

# BHARAT KI JEEWAN

## Cordial Visit to St. Damien Church, DumDum

On 18th of September 2022, St. Damien of Molokai Church was glad to receive two delegates from Rome from the General Government. Damienities welcomed Father Thomas and Father Fernando of Indonesia and Spain respectively, to St. Damien of Molokai Church, Dum- Dum. Coming all the way from Rome Frs. Thomas and Fernando were escorted into the Chapel with a welcome dance performed by the youth and a traditional adivasi (tribal) welcome by our Mahila Sangh (Ladies Group) of our church.



The seniors garlanded them and they prayed with us and for us in a beautiful and prayerful Eucharistic Celebration. Under the guidance of our Parish Priest Fr. Umakant and Fr. Arockia all the fathers including Fr. Ajith were given a warm welcome in the Chapel and a felicitation later on at the St. Mary's School hall. Signifying Welcome, Love and Hospitality three Uttariyas (scarves) were draped over their shoulders. For our two guests and mentors replicas of the Taj Mahal symbolizing love and India were presented. The interactive session, next, was fruitfully conducted by Mr. John Mondal and Mr. Ivor Smith and a great deal of each others culture was shared between hosts and guests.

After the interaction with the delegates the Cultural dance followed by our energetic and enthusiastic church youth. With chicken and fish, chutney and rosogollas (Indian sweets and dishes) we couldn't have asked for more! With thanks to all members and Fr. Umakant for organizing the memorable day, we ended the program with a beautiful memory to cherish for many days to come.



- Mr. Ivor Smith

### **Towards Change: Popular Mission Retreat.**

What comes to your mind when you hear “Magic”? Flying brooms, wands, spells and beams; in short Harry Potter, right? But the parishioners of The Church of Immaculate Conception, Serampore witnessed AND lived in a magical world which neither had wands nor “AbraKaDabra”; only the Words of God. Wondering how? Through the Popular Mission Retreat.

Popular Mission Retreat is conducted once in 15 years by the Vincentian Priests from the famous Retreat centers of Pota in Kerala and one in Jalalkhali. This Retreat takes the faithful through the love, mercy and forgiveness of the good Lord. Through the spreading of the Word of God and various sessions, we are drawn closer to the presence of God and sacramental life.





The Popular Mission Retreat, in our Parish, started on 28th August to renew the souls and the spirituality of our parishioners. It ended on the 2nd of September with a “Fellowship Meal” which gave rise to the spirits of being a family within all of us. Each day was a very new experience, so different from each other.



This Retreat had a very fun activity for the kids and youths- writing as many Bible verses as possible and the winners were awarded accordingly, on the last day; namely, John Apurba Das (1st), Eliza Ghosh (2nd) And Carmela Neha Mallick (3rd). Everyday started with a unit-wise procession into the Church, followed by the Holy Eucharistic celebration and then the preaching of God’s Word.

I, on behalf of the entire “Family” of the Immaculate Conception of

B. V. M, would like to thank our dear Parish Priest in charge, Rev. Fr. Arul Tyaagraj for taking this much needed initiative to reform our Parish, inside-out. Special mention of Fr. Xavier Dilip Kumar VC, Fr. Abraham VC and Fr. Cyril VC must be made, for they were the magicians of this magical journey.

My heartfelt gratitude to these three Fathers for their time and effort in shaping our Parish and rebuilding us as “One”. These six days were truly miraculous which completely cleansed us from within and made us forgive one another. Let me tell you, 2nd of September was not the end but the beginning of our lives as new creations in Christ.



As the verse says, “In Christ, you are a new creation; the old is gone, the new has come” – 2 Cor 5: 17



Praying to God that we keep living our lives in the graces of God and not let go of what we got.

- ELIZA GHOSH



## GOD'S PROGRAM MAKES EVERYONE HAPPY

*"Walking together as a Region with the Holy Spirit"*

*"Keep your face always toward the sunlight, and the shadows will fall behind you."*

Life becomes beautiful and pleasant, when we learn to understand it and respect it to the end. But when we are involved in ourselves alone then we are lost and do not know where we come from. We are pleased and happy to have received our Provincial Superior, **Fr. Lane Akiona** in the month of June, on 17 and 18, 2022. We were lucky to have him by the grace of God who guided us during our **Regional Assembly** together with a Jesuit priest, **Fr. Jayaraj**. In this assembly, our SSCC brothers came to review, discuss and plan about the growth of the Indian Region, how we can take it forward and contribute the spirit for it. We also celebrated the feast of the Sacred Hearts together with the sisters after the assembly, we enjoyed the food together.



A few weeks after the assembly, **Fr. Felipe** and **Brother Sushant** Badaseth went to Kunjabon. Brother Sushant went on a retreat before entering the



new life of our SSCC family as a professed brother. Brother Sushant made his **first profession** on the feast of Our Lady Queen of Peace, July 9. This celebration was also joined by his relatives who prayed for him and wished him a good and bright future in the SSCC Congregation as well as fathers and sisters from different neighboring religious communities who also joined this celebration. After Mass we celebrated and ate together. In the month of August, **Fr. Raja** went to visit his family and returned in September. On August 15 we celebrated two big holidays: the Assumption of Mary and Independence Day, where some people from Badabagan joined for mass and the parents of our Play School children gathered to raise the flag. **Sr. Anjaleen**, Fatima Sister, led this memorable day by raising the national flag and gave a beautiful and inspiring message about freedom. We were silent for a while and then we remembered our Indian fighters who sacrificed their lives for the independence of our India.





After two months of preparation for the comprehensive exam, **Vishal** and **Dildhar** took the exam on August 25 and 26. After completing the comprehensive exam, the brothers began their pastoral course at Morning Star College.

In the community we had a retreat day given by **Fr. Neeraj Toppo**, Morning Star University. Normally we have one retreat day a month.

As for the **canonical visitation**, **Fathers Thomas** and **Fernando** came to India to meet the brothers. We also received brother **Juande** in India to share his life with us. The brothers and

sisters welcomed him and thanked him for his life in India. Frs. Thomas and Fernando, after having met with different communities, returned to the community of Dangadighila.

Here in Dangadighila the meeting of **local Superiors** took place, and later the **Assembly** that concluded the canonical visit. In this meeting the General Councilors gave their evaluation on the Region of India, with some suggestions, opinions to move forward and improve as members of the SSCC Congregation.



After having finished this fraternal meeting, we had a time to share our life and food together and then dance. We were all happy and enjoyed the day. May God always guide us on our path and unite us as one family!

**By Dildhar (George) Jatwar ssc**



## Ludru Community

The canonical visit was an important event announced ahead to the communities concerned. The Ludru community waited for the visit in prayer and preparation. The canonical visit was a moment of grace for us and the faithful who waited with faith in their heart. The benefit of this visit depended, as far as I believe, on the attitude and mental preparation of every individual. It was a time to review one's own life- past and present. It provided an occasion to evaluate and review our community project. It enabled the visitors to know each one of us and our life and our mission.

### Community experience:

The visit was a moment of grace to the community. It was a moment to review our personal life, community life, prayer life and our missions in the parish and in the society. The Councillors helped us to see the will of God and to revitalise our religious life and to strengthen our interpersonal relationships in the community. People also had good time with the Frs. Fernando and Thomas. We had a small program in the evening on behalf of this special occasion.





# LUDRU

## PASTORAL ACTIVITIES





## Blessing Prayer Room

One of our neighbors built a prayer room on their house's terrace. We the members of the Dangadhingilla community, Kolkata was invited to pray along with other Christian neighbors.

The new room was blessed by Fr. Felipe ss.cc, the leader of our community. Br. Vishal ss.cc did translation service and gave a talk on Mother Mary. After the blessing, we prayed rosary that was followed by a fellowship meal.

The prayer room could be convenient for the people of this area to come together and pray. We appreciate Mr. Volter's family for this wonderful idea of setting aside the special place to communicate with God. May God bless his family and the people around as they journey in their Christian faith.



- Nahashon kulandai. SSCC



## The General Councilors' Canonical Visit to DSDI

The General Councilors Fr. Fernando and Fr. Thomas made their canonical visitation to Damien Social Development Institute (DSDI) from September 26 – 28, 2022. The DSDI community both in Phulnakhara and in



Choudwar was happy to welcome them in our traditional Indian way (Light, tilak and garland). Although it was the second time for Fr. Fernando to visit DSDI, it was the first time for Fr. Thomas who perhaps enjoyed the Indian way of being welcomed.

During their three days of canonical visitation to DSDI, Fr. Fernando and Fr. Thomas visited our ministries in the field, such as, leprosy colonies, Damien leprosy clinics, Aymer

Weaving Centre, Coudrin hostel for college-going students, and Non-formal Education Tuition centers. In each of these ministry places, they were warmly welcomed by people and students/children. Particularly, our students/children in non-formal education tuition centers welcomed them by singing and dancing animated by their teachers. Both Fr. Fernando and Fr. Thomas interacted with the students/children and motivated them on the importance of education and learning.

They also interacted with our leprosy patients in colonies, with the Damien leprosy clinic paramedical worker, and with the supervisor of Aymer Weaving Centre. As the visitation to DSDI was first time for Fr. Thomas, a day was set aside for the visitors to visit the historical Sun Temple in Konark and the city of Puri – the seat of Lord Jagannath, along the Bay of Bengal.

Aside from visiting the field ministries of DSDI, Fr. Fernando and Fr. Thomas also participated in our community life. They listened to each of us and our concerns and interacted with us with much fraternal interest and care.

They appreciated us, encouraged us and invited us to better live our religious life as Sacred Hearts and to better witness it through our ministries among the poor and marginalized. In their interaction with us, we felt listened to! We felt their fraternity with us! We thank Fr. Fernando and Fr. Thomas for their visitation to DSDI!



**Lalit Toppo**



## *Life in St. Damien Seminary in Bangalore*

Immense joy and happiness filled our hearts as thirteen new candidates were welcomed into our St. Damien Seminary (SDS) community on the feast day of Blessed Estaquio. This year God has been so gracious to our community because he sent new candidates who are all gifted with varieties of talents and gifts. All these brothers hail from different states such as Orissa, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh and Sikkim. We also have six second year candidates and two philosophy students in our community. We are also happy for the gift of Fr. Arockia SS.CC to our community.

We had a short and wonderful visit of general councillors Fr. Thomas SS.CC and Fr. Fernando SS.CC to our community on 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2022. Their presence added newness to our SDS community. Both general councillors had interaction with our candidates and presented about our SS.CC presence around the world. In the presentation fathers made us aware of our SS.CC ministerial places where the Congregation is working for the poor and the marginalized sections. We also had an opportunity to have a glimpse of places that are blessed with our SS.CC presence where our brothers and sisters are rendering their valuable services among the weaker sections of the backward classes. Our candidates also came to know about our indefatigable SS.CC secular branch brothers and sisters who are also actively collaborating in the mission of the Congregation. We celebrated the presence of the councillors amidst us with a colourful cultural programme on 21<sup>st</sup> September under the guidance of Fr. Premanand, SS.CC, the superior and Fr. Sujay SS.CC., Our brothers brought liveliness to the programme with their colourful dances and with a thought-provoking mime. With this programme, we also gave farewell to Fr Sumit SS.CC and welcomed Fr. Arockia SS.CC into our community.



As India celebrated Diwali festival, our community also had a meaningful celebration on 24<sup>th</sup> October, 2022. Fr. Arockia SS.CC took a lead to have this feast in which we celebrated Christ as the Light of the World. In the evening we gathered in front of the chapel and brought light to our campus by lighting traditional earthen lamps which brought the mood of Diwali celebration. Around at 7.30 pm we started our prayer service with a procession by holding lighted candles in our hands and entered into the basketball ground where our brothers beautifully arranged the Paschal candle which was decorated with colourful flowers. Then our brothers created prayerful atmosphere by chanting a *bhajan* with their melodious voices which led all of us into the presence of the Lord. After this, Fr. Arockia SS.CC gave a short message reflecting Christ as the Light of the World, who dispels the darkness of the world with his Light and brings light into the lives of people of God. After few minutes of silence, we again lit our candles from the burning Paschal candle and placed them around the paschal candle with prayerful gestures. Then we concluded the celebration of Light with “Our Father” by holding our hands together. Later we all had a festive agape. The brothers enjoyed the day with their vibrant dances with all their delightful steps.

- Raju (Prenovice)



# A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW CANDIDATES



**Ajay**



**Thomas**



**Laxmikanta**



**Kartik**



**Sonal**



**Ravindra**



**Rubeen**



**Reehan**



**Raj Robertson**



**Ashish**



**Ashish**



**Raju**



**John**





## OUR LIFE

### Daily Life

Much of the Our life revolves around people. There are no two days that are the same, but here is a glimpse of what a typical day could look like. We begin the day with morning prayer and Mass, and perhaps some office work. In the afternoon, we make visit. Then in the evening, after more prayer and supper, there is almost always some kind of meeting or prayer service.

### Mass

The Mass is “the source and summit of the Christian life.” The Church encourages us to celebrate mass daily, even if the the faithful are not present. It is that act of Christ and the church in which we fulfill our primary function.

### Every Day is Different

We accompany people in very dramatic moments of their lives: the birth of a child, a wedding engagement, or even death. There is a saying, “What a person goes through in a lifetime, a priest goes through in a day.” It’s important for us to maintain a healthy prayer life to sustain ourselves in the midst of these emotional events.

### Always On Call

Being a Consecrated Religious is not a 6:00am – 5:00pm job. Parishes / Formation/ Other Religious Ministries are not businesses with office hours. We are Sacred Hearts and always present. We are preeminently man of sacrifice. We are called to be agents of mercy and compassion by bringing people to God and God to the people.





# PRIESTLY ORDINATION

## OF DEACON SURAJ KUMAR SONWANI

Blessings of  
the Sacred  
Hearts of  
Jesus and  
Mary be upon  
you we pray

As you walk  
the journey of  
life in the Holy  
Priesthood of  
Christ

Our love, and  
prayers will  
follow you

Our blessings  
will support  
you

May you  
remain faithful  
to Him forever  
and be a  
blessing to all.



**Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary**

"I APPOINTED YOU A PROPHET TO THE NATIONS" JER.1:5

**Priestly Ordination**  
St. Peter & Paul Church  
Malkharoda, Sakti  
16.11.2022

**First Thanksgiving Eucharist**  
St. Peter & Paul Church Malkharoda, Sakti  
17.11.2022




Deacon Suraj Sonwani ssc

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Rev./ Dear.....

With deep sentiments of love and profound gratitude to the Holy Trinity and Blessed Mother Mary, I together with my family members, relatives and Congregation, Cordially invite you to thank and glorify the Lord and Share my joy and happiness on the occasion of my **Priestly Ordination** to be conferred by **His Lordship Victor Henry Thakur, Archbishop Of Raipur ArchDiocese** and to my **First Thanksgiving Holy Eucharist.**

<p><b>Priestly Ordination:</b> Date : 16/11/2022 Time : 09:00 a.m. Place: St. Peter &amp; Paul Catholic Church Malkharoda, Sakti</p>	<p><b>First Thanksgiving Eucharist:</b> Date : 17/11/2022 Time : 10:00 a.m. Place: St. Peter &amp; Paul Catholic Church Malkharoda, Sakti</p>
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*Sincere Thanks for your love, prayer, support, concern and encouragement.*

***Dn. Suraj Kumar Sonwani***  
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Email: surajsscc@gmail.com



# CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST OF LUCK

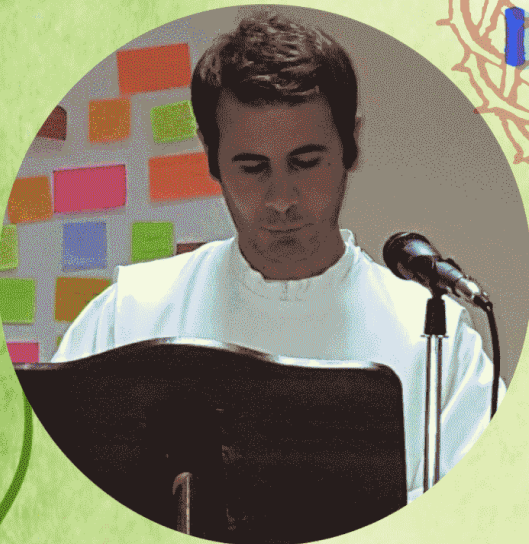


Sandeep Jugun  
Ministry at Ludru Parish



Suman Judu  
Ministry at Serampur Parish

## REGENT BROTHERS IN MINISTRY



Brother Juande ss.cc.  
Ministry at Dumdum Parish



Suraj Joshi  
Ministry at DSDT





# MONTH OF NOVEMBER



7 - 11<sup>th</sup> REGIONAL RETREAT



16 - 17<sup>th</sup> PRIESTLY  
ORDINATION AND FIRST  
MASS OF DEACON SURAJ  
KUMAR SONWANI



8<sup>th</sup> November, 1767- Birth of  
Good Mother



23<sup>rd</sup> November 1834- Death  
Anniversary of Good Mother

