



# BHARAT KI JEEWAN

A news letter from the Region of India

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## Editorial



Dear Brothers we are in the season of lent , In this season we prepare ourselves to rise with Christ to a new life and to become the new people that the world needs now. Pope Francis encourages Catholics to listen to what Jesus wants to tell them through the Scriptures and through others.

Using the story of Jesus' Transfiguration as a launching point, Francis addressed both the journey of Lent and the Catholic Church's ongoing Synod on Synodality. Lent is a journey that involves our whole life, our entire being. It is a time to reconsider the path we are taking, to find the route that leads us home and to rediscover our profound relationship with God, on whom everything depends.

Return to me, he says, with all your heart. Lent is not just about the little sacrifices we make, but about discerning where our hearts are directed. This is the core of Lent: asking where our hearts are directed. Let us ask: Where is my life's navigation system taking me – toward God or toward myself? Do I live to please the Lord, or to be noticed, praised, put at the head of line...? Do I have a "wobbly" heart, which takes a step forwards and then one backwards? Do I love the Lord a bit and the world a bit, or is my heart steadfast in God? Am I content with my hypocrisies, or do I work to free my heart from the duplicity and falsehood that tie it down? Let us keep Hope in the Lord. He will renew.



## Pilgrimage to Dantiling



On 11 February 2023, the faithful of Odisha celebrated the feast of Our Lady of Lourders in Dantiling. People came from various parts of the states before one week ago, made tents and stayed there in order to celebrate the feast. We too had the joy of participating in the feast along with Fr. Alexis, Fr. Lalit, Fr. Golak and Bro. Vishal. A warm welcome was given by Rev. Fr. Kavi Raj, the parish priest of Dantiling to all the priests, religious and people gathered in the Feast place . Rt. Rev. Sarat Charandra Nayak, the bishop of Berampher diocese and Rt. Rev. Niranjan Sual Singh, bishop of Sambalpur diocese were present to witness the celebration. Everyone proceeded for Mass in procession towards the grotto on the hill top. A short Homily was given by Bishop Sarat Chandra Nayak to all the priest, religious and Faithful based on the Bible and Sacrament.

The feast was concluded with the Holy Rosary praying in procession and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

- Fr. Robert Joshi ssc

## The Republic Day Celebration in St. Damien Seminary



He welcomed everyone and invited the chief guest to hoist the national flag and asked us to pay our respect to the flag with the national anthem. As soon as the flag was hoisted we began singing the national anthem with deep reverence. A speech was given by the chief guest on "India is a country that has many religions but one mind and one life with all in one motherland"

Christodas also delivered a brief speech on the republic day. Then we distributed sweets and wished each other and concluded our celebration. Republic Day is one of the three national festivals of our country, and it is the day that reminds us of the importance of our Republic. It is a Gazetted Public Holiday in India, and people all over India celebrate republic day with a great spirit of patriotism and joy.

*- Pankaj (Second Year Candidate)*

26th January 1950 is a red-letter day in Indian history. On this day, India became the Sovereign, Democratic, Republic. Since then, 26th January is celebrated as Republic Day every year all over India. We had a grand and splendid celebration of the Republic Day in our SDS community. It was a great day for us. It was a Sunday. A week in advance we started our preparations with the parade and speeches. On the 25th evening we gathered and decorated the ground with flowers, pots, and rangoli on the ground with coloured powder. While working we enjoyed by singing and discussing about Republic Day. We also we remembered our freedom fighters. As it was growing dark our formators came and helped us and all of us worked together and decorated. And we prepared ourselves for the 26th January.

The next day early in the morning we prepared ourselves for the Holy Mass. We started our day with the morning prayer and the Mass was celebrated by Fr. Premanand Singh. In his sermon he mentioned about the Republic day and talked about how the freedom fighters gave their lives for the country. Soon after the Mass, we gathered around the national flag. Our chief guest for the republic day celebration was our teacher Mrs. Prescilla. We welcomed her with the parade which was led by Reehan.



## EUCHARISTIC CELEBRATION FOR THE PARISH YOUTH LEADERS

As you age and grow in your faith, you will have a deeper spiritual understanding of the Eucharistic Celebration unravel for you. In other words like a cabbage, when you peel away the first layer you will see a new layer and when you peel that one away yet another will be revealed. For now let us embark on this little journey of understanding the basics so that you can have a deeper appreciation for what takes place when you are in Church on Sunday.

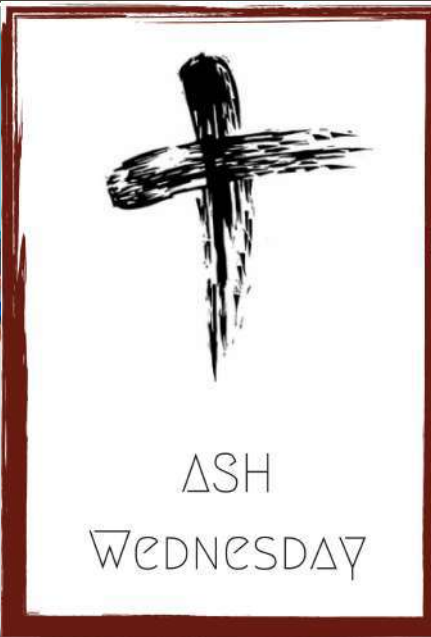
So let us first begin with what it means; Eucharist actually means 'Thanksgiving' in other words we celebrate by giving thanks to God our Father for His undying love for us and to thank him for giving us Jesus. In addition, the Eucharistic Celebration is also a solemn reminder of the sacrifice of Jesus who died for us on the cross to take away our sins, rose from the dead and who now lives with our Father in heaven and in our hearts. Now here is something to remember and keep close to your heart. God so loved the world, he gave us his only begotten Son Jesus Christ. And Jesus loved us so much that He could not bear to leave us completely alone. So being the Son of God, he instituted (provided) a way to be with us always. By giving us His real body which takes the appearance of the bread (Communion Host) we offer at the altar and His blood which takes the appearance of the wine we offer at the altar. Jesus lovingly shares this truth with us; "The man who eats My Flesh and drinks My Blood remains in me and I in him. Just as the Father Who has sent Me to feed you, so the man who eats Me will have life because of Me."



*after the Eucharistic Celebration, we had Youth Meeting. we discussed on "Youth and Church Development".*



## Ash Wednesday : PRAYING, FASTING, ALMSGIVING



## A Memorable Visit to Mysuru



The very word 'picnic' brings joy to our hearts. It makes us forget not only our worries for a few hours but also gives us recreation and change from the monotony of our daily routine.

This year, as a community we decided to go to Mysuru for picnic on 21st January. It was a fine winter day. We set out early in the morning by bus. We enjoyed the cool morning air. It was very refreshing. We sang songs together as the bus proceeded. We carried some snacks and water along with us.

As soon as we landed in Mysuru, a city 160 Kms from Bangalore, we got off the bus, we climbed a very beautiful hill to visit the Chamundeswari Hill. On the top of the hill Chamundeswari Temple is located. It was very nice to see a very huge Temple which is made of big stones. We clicked many pictures around the temple. Then we moved from there to the Shukhavana parrot's zoo. There we saw many types of parrots from many countries. It was very enjoyable to hear the charming sound of the parrots.

Then we started our journey to the Mysuru Palace. Upon reaching the palace we had lunch in the bus. After having our lunch, we moved to the Palace. Before we entered, we were asked to remove our shoes and sleepers. We entered the Palace and saw the three entrance gates - in the east, west and south. Mysuru Palace is also known as Ambavilas Palace. It was constructed using grey granite and the domes were made of pink-coloured marble.

We saw the picture of Maharaja Krishna Raja Wodeyar who built the Palace. And also, we saw the golden chariot, King's courtier, the garden, the silver chair, etc. We took some pictures there. It was very difficult to come out of the temple because the visitors were many. It was wonderful to visit a historical place.

Next, we went to St. Philomena's Cathedral. As soon as we reached the Cathedral, we clicked a group photo. Then we entered the Chapel to pray. We saw many people from other religions praying so we felt very good. We also visited the grotto of Mother Mary in the Cathedral premises and prayed for a while. Next to the Cathedral we also saw many types of flowers and hedges that were made with wonderful decorations. Then we went to Brindavana park. It was evening refreshing air and cold weather that was creating a very nice moment.

After spending our time in the historical places, it was growing dark when we proceeded back towards our Seminary. It gave us relief from all the worries of the world. Then we began our daily routine with a fresh body and mind. It's an unforgettable and Wonderful memory.



- Sanjeet ( Second Year Candidate)

## 1st March Birth of Good Father Mary Joseph Coudrin

Keeping lent in mind we both the Fathers and me planned out for the day we would celebrate the feast of Our Founder Father Josheph Coudrin at our Coudrin Niwas inviting our parishners. We decided to keep it as simple as possible. As per plan, we called people to do Rosary outside our house in the evening. There had been a little bit decoration at the portico where girls from Ludru Mandli arranged statue of Mother Mary of Velankanni and both sides of the statue we kept pictures of good mother and good father with flowers in front of images. Time was appointed at 6 o'clock to gether in front of the house. However, prayer didn't start at appointed time. Anyway, it usually happens anywhere in the village context. Before we commence the rosary, fr. Subal came forward to our front to initiated us into mood of prayer and worship with some basic information of how things and situations were in time when father Coudrin started the congregation of sacred hearts of Jesus and Mary.



Normally, daily rosary in the church we do without saying any intention for each dicade of Rosary but for very special occasion of feast of Our Founder, father said to prayer leader to say intentions for each dicade, so, this is how we began our program. All were really happy to come to our Niwas and pray for everybody and especially for our congregation for its faithfulness to whatever doing for society and its people.

At the end of all five decades of Rosary, we three of us both fathers and I stood before people and read the Gospel passage from st. Matthew's. After that, as we sung Salve Regina father discribed the fact that the Mother Mary of Peace is invoked before we start any mission of our congregation and She is always alongwith us whenever we go for any mission. So, people really felt so nice to know and hear us singing the Salve Regina.

We also at the end on behalf of congregation thanked them for being ready to come over to us participating in the celebration of the feast of of Our Founder. And we had also prepared something like snakes for all who came to take part in it. There were Sevobundiya we had bought and watermelon juice which together three of us had made. Everybody enjoyed drinking watermelon juice and, in fact, especially three of us really happy that everything went well and fine without any disturbance to plan for celebration of the feast day.



By: Sandeep Lugun ( Regent)

## Daily Bible Class For The Youths

We have initiated to teach Bible to the young people in the church so that they may grow in their relationship with the Lord which will prepare them to serve Christ in all they do. As a result, this will nurture the congregation and allow the church to flourish. Ultimately, we are helping youth to grow spiritually in their formative years that will equip them to make an impact for Christ both now and in their future.



By *Fr. Robert Joshi ssc*

## Sharing our family spirit

After several months of getting to know and enjoying the Bengali culture in Kolkata, last month I had the pleasure of travelling to visit our ssc communities around the country.

On the 20th of January, Father Felipe and I took a train to Bhubaneswar. There we had the opportunity to celebrate the annual DSDI feast, and to share the joy and excitement of the children who had come to phulnakhara. During those days, we had the formation meeting of the fourth stage, organised by Father Felipe. Br. Vishal, Br. Dhildar and I had a day to pray together and share our joys and worries in this year.



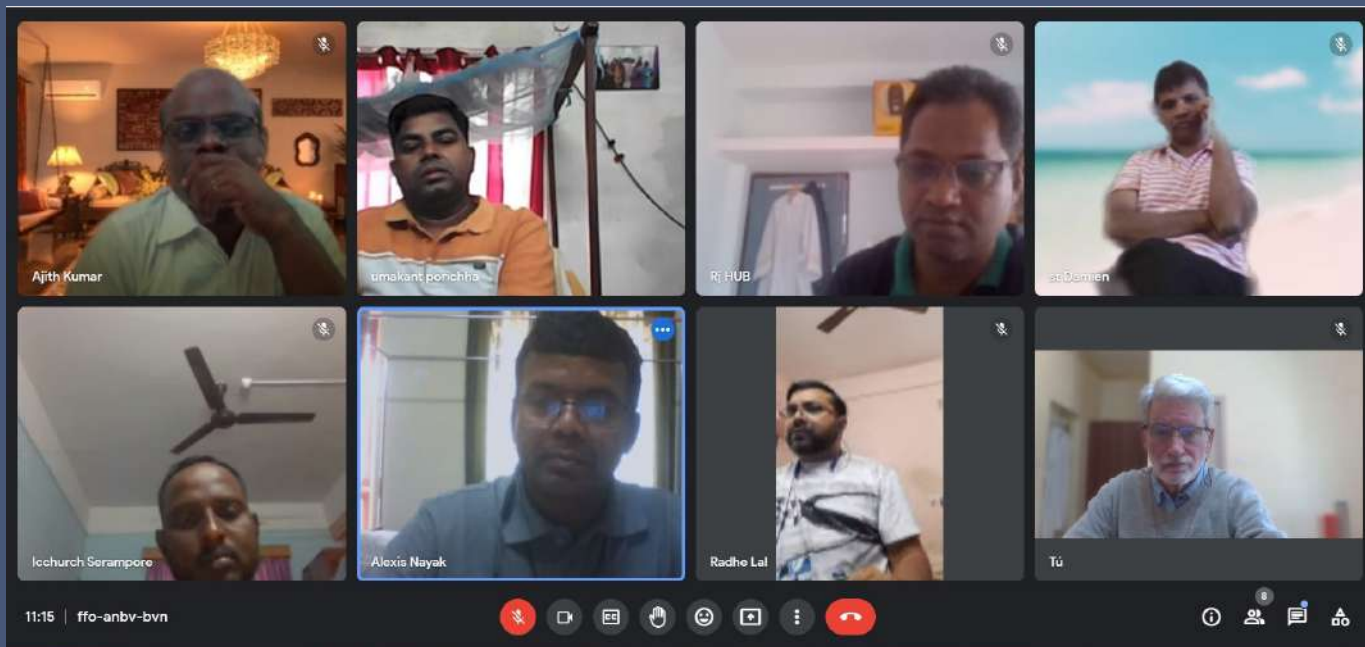
Afterwards, I visited the community of Choudwar, where I played cricket for the first time, together with the boys from the hostel (it was fun, but I should train more often...). In Bhubaneswar I also had the opportunity to meet the community of our ssc sisters. With the help of Father Tieshwar we arrived in Ludru, in time for the parish feast of Don Bosco. We were able to use the three days there to visit several villages in the area, as well as visit Mohana and the tomb of the famous Fr. Valerian Guemes, among other activities. Finally, we made a last trip to Bangalore to visit our seminary. Those were nice days, where we enjoyed the Quiet life of a formation house and enjoyed the times of prayer and sport (as I was in bad physical shape after several months in Calcutta).

In Bangalore I was blessed to celebrate my birthday in the company of the brothers and the students. I am particularly grateful for the hospitality of the brothers during this time. During these weeks I have also been able to enjoy some visits for tourism and leisure time shared with the brothers. I am returning to Calcutta with a deeper knowledge of the brothers and the region. It has been a pleasure to discover in our houses the family spirit that is characteristic of our charism. It has also helped me to get to know and become more interested in the society and culture of this country. I return to my life in my dear community of Dum Dum with gratitude and a desire to make the most of the last months of my experience in India.



Shot on OnePlus  
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# LOCAL SUPERIORS MEETING



On Saturday March 4, the anniversary of the priestly ordination of the Good Father, a meeting of the local superiors of the Region took place. The meeting was online and the participants were: Umakant Porichha (Dum Dum), Arul Esthakiyan (Serampore), Felipe Lazcano (Dangadighila), Subal Nayak (Ludru, who joined the meeting at 10 am), Alexis Nayak (DSDI), Ajith Kumar (BBSR), Balakrishna Singh (Bangalore), and Radhelal Jatwar (as a member of the Regional Government).

The meeting began at 9:15 am, a quarter of an hour late, with a short prayer animated by Umakant, coordinator of the Ongoing Formation Commission. Likewise, Uma addressed a few introductory words recalling the importance of constant renewal in our religious life, alluding to the document *Perfectae Caritatis* (Vatican II), the process of synodality that we are experiencing today in the Church, as well as the Vision Statement and proposals for 2022-25 of the last Regional Assembly. Alexis asked the question about what the objectives were for this meeting and the answer was that this meeting of local superiors aims to have a space to share among the superiors how this service is being carried out, learning from each other, reinforcing communion and also having a moment for the formation of the superiors in their task.

## The sharing

Thus, the participants began to share how they feel in this service of authority. The most repeated feeling was that they are happy, although concerns were also expressed about the attitudes of some brothers, about the difficulties that arise in the pastoral service, because of fatigue, or because of having to spend much time outside the community.

For superiors it is a blessing when:

- The brothers are responsible, they carry out the various tasks helping each other, looking for how to do it better, with new initiatives.
- There is mutual appreciation between brothers.
- In brothers there is maturity to accept limitations without grumbling and just doing what needs to be done.
- When energy is transmitted from one to another.
- The community also takes care of the superior.

On the other hand, the challenges that were pointed out were:

- The fatigue (physical and psychological) of being attentive to everyone in the community.
- Difficulties in communication, the lack of dialogue, of explanations, when the brothers do not share their interiority.
- There is no sufficient information of what is to be done or being done.



- The lack of understanding of reality and the negative impact that the difficulties that come from pastoral care have, because the plans cannot be carried out as desired.

- The lack of interest in some brothers, some kind of indifference, lack of willingness to be more committed to the community and its PARL.

After a short break, the topic of how communion and mission are being encouraged in the local communities was taken up. These are some of the practices that were discussed:

- The importance of the elaboration of the PARL of the community, as a moment of communion and deepening in our mission, having the PARL as a support for community life.

- Doing first yourself, the superior, what you have to ask the brothers; "When I do it first, I can ask the brothers to do it too."

- Community meetings, which are weekly in one community, every two weeks in other communities and monthly in others. It was recalled that in the last Canonical Visit of the General Government it was recommended that they go at least every two weeks.

- In addition to these "official" community meeting moments, other informal moments are used to share information, comment, etc... Information that goes both ways, reciprocal, from the superior to the community and from the community to the superior.

- The documents that are received from the General Government, or from the Province or from the Regional Government are used to have a common reflection and sharing.

- Having an agenda for community meetings, which the brothers receive in advance, is a good help.

- The moments of "faith sharing" are also a good element for the animation of the community, as well as ensuring community moments of prayer.

- Everything said so far is also valid for the animation of the community mission. It was recalled that the main agent of the mission is the local community and that the witness of communion and fraternity is an essential part of this mission.

- The superiors also commented on the availability that should characterize our communities, inserted in a local Church, for all kinds of help that are asked of us. Likewise, to encourage this availability towards our scc sisters.

### The talk about the role of the Local Superior

With these reflections the morning ended, reconnecting at 3 pm to have a talk with our brother Camille Sapu scc, Provincial Superior of Africa, on "The role of the local Superior". Camille offered his own experience as a superior and, with very realistic observations, he reflected on the role of the local community, the qualities of the local superior, synodality in the community and some concluding reflections.

Camille's presentation was highly valued, for his way of presenting the ideas and for being very much down-to-earth, at the same time that he transmitted scc values and style.

Finally, an evaluation of the meeting was made, which in general terms is considered positive and is appreciated and suggestions for future meetings were given.



*BY- FR. LAZCANO FELIPE F. SSCC .*

## DSDI News in Brief



The invited guests of honor delivered their messages to the DSDI staff members, the children/students and to all our guests emphasizing on the self-giving love and service of St. Damien of Molokai to the outcasts and to carry out his spirit of humanity and service among the poor and the marginalized in our society today. The guests of honor also distributed certificates of merit and mementos of achievement to students who had achieved in essay, eloquence and drawing competitions.

The height of the day's celebration was the presentation of cultural and entertainment programs. The children/students from each Non-formal Education Free Tuition Centre put up excellent skits, dances and sings based on the themes of prevailing social issues in our society and in our world today. The children/students amazed the imagination of the audience and enthralled them with their beautiful entertainment programs and won the hearts of them all.

DSDI Annual Fest 2022 – 2023:

Damien Social Development Institute (DSDI) Annual Fest was celebrated in the DSDI campus on January 22, 2023. It was a platform where the DSDI family came together for a day of celebration, particularly coming together of students of 13 Non-formal Education Free Tuition Centres in different urban slums, urban villages and in urban leprosy colonies run by DSDI.

In order to grace the occasion and to motivate and encourage the little children/students, the invited guests were the local Member of Legislative Assembly Sj. Susanta Kumar Rout, the local Corporator Sj. Sukumar Sahoo, Mr. Sannyashai Kumar Behera, OAS - joint secretary for the disability and social security, Government of Odisha, Mrs. Arati Mahala - chairperson of International Human Right Protection Council, Prof. Prabhakar Das - President of Kharvel Estate Development Society and Fr. Ajith Kumar - Regional Superior. Invited guests to the celebration were also the friends of DSDI and the leadership committees of different leprosy colonies.

The invited dignitaries inaugurated the Annual Fest by lighting the lamps and by garlanding the portrait of St. Damien of Molokai as a sign of respect.



*By- Fr. Alexis Nayak ssc*

## Networking Project: Blood Donation Camp

A blood donation camp was organized by the International Human Rights Protection Council (IHRPC), Odisha State Board in partnership with Damien Social Development Institute (DSDI) in Gopabandhu Smruti Sansad, Bhubaneswar on 5th February 2023. There were 37 donors who donated their blood for the noble of cause of “saving life”.

The blood donation camp was graced by Dr. Sachidananda Mohanty, the Director of Medical Education and Training - Government of Odisha, and Dr. Kalyan Kumar Sarkar, the Director of Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Hospital Blood Bank, Bhubaneswar.

The purpose of organizing the blood donation camp was to preserve the blood in the blood bank in order to save the lives of the poor and vulnerable patients who do not have access to receive blood when they are in need. The bags of blood collected have been kept in the custody of BMC Hospital Blood Bank in Bhubaneswar with condition that the priority is to be given to the poor when they need blood. The patients in need of blood can contact the chair-person of the IHRPC, Odisha, who will ensure that the needed blood for the patient(s) is made available. The name of the organization, the name of the chair-person and the contact number of the chair-person has been registered in the BMC Hospital Blood Bank. We thank our donors who generously came forward to donate their blood to save lives.



*By. Fr. Alexis Nayak ssc*

## Free Eye Check-up Camp at Damien Clinic (Choudwar)



A free eye check-up camp was held at Damien Clinic in Coudrin Chhatrabas campus in Choudwar on February 28, 2023. The eye check-up camp had been organized in networking with Modern Eye Care Super Speciality Hospital, Cuttack. A team of a doctor, a nurse and two medical assistants from the hospital carried out the free eye check-up camp. There were 28 patients from the Trinath leprosy colony and from the local area benefited from the free eye treatment provided by the medical team of the hospital.



*BY- Fr. Alexis ssc*

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

**March**

26

Fr. Robert Joshi SSCC



*Pray for the deceased*



Sister María Paulina Dulanto  
(Paraguay)



Sister Eleanor Marie Cyr  
(Pacific-U.S.A.)

Fr. Irawan RIP



Kindly share the News letter with Brothers in community.

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