



BHARAT KI JEEWAN

SSCC INDIA (BROTHERS)

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Celebration of the Feast of the Sacred Heart in Dangadighila



"One of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water" (Jn 19:34). This water and blood of Jesus speak to us of a self-sacrifice brought to the last extreme: "It is finished" (Jn 19:30) — everything is achieved, for the sake of love.

The celebration of the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Dangadighila Community was celebrated together with brothers from Serampore and Dum Dum Community on 19th June, 2020. The day started with a prayer song "Light your Candle" and then we all watched the video presentation from the General Government on Adoration. After the Video, the ballots to elect a delegate for Provincial Chapter were brought together from different communities to be counted. Fr. Alexis Nayak, SS.CC. was elected as Delegate for Provincial Chapter with simple majority.

The Holy Eucharist was presided over by Fr. George Panthanmakal MSFS, the new Rector of Morning Star Regional Seminary, along with the new Dean of theology and the Outgoing Rector of the Seminary Fr. J. A. Santhanam. We were very privileged to have Fr. George, a great personality, in our community as a chief guest. He shared a wonderful reflection for the feast focusing on the Love of the pierced Heart of Jesus. When

we talk about the heart of Jesus, we stress the certainty of God's love and the truth of his commitment to us. When we recommend devotion to the Sacred Heart, we are recommending that we should give our whole self to Jesus, our



soul, our feelings and thoughts, our words and actions and our joys and sorrows. The Love of the pierced Heart of Jesus is the Love which St. Paul proclaimed in his ministry (*Agape*). It is a self-surrendering and total self-sacrificial love. It is this love which inspired our founders to find a new



way of life during the French Revolutions. He also mentioned the sacrificial love of St. Damien for the lepers in the Island of Molokai. And this love of Jesus is a free gift from God for all of us. As the children of the Sacred Hearts,

we are all called to share the mission of God by sharing this love of Jesus to the whole world especially in this time of Covid 19 crisis. The domestic staff also joined with us which made the celebration more joyful, although we missed Fr. Felipe, the local Superior. At the end our celebration concluded with a fellowship meal.

- ***Arockia, SS.CC.***

A CHARISM IN THE CHURCH

When we trace into our adoration it makes us to figure out the real essence of our way of making reparative Eucharistic adoration in the Church. The SSCC way of obeisance to the Heart of Jesus in the reparative Eucharistic adoration brings serendipity in our lives. We experience Jesus in the good things that happen in our lives every day and that comes into possible when we promptly respond to the Holy Spirit and encounter Jesus in the Eucharistic celebration and reparative Eucharistic adoration, commemoration of paschal mystery of Jesus' passion, death and resurrection, which becomes the source and summit of our life. And we develop the attitude of solidarity with the people and an act of



reparation to the wounded and lanced hearts of Jesus and Mary caused by our own sins and the sins of the world, in reparative Eucharistic adoration.

When we talk about reparative adoration in the Church, the concept and background has been given to the Church through the apparition to St. Margret Mary Alcoque in the sixteen century, who was an early exponent in devotion to the Sacred Hearts. We also see in the Association of the Sacred Heart in Poitiers, which was the embryonic stage of the reparative adoration of the Congregation. It was the essential mission by the early Association of the Sacred Heart to repair the broken ones and the sin committed against God. The devotion to the Sacred Hearts will have its articulation in the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts founded by the Good Father, Joseph Mary Coudrin and the Good Mother, Henriette Aymer la Chevalerie. The founder's experience in La Motte imbues us to be with Jesus in serenity of heart. And his perpetual adoration before the holy species is a spur to us. And we also see how it fixed the destiny of our Good Mother the moment she started the hour of adoration. This personal endowment was not limited to him and her, but shared to all who become the embodiment of that love and sons and daughters of the Sacred Hearts.

“Adoration has always been part of the official title of our Congregation in order to express the essence of our SSCC Charism”. No other title could, accurately fitting to us except the title we bear now. We are an apostolic Congregation; if we make our adoration out of the world it would have been reduced in its essence into a devotional form; it could become a spiritual practice. It would have lost the “dynamic of mission”. If it is not related to the lives of the suffering and poor people it would be like a piece torn off from the mosaic; without that piece the mosaic would lose the meaning. Therefore, our Eucharistic adoration is an essential part of our mission as well it is to repair the broken world. It is an essential ministry of the Congregation.

“Prayer is always the breath of faith and adoration is the breath of the one who sees life identical with that of the servant and his mother”. This faith binds us into one cord of love of Jesus and with that faith we experience love, joy and peace. We discover the value in our contemplative adoration: our relationship with the Father, Abba; to experience the centrality of the Eucharist ameliorates our SSCC style of life.

Our adoration is not just a form of worship or prayer, but it is much more. Our prayer that laments, begs and invokes; that it is radically and confidently open to God. It becomes our life and attitude by doing it every day. Our adoration has a profound connection with the Eucharist. *“In the Eucharist we*

enter into the communion with the thanksgiving of the risen Jesus, bread of life, sacrament of love. The Eucharist celebration and contemplative adoration makes us participate in the attitude and sentiment of Jesus before Father and before the world. They impel us to work for the transformation of the world according to criteria of the Gospel". The Eucharist celebration invites us to spend time with Jesus in contemplative adoration to listen to the Father and discern in his will.

"To contemplate the love of God in Jesus means to enter into communion with the life of Jesus to enter into the sentimental attitude of his heart as beloved son of the Father. His attitude towards the humanity he had come to save". The Eucharistic adoration brings peace, healings and reconciliation from our tough moments of our life, "It is like a shepherd, caring the sheep and healing from emotional and physical injuries alike: The warmth and the power of the rising sun; surviving through all the challenges and difficulties." It is like God delivering his people from Egypt from the suffering that Israelites endured as slaves for many centuries. Using this metaphor helps us to see how God has been to us in our contemplative adoration. In the reparative Eucharistic adoration we are healed from the feeling of heavy of heart and recovered from our grief. Our contemplative adoration brings radical change of our hearts and to the humanity wounded and divested by violence, tragedy. Our adoration is indelible to us. It is our identity, without adoration we lose our identity; like oxygen, we can't see it but we need it to survive. Adoration is our oxygen; we need it to survive as Sacred Hearts. And through the consecration to the hearts of Jesus and Mary, in all parts of the world, we are united in the vision of our Good Father. We are requested by the Holy See to carry out these two essential ministries in the: Eucharistic celebration and Eucharistic adoration, which lead the members of the Sacred Hearts to improve in other ministries as well.

- **Vishal, SS.CC.**

A STEP TOWARDS BREAKING THE CYCLE OF POVERTY

Many of you may have already seen some pictures of St. Damien School in the *Bharat Ki Jeewan*, the newsletter of the Region of India. To have a school of our own was a dream of the Brothers in the Region for a long time. After some years of



serious reflections and discernment, the Brothers decided to set up a school in the premise of Sacred Hearts Seminary in Dangadighila and thus, St. Damien School was opened on 4th April 2019 with only four children. Now the number of the students has gone up to 17.

As of now we have Playgroup and Lower Kindergarten (LKG). The medium of instruction is English. The school is open to all children irrespective of their caste, creed and social status. The aim is to provide opportunities for all round development of the students in a homely atmosphere. The plan of the school is to upgrade every year and make available both primary and higher secondary level of education to more than 1000 students.

This is the first school of the Congregation in India. The school has been named after St. Damien of Molokai. The purpose of naming the school after our brother and inspiration is to instil in



the students the virtues of St. Damien especially his virtue of service to humanity.

Dangadighila is a small village located at the outskirts of Kolkata, approximately 15 kilometres from Kolkata airport. The area has many thickly populated villages. Though the place is not very far from the city and is not considered remote, the people

living in these areas are very poor and they largely depend on casual labour and farming for their living. Some of them are working in the nearby factories.

Education is one of the basic rights of every individual. Right to Education (RTE) is a fundamental right in India. India became one of 135 countries to make education a fundamental right of every child when the Act came into force on 1 April 2010. There are many public and private schools for education in India. However, due to poverty, students from poor families are unable to afford quality education and consequently suffer extreme disparity and deprivation in the society. The same is true of the people of Dangadighila. Extreme poverty has become the main hurdle for the people of the area to get education. They are struggling daily to fulfill their basic necessities and for them, sending their children to a good school remains a distant dream.

Nelson Mandela once said, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." The goal of the Congregation is to provide holistic and quality education at an affordable cost to the students with a special focus on the students coming from the marginalised and deprived families. Without quality education, not only scope for a better future becomes limited, it also does not guarantee any gainful employment. We hope that this baby step taken by us will help children to get education for their overall development to empower them and enable them to break the cycle of poverty.

However, as the school is in its initial stage, there is a long road ahead of us. It means that in the coming months and years it will require our unwavering commitment to this new and challenging mission and of course it will also need long-term investments both in infrastructures and human resource.



We ask you to pray for our school that we, the staff and students will have the strength to march forward with courage, faith and dedication to make it a place of happy learning where anyone can come and get education regardless of his/her caste, creed, financial and social status.

- **Bala, SS.CC.**

NEWS IN PICTURES



**Coudrin Hostel,
Choudwar: Boundary
wall is being
constructed. The wall
had fallen due to
cyclone 'Fani'**

**Shanti Rani,
Bhubaneswar: Brothers
and Sisters celebrating
the Feasts of the
Sacred Hearts.**

