



BHARAT KI JEEWAN

SSCC INDIA (BROTHERS)

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Religious in a Slippery Ground

‘Let your eyes look directly forward, and your gaze be straight before you’. Prov (4:25)



The Brothers in the Region of India had five days of annual retreat on 19 to 23 October at Dangadighila. Brothers from the Sacred Hearts Community, St. Damien Pastoral Community and

Immaculate Conception Pastoral Community joined together for the Retreat. It was unfortunate that Brothers from Ludru, Bhubaneswar and Bangalore Community could not join us due to the Covid-19 restrictions. However, they participated online retreat as it was live streamed. Fr. Tuma Maria Das, msfs, the retreat preacher invited us to fix our heart on some of the fundamentals of Religious life. It called for a prompt vigilance and introspection to live out our life as consecrated Religious.

The thematic presentations of the retreat such as Vows, Temptation of Jesus, and prayer life posed a challenge reminding us of the gravity of our Consecration in observing the evangelical Counsels to the Lord. The fundamental questions, such as ‘Who am I’, ‘Where am I’ and ‘What must I do’ are worth reflecting. A special attention was shed its light on Prayer. Prayer is an integral part of our Christian life. It is an utmost priority for a religious. Cease to prayer is cease to be a religious. In our workaholic culture the dominant slogan ‘work is worship’ can be a dangerous excuse for a religious.

It was also interesting to discover our world of today. What kind of world are we in? Our world is a slippery ground where there is a fear of falling. It is a market place of confusion. We need to have grip to stand firm. What can give us remedy to all these falter? Only Prayer can give that deterrence and guarantee. This generation is bombarded with false values and the false

values seem to be rewarding. Only prayer can give us wisdom to incline towards God and his kingdom values. The world where we live in praises the folly and give precedence to the vainglory of the earthly values.

Indeed! The retreat rejuvenated and rekindled the call to renew ourselves to Him, having a deepest and passionate longing, as the psalmist says 'as a deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul thirst for you'. (Ps 42:1). Our attachment to Jesus is the one and only genesis of credibility and integrity in our religious life.

It's time to be vigilant and gird up the loins against the temptations and avarice for the worldly possessions. If not, it can drag us to the valley of dry bones leaving us exhausted and mediocre religious. Let us surrender and pray for the wisdom to be gripped by God.

- **Golak, SS.CC.**

Construction of Basketball Court, Dangadighila



To achieve great things two things are needed: a plan and time to carry out the plan. There was a plan to make a basketball court in Dangadighila but it took time to achieve, as scripture says "man proposes but God

disposes." The plan for the basketball court was made long years ago. Several times plans for the basketball court were made but failed due to many reasons; there were many obstacles during constructing. One of the main struggles was with the syndicate. They have a kind of mindset that views us rich people seeing because of the projects undertaken on our campus.

They keep an eye on us for any project happening in the community. It is not unknown that in Kolkata if we carry out any project or work first we have to involve local people and also buy the materials from them. If not then we have to pay them some amount of money without their labour. In one way it is good since they are poor that and they should get a chance to work but this people when they come to work manipulate and don't do the work properly, therefore it

is always better to get people from outside to work here. Since we don't ask them to work they ask us to pay without their labour.

October 1st 2020 was a historical day for us because on this day finally we succeeded in getting the basketball court's flooring done. On the one hand, we were delighted with the flooring work of the basketball court. On the other hand, we were sad because of the troublemakers. The work was supposed to start in the morning but because this syndicate people, it got delayed. The syndicate people demanded a big amount of money from the contractor. Despite paying all what they demanded they didn't help us getting a vehicle into our campus. There were as spectators. We had to make way for the vehicle to get in with the material. Amidst all this, the beauty was that the community was standing looking after everything with vigour. Each one contributed something to completing the flooring work. Each one's effort and energy was used to make this event great. We took a rest when we succeeded in our work. We were happy and appeased after finishing off the work. We had dinner at 11 o'clock. This was really a historical day for us. We as a community had a great experience of being together. Thanks to all who prayed and contributed to the successful completion of the work.



- *Vishal, SS.CC.*

Power of Consecration

The most important consecration of our life is that of baptism. We are all baptized by God. We are called Christians and sons and daughters of God. We are following Jesus in a particular way that is Religious Life. We live our baptism as religious, consecrated to the Sacred Hearts.

What is consecration? When I think of consecration, it inspires me to make sense that it is an act of God and at the same time it is self-denial to the God who consecrates us. God takes all the dimensions or areas of our life. It is living the entire duration of our God-given life in a fruitful and meaningful way. This consecration helps us to allow God to make us live our lives in holiness and be transformed. When we allow it to God, we leave the negativity of the past and we are transformed, trusting God for the future.

Our consecration to the Sacred Hearts gives us identity and belonging. What we are and what we are called to be. God gives us full identity, so we belong to him and to his beloved son Jesus, our Lord.

From this consecration comes communion and union among us. We organize communion in different ways. It is to make present the love of God. Consecrating oneself to the Heart of Jesus means allowing our hearts to be pierced for service, as Mother Mary. We are called to enter a ministry of suffering. We, as children of the Sacred Hearts, have to be with Jesus. We must have love for the cross of Jesus so that through his cross we are able to endure the suffering of this present world. And the key element in the mystery of the cross is Adoration. Eucharistic reparation adoration moves us to be witnesses of our consecration by God. We are united to the sacrifice of Jesus; this sacrifice teaches the centering of our life, which is adoration. The Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary allow us to commit ourselves and consecrate our lives in the Congregation.

- **Robert, SS.CC.**

New Priest-in-Charge of St. Damien of Molokai Quasi Parish



Fr. Umakanta Porichha, as a new Priest-in-Charge of St. Damien of Molokai quasi Parish was appointed on 1st Nov 2020. The handover ceremony took place on Sunday Eucharistic Celebration presided by Fr. Ajith along with the concelebrants, Frs. Sudhir, Uma and Golak in the presence of the congregation of the faithful. Fr. Ajith read out the letter of appointment from the Archbishop Thomas D'Souza of the Archdiocese of Calcutta. There was a series of symbolic gesture of handing over of responsibility and service

of authority such as, Key of the Tabernacle, Holy Bible, SSCC logo, etc. presented to Fr. Umakanta, reminding him of his pastoral duty as the utmost priority at the service of the people of God. The local community along with the parish community welcomed Fr. Umakanta as a new Priest-in-Charge of the St. Damien of Molokai quasi Parish. We all wished Fr. Umakanta assuring our prayerful support for his pastoral ministry in the Parish. At the same time, we all acknowledged our heartfelt gratitude to Fr. Sudhir for his undying passion and dedication of his twelve years of service to our parish community. May God bless the hearts' desire of our two brothers, Sudhir and Umakant.

- *Golak, SS.CC.*

NEWS IN PICTURES



**Michael, Abimail and Augustin
who are in third year of philosophy
begin the Pre-novitiate in St. Damien Seminary,
Bangalore**