

## Annual National Consultation of CBCI Office of Education & Culture, 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct 2019

### Prayer, Felicitations, Welcome:

110 participants in all consisting of Regional Education Secretaries, Diocesan Education Secretaries, South Asia and National and Provincial Education coordinators of Religious orders came together for a day long consultation at the Don Bosco provincialate at Okhla, New Delhi on the 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct 2019. Most Rev Thomas D'Souza, Archbishop of Kolkata and



Chairman of the CBCI Office for Education and Culture presided over the meeting. The meeting was attended, as special invitees, by Fr. Joe Mannath- National Secretary of the NCRI, Fr. Antony Arackal- President of the Xavier Board of Higher Education, Fr. Jimmy James-Vice President of the AINACS, Fr. Joseph Puthenpura- National Secretary of AIACHE and Fr. Jose Mathew- Provincial of the Salesian Province of New Delhi. Fr. Pushparaj S.J from the Consortium of Christian Colleges from Tamil Nadu also was a special invitee. After an initial prayer reflection, the Chairperson and the Special invitees were felicitated and welcomed by Rev. Fr. Provincial, Fr. Jose Mathew who also gave an initial message on the importance of making education both catholic and relevant for the current times reflecting on the question of what exactly should be education today.

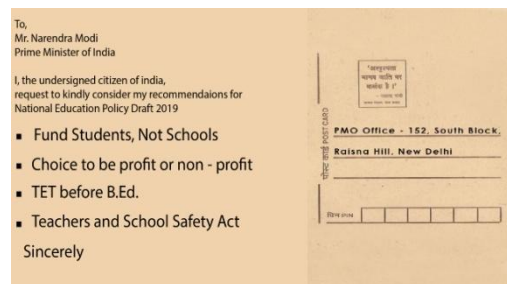
### Orientation by the Chairman of the CBCI Office of Education, Most Rev. Thomas D'Souza:

In his key note talk, Archbishop Thomas D'Souza started by leading the participants into prayer and two minutes of silence to pray for the repose of the soul of Most Rev. Dominic Jala, the late Archbishop of Shillong who had expired few days earlier in a tragic accident in California. In his message Archbishop Thomas spoke of the what has been done so far by way of studying and responding to the Government regarding DNEP2019; he insisted on the importance of stepping up our efforts to protect the environment on an urgent basis and pointed out that the disasters and air pollution happening is because we are not doing enough and insisted on definite action plan to be drawn up in our institutions to save the earth; Archbishop Thomas spoke about also the importance of peace education that should be pursued in the face of spreading violence and a culture of hate; he said that the families and the schools must work hand in hand becoming partners in educating children; Archbishop Thomas spoke of the importance of grooming in the children a sensitive conscience – sensitive to values and morals giving value education to all and faith formation to Catholic students. In conclusion he also gave an account of what has been done towards the project taken up to revise the All India Catholic Education Policy 2007 by the CBCI Office and the drafting groups that had been formed.



### Conversation Regarding what could be the fallout of the DNEP 2019 on Catholic Education:

After the message from the Archbishop, Fr. Joseph Manipadam introduced Fr. Joseph Puthenpura from the AIACHE and Fr. Pushparaj of the Consortium of Christian colleges and Mr Sushil Dhankar from the National Independent Schools Alliance to present some key points as to what could be the most damaging areas in the DNEP 2019 considering the interest of the Private and Minority Catholic schools and colleges. After Fr. J. Puthenpura and Fr. Pushparaj brought out the salient aspects of the DNEP, Mr. Sushil Dhankar pointed out the issues that would adversely affect education in India and referred to some of the relevant demands they were making e.g. TET before B.Ed., Strengthen B.Ed., ensure safety of also teachers and referred to the 14 action plans they had drawn up. Some of them are- on line petitioning, campaign through social media, post card campaign, multiple awareness meetings, rally at Ramlila maidan etc. After their presentation, some discussion regarding the various concerns were shared by the participants attempting not only to understand its demerits and problems but also to move towards a well discerned action plan. Some limited proposals that emerged were: to have a Think tank at national and regional levels; to have interface with the students and others in our institutions towards making them discern things with open mind; to focus on having some relevant data and cultivating a research attitude; developing appropriate documentation and proofs; correcting the wrongs and healing the anger; making education student centric rather than education or institution centric etc.



### Taking Stock of the progress regarding the Revision of the All India Catholic Education Policy 2007 and Report on the CBCI Education Master Minds Quiz:



Here Fr. Joseph Manipadam reported on the progress done by way of revising the current education policy of the Church as there had been significant developments by way of legislations, Church policies and mode of education at large after 2007 when the Church education policy was drawn up. A national convention had initiated the process a year back and suggestions had been sought from across the country, the compiled responses have been studied and drafted by the CBCI Office of education and Culture and six drafting groups working separately drafting the same chapter wise. Now the two drafts need to be compiled by a drafting team incorporating also the outcome of the Draft National Education Policy that would be soon finalized and passed by the Government. Following the briefing by Fr. J. Manipadam a representative from each of the six drafting teams presented the work they had done.

After the presentation on the progress of the Revision of the AICEP 2007, Mr. Vijay Singh Emmanuel of Franciscan Solutions presented the report on how the season one of the CBCI Education MasterMinds quiz was conducted giving also the accounts and the audited report of the same. He assured the participants that although the venture had gone into more than 40 lakhs of loss, it would be absorbed by Franciscan solutions and the amount due to CBCI

and CBCI office for education and culture, of the total collection (revenue) after paying gst would be paid as per the MOU drawn up on the basis of 6% to CBCI and 4% to CBCI Office for Education and Culture. He also assured that any dues still to be paid to the local and regional coordinators or the awardees of the quiz participants would be



cleared within a month. Soon after presenting the reports regarding quiz, some of the Regional Secretaries / coordinators who had managed to get maximum student participation for the quiz were given awards by the organizers as incentives for their support and cooperation. For the Diocesan level highest number of student participation, Fr. Eugene Lobo from Bangalore, Fr. K. Vinod from Adilabad, Fr. Joy Cyprian from Calcutta, and Fr. Sahayadas from Meerut were awarded. While for the Regional level highest number of student participation Fr. Vincent Pinto of Agra was awarded.

### **Considering Urgent concerns: Urgency to stop the Erosion of Reading habit:**

As reading habit as a whole is fast disappearing at a very rapid pace among the students and it was causing serious concern, Mr. Kavish Gadia the founder of the organization named “Stones 2 Milestones” was invited to make a proposal about how to inculcate in the students interest in reading. After his interesting presentation explaining the methodology which was supported also by technology and also app based, some of the participants further interacted with him seeking more clarification. It was a proposal that had been proposed and being implemented successfully in many schools already.

### **Considering Urgent concerns: Urgency of Action Plan to save the Environment:**

To introduce the session, Fr. J. Manipadam made a presentation made as a follow up to “Laudato Si” making a proposal for schools to implement a “save the environment” programme. The presentation consisted of numerous proposals to protect the environment that could be implemented in schools. After his audio visual cum ppt presentation, he invited Bro. Mani Mekkunnel who presented the certificate programme that had been carried out in a number of Montfort schools. This project to protect the environment would create in the students an interest through a certificate programme to protect the environment and thus work to reverse the existing environmental crisis and related problems and work to save the world. It was a web based and self study cum assessment oriented programme of action which could be open to others and extremely educative and beneficial as an action plan to save the earth.

### **And to Take the CBCI Office for Education and Culture forwards...:**



As Fr. Joseph Manipadam is completing his term of service of 7 years (1+3+3years), as National Secretary of CBCI Office for education and Culture, he himself took the opportunity to explain to the participants the process of selection of the next Secretary for the office by the Standing Committee

meeting of Bishops. He elaborated as to how almost a year ago the Bishops having been informed, the search had started and from among the CVs of candidates proposed and recommended by their Bishops/ Provincials, a short listed terna was submitted to the Standing Committee meeting of Bishops in August 2019 and how they had unanimously selected Rev Fr. Maria Charles Antonysamy SDB of Chennai province, to succeed Fr. Joseph Manipadam. The bio-data of Fr. Maria Charles was presented by Fr. Manipadam who welcomed him and wished him successful ministry. The new Secretary would take charge with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2019. A convenient date would be fixed for December 2019 to do the handing over in the presence of His Grace Archbishop Thomas D'Souza, the Chairman Bishop of the office.

His Grace further went on to recall the services rendered by Fr. Joseph Manipadam during his tenure of service viz. the evaluation and certification of more than 7000 institutions regarding the implementation of the All India Catholic Education Policy, the drawing up of the CBCI Child Protection Policy, Bridging the gap and bringing together those involved in Catholic Educational services rendered by both the Dioceses and Religious Orders through the annual CBCI Education Consultations, hundreds of meetings and training programmes done for Regions, Dioceses and Religious Congregations, Studying and organizing the response on behalf of the Church on the Draft NEP of 2016 and later regarding the NEP Draft of 2019 after numerous consultations and awareness programmes conducted across the country etc. Thanking the outgoing Secretary, Fr. J. Manipadam, His Grace welcomed Rev. Fr. Maria Charles Antonysamy inviting him to take charge of the office in December 2019 and wished him full cooperation and all success. The outgoing and incoming Secretaries were felicitated with gifts and flowers.



After summing up the events of the day and thanking the participants for their willingness to come from distant places and for their active and interested participation, Archbishop Thomas concluded the meeting with a prayer and blessing. The meeting was concluded at 4.25 p.m.

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