 75 Years of Independence celebrated as 'Amrit Mahotsav' is being actively participated in Rohtak by the students and teaching staff of St. Mary's school where a unit of students on Monday held a cycle rally at Rohtak where Fr. Dr. Sabu Joseph flagged off a "Tricolour Rally" from St. Mary's campus Bahu Akbarpur to Samar Gopalpur. In Samar Gopalpur rally was heartily welcomed by village Sarpanch Mr. Shiv Kumar and elders of the village. Where school Principal Fr. Dr. Sabu Joseph shared his words regarding importance of independence and the rally in itself as a gesture of unity. Principal also handed over a tricolour to Sarpanch Ji and thanked him and all the elders for their cooperation. One marching unit of students also reached PTC Sunariya to promote the campaign in the leadership of Vice Principal of St. Mary's School Fr. Umesh Ikka . Where respected DSP Kulbir Singh told students the importance of freedom in his address and he was handed over a tricolour by Vice Principal. At last Principal Fr. Dr. Sabu Joseph thanked all the students for their participation and spirit, parents for their consent and teaching and non teaching staff for their corporation.

## INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

*by Jeslin Joseph*



As India celebrates Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav on 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2022, marking the 75<sup>th</sup> year of India's Independence, St. Mary's Sr. Sec. School, Rohtak commemorated the momentous occasion with an inter-house group dance competition in the school premises on 11<sup>th</sup> August 2022. The celebration started with the hoisting of the Indian tricolor with grandeur and pride. The sports captain and vice-captain escorted the chief guests and other dignitaries to the stage, accompanied by the rhythm of the school band. It was followed by the recitation of national anthem. The students were seated in auditorium. The chief guests were welcomed and the programme started by lighting a diya on a replica of Amar Jawan Jyoti, which was kept on the stage. Mesmerizing dance performances were performed by the students of every house, which were very impressive. Patriotic song was sung with deep sense of pride by the students who conducted the assembly. The competition ended with the declaration of results. The chief guests were honoured with mementos. One of them, a retired army officer, addressed the school gathering, asking them to take pride in being an Indian. He also asked the students to honour the sacrifices made by people who helped us enjoy our freedom. After this, our Principal, Rev. Fr. Sabu Joseph addressed the school, making children aware of the power of freedom, and their duties and responsibilities towards the nation and the world. The power packed day came to an ending with the vote of thanks given by Fr. Umesh. He thanked everyone who worked hard to make this platinum jubilee celebration of our country's Independence, a huge success. The school atmosphere was filled with zeal and enthusiasm as we ended the celebrations of the day uttering our school anthem- Every day, every way, we are Marianites.

## VIANNEY DAY CELEBRATION

*by Pratibha*





St John Maria Vianney is the patron saint of clergy throughout the world. And it was a matter of immense joy for St. Mary's Sr. Sec. School, Rohtak, to celebrate this special day, dedicated to the priest in our school this year. An assembly was conducted in the auditorium on 4<sup>th</sup> august, which marks the feast day of all priest in Roman Catholic Church. The event was graced by our respected Principal Rev.Fr.Sabu Joseph, Vice-Princial Fr.Umesh, and Fr. Julian, who were welcomed with flowers and Tilak. The assembly's theme was fully dedicated to Saint John Maria Vianney. The thought and speech was based on his life and virtues. Then a feast day song was sung by the students, making the celebration more lively, which was followed by a prayer asking God to shower the graces of love and holiness upon our beloved Priests with the intercession of Saint Vianney, so that they continue on their mission work with selfless attitude. To celebrate the occasion, the talented students of our school also performed a dance. After the end of cultural programmes, the fathers were felicitated with flower bouquets and gifts as a token of appreciation by our staff-coordinator and cultural-coordinator. A cake was cut by all the three priests together, and the KG and nursery class students joined them on stage during the cake cutting ceremony, which made the atmosphere more lovely and blessed. The students were then addressed by Fr. Sabu Joseph, who acquainted them on the importance of the day. The programme was a huge success.

## INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

by Rev. Fr. Joseph Amalraj

ST. MICHAEL'S SR. SEC. SCHOOL

GURUGRAM

MANAGER: REV. FR. PRAKASH GILL

PRINCIPAL: SR LIJI PETER



The Independence Day celebration at St. Michael's Sr. Sec School, Gurugram was held on Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup> of August 2022. The program commenced by welcoming the honourable chief guest Smt. Seema Pahuja, the Municipal Councillor of Ward 15 , Gurugram, and all the dignitaries who were escorted by the school band. Further, the welcoming speech was given by Jigyasa of class XI-Tulip in honour of the other dignitaries namely the School Manager Rev. Fr. Prakash Gill, Principal Sr. Liji Peter, and Headmaster Rev Fr. Amal Raj, who were also welcomed with a sapling each. A skit on the theme "Shama Ki Surat" coordinated by Sr.Ashish and Sr.Shinto. To shower gracious blessings, Parthana Nritya in which students of class VI-VIII participated organised by Ms.Neha. Thereafter it was time for the most awaited moment i.e. the Flag hoisting, followed by the singing of our National Anthem led by the school choir. To exhibit the coordination and discipline of the students, March Past was conducted, commanded by the school sports in charge, Mr Ramesh Tyagi. The contingency was led by the school prime minister, Radhika Khatter and the school cabinet sports minister Shashwat Tanwar. All the four houses namely Gandhi, Nehru, Netaji and Shastri engaged in the procession. Guided by their house captain and vice captains The contingency was led by Gandhi house which was assisted by their captain Muskan Munjal and the vice-captain Chahat Dubey, followed closely by Nehru house led by the captain Karan Verma and vice-captain Divya, coming in after Nehru house was Netaji house led by their captain Suhani anand and vice-captain Purvit Kamboj, the contingency was completed by Shastri house led by captain Kajal and vice-captain Diya Sharma. Next came the school choir group with their melodious voices to enhance the feelings of patriotism with their great singing skills. To apprise everyone more about independence day next came a beautiful speech on Independence day Subsequently, girls from class 6th to 8th presented an eminent dance performance on Vande-Matram Mashup organised by Mrs. Reena Sharma and Mrs. Nisha. Come behind, a speech by the chief guest Smt. Seema Pahuja, who also gave away the prizes to the school toppers in the prize distribution ceremony that followed to appreciate the school toppers. Then, we had Fancy dress competition in which primary students dressed as significant leaders of our nation and recited some of their slogans with utmost patriotism.



On 5<sup>th</sup> July 2022, Sahoday Junior School held the farewell cum welcome ceremony of our managers Rev.Fr.Francis Swaminathan and the new manager Rev.Fr.Thomas Champakatt, Rev. Fr.Remejus, the assistant priest was also present on this occasion. The programme commenced with lighting of the lamp and prayer song. Bouquets were presented to the fathers. This was followed by the beautiful cultural programmes by our primary students. On this day, the school students, teaching and non-teaching staff showed their immense gratitude towards Rev.Fr.Swaminathan for his valuable contribution for the progress of school during past six years. We sincerely thanked him for the love and care he showered on us during the tough covid times. With a heavy heart we bid him adieu and prayed for his wellbeing and for his future ministry. The school choir sang a farewell song for father. On this occasion we too thanked Fr. Remejus for the help we received from him for the past three years. "Trust the magic of new beginnings." We welcomed the new Manager Rev.Fr.Thomas Champakatt. Everyone gave their warm regards upon his arrival to the school as the new manager. The little children performed a beautiful welcome dance. The fathers gave their inspiring message to the students and staff. Their enlightened words motivated us and they appreciated the students for their performances of the day. Sr. Vineetha, the principal expressed a few words of gratitude to Rev.Fr. Francis Swaminathan. The programme was concluded with the distribution of sweets to the students.





## FELICITATION PROGRAMME

by Pius Monteiro

KCA



On 13<sup>th</sup> August 2022, Kanara Cultural Association, Delhi, felicitated Auxiliary Bishop Rev. Deepak Valerian Tauro and celebrated the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ordination of Archbishop Emeritus Most Rev. Vincent M Concessao. The mass was held at Good Shepherd Church, Haus Khas followed by a colourful cultural programme at Sahodaya Sr. Sec. School Hall. The Chief guest, Auxiliary Bishop Rev. Deepak Tauro was welcomed with great zest by Mr. Pius Monteiro, the President of KCA, along with the other executives and distinguished guests. Mr. Arun Veigas, the Executive of KCA, gave the Bishop a warm welcome on behalf of KCA which was followed by a brief introduction of the Bishop given by Fr. Anthony, the Spiritual Director of KCA. His grace Rev. Deepak Tauro celebrated the mass in Konkani along with Vicar General Rev. Fr. Vincent D'Souza and eight other priests with Fr. Anil D'Almeida giving a wonderful sermon. With traditional music all guests were welcomed to the auditorium. Auxiliary Bishop Rev. Deepak Tauro, Archbishop Emeritus Rev. Vincent Concessao, Fr. Anthony, Mr. Pius Monteiro, Mr. Maxell Pereira, former joint Police Commissioner Delhi, Mr. Joslyn Martin Ex-Vice President of KCA, and Mr. Ronald D'Souza, Executive Director of Shri Ram capital fund, lit the lamp to signify the commencement of the auspicious event. This was accompanied by a soulful song by a group of young seminarians. The President, Mr. Pius Monteiro formally introduced and welcomed each guest, after which Mrs. Ida Rodrigues informed the audience about the life and achievements of Bishop Deepak. Both the Bishops were felicitated by KCA with peta or turban (a Karnataka tradition to honour the guests) garland & flower pot by KCA.

Auxiliary Bishop Rev. Deepak Tauro was then called upon the stage to address the gathering. He expressed his happiness over getting to celebrate his first Konkani mass in Delhi. He appreciated the way KCA works for unity in families and brings back nostalgic childhood memories. He shared his motivation behind becoming a priest and his family support.

Mr. Melvin Lobo & Mrs. Merlin Frank welcomed famous music duo, Ronald and Ronald from Mangalore who left no stone unturned in entertaining the crowd with their skits and songs. The evening was made even more exciting with Baila songs with many people taking to the dance floor. Programme ended with vote of thanks by Fr. Vincent Crasta where he expressed his gratitude to each and every person who made this a successful event.

## ZONAL YOUTH MASS

by Arothi Ekka

ICYM-DELHI

The youth of Gurgaon zone were elated as they gathered together for the first Zonal Youth Mass for the year 2022 in commemoration of the National Youth Sunday. The day commenced with the Holy Eucharist celebrated by the Diocesan Youth Director Fr. Maria Anthony and the Zonal Youth Director Fr. Thomas Blessin, who talked about how one should have a vision in life and set goals. Priorities should be set right so as to fulfill one's purpose in life. The Bible says, "For I have plans for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future". One must trust in the Lord, for it is not necessary that every plan will be successful as one desires. God could have a different plan and each one is called to stay close to God in order to hear his voice and fulfill his will. After the Holy Mass, the youth assembled in the hall for some fun activities where the Zonal Secretary Arothi Ekka and the MC for the day invited the Zonal Youth Director, Fr. Thomas to present a bouquet as a token of appreciation to Fr. Maria Anthony and all the members of DEXCO who joined the celebration. Thereafter, an ice breaker

session was conducted to enable members to introduce themselves and get to know each other.

The Diocesan Youth Director Fr. Maria Anthony then addressed the youth. He mentioned that every church has at least 250 families and if there was 1 youth member from each family then there would be at least 250 youth members in each parish but only 10% of the youth are seen participating in the church activities and that it is the responsibility of the existing members to bring the youth back to the church. He said that in order to do so, the members should follow 3 simple rules. Firstly, own your church and make it your own. Secondly, maintain unity among the council members and the youth members, and last but not least, make an impression in church and make the parishioners see how the youth of the parish can strengthen the church. Various activities such as Taizé Prayer and outreach programs could be planned to strengthen the faith and humility of the youth. He conveyed his blessings to all the youth present. Following this, it was announced that Taizé Prayer will be held on 27<sup>th</sup> August at the Church of Immaculate Conception, Kanhei. Innocencia Kujur from the DEXCO team came forward to help the youth understand what Taizé Prayer is, its importance, and how it is conducted. This was followed by another fun activity and the members participated with enthusiasm and zeal. Fr. Thomas then addressed the youth and emphasized on the three rules that Fr. Maria had explained. He also highlighted that many youth go astray from the church and lose their way. He reiterated that it is the responsibility of the current members to motivate the youth and ensure their role in building the church. He promised to extend his support and encouraged each one to shoulder the responsibility of building a great church. In the end, Arothi, the zonal secretary gave the vote of thanks and thanked Fr. Maria Anthony and Fr. Thomas Blessin for guiding us and joining us in our celebration. She also thanked the council members, the volunteers from each parish who came forward to make this event a great success, and all the youth members who participated enthusiastically. The celebration concluded with an action song led by Sonali and Sujata which was followed by lunch. All in all, it was a wonderful experience. Each member seemed to be infused with the spirit to work for the glory of God by being a responsible youth in their parishes.

## DIOCESAN SERVICE & RESOURCE TEAM MEETING

**BEC/SCC**



The First Meeting of DST/DRT for BECs/SCCs with the Chairman of the Commission, Most Rev. Deepak Valerian Tauro, was held on Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at the DCC Conference Room. The members present were as follows: Fr. Suresh Babu, Mr. Emmanuel Johnson, Mr. Custodio Coutinho, Mr. Alexander Fleming, Mrs. Ramona Gomes, Mrs. Manjula Thomas, Ms. Pushpa Kujur, Sr. Oliyiya Fernandes, {new member} & Mr. Amrik Kujur {new member}. Ms. Sheetal Lakra, our youth representative in the team was unable to attend the meeting due to her office commitment.

The meeting began with the short introduction by Emmanuel Johnson explaining the order of the meeting and purpose of the first meeting with the Chairman. This meeting was held after a long gap due to pandemic. Fr. Suresh welcomed the Chairman with bouquet followed by 'Bible Enthronement' by Bp. Deepak Valerian Tauro and the Steps 1-4 of the Gospel Sharing was facilitated by Mrs. Ramona Gomes. Self-Introduction: Members introduced themselves to the Chairman by sharing their name, parish and what they liked about the SCCs. Appointment letters to members was given by the Chairman.

Key-note addressed: In his address Bp. Deepak shared about the importance of SCCs in the parishes and diocese at large. BECs/SCCs can foster the synodality among them. The three pillars of the Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission can be experienced more profoundly in the small community in their own neighbourhood, strengthened by the Word and the Eucharist, rooted in the neighbourhood with close bonds and association among the members, deep in its faith and active in service, can be effective defence for members who are shallow in faith and those going away from the Catholic Church. He appreciated the commitment and dedication of each member towards the Commission and he encouraged them to continue their support with the same zeal and passion and before leaving he imparted his apostolic blessing to each one.

The meeting continued with the Secretary. He shared with the members about the upcoming training programs in different parishes on Sundays from August onwards. He suggested that for every training program there should be a four member team. The option was open to each member to volunteer themselves for which program they want to come and animate. The members who opted are as follows:



7<sup>th</sup> August 2022 – St. Michael's Church, Prasad Nagar - Manjula Thomas & Ramona Gomes

21<sup>st</sup> Aug 2022 – St. Francis of Assisi, Jungpura – Alexander Fleming, Sr. Oliviya & Amrik

28<sup>th</sup> Aug 2022 – St. Francis of Assisi, Sunlight Colony – Custodio, Pushpa Kujur & Amrik

The other few points which Fr. Suresh shared were as follows:

In every BECs/SCCs meetings "Bible Enthronement" to be promoted.

Every Home to have Altar where Bible to be enthroned and Catholic edition Hindi or English Bible to be used in family prayer.

Every BECs/SCCs unit to have annual Eucharistic celebration on feast day of their patron saints in the neighbourhood.

Encourage family to participate whole-heartedly in the BECs/SCCs gathering.

Annually every parish to organize and celebrate BECs/SCCs Day.

In the first phase of the Training Program the team decided to focus mainly on giving training on "The Deeper Understanding of Gospel Sharing" from DIIPA text book, which need to be explained and to be practiced thoroughly with the participants during the program. The meeting came to an end with thanking hymn in honour of blessed Mother. AVE MARIA!

## DIOCESAN SERVICE & RESOURCE TEAM MEETING

*by Emmanuel Johnson*

### BEC/SCC



The meeting of Northern RRT for BECs/SCCs was held from 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at the Pastoral Centre, Chandigarh. The members present were as follows: Most Rev. Ignatius Mascarenhas, Regional Chairman for BECs, Fr. Vilfred Masih - Simla Chandigarh, Fr. Madhu Babu, Fr. Sandeep Minj, Sr. Rekha, PSA, Sr. Balamdina Toppo, Sr. Prema Toppo, Sr. Shilpa, PSA, Ms. Alice, Fr. Suresh Babu - Delhi, Mr. Emmanuel Johnson, Sr. Fabiola, DSS - Jalandhar, Sr. Salomy, DSS, Sr. Daisy, SMMI, Sr. Savita, PSA, Mr. Thomas, Fr. Mohinder Masih – Jammu & Srinagar, Fr. Peter Paul & Mr. Christopher Mattu. Members excused were: Fr. Balaraju Anthony Swamy, Mrs. Manjula Thomas, Ms. Sheetal Lakra, (Delhi) Masters Savior & Victor (Simla/ Chandigarh), Fr. Thomas Valiaparambil (Jalandhar) Mr. Victor Masih (Jammu)

The meeting started with the celebration of Holy Eucharist, presided over by Most Rev. Ignatius Mascarenhas, Regional Chairman for BECs/SCCs. The central point of his Homily was, God is good and what he does is good. He quoted St. Augustine - who affirms, as an act of faith, that God is good and just and hence cannot be the cause of evil. "If you know or believe that God is good—and it is not right to believe otherwise—then he does no evil." As creator, God is the cause of everything, and everything in so far as it exists, is good.

After breakfast, we had Gospel Sharing which began with solemn Bible Procession followed by the Bible Enthronement by Bp. Ignatius Mascarenhas. The Gospel Sharing (Passage: St. Matthew 12:1-8) was animated by Fr. Vilfred Masih. The Word of Life chosen: "Hunger".

The minutes of the last RRT meeting which was held in Jammu Diocese was read by Emmanuel Johnson and was passed by the members.

Emmanuel Johnson on behalf of Regional Secretary welcomed the members of the RRT and explained why Fr. Balaraju was unable to attend the meeting. The video message of Fr. Balaraju was presented in which he apologized for being unable to be present for his last RRT training program. As he has finished his two-terms in the Commission for BECs/SCCs at the Archdiocese of Delhi and now he has been entrusted with the responsibility of being Parish Priest and therefore he will not be part of the regional team for BECs/SCCs. He requested each one to continue to build and strengthen the BECs in their respective areas and appreciated all the diocesan Secretary and RRT members for their support and collaboration he received as Regional Secretary which was highly commendable. He also thanked Fr. Vilfred Masih, for hosting the meeting and taking care of food and lodging and providing other logistic support.

In the Keynote addressed by the Regional Chairman Bp. Ignatius Mascarenhas; he shared the famous quote of St. Augustine of Hippo "Faith will falter if the authority of Holy Scripture is shaken; and if faith falters, love itself decays. For if someone lapses in his faith, he inevitably lapses in his love as well, since he cannot love what he does not believe to be true." Therefore small

community promotes fellowship based on two greatest commandments “Love of God and Love of a neighbor”, where essential teaching on faith, prayer and morality are carried out. The BECs/SCCs is the Church in miniature, sharing the nature of Christ. He concluded that as members of RRT, we have big responsibility in training and forming the diocesan team. He encouraged the team to meet regularly and work with earnestness towards strengthening BECs/SCCs in our region.

The chairman also shared the good news about Fr. Vilfred Masih being appointed as our next Regional Secretary for Northern Region BECs/SCCs. This appointment took place after the discussion among the Regional Bishops. He succeeded Fr. Balaraju Anthony Swamy who finished his term as Regional Secretary for Northern Region BECs/SCCs. Bp. Ignatius appreciated the hard work and dedication of Fr. Balaraju as Regional Secretary for the last three years.

The session began by Emmanuel Johnson who explained to the new members the importance of the structures of BECs/SCCs at the National, Regional, Diocesan and Parish level and the importance of coming together for RRT Program. He said that a clear vision and road map is needed in order to form and strengthened the Regional Service Team (RST), Regional Resource Team (RRT), Regional Council for BECs/SCCs (RCBECs/SCCs) and Regional Media Desk which is yet to be formed. He also emphasized on the importance of consistency (start, follow up steps, not starting and dropping), don't keep changing the team members,

The sessions were:

1. “The Structures of BECs/SCCs” animated by Emmanuel Johnson
2. “The Deeper Understanding of Steps 1 & 2 of Gospel Sharing” from DIIPA was explained and practice by the participants. This was animated by Frs. Vilfred, Mohinder, Suresh Babu and Emmanuel.

The learning from Step 1: We make ourselves aware of the Lord's presence by inviting Jesus as Martha and Mary did. We silence our hearts and minds and become aware of his presence and see Jesus with our believing eyes.

The learning from Step 2: The facilitator learns how to announce the Gospel text. She or he announced only the book and chapter first and waits for all to find it. Only then she/he announced the verses to be read. We announce the text in this way in order to maintain the prayerful spirit which we have tried to create in Step-1. If people have to ask, “Which chapter, which verse” the spiritual atmosphere can easily be destroyed. By reading the text prayerfully we “proclaim” it. The words of the scripture become a “quasi-sacramental sign” of the Lord's presence. This means the words of scripture become physical (audible) signs of his presence, similar to bread and wine in the Eucharist.

The members expressed a great oneness and decided to work as team in each diocese to promote the Gospel Sharing in BECs/SCCs. The next training for RRT will be from 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> November 2022 in Jalandhar. The RRT concluded with the closing of the Holy Bible by Fr. Suresh Babu followed by Thanksgiving Eucharist presided over by Fr. Suresh Babu and con-celebrated by Frs. Vilfred, Madhu Babu, Sandeep, Mohinder and Peter Paul. The Vote of thanks was proposed by Fr. Madhu Babu. The day ended with the fellowship meal followed by departure of the members to their respective dioceses.

## **COMMISSION FOR BASIC ECCLESIAL COMMUNITY/SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY**

### THE SEVEN STEPS: HOW THEY ARE PRACTICED.

{Remember, every step has a spiritual meaning and value and can help the WORD to make home in our hearts}.

**STEP 1 - WE INVITE THE LORD:** We invite Jesus because our focus is on the Living Word-JESUS and by inviting Jesus we are opening ourselves to Him “to the gracious words which come from Him”(Luke 4:22) and it shows our love for Jesus and our willingness to let the words of Jesus touch our lives. Step one helps us to open ourselves fully to the living Word of Jesus and put out all other anxieties and thoughts in order to be like Mary of Bethany in listening to the Word.

**STEP 2 - WE READ THE TEXT:** We are not just reading His Word rather, Jesus is speaking to us here and now, as we assemble in His name. By “reading the text” prayerfully in a group of believers we “proclaim” it. The words of scripture become a “Quasi-Sacramental sign” of the Lord's presence. This means the words of the Scripture become physical (audible) signs of HIS presence, similar to bread and wine in the Eucharist. The way the text is read in Step 2 makes a big difference. The whole group finds the text together waits for all. It is read slowly, prayerfully and with meaning. It is read twice or thrice in order to help us to listen carefully and hear many inspiring words. It can be read in different languages - Hindi, English, Tamil, Malayalam, Marathi, Bengali, Nepali etc. Among the illiterate groups the text is read many times for them to remember words.

**STEP 3 – WE PICK OUT WORDS OR SHORT PHRASES FROM THE TEXT AND MEDITATE ON THEM:**

It is a very important spiritual step. When a word or short phrase is repeated prayerfully the Word sinks deep in our being and it specially helps us to settle down with Jesus and remain in His presence. If we pick out a long sentence or a whole verse, it will not help in entering into deep communion with Jesus. Therefore, we stress the point that the phrases which we pick out should be short. We do not hunt for a word or phrase which we think is the most important one for us. If we do that we are in danger of choosing a word which pleases us personally, without listening to God first. Perhaps, God would like to touch us with a word which challenges us and calls us to change something in our lives. This cannot happen if I pick out too quickly a word which strikes me. Any word can strike you, let God decide. Do not engage in mental exercises, but allow the Word to touch our hearts, and our whole being. If we are not in a hurry in this step, we can enter into one of the deepest forms of prayer, namely “contemplation” which means remaining with Jesus in silent love.



**STEP 4 – WE LET JESUS SPEAK TO US IN SILENCE:**

Become “still” in the loving presence of the Lord. This step is a very sacred time we give to Jesus to speak to us in our hearts. It is very precious and grace-filled moment. We can be in personal contact with Jesus; we can hear HIM lovingly guiding our life. We put out all other thoughts and stay really quiet and hear Jesus’ loving voice in our innermost self. Silence in Gospel Sharing helps us to remain with Jesus and allow ourselves to be loved by Him. It will also help the community to discern “what is the will of God” and “what HE wants us to do here and now”.

**STEP 5 – WE SHARE WITH OTHERS WHAT WE HAVE HEARD FROM JESUS:**

Always remember Gospel Sharing is a time for “Personal Sharing” and not Preaching or Discussion. In Gospel Sharing, we ask for personal sharing because the spirit of Jesus, through the Scripture texts, touches our hearts and we want to enrich and be enriched through sharing with our brothers and sisters that experience of Jesus. When we share sincerely it touches all who are present and Jesus forms us into His loving community and makes us His messengers. Personal Sharing is done at the individual and at experience level. In Sharing, we speak about our experiences of joy, success, pain, sadness, etc. Our Sharing touches others in ways we cannot predict. It is Jesus who acts in the hearts of all present there. This is a unique spiritual moment of encountering the power of the Word to touch our lives, deepen our faith and hence should not be replaced with something else. Personal Sharing is the powerful tool and can lead to Evangelizing oneself and others in the community. It is also a powerful way of proclamation of God’s message to other.

There is yet an even deeper dimension to SHARING – “PERSONAL SHARING” is the way in which God has redeemed us. “The Word was made flesh” (John 1:14). Jesus shares our human nature that we may share in His divine nature. Jesus shares with us our joys, sufferings, miseries and our life and death. The whole life of Jesus, from His birth to His death was “Giving Himself” or “Sharing Himself” with us (John 15:15). In the Eucharist Jesus celebrates this personal and radical sharing of His whole life until the end of time. He did not say, “Take these lecture notes and study them”. He said, “Take and eat this is my body!” (Matt 26:26) Gospel Sharing therefore is not just a “modern” thing. It is deeply rooted in the way Jesus has shared with us His life and death.

**STEP 6 – WE DISCUSS ANY TASK WHICH THE GROUP IS CALLED TO DO:**

In a Gospel Sharing group the task we undertake is action prompted by the Spirit and is part of its mission – a mandate given by the Spirit for the whole community. Reporting on the task is a sign of our accountability before God and to the community. It cannot be taken for granted.

In Step 6 – a group can choose a “WORD OF LIFE”. This is a word or a short phrase from the actual text which was used for the Gospel Sharing, for instance, “FORGIVE EACH OTHER”. All members of the group try to remember this “Word of Life” during the following week or month. They allow it to inspire them to forgive others generously and grow in the spirit of forgiveness. In the subsequent meetings, the experience of living the Word of Life can be shared with the whole community. The facilitator now asks the group to suggest any task which will help the group to put the Word of Life into practice. It can be a response to a felt need in the neighbourhood. Look for a way to help many involved, if possible all. 6<sup>th</sup> Step helps the group to put the Word of God into practice and witness together to the love of Jesus. This step prevents the community from being only “listeners of Jesus” without giving witness to His love, joy and mercy but become “doers of the Word”. We should remember that authentic prayer leads to action. Jesus expects that strengthened by prayer, we also witness to Him together in loving service. The Church does not exist in a place for itself; it exists for its mission to preach the Good News and make the Kingdom of God visible through loving services in the neighbourhood.

In Step 6 – we need to learn to discern the will of God together as a community and when we discuss about concrete action and take decisions they need to be close to the mind of Christ and involve the community. The facilitator plays an important role here in enabling the members of the SCC to participate in decision making and arrive at a consensus. People must be encouraged to voluntarily come forward and choose responsibilities. We need to ensure that the plan of action is feasible, hence recheck it and also decide about the place, date, time etc., of the next Gospel Sharing meeting. Some feel in the community that discussions during the Gospel Sharing could spoil the atmosphere of prayer that has been built up in the first 5 Steps. We should remember that authentic prayer leads to action. Therefore, in Step 6 we should discuss concrete actions and take decisions which are close to the mind of Christ. Discussions must be held in a prayerful and sisterly/fraternal spirit.

**STEP 7 – WE PRAY SPONTANEOUSLY:**

It is now time for all to pray spontaneously. We live our priestly role (1 Peter 2:9). St. Peter tells us that we are a priestly people and are hence called to pray. As the priestly people, it is our bounded duty to thank and praise the Lord for all HIS marvelous deeds in creation and in our midst. It is the genuine sign of a believing community. If we do not like to pray, it may indicate not having deep experience of God and being not aware of the wonders God is doing through Christ in us. Being a loving community would motivate us to pray for the Church and for our community that we may be faithful to HIM and to the mission entrusted to us. We can also pray for various personal needs, for our society, our country and the needs of the community. We need not make long prayers, in Gospel Sharing meetings short prayers of one or two sentences are preferred. If possible all must pray. After all those who like to pray have prayed, the facilitator closes the prayer by reciting together the “Lord’s prayer” or singing a suitable hymn or bhajan. Sometimes tea and plain biscuits are offered after the Gospel Sharing meeting. The community often decides for itself this way as the members do not want a spirit of competition to mar their relationships. The next meeting place is decided and the

person to animate the Seven Steps of Gospel Sharing on that occasion is chosen.

**PLEASE NOTE THE GUIDELINES FOR FACILITATING GOSPEL SHARING:**

Gospel Sharing is not taught, we facilitate doing Gospel Sharing. The facilitator leads people to experience the power of the WORD to touch their lives and transform them through the method of Gospel Sharing. So no one should try to teach it, it will necessarily fail. Remember, people are not used to saying spontaneous prayers or sharing in public. One cannot lecture at them about this. The animator has to help, facilitate their learning by paying attention to each person and helping him/her to learn to do it slowly. Hence practice of each step becomes important.

The one who facilitates Gospel Sharing accompanies the community to learn and to experience the richness of Gospel Sharing by joining the group to do it with them many times. One who is not interested or touched by the Gospel Sharing will not succeed in facilitating it; he/she will not have the experience, patience and love needed to do it. One should not facilitate all the steps at once. Help people understand and practice one step at a time. There is no use to take Step 2 when people do not have the courage to say the invitation prayer of the First Step. Let them learn one step and practice it and then go to the next step.

People may say, "we do not want to do Gospel Sharing". It does not mean they will not do it. It only means that they have insecure feelings to do something like that right away. They need time and help to learn to do it confidently. One should know for sure that Gospel Sharing cannot be boring. Word of God cannot be boring.

## A CONCRETE EXPRESSION OF THE CHURCH

*by Emmanuel Johnson*

**BEC/SCC**



The Commission for BECs/SCCs organized a BEC Orientation Program for PPC and BEC/SCC Animators at St. Michael's Church held on Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> August 2022 at the school hall. There were 44 participants for the orientation program. The orientation program began with the Bible Enthronement animated by Emmanuel. The presentation started with an interactive session by Emmanuel Johnson in which the participants were asked: What is their understanding of the BEC/SCC and why it is important to come together in the neighborhood? He explained that Pope John Paul II for instance, calls BECs/SCCs are "A Concrete Expressions of the Church and Home and Family for Everyone (FC -85). Therefore, BECs/SCCs are not an association or any pious groups in the parish but a concrete expression of the church. The FABC calls it "A New Way of Being Church" just as the early Church captured the spirit of Trinitarian communion and lived it in and through their genuine sharing and oneness of heart as we read in the Act of the Apostles 2: 42 -47. Today, we need to imbibe the same spirit and try to live an authentic Christian life by participating whole heartedly in the "New Way of Being Church" which is known as BEC/SCC. The In-put session:

1. The video presentation on SCCs was shown to the participants and made them to reflect on the development of SCCs in St. Mary's Parish, Bokaro.

2. The deeper understanding of the Seven Steps of Gospel Sharing was presented and was practiced by the animators. It was animated by Fr. Suresh Babu, Manjula Thomas, Ramona Gomes and Emmanuel Johnson.

The Parish Priest Rev. Fr. Balraj L. Swamy thanked the Commission members for taking the initiative of coming and conducting the informative sessions for the animators. He also formed the five members Parish Animation Team who will be responsible for training and forming the BECs in the parish along with the Fr. Suresh Babu who is also a co-pastor in the parish. The orientation program came to an end by the closing of the Holy Bible by Fr. Balraj L. Swamy. The fellowship meal was served to all.





The Commission for BECs/SCCs organized a SCC Orientation Program for the parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi Church held on 21<sup>st</sup> August 2022 at the Mass Centre of the parish, Jeevan Jyoti Home, M.C Sisters Chapel, Jangpura. There were 49 participants for the orientation program. Rev. Fr. Suresh Babu offered the Holy Eucharist in Hindi and concelebrated by the Parish Priest Rev. Fr. Sundar Raj. During homily, Fr. Suresh Babu emphasized to the congregation on the deeper understanding of the Community relating it to the life of an early Christian Communities. Why it is important to gather around the WORD in our neighborhoods. BEC/SCC is a grassroots program which carries out the task of the local Church – Evangelization and Witnessing. The participation in BEC brings total transformation in the community. After the Holy Eucharist, Fr. Sundar Raj welcomed the Commission members who came to animate the session and thanked Fr. Suresh Babu for celebrating the Holy Eucharist and praying for the community. He also requested his parishioners to cooperate and support this diocesan initiative of forming BEC/SCC in all the parishes of our diocese. The orientation program began with the Bible Enthronement animated by Emmanuel. The presentation started with an interactive session by Emmanuel Johnson in which the participants were explained – that the early Church captured the spirit of Trinitarian communion and lived it in and through their genuine sharing and oneness of heart as we read in the Act of the Apostles 2: 42 -47. Today, we need to imbibe the same spirit and try to live an authentic Christian life by participating whole heartedly in the neighborhood church which is known as BEC. The In-put session was on the Seven Steps of Gospel Sharing which was animated by Alexander Fleming, Amrit Kujur and Emmanuel Johnson. The orientation program came to an end by the closing of the Holy Bible by one of the participants.

## BEING ROOTED IN CHRIST TO BECOME EUCHARISTIC MISSIONARIES

by Sr. Irene Treesa Joseph CFMSS

### CLARA NIWAS



Consecrated life is a state of life in the Catholic Church, lived by those faithful who are called to follow Jesus Christ in a more radical manner. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, #944 "The life consecrated to God is characterized by the public profession of the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity, and obedience, in a stable state of life recognized by the Church." - Pope John Paul II in *Vita Consecrata* describes the evangelical counsels as follows: "The chastity manifests one's dedication to God with an undivided heart. Poverty proclaims that God is his/her only real treasure. Obedience, practiced in imitation of Christ, shows the liberating beauty of a dependence which is not servile but filial, marked by a deep sense of responsibility and animated by mutual trust." On 30 July 2022, the Clarist Franciscan Missionaries of the Most Blessed Sacrament (CFMSS) had the joy of celebrating together, the call to such a life of Consecration received by seven young maidens. Having

gone through the intense formative period of two years as novices, they were now ready to say their 'First Yes' to the Lord, committing themselves to Him through the Profession of Evangelical Counsels during the Solemn Eucharistic celebration held at Francis Sadan Novitiate, Sanjoepuram, Faridabad. It all commenced with the white-clad novices in bridal array accompanied by Sr. Agnes Jacob, their formator, Srs. Matilda Kaniampalackal, Sebastina Olickal and Deena Pulikanchundayil (the Provincial Superiors of the Provinces of St. Francis - Delhi, St. Clare- Dehra Dun and Mother Seraphina-Guwahati, respectively) and the Celebrants, being led to the Altar, with the rhythmic movements of the dancers- the students of Infant Jesus high School, Sanjoepuram. Rt. Rev. Deepak Valerian Tauro, the Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Delhi presided over the Holy Eucharist, while Rev. Fr. Norbert Lewis - the Parish Priest and Rev. Fr. Noby and the other Priests of Sanjoepuram concelebrated with him. During his inspiring and soul-stirring homily, His Lordship led us to reflect on the days' challenging theme i.e. "Being Rooted in Christ to become Eucharistic Missionaries". Reminding us of the call of every Christian, especially of each CFMSS to be rooted in the Eucharist in order to become Missionaries, he shared with us a few practical means based on our Constitutions, which are valuable guidelines for living our life as religious, more meaningfully. He also emphasized on the need for being aware of the scandals present in the Church and how we are to be counter - acting to them by our witnessing way of life. A moving Ceremony of Profession followed. The Novices were presented the religious garment specific to the CFMSS – the Brown habit, the Cord, the Veil and the chain -Tau with the Motto " Porto I Misteri " (I carry the Mysteries) inscribed on it. Donned in the new garb, the novices, one by one, went forward and professed the Sacred Vows in the hands of their respective Major Superiors, and received the Rule and Constitutions of the Institute from the hands of the Bishop with exhortation to follow them faithfully.

At the Conclusion of the Eucharist, the neo-professed were felicitated. CFMSS sisters from neighboring communities and religious and inmates of the Sanjoepuram family who graced the occasion with their presence- all shared the joy of the day with the festal meal that followed. Thus, the Simple Profession marked the beginning of religious life for these seven sisters. By choosing to live as a chaste, poor and obedient religious, they have said 'no' to the world and 'yes' to God. Mother Teresa used to say, "Many people mistake our work for our vocation. Our vocation is the love of Jesus." These young brides of Christ have made a choice by responding to the call of their beloved. It is a witness of how even today God is calling young people to a commitment which is radical and truly exacting. With the profession of these sisters, a ray of hope is lit in our hearts, of seeing many more people come in close communion with Jesus of Nazareth who, 2000 years ago walked on this earth just like any one of us. Even today He waits at the door of each heart and gently knocks to be allowed in. "Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me." Rev 3:20. May each one of us have the ears to hear and the generosity to let Him in.

## REGIONAL NEWS

**EUPHORIA** *by Vanshita Sotra*

**ICYM - NORTHERN REGION**



Euphoria, the expression of love and joy is a food distribution program that has been initiated by the ICYM Northern region, we initiate this every month in collaboration with different Dioceses and parishes. This time we collaborated with St. Peters parish youth (Jammu and Srinagar diocese) under the leadership of Ms. Vanshita Sotra (Regional youth treasurer) where we distributed 220 food packages among the marginalized section of society. The Asst. Parish priest Fr. Christopher, Diocesan youth animator, Mr. Bunty - Regional President, Mr. Aaron Singh - Regional youth treasurer, Ms. Vanshita, and around 10 youth members from the parish joined this initiative to make it a success. The food was prepared and packed by the youth in the church and then distributed in the slum area. As in ACTS: 25:30, "Giving gives a far greater blessing than receiving". We believe and initiating such future programs also.



## DELHI CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE

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- ✓ Festival

## PlanYourCSR

A Walk The Aisle Studio Initiative

By the grace of God, this month onwards we at Walk the Aisle Studio have initiated a community service program for parishioner in Gurgaon. Please contact for more details. WhatsApp: 8130686043

As a community service Walk The Aisle Studio plans to offer photography service to church events - meetings, social gatherings, celebrations, etc in Gurgaon and is subjected to availability. Please contact.

- ✓ Environment detox program
- ✓ Skill upbeat program
- ✓ Social uplift program
- ✓ Build on talent program
- ✓ Age-no-barrier program

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# SOULMATE

**A**lliance invited for Delhi based Malayalee R. C girl, 29 years, 5'1", born and brought up in Delhi. Graduated BA (Hons.) from Jesus and Mary College. Presently working as Central Govt. employee in Delhi.

**P**roposals are invited from suitable, well-educated R.C boys. Contact: 9868318948, 8130277098.

**A**lliance invited for Roman Catholic girl, 31 years, 5'3", born and brought up in Delhi. Post Graduate in Commerce. Dust in complexion, working girl. Proposals are invited from Delhi based boy and age no bar. Contact: 9911891190.

**A**lliance invited for Delhi based Tribe Roman Catholic boy, 29 years (1993), 5'4", dark brown complexion. Currently working at State bank of India (SBI) clerk. Looking for a Tribe (RC) girl, Nurse/Govt. job with God fearing. Contact: 9868106125, 9315883412.

**P**arents seeking alliance for their daughter 29/159, Kerala origin born and educated at Delhi (Psychology scholar) employed Pvt at Noida looking for suitable groom from Delhi NCR settled Catholics/Christian boy. Contact 9868467635.

# ANNIVERSARIES 15<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER TO 15<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER

PASTORAL CLERGY

## BIRTHDAY

### September

- 15 Aires Furtado (1965)
- 15 Anthony Francis (1966)
- 15 Albert Francis (1966)
- 15 Jaya Pradeep (1978)
- 18 Januario Rebello (1948)
- 21 Vincent D' Souza (1967)
- 22 + Anil Couto (1954)
- 22 Allen Gomes (1989)
- 27 Shaiju Xavier (1981)
- 28 + Vincent Concessao (1936)
- 28 Richard Minj (1988)

### October

- 01 Cyril Patrick (1949)
- 2 Julius Caesar (1967)
- 4 Franklin Sando (1988)
- 11 M. Richard Jose (1988)
- 12 Maria Anthony (1987)
- 15 Robinson Rodrigues (1983)

## ORDINATIONS

### September

- 19 Jas Elanjickal (2005)
- 21 Charles D' Souza (1963)

### October

- 3 Arnold David (1969)
- 10 Eugene Kujur (1991)
- 13 A. John Rosario (2012)

## DEATH ANNIVERSARY

### September

- 16 Abp. Joseph A. Fernandes (1967)
- 30 Fr. Bernard Karikamury (1991)
- 07 Fr. Cirilo Rodrigues (2020)

### October

- 03 Fr. Lourdusamy J (2007)

# Calendar of feasts

## SEPTEMBER 2022

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 Saint Giles, Abbot                        | 17 Saint Robert Bellarmine, bishop and doctor      |
| 2 Blessed John Francis Burté and Companions | 18 Saint Joseph of Cupertino                       |
| 3 Saint Gregory the Great, pope and doctor  | 19 Saint Januarius                                 |
| 4 Saint Rose of Viterbo                     | 20 Andrew Kim Taegon & Companions                  |
| 5 Saint Teresa of Kolkata                   | 21 Saint Matthew the Evangelist, Apostle           |
| 6 Saint Eleutherius                         | 22 Saint Thomas of Villanova                       |
| 7 Blessed Frédéric Ozanam                   | 23 Saint Pio of Pietrelcina                        |
| 8 Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary       | 24 Saint Pacifico of San Severino                  |
| 9 Saint Peter Claver                        | 25 Saint Finbar                                    |
| 10 Pedro de Corpa and Companions            | 26 Saints Cosmas and Damian                        |
| 11 Saint Jean-Gabriel Perboyre              | 27 Saint Vincent de Paul                           |
| 12 Holy Name of the Blessed Virgin Mary     | 28 Saint Wenceslaus                                |
| 13 Saint John Chrysostom, bishop and doctor | 29 Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels |
| 14 Exaltation of the Holy Cross             | 30 Saint Jerome                                    |
| 15 Our Lady of Sorrows                      |  |
| 16 Saint Cyprian                            |  |





SEPTEMBER 2022



## ARCHBISHOP ANIL J.T. COUTO ENGAGEMENTS

1	Thu	09.30 a.m.	Curia Meeting
		03.00 p.m.	UCPI Theological Forum
2	Fri	02.00 p.m.	Bible Convention- Jeevan Jyoti Ashram, Burari
3	Sat	09.00 a.m.	Renewal Programme for Priests at Hauz Khas
4	Sun	09.00 a.m.	Pastoral Visit to Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Rewari
5-6			Pastoral Guidelines – Mumbai
7	Wed	05.30 p.m.	DCA- Finance Committee Meeting
8	Thu	09.30 a.m.	Laying of Foundation Stone – Nuh School
		06.00 p.m.	Nativity of Our Lady – Feast at Shrine, Okhla
10-11			RCC – Jammu
12	Mon	04.00 p.m.	Saarthi Education Society Meeting at Archbishop's House
14	Wed	10.00 a.m.	Holy Family Hospital- Governing Board Meeting
		06.30 p.m.	Feast of Holy Cross- Shanti Avedana Sadan
15	Thu	04.00 p.m.	Prabhat Seva Governing Board Meeting-Archbishop's House
16	Fri	04.00 p.m.	Gathering of Religious of SHC at Maria Bhavan
		05.30 p.m.	Laity Commission Meeting
17	Sat	03.00 p.m.	Programme at Fr. Agnel School
		05.00 p.m.	Confirmations at Sts Peter & Paul Church, Najafgarh
18	Sun	08.00 a.m.	Pastoral Visit- St. Michael's Church, Gurugram
19-23			CCBI/CBCI Meetings at Bangalore
24	Sat		Birthday Celebration
25	Sun	09.30 a.m.	Inauguration of Silver Jubilee Year of Mary Queen of Apostles' Church, Sangam Vihar
		06.30 p.m.	World Migrants & Refugees Day-Mass at SHC
26	Mon		Reception to New Cardinals
27	Tue	04.00 p.m.	Nuptial Mass at SHC
28-10Oct.			NVSC/ Papal Seminary, Pune



**AUGUST 2022**



## BISHOP DEEPAK VALERIAN TAURO ENGAGEMENTS

1	Thu	09:30 a.m.	Curia Meeting, DCC Conference Hall
2	Fri	Whole Day	FC & MC Meeting, Nuh, Bhondsi
3	Sat	09:00 a.m.	Clergy Renewal Program, Good Shepherd Church, Hauz Khas
4	Sun	Whole Day	St. Dominic's Church, Vasant Vihar
		07:00 a.m.	MC Convent, Civil lines
5	Mon	03:30 p.m.	FC & MC Meeting, Rosary School, Kingsway Camp
6	Tue	12:00 Noon	FC & MC Meeting, St. Mathew's School, Laxmi Nagar
7	Wed	10:30 a.m.	Formator's meeting, Archbishop's House
		05:30 p.m.	Finance Committee Meet, Archbishop's House
8	Thu	11:30 a.m.	Mass & Blessing, CBCI
			Marian Feast, Ghaziabad
9	Fri	06:30 a.m.	Holy Mass, Aradhana
10-11			RCC Meeting, Jammu
12	Mon	04:00 p.m.	Saarthi Education Society Meet, Archbishop's House
14	Wed	10:00 a.m.	GB Meeting, Holy Family Hospital, Okhla
15	Thu	04:00 p.m.	Prabhat Seva Meeting, Archbishop's House
16-17			Regional Youth Convention, Ludhiana
18	Sun	Whole Day	Pastoral Visit, St. Sebastian's Church, Dilshad Garden
19	Mon	Whole Day	FC & MC Meeting, Rohtak & Jhajjar
20	Tue	02:00 p.m.	FC & MC Meeting, St. Mary's, Mayur Vihar
21	Wed	08:30 a.m.	Monthly Recollection, Navinta, Okhla
23	Fri	Whole Day	FC & MC Meeting - Aya Nagar & Hauz Khas
24	Sat	09:30 a.m.	Clergy Meet, Yusuf Sadan
		05:00 p.m.	Confirmation, St Cecilia's Church, Khera Khurd
		07:00 a.m.	Pastoral Visit, Mother of Perpetual Succor Church, Mayur Vihar
25	Sun	06:00 p.m.	Parish Feast, Laxmi Nagar
26	Mon	04:00 p.m.	FC & MC Meeting, Sunlight Colony
27	Tue	03:30 p.m.	FC & MC Meeting, St. Michael's, Gurugram
28	Wed	Whole Day	FC & MC Meeting, Prasad Nagar & Pusa Road
30	Fri		OUT OF STATION





# Feast of the Birthday of Our BLESSED MOTHER

**Shrine of Our Lady of Health**

Masihgarh, Okhla, New Delhi 110025

## NOVENA PROGRAMME 2022

Day & Date	Programme	Partner Parishes	Assisted by:
30 <sup>th</sup> Aug. 2022, Tue. at 4:30 pm	Novena & Holy Eucharist in Tamil.	Organised by Tamil Catholic Ministry	Jasola DDA: Marcel Ekka (L) Jasola Village: Pratap Minj (L) <b>PPC</b>
6:15 pm	Solemn Inauguration with Flag Hoisting followed by Rosary & Holy Eucharist <b>Theme: Mary; Mother of good health</b>	<b>Main Celebrant:</b> His Lordship, Deepak V. Tauro, <b>Auxiliary Bishop</b>	Liturgy Committee: Ms. Mary Runima Minj (L) <b>Legion of Mary: Stella John (L)</b>
31 <sup>st</sup> Aug. 2022, Wed. at 6:30 pm	Rosary, Novena & Holy Eucharist <b>Theme: Mary; A vessel of holy spirit</b>	Holy Family Hospital	Church Compound: M. Smith(L) Sukhdev Vihar: Mildred Pinto (L) <b>CA</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Sept. 2022, Thu. at 6:30 pm	Rosary, Novena & Holy Eucharist <b>Theme: Mary; Mother of purity &amp; Integrity</b>	East of Kailash Hauz- Khas	Okhla tank, Priya camp, Harkesh Ngr. Jasola Vihar Denis Kujur(L) Suman Toppo (L) <b>Vincent De Paul</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sept. 2022, Fri. at 6:30 pm	Rosary, Novena & Holy Eucharist <b>Theme: Mary; Disciple of good traditions</b>	Aya Nagar	Masihgarh , Juliana , Bhogal , Nizamuddin. Ashram. Anita Lakra (L) Sunil Basra (L) <b>Youth Association</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sept. 2022, Sat. at 6:30 pm	Rosary, Novena & Holy Eucharist <b>Theme: Mary's courage in suffering</b>	Alaknanda	Sarita Vihar, Sunlight colony, Kilokri, Sidharth Extn. A.Das (L) Gijo George (L) <b>Mahila Sangh</b>
4 <sup>th</sup> Sept. 2022, Sun. at 6:30 pm	Rosary , Novena & Holy Eucharist <b>Theme: Mary; A Protagonist of family life</b> 7:00 am: Mass in Hindi ( Chotanagpur ) 9:00 am: Mass in English 10:30 am: Mass in Malayalam 12:00 noon: Mass in Konkani	Don Bosco Tech. Institute	New Friends colony, Bharat Ngr, Maharani Bagh, Kijra Bagh Jerry Billung (L) Earnest B. (L) <b>Satsang</b>
5 <sup>th</sup> Sept. 2022, Mon. at 6:30 pm	Rosary, Novena & Holy Eucharist <b>Theme: Mary; Teacher of compassion</b>	Dilshad Garden Kanhei	Srinivasपुरi , Nehru Nagar Satius Toppo (L) S. Toppo (L) <b>Marian Seva Samaj</b>
6 <sup>th</sup> Sept. 2022, Tue. at 6:30 pm	Rosary, Novena & Holy Eucharist <b>Theme: Mary; Mother of the Missionaries</b>	Trilokpuri	Mothanpur Khader Village Philip Tirky (L) <b>CA</b>
7 <sup>th</sup> Sept. 2022, Wed. at 6:30 pm	Rosary, Novena & Holy Eucharist <b>Theme: Mary; Listener of the Word</b>	Pushp Vihar Sunlight colony	Mothanpur Khader Extn. Phulkeria ( L) <b>Mahila Sangh</b>
<b>Birthday of Our Blessed Mother Mary</b>			
8 <sup>th</sup> Sept. 2022, Thursday	4:30 pm: Homily & Blessing of Oil 5:00 pm: Procession to the Church 6:00 pm: Solemn Concelebrated High Mass at the Church	<b>Main Celebrant:</b> His Grace Anil JT Couto, Archbishop of Delhi	<b>Feast Organizing Committee</b> <b>General Convenor:</b> Mr. Vijay Richard

With Prayerful Wishes

Fr. Deepak Soreng  
Parish Priest & Shrine Rector

Fr. Arul Anthony  
Co-Pastor

Elias Pinto  
Vice president- PPC

