

messenger

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NAGPUR ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS LETTER

MARCH 2024

He is Risen to be the
Hope of all Creation





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CONTENTS

1. Editor's Message	02
2. Shepherd Speaks	03
3. Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI) : Report	04
4. Embracing Justice in Today's World: A Reflection on Catholic Social Teaching	08
5. Good Shepherd Sisters - Garratola : Report	11
6. Good Shepherd Provincialate, Nagpur : Report	12
7. Nagpur Multipurpose Social Service Society : Hunger & Disease Contribution	15
8. Nagpur Multipurpose Social Service Society : Hunger & Disease Contribution	17
9. Sharing Christmas Joy with Mirgrant Workers	21
10. Nagpur Multipurpose Social Service Society : Report	24
11. Legacy of Compassion	28
12. The Program Report	30
13. Celebration of Day of Consecrated	31
14. In the Shadow of thy Wings I Will Take Refuge Till The Storms of Destruction Pass By (Ps. 57:1)	32
15. Annual Family Day Celebration, at Sacred Heart Parish, Sillewara : Report	32
16. लूर्द माता महोत्सव	34
17. St. Vincent Pallotti Church : Report	36
18. Our Lady of Holy Rosary Church Seminary Hills, Nagpur	38
19. St. Jude Church, Baihar : Report	40
20. St. Peter's Church, Bhandara : Report	40
21. Vices and Virtues	42
22. St. Francis De Sales College : Report	44
23. Women's Day Celebration, at Good Shepherd Provincialate, Nagpur : Report	47
24. Marriage Preparation Course	48

EDITOR'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends,

As we approach the joyous occasion of Easter, our hearts are filled with anticipation and hope. Easter is not just a single day on the calendar; it is a season of profound significance, symbolizing rebirth, renewal and redemption. In this special Easter issue of our Archdiocesan Bulletin-“Messenger”, focuses on the social apostolate of our Archdiocese, we take a moment to reflect on the timeless message of Easter and how it resonates with our lives today.

As we navigate through the complexities of modern life, it is easy to lose sight of the spiritual significance of Easter. However, amidst the hustle and bustle of our daily routines, Easter beckons us to pause, reflect and reconnect with our spiritual roots. It invites us to contemplate the eternal truths that transcend the transient concerns of this world and to find solace in the promise of resurrection and eternal life.

Our community is built on a foundation of solidarity and mutual support. Through a myriad of social activities and cultural events, we have endeavoured to cultivate a sense of belonging and camaraderie among community members, including migrants. These activities serve as platforms for cultural exchange, dialogue and friendship, strengthening the bonds that unite us as a diverse and vibrant community.

As this issue focusses on the Social Apostolate of our Archdiocese we wish to appreciate and thank all the animators and stake holders who have contributed in this issue. As we look to the future, we reaffirm our dedication to fostering an environment where all individuals are valued, respected and given the opportunity to thrive.

Together, we will continue to work towards a more inclusive, equitable and a just society in the foreseeable future. I thank the Editorial team comprising Fr. Anthony Xaviour, Fr. Linto Peter, Fr. Jomise Joy, Mrs. & Mr. Pinto and Mr. Joseph D'Souza for their continued collaborative efforts.

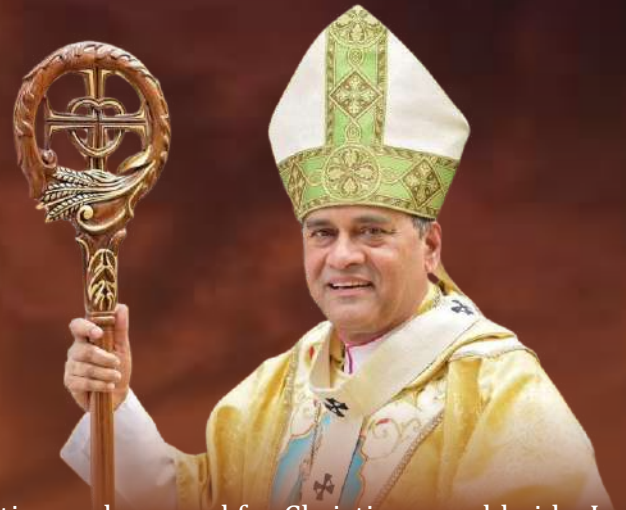
May this Easter season fill your hearts with joy, your souls with peace, and your lives with the abundant blessings of God's love. Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed and joyous Easter!

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Fr. Anthony D'souza
Chief Editor
Messenger

SHEPHERD SPEAKS

Easter Message: *Embracing Hope & Fraternity*



As we approach the season of Easter, a time of profound reflection and renewal for Christians worldwide, I am honoured to share a message of hope and fraternity with the faithful and the wider community of Nagpur. Pope Francis has proposed that 2024 should be marked as a year dedicated to prayer. As a response to Pope's invitation, the Archdiocese of Nagpur would promote initiatives to remind the faithful of the centrality of both individual prayer and community prayer.

Easter holds profound significance in the lives of the faithful, symbolizing the triumph of light over darkness, life over death and hope over despair. It is a time when we commemorate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, the ultimate manifestation of God's love and redemption for humanity. As we celebrate Easter, let us be reminded of the transformative power of Christ's resurrection and its enduring message of hope and salvation.

In his message, Pope Francis reminds us of the urgent need to address the rampant poverty that plagues our world, depriving millions of their human dignity. As we embark on this Jubilee journey, let us not turn a blind eye to the suffering of our brothers and sisters, especially the refugees forced to flee their homelands in search of safety and dignity.

We are all pilgrims on this earth, entrusted by the Lord to care for creation and each other. Therefore, let us not forget our responsibility to contemplate the beauty of creation and to be stewards of our common home. As we prepare to celebrate the Jubilee Year, I invite the faithful of Nagpur and beyond to join us in embracing the themes of hope, fraternity and stewardship. May this Jubilee be a time of deep spiritual reflection, communal solidarity, and transformative action.

Additionally, as India prepares for its forthcoming general election, let us offer prayers for our beloved nation, India. May the electoral process be conducted with integrity, fairness and respect for the democratic principles that underpin our society. May the leaders elected to serve our country be guided by wisdom, compassion and a commitment to the common good.

Together, let us sow the seeds of hope and fraternity, cultivating a world where all may live with dignity and flourish in the abundance of God's love.

≈ May the blessings of Easter fill your hearts with joy and peace. ≈

✠ **Elias Gonsalves**
Archbishop of Nagpur

CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF INDIA (CBCI)

XXXVI Biennial General Body Meeting Final Statement

Jan. 31-Feb. 07, 2024, St. John's National Academy of Health Sciences, Bengaluru, India

INTRODUCTION

1/ With joyful confidence in the Lord Jesus Christ, we, the 170 Bishops of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI), gathered at St. John's National Academy of Health Sciences, Bengaluru, from January 31 to February 07, 2024, for our XXXVI General Assembly to reflect on the theme: The Church's Response to the Current Socio-Political Situation of the Country and the Benefits and Challenges of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Our reflection was done against the backdrop of the ongoing 'Synod on Synodality' (October 2021-October 2024) with the theme Communion-Mission-Participation which encapsulates the essential nature of the Church. Synodality calls us to listen to the Spirit and to each other, "For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body" (1 Cor 12:13). We were inspired by the call of Pope Francis: "Let us dream, then, as a single human family, as fellow travellers sharing the same flesh, as children of the same earth which is our common home, each of us bringing the richness of his or her beliefs and convictions, each of us with his or her own voice, brothers and sisters all" (Fratelli Tutti 8).

I. THE CURRENT SOCIO-POLITICAL SITUATION AND OUR RESPONSE

2/ Ours is an ancient civilization with a rich cultural heritage of unity in diversity. Indians cherish the values of religious harmony, non-violence and peace which are enshrined in the Constitution. During the CBCI Meeting, responding to the signs of the time, we first reviewed the situation currently prevailing in our country. India has made tremendous advances in the scientific, technological, economic and other fields – the country has been acknowledged as an emerging economic power in the world. The Christian Community feels proud of our country's progress. However, we do find grave reasons for concern:

2.1. Economic development in our country seems to have benefitted only a small percentage. The rate of unemployment has vastly increased. Largescale migration has caused untold misery to many. So also, scientific and technological development has not yet reached the majority of our people especially in the rural areas, resulting in a digital divide.

2.2. We feel that development is often done to the detriment of ecology, disrupting the life especially of our tribal brothers and sisters, many of whom are being dispossessed of their lands. We have also witnessed in anguish the sufferings of the fisherfolk in the coastal areas and the long-drawn out struggle of the farmers.

2.3. There is an apprehension that divisive attitudes, hate speeches and fundamentalist movements are eroding the pluralistic, secular ethos which has always characterized our country and its Constitution. The Fundamental Rights and Minority Rights guaranteed in the Constitution should never be undermined.

2.4. Attacks on Christians continue to increase in different parts of India. Destruction of homes and churches, harassment of personnel serving in orphanages, hostels, educational and healthcare institutions on false allegations of conversion have become common. We are appalled by prolonged violence in Manipur resulting in the huge loss of life and livelihood.

2.5. There is a widespread perception that the important democratic institutions of our country are weakening, the federal structure is under stress and the media are not fulfilling their role as the fourth pillar of democracy.

2.6. There is an unprecedented religious polarization which is harming the cherished social harmony in our country and endangering democracy itself.

3/ Our Response to the present situation is along the path of non-violence, healing, justice and reconciliation. With this in view, we propose the following:

3.1. As Christians, our first response is PRAYER, “for with God all things are possible” (Matthew:19:26). The CBCI asks that each Diocese observes Friday, 22 March 2024 as a Day of Prayer and Fasting for peace and harmony in our country.

3.2. We renew the Church's commitment to serve the weaker sections of society irrespective of caste, creed and gender so as to ensure that the benefits of development reach the least and the last.

3.3. We want to ensure that our families, communities and institutions imbibe and promote the values of the Constitution.

3.4. We appeal to our political leaders to make all attempts to preserve the basic structure of the Constitution, particularly the Preamble which declares India to be a SOVEREIGN SOCIALIST SECULAR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC committed to Justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity.

3.5. We urge all citizens to enroll as voters and exercise their sacred duty to vote wisely so that we elect leaders who are committed to constitutional values and to the uplift of the poor.

3.6. We reiterate our demand that the Government grant Scheduled Caste status to Dalit Christians and other discriminated minorities. Similarly, the Government should desist from any attempt to deprive Christian Tribals of their Scheduled Tribe status and also from delisting of the tribal population of our country.

3.7. While we demand for the protection of our Fundamental and Minority Rights guaranteed by the Constitution, we will continue to be law abiding and responsible citizens of our beloved Motherland.

3.8. We request our Parish and Diocesan Commissions for Ecology to sensitize people about the ecological dangers in our present lifestyle such as overusing non-renewable resources of the earth, pollution of water and air, and wastage of food. We want to inculcate in all an attitude of caring for our 'common home'.

3.9. We will journey together with all people of goodwill, sharing in each other's joys and sorrows. We will conscientize the members of the Church to build bridges with their brothers and sisters of different faiths through Inter-Religious Dialogue and neighbourhood communities.

II. CHURCH'S RESPONSE TO THE BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

4/ In the context of our mission, at the General Assembly, we deliberated on the benefits and challenges of Artificial Intelligence (AI) recognizing digital technologies, including Artificial Intelligence, as gifts of God. Pope Francis urges us: “Let us boldly become citizens of the digital world” (World Communications Day Message, 2024).

5/ AI holds out the promise of tremendous benefits in the fields of health care, agriculture, education and research, engineering, recreation, business and finance. However, AI systems can be misused: In the wrong hands, the very same technologies can become tools that spread hatred, violence, manipulation and social bigotry. There is the danger that the human data collected by Digital platforms and AI can be misused to undermine the privacy of individuals and families. Hence, the CBCI urges the Government to engage with all stakeholders to regulate the development and use of AI so as to encourage the best practices and prevent abuses.

6/ Human beings, in all their social and cultural diversity, cannot be reduced to 'mere data' or be defined by algorithms. Hence, we recommend that:

6.1. The Communication Office in each Diocese organize well-planned media programmes whereby the entire community - children, youth, families, religious and clergy – can be educated in the responsible use of digital and AI tools, safeguarding against manipulation and abuse. We want to promote ethical use of AI to be responsible citizens of the digital world.

6.2. Our Diocesan and Regional Commissions for Social Communications and Youth Associations harness the available AI tools for effective faith formation and creative sharing of the Good News. We appeal to our young people who are skilled in AI to help in this endeavour.

6.3. Dioceses, Religious Congregations and Lay Associations equip our youth to benefit from the opportunities offered by the AI revolution.

7/ The Catholic Church in India firmly reiterates that the path to integral human development lies in promoting justice, equality, truth and freedom as a communitarian effort for the common good. For this, AI can serve as a useful instrument, provided that the human person in all his or her complexity, dignity and sanctity is respected and protected.

CONCLUSION:

8/ As Pilgrims of Hope, in the spirit of Synodality, the Church in India moves ahead towards the Jubilee Year 2025. Over the years, Christians have served the country with dedication, whether it be in the Armed Forces, in education and literacy, in health and social services. Our service to the country has been acknowledged by many of our fellow citizens. As loyal citizens of India, we will continue serving our country whatever be the cost, walking in the footsteps of Jesus our Master who proclaimed: *“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour”* (Luke 4:18-19). We pray for the welfare and prosperity of our country as we entrust our country to the Blessed Virgin Mary, our Mother, the Star of Hope.

Most Rev. Andrews Thazhath
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THE SPIRIT OF EASTER IS ALL ABOUT HOPE, LOVE,
AND JOYFUL LIVING.

Happy Easter

Adrain, Alphonse, Janet & Bernard John

EMBRACING JUSTICE IN TODAY'S WORLD: A REFLECTION ON CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

Introduction:

Since ancient times, the guiding principle for the social work profession has been the Christian Gospel's message that "service to man is service to God." Grounded in the belief that every human being is created in the image of God and redeemed by Jesus Christ, Catholic social teaching asserts the inherent value and worth of each individual as a member of the human family. Following in the footsteps of Jesus Christ, the call to social ministry echoes through time, urging us to embody His teachings of compassion and justice in the contemporary landscape. As we grapple with the complexities of the modern world, the enduring principles of Catholic Social Teaching (CST) provide invaluable guidance for addressing contemporary challenges with compassion and justice. The following are several of the key themes that are at the heart of our Catholic social tradition.

1. Life and Dignity of the Human Person: In the spirit of respecting the sanctity of human life, we recall the words of Jesus from Matthew 22:39, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Pope Francis echoes this sentiment, emphasizing that "Each human being is an end in himself or herself, and never a means to be exploited for other purposes." We believe that every person is precious, that people are more important than things, and that the measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity of the human person.

2. Call to Family, Community, and Participation: The person is not only sacred but also social. How we organize our society in economics and politics, in law and policy directly affects human dignity and the capacity of individuals to grow in community. Marriage and the family are the central social institutions that must be supported and strengthened, not undermined. Pope John Paul II

eloquently emphasized that 'as the family goes, so goes the nation and so goes the whole world.' Our active participation in social, economic, and political life is vital, fostering a sense of responsibility for the common good. The Church believes that people have a right and a duty to participate in society, seeking together the common good and well-being of all, especially poor and vulnerable people.

3. Rights and Responsibilities: In a society where rights are often advocated, CST echoes the importance of corresponding responsibilities. The Catholic tradition teaches that human dignity can be protected and a healthy community can be achieved only if human rights are protected and responsibilities are met. 'To those whom much is given, much is expected,' as the Gospel of Luke teaches. Therefore, every person has a fundamental right to life and a right to those things required for human decency. Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities—to one another, to our families, and to the larger society.

4. Option for the Poor and Vulnerable: Jesus's preferential option for the poor, a cornerstone of CST, speaks loudly in a world marked by inequality. A basic moral test is how our most vulnerable members are faring. Pope Benedict XVI urged us to 'open our eyes to the cries of those who suffer' (15th World day of the sick, 2007). In a society marred by deepening divisions between rich and poor, our tradition instructs us to put the needs of poor and vulnerable people first. Today, amidst economic disparities and global challenges, our commitment to the marginalized becomes a measure of our society's moral health. In Matthew 25:40, Jesus says, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

5. The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers:

In a rapidly changing work landscape, CST emphasizes the dignity of labor and the rights of workers. The economy must serve people, not the other way around. Pope Francis reminds us, 'Work is fundamental to the dignity of a person' (General Audience Address, May 1, 2013). Work is more than a way to make a living; it is a form of continuing participation in God's creation. This encourages us to advocate for fair wages, just working conditions, and the empowerment of all workers, with an emphasis on practicing these principles first within Church institutions. If the dignity of work is to be protected, then the basic rights of workers must be respected—the right to productive work, to decent and fair wages, to the organization and joining of unions, to private property, and to economic initiative.

6. Solidarity: Today we live in a world divided by conflict and injustice.

Especially with wars happening in Ukraine and Gaza, the call to solidarity rings true. We are one human family, whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. Pope John Paul II stated, 'Solidarity is not a feeling of vague compassion or shallow distress at the misfortunes of so many people. It is a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the common good.' Pope Francis has consistently urged us to recognize our interconnectedness, motivating us to work collectively for justice and peace, transcending borders and differences. At the core of the virtue of solidarity is the pursuit of justice and peace. Pope Paul VI taught that 'if you want peace, work for justice.' The Gospel calls us to be peacemakers. Our love for all our sisters and brothers demands that we promote peace in a world surrounded by violence and conflict.

1. Care for God's Creation: As environmental challenges loom large, CST's call to care for God's creation becomes urgent. Pope Francis's encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, underscores our responsibility as stewards of the Earth. 'The earth is our common home, and all of us are brothers and sisters,' he asserts, urging sustainable practices for the well-being of present and future generations. We show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation. Care for the earth is a requirement of the Catholic faith. We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation. This environmental challenge has fundamental moral and ethical dimensions that cannot be ignored.

Conclusion:

In the words of the Encyclical "Deus Caritas Est" (2005), "Seeing with the eyes of Christ, I can give to others much more than their outward necessities; I can give them the look of love which they crave." This profound insight encapsulates the essence of social ministry, highlighting the transformative power of compassion and the ability to meet not only external needs but also the deep longing for genuine care and understanding. In embracing this perspective, we can contribute to a society where the spirit of love fosters true human flourishing.



Joseph Dsouza
MQA Church.

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GOOD SHEPHERD SISTERS - GARRATOLA

We have been rendering service at the Garratola mission for more than 42 years which has made a great impact on the people around here. We are involved in socio-pastoral developmental activities like Pastoral activity, EJ project, Women's Cooperative society, Residential for the school going girl children and Dispensary.

Pastoral Activity:

We visit the families and attend the BEC prayers regularly and encourage them to come to the Church. One Sister takes catechism classes for the children. We participate in women group meetings and support them to come forward in taking decisions in church activities. We collaborate with the parish team for various parish activities given to us.

Economic Justice Project:

Through this project, we serve 407 women directly and 360 men indirectly. We have 36 SHGs in 21 villages. The project was supported by Misesan Cara and OAK foundation and monitored by MDO, Nagpur. Through this project various training programmes were organized like leadership/capacity training, Business and Marketing skills, Administration etc. During this year we celebrated National Girl Child Day, International



Activity of the Cooperative:

All the members of the cooperative run their small / big individual business such as Goat rearing, Piggery, poultry, brick making, Agriculture, vegetable cultivation, vegetable purchase and sale, petty shops, general store, garment shops etc. by taking and returning loan with 1% of interest rate. A General Body meeting was conducted for the election of New Board members. Quarterly review cum planning meetings of Board members and SHG Leaders were done regularly. Board members have to study the business plan of the members and pass the loan every month and also take action on the defaulters by sending a notice to the family/ visit the family. We organized an Exposure visits to other cooperative networks with the other NGOs and Gos and have joint programmes.

Euphrasia Girls Hostel:

The Children from interior villages come to the hostel and study in the Montfort school, 28 girls are in the hostel. Coaching classes are given to them during their study's hours, especially to those who are weak in studies. Individual and group counselling, value education and health & hygienic sessions were organized regularly. Some important celebrations like Diwali, Children's day, Christmas and Holi were celebrated meaningfully.



Dispensary:

At the request of the people, we have reopened a dispensary but a very few come due to RMP doctors going from house to house to treat them. The children from Montfort and our hostel come regularly and benefit from it. We too don't have any project for the dispensary to conduct a medical camp, so it has been rather unsuccessful.

GOOD SHEPHERD PROVINCIALATE, NAGPUR SOCIAL ACTION MINISTRY

Name of the Project : Socio-Economic empowerment of Domestic help around Nagpur.

INTRODUCTION:

Domestic workers play a crucial role in households worldwide, providing essential services such as cleaning, cooking, childcare, and elderly care. Despite their indispensable contributions, domestic workers often face numerous challenges, including low wages, lack of legal protection, and social stigma.

We, the sisters of the Good Shepherd, are working for the upliftment of Domestic help in collaboration with National Domestic Welfare Association, Mumbai from 2001 onwards.

At present we have 1500 women enrolled in this union and take active part for their development. We organize these women through different activities.

The following activities have carried out to empower these women:

Advocacy and Lobbying: In order to pressurise employers and policymakers to take actions for the different benefits of domestic help we organize rallies and demonstrations especially during the winter session of the parliament. This year in the month of December 275 women took a march to Yashwant Stadium where they demanded for their rights, like pension, holidays and other benefits. They submitted a memorandum to the Collector and Labour Minister.

Training programmes: Training programs for domestic workers are essential to equip them with the skills, knowledge, and resources they need to perform their jobs effectively and safely. Keeping this in mind we conduct three trainings in a month which includes different topics like: Advocacy and Lobbying, Awareness programme on their rights, Marketing skills, Constitutional rights and election manifesto, Domestic harassment, Stress management, different skill trainings and Housing rights etc...

Co-operative Society: Women groups are formed into a co-operative society and they save some amount every month. They are given inter loans for some small business, education of children, medical expenses etc...275 women are members of this co-operative society. We also have 10 SHGs which are functioning well, this encourages them to have a saving for their future.

Other Benefits: 100 senior domestic workers received ration twice a year. Women are given help to start group and individual business to improve their economic status.

Social Issues: We take up social issues like domestic harassment at home and work place. Many of our women are empowered and they are aware of their rights. They are courageous enough to meet MLA's and present their demands. Every year we celebrate the Domestic Workers Day on 16th June. Women are taken to Mumbai for this celebration.



Educational Support: 15 children were helped through our province for their school expenses like school fees, uniform and books.

Celebrations: We do celebrate different festivals and events. International Women's Day was celebrated on a big scale. 300 women took part in this celebration. During Christmas we also had the Christmas celebration for all our neighbours to share the joy of Christmas.

Conclusion:

The Domestic Workers Programme has made significant strides in promoting the rights and well-being of domestic workers. However, challenges remain in ensuring effective enforcement, combating stigma and discrimination, and addressing the needs of marginalized groups. Continued investment in advocacy, capacity building, and policy reform is essential to build on the program's achievements and create a more just and inclusive environment for domestic workers.

Reported By:

Sr. Resi Joseph



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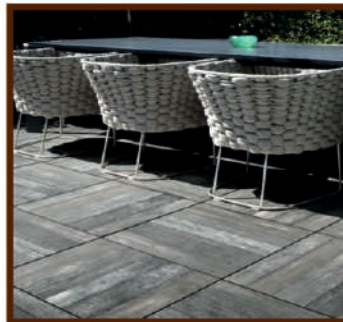
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NAGPUR MULTIPURPOSE SOCIAL SERVICE SOCIETY

Hunger And Disease Contribution For the year - 2023

S/N	Date	Parish/Congregations	Amount
1	04-04-2023	Daughters of St. Paul	2,001.00
2	04-04-2023	MP Catholic Reli Edu. N Soc. Service Chhindwara	14,500.00
3	05-04-2023	St. Jude Church, Baihar	1,010.00
4	10-04-2023	Holy Family Parish Society, Untkhana	12,000.00
5	10-04-2023	St. Joseph Convent, Mohan Nagar, Nagpur	6,000.00
6	11-04-2023	Sacred Heart Church Silewara	5,500.00
7	12-04-2023	Nirmala Niketan Church, Bhendala	644.00
8	12-04-2023	St. Anthony Church, Ajni	11,777.00
9	15-04-2023	Sandhyavan Senior Care Home, Yerla	3,000.00
10	17-04-2023	St. Theresa's Church, Betul	3,000.00
11	17-04-2023	Infant Jesus Church, Wadi	1,500.00
12	20-04-2023	St. Ann's Convent Seminary Hills	1,000.00
13	20-04-2023	Jyothi Nivas, (Convent) Gondia	1,500.00
14	26-04-2023	Snehalaya Provincialate	5,000.00
15	26-04-2023	St. Francis De Sales Parish	88,431.00
16	29-04-2023	Sacred Heart Church Garratola	6,050.00
17	11-05-2023	Our Lady of Fatima Church	9,860.00
18	13-05-2023	St. Mary English Medium School	10,000.00
19	15-05-2023	St. Francis Assis School Umraid	5,000.00
20	15-05-2023	Francis Sadan Convent Udasa Umraid	2,000.00
21	30-05-2023	St. Francis De Sales English Medium School Nimkheda	5,000.00
22	08-06-2023	SMMI Provincialate	10,000.00
23	08-06-2023	St. Peter's Church Bhandara	5,000.00
24	08-06-2023	St. Peter's School Bela, Bhandara	10,000.00
25	14-06-2023	St. Joseph Society Gondia	2,300.00
26	17-06-2023	St. Francis Xavier's Church Tumsar	902.00
27	19-06-2023	St. John Paul II Parish	7,000.00
28	20-06-2023	Vinayalaya School Martin Nagar	3,000.00
29	22-06-2023	St. Martin De Porres Church	36,450.00

30	30-06-2023	St. Joseph Convent Fetri	4,500.00
31	04-07-2023	Immaculate Conception Church	3,400.00
32	07-07-2023	St Theresa Church Mansar	350.00
33	11-07-2023	Montfort Higher Secondary School Garratola	8,000.00
34	15-07-2023	St Vincent Palloti College of Engineering Wardha Road	5,000.00
35	14-07-2023	Rosary Parish Seminary Hills	20,000.00
36	29-07-2023	St. Alphonsa Church Mhasada	1,000.00
37	01-08-2023	Montfort School	10,000.00
38	27-07-2023	St. Ann's English Medium School	10,000.00
39	28-07-2023	St. Paul Vinayalaya Aherwada	500.00
40	07-08-2023	St. Pius Xth Church Mankapur	65,000.00
41	17-08-2023	St. Francis De Sales School of Excellence	5,000.00
42	17-08-2023	St. Vincent Palloti School Kamptee	5,000.00
43	14-08-2023	Aragami Cathlotic Ashram	500.00
44	23-08-2023	Society of Friaris Minor	5,000.00
45	28-08-2023	Sant Chavra	2,000.00
46	30-08-2023	Little flower School Pandhurna, Chhinwada	2,000.00
47	17-10-2023	Divya Jyoti Provincilate	1,000.00
		Total	4,17,675.00

Lenten Campaign 2023 Collection

We gratefully acknowledge appreciate the contributions from individual's communities and our institutions for the campaign "Caring Humanity Building Peace". The total contribution for Lenten campaign for the financial year 2023

Amount Rs. 4,17,675/-

NMSSS requests all religious and church fraternities to actively promote our Lenten Campaign among parishioners and the local community. Let us unite in a commitment to advance together in the spirit of Synodality, Communion, Participation, and Mission.



Fr. Balaraj Madanu
Director, NMSSS

NAGPUR MULTIPURPOSE SOCIAL SERVICE SOCIETY

Hunger And Disease Contribution For the year - 2023

S/N	Date	Parish/Congregations	Amount
1	01-04-2022	Holy Cross Provincialate Jaripatka	1,000.00
2	04-04-2022	Secred Heart Province of ASM	3,000.00
3	06-04-2022	Sisters of Charity	2,300.00
4	06-04-2022	Veronica Pre- Primary School	10,000.00
5	06-04-2022	Mount Carmel Education Society, Ajni	10,000.00
6	11-04-2022	Our Lady of Velankani Church	10,000.00
7	11-04-2022	Mr. Xavier	4,750.00
8	11-04-2022	St. Francis De Sales School, Narkhed	5,000.00
9	11-04-2022	Sacred Heart Convent, Chhindwara	7,000.00
10	13-04-2022	Fatima Convent, Jaitala	5,000.00
11	18-04-2022	St. Peter's Bhandara	5,000.00
12	18-04-2022	St. Alphonsa Church, Mhasada	2,101.00
13	18-04-2022	Holy Family Church, Padri Thana	2,000.00
14	19-04-2022	Snehalaya Provincialate	5,000.00
15	19-04-2022	St. Joseph Convent	6,000.00
16	19-04-2022	Karuna Niwas, Mansar	2,000.00
17	20-04-2022	St. Joseph Convent hindi Primary School, Kamptee	1,000.00
18	20-04-2022	St. Francis De Sales Cathedral, Nagpur	49,380.00
19	20-04-2022	Holy Family Parish, Untkhana	10,000.00
20	21-04-2022	Asha Bhawan	5,000.00
21	21-04-2022	Prem Dan	2,000.00
22	21-04-2022	St. Pius X Church, Mankapur	60,000.00
23	21-04-2022	St. Francis Xavier Church, Chhindwars	6,500.00
24	21-04-2022	St. Thomas Church	2,000.00
25	22-04-2022	Daughters of St. Paul	2,000.00
26	25-04-2022	St. Martin De Porres Church	60,000.00
27	26-04-2022	Vishwodaya	2,000.00
28	30-04-2022	Mary Queen of Apostle Church	9,330.00
29	04-05-2022	Sacred Heart Church, Silewara	3,500.00

S/N	Date	Parish/Congregations	Amount
30	04-05-2022	Convent of Mary Immaculate	5,000.00
31	05-05-2022	St. Anthony Church, Ajni	9,000.00
32	06-05-2022	St. Joseph Vidyalaya, Jaitala	1,602.00
33	09-05-2022	Nirmala Niketan Church, Bendala	2,200.00
34	11-05-2022	Infant Jesus Church, Wadi	2,000.00
35	14-05-2022	Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Jaitala	20,750.00
36	14-05-2022	St. Joseph Convent English Primary School, Kamptee	4,000.00
37	24-05-2022	SMMI Provincialate Nagpur	10,000.00
38	30-05-2022	Vishwa Jyoti Church, Kanhan	3,000.00
39	30-05-2022	St. Teresa Church, Mansar	350.00
40	06-06-2022	St. Francis Xavier Church, Tumsar	3,301.00
41	08-06-2022	Carmel Academy, Waddhamna	3,000.00
42	18-07-2022	St. Teresa Church, Betul	2,000.00
43	18-08-2022	Catholic Church Balaghat	5,000.00
44	18-08-2022	St. Mary's English School, Balaghat	10,000.00
45	02-01-2022	Mermier Sadan	2,000.00
46	24-08-2022	Jeevodya Convent, Nagpur	1,000.00
47	25-08-2022	SH Provincialate of ASMI	3,000.00
48	25-08-2022	Fransalian Education Society, Nagpur	10,000.00
49	26-08-2022	Sandhyavan, Yerla	3,000.00
50	26-08-2022	St. Joseph's Convent, yerla	3,000.00
51	29-08-2022	St. Ann's English Medium School	5,000.00
52	29-08-2022	Shantiniketan, Jaripatka	500.00
53	30-08-2022	Jyoti Niwas, Gondia	2,000.00
54	30-08-2022	Presentation Convent	3,000.00
55	30-08-2022	Amal Jyoti, DM convent, Ajni	2,000.00
56	30-08-2022	The Nagpur Fransalian Corporation	10,000.00
57	30-08-2022	Claretian Fathers	5,000.00
58	02-09-2022	St. Rossello's Convent, Bhandara	1,000.00
59	26-09-2022	Infant Jesus School, Wadi	5,000.00
60	14-10-2022	Dominican Fathers, Nagpur	5,000.00
61	15-10-2022	Pilar Niketan	8,000.00
62	18-10-2022	Sacred Heart Sisters	250.00
63	19-10-2022	St. Francis Convent Seoni MP	1,000.00
64	26-10-2022	Sisters of Charity	3,000.00
65	29-10-2022	Sneha Sadan	3,000.00
66	29-10-2022	St. Joseph's School Godani	2,500.00
67	23-01-2023	St. Joseph's Convent High School, Kamptee	4,000.00

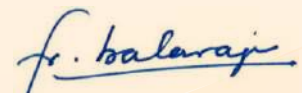
S/N	Date	Parish/Congregations	Amount
68	01-02-2023	Karuna Nivas Mansar	1,000.00
69	06-02-2023	Neeta Joseph	1,000.00
70	27-02-2023	Fatima Convent Society, Jaitala	5,000.00
71	03-03-2023	Holy Cross Provincialate Jaripatka (Sisters)	1,000.00
72	09-03-2023	Vishvoday	2,000.00
73	13-03-2023	Little flower School Betul.	5,000.00
74	15-03-2023	St. Vincent Pallotti School, Pallotti Nagar	5,500.00
75	15-03-2023	Sisters of the Secret Heart, Silewara	2,000.00
76	16-03-2023	Mary Queen of the Apostles Pallotti	6,500.00
77	16-03-2023	Nirmala English Medium School Chindwara	5,000.00
78	16-03-2023	Nirmala Society (Sacred Heart Convent)	10,000.00
79	16-03-2023	St. John's Public School	2,500.00
80	14-03-2023	St. Joseph's Convent School Fetri	2,000.00
81	14-03-2023	St. Gianelli Convent, Kanhan	1,000.00
82	20-03-2023	Asha Bhavan Nursing Home (SMMI)	5,000.00
83	22-03-2023	Sisters of Charity (New colony)	3,500.00
84	24-03-2023	St. Francis Xavier's Church	4,800.00
85	24-03-2023	Good Shepherd Sisters Garratola	500.00
86	27-03-2023	Holy Family Church, Padri Thana	1,000.00
87	28-03-2023	St. Joseph Convent Girls High School & Junior College	10,000.00
88	27-03-2023	St. Vincent Pallotti	7,000.00
89	27-03-2023	Carmel Academy	10,000.00
90	28-03-2023	Maria Sheeji	3,000.00
		Total	5,50,614.00

Lenten Campaign 2023 Collection

We gratefully acknowledge appreciate the contributions from individual's communities and our institutions for the campaign "Caring Humanity Building Peace". The total contribution for Lenten campaign for the financial year 2022 - 2023

Amount Rs. 5,50,614/-

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Fr. Balaraj Madanu
Director, NMSSS

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SHARING CHRISTMAS JOY WITH MIGRANT WORKERS

“Christmas is doing a Little something extra for someone “ – Charles M. Schulz.

The Archdiocesan Commission for Migrants organized a Christmas programme for all the Catholic migrant workers residing in different parishes. The programme was held on 26th December 2023 in St. Martin De Porres Church, Jaripatka. We had about 230 participants including women, men and children. Migrant workers from Wadi, Nimji, Martin Nagar and a few students from Manipur took part in this celebration. We started the celebration with the Solemn Eucharist which was Solemnized by Most. Rev. Elias Gonsalves, Archbishop of Nagpur. Frs. Jesuraj Parish Priest of St. Martin De Porres Church, Fr. Rudolf Toppo, Parish Priest of Infant Jesus Church, Wadi, Fr. Anthony Xaviour, (Secretary of the Archbishop) and Deacon from St. Martin De Porres Church were the concelebrants. Archbishop and concelebrants were welcomed by a traditional Tribal dance by the Women. Mr. Richard John, one of the commission members read the Mass introduction. Brothers from St. Charles Seminary conducted the choir.

During the homily, Bishop started with the plights of migrants and that of the Holy Family- Jesus, Mary and Joseph. The story of Jesus and His parents fleeing from Bethlehem to Egypt. He gave the Pope's message on four-fold calls for each one of us: Welcome, Protect, Promote and Integrate the migrants to our parishes and society.



He stressed that each one of us have the responsibility to welcome the migrants coming from the villages, cities and other states. We are also called to protect the rights of migrants coming to our cities. They should be given freedom of religious practice, employment opportunities etc. All of us together need to integrate them in our society, including them in the Church, like choir, BEC, women's group, PPC etc. 26th December being the feast of St. Stephen Bishop stressed on the faith aspects of the migrant community. In every struggle and difficulty to have a deep faith in Jesus.



After the Eucharistic Celebration we had a small cultural programme. Mrs. Juliet Robert compered the programme. We welcomed the Bishop and all other guests with a bouquet of flowers.

The programme featured a diverse range of cultural performances, including traditional carol singing. Brothers from St Charles Seminary put up a skit on giving hope and care for the elderly. Through a series of well -crafted scenes and heartfelt portrayals, the skit aimed to raise awareness about the importance of fostering a culture of compassion and support for the aging persons. The skit left a lasting impression on the audience, eliciting a range of emotions from empathy to inspiration. Many participants expressed how the performance resonated with their own experiences and served as a reminder of the importance of maintaining hope in the face of adversity.



While addressing the gathering Bishop emphasized in getting their ID cards, like Aadhar and Election Cards and vote responsibly during the general election. He also highlighted the importance of Children's education and requested them to admit children in a good school which is run by Sisters and Fathers. He requested them to attend Mass and other para liturgical services conducted in their parishes. He concluded his address by Blessing the people for the bright future.

Fr. Anthony Xavier enlightened the people on the rights of migrant workers

Feedback from the participants was overwhelmingly positive. They expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to come together, share laughter and create lasting memories. They bonded with each other and the community spirit among them and made more contacts.



This programme brought warmth, Joy and a sense of community feeling to all the participants, marking a delightful celebration of Christmas.

The success of the programme was amplified by the active participation of commission members.

Mr. D. Varghese commission member proposed the vote of thanks. The programme came to an end with a festival meal and sharing of a small gift for each family.

Reported by:
Sr. Resi Joseph
For Archdiocesan Commission for Migrants



In Loving Memory of



Archbishop Abraham Viruthakulangara

5th June 1943 - 19th April 2018

6th Death Anniversary

NAGPUR MULTIPURPOSE SOCIAL SERVICE SOCIETY

SCHOLARSHIP TO THE CHILDREN

Nagpur Multipurpose Social Service Society has taken an initiative to provide scholarships to 40 students of Montfort School, Garratola through 'Education Enhancement of Poor Tribal Children in January-2024. On 27th December 2023 we also celebrated Children's Day and distributed educational material to 120 children. This has been an invaluable help for them.



Empowering the Farmers in Integrated Development

In January 2024, NMSSS distributed 2 pairs of goats to 15 marginalized women and poor families to support their income generation. This initiative aims to strengthen socio-economy and promote sustainable livelihoods within the community.



Jeevan - A Women Led Empowering Action

On 8th February 2024 the occasion of "Haldi Kunku Utsav" at Tikadi village of Umred block. 150 Women Federation were given information about making organic fertilizers and distributed Calendar-2024 (ICE material on sustainable farming practices). Honorable guests Dr. Urmila Shirsagar and Rev. Fr. Balaraju Madanu addressed challenges faced by women farmers. And empowered women farmers shared their experiences and different farming methods with others.





AWARENESS ON LABOUR RIGHTS TO WOMEN UNORGANISED WORKER

On 18th February 2024 the Arch-Diocese of Nagpur, with the help of Christian Workers Movement and Migrants Commission organised a Labour rights awareness program. On this particular occasion 150 migrants from different parishes were present, Adv. Shriram Deobra guided the participants on how to seek legal aid, when their rights are violated

SAVE A FAMILY PLAN (SAFP)

Nagpur Multipurpose Social Service Society (NMSSS) works with the poor marginalized families under Save a Family Plan (SAFP) proving sustainable socio-economic development of women. SAFP has impoverished around 2000 families with monthly financial support. At present we have only 74 families who have been receiving support from this project. Under this program there are numbers of Success Stories of marginalised women who have enhanced their quality of life.



SCAND ST COMMISSION

'Rise of the least of the society' or working towards the upliftment of the most depressed of the society' or 'the poorest sections of the society' currently we are working in the slum areas of the Ramabai Ambedkar, Jaitala. Due to utter poverty, lack of education this community often faces various problems in their day-to-day living. To uplift the poor we conducted various activities such as literacy programs for school dropouts, eco-friendly living, awareness on labour rights and linkages with government schemes. We visited people of all faith during the Christmas celebration, imparting value-based education to slum children & adults. These activities have helped them to overcome some of their problems



WOMEN'S COMMISSION

The primary goal of the Women's Commission is the "Empowerment of women through faith formation, capacity building, and issue-based network in the Archdioceses of Nagpur." In line with this goal, the Women's Commission of the Archdiocese of Nagpur organized a campaign and initiated a movement to advocate for rights and justice for the victims of violence in Manipur. Other than that, we engaged in various activities such as promoting peace among citizens, focusing on the theme "United for Peace", Sustainable development and guiding women on self-help groups (SHGs). They also Conducted a seminar on faith, healing, and the role of women in promoting faith in families.



COMMISSION FOR MIGRANTS AND DOMESTIC WORKERS

The Migrant Commission of the Archdiocese of Nagpur serves as a beacon of hope and solidarity for migrants, prioritizing their livelihoods, security, and dignity. Rooted in compassion, social justice, and community empowerment, the Commission is a lifeline for migrants, aiming to uphold their inherent dignity and rights. Activities such as celebrating International Girl Child Day, organizing Christmas celebrations, and raising awareness on labor rights demonstrate the Commission's commitment to inclusivity, solidarity, and respect for all migrants. We also uplift domestic workers and work for their wellbeing.



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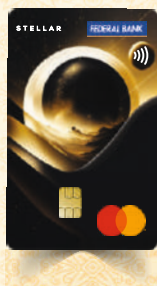


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“LEGACY OF COMPASSION”

A Glorious 134-Years Journey of Home for Aged and Handicapped Foundation Day Unveiled in Untkhana, Nagpur.



In a jubilant celebration on the 8th of February 2024, the Home for Aged and Handicapped in Untkhana, Nagpur, marked its 134th Foundation Day. The esteemed event welcomed dignitaries, including Most Rev. Dr. Elias Gonsalves, Chief Guest Shri. Ankur Alya, Honourable guest Shri. Atul Gupta, Guest of Honour Shri. Kishore Bhojar, and Sr. Vanita John, Provincial superior of SMMI, Nagpur Province along with other distinguished guests. The occasion commenced with a mesmerizing welcome dance performed by the students.

Sister Ida, the Head Mistress of Snehasadan, graciously introduced the guests, extending a warm welcome. A poignant performance titled “Never Give Up” unfolded, where students conveyed the challenges faced by parents raising children with disabilities and highlighted the pivotal role of school teachers in their lives.

Sr. Lincy, the Superintendent of Prernalaya, presented a comprehensive Annual Report, outlining the year's activities. The students then showcased their talents with a captivating dance performance themed “Paralympics,” emphasizing the strength and potential of specially-abled children.



The Craft Exhibition stole/ captured the spotlight, featuring a diverse array of handcrafted items, including mufflers, sun coats, flowerpots, bags, caning stools and chairs, greeting cards, handmade candles, market bags, kitchen coats, pillow covers, and pearl garlands—all skilfully crafted by the specially-abled children.

In a visionary move, Shri. Kishor Bhojar District Social Welfare Officer guaranteed the establishment of both a Junior college and Degree college specifically tailored for disabled children. This promise reflects a forward-thinking approach towards inclusivity and educational opportunities for a marginalized section of our society.

Highlighting the invaluable contributions of devoted SMMI sisters, selfless teachers, studious students, and the elderly within the Home for the Aged and Handicapped (HAH), Archbishop of Nagpur Most.Rev.Dr.Elias Gonsalves underscored their tireless service to the institution. His words resonated with gratitude for the unwavering commitment of this Institution to the betterment of the Society.

Shri. Atul Gupta IOCL Div. Retail sales Head, went beyond verbal assurances and added a personal touch to his commitment. He graciously offered to visit the institute along with his family whenever possible, highlighting his genuine connection and dedication to the cause.

During his speech, Shri. Ankur Alya, Add. Director,NADT became a beacon of inspiration, encouraging the young minds of the audience, particularly the children, to embrace hard work as the cornerstone of their journey toward success. His words echoed the sentiment that resilience and a strong work ethic pave the path to realizing one's dreams, irrespective of the challenges encountered.



As we commemorate the 134th Foundation Day, heartfelt gratitude goes to our dedicated SMMI Sisters and staff for their unwavering love and service. The distribution of prizes by the esteemed guests added to the celebratory spirit. Encouraged and enthused we continue the legacy of compassion and service.

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THE PROGRAM REPORT

Ankur Kunj Minor Seminary conducted a fruitful and enlightening program “Tum itna Jo muskura rahe Ho kya gam hai jisko chhupa rahe Ho ” on 17th December 2023.

The event commenced with a prayer dance, remembering the Almighty by the act of motion, followed by skit which helped everyone gather to dive deeply into the world of psychological health of a person. In his welcome address, Rev. Fr. Joseph Polishetti, the Rector of the Diocesan Minor Seminary stressed on the purpose of this event. The skit made a profound impact on the spectators gathered at St. Charles seminary. The minor seminary brothers enacted so well that the audience were really left spellbound. It compelled them to introspect on their psychological well-being. This little step by the Ankur Kunj family on the theme of this year “ Pilgrims of Hope” has given shape and conveyed a deep message for humanity that there is Hope even in the darkest situation, that there is light at the end of the tunnel.

His Grace, Most Rev. Elias Gonsalves, Archbishop of Nagpur Archdiocese was profoundly taken up by the mesmerizing skit which had an incredible impression on everyone because it is the need of the hour. Archbishop Elias also emphasized and encouraged all the Fathers, Brothers and Sisters to give a special preference to psycho- spirituality in their ministry.

The Rector of St. Charles seminary. Rev. Fr. Aquin Noronha (OP) drew attention to external appearance and internal feelings. We were profoundly thankful to our dear Rev. Fr. Aquin Noronha for acknowledging good work and providing us an opportunity to present this act in the Auditorium at St. Charles Seminary. The program concluded with Carol singing and warm wishes from Ankur Kunj Diocesan Minor Seminary.



CELEBRATION OF DAY OF CONSECRATED CRI Unit

The CRI Unit celebrated the Day of Consecrated Life on January 31, 2024 at Mount Carmel School, Ajni, Nagpur. This particular occasion was thoughtfully planned with the dual goals of offering spiritual and bodily nutrition while also fostering social enrichment. Approximately 150 religious priests, brothers, and sisters took part in this ceremony. The Eucharist was presided over by Fr. Shiju Francis OP and Fr. Paul Chandrankunnel SAC, whose spiritual leadership provided depth and meaning to the event. Their inspiring words struck a deep chord with everyone present, motivating them to strengthen their devotion to the shared faith. In addition to the spiritual aspects, the celebration featured engaging games geared for social enrichment, with unexpected prizes that gave a sense of excitement and togetherness. The event reached its zenith with an agape meal, symbolizing the sharing of fraternal love and fostering a sense of bonding among the participants.



"IN THE SHADOW OF THY WINGS I WILL TAKE REFUGE, TILL THE STORMS OF DESTRUCTION PASS BY"(PS. 57:1)

The religious communities, along with their Parish Priest from St. John Paul II Church Hazaripahad, organized a unique hour of Adoration at Sandhyavan Chapel on Thursday, February 15th. Praying together for refuge and strength in response to recent attacks on our institutions and staff in certain sections of our country.



Even though a few communities were unable to attend the service, the Chapel was filled to capacity. The Adoration was very effectively conducted, with Psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, praise and worship, powerful echoes of the brief homily, and intercessory prayer beginning at 4.30 p.m. The participants left with a desire to gather frequently for this type of prayer, even as our country prepared to vote. Yes, we certainly think it is imperative to pray for good Governance, for leaders who are just, fair and who work for the welfare of all, without distinction.

Parish Priest
St. John Paul II Church Hazaripahad.

ANNUAL FAMILY DAY CELEBRATION AT SACRED HEART PARISH, SILLEWARA

Annual Family Day was held at Sacred Heart Parish in Silewara, with the theme "Families: The Cradle of Hope." On January 7, 2024, one hundred and twenty parishioners gathered at Montfort campus in Patansaongi to spread the joy and hope that Christ brought to the world. The event began with Holy Eucharist. Rev. Fr. Sebastiraj, Nagpur Archdiocesan Director of Family Apostolate, served as the chief celebrant. Bro. Lawrance, superior of Montfort Patansaongi, greeted everyone. The programme was coordinated by members of the Parish Council. The breakfast session was organized by the Mahila Mandal members. Parish Youth organized games and activities. The Men's Association cooked the lunch. The event renewed everyone's sense of family and hope.



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११ फरवरी २०२४



जैसा की हम जानते हैं कि प्रतिवर्ष की भर्ति इस वर्ष भी लूई माता महोत्सव बड़े ही धूमधाम एवं हर्षोल्लास के साथ मनाया गया। प्रतिवर्ष सात (६) विभिन्न क्षेत्रीय भाषाओं जैसे इंग्लिश, कोंकणी, मराठी, तेलुगू, तमिल, मलयालम तथा नागपुर के आर्च बिशप द्वारा हिंदी में महोत्सव का अंतिम मिस्सा चढ़ाया जाता था जो अत्याधिक आकर्षण का केंद्र रहता है।

इस बार हम छोटानागपुर के विश्वासी जो नागपुर में निवासरत हैं सोचा कि लूई माता महोत्सव में विभिन्न क्षेत्रीय भाषाओं में मिस्सा पूजा होता है तो क्यों ना हमारी मात्री भाषा कुंडुख भाषा को लूई माता महोत्सव में जगह दिया जाए। तत्पश्चात हम लोगों ने मीटिंग बुलाई और श्री सुशील कुजूर एवं श्री सुशील तिग्गा को रोजरी पल्ली के पल्ली पुरोहित फादर सुनील तिकी ओ पी से संपर्क कर इस सिलसिले में चर्चा करने के लिए कहा गया। इसके तुरंत बाद हमने फादर सुनील तिकी ओ पी से मिला और लूई माता महोत्सव में कुंडुख भाषा में मिस्सा चढ़ाने के लिए अन्य क्षेत्रीय भाषाओं की तरह जगह दिया जाए तो कैसा रहता? फादर को यह बात अच्छा लगा और हमें आश्वासन दिया गया कि मैं और फादरों से सलाह लेकर आप लोगों को सूचित करता हूं।

जानकारी हेतु कुंडुख भाषा क्या है? भारत देश में लगभग ६४६ अनुसूचित जनजाति (आदिवासी) लोग हैं जिसमें उरह्वं जनजाति के लोग भी हैं जो मुख्य रूप से छत्तीसगढ़, उड़ीसा, झारखंड, बिहार, वेस्ट बंगाल, आसाम, मध्यप्रदेश, महाराष्ट्र और पूरे भारत देश के कोने-कोने में बसे हुए हैं। ये द्रविड़ियन समूह के लोग हैं इनकी बोली ही कुंडुख भाषा है जो मुख्यतः उपरोक्त राज्यों एवं अन्य जगहों पर मात्री भाषा (Mother Tung) के रूप में बोली जाती है।

हमें इंतजार करने के लिए ज्यादा समय नहीं लगा कुछ ही दिन में फादर का फोन आया और मुस्कुराते हुए बताया कि कुंडुख भाषा में मिस्सा के लिए जगह मिल गई है यह सुनकर हमें अत्यंत हर्ष हुआ जिसका कोई सीमा नहीं रहा। फादर को इस बड़े कार्य के लिए दिल से धन्यवाद देते हैं।

इसके बाद छोटानागपुर समूह में, पड़ोसी राज्य जैसे म.प्र.से भोपाल, छत्तीसगढ़ से जशपुर, रायगढ़, कोरबा, बिलासपुर, रायपुर, भिलाई, राजनांदगांव, डोंगरगढ़ साथ ही साथ बैतूल, सिवनी, बालाघाट, गर्राटोला, अमरावती, नागेपल्ली, इटापल्ली, गढ़चिरौली आदि जगहों पर आग की तरह यह खबर फैला दिया गया जिससे कुंडुख भाषी मरियम भक्त इस मिस्सा में भाग ले सकें।

हमें यह कुंडुख भाषा मिस्सा यादगार बनाना था क्योंकि यह १२० वां लूई माता महोत्सव तथा हम छोटानागपुर वासियों को बयालीस साल के बाद पहल किया गया और उसमें मंजूरी मिली। इसलिए गाने एवं मिस्सा का जबाब के लिए अभ्यास शुरू किया गया। अभ्यास का सत्र कभी सेंट मार्टिन नगर, कभी वाड़ी, कभी गिड्टीखदान तो कभी आदरणीय फादर रेक्टर सेंट चार्ल्स सेमिनरी से अनुमति लेकर अहडोटोरियम में अभ्यास किया गया। इस सहयोग के लिए सेंट चार्ल्स सेमिनरी के फादर रेक्टर को संस्था की ओर से हार्दिक बधाई।

इस मिस्सा के मुख्य याजक श्रद्धेय फादर संजीव कुजूर बैतूल से, फादर फिलिप टोपनो अजनी से, फादर बेनेडिक्ट केरकेट्टा रेक्टर नोर्बार्टाईन से, फादर अगुस्टीन तिकी सेंट मार्टिन नगर से, फादर प्रफुल्ल एक्का और ब्रदर डीकन सेंट मार्टिन नगर से शामिल थे इनको भी तहे दिल से छोटानागपुर वासियों की ओर से बहुत बहुत बधाई एवं शुभकामनाएं देता हूं।

इस अभ्यास में सेंट चार्ल्स सेमिनरी के ब्रदरस, येरला के सेंट जोसेफ सिस्टरस, जियो दया की सिस्टर आप सबों को बहुत बहुत धन्यवाद और आगे भी आप सबों यही उम्मीद की आशा करता हूं।

प्रथम बार लूई माता महोत्सव में कुंडुख भाषा में मिस्सा पूजा होना हम छोटानागपुर वासियों के लिए कोई चमत्कार से कम नहीं था। जब से बिशप इलियास गोंजाल्वेस नागपुर के आर्च बिशप बने हैं छोटानागपुर वासी महिलाओं को लूई माता महोत्सव के हिंदी मिस्सा में प्रवेश नाच के लिए भार दिया जाता

था जिसके लिए भी आर्च बिशप इलियास गोंजाल्वेस को संस्था की ओर से सहृदय धन्यवाद देता हूँ।

इस बार प्रवेश नाच तो नहीं मिला परन्तु कुंडुख भाषा में कुंडुख मिस्सा अर्पित करने का सुअवसर मिला जो हम छोटानागपुर वासियों के लिए 10 फरवरी 1993 एक यादगार दिन रहेगा जो काफी लम्बे समय तक याद किया जाएगा। लूर्द माता के आंगन में अपनी मातृभाषा कुंडुख में मिस्सा पूजा अर्पित करना महं मरियम के प्रति विश्वास एवं भक्ति को और अधिक बढ़ावा देता है। अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण एवं सराहनीय कार्य यह है कि अभी तक पहुंच हजार अड़सठ (४६५७) लोगों ने यूट्यूब के माध्यम से यह मिस्सा देख चुके हैं। कई जगहों एवं शहरों से फोन के द्वारा हमें बधाई एवं आगे के लिए शुभकामनाएं दिया गया। मैं जितने भी लूर्द माता मरियम के भक्त जन हैं जो दूर दराज से यहां दर्शन के लिए आते हैं उन्हें तहेदिल से धन्यवाद देता हूँ आप विश्वास कीजिए यहां से खाली हाथ कोई नहीं जाएंगे क्योंकि महं मरियम अपने भक्तों से बहुत प्यार करती है। यहीं से मैं अपनी लेखनी पर विराम देता हूँ ये उम्मीद से कि अगले बरस फिर मिलेंगे कुंडुख भाषा मिस्सा लूर्द माता महोत्सव फरवरी -1998 में तब तक के लिए जय येसु जोहार जोहार जोहार।

आप सबका शुभचिंतक
साय सुशील कुजूर
चैप्टर चीफ
कुंडुख लिटरेरी सोसायटी ऑफ इंडिया
नागपुर, महाराष्ट्र चैप्टर।



ST. VINCENT PALLOTTI CHURCH

Christmas Joy Unleashed: A Festive Tale from Mary Queen of the Apostles Parish

The Christmas festivities at Mary Queen of the Apostles Parish commenced with the enchanting tradition of house-to-house caroling, led by spirited youth and Assisi Aspirants, who graciously assisted the Basic Ecclesial Communities (BECs). This joyful initiative set the stage for the vibrant Christmas celebrations that unfolded within the parish. In addition to the Carols Singing Competition, families were encouraged to showcase their creativity in a crib competition, fostering a sense of shared artistry and holiday spirit. On the spiritual front, a recollection and confession session, along with a Sunday Mass on December 17th, provided parishioners with an opportunity for reflection and spiritual renewal. The much-anticipated midnight Mass on the night of December 24th saw the church brimming to its capacity, with a warm and festive atmosphere. The morning Mass was equally well attended, and the congregation enjoyed the distribution of cake and coffee. Emphasizing the spirit of giving, Parish Priest Fr. Johnson Puthur initiated a unique Christmas gift box project, urging parishioners to pack usable items that could benefit those in need. The celebrations will reach their culmination with a Family Day scheduled for January 7th, 2024, fostering continued community togetherness and joy.

Christmas Carols Singing Competition

Mary Queen of the Apostles Parish, Pallotti Nagar, radiated festive cheer during a captivating Christmas Carols Singing Competition on the evening of December 22, 2023. The transformed parish premises, adorned with enchanting lights, an illuminated Christmas tree, and festive decorations, set the stage for the joyous occasion. Divided into solo and group categories, participants of all ages showcased their talent, enchanting the audience with melodious voices. The main highlight was the group carol contest, where Basic Ecclesial Communities (BECs) competed for the coveted Best Carols Award. Adorned in festive attire, groups presented carols passionately, with children portraying Nativity characters, adding a delightful touch. Father Johnson Puthur expressed gratitude to all organizers and emphasized the event's role in fostering community spirit and spreading Christmas joy. The competition not only showcased musical talents but also united the community in celebration, creating cherished memories for attendees.



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OUR LADY OF HOLY ROSARY CHURCH SEMINARY HILLS, NAGPUR



Diaconate Ordination (28 Jan. 2024)



Dominican Friars Daniel D'Souza, Stephen D'Sa & Varghese Thomas were ordained as Deacons by Most Rev. Archbishop Elias Gonsalves at Rosary Church, Nagpur; Witnessed by priests, Religious brothers, sisters, family members, and Laity.

31 DEC. 2023 FAMILY DAY



It was celebrated at Rosary Parish on 31st Dec, the feast of the Holy Family. The celebration included Holy Mass, sharing of eatables, Fun games, entertainment, and prize distribution.

OUR LADY OF HOLY ROSARY CHURCH SEMINARY HILLS, NAGPUR



The Installation of Fr. Shiju Francis, OP as the parish priest, officiated by our Archbishop Rev. Elias Gonsalves on 17 Dec. 2023

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION



Five children received the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist for the first time on 14th January 2024 at Rosary Church, Seminary Hills, Nagpur.

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ST. JUDE CHURCH, BAIHAR

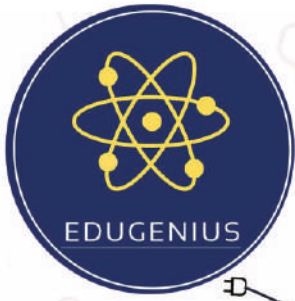


ST. PETER'S CHURCH, BHANDARA

On 25th February St. Peter's Church Bhandara Parish Mahila Mandal ALAM members renewed the promise for social causes. Sr. Julie, the mother superior, prepared them spiritually with the help of Fr. Christuraja MSFS. He insisted on the importance of serving others specially during the season of Lent



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The very first pages of the Bible present us with the drama of original goodness, temptation and sin. The Tempter, in the form of a serpent, is subtle, instilling doubt about God's wisdom and intentions, and playing on our ambition and pride. Just as love is its own reward, so evil is its own punishment; only after sinning do we truly appreciate the wrong we have done. The Scriptures and the masters of the spiritual life urge us to recognize and reject evil at its root, to be alert to the wiles of the devil, and above all, to keep watch over our hearts, lest the first stirrings of sin threaten our closeness to the Lord and our obedience to his loving plan for our lives.



VICES AND VIRTUES

The spiritual striving:

The Christian life involves a constant struggle to resist sin and to grow in holiness. Jesus, himself sinless, submitted to baptism by John and was tempted in the desert, in order to teach us the need for spiritual rebirth, conversion of mind and heart, and unflinching trust in God's mercy and sustaining grace. May our reflections on the virtues and vices help us to imitate the Lord's example, to grow in wisdom and self-understanding, and to discern between good and evil. As we advance in the knowledge and practice of the virtues, may we come to experience the joy of closeness to God, the source of all good, authentic happiness and the fullness of eternal life.

Gluttony

As a guest at the wedding feast of Cana, Jesus taught the goodness of food and drink, and the joy of table fellowship. Rejecting the ritual distinction between pure and impure foods, the Lord turns our attention to our personal relationship with the consumption of food. In societies troubled by eating disorders and which, all too often, waste great amounts of food even as many people in our world go hungry, our eating habits should be moderate and socially responsible. May the prayers we say in thanksgiving for God's gift of our daily bread, inspire us to be mindful of our responsibility towards others and virtuous in our enjoyment of the good things of this earth.

Lust

We now turn to lust, which is opposed to the beauty of that love which the Creator has implanted in our hearts and called us to cultivate in our relations with others, especially by the responsible use of our sexuality. Lust poisons the purity of love by turning it from a chaste, patient and generous acceptance of another person in all the mysterious richness of his or her being, into a egotistic desire for possession and immediate satisfaction. God's gift of sexuality, which finds sublime expression in conjugal love, is at the service of human fulfilment and authentic freedom, whereas lust enchains us in selfishness and emptiness.

Avarice

An undue attachment to wealth, which hinders us from being generous with regard to others. Greed is not simply a selfish hoarding of money or material objects, but a distorted relationship with reality and even a form of enslavement. The Desert Fathers saw greed as an attempt to avoid facing the reality of death, which is opposed to Jesus' advice to accumulate treasures in heaven rather than earthly goods (cf. Mt 6:19-20). May our use of the world's goods always be marked by evangelical freedom, responsibility and a spirit of generous solidarity, in imitation of Christ himself, who, though he was rich, became poor for our sakes, so that by his poverty, we might become rich (cf. 2 Cor 8:9).

Wrath

The uncontrolled anger that may well begin with brooding over offenses received, but ends up being self-destructive and damaging to our relationships with others, leading ultimately to violence and even war. Jesus teaches us to forgive those who sin against us, while Saint Paul urges us never to let the sun set on our anger. Yet there is an appropriate kind of anger, which consists in righteous indignation before evil and injustice. As with all the passions, so too with anger: it is up to us, with the sustaining grace of the Holy Spirit, to govern and direct our emotions in order to serve God's kingdom of reconciliation, justice and peace.

Sorrow

We now centre our attention on spiritual sadness. Saint Paul speaks of a "godly grief" and a "worldly grief" (2 Cor 7:10). The former prompts conversion, enabling us to cling to hope and, therefore, leads to joy. The latter stems from dashed hopes and disappointments, eroding the soul with discouragement and sadness. Unlike most vices that seek fleeting pleasures, sadness indulges itself by wallowing in sorrow, hindering spiritual growth. As an antidote to this kind of despondency, the Desert Fathers recommended embracing Christ's resurrection; for the risen Jesus redeems all the happiness that has remained unfulfilled in our lives.

Acedia

Now consider acedia or sloth, which, although associated in English with laziness, is above all a deep spiritual apathy, manifested by discontent and aversion to attentive prayer and growth in our relationship with God. According to the monastic tradition, this "noonday devil" is best overcome by the patience of faith. This includes accepting the poverty or dark night of faith, which then enables us, by God's grace, to sense the divine presence and to continue to reach out to God. The saints themselves show us that perseverance in time of temptation leads us to set practical goals for our daily life and moves us to lean on Jesus, who always remains with us.

It is the true faith, the very human faith, which despite everything, despite the darkness that blinds it, still humbly believes. It is that faith that remains in the heart, like embers beneath the ashes. It always remains. And if one of us falls prey to these vice, or to the temptations, try to look within and fan the embers of faith; that is how we keep going.



We have to be the custodians of our hearts. And that is why we do not converse with the devil. This is the recommendation — guard the heart — that we find in various fathers, in the saints. And we must ask for this grace of learning to keep watch over the heart. Knowing how to guard our heart is a form of wisdom. May the Lord help us in this work. Those who keep watch over their heart, guard a treasure. Brothers and sisters, let us learn to guard the heart.



ST. FRANCIS DE SALES COLLEGE

Introduction:

St. Francis de Sales College, driven by the ethos of Truth and Love, has embarked on a journey marked by progress and achievement in various domains. The college, represented by the colours blue, white, and red, symbolizing intellectual achievements, integrity, and physical prowess, has seen remarkable developments in academics, sports, social outreach, and partnerships.

Educational Advancements:

The ongoing academic session witnessed the addition of five new courses, showcasing the college's adaptability to evolving educational needs. Plans are underway to introduce more courses, aligning with the changing dynamics of contemporary education. Embracing digitalization, the college is committed to creating a conducive digital environment in classrooms and other spaces.

Academic Initiatives and Collaborations:

The college played a pivotal role in hosting a One-day National seminar titled "Navigating Horizons: Emerging Trends in Entrepreneurship, Education & Social Impact". The seminar, graced by esteemed speakers like Mr. Albert D'Souza and Prof. Suhas Pednekar, explored themes crucial to the current educational landscape. Additionally, collaborations with institutions like St. Aloysius College, Jabalpur, and Holy Cross College, Trichy, have facilitated meaningful interactions and progress.

Cultural and Academic Events:

The college actively participated in observing significant national and international days, fostering cultural awareness and global citizenship. The Annual Awards Day celebrated academic excellence, while various competitions, workshops, and seminars provided holistic development opportunities.



Sports Achievements:

The junior college football team showcased exceptional prowess, emerging as champions in multiple tournaments, including the Under-19 Boys Dr. Nitin Raut Football Tournament and the Shalaya NMC Football Tournament. Their achievements underscore the college's commitment to sports excellence and physical fitness.

Individual Achievements in Athletics:

V. Nageshwari brought glory to the college by winning gold medals in the West Zone Athletics Championship 2023, reflecting the institution's dedication to nurturing individual talent.

Social Outreach and Community Engagement:

St. Francis de Sales College's commitment to social responsibility and community welfare extends beyond academic pursuits. The college actively engages in various initiatives to uplift and empower marginalized communities, fostering a culture of inclusivity and compassion.

The National Service Scheme (NSS) organized impactful initiatives such as a week-long Village Camp in Chicholi village, providing essential services and support to the local population. Additionally, the celebration of National Girl Child Day in collaboration with the NGO - Indian Centre for Integrated Development (ICID) witnessed the participation of around 400 girls from the slums of Nagpur. This event not only celebrated the girl child but also provided educational and awareness-building opportunities, empowering them to aspire for a brighter future.

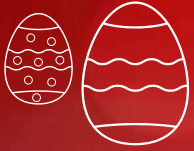
Furthermore, St. Francis de Sales College, in partnership with ICID, hosted the Bal Mela, a Children's Festival, within the college premises. Over 600 children from various city slums experienced joy and festivities, fostering a sense of belonging and camaraderie. Most Rev. Elias Gonsalves, Archbishop of Nagpur, delivered a thought-provoking message to the gathering, inspiring all present to continue their efforts towards social upliftment and community welfare. The event featured speeches, music, dance, and games, providing a platform for children to express themselves creatively and enjoy a day of uninhibited fun.

These initiatives not only enrich the lives of beneficiaries but also instill values of empathy, compassion, and social responsibility among students, preparing them to become conscientious global citizens. St. Francis de Sales College remains steadfast in its mission to make a positive impact on society, one initiative at a time.

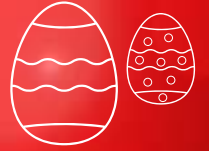
Conclusion:

St. Francis de Sales College has made significant strides in this academic session, excelling in academics, sports, social outreach, and collaborations. Guided by the principles of Truth and Love, the college remains steadfast in its commitment to holistic student development and community service. As it continues its journey forward, St. Francis de Sales College stands as a beacon of inspiration in the pursuit of knowledge, integrity, and service.

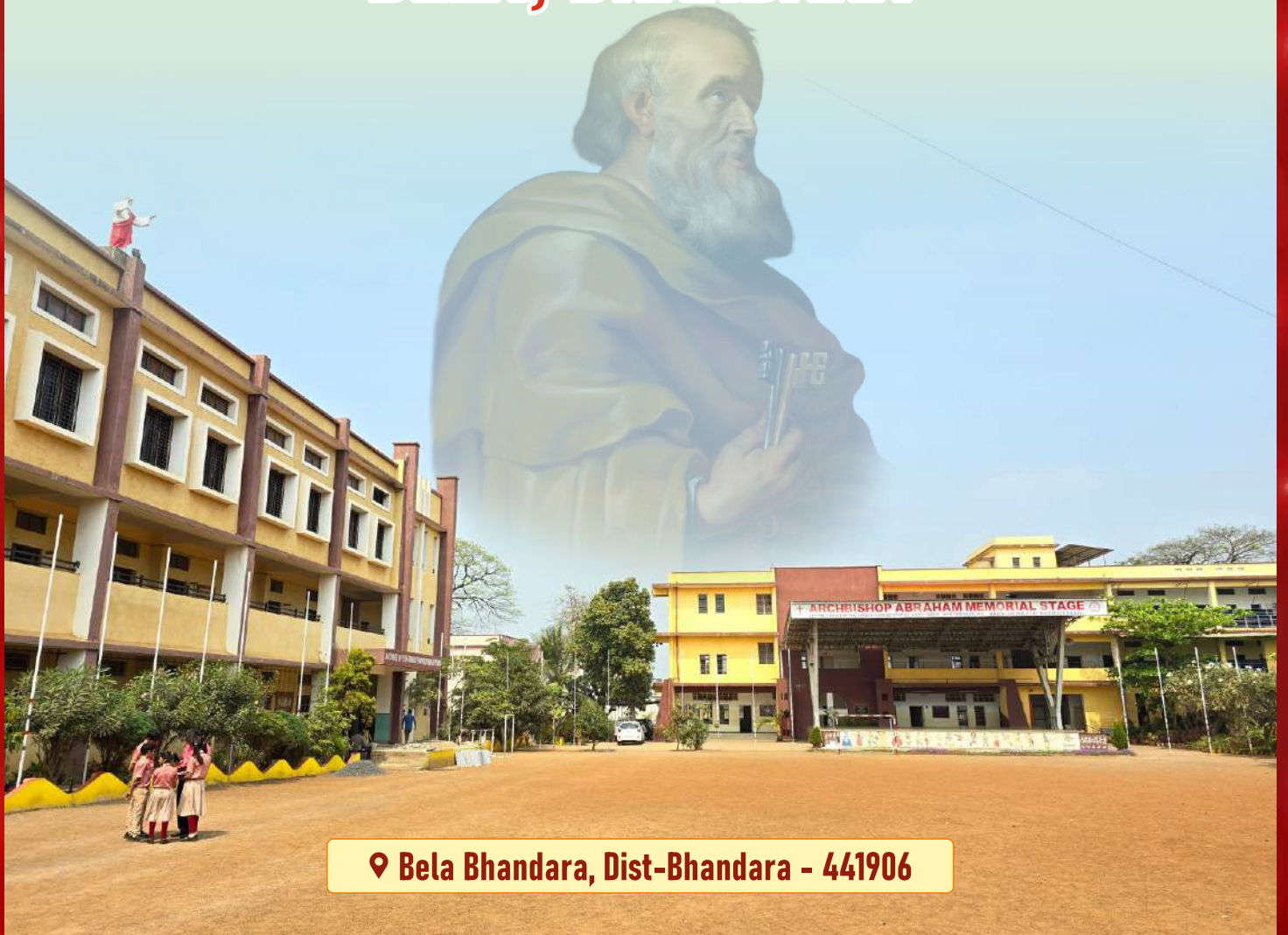




Easter Wishes From



ST. PETER'S SCHOOL (CBSE) BELA, BHANDARA



📍 Bela Bhandara, Dist-Bhandara - 441906



WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION AT GOOD SHEPHERD PROVINCIALATE, NAGPUR

This year's Women's Day celebration focused on the theme "Invest in Women, Accelerate Progress". The theme underscores the critical importance of investing in women's empowerment as a catalyst for social, economic, and political progress. This theme emphasizes the idea that by investing resources, support and opportunities for women, we can accelerate progress towards gender equality and sustainable development.

The celebration began with invoking God's blessing by the lighting of the lamp by all the dignitaries and women leaders. Our candidates performed the prayer dance and invited everyone in a prayerful atmosphere. The entire programme was compèred by Mrs. Juliet Robert, one of our mission partners. About 250 women from different walks of life took active part in this celebration. The participants were domestic help, migrant workers, our neighbours and some of our parishioners. Our sisters' presence and active participation in the celebration gave encouragement to the women.



We were privileged to welcome esteemed dignitaries who graced the occasion with their presence and support. Mrs. Sangeeta Gire, Corporator of Mankapur was our chief guest. The presence of Sr. Manisha Baruk (Fatima Sisters) working with NMSSS, Nagpur and our dear Sr. Pushpa Louis, Province Leader of the sisters of the Good Shepherd added colour and prestige to the event. All the dignities were honoured with a shawl.

Chief guest Mrs. Sangeeta Gire addressed the gathering saying that all women need to empower themselves in politics and apprise themselves of social and economic policies. She also communicated to the women to use voting rights and vote for the upcoming election.



Sr. Pushpa Louis enlightened the women on Constitutional rights and gender equality. She emphasized on the Constitutional rights of women especially on the Preamble and the Fundamental rights. Sovereign, Social, Secular, Democratic and Republic. Right to Equality in socio, political and economic aspects. Art.19 Right to Freedom, Freedom of speech, to assemble peacefully, to form union and association, right to move, reside and settle throughout the territory of India. She also spoke on gender equality and the discrimination women are facing. Women can be empowered by asserting their own rights and recognising their worth as women in the family and in the society.



The third speaker Sr. Manisha Baruk highlighted the importance of women in the family. Women have the power to manage the family alone and the power to lead a family. She also encouraged the women to avail the government schemes available for the different categories.

Vibrant cultural performance, including dance and singing by women and sisters, showcased the rich tapestry of talents within our women. This performance added a festive and lively atmosphere to the event.

Mrs. Nirmala Kujur expressed her heartfelt thanks and gratitude to all who took active part in the programme and everyone's support and collaboration to make this day a memorable day. The celebration came to an end with a refreshment for all.

Conclusion: The Women's Day celebration was a resounding success, fostering a sense of unity, empowerment, and inspiration for the participants.

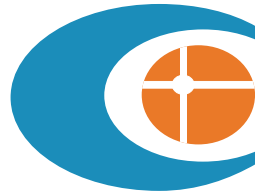
**Reported by:
Sr. Resi Joseph**



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Easter Wishes From



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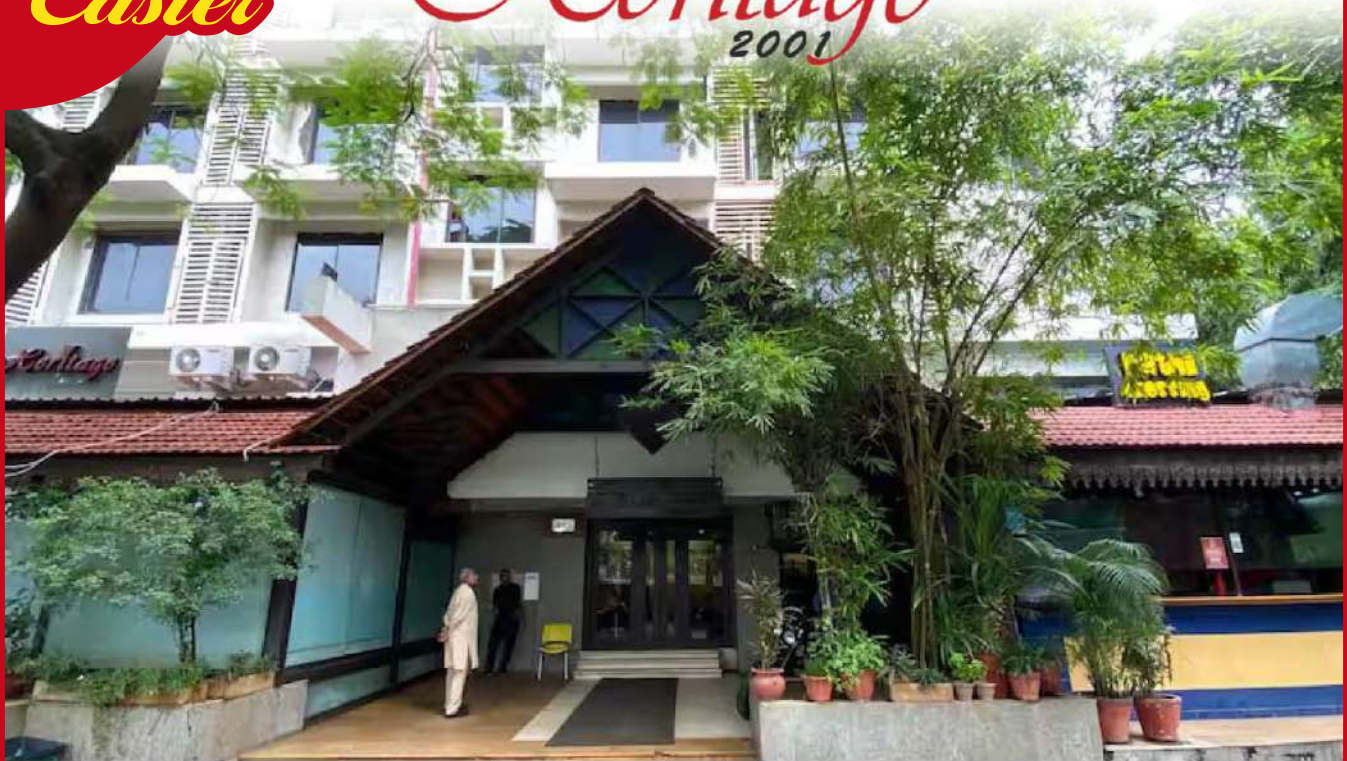
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