



### THE QUEEN OF PEACE CELEBRATION IN KOLKATA



We, the SS.CC brothers in Kolkata area communities came together to celebrate the feast of our Lady 'The Queen of Peace' in the Sacred Hearts' Seminary, Dangadinghilla on 9<sup>th</sup> July. The event was organized by the Dangadinghilla scholastic community.

In the afternoon we participated in the Eucharist, celebrated by Fr. Michael Kumar, SS.CC. along with our deacons Rev. Robert and Rev. Arockia. In his homily Rev. Arockia shared with us the history behind the statue (*Queen of Peace*), and invited us to practice virtues of Mother Mary that we could experience the liberative peace of her son, Jesus Christ.

We were also happy to have Fatima sisters who decorated the altar beautifully and prayed for us. After the Mass we had a delicious dinner prepared by our cooks along with Fr. Arul, SS.CC. Their service was appreciated. Due to the impact of Covid-19, the SS.CC sisters from Anjali Bhavan were unable to participate in the gathering. However, we were united with them in prayer. Thanks to the Serampore Community and Dum Dum Community for their presence and participation in this fraternal celebration. We thank God for his continuous blessings and guidance.



- **Nahshon, SS.CC.**

## SAYING OUR THANK YOU AND WELCOME



The Damien Social Development Institute (DSDI) community and the staff said our Thank You to Fr. Ajit Baliar Singh and our welcome to Fr. Lalit Toppo and Fr. Golok Parichha on the 4<sup>th</sup> of August 2021. After three months of wait due to Covid – 19 pandemic restrictions this saying of our Thank You and welcome had been possible. Thanks to the DSDI staff members who were generous enough to come together and organize the event.

Fr. Ajit Baliar Singh had been in DSDI for the last seven years since 2014 soon after

his priestly ordination. He was the Director of DSDI since 2018 till May 2021. The saying of our Thank You to Fr. Ajit Baliar Singh was a moment to celebrate his person who shared his life with the people he served and to thank him for his contributions to the development of DSDI over the last seven years. It was also a moment to bless Fr. Ajit for his next call to serve in pastoral mission in the wider US Province. During the saying our Thank You and welcome meeting, the staff members were generous in their kind words of appreciation for the person they had been touched by and for his dedicated and principled contributions to the development and the ministries of DSDI. They also wished him for his fruitfulness in his next pastoral mission of the Province. In the same meeting, the DSDI community and the staff also welcomed Fr. Lalit Toppo and Fr. Golok Parichha respectively to the family of DSDI and wished both of them best wishes for their life in DSDI and for their fruitfulness in the ministries entrusted to them.

The saying our Thank You and welcome meeting was followed by a fellowship meal prepared by the staff members of DSDI. The delicious fellowship meal with delicious cake and ice-cream to go with was a perfect treat to enjoy our togetherness as one DSDI family. God bless Fr. Ajit Baliar Singh and God bless Fr. Lalit and Fr. Golok.

- *Alexis Nayak, SS.CC.*

## Youth Ministry in A Rural Parish

Matthew 18:2-4 says, "He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them and he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven." Because of God's heart for young people, it is important to recognize their value in today's church. It is important for the truth of the gospel to be passed down from generation to



generation in order to help the body of Christ to grow. Ultimately, helping youth to grow spiritually in their formative years will equip them to make an impact for Christ both now and in the future.

My Diaconate ministry started in St. Damien Church, Ludru, a small village in Odisha. The involvement of Diaconate ministry initially began with young people. The purpose of being with young people is to learn a local language and to teach them to grow in the relationship with Christ. This will prepare them to serve the Lord in all they do. My reluctant involvement in youth ministry have become a passion. I knew from much experience that young people are eager and enthusiastic to respond to the call of holiness. But someone has to walk with them. I found that there were many youths in the village but only some were actively participating in the church activities at the beginning. So, every Sunday, after Mass, I began to greet young people and invite them to at least try coming to the youth group. I started to hold youth meetings after Mass every Sunday. We started some youth activities like cleaning the church premises every Saturday and Sunday from 3pm to 5pm. The youths took the initiative to plant seedlings and sow seeds of different fruits behind the church premises. The idea is to raise youth fund in future. As a result, these nurtures the congregation and allows the church to flourish.

- **Robert, SS.CC.**



## Support For Better Future



The Pandemic, which suddenly struck us has thrown our lives into total disarray by rendering many unemployment and making them unable to cater even to their basic needs. Many have encountered great difficulty in coping with the usual daily expenditures as sources of revenue stated dawdling and even drying up totally. At this critical stage, many of our parents had contemplated stopping their children's education as they could not pay their school fees. But we know that education is empowerment, enlightenment, and attainment of knowledge for a complete development of the self.

Hence, as a part of our pastoral plan, under the guidance of Rev.Fr.Sudhir Nayak,ss.cc., our former Priest in-Charge, a committee was formed to explore ways to sponsor our needy children's education through the Parish Educational Sponsorship Program (PESP). The committee comprised of Rev. Fr.Sudhir (President) Mr. Lucas Gomes (Secretary) Mr. John K. Mondal (Co-ordinator) and Mrs. Celine Gloria David, Mrs. Anila Hembram, Mr Thomas K Abraham and Mr.Ivor Smith (Members).

After a series of meetings, certain guidelines were formulated to highlight the objectives purpose, enlightening our needy children and future fund raising plans. Then Mr. Lucas along with few other members succeeded collecting of amount Rs. 93,000/- as donation from different people. Out of the total amount some amount was spent for the Christmas gift (school bags) for all the children of St.Damien of Molokai Church, Dum Dum.

And on 11 July 2021, under the patronage and whole hearted support and encouragement of our present Priest in-Charge Rev.Fr. Umakant.ss.cc., we were happy to distribute cheques amounting to Rs 2000/- each to fifteen of our children. This was certainly a noble gesture as even in such an unimaginable situation and financial constraints. St. Damein PESP team thanks to all the donors for their generosity. We too hope many more parishioners and other kind hearted people will continue to support this social outreach program to the needy through their unceasing generosity. Thanks to the team for their hard work for this noble cause.

- **Mr. John K Mondal**  
**Co-Ordinator (PESP)**  
**St.Damien of Molokai Church**  
**Dum Dum**

## NEWS IN PICTURES



Robert, SS,CC with Parish  
youth, Ludru

