



# BHARAT KI JEEWAN

A news letter from the Region of India

March- 2024

Issues- 33



Greetings of Peace and Joy!

This is Holy Week, the most holy and deeply moving week of the Christian Year. As we journey towards Good Friday, we remember the passion, death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus and pray: Who else but God could take a cross that represented defeat and turn it into a symbol of Victory? Who else but God could take a cross that represented guilt and turn into a symbol for Grace? Who else but God could take a cross that represented condemnation and turn it into a symbol of Freedom? Who else but God could take a cross that represented pain and suffering and turn it into a symbol of Healing and Hope? Who else but God could take a cross that represented death and turn it into a symbol of Life? Brother Andrew, SCJ

Happy Feast of our Founder Fr. Marie Joseph Coudrin. This year his feast falls during Holy Week; this invites us to reflect on his words on suffering: It's not that suffering in itself creates happiness; there is such a thing as fruitless tears.... It is not enough just to suffer to be happy....it is not enough just to suffer with Jesus Christ... .one must suffer for Jesus Christ, one must suffer with Jesus Christ. (CS 10,n.133)



## HAPPY EASTER

*FR. AJITH ANTHONY DAS SS.CC.  
REGIONAL SUPERIOR*



CRI recollection Day, reflection and Mass Celebrated by Fr. Ajith Anthony ss.cc.

## EXODUS

It is an inter-congregational workshop for novices here in Manila, the capital of the Philippines, and since we live relatively close to Manila, we decided to attend this workshop. For your information, we live in Silang, Cavite province, an hour and a half from Manila. "Exodus" consists of training activities and "modules" (sessions) typical of the Novitiate year: speeches on various topics related to human development, spirituality, the environment, the Church, etc. Furthermore, it includes the experience of "Immersion" or rather, pastoral experience. The three ssc novice brothers participate (now there are only two, because the Filipino novice left the novitiate) and also the ssc novice sister Usha, who is her first year of novitiate (the "canonical year").

Now let me explain more in detail because it is very good to know what we novices do in Exodus. Firstly, in each module, we learn a particular topic from the guest speaker and there is also a group discussion where we share our own experiences and views on the topic at hand. Any particular module will last 2 to 3 days, or even 4 days depending on the topic and its importance. Our meeting venue has almost always been the same place ("Titus Bradsman Hall", next to one of the houses of the Carmelite brothers (OCam).

There have been many Exodus modules. However, we particularly attended some of them thinking that we could omit others due to the lesser importance of the topic. Thus, we were present in the initial modules, from the one dedicated to "theater arts", human sexuality, enneagram, ecological spirituality, prayer methods, and also on "boundaries" and safeguarding.



*Novice Sandeep Lugun*





During the ecological spirituality class, we had the opportunity to visit a place all day where we experienced practical things to see and do. So, we all had a lot of fun in that place called "HOGAR".

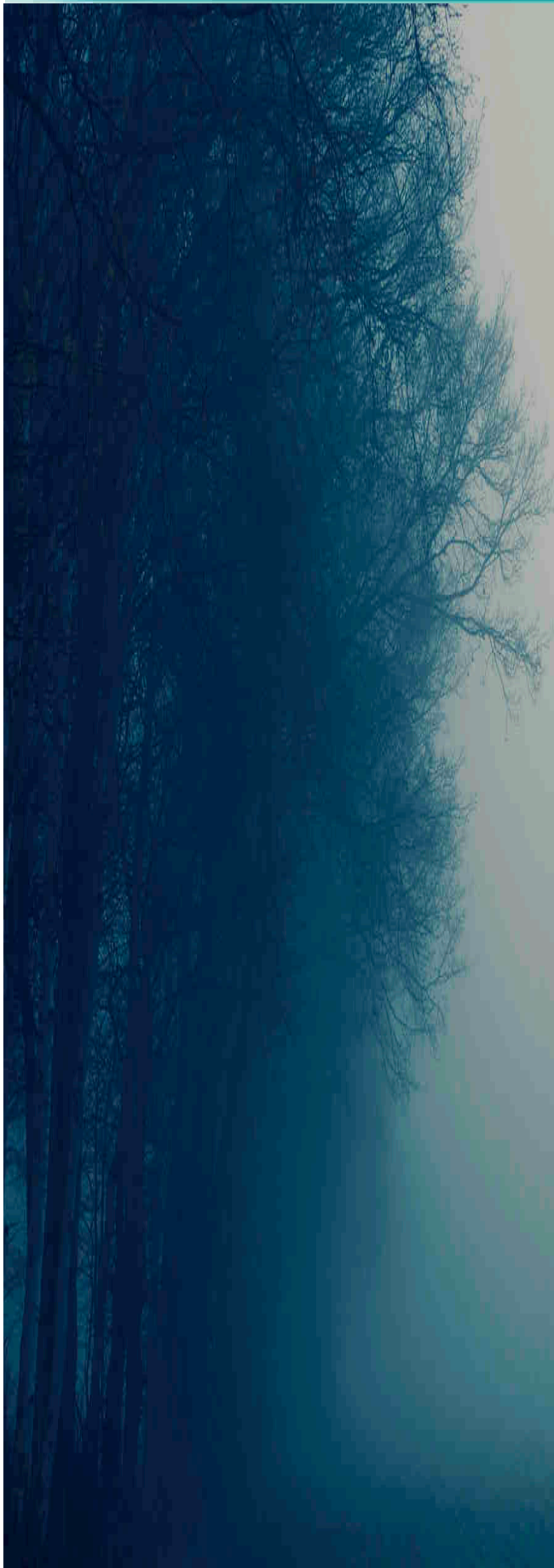
As for the food to eat during lunch, well, we carry our own lunch boxes and shared them with all the other novices, which is a very beautiful experience. Regarding the Immersion, which took place in the month of January 16 to 26, for ten days, we can say that it is an important part of the Exodus program. Because all novices leave the novitiate house to stay in other people's houses in order to have a concrete understanding of the situations, conditions and reality of people in general.

As for the assigned sectors of our immersion, three of us (the Filipino novice "CJ", Suman and I, Sandeep) were, respectively, with people with disabilities, urban poor and fishermen. Having shared our own experiences of being in a particular sector, I will say that all of us novices were happy to have the opportunity to go there and have a personal experience of the reality of the people, and on the other hand to persevere in our own vocation as such.



In conclusion, our "Exodus", by the way, our Exodus batch number 36, since it began more than 3 decades ago, will come to an end in the month of April, with three days of recollection together and a closing celebration, to which we will be somewhere outside the Novitiate Community. Thus, will end the Exodus of all the novices, who have journeyed together throughout the canonical year, supporting each other and sharing a common faith and brotherhood. Finally, the name of our Exodus is "Synodal 36".

# "A long retreat in an Island"



The Philippines is one of the most beautiful island countries and the fifth largest. It has a total of 7,641 islands. Some of the islands are inhabited and others are not. On one of those islands, two young men from India were sent to spend a long retreat on the island. Yes, I am not referring to anything rather to our "Novitiate" .

Christian retreat can be most simply defined as a time one spends outside of normal life for the purpose of reconnecting usually in prayer with God. The retreat is a time for prayer and self-reflection.

Let me share with you my experience in the novitiate. First, my impression is about the place of the novitiate, which is isolated from everything and is conducive to prayer and silence.

There are four of us in the community. Fr Felipe, the novice master, Fr Jovy, the assistant novice master, and brothers Suman and Sandeep. We began the novitiate with a Filipino novice, "CJ", but in mid-February he decided not to continue.

I'll tell you something about our daily activities. Our day begins with morning prayer (6:00 am) and the Eucharistic celebration and ends with night prayer (compline). We have many activities during the day. Our morning session starts at 9 o'clock until 10:30 am. m. Then personal studies and cooking. At 12:00 pm there is the prayer of the intermediate hour and then lunch. We have singing practice at 2 o'clock.

Our second session starts at 2:30 pm until 3:30 pm. Then manual labor and sports. We go to the basketball court in our "barangay" (neighborhood) every alternate day. We played with the youth of the barangay. We are well known to everyone, especially children. People are very hospitable to us.

We have three pet dogs in our community: Brownie, Tull and Rosy. They are very faithful dogs, always watching the house day and night.

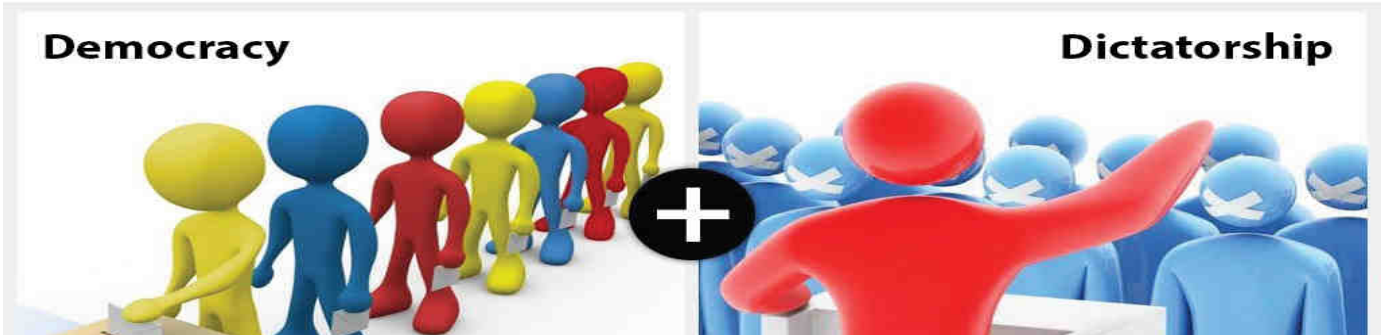
We also have another activity called EXODUS. It is a program organized by several Congregations, male and female, and initially about 100 novices came together. We attend a "module" almost every month in Manila, based on different topics related to religious life. The name of our batch is "Sinodal 36" (there have been 36 editions of Exodus). It is a very good opportunity to be with all the novices and experience internationality.

Father Jovy is always active in parish activities and in the community. He goes out to celebrate mass very often; many weddings! He also goes to classes twice a week. He studies Moral Theology. His great spirit of service in the community has inspired us greatly. He is especially concerned about whatever is “eco-friendly”. This is also part of our community project, to protect our environment. We want to keep our environment clean and become aware of the greatness of nature.

We have our fun times during the weekend, like watching movies, playing cards, etc. Normally we go to the chapel of our barangay for Sunday mass. And we end the weekend with HOLY HOUR.

*By - Novice Suman Tudu*





Morning Star Regional Seminary in Kolkata recently held a thought-provoking debate on the topic of whether India should have a democracy or a dictatorship. Eight students from the theology department passionately presented their cases to a diverse audience that included professors, students, and members of nearby religious communities. The debate was moderated by Mr. Manish, the director of the Good Shepherd School in Khardha. As one of the judges, I found it fascinating to hear all of the well-reasoned arguments. Ultimately, the speakers arguing in favor of democracy were declared the winners based on their strong performances.

It is an undeniable fact that democracy has always emerged as the winner in any society where it has been implemented. The pages of history are filled with numerous examples of the triumph of democratic values over other forms of governance. In my view, the process of debate, followed by discussions, plays a vital role in promoting democratic values and educating individuals on the social benefits they bring to any country.

Through debate, individuals are encouraged to express their opinions, thoughts, and ideas on various issues concerning society. This exchange of diverse perspectives and ideas is crucial in helping individuals understand the complexities of democratic governance and how it can benefit society at large. The discussions that follow the debate process serve to further clarify the key tenets of democratic values and how they can be applied to ensure a more equitable and just society.

Overall, the combination of debate and discussions is an effective way to raise awareness about the importance of democratic values and ensure that individuals are equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to participate in a democratic society.

- *by Bro. Nahashon kulandai ss.cc.*



## INSTALLATION OF REV. FR. SUJAY SARDAR, SS.CC

On Sunday, March 17, 2024, Fr. Sujay Sardar, ss.cc, was installed as the parish priest of the Church of Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Serampore.

The ceremony was led by His Grace, Archbishop Thomas D'Souza. The concelebrants were Fr. Anthony Paul (Parish Priest of St. Joseph's Church, Barrackpore) and Fr. Teleswar Nayak.

The Archbishop, along with the new parish priest and other priests, were formally welcomed at the entrance of the church by the parishioners, and then a procession followed into the church. Some of the youth members led the bishop and the priests to the altar by performing a traditional dance.

After the homely, the archbishop continued with the installation of Fr. Sujay. Fr. Anthony read out the appointment letter of Fr. Sujay as the parish priest of ICCBVM Church, dated 17/03/2024. Fr. Sujay renewed his priesthood vows. The profession of faith was done by Fr. Sujay in the presence of the Archbishop. What follows next is that the newly appointed parish priest takes an oath of relentless service to the parish. Archbishop Thomas D'Souza then entrusted the keys of the Blessed Sacrament to Fr. Sujay. The entire ceremony was carried out in a solemn manner.

In the concluding moments, Fr. Sujay thanked God almighty for all the blessings. He also thanked His Grace, Archbishop Thomas D'Souza for his presence and for leading the installation ceremony. He also thanked Fr. Anthony Paul and Fr. Teleswar for participating in this holy mass. On behalf of all the parishioners, Fr. Sujay specially thanked the Shanti Rani home Sisters for their selfless service towards the church in all times.

It was Bishop Thomas D'Souza's turn to speak then. He spoke of how important and special the ICCBVM church is for him. Not only that, he also spoke about the rich history of this parish. He shared his experience of visiting Kunjaban village the day before. Likewise, he interacted and prayed with the faithful in the village under the makeshift tent. He urged all the parishioners to come forward and help build a church in the Kunjaban area. Furthermore, he was all praise for the youth of the parish for leading the choir with their angelic voices and for actively participating in all church activities.

*Fr. Sujay Sardar, ss.cc.  
Parish Priest, Serampore*



# FASHION SHOW

The INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY PROGRAM was organized by the Howrah and Hooghly deanery level. It was celebrated in 'Our Lady of Happy Voyage Church, Howrah on 10th March 2024. About 570 women from 13 parish attended the holy mass, which was presided by our Vicar General of the archdiocese of calcutta, Rev. Fr. Dominic Gomes. It was co celebrated by Fr. Jonny, the Dean of Howrah and Hooghly deanery, Fr. Sunil Kujur, Parish Priest of Our Lady of Happy Voyage Church. Mass was followed by input sessions, lunch, cultural programs and ended with fellowship.

We, Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary church, Serampore also was a part of the celebration. From our church 50 members attended the program. The group was led by Fr. Sujay (Parish Priest) and Sr. Sanjukta (DC sisters). We took part in all the sessions. Specially, we put on a fashion show was based on 1 Corinthians 12 : 12 – "UNITY IN DIVISITY IN CHRIST". WOMEN WERE representing various state of India to show that even though we are of different culture, tradition, language, but we are all united in one body that is JESUS CHRIST.

The programme was appreciated by everyone present there. It was a great opportunity to bring out our talents and to proclaim the Word of God. I thank the Almighty God for this great time that we had.

*Fr. Sujay Sardar, ss.cc  
Parish Priest, Serampore*





## “How can I find God”

One fine evening, I was reading a book named “How can I find God” which reflects about the experience of God by different people in their life. A “great” man was expressing the experience of God in his life. In fact, he was an astronaut. According to him we try to find God from different angles. He said that when he goes to the space he tries to search God in the space but he doesn’t find him. God is nowhere outside of the world, rather among the people. We can feel his presence in the midst of the people, especially among the poor, suffering, marginalized, outcast. It was a great opportunity for our group members to experience the life of the people in Mapulanglupa, in Metro Manila. This barangay belongs to San Juan parish. The present parish priest is Fr. Denis who welcomed us and handed over us to our foster parents for ten days.

Our group consisted of ten novices from different congregations: SJA, MSC, AA, MSSC and SSCC. The main purpose of our sector was to be with the people in the urban poor area living in different families. Our group was divided into two. But we used to come together every alternative day for our meetings. Every now and then we visited the families of every one.

We were supposed to work in a factory for five days but because of some political issues, we could not work. Both the groups were engaged in stitching notebooks, as well as in different activities in the house. Each family brings home a bulk of notebooks to stich.

The wage is very minimum: only forty pesos per two hundred notebooks. It is very hard for them because it takes long time and consumes a lot of energy. Some novice sisters took care of their foster siblings too, taking them to the school and bring them back home again. Cooking was also regular activity in the family. And of course, going to the market!

The group of novice brothers was mostly involved in sweeping the street every day early in the morning. The parish priest asked us to help one of the foster mothers who regularly do it. Since we could not get chance to work in the factory, every morning begins with sweeping the street. Brothers were also involved in stitching the notebooks.

This experience has helped us to understand the reality of life of the poor Filipino families. We could see though there is struggling still people are happy. They never forget God. Their main priority is God. Our foster families have taught us to be grateful to God always.

Once again, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude and thanks to everyone especially to our formators as well as our foster families.

- By Novice Suman Tudu



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

**April**

23 Fr. Ajith Anthony

24 Fr. Radhe Lal Jatwar

**First Profession of Fr. Sudhir Nayak**

**23.04.1997**

**Priestly Ordination Anniversaries of Sudhir Nayak, Fr Ajith Anthony and Fr. stephen**

**11.04.2003,**

**22.04.2006,**

**28.04.2008**

**Best Wishes and congratulation on your Anniversaries. God bless you all.**



04.04.2017

**Congratulation on your Final Profssion Fr. Lalit Toppo ss.cc.**



Bharat ki Jeewan is Published only for SSCC

Published by Fr. Robert Joshi sscC

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Kindly share the News letter with Brothers in community.

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