



Divine Light

"Inspired, enlightened and Formed by the Divine Word, we Radiate Christ to transform the world."

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Moving Beyond Sight to Faith



The resurrection accounts in the Gospels present a marvellous change in the spirit and character of the apostles. They were behind locked doors for the fear of the Jews (Jn 20:19, 26), but the resurrection of Jesus completely transformed them. It instilled in them confidence and courage to suffer for the sake of their risen Lord and his kingdom. One among them was Thomas who was asked by risen Christ to change from being unbelieving to believing. He was in fact granted what was necessary for him to move from unbelief to belief.

The problem of Thomas was that he expressed his wish to see Jesus rather than simply believe. He also disbelieved the testimony of the other disciples who boldly proclaimed, 'we have seen the Lord' (Jn 20:25). He merely demanded proof saying – "unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in his side, I will not believe." In this way he expressed his deepest desire to see and feel Jesus' scarred hands and wounded side in order to strengthen his own faith and then reach out to others to strengthen their faith.

Thomas was a realist. He lived with doubts until he saw and felt risen Christ whose wounds became a sign of His presence. This life-changing experience of the real person of risen Christ enabled him to see the pointlessness of his conditions. He was made to realise the stupidity of his ways. He was made to comprehend the foolishness in imposing his own limited mental categories on God's own Son, Jesus Christ. This encounter with risen Christ provided Thomas a moment of *metanoia* – a complete change of heart and mind. He understood that it is not his part to tell God how things should be and therefore, he confesses his faith in risen Christ, saying: 'My Lord and My God'. This response of Thomas reveals his lively and earnest feeling of faith. Now he does not feel the need to touch. He has moved beyond sight to faith. This is the life-giving faith, life assuring faith that we are all called to have in our life.



In our Christian life, we have our own slight moments of doubting. In one of the weekly general audience (23.03.2016) Pope Francis expressed that everyone experiences doubts about the faith at times, but such doubts can be a sign that we want to know God better and more deeply. He further said that we should not be afraid of questions and doubts because they are the beginning of a path of knowledge and going deeper.

One who does not ask questions cannot progress either in knowledge or in faith. Thomas becomes for a role model to convince us that even though we face some moments of doubting, we all need to see our doubts through to the end and make progress in our faith. It is important to know that our faith does not finally rest on sight or smell or touch, but on the Words and Call of the risen Lord to become his powerful messengers. His Words fill us with courage, confidence, and meaning and help us to conquer every kind of evil, pain, rejection, hatred, greed, selfishness etc. May our faith in the risen Lord and his Words lead us to re-discover joy and regain peace and missionary enthusiasm in order to make his life our life and his mission our mission! Wish you all Happy Easter!

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

Canonical Retreat: Blissful Time of Pilgrimage Within



We need God's assistance in every walks of our life to lead a meaningful and purpose-driven life. To spend the precious time with the Lord; we, the Third Year brothers of Divya Jyoti seminary took a step and set for our canonical retreat to Palloti home-Vasco, Goa. There was a favourable atmosphere surrounded with natural beauty to do our retreat and the well experienced person Rev. Fr. Frank Pinto helped us to experience God in the cool breeze and in the silence of our hearts. The preacher gave us sufficient time for reflection and his talks were rousing our innermost selves to thirst for God in our life. Some of the important talks which were highlighted during our retreat were on Eucharist, the unconditional love of God, to be fruitful pastoral leader and the role of deacons in the Church which indeed transformed our hearts and lives. All of us made use of this time for evocatively pondering on the word of God, spiritual talks, personal prayer, meditation and adoration. We all had blissful canonical retreat which helped us to be strong in our commitment to the Lord. With lots of love and joy, we gratefully acknowledge God, staff and the students of Divya Jyoti, benefactors and the Palloti home Vasco-Goa for their support and love towards us.

Dn. Agnel Rebello

Christmas: The Season of Joy

Christmas is a time of joy and happiness received through the loving mercy of the baby Jesus. We had province-level Christmas celebration on December 27th, 2017 in INE provincial house, Jharsuguda combined with the silver and golden jubilee celebration of our confreres. The celebration began with the Holy Eucharist followed by felicitation programme in the evening for the jubilarians and ended up with an attention-grabbing and amusing games organized by Divya Jyoti brothers for all the confreres. As an extension to those celebrations in Jharsuguda, Divya Jyoti Community had its own community Christmas celebrations which included preparation of a wonderful and creative crib in the seminary, a joyful gathering in which all the students and staffs exchanged the Christmas gifts, cake cutting and marvellous carols. It was really a memorable Christmas celebration in which we experienced the birth of Jesus in our hearts.

Frt. Linu Edassery Pauly

Eucharistic Exposure and Elevating Experience:

“Jesus’ Mission Is Our Mission”

The celebration of Eucharist everyday plays a vital role of nourishment of our souls and facilitates us to live the Eucharist in our life. In this context, we, the eleven third year students and four first year certificate students of Khristo Jyoti Mohavidyaloyo had gone to experience life struggles of poor people among the local church of Jharbeda Dehat from 3rd February 2018 to 17th February 2018. Rev. Dr. Fr. Francis Pereira SVD, the Rector of KJM accompanied us as our guide and moderator for the exposure.



It was a golden opportunity to witness the domestic church by living with them as their own sons and daughters in the families. We also took part in their joys and sorrows. Though, poor financially, they are rich in culture and spirituality. In spite of victimization by social evils and bondage of poverty, illiteracy and bad habits, they persevere in faith to become true children of God. Our efforts to transform their life bore fruits in aspects of the value of Eucharist and education; sin and confession; faith and family life, etc. We experienced their genuine love, generosity, concern, and acceptance. To become an efficient pastor of the people in the future, this Ecclesio- Eucharistic exposure programme provided the foretaste to the reality. Thus the exposure helped us to grow in the love of God and service of the people of God.

Dn. G. Anil Kumar

The Little Angels of St. Arnold’s Kindergarten

at Annual Day Programme

The annual day in the schools is one of the best opportunities for the children to explore and display their talents and arts before the teachers, parents, companions and others. The annual day of St. Arnold’s Kindergarten, Sason, Sambalpur which is situated in our campus was held on 16th December 2017. It was an occasion of felicitation filled with a festive atmosphere and an enthralling performance by the little kids from Nursery, KG I, and KG II. We were privileged to have Mrs. Beena Keswick, the Principal of Seven Hills Residential School, Sambalpur in our midst who graced the event as the Chief Guest and delivered a momentous speech with encouraging words, appreciation and wishes towards our budding school. We also had different eminent personalities from the surroundings, added colour to the occasion. We were glad to put our hands together to help them for the success of the program. It was indeed an occasion for us to learn a few tips to organise a systematic programme in the institutions.



Fr. J. George Michael Stephen

In His Loving Service

Religious Vows are a concrete expression of gratitude to God, a grateful loving response to the love of God. On 2nd January 2018, Frt. Agnel Rebello, Frt. Anil Kumar, Frt. Peter Gaikwad and, Frt. Remejius Soreng professed their final Commitment in the Society of Divine Word as a Religious. The main celebrant, Rev. Fr. Ronald Pereira delivered a beautiful message on the theme, “**In His**



Loving Service,” so as to commit and dedicate exclusively to Christ. On the following day they were ordained Deacons by Most Rev. Niranjan Sualsingh, the Bishop of Sambalpur in the august presence of Rev. Fr. Ronald Pereira SVD, the provincial superior of India Eastern Province. The Bishop preached an insightful homily and said, “Go beyond the din of the city and the worries of the day in order to purify

your vision and heart; the vision to see the world with the eyes of God and the heart to love your brothers with the heart of God.” The ordinandis were highly exalted by the graceful presence of priests and religious, family members and relatives, associates and well wishers who came from far-off and around Sambalpur. Hence this mega event will surely be imprinted in their soul and remain as an inerasable memory of their hearts.



Dn. Remejius Soreng

Goodbye! Well Done! Best wishes Deacons

“If you are brave enough to say goodbye, life will reward you with a new hello.” – Paulo Coelho



Filled with the mixed feelings of gladness and grief, with our heavy heart we bid farewell to five of our deacons on 20th January 2018. This year, the farewell programme was arranged in a very unique manner. The day began with the Holy Eucharistic celebration, followed by our lunch-out to nearby picnic spot ‘Bamboo Bush’. The brothers entertained the outgoing deacons with the variety of party games, and a farewell song. The deacons, on this occasion, poured out their feelings in the form of words, expressing their gratefulness to the DJS community. Fr. Victor Rodrigues, the Rector, appreciated and thanked them for their contributions not only to the DJS community but also to the Khristo Jyoti Mohavidyaloyo as whole. Finally, the programme ended with a fellowship meal and best wishes to achieve great heights in life.

Frt. Mukesh Minj

St. Arnold’s Festive Day

Indeed it was a spectacular day for all the sons of Arnold Janssen (SVD family) to celebrate our founders feast day in a grand manner. We started the day with the Holy Eucharistic celebration offered by Rev. Fr. Francis Pereira



who enlightened and inspired us with his beautiful homily on the life of Arnold Janssen. In the evening we had a gathering with our nearby confreres, neighbouring fathers and sisters. Gathering started with a small prayer to invite the Lord in our midst, followed by cake cutting after which we had a small video clip on the life of St. Arnold Janssen. Pongal also was celebrated on the same day in our community thus we had variety of delicious meal in which we shared our joy and happiness with each other. We really cherished each and every moment, and relished the experiences of our founder's day.



Fr. Joji Raju Neelam

Rejuvenating Visit to the Palace of Charity

During the Lenten Season, we were much privileged to visit M.C. sisters and mentally challenged people. This visit was a magnificent opportunity for us to show our love, service, and have compassionate heart for the mentally affected people and marginalized in the society. It was a happiest day for us to visit them, to be with them, interact with them and learn something new from



them for our life. Our presence amidst them made them glad and gave them hope and comfort to be happy in their future. We witnessed and appreciated the commitment of the M.C. sisters to the service of the needy. The simplicity of the charity sisters touched our hearts and illumined our minds. Their welcome doubled our joy deep down. This experience of visit remains as momentum of joy and inspiration in our heart.



Dn. Peter Gaikwad

Commemoration of Freedom

With great joy and pride, we joined the citizens of our country in celebrating the 69th Republic Day on 26th January. We began the day with the Holy Eucharistic celebration and offered all the intentions of the nation and its people, presided over by Fr. Victor Rodrigues, SVD. Thereafter, we, along with the students of St. Arnold's Kindergarten partook in the flag hoisting ceremony which was followed by fancy dress competition. We were also motivated by the message of the Chief Guest, Fr. Rabindra Ranasingh. We remembered and paid homage to our national leaders who sacrificed their lives for our country. The celebration reached its end by the slogan "Jai Hind"



Fr. Ezekiel Rakesh D'souza

Exposure to the Slums in Rourkela; A Life Changing Experience



We, the first years of Kristo Jyoti Mohavidyalayo had a marvellous slum exposure programme for 12 days under the guidance of our vice principal Fr. Rabindra Ranasingh from 26th February to March 10th. We were in sector 18 of Rourkela city, in a slum named ‘Utkal Basti’, consisting of 90 families of different cultures, religions, and ethnic groups from Bihar, UP, West Bengal, Jharkhand etc. We stayed among them inside the slum by adopting their lifestyle and adjusting ourselves with all the difficulties. Our purpose of this exposure was not to contribute to them anything but to learn from them. I can proudly say that we learned so many things from them such as adjusting to the difficulties without complaining, be satisfied with the minimum, be sensitive, be broadminded and love for the poor etc. We could see God in the poor people. Their love towards us was indescribable. We realized our role of becoming voice of the voiceless and poor.



BEST WISHES

Fr. George M Joseph



Dn. Sanjib DungDung hails from Kiralaga Parish, Rourkela Diocese of Orissa. His ordination will be on April 15th, 2018. The theme of his ordination is, “**You Too Go To My Vineyard**”. He is appointed to INE Province.



Dn. Donald Carel Lobo hails from Basarikatte Parish, Chik-Mangalore Diocese of Karnataka. His ordination will be on April 30th, 2018. The theme of his ordination is, “**To Live for Christ**”. He is appointed to INE Province.



Dn. Antony Swamee Luis hails from Melaneduvai Parish, Kumbakonam Diocese of Tamilnadu. His ordination will be on May 4th, 2018. The theme of his ordination is “**To Bear Witness To Truth**”. He is appointed to INC Province.



Dn. Antony Varghese Maniacherry hails from koovappady Parish, Arch Diocese of Ernakulum Angamaly of kerela. He will be ordained on April 23rd, 2018. The theme of his ordination is, “**Love of Christ Urges Me On**”. He is appointed to NEB- Netherlands-Belgium Province.



Dn. Rajesh Kumar Reddy Ponnapati hails from Padamatiyaleru Parish, Kurnool Diocese of Andhra Pradesh. He will be ordained on May 09th, 2018. The theme of his ordination is “**Called To Serve**”. He is appointed to INH Province.



Hearty welcome

Fr. Vilash Bandod
Fr. Hanson D’souza
Fr. Deepak D’souza
Fr. Parash Kujur
Fr. Ajeesh Peter



