



DIVINE LIGHT

"May the Heart of Jesus live in the Hearts of all people"

December 2018

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Christmas: An Opportune Time to Follow 'the Star'

Christmas unfolds the story of a God who passionately loves us. Two thousand years ago this love was revealed to the human beings through God's significant action of giving his only son for us and for our salvation. It was during Mary and Joseph's stay in Bethlehem Jesus was born in a manger. He was not recognised as people expected Messiah to be born in a palace. The good news of his birth was announced first to the poor and the lowly. Besides these we too hear the story of the Magi searching for the one who is born to become King of the Jews. They followed the star that guided them to the place where child Jesus was laid. After having worshipped him, they departed to their own country by another way as per the warning they received in a dream not to return to Herod (Mt 2:12). The joy of the Magi as a result of finding the child Jesus, their worship and their decision to return in 'another way' imply God's guidance. The star that guided them to Bethlehem was no more seen during their return journey. Child Jesus became the true star to guide and lead them not only during their return journey, but throughout their life.



The Gospel of Matthew refers to these Magi as *magoi* in Greek. It is translated as Magi or Wise men in many English versions. The Greek word *magoi* has several distinct uses. In Acts 13:6, 8 it means "magician," and this seems to be its predominant meaning in later Christian literature. It could also designate the Magians, a Persian priestly caste, possibly Zoroastrian. There is a third meaning for the word *magoi*: astrologers. A scholarly consensus seems to favor this meaning in the story of wise men from the East. The practice of astrology was popularly derived from "the east." Since the visit of the *magoi* is prompted by their observation of the stars, this seems to be the probable meaning. Their question, as well as their origin and occupation, suggest that they were Gentiles. Hence the legend that is concentrated around these Magi which supposes that they were three of them, that they were kings, or that their names were Gaspar, Melchior and Balthasar is theologically insignificant. The most important point to be noted here is that these Magi represent Gentiles coming from distant areas of the world to worship Christ. They followed a star that appeared in the sky and it kindled in their minds and hearts a light that moved them to seek the great Light of Christ.

The journey of the Magi from the East is the proto-type of our journey towards Christ, the Light of the world. Just as the Magi who by following the star found the true star in the person of Christ, we too are called to encounter the Lord by walking in his light. In one of his homilies on the occasion of Epiphany in the year 2014, Pope Francis said that the destiny of every person is symbolized in the journey of the Magi of the East. They are at our side as wise companions on the way whose example helps us to lift our gaze towards the star and to follow the great desires of our heart. We can learn from them twofold lessons for our personal life and for our mission.

First and foremost, the Magi are positive figures who always received guidance from God. They began their search for child Jesus by following the star wholeheartedly. Although they lost sight of the star while in Jerusalem, they didn't lose their faith. They were not affected and corrupted by Herod's self-centred and negative attitudes. They were convinced of the birth of the Messiah. Nothing could stop them from continuing their journey until they reached their destination to worship child Jesus. As a result their hearts were filled with joy. They teach us how not to fall into the snares of darkness and how to defend ourselves from the shadows which seek to

envelop our life. In today's competitive and consumeristic world, due to our craze for modern gadgets, passion for power, name and fame we find difficult to fix our gaze on the right sign or person or value that will lead us to the true direction. In such situation our focus gets diverted and we feel that we are deceived, misled, and lost. The journey of Magi serves as an example to have our eyes fixed on the real star of our life: Jesus Christ. Keeping our eyes on him is a sign of profound devotion and love. It expresses our dependence on him for everything. Such type of devotion, love, and dependence on him give us courage and confidence to face any reality in today's world. This notion is very well implied in the words of the Psalmist who says, "I keep the Lord ever in my sight: since he is at my right hand I shall stand firm" (Ps 16:8).

Secondly, the gaze of the Magi towards the star which enabled them to fulfill their mission of seeking the Messiah teaches us another important lesson. Keeping the Lord ever in our sight and the experience of his continual presence within and beside us leads us to be effective in our mission. He liberates us from unhealthy preoccupations with ourselves and leads us to focus our eyes on the poor, the sick, the suffering, the rejected and the marginalised. They are the true images of Jesus Christ. The Gospel of Matthew evidently conveys us this message by keeping before us following words of our Lord – "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me" (Mt 25:40). We are called to see each one of them with the compassionate eyes of Jesus and reach out to them by responding to their need as he did during his earthly ministry.

Christmas is an opportune time for us to follow the star of our life: Jesus Christ. The journey of the Magi inspires us to keep our eyes on Christ in order to reach our destination with a joyful heart. May God bless us with the profound faith, optimism, perseverance, wholehearted search, and adoring worship of the Magi in order to make Jesus Christ as the true star of our life! Wish you all Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Dr. Fr. Victor Rodrigues, SVD
Rector, Divya Jyoti Seminary

Annual Retreat - A Blessed Time with the Lord

Every time we begin our academic year invoking the presence of the Lord through the Annual Retreat where



we not only spend time with the Lord, but also renew our vows before the Lord. This year we had our retreat from 11th to 16th June 2018. Fr. Rudolf Crasta SVD, the in charge of Retreat Centre, Katapali was the preacher. Fr. Rudolf set a very beautiful time-table giving us more time for reflections after the meaning talks. This year we renewed our vows on 14th June which is usually done at the end of the retreat. We had a wonderful and fruitful retreat which renewed our strength to carry out our assignments and duties diligently in the name of Jesus.

Dn. Anil Gadidam

Ceremony of Double Joy

Jesus prepared his disciples to be sent out for a specific mission for the greater cause. On 29th June 2018, Divya Jyoti Seminary celebrated the bestowal of the mission cross to the newly ordained priests, Fr. Donald Lobo, Rajesh Reddy and Fr. Sanjib Ddungdung and initiation of the third year brothers, Frt. Mukesh Minj, Frt. Joji Raju, Michael Stephen, and Rajshekar Reddy to the second novitiate. Rev. Fr. Petrus Kullu SVD, the Vice Provincial of INE province and the main celebrant of the Eucharist, along with SVD conferrers, priests and religious from neighbouring communities blessed the occasion with their presence.

Fr. Petrus Kullu, in his homily highlighted the purpose of the mission cross, the expectation from the priest and the present challenges in the missions. At the end of the Eucharist the newly ordained priests were bestowed with mission cross. After this ceremony, the Rector of the Divya Jyoti Seminary Fr. Victor Rodrigues gave lighted candles to the third year brothers and initiated them to the second novitiate for the intense preparation for their final vows and diaconate ordination. The ceremony of double joy came to its climax with a felicitation programme and sumptuous meal.



Dn. Agnel Rebello

Exposure Program in Puri

On July 7th July 2018 we the first year Students from Kristo Jyoti Mohavidyaloyo left for Puri to have our exposure to Hindu Culture, especially the Jagannath Cult. It was just apt for us as we were stepping into contextual Theology. It was another opportunity for us to learn something new about the people of Odisha from this exposure. We had a lot of input sessions on traditions, celebrations and rituals on the cult of Lord Jagannath and the world famous car festival Rath Yatra. Apart from this we had classes on Sanatana Dharma, Islam, philosophy of religion, etc. We enjoyed the classes as well as the beach visit every day. We visited various temples, Ashrams, and got first-hand experience of the Rath Yatra. After our exposure programme we went to visit the famous Stupa, Konark Temple, Science Museum, Tribal Museum, and planetarium. It was a wonderful and enriching learning experience for the first year theologian.



Fr. Parash Prasan Kujur

Thinking of the Day When You Went Away



22nd July 2018 unlike other days brought special thoughts of Fr. Thomas Vadakumkara of the happy times we shared as we kept his first death anniversary. It was exactly a year ago on this day Fr. Thomas left us to be with the Father eternally. We began the day with Solemn Eucharistic celebration in the morning presided over by Most Rev. Niranjan Sualsingh, the bishop of Sambalpur Diocese. The neighbouring diocesan and religious communities joined us in this celebration which was followed by breakfast. In the evening at 4 p.m. the Divya Jyoti community organized a Basketball tournament in honour of Fr. Thomas, followed by tea. It was an emotional day for our community as we remembered our former rector late Fr. Thomas who had been a friend, a formator, a teacher, and a faithful priest of God.

Dn. Remejus Soreng

A Day out in the Park

A true community is all about feeling connected, accepted and loved. We the Divya Jyoti community had arranged a lunch out on 4th August on the feast day of St. John Mary Vianney. It was a day of refreshment, a day away from all our busy schedules. We started the day with the Holy Eucharist offered by Fr. Victor Rodrigues, our rector followed by breakfast. At around 8:30 a.m. we began our journey to a beautiful park near Hirakud Dam. It was really a memorable experience filled with lots of fun and laughter. We had delicious lunch with variety of food items. The entertainment seniors helped us to refresh ourselves with their creative games and surprise items in which the whole community participated and enjoyed. Our hearts are filled with gratitude to our benefactors who made this day possible for us.



Fr. N. Joji Raju

Independence Day Celebration

With patriotic spirit in our blood and respect for our nation in our hearts, our multicultural community celebrated 72nd Independence Day celebration on 15th August 2018. We began the celebrations with the Holy Eucharist and then had flag hoisting ceremony with St. Arnold's Kindergarten children, staff, and parents. Fr. Ronald Pirera SVD, the Provincial Superior of INE was the chief guest for the occasion. The kindergarten children were encouraged to show their patriotic spirit through fancy dress competition after the flag hoisting ceremony. The children presented themselves as national leaders and the best ones were awarded with prizes. After the programme at Divya Jyoti, programs were conducted at tuition centres in Bhalukunda, Madhupur, and Talab. The tuition children presented dances, speeches and participated in games that were organized for them.



Fr. Ajeesh Peter Sahai

SCC Seminar at Dholopal - A Day with the Laity

With an aspiration to promote spiritual life in families and with the aim of forming a deeper relationship between the laity and the clergy, we, the members of Divya Jyoti community organized one day seminar for the lay faithful of Dholopal village, a sub-station of Meghpal parish in Sambalpur Diocese on 19th August 2018. The theme of the Seminar was “*Christian Family in the Present Context: the Challenges and the Responsibilities.*”

The resource persons Fr. Anil Kumar Kujur and Sr. Muktilata Ekka H.M. profoundly brought out the message on how to live the family life joyfully, following the Gospel values amidst the hustles of life, and face challenges of the present time. They also emphasized on parenting in a Christian family.

After the input sessions the lay faithful received the Sacrament of Reconciliation and then participated in the Holy Eucharist. The people were filled with gratitude and joy. They suggested to have such a programme every year. The Frates extended their hands in conducting the sessions, and in preparing meals for around one hundred participants. It was a wonderful experience for us to be a part of the faith formation of the laity in the villages.



A Seminar on Arnold Janssen's Spirituality

Fr. Mukesh Minj

We the Theologians at Divya Jyoti seminary conducted one day of Arnold Janssen's Spirituality seminar for the people in Gaibra parish on 26th August 2018. We began with the Solemn Eucharistic celebration presided over by Fr. Victor Rodrigues SVD, the Rector of Divya Jyoti community. After the Holy Mass, we began our programme which included talks on different themes, action songs, games, video clips, etc. Through these we gave the people an idea about our founder, St. Arnold Janssen, our first missionary, St. Joseph Freinademetz and their spirituality. There were about 1500 people who took part in this seminar. After the lunch we conducted games for the parishners which energized them. People being open and receptive said that they benefited a lot for life and cherished every moment of the day.

Fr. Ezekiel Rakesh D Souza



Ashram experience in Varanasi

Kristo Jyoti Mohavidyaloyo provides us ample opportunities to have various experiences with the purpose of being with the people with their ground realities and with the Divine Master. Ashram experience is one of such exposures of our theologate which enhances our spiritual growth. We, the third year students had two weeks of Ashram experience at Matrudham Ashram in Varanasi from 7th October to 21st October 2018. Matrudham Ashram is a centre for promoting Indian Christian spirituality centre. The holiness of the place and peaceful atmosphere kept us in touch with the nature and the Divine. We experienced the love of God through silence, meditation and prayers. Fr. Anil Dev IMS, gave us inspiring talks on Indian spirituality like Astanga Yoga, Pancha Kosha, Bhakti Marga, Jnana Marga, and Karma Marga. His talks were heart touching and challenged us to live a detached life. We also had a chance to visit Krista Bhaktas and interact with them. We were touched by their faith in Christ and testimonies. These splendid experiences edified our spiritual life and inspired us to become living witnesses of Christ.

Fr. Raja Sekhar

Annual Seminar at KJM

We the second year theologians of Kristo Jyoti Mohavidyalayo along with the staff organized a two-day Annual Seminar on the topic, "The World View of Santals and the Changing Scenario" on 28th and 29th of October. Rev. Fr. Solomon S.J. was called to be the resource person and the moderator of the seminar. The theme for this seminar was chosen to direct our collective efforts in creating awareness on tribal realities, especially the Santals. Prior to the presentation of the seminar the second years along with the moderators of the seminar Rev. Fr. Francis Pereira SVD, and Rev. Fr. Bartholomew Bilung had gone for a five days field study to Dambruhat in Bhagalpur Diocese, Jharkhand.



The seminar was divided into five sections where the second year brothers systematically presented their papers on the various topics assigned to them. There were also many interactive sessions and enough time given for clarifications from the audience. Being a part of the field study and presentation, I say that it was one of the best seminars I participated so far. We learnt a lot about the Santal tribe, their lifestyle, culture and the transition that they are in now. We benefited a lot from this enriching experience.

- Frt. George M Joseph

A Seminar on Intercultural Living



Internationality and Interculturality are the essential elements of the Society of the Divine Word. As per the recommendation of the Formation Board India, Divya Jyoti community organized a seminar on Intercultural living on 26th October 2018. Rev. Fr. Luvis Ronald Pereira SVD, the provincial superior of INE who attended the seminar on Intercultural living in Rome was the resource person. It was informative, insightful and inspiring seminar. He made us to assimilate the values and virtues of intercultural living in our life and community.

Frt. Linu. E.P.

Embarking Upon the Enthralling Junket

We the Divya Jyoti community members embarked upon the delightful excursion to Vishakhapatnam on 30th and 31st October. Our delectation to see the place was enormous. The two days of community picnic were filled with memories of joy and fun. We witnessed the community spirit in our care and love for one another. It was truly a moment of Exhilaration and enthrallment. In our efforts to be edified by the visit to different places of park, beach and film studios etc., we too made it educative by our visit to the historical places of importance. We are grateful to God for his protection and indeed deeply indebted to the generosity of Fathers of Mother Mary's Shrine, Rose Hill, Vishakhapatnam for their hospitable accommodation and scrumptious food, perhaps our stay at the shrine premises made us more blessed. With renewed spirit, rejuvenation of joy and enthused mind, we returned to our community. Fresh are the memories of excursion and freshened up is our spirit.

Frt. A. Arul Stephen



Children's Day Celebration

Children's day in India is celebrated every year on 14th of November to increase the awareness of people towards the rights and education of children. The Divya Jyoti Seminary under the leadership of JPIC Team celebrated Children's day on 11th November at Bhalkhunda, a village in one of the tuition centres. The programme started with prayer song followed by cultural program. Ms. Ananya Nayak, the Director Amrita Hospital, Majhipali, was the chief guest on this special occasion. In her speech, she appreciated all the brothers for conducting such a wonderful programme for the village children and expressed her happiness to be a part of the celebration. Soon after the cultural programme, games were conducted and all children actively participated in the activities. The program came to an end with prize distribution followed by tea and snacks.



Fr. Deepak D Souza

Adieu: Stepping into the Vineyard of the Lord

We are on a journey which gives us opportunities to grow and meet people. Me and fellow Deacons, who are formed in the Divya Jyoti Seminary feel blessed to be a part of this community which has taught us great lessons for life. 1st December 2018 was the day when the community came together first at the Eucharistic table in the morning to thank God for His great blessings, and then at a picnic spot in the afternoon to wish us well as we were to depart to our appointed places. It was a day of fun, coming together, and expressing our feelings to one another. All four of us looked back at the day when we entered the community up until this day and saw that the Lord was good to us all the time. After the farewell program we had fellowship meal followed by dance till 3.30 p.m. We are grateful to our formators and our brothers who have



contributed significantly for our growth and wellbeing at Divya Jyoti Seminary.

Dn. Peter Gaikwad

My Experience in Divya Jyoti Community

Psalmist says “my heart overflows with joy” (Ps 45:1). These words of the Psalmist echo in my life after living 2 years in Divya Jyoti Seminary. The two years of life at Divya Jyoti is a blessing. I received a golden opportunity to build-up spiritual strength and re-energize the spirit of my religious life. The staff and the students have showed me a lot of love and concern. I came as a student, yet I felt that I am accepted as a senior confrere in the community. I enjoyed the company of the staff and the students who always tried to get the young man out of me. Whenever the INE provincial and the council members visited the community, they made a point to meet me, ask about my health and stay here. I always felt that I am treated as a confrere of the province. It's a wonderful feeling to love and to be loved.



I remember with gratitude my Provincial superior Fr. Antony Joseph SVD and his council members for their support and prayers. I am going to complete my theological studies successfully very soon and so my heart is filled with joy. Therefore I feel it is a blessing to be at Divya Jyoti community.

- **Br. Alphonse U.**

Art by Fr. Parash Kujur



Best Wishes



Dn. Remejius Soreng hails from St. Joseph Catholic Church, Jampani, Simdega Diocese. His ordination will be on January 13th, 2019. The theme of his ordination is, "By God's Grace I am what I am...". He is appointed to **INE Province**.



Dn. Peter Gaikwad hails from Christ the King Parish, Malighogargaon, Aurangabad Diocese. His ordination will be on January 19th, 2019. The theme of his ordination is 'In His Loving Service'. He is appointed to **INH Province**.



Dn. Anil Kumar Gadidam hails from Mount Carmel Parish, Anantapur, Kurnool Diocese. His ordination will be on January 27th, 2019. The theme of his ordination is 'To Bring Good News to the Poor'. He is appointed to **INH Province**.



Dn. Agnel Rebello hails from Our Lady of Rosary Church, Goa and Daman Diocese. His ordination will be on May 3rd, 2019. The theme of his ordination is, "Called to serve in Love". He is appointed to **Chad Mission** in Africa.

Final Vows and Diaconate Ordination

It's our joy to let you know that Frt. N. Joji Raju, Frt. Mukesh Minj, Frt. Raja Sekhar Reddy, and Frt. Michael Stephen, will profess their final vows on 2nd January 2019 and will be ordained as Deacons on 3rd January 2019 by Most Rev. Niranjan Saulsingh, the Bishop of Sambalpur.



Frt. Stephen



Frt. Raja Sekhar



Frt. Mukesh



Frt. Joji Raju

Divya Jyoti Seminary - One heart Many faces

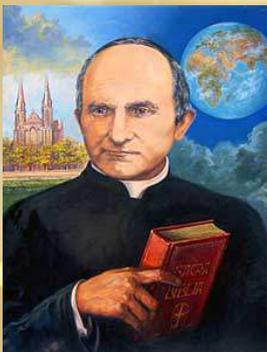


OUR VISION

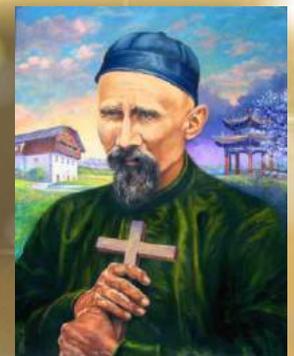
“Enlightened, inspired, guided, and formed by the Divine Word, we radiate Christ to transform the world.”

OUR MISSION

“Guided by the Spirit, we endeavour to have a deeper encounter with God and ourselves for a holistic formation. We achieve this by academic excellence, inspirational relationships, loving community life, and striving towards formation in order to witness Jesus in the footsteps of our Founder, St. Arnold Janssen.”



St. Arnold Janssen



St. Joseph Freinademetz

*Merry Christmas
&
A Happy New Year - 2019*