



Trip to Odisha

In the last issue of *Bharat ki Jeewan* we wrote about our 2021 Christmas celebration and other activities in the community. Now, I am happy to report the event on the trip to Odisha by the novitiate community. The main purpose of this trip was to visit the Odisha communities and my family, as part of the novitiate plan.

At dawn on March 1, we, Fr. Felipe and I, began to travel with Fr. Ajith, Regional Superior, who took us in his vehicle to Odisha. We arrived at DSDI at the end of the afternoon (in the middle of the way we were stopped for almost a couple of hours due to a strike that blocked the road).

The next day was Ash Wednesday. We celebrate the Eucharist in the evening, thus facilitating the presence of the Catholics of the area. In the morning, we had visited some non-formal education centers, where the prizes were distributed to the children of the contest that had been held on "Children's Day" and that had to be postponed due to the second wave of Covid-19.

The next day early in the morning I went alone to Berhampur for my LL (bike Learning License) exam. After having finished my LL computer test, fortunately I joined Fr. Felipe who came with Fr. Alexis and one of his social workers to also visit Ludru as part of the preparation of his social projects.



When we arrived in Ludru, one of our parish communities, Fr. Subal and Fr. Robert gave us a warm welcome and we experienced the joy of community. Then the next day we set out to visit some parishioners and parish villages shortly after Holy Eucharist.

On March 5 we travelled to my birthplace, Kasabasa, by public transport. Around half past eleven we arrived at my family's house and began to visit the village: first our chapel, which is named after Saint Patrick, and second the families of the village. Now, it was almost lunch time; we had a sumptuous meal prepared by my family, which was delicious. After lunch, Fr. Felipe talked with my parents about my first profession which I translated from English to Odia and vice versa. After saying goodbye to my family, we returned to Ludru. Father Subal, Father Alexis and the social worker came to fetch us. The next day early in the morning we traveled to Bhubaneswar.

While staying at DSDI community, we visited Janla (a center for leprosy patients and the mentally ill women run by the MC sisters); Choudwar, one of our leper colonies; in

Bhubaneswar we went to Shanti Rani, the house of our SSCC sisters, and also the SSCC Residence,



currently the Regional House. We also had a tourist visit to the Lingaraj temple (XII century CE). Moreover, on one of the days the fathers the community, who live in Choudwar and at the DSDI, shared their community life with us.

Indeed, it was worth visiting my family after the second wave of Covid-19, as well as the communities. In particular, visiting the community was ideal and important for me to get to know community life in reality. Finally, on March 10, we returned to Kolkata, to our novitiate house in Dangadighila.

- **Susant,
(Novice)**



Working with Children and Youth of St. Damien Parish



We believe that children and youths are integral part of the Church. And we need to make sure that there are no obstacles preventing them from getting involved. We are involving children and youth in different activities of the church. The aim is to provide a forum to hear the views of children and youths regarding their faith journey and nurture them as young disciples.

We have different activities such as: 1. Every Sunday manual service around the Church, 2. Celebration of children day, 3. Children and Youth Fund raising, 4. Synod meeting, 5. Catechism classes for Both Children and Youth, 6. Weekly Youth Meeting, 7. Sports, 8. Birthday Celebration and 9. Picnic. And Still working on some of the activities like - Youth night on Scripture, Parents Meeting, Youth Mass, Youth Liturgical Organization, Youth camp, Youth retreat and Pilgrimage nearby place, Creating Facebook and YouTube channel.



- **Robert, SS.CC.**

DSDI NEWS IN BRIEF

. Covid – 19 Ration Distributions



Damien Social Development Institute (DSDI) carried out its last stock of Covid – 19 ration distributions program among the poor and migrant daily labourers in Kalinga Vihar, Bhubaneswar on 27th February 2022. There were 128 beneficiary families who were given out the dry ration of rice, *daal*, atta and refined oil. There was a sense of gratitude expressed to DSDI by the organizing committee of this group of poor and migrant daily labourers.

Children Day Prize Distributions in Tuition Centres

Quiz, debate and drawing competitions had been organized in all 11 Non-formal Education tuition centres on the occasion of celebrating the National Children Day on 14th November 2021; however, the children/students, who had excelled in those competitions, had not been given out the prizes due to Covid – 19 restrictions. The prize distribution programs were carried out in each tuition centre during the month of March 2022. Fr. Felipe Lazcano along with his novice Susanto was on a visit to DSDI community and its ministries, and participated in a few prize distribution programs. Along with prize distribution, the children/students also performed dances in order to make those distribution days celebratory one.



International Women's Day Celebration at DSDI



Damien Social Development Institute (DSDI) celebrated International Women's Day on 12th March 2022. Both Miss Kunmun Mahala (Arati), the president of Odisha state Human Rights Corporation (Women Cell), and Fr. Ajith Kumar, the Regional Superior, had been invited to grace the

occasion and to share their insights on the empowerment of women today. Two DSDI staff members, Sr. Goretti Nayak, ss.cc. and Mrs. Babita Swain also shared their experiences of working with women in rural villages and in urban slums for their empowerment. The women participants in the program and the DSDI women staff members were felicitated with roses and with dances as a sign of our gratitude and respect to them and to their transformative roles in our society today. The celebration culminated with lunch!

Renovation of Coudrin Chhatrabas (Hostel) – Choudwar

Coudrin Chhatrabas (Hostel) in Choudwar was in need of renovation. The renovation work had commenced in November 2021. It is complete and has a brighter look now. The hostel is ready now to accommodate the college going students.



Pastoral Care at DSDI: Ash Wednesday Celebration



our small faith community.

There are a few Christian families in the neighbourhood of Damien Social Development Institute (DSDI). With the permission of the parish priest, we have been taking care of the pastoral needs of these families around us on every Sunday while still being available to the pastoral needs of the parish church in the city. On Ash Wednesday, in order to mark the beginning of Lenten Season, we had a beautiful celebration of the liturgy with

- *Alexis, SS.CC*

News in Pictures



Celebration of Odia Mass
with migrant community
in Bangalore





Holy Childhood Day
Celebration in
St. Damien Church,
Dum Dum



Meeting on Synod in
St. Damien Church,
Dum Dum

