



INAGURATION OF COUDRIN NIWAS



As the popular liturgical songs goes, “What a joy, what joy for us to say, we are on our way to the way to the house of the Lord.” In the similar manner, it is a great a joy for the Region of India. Particularly for the community of Ludru to have a house was a blessing. It was a long waiting to have our own community house. The rural mission of Ludru started in the month of June 2016. Since there was no facility, we stayed in the presbytery of St. Peter’s Church Mohana for two years. Then beside the Church there was a half-built community house which the Region of India completed and on 11th of 2018 officially we were erected

as an independent parish.

The land document was on the process. It took few more months and in the month of May 2019 we started constructing the residence. The construction work was given to Mr. Gomes from West Bengal. He had done the work up to roof level and plastering the walls. Then the pandemic affected the work. Mr. Gomes also got the virus as a fact the work got delayed. Then, the Region of India gave the work to complete to Mr. Cleitus, a contractor of the diocese of Berhampur in the month of October 2020. The house was ready in the mid of January 2021. On 31st of January, on the feast day of the Ludru village of St. Don Bosco, the residence was inaugurated by Rev. Fr. Ajith Kumar, ss.cc the Regional Superior, and blessed by Rt. Rev. Sarat Chandra Nayak, Bishop of Berhampur along with many religious, priests, sisters and the faithful.

Now that the community has a better facility, the life and mission will flourish. The old facility will serve as the Parish office and meeting facility for the catechists. We extend our deep gratitude to the Provincial government, the General government, the Regional government and all our benefactors for their support and prayers for this rural mission.



- **Subal Francis, SS.CC.**

Picnic and Charity Works in the Community of Dangadighila

We, the members of our community, decided to share our love and kindness towards our Christian community in and around our house. It is always a pleasure to share events with the elderly, young people, children and families that unite us in community. This picnic was organized by our community for our parishioners. The opportunity to meet, talk and enjoy the beautiful weather together was a joy and a privilege. It was wonderful to see parents, youth and all members of the community joining in the roundabout to dance. The dance



was followed by games, sharing gifts, and celebrating life together. Events like this contribute to our unique and precious way of building relationships with the local community of the faithful.

I remember the words in the letter to Hebrews 10:24 that, as a community, *"we must consider how to rouse one another to love and good works."*

In the words of Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta *"Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love."* I experienced this love in our community with that small charity work



done by our community. Charity, in fact, is a very broad phenomenon that cannot be described in words. It is said that if you give something to someone, you will receive ten times in return, but this saying is incomplete. The truth is that if you give something to someone with a pure heart, without expecting anything in return, you will surely get more blessings, happiness, peace, joy, love and smiles on their faces. So, it was in our community, knowing the situations of our people, we were able to share something with people to create a sense of belonging and create the love and goodness of God through these small

works of charity. We were able to give some things of basic need to people in our community, which broaden human hearts and spread the message of brotherhood and innocence of love among peoples.

- **Suraj, SS.CC**

Sunday of the Word of God



On Sunday 21 February, we celebrate the “Sunday of the Word of God” to remind all of us the importance and value of Sacred Scripture for the Christian life and also for the relationship between the Word of God and

liturgy. And it was a special occasion to gather the people of God around the Bible. *“He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures” (Lk 24:45).* The parishioners of Immaculate conception Church Serampore actively participated with great number in the celebration. The celebration started with Bible procession by holding candles, moving towards the church that was resembling the entry of word of light into the heart of each and everyone.

A traditional welcome with Arti, hand washing ceremony was done by the group of women called Legion of Mary. It was followed by the Bible enthronement and imparting of the Blessing by Fr. Arul,SS.CC. .A short introduction about the Word of God was given by Mrs. Alma Dungdung(the in charge of SCC Unit) . After that there was flow of the Eucharistic celebration solemnly.

After the celebration, there was Bible Quiz competition among the parishioners headed by the animated teacher Mrs. Anita Martin. There were instant prizes for the quiz winners. There was



also Bible distribution both in Hindi and Bengali Language (Regional Language). The celebration ended with fellowship tea and snacks.

- **Robert, SS.CC**

DSDI NEWS – IN – BRIEF



Non-Formal Education: After one year of full-blown Covid – 19 pandemic, human movements and human interactions have been relatively relaxed although precautionary measures are still in place for safety purpose, such as wearing masks, sanitization and maintenance of social distancing. Vaccines have been developed and vaccination programs are already being carried out in different phases. There are still some fears of second wave of pandemic in certain parts of India (In a few States) causing some panic among people which reinforces the necessity of wearing masks, sanitization and maintenance of social distancing.

It is in this context that all our Non-formal Education Centres have been re-opened and the teachers have begun carrying out tuition classes for school going children in their respective rural villages, urban slums

and in leprosy colonies. Taking the prevailing context, and the guidelines and directives of the government, the teachers apply their prudence adhering to the triple norms of masks wearing, sanitization and social distancing. In our recently held DSDI staff meeting, the teachers have informed the DSDI management that there have been an increasing number of students attending tuition classes and the parents have been showing growing interest in sending their children to Non-Formal Education Centres. As a result, following the triple norms of masks wearing, sanitization and social distancing, the teachers organize the students into smaller groups to conduct their tuition classes.

DSDI Staff Picnic: On February 21, 2021, the DSDI staff members along with the management went on a day of picnic to Deras Dam and to Jayadev Vatika – a recreational park in the outskirts of Bhubaneswar city. It was a moment of togetherness in order to spend time leisurely before DSDI would resume some of its in-field ministries and activities. Moments of togetherness were spent in recreation, cooking lunch and having lunch on the picnic site in Deras Dam and in the evening visiting Jayadev Vatika recreational park and spending light moments together.



International Women's Day Celebration: Although the official International Women's Day is on the 8th of March, DSDI organized a simple celebration of International Women's Day on the 6th of March



2021 at DSDI office. All our DSDI ladies staff members were felicitated with a rose flower each and the director of the DSDI appreciated their contributions to DSDI and to the transformation of society in the ministries they carry out in our rural villages, urban slums and leprosy colonies. Sr. Goretti Nayak, ss.cc., who is working in the Cuttack – Bhubaneswar Archdiocesan Women Desk and who is also carrying out the Women Empowerment Project of DSDI, gave a motivational reflection on the importance of International Women Day celebration. She emphasized on the contributions of women in the society and social transformation, their rights and

challenges, and on the call to gender equality with dignity and mutual respect in our world today.

Lent 2021 in DSDI: We are in the Holy Season of Lent! Every Friday evening we have the spiritual and devotional practice of Stations of the Cross commemorating the mysteries of Christ's suffering and crucifixion followed by the Holy Mass. It's also a part of our pastoral care for a few catholic Christian families who live in our DSDI locality. There are about six or seven families who faithfully participate in our spiritual life on Sundays and on Fridays, particularly during the on-going pandemic situation. It is our little way of pastorally accompanying these faithful in their faith journey.

- Alexis, SS.CC

News in Pictures



More pictures
from
Coudrin Niwas,
Ludru