



PARISH YOUTH DAY IN SERAMPORE

Parish Youth Day was organized for Youths of Immaculate Conception Church of Blessed Virgin Mary, Serampore. It was celebrated in our parish campus on 3rd Oct 2021. Parish Youth Day was celebrated with Holy Eucharist by Fr. Radhelal ss.cc, Fr. Felipe ss.cc, and Fr. Arul ss.cc. Brothers and sisters were also invited from Sacred Hearts Seminary, Dangadihila. The day started exceedingly in a sacred and religious manner, because the Holy Mass was offered, all the youths of our parish had participated in the Holy Mass and most importantly the choir were lead by the whole band of youths, and the voices were in full volume and beat to worship our Lord. Offertories were offered by youths; to all intentions and purposes the whole liturgy was conducted by the youths of Serampore.

After the Mass we had forty minutes of Talk by Bro. Suraj ss.cc "talk with Bible in life". Followed by the Holy Mass we had one hour of Adoration, during the Adoration young people opened their own hearts and faithfully praised Our Lord. It is believed that God comes on his own terms. He comes when



commands are revered, hearts are cleansed, and confession is made, our generation needs less criticism for what we have done and more models to follow and that model could only be our Lord JESUS. The youths made a good confession and canvased a role model in their life that is our Lord Jesus Christ. They unite themselves in the word of God with the fruit of prayer to God, begging the grace to want to change, to want to leave sins behind, to want to hand sins to God and never seek to take them back.

"EVERY WORD OF GOD IS FLAWLESS; HE IS A SHIELD TO THOSE WHO TAKE REFUGE IN HIM" PROVERBS -30:5, The Youths of Serampore accepted those flawless word of bible, the importance of life in Jesus was explained briefly by Fr. Felipe ss.cc and pillars of the church, the young people

of Our Parish reincarnated a soul. Fr. Felipe connected our lives with Four Legs of a table. Each legs having its meaning for our lives to stand as table and complete in life.

The first half of the day was ecclesiastic and so blissful. The second half of the day began with bible quiz by Fr. Radhelal, youngsters gathered more knowledge about the Holy Book and Christ. "A thorough knowledge of the bible is worth more than a college education". Thus, the day was followed by lunch and picnic; we had few games and so on. The day was profoundly glowing and bright. After receiving the Holy Words and seeking Grace from Messiah with a fruit of good confession, youths faces turn out to be sparkling stars. We are all called to grow together in unity over time. Participation of youths turned to be a memorial and a momentous day. Therefore, I would like to conclude with thanking our Lord who blessed us and gave us the strength to formulate such a joyous occasion. That day ended with felicitation and vote of thanks was given by our youth member to our Parish Priest Fr. Arul Thiagaraj who supported us all through. To the sisters of our Parish who helped us for decoration and games. To all the invitees who came all across to celebrate the day with us.

- **Ms. Alisha Maria Dutta (Parish Youth Group)**

TOWARDS ENDING CHILD LABOUR AND CHILD MARRIAGE



DSDI has re-initiated an Educational Sponsorship Program for the School Year 2021 – 2022 for a selected number of students from very poor families who passed in their Odisha High School Board Examinations in August 2021. Through the educational sponsorship program, the students are given financial assistance to pursue and complete their higher education in higher secondary and bachelor degree so that they would be able to do something meaningful in their lives and to stand on their own feet. The goal of this educational

sponsorship program for the students from poor families in urban slums and leprosy colonies is: towards ending child labour and child marriage which is a reality among the poor families in urban slums and leprosy colonies. Thanks to our sponsors through Fr. Manoj Nayak in the Sacred Heart Church, Edinburg, Texas for their support to this educational program. A similar initiative is planned for the School Year 2022 – 2023. Do join us in this mission of ending child labour and child marriage, and of transforming lives and transforming society.

- **Alexis Nayak, SS.CC.**

Celebration Of The Sacrament of Confirmation



St. Damien of Molokai Church, Dum Dum, organized the sacrament of confirmation for twenty-two candidates of the parish on 31st of October 2021. His Grace Most Rev. Thomas D'Souza graced the occasion with his presence and confirmed the candidates with the sacrament of confirmation. The parishioners made this day a special day with colourful decorations, internal and external preparations. They welcomed the Bishop,

guest priests and religious sisters and the candidates for confirmation with a graceful traditional tribal dance and singing. Bishop in his homily emphasised that *"Confirmation deepens our baptismal life that calls us to be missionary witnesses of Jesus Christ in our families, neighbourhoods, society, and the world. We receive the message of faith in a deeper and more intensive manner with great emphasis given to the person of Jesus Christ, who asked the Father to give the Holy Spirit to the Church for building up the community in loving service"*. The catechism teachers helped the candidates to maintain a spiritual environment throughout the Eucharist. All the parishioners received a snack packet after the Eucharist. At the end the invited guests, confirmed children, Parish council members and volunteers together with the Bishop had a delicious meal. The day was a great success because of the hard work of parish in charge, parish council members, Christian brothers, catechism teachers, parish youth, donors, and many volunteers. Thanks to all of them who rendered their selfless service for the growth of the parish.



- **Arockia, SS.CC.**

Youth Basketball Match

The Catholic Youth Council in Kolkata organised basketball match on Oct 12-14, 2021 for the youths from surrounding parishes. It was held in Our Lady of Dolors Church' Basketball court, Sealdah. Youths from different parishes participated in the event. They played with a lot of enthusiasm.



Young boys and girls from Barrackpore-Rupantor parish (*our neighbours*) finished 3rd place in the event after entering into semi-final. Our brothers Vishal ss.cc and Susant (*the novice*) played with them. For few weeks they had been playing in our Sacred Hearts seminary basketball court which was built from the contribution of our SS.CC benefactors- thanks for their generosity. Youths from Prem Nagar parish finished the second place, and the champions are from the Auxillium parish.

Many of them those who do not come for Sunday Masses were able to participate and play. The purpose of organising this basketball match is to bring together all youths and let them to work as a team that they could be initiated into the church activities and its values. There were interesting moments for me as I participated in that event and guided them while the youths from our neighbourhood parish were playing. May this coming together enable all youths to become good Catholics.

- **Nahshon, SS.CC**

SCC Day in Serampore



The Parish level SCC (Small Christian Communities) day was celebrated on 7th Nov 2021 at Immaculate Conception Church, Serampore. The Holy Eucharistic Celebration began with the Bible procession and traditional welcome along with entrance dance and followed by Bible Enthronement. A brief introduction of why SCC day is being observed in the Parish level and importance of Small Christian Community in the local church. We were blessed to have for Our Parish SCC day Celebration Rev. Fr. Sunny, the Administrator of Morning Star College along with our Parish Priest Rev. Fr. Arul ss.cc, and we had

meaningful Holy Eucharistic Celebration, where Rev. Fr. Sunny explained the importance of the Participation Laity in the Local Church and how to grow more in our Faith. After Holy Mass a cultural program was held in which our Parish youth and SCC animators and Children performed Bible Drama, singing and dance etc. Very delicious Lunch was served at 1:30 PM which was prepared by our own Parishioners. After lunch various games were played followed by dance. We all felt it was moreover a Family Celebration of spreading Gospel in our own way, and there was full participation of every singly parishioners of our Church which made the day very successful. Special thanks to all SCC animators of our Parish and Parish Pastoral Committee members, Finance committee members and Parish Youth and Volunteers.



Mrs. Alma DunDung (SCC Member)

The Community of St. Damien in Bangalore



St. Damien Community is situated at the outskirts of the city of Bangalore near Huskur village. There are all together three formators - Fr. Premanand, Fr Sumit and Fr. Sujay. To prepare us everyday delicious food we have got a cook who hails from the state of Karnataka.

This year, there are 19 students in the community. They all are from various states of India, namely, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Among the students there are six philosophy students, three second year candidates and 10 first year candidates. We all live as one family and there is always a sort of fraternity in the community.

Here, the formators are always very supportive and approachable. No one has any issue with regard to community life and spiritual life; we all have common goal to strive for and everybody is helped to achieve his goal to live a life of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the community. There is time for

everything - time for praying, study, eating, sports, and so on. We enjoy each other's company and love being in this community which is what is very amazing.

Everyone in the community is cooperative. We don't feel much burdened in whatever we do, that is why everything is almost easy to do with the help of one another. Everyone participates in all the community activities and very importantly all are happy about what they do in the community. The most interesting time of the day is game time because all enjoy playing and shouting while in the playground and laughing at jokes made during this time.

However, there are such times when we are sad, worried, disappointed etc. But this isn't what we stick to and we are surrounded by our loved ones that this phase of our life disappears like a dream we have in sleep. As human beings, we all get angry with one another and argue, yet we all understand one another and notably there is a spirit of forgiveness among us all after whatever bad happens; we love being together and that is where we learn a lot.

We have got a garden where we grow many types of fruits, vegetables and greens which help us keep healthy. We also have flower gardens all around the house and this year we have planted many kinds of flowers that really make our surrounding beautiful. In the house, all have been given specific responsibilities which everyone carries out sincerely. Due to the



cooperation between formators and students, we are able to keep the things of the house well maintained. There are a lot to speak of the community but this would be adequate to know what our community is like.

- Sandeep (Third year of philosophy)