



BHARAT KI JEEWAN

SSCC INDIA (BROTHERS)

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From DANGADIGHILA...

Since the last publication of BKJ (Bharat Ki Jeewan), towards the end of November, many things have happened in this community and in the Region. The priestly ordinations of **Robert** and **Arockia** have been special moments, in which some of the members of this community were able to participate. Our prayers accompanied the two brothers in those significant days.



Advent arrived, and for some it seems to have passed very quickly! On the second Sunday, December 4, we participated in the parish feast of Serampore: Eucharist, cultural program, food... We rejoice with the parishioners for their active parish life.

At the perpetual profession of our **Sister Jayanti** (December 8) some brothers from the community were also present. In the temporary profession of the **5 novices from the USA...** we could only participate with our spiritual presence and our prayers.

Theology students **Vishal** and **Didhar** had busy days with their exams, which ended on December 10. On Saturday the 11th we participated in a recollection prepared by the CRI of the 24 Parganas North area. The two sisters from Fatima Congregation, **Sheeba** and **Mary**, who live with us and work at the school, also participated; their presence among us is a blessing. The novice, **Susanto**, for his part, had a "desert day", in the retreat house of the Apostolic Carmel (AC), as part of his journey in the novitiate. **Radhe**, who was on vacation with the family, arrived for the final preparations for the "pre-Christmas" party, which took place on Tuesday, December 21, with the children from our small school and their parents, with the children who come to the Spoken English classes, with the children and young people



of Badabagan and also with the children who come daily in the afternoon to play in our property. The preparation effort was worth it. It was a success that left everyone happy. There was a first part, on the basketball ground, with different games, and a second one, on the covered terrace of the house, for songs and dances. A beautiful stage, very well decorated, was prepared for the occasion.

And **Christmas** came. On the eve we celebrated the Eucharist and made the traditional renewal of vows. On Christmas day our **SSCC Sisters** from Anajali Bhavan came; we celebrated the Eucharist, we had time for snacks, and then lunch and as a help to have a good digestion: to dance.

After Christmas, **Nahshon** went to spend holidays with his family in Tamil Nadu. Meanwhile, the community continued having celebrations. We were invited to a wedding celebration on December 27; the family of one of the staff of our school. On December 31, we celebrated the Eucharist in the night and after burning the effigy of the "old man", we welcomed the new year with a toast.

January 2, Sunday, was a special day. With the Christian families of Badabagan we celebrated the Eucharist and had, here in our house, a "picnic" day together with the distribution of food rations from the second phase of the **Covid relief operation**. Another day of joy and solidarity.

Then the "regular" life arrived, with classes, meetings, taking care of the house, etc.... The daily life in a community with has inside a novitiate, temporary profess brothers, priests and also sisters helping in an incipient school. May God bless all of you who help us to make it possible!



- **Felipe, SS.CC**

Fr. Ajit's Farewell



The tradition in our Congregation is that every brother who goes for a mission is sent with the blessings of Our Lady Queen of Peace. Fr. Ajit Baliar Singh who was preparing himself in the last six months in St. Damien Community, Dum Dum, got his visa approved to travel to USA, on 25th of January 2022. A farewell gathering was organised in the Sacred Hearts Seminary, Dangadighila on 4th February 2022. Brothers from three different communities in Kolkata area came together to bid farewell to Fr. Ajit B. Singh. The only novice conducted the Adoration and led

everyone into a prayerful atmosphere with his melodious *Bhajan*. Brothers prayed together and wished him the best blessings from the Lord for his ministry in their intercessory prayers. After the Adoration Fr. Ajith Kumar, the Regional Superior prayed over him with the Blessed Mother's statue on his head as a sign of commissioning him for the mission. After that, the community had arranged a sumptuous meal. After the meal, Fr. Ajit B. Singh gave thanks to all the brothers who had wished him. He started

his journey to USA on 6th afternoon from Kolkata Airport. Thanks to Fr. Ajit B. Singh for his many years of service to DSDI community and the last six months service to St. Damien Community, Dum Dum.

- *Arockia, SS.CC.*

NEWS IN-BRIEF FROM DSDI

World Day of Leprosy and Damien Dispensary



Damien Social Development Institute (DSDI) opened a Damien Dispensary in Ramakrishna Leprosy Colony, Bhubaneswar on the occasion of celebrating the World Day of Leprosy on January 30, 2022. Ramakrishna Leprosy Colony in Bhubaneswar was one of the first leprosy colonies in Bhubaneswar where Fr. Bill Petrie, SS.CC. had begun his

leprosy rehabilitation ministry in the 1980's among the persons affected by Hansen's disease. It was in this leprosy colony that he had established a “Mercy Kitchen” with ten bedded infirmary for the care of sick patients. The Mercy Kitchen stopped operating upon the departure of Fr. Bill from India in 2000.

Ramakrishna leprosy colony has the highest number of leprosy ulcer patients among the eight leprosy colonies where DSDI carries out its ministries. The ulcer patients have no access to proper treatment and dressing of their ulcer wounds. Some months ago in 2021, the colony leaders had made their request to DSDI to address the issue of treating their ulcer wounds by providing a trained dresser for them. On the World Day of Leprosy and on the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, DSDI responded to their request by dedicating a Damien Dispensary with a paramedical worker in the service of the leprosy ulcer patients in the colony. The paramedical worker was provided with the necessary ulcer treatment medical equipment and medication to equip the dispensary with for the desired service.

Skill Development: Tailoring Training for Children of Leprosy Patients

As part of the “youth empowerment and skilling the youth” program, Damien Social Development Institute (DSDI) is sponsoring three young girls (school drop-outs) – children of cured leprosy patients of Trinath Leprosy Colony in Choudwar. The girls became school drop-outs as their parents could not afford to support them financially for their studies due to poverty. In our interaction with the girls, they express their desire to train themselves in a particular skill which would be a platform to have a stable income in order to support themselves and their families. In response to the desire of the girls and in dialogue with their parents, DSDI is training three young girls from the leprosy colony who will undergo three months of tailoring training in St. Joseph Community College in Bhubaneswar and thereafter one month internship training program in a garment making company in Tamilnadu for their job placement. The girls will begin their training program on February 16, 2022.

Republic Day Celebration 2022

On the occasion of the Republic Day of India which is also called the “Constitution Day”, celebrations were observed in different

Non-Formal Education Tuition Centres in leprosy colonies, urban slums and urban villages managed by Damien Social Development Institute (DSDI). The children and students in the tuition centres were made aware of the significance of the day when the Constitutions of India were made effective by the

Constituent Assembly in 1950. Giving the Constitution to its citizens, the Constituent Assembly proclaimed, *“We, the People of India, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a SOVEREIGN SECULAR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC to secure to all its citizens: JUSTICE social, economic and political; LIBERTY of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship; EQUALITY of status and of opportunity, and to promote among them all FRATERNITY assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the Nation; WE DO HEREBY GIVE TO OURSELVES THIS CONSTITUTION.”* In the prevailing social, political, economic and communal fragilities of our country, the children and students were motivated to build their lives, to live their lives, and to work for the nation according to the ideals and values enshrined in the Constitution.



DSDI in Networking Ministries

Damien Social Development Institute (DSDI) has been working in networking with other like-minded individuals who work for the cause of the poor and suffering people in society in order to bring about relief to their lives.



In the months of January and February 2022, DSDI participated in a few networking service programs carried out by a group of social service workers who carried out distribution of blankets, sarees and masks among the poor in slums and leprosy colonies in and around Bhubaneswar, Puri and Khurda to combat the winter cold and the Covid – 19 Omicron virus variant.

Non-Formal Education: Animation of Parents and Children

In preparation for the reopening of schools in February 2022 after almost more than two years due to Covid-19 pandemic, animation of parents and children meetings are being conducted in our Non-Formal Education Tuition Centres. Parents and children are made aware of the adverse impacts of the pandemic in the education of children and students for the past more than two years when schools had been shut down.



They are also made aware of the importance of education for the children and students when the schools are reopened and thus motivating the parents to send their children to our Non-Formal Education Centres and also to formal schools where the students had been going to. In these animation meetings, the parents and children have shown their great interest and they are eagerly looking forward to the reopening of schools in order to get back to their class room learning.

- Alexis, SS.CC

Children Ministry

“God calls not on the basis of our capacity but by his sovereign choice”.



Children are an integral part of the Christian community and God expects the Church and parents to bring them up in the ways of the Lord. In the Old Testament, God enters into covenants with his people. These Covenants and their corresponding blessings included children.

Therefore, it's a very important ministry. Our understanding of children shapes our understanding of God who Calls not on the basis of our capacity but by his sovereign choice. In the New Testament, Jesus taught us to welcome and not to despise children. He invites children to be with him. Jesus taught us that children are to be valued and that the Gospel of the kingdom of God and the Mission of God are for children (Mt 18:10; 19: 13-15). Similarly, in Mark 9: 33-37, Jesus states that in order to welcome him, one must welcome God's Children. Then, he took a little child and put it among them and taking it in his arms, he said to them, “Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes

me, and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the One who sent me". Children Ministry is a Privilege which God entrusted to the church.

We have started Children Ministry at Ludru Parish. The main aims of Children Ministry are to Reach, Nurture and Discipline the children for God's kingdom. And I think that this ministry will be very effective to communicate the love of Christ to them. And it's not easy. It's crucial and challenging in shaping and moulding them in their faith journey. We initially put forward some steps such as Attending Daily Mass, Daily Rosary prayer, Daily Catechism Class, Sports like Volleyball, Football and badminton, and Sunday work.



- **Robert, SS.CC**

Celebration of the World Day of Consecrated Life



We, the community of Serampore, on February 2, gathered with the whole Church and celebrated the feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple. This day is also known as the World Day of Consecrated Life, therefore we, the community of Serampore, joyfully celebrated this day together with the Daughters of Charity (D.C.). The celebration began with an Adoration and continued with the Holy Mass. Fr. Arul ss.cc. offered Mass. In his preaching he recalled how our consecration is not a duty but a service; it is not a choice but a gift from God.

The Presentation of the Lord in the Temple is a call from God so that each one of us is always in the holy project of presentation, purification and salvation. We are called to present ourselves as a pleasing offering to God. We need to constantly cleanse ourselves of all our load of sin, and we need to continue the same mission of salvation.

My experience of this day was that the Presentation of the Lord is a reminder of the beauty and duty of our consecration. We are consecrated to the Lord as offerings and we need to commit ourselves to offering God to others. The day ended with another time of adoration and dinner together with the DC sisters. Finally Fr. Arul thanked each one of us for making the day beautiful and rebuilding our family spirit.

- **Suraj, SS.CC**