



BHARAT KI JEEWAN

A news letter from the Region of India

OCTOBER -2024

Issues-40



In God's view, human greatness is measured by how one serves or helps someone who cannot offer anything in exchange, Pope Francis said.

"If we want to follow Jesus, we must follow the path he himself traced out, the path of service. Our fidelity to the Lord depends on our willingness to serve," the pope said before reciting the Angelus prayer Sept. 19 with visitors gathered in St. Peter's Square.

The Gospel of Mark Chapter 9 recounted how the disciples were arguing over which of them was the greatest. Jesus admonished them and insisted, "If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all."

"If you want to be first, you need to stand in line, be last and serve everyone," the pope said.

Jesus' teaching ran counter to what the disciples and most other people then and today think, he said. "The value of a person no longer depends on the role they have, the work they do, the money they have in the bank. No, no, no, it does not depend on this. Greatness and success in God's eyes are measured differently: They are measured by service. Not on what someone has, but on what someone gives."

"Do you want to be first?" the pope asked. "Serve. This is the way."

While serving another has a cost, "as our care and availability toward others grows, we become freer inside, more like Jesus," he said. "The more we serve, the more we are aware of God's presence, especially when we serve those who cannot give anything in return — the poor — embracing their difficulties and needs with tender compassion."



FIRST YEAR

ANNIVERSARY LONDON



The Diocese of Westminster offered the catholic parish of Harrow South and Northolt to the SSCC Region of India on 1st September 2023 appointing Fr Raja Sebastian SS. CC as the parish priest and Fr Alexis Nayak SS.CC. as the assistant priest. The Catholic Parish of St Gabriel's (South Harrow) & St Bernard's (Northolt) has a mixed group of people including Asians (India, Sri Lanka, Philippines, Malaysia, Japan, Taiwan, Pakistan); Europeans (Irish, Poland, Italy, Spain, Albania, Portugal, Romania, Ukraine); Africans (Uganda, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Kenya) and South Americans (Brazil, Peru, Argentina). Last one year the Sacred Hearts nurture the pastoral needs of this parish. We had successfully run First Holy Communion programme (24 children, 5 travellers' children and 3 special children); Holy confirmation programme (24 children) and infant baptism (27 children. We have 103 volunteers including Parish finance team, catechists, Eucharistic ministers, SVP members, Altar servers, cash counters, Sacristans, Readers, Choir, Stewards, Church cleaners, Youth animators, etc.



We have Sycamore faith group; St Vincente de Paul Conference (SVP); Queen of Peace prayer group; Table Tennis Club to cater the pastoral needs of the people. We visit regularly 20 households to provide the Holy Communion to the elderly. Through this parish the region of India continues the Sacred Hearts charism in the diocese of Westminster, London. Please pray for us to share continually God's love through the mission of the Congregation.



Fr. Raja ss.cc.



General Councillors From India



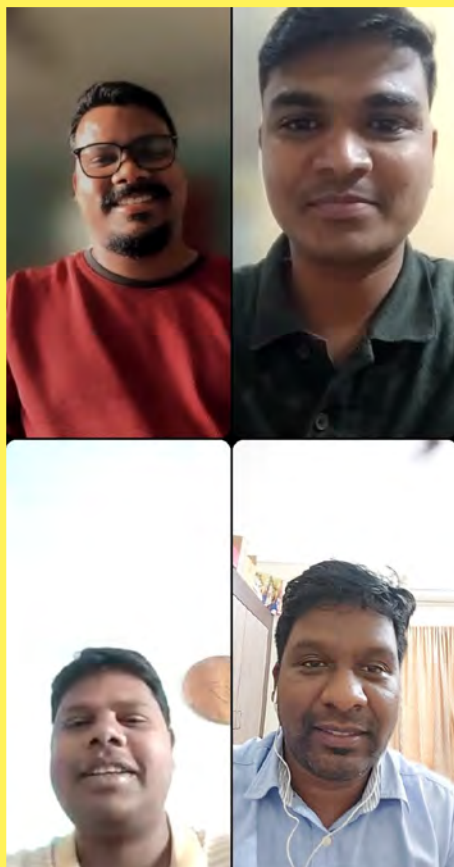
We are truly honored to witness the significant appointment of Fr. Stephen and Sr. Puspa as General Councillors. For many years, Fr. Stephen dedicated himself to the role of Provincial Councillor, where he exemplified exceptional leadership and unwavering commitment to our mission. His tenure has not only been marked by his steadfast dedication but also by impactful contributions that have profoundly shaped our Province. As Fr. Stephen and Sr. Puspa embark on this vital transition to the esteemed roles of General Councillors, we, as a united region, are filled with immense joy and deep gratitude for their willingness to accept such a prestigious responsibility. This appointment speaks volumes about their remarkable skills, integrity, and character, reflecting the profound trust that the wider Congregation has placed in them.

We wholeheartedly extend our warmest congratulations to Fr. Stephen and Sr. Puspa as they take on these crucial responsibilities, fully recognizing the diverse challenges and obligations inherent in their new roles. We are confident that their wisdom and capabilities will enable them to navigate these complexities with grace and effectiveness, guiding our Congregation toward even greater achievements.

In this spirit, we earnestly pray that the Almighty Lord showers His abundant blessings upon Fr. Stephen, Sr. Puspa, and all members of the General Government, empowering them in their sacred service. Additionally, we seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit for Fr. General, Sr. General, and their esteemed team, trusting that they will be inspired to lead our congregation with wisdom, compassion, and strength as they strive to fulfill our mission and vision in the radiant light of Christ.



An update from Vocation Team



**Fr. Robert , Fr. Arockia
Fr. Golak , Fr. Lalit (V.Director)**

On October 26, 2024, the Vocation team convened for an online meeting to assess our ongoing efforts and achievements in promoting vocation work throughout the year. This gathering brought together all team members to engage in meaningful discussions aimed at strategizing how to attract a larger pool of candidates for the congregation.

During the meeting, we reviewed the various regions we have already visited to raise awareness about our congregation and discussed upcoming areas that we plan to target. Each team member reported on their designated assignments, with specific responsibilities outlined for future outreach initiatives. Our goal is to provide valuable information about the congregation and its mission to a broader audience, thus increasing interest and engagement from potential candidates.

As part of our planning, we also shared insights on effective methods for outreach and engagement, ensuring that everyone was aligned on the key messaging and objectives for the upcoming visits. After thorough discussions, the team collectively decided to reconvene to share updates on our vocation efforts and continue our planning.

The date for our next meeting has been set for December 9, 2024, where we will review our progress, share our experiences, and explore new strategies together. We are all committed to making a meaningful impact in our vocation work.

An update from the Local Economes Meeting



We held a local Econome meeting in the morning, following the regional calendar. The Regional Econome opened the meeting with a prayer to promote positivity.

During the meeting, the Regional Econome shared several important key points that emphasized the commitment of each member. There were thoughtful expressions of appreciation from all attendees, acknowledging the diligent efforts of everyone in fulfilling their respective responsibilities.

The Regional Econome provided an overview of critical information that had emerged from the recent finance commission meeting. He detailed the vital responsibilities undertaken by the local Econome, which include:

1. Ensuring Community Accountability

Facilitating Smooth Community Operations: Emphasizing the need for effective communication and coordination among members to maintain operational efficiency.

Timely Submission of Financial Reports: Stressing the importance of accountability and transparency in financial dealings to build trust within the community.

Managing the Community Budget: Highlighting the need for careful planning and monitoring of financial resources to sustain community projects and initiatives.

5. Paying Taxes on Time: Underlining the legal and ethical obligation to fulfill tax responsibilities promptly to avoid any penalties and uphold the community's integrity.

This information sparked a constructive discussion, during which participants were encouraged to provide inputs and seek clarifications on various topics. We expressed our gratitude to Fr. Radhelal, who served as our resource person for the meeting. He shared valuable insights and addressed several questions, helping to clarify complex issues and enhance our understanding of our roles. His expertise was instrumental in guiding the conversation and ensuring everyone felt heard and supported. Overall, the meeting was productive and left members feeling motivated and aligned with our Local Econome's goals.

Fr. Robert, Fr. Suraj, Fr. Nahshon, Fr. Subal, Fr. Lalit, Fr. Arockia included Fr. Radhe

LUDRU PARISH ACTIVITIES



Marian Youth and Sishu Sangh – Just as we have office bearers at the parish level for the youth, we have also chosen a village representative from each village for the youth and children. Their names have been designated as Marian Youth and Marian Sishu Sangh. This initiative aims to encourage them to be responsible and cooperative towards their own village as well as our main parish.

We have Sycamore Parish Council Meeting – We held a parish council meeting to discuss various Church activities, including planning for Children's Day, Mission Sunday, and the Feast of Christ the King, among other topics. During this meeting, we welcomed Fr. Subol Francis, the newly elected President, the Vice President of St. Damien Parish Youth, and Dn. Dildhar Jatwar. Participating in this meeting was a valuable experience for me.ith group; St Vincente de Paul Conference (SVP); Queen of Peace prayer group; Table Tennis Club to cater the pastoral needs of the people. We visit regularly 20 households to provide the Holy Communion to the elderly.



- St. Damien Youth – The “Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation” “Christus Vivit” by Pope Francis reminds young people and the entire People of God that Christ is alive! He is our hope and, in a remarkable way, He brings youth to our world. Christ is alive, and He wants you to be alive as well. In our parish, five youths from different villages were officially announced and blessed by Fr. Subol Francis, the parish priest, after the Mass. This initiative is aimed at encouraging them and fostering a sense of responsibility toward the Church. It serves to remind them of important convictions rooted in faith, and to help them grow in holiness and commitment to their personal vocations.



A Child Marriage free India – After the Rosary at our parish, we participated in a procession advocating for a Child Marriage-Free India. The event began on the street and concluded at our church campus. It was organized by the teachers from Anganwadi, Ludru, to raise awareness about the importance of following civil laws regarding marriage. Both girls and boys should be married at the appropriate age, in accordance with these regulations.



Rotation Of the Villages into Four Groups – To bring unity and family-spirit among the people, we have made four groups for every Sunday who will be taking care of the choir, readings, alter service, offertory and prayer service such as – Ludru youth one group, Tutuguda-Gucchaguda and Kolamery as second group, Kunkuni, Bhalisahi, Bondapada and Bondaguda as third and Mothers and fathers as fourth group. It is to make them more involvement in our St. Damien Parish text



Deanery Meeting in Antarba Parish – The deanery meeting took place on October 12th at Antarva Parish in the Diocese of Berhampur. Many fathers and sisters participated in the meeting. We shared our difficulties and challenges in providing the Sacraments to the people. The gathering was an opportunity to come together, express our thoughts and opinions, and share our experiences. It was a successful event, which included a discussion, followed by Adoration and lunch.

Competition For the Children's Day- We are organizing various programs for our children on Children's Day. In advance, we provided them with the items to be performed in the first week of November. We encouraged everyone to participate in this competition.

Bible Quiz for the Children, Parents and Youth – The Bible quiz was organized in our parish, where children and youth participated and shared their enthusiasm. We were delighted to host this event to encourage them to learn more about the Bible. The quiz focused on the Gospel of St. Luke and the Acts of the Apostles.



Rosary Prayer in the Family- Praying the Rosary as a family is always encouraging and provides a great opportunity for bonding. Recently, we were invited to pray the Rosary in Patinagar, Ludru. The hosts expressed their joy and eagerness to pray with us, and we were equally happy to join them. Many people participated in the Rosary, creating a warm, communal atmosphere. Afterward, we shared some biscuits, corn, and tea, and everyone enjoyed the time spent together.



Movie Show to the Villages – We took the initiative to show a movie about Jesus to all the villages. The goal was to bring them together, as many were busy with personal work, and to make them aware of God's presence in their lives.

Rotation in Ludru Mandli Weekly We have organized four groups to handle Parish activities every Sunday, with participants from each village. Additionally, we have divided the weeks into four groups: Ludru Youth, Children, Mothers, and Fathers. Each group will take turns overseeing the activities on a weekly basis



Inauguration Of the Church – We attended the inauguration and blessing of the New Church in Chatrpur, which was participated in by many fathers, sisters, and parishioners. The Church was inaugurated and blessed by His Grace Rev. Sarat Chandra Nayak, the Bishop of the Berhampur Diocese.



**Sports with
neighbouring
community**

**Evening
Snacks with
Neighbouring
Community**



**St. Damien
Seminary,
Bangalore**
October in
Review



**BCC prayers
in St. Damien
Seminary**

**Birthday
Celebration
of Fr. Bala**





VollyBall Match

**Birthday song,
singing by
Brothers**



**St. Damien
Seminary,
Bangalore.**



**Creative
Adoration**

SPORTS



SCHOOL BAG DISTRIBUTION

D.S.D.I

(Damien Social Development Institute)



In the year 2024, DSDI distributed school bags to the students of the non-formal tuition center. There are 15 tuition centers which DSDI is looking after around the capital city of Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and nearby slum villages. These centers are located in leprosy colonies, slums, and villages. 550 students are studying in the centers. They come from poor families; they can't afford paid tuition for a better education. Therefore, DSDI offers them free tuition, so that they can benefit from our service to outshine in their education. Some families go for daily labour work. Parents are not able to focus on the studies of their children. Some parents insist their children work instead of sending them to school and tuition, only because of the financial burden. Thus, teachers requested DSDI to distribute school bags to the students this year, so that the students could carry books to school. Students were so happy to receive their new school bags. Some students explained how difficult it was to bring their books to school in torn bags which had been with them for a long time. There was fear that the bag would break down and books would get scattered. They were facing more difficulties in the rainy season, their books used to get wet. DSDI is very grateful to Maria Gracia, and Maria Bernad volunteers from Spain, for their kind assistance in getting bags to the students. It was possible because of their kindness towards students. They now have good school bags. DSDI is grateful to Sr. Noemi Carcia ssc, for her kind gesture in accepting our request and initiating to help the institute by reaching out to the people, especially Maria and Gracia, who made this possible for the students. DSDI is very grateful to all who made this possible for the poor children of our non-formal tuition centers.



By Fr. Lalit Toppo

Visit to London Community



After a year of our presence in Northolt and South Harrow (London), I visited our brothers Alexis and Raja in September to see how they were doing and how the parish community was faring. From September 9 to 23, I was with the community. I was pleased with the ministries of our brothers. As a community, they pray Lauds with the parishioners, celebrate Mass together, and spend time together during meals.

The parishioners are excited about the two brothers and are also content with their presence. After each morning Mass, they go to distribute Communion to the sick and homebound seniors.

I had the opportunity to celebrate weekend Masses at both churches (St. Bernard's and St. Gabriel's) and to meet with the parishioners. I thanked them for welcoming our brothers and for their cooperation in running the parish. The parishioners admire our brothers for their simplicity and relational approach.

I also had the opportunity to meet Fr. Martin Hayes, the Vicar General of the Westminster Diocese, who had previously welcomed the region of India to the diocese.

OCTOBER



Jubilee Online Meeting



GOLDEN JUBILEE OF SS.CC. MISSION IN INDIA INAUGURAL HOLY EUCHARIST



(1975-2025)

Main Celebrant
Rev. Fr. Lane Akiona, SSCC
Provincial Superior, USA

Sacred Hearts Seminary,
Dangadighila, 29 July, 2024

Kindly share the News letter with Brothers in community.

Bharat ki Jeewan is Published only for

SSCC Published by Fr. Robert Joshi ssc
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