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HAPPY FEAST OF PENTECOST!

We are like the apostles afraid and behind closed doors due to Covid 19. There is a similarity between the post resurrection experience of the apostles and our situation today. These days, daily we hear about death. A week ago, CRI (Conference of Religious India) local unit has reported that 168 priests and 116 religious sisters have died due to covid 19. It is scary but that does not stop us from witnessing our Christian love for our neighbours. There are various services rendered to the covid patients and the needy of our society, such as opening Covid Care Centers, food distributions, counselling the patients and quarantined family members, etc. The fear of Covid has not stopped the religious in India to be proactive at the desperate situation of people. With the power of the Holy Spirit, we are called to reach out to the suffering brethren of our society.

As repairers of the world, we are also called to do our part to repair the world affected with the deadly virus. The Region of India has committed to feed 200 covid patients who are placed at government Covid Care Center near Science City, Kolkata. In collaboration with KMWSC – a social ministry wing of Lorretto sisters, the Region of India is feeding these 200 Covid patients for a month. We wanted to do this to directly reach out to the needed patients affected by Covid - 19.

I also ask our communities to reach out to Covid 19 affected people in one way or other to express our charism of compassionate love. Therefore, I invite the communities to come up with some plans and projects to help covid patients and/or their families or to people whose lives have been affected by the impact of the Covid – 19 pandemic.

- **Ajith Kumar, SS.CC.**

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE TO THE SECOND WAVE OF COVID – 19

The first wave of Covid – 19 pandemic in 2020 brought about an immense economic distress in the lives of migrant workers, daily wage labourers and of the poor both in the urban cities and in the rural villages. The effect of lockdown after lockdown across the nation affected the lives and livelihood of these marginalized sectors of our society. Who can ever forget the images of exodus of migrant workers trekking hundreds and thousands of kilometres of highways and byways of the nation

returning to their homes in rural villages! Who can ever forget the images of buses, trains and planes bringing these migrants back to their homes in rural villages! There is no doubt that thousands died of the pandemic during the first wave of Covid – 19, but the worst affected were the migrant workers, the daily wage labourers and the poor of our nation. In response to the humanitarian needs caused by the impact of the first wave of Covid –



19, the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary carried out relief works and reached out to about 800 families with food ration, protective masks, sanitizers and financial assistance.

Once again, the second wave of Covid – 19 pandemic in 2021 has been ravaging the nation enormously. Not only millions of people are getting infected and getting treated, but also millions of patients are dying across India. According to the recent New York Times analysis of number of deaths caused by the second wave of the pandemic in India, it is estimated that 42 lakhs (4.2 millions) patients have died as of now. Such is the impact of the second wave of Covid – 19 on human lives. Again, the impact of the pandemic is not only on human lives (deaths), but also on the daily lives and livelihood of those in the margins of our society who have been left with no job and no income, and thus poverty and hunger. The lockdowns, which are necessary to contain the virus, have once again made their lives worse and economically very difficult to cope up with and to survive. To such economic distress and humanitarian



needs of people caused by the impact of the second wave of Covid – 19, the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary in India through its social wing “Damien Social Development Institute (DSDI)” is coordinating to carry out humanitarian relief works of food ration, protective masks and sanitizers, medical assistance, and other rehabilitation programs in places wherever we are serving. The Congregation is already going to feed 200 Covid patients in a Covid Care Centre in Kolkata in June. We thank the generous hearts and hands that contribute to this humanitarian service of the Congregation in India.

- **Alexis Nayak, SS.CC**

COVID-19 RELIEF WORK IN ST. DAMIEN OF MOLOKAI CHURCH

Every morning, in the Casa Santa Marta, Pope Francis dedicates his Mass to particular groups of people who are suffering the effects of the coronavirus pandemic. On 28th March, the Pope prayed for those



suffering from hunger because of the coronavirus pandemic.

"We're beginning to see people who

are hungry because they can't work. They may not have had a regular job, and from many other circumstances. We're beginning to see the aftermath that will come later. But it's beginning now. We pray for the families who are beginning to find themselves in need because of the pandemic". he parishioners of St. Damien of Molokai Church, Dum Dum are not exceptional for the coronavirus pandemic. The lock down in West Bengal is extended to May 15 and there is no guaranty that it will end after that. Many of our parishioners are working in private companies. Some are paid half salary and some can't travel for their work places due to the restrictions in the transportation. And many of them are affected by this deadly virus, by the grace of God they all are safe and recovering from it. Due to this outbreak many were forced to suffer from joblessness, poverty and foodlessness in the families. Many of them asked for help from the church but the church had no income in the last two months. Fr. Umakant brought the suffering situation of many to the parish notice. God was so gracious that some of our parishioners with their generous heart came forward to donate little dry rations for the people who are in need. Then St. Damien parish collected all the dry rations like Rice, Dal, Oil, Potato, Soya and Sault together and distributed to the people those who are in most need. We could not reach out to all the people but gave the importance to those who are really poor and suffering. And we are still getting many more requests from our parishioners, even from our neighbours who are near our residence. We also thank and pray for all the donors who came forward to help the needy.



Amid the suffering of the pandemic, Pope Francis said, “we meet the faces of so many brothers and sisters in difficulty. Let us not pass by, let us allow our hearts to be moved with compassion, and let us draw near.” He had dedicated much of his papacy to drawing attention to those living on society's margins, including the homeless, the poor and migrants.

- *Arockia, SS.CC*

Final Profession Celebration

“You did not choose me, but I chose you and
appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit” (Jn 15:16)



This was the theme of Brothers, Arockia Nahshon Kulandai, Arockia Vanathiyan, and Robert Joshi, on their perpetual profession which took place on 14th May 2021 in the Sacred Hearts Seminary, Dangadighila. The Holy Eucharist

was solemnly celebrated by Fr. Ajith Kumar Anthony Dass, SS.CC, the Regional superior and concelebrated by brothers from two neighbouring communities. Due to covid-19 protocols and restrictions it was a simple community celebration within the community with the brothers around. The family members, friends, relatives and many other faithful participated in the online live streaming ceremony. After the Gospel Reading the brothers were called by their names and they expressed their desire to dedicate their lives to God and His kingdom by making their perpetual profession in the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. Fr. Ajith in his homily spoke about the theme of the religious profession which is a gift of God and it a call for the sanctification. He also shared about to be chosen for the good of the Church and the whole human family. After the homily Fr. Ajith Kumar Anthony Dass ss.cc., the regional superior, the delegate of Fr. Herman Gomes ss.cc., the provincial US Province questioned the brothers on their readiness to dedicate themselves to God and to seek perfect charity, according to the rule and constitution of the Congregation. And then the brothers professed their vows his hands. The liturgy was well organized and a sense of solemnity and prayerful atmosphere was maintained by the brothers in the community throughout the celebration. Then the newly

perpetually professed brother Arockia Nahshon Kulandai ss.cc., proposed the vote of thanks, thanking everyone for their wishes, prayers and support. Then all the community members gathered together for a sumptuous meal after the solemn celebration.



- **Arockia, SS.CC**

Feast of St. Damien of Molokai in Bangalore Community



As fragrant days of sunny April passed by, we welcomed rainy gloom of May with lot of joy. We began the month with novena to St. Damien which brought spiritual atmosphere to our community. All seminarians began our preparations to celebrate our patron saint's feast with much zeal and happiness. Fr. Premanand, SS.CC with the help of Fr. Sumit, SS.CC. and Fr. Sujay, SS.CC. conducted solo singing and drawing competitions for seminarians. All brothers took active participation in all competitions. We were very glad to have judges from our neighbouring community. These competitions boosted seminarians' confidence. They even brought forth new singers and artists to our community. Seeing is believing. It is unbelievable to see our brothers' talents in their preparations for the feast day. Each one worked enthusiastically to add newness to the feast day with their preparations. Soon as feast was approaching, seminary campus shined colourfully with beautiful decoration everywhere.

The cool weather and prayerful atmosphere made us to quieten all our hearts to be more spiritual as days went on. Our eagerness increased more and more to celebrate feast day as novena to St. Damien came to an end on 9th day of this month. The freshness of the morning reminded us that we are on the

feast day of our patron St. Damien. We began the day with the morning prayer. All the seminarians felt deep spiritual solitude as Fr. Sujay, SS.CC led us into guided meditation. Then each member of our community kept themselves busy for the evening celebration. The much-awaited Eucharistic celebration began at 6 pm in the evening. Fr. Premanand, SS.CC. presided over the Eucharist as Fr. Sumit, SS.CC. and Fr. Sujay, SS.CC. concelebrated. He also offered Mass for the healing of our country from Covid. In



his homily father rector emphasized on virtues of our patron St. Damien. The self-sacrifice and selfless love of our patron towards his loving souls of lepers, inspired all brothers. All brothers added newness to the Eucharistic celebration with their sweet melodies. We all felt rejuvenated as we participated in the Eucharistic celebration.

This rejuvenation led all of us into the much-awaited program after the Mass. The brothers put up cultural program at 7:15 pm. Mr. Wilson and Ms. Wilson were our special guests on this feast. This blessed couple always ready to extend their hands in all our needs of our community. Boisterous souls of our St Damien Seminary brought liveliness to the colourful programme. They rocked stage with their delightful steps. The thought-provoking skit left every one of us what are our responsibilities towards



parents and humanity. Ms. Wilson. our guest, who also teaches English to our candidates, delivered a beautiful speech on St. Damien's life. She really inspired us with her spellbound words. Then, Fr.

Premanand, SS.CC made us understand the real meaning of self-sacrifice, and encouraged us to be zealous missionaries like St. Damien. Every one enjoyed program fully and the entire program gave us much joy and entertainment. After that everyone enjoyed the festive agape.

- **Raju (First Year Philosophy)**

Diaconate Ordination Celebration



The diaconate ordination of Brothers. Arockia Vanathiyan ss.cc., and Robert Joshi ss.cc., took place on 15th May 2021 in the Sacred Hearts Seminary, Dangadighila near Barrackpore. The Holy Eucharist was solemnly celebrated by His Grace Mos. Rev, Thomas D'Souza, and concelebrated by Fr. Ajith Kumar Anthony Dass ss.cc, the Regional superior of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, Fr. Vanathu Raja and few other priests from the community. Due to covid-19 protocols the guests and many other faithful participated in the online

live streaming ceremony. After the Gospel Reading the Regional superior presented the brothers to Archbishop to ordain them for the service of Deacons. The Archbishop in his homily spoke about the office of Deacons and the meaning and the importance of celibacy in the Church. After the homily the brothers were examined by the Archbishop of their worthiness. Then the brothers were blessed by the Arch bishop by the laying of hands and with the prayer of consecration. Then the newly ordained Deacons concelebrated the rest of the Eucharist with the Archbishop and the other priests. The liturgy was well organized and a sense of solemnity and prayerful atmosphere was maintained by the brothers in the community throughout the celebration. After the final Blessings Fr. Ajith kumar Anthony Dass felicitated the Archbishop and Fr. Vanathu Raja with a shawl. Then the newly ordained, Deacon. Arockia Vanathiyan ss.cc. proposed the vote of thanks, Thanking everyone for their wishes, prayers and support. Then all the community members gathered with the Archbishop for a sumptuous meal after the solemn celebration.



- **Arockia, SS.CC.**