



AGRADIANCE

"To Reach the Good News to the Poor"

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AGRA ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS LETTER

DECEMBER 2021

**Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year 2022**



ख्रीस्त जयन्ती और नव वर्ष 2022 की शुभकामनाएं!

Archdiocese at a glance



SYNOD 2021-2023 : A Preparatory Session



Ft. Justine Augstine, 1st Mass, Noida



Solemnity of Christ The King, Cathedral



Etah Church remembers St. F. Xavier



Rev. Sandeep in Minor Seminary



Advent begins at St. Patrick's, Agra



Solemnity of Imm. Conception, Cathedral



Carol Singing, Havelock Church, Agra Cantt



Golden Year begins in Hathras



प्रिय मित्रों, कुछ ही दिनों में हम प्रभु येशु का जन्मोत्सव (ख्रीस्त जयंती) मनाने वाले हैं। इन दिनों मसीही संस्थानों, विद्यालयों और कॉलोनिनों को इस आने वाले पर्व के लिए सजाया संवारा जा रहा है। हर दिल में उमंग और उल्लास है इस त्योहार में मनाने के लिए।

इन दिनों सारी कलीसिया संत पिता फ्रांसिस द्वारा प्रस्तावित सिनड (धर्मसभा) में व्यस्त है। कलीसियाई और अन्तरकलीसियाई स्तर के साथ ही देशीय व अन्तरदेशीय और अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय स्तरों पर विभिन्न सभाएं और विचार गोष्ठियां आयोजित की जा रही हैं। संत पिता फ्रांसिस ने निश्चय ही बहुत मनन-चिन्तन और प्रभु के निर्देशों को आत्मसात् कर ही इस धर्मसभा के आयोजन का निर्णय लिया होगा। वैसे तो हर धर्मसभा के आयोजन का कोई न कोई कारण होता है। उसी क्रम में इससे पहले भी कई धर्मसभाएं आयोजित की जा चुकी हैं। गूगल के अनुसार वर्ष 1967 से अब तक तीस बार इस प्रकार की सभाएं हो चुकी हैं जिनमें से 16 सामान्य सभाएं और तीन असाधारण और 11 अति विशेष सभाएं हो चुकी हैं।

वाटिकन द्वितीय महासभा के बाद संत पिता पॉल षष्ठम ने धर्माध्यक्षों की धर्मसभा स्थापित की। ये धर्मसभाएं संत पिता को सलाह-मशविरा देती हैं। तब से विश्व के सभी धर्माध्यक्ष समय-समय पर धर्मसभाओं में मिलते और संत पिता को सलाह एवं सुझाव देते रहते हैं।

इस धर्मसभा का धर्मसभाई उद्देश्य क्या है? संत पिता द्वारा शुरु की गई इस वर्तमान सभा का मुख्य उद्देश्य है-कलीसिया की आन्तरिक प्रक्रिया (तन्त्र) को पुनः व्यवस्थित करने हेतु विचार विमर्श और चिन्तन करना तथा कलीसिया के आन्तरिक स्वाभाविक ज्ञान और मिशन प्रचार प्रसार को समझने और स्पष्ट रूप से व्यक्त करने में सहायक होना।

संत पिता की इच्छा है कि इस धर्मसभा में सिर्फ दस्तावेज ही तैयार नहीं किये जायें, किन्तु वास्तविक मुद्दों पर गम्भीर चिंतन किया जाये। उनकी चाहत है कि इस धर्मसभा में हर वर्ग-हर क्षेत्र के व्यक्ति को हिस्सा मिले, सब की बात सुनी जाये और सबको अपनी बात सुनाई जाए, कोई भी अछूता नहीं

रह जाए। धर्मसभा में उन्हें भी शामिल किया जाना चाहिए, जो हमसे रूठे हुए हैं या हमसे विरक्त हो गए हैं। धर्मसभा में अन्तर कलीसियाई और सर्वधर्म संवाद-सहयोग के लिए भी विशेष स्थान है। धर्मसभा सबके लिए खुला निमंत्रण है। हमारे समय में यह धर्मसभा हो रही है, यह हमारे लिए कितने सौभाग्य की बात है।

इस बार का क्रिसमस हमारे लिए एक अलग तरह का क्रिसमस होगा। यह हमें याद दिलायेगा कि क्या साथ लाये, क्या छोड़ आये? मंजिल पर पहुंचने का असली मजा तब ही आता है जब साथी साथ हो। इस बार हमारे बहुत से साथी हमें बीच में छोड़कर हमसे आगे निकल गये हैं...एक ऐसी जगह जिसके बारे में जगजीत सिंह अपनी गज़ल में कहते हैं-
“जाने गये कौन से देस, चिट्ठी न संदेस।”

कुछ वर्ष पूर्व जब मैं रोम से पढ़ाई के दौरान बड़े के दिन की छुट्टियों में इंग्लैण्ड गया हुआ था, वहाँ एक चर्च में पुरोहित के रूप में सेवा कर रहा था, तब हर हफ्ते मुझे एक नर्सिंग होम में बीमारों को देखने और उन्हें पवित्र साक्रामेण्ट देने जाना होता था। वहाँ नर्सिंग होम में एक एंग्लीकन विधवा माता भी थीं। वह मुझसे एक दिन कहले लगीं, ‘मैं तुम्हारे ईश्वर को पसन्द नहीं करती।’ मैं भौचक्क रह गया। तब उसने कहा, कि ‘तुम्हारे ईश्वर ने क्रिसमस के दिन ही मेरे एकलौते बेटे की जान एक एक्सीडेंट में ले ली।’ मैं भीतर तक हिल गया...क्या सांत्वना देता! तभी मैंने हिम्मत करके उनसे कहा, ‘अम्मा, ईश्वर ने तुम्हारे बेटे को ले लिया किन्तु बड़े के दिन ही उसने अपना एकलौता बेटा आपको दे दिया।’ पता नहीं कितना वो समझी, कितना उसका दुःख हल्का हुआ। वह धीरे-से मुस्करा दी...दो बूँदें आँसू की उनकी निराशा भरी आँखों से ढुलक गईं।

वास्तव में क्रिसमस आदान-प्रदान का त्योहार या समय है कपड़े या पुरानी चीज़े बदलने का नहीं। लेकिन अपने आपको बदलने का समय है। आप सबको बड़ा दिन और नया साल मुबारक हो!

प्रभु में आपका,

फादर यूजिन मून लाज़रस
(कृते, अग्रेडियन्स परिवार)



SHEPHERD'S VOICE



Christmas Message

No event in the history of salvation gives us as much joy as the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ. He comes as the rising sun to give light to those who live in the darkness and the shadow of death. To all those who live in the darkness of fear and anxiety, sin and sickness, discouragement and depression, the good news of great joy is: "Today a Saviour has been born to you." He is the image of the invisible God; to see Him is to see the Father; to have communion with Him is to have communion with God.

He was named Jesus because He was born to save His people from their sins. His birth is news of great joy for us. His birth was a prelude to His death. His humble birth in a manger, immediate persecution by Herod, the massacre of holy Infants of Bethlehem- these are signs indicating the life that awaited Him. They are signs of the cross. But they are also the sign that the broken relationship between us and God will be restored. Jesus sacrifices everything in order to free us and redeem us. His life and death proves that He is indeed the son of the living God. But the son can only be known by faith. Martin Luther says, "The real blessed faith that God's word and work demands is the firm faith that Christ is

born for you and that His birth is yours: that it took place for your sake. For the Gospels teach us that Christ was born for our sake, and that He died and suffered all things for our sake. The angel does not merely say that Christ is born. He says for you, for you He is born. *He does not say,* 'I bring news of great joy'; *He says,* 'to you, I bring news of great joy'."

As St. John says in his letter we need the assistance of the Holy Spirit to say God became man in Jesus Christ (1 Jn. 4:2). Therefore, when we celebrate this great feast of Christmas our attitude must always be one of helpless humility recognizing that it is never by any power of our own that we can take one step of progress in our understanding of the things of God. It is a gift for which we must ask earnestly, sincerely and constantly. For God does not reveal Himself to the clever and conceited people. The mysteries of the kingdom of God are revealed to the little children who are humble. The humble shepherds of Bethlehem were the first ones to receive the good news of Jesus' birth and to have a darshan of the incarnate God. Saint Simeon and Prophetess Anna were humble people and they too were blessed with the

darshan of the Messiah. The scripture says very clearly, "God resists the proud and shows favour to the humble" (1 Pet. 5.5).

God not only reveals himself to the humble but He dwells in the hearts of the humble. "For thus says the Most High, He who is enthroned forever, He whose name is holy: I reign exalted and holy, but I am also with him who is contrite and humble in Spirit" (Is 57.15). Mother Teresa says, "Without simplicity and purity you will reason the reality of Jesus and His mother into a dead thing. Your self sufficiency, your selfishness and your intellectual pride will inhibit his coming to live in your heart, because God cannot fill what is already full".

If we do not believe that God became man in Jesus Christ, we remain in the dark; and dark brings fear and sadness. If we do not believe, we miss the true meaning of life and

the future has no hope. To believe in the fact that God became man is not to walk in doubt and illusion. It is to step into the world of God, and so into reality. Without faith in the incarnation there can never be true peace, true joy, true hope and good will among people. Without faith in the incarnation celebration of Christmas benefits us nothing. For mystic Angelus Silesius says, "Were Christ born a thousand times in Bethlehem and not in you, you would still be eternally lost." At this Christmas let us approach the crib of Jesus Christ in humility and faith, so that He may be born in our hearts.

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✠ **Raphy Manjaly**
(Archbishop of Agra)

महाधर्माध्यक्ष का संदेश (हिन्दी अनुवाद)

मुक्ति के इतिहास की कोई भी घटना हमें इतना आनन्द नहीं देती जितना कि हमारे प्रभु येशु ख्रीस्त के जन्म की घटना देती है। उसका आगमन उस उगते हुए सूर्य के समान होता है जो अंधकार और मृत्यु की छाया में रहने वालों को प्रकाश देता है। उन सब लोगों के लिए जो भय और चिन्ता, पाप और बीमारी, निराशा और हताशा के अन्धकार में रहते हैं, आनन्द का यह शुभ सन्देश है कि, "आज तुम्हारे लिए मुक्तिदाता का जन्म हुआ है।" वह अदृश्य ईश्वर का प्रतिरूप है, उसको देखना पिता को देखने के समान है। उसके साथ सहभागी होना पिता के साथ सहभागी होने के समान है।

उसका नाम ईसा रखा गया, क्योंकि उसका जन्म

लोगों को उनके पापों से छुड़ाने के लिए हुआ था। उसका जन्म हम सबके लिए बड़े आनन्द का समाचार है। उसका जन्म उसकी मृत्यु की प्रस्तावना था। चरनी में उसका जन्म, बेथलेहेम के नन्हें शिशुओं का जनसंहार- ये चिह्न थे, उस जीवन के जो उसकी प्रतीक्षा कर रहा था। वे क्रूस के चिह्न हैं। यह हमारे और ईश्वर के बीच टूटे हुए सम्बन्धों के भी चिह्न हैं, जिन्हें ईश्वर फिर से सुधारेगा। येशु हमें स्वतन्त्र कराने और हमारा उद्धार करने के लिए सब कुछ का परित्याग करते हैं। उसका जीवन और मृत्यु दोनों सिद्ध करते हैं कि वह वास्तव में जीवित ईश्वर का पुत्र है, लेकिन पुत्र को केवल विश्वास द्वारा ही जाना जा सकता है।

मार्टिन लूथर कहते हैं, कि "ईश्वर का वचन

और उसके कर्म में वास्तविक विश्वास यह मांग करता है कि हम इसमें दृढ़ विश्वास करें कि ईसा का जन्म आप के लिए ही हुआ है और उसका जन्म आपका जन्म है। यही बात सुसमाचार भी हमें सिखाते हैं कि ख्रीस्त हमारे लिए ही जन्मे और हमारे लिए ही मरे और हमारे लिए ही सब कुछ सहा। स्वर्गदूत सिर्फ यह ही नहीं कहता है कि ख्रीस्त राजा का जन्म हुआ है। वह कहता है कि तुम्हारे लिए वो जन्मा है। वह नहीं कहता है कि मैं बड़े आनन्द का सन्देश लाया हूँ।” वह कहता है, कि “मैं तुम्हारे लिए बड़े आनन्द का संदेश लाया हूँ।”

जैसा कि संत योहन अपने पत्र में कहते हैं कि हमें पवित्र आत्मा की सहायता चाहिए यह कहने के लिए कि येसु ख्रीस्त में ईश्वर मनुष्य बन गया (1 जॉन 4:2) अतः जब हम ख्रीस्त जयन्ती का यह महापर्व मनाते हैं तो हमारा आचरण और व्यवहार ऐसा होना चाहिए कि हम विनम्रतापूर्वक अपनी असहायता स्वीकार करें कि हम ईश्वर की किसी भी बात या योजना को समझने में अपनी ओर से कोई भी या कैसी भी प्रगति नहीं कर सकते। यह एक ईश्वरीय वरदान है जिसके लिए हमें उत्सुकता और विमत्रतापूर्वक निरन्तर प्रार्थना करनी चाहिए, क्योंकि ईश्वर चतुर और धूर्त लोगों के समक्ष अपने को कभी भी प्रकट नहीं करता। स्वर्ग राज्य के भेद या रहस्य केवल छोटे बच्चों को ही दिये जाते हैं क्योंकि वे हृदय से कोमल और मन से विनीत होते हैं। बेथलेहेम के विनम्र चरवाहों को ही सबसे पहले येसु के जन्म का शुभ सन्देश मिला और उन्होंने ही देहधारी ईश्वर के दर्शन किये।

संत सिमेयोन और नबिया अन्ना भी विनम्र लोग थे और उन्हें भी मुक्तिदाता के दर्शन का लाभ मिला (पहला पेत्रुस 5:5)। पवित्र बाइबल स्पष्ट कहती

है, “ईश्वर न केवल विनम्र लोगों को अपने दर्शन देता है बल्कि उनके हृदयों में भी निवास करता है।” (ईसायह 57:15) संत मदर टेरेसा कहती हैं कि सज्जनता और शुद्धता के अभाव में हम येसु और उसकी माता की वास्तविकता की तुलना मृत वस्तुओं के साथ ही करेंगे। आपकी स्वयं परिपूर्णता, आपका स्वार्थ और आपका बौद्धिक अहम उसे आपके हृदय में आने से रोकेंगे, क्योंकि ईश्वर वह नहीं भर सकता जो पहले से ही भरा हुआ है। यदि हम यह विश्वास नहीं करते तो हम अंधकार में रहते हैं। यह अंधकार हमारे जीवन में भय और दुख लाता है। यदि हम विश्वास नहीं करते तो हम जीवन के वास्तविक अर्थ को नहीं समझ पाते और हमारे भविष्य के लिए कोई आशा नहीं है। इस सत्य में विश्वास करना कि ईश्वर मनुष्य बन गया है का मतलब है कि संदेह और अंधकार में नहीं भटकना, इसका अर्थ है कि ईश्वर की दुनिया में प्रवेश करना अर्थात वास्तविकता में विश्वास करना। देहधारण में विश्वास नहीं करने का अर्थ है कि भले लोगों के बीच में सच्ची शान्ति, सच्चा आनन्द और सच्ची आशा कभी नहीं हो सकती। देहधारण के विश्वास के अभाव में ख्रीस्त जयन्ती मनाने से हमें कुछ लाभ नहीं होगा। रहस्यमय एन्जलूस सिलेसियुस कहते हैं कि “यदि ख्रीस्त बेथलेहेम में हजारों बार जन्म ले लें किन्तु तुम में नहीं, तुम फिर भी अनन्त काल तक खोये रहोगे।” आइए इस ख्रीस्त जयन्ती पर हम विनम्रता और विश्वास के साथ येसु ख्रीस्त की गौशाला पहुँचें, जिससे वह हमारे हृदयों में जन्म ले सके। आप सबको क्रिसमस एवं नववर्ष की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं और आशीष!

प्रभु में आपका,

✠ राफी मंजलि

(महाधर्माध्यक्ष, आगरा महाधर्मप्रांत)

Best Thing That Ever Happened to You?



It was the Mercedes-Benz that originally used Crumple zones or crash zones safety feature in their cars to protect the lives of the passengers.

Typically, crumple zones are located in the front part of the vehicle, to absorb the impact of a head-on collision.

Somebody asked Mercedes-Benz engineer Béla Barényi who invented this amazing technology, "Have you patented this technology?" He replied, "**There are certain things in life that are so important and good that you MUST JUST SHARE!**"

Friends, take a pause and just check - 'What's the best thing that has ever happened to you?' For some of you, it might be when you graduated or when you met your spouse or when you purchased your dream house etc. **But, for how many of us, was it, 'when we met Jesus'?** Now if it was when we met Jesus, then the best thing that we can do for others is obviously - **'TO SHARE JESUS'**. St. Paul says, *"I am under obligation, and for my part, I am eager to preach the Gospel."* (Romans 1: 13-15) *'Sharing Christ' is a responsibility (obligation) and more than that, it is a privilege (eager).*

Why should we be eager to share Christ? If I tell you, I have discovered a cure for cancer, will you be excited? Depends. Because if you have no cancer and you don't even know the meaning of cancer, then it's totally irrelevant to you. However, if you have cancer or any of your family members have cancer, and the doctor says, "Sorry, it's too late. You have only three months to live." And you go and see another doctor and he too tells you the same thing... How would you feel?

And then suddenly somebody comes along and tells you that he has found a cure for cancer! And then you go through his treatment program and are completely healed! Will you be excited to talk about the cure and share it with others or not? What's the difference? **PERSONAL EXPERIENCE!** Until you and I have a personal experience with the Lord, we will not be excited. Is it possible... we have religion, but we never had a personal experience with the saving power of Jesus? When we encounter Jesus, we can't stop sharing about Him with others.

How do we share Christ? PRAY-CARE-SHARE. Colossians 4:3-4 says, "And pray for us, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should." "First of all, we need to pray that God may give us the opportunity and wisdom to share Him. Then, we engage in the lives of others by extending compassionate care.

Now is it enough to just pray and care? If you do good deeds for your neighbor, but if you don't share Christ with him, he will conclude that Christians are good people. They do good deeds... that's all! **You and I got to share Christ... otherwise they will never know what motivated us to do good deeds.**

As we prepare ourselves to celebrate the Nativity of our Lord, let's take initiatives to help people understand the Good News about our Lord Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit, leaving the outcome to God.

Wish you a fruitful season of Advent and a joyful Christmas!

**Sr. Rekha Punia, UMI
Nirmala Provincialate, Greater Noida**

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given and he shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Prince of Peace, Mighty God. And the government shall be upon His shoulders."



We approach the end of another calendar year and the dawn of Christmas season. Christmas begins with a breaking announcement of "good news of great joy". The angels have delivered the best possible news, "today in the city of David there has been born for you a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord". The announcement that a Saviour is born is the best news possible. Christmas is all about Good News. But it's not the good news of special gifts. It's not the good news of a big meal. It's not the good news of festive music and beautiful lights. Christmas is about the Good News of God's love. The Good News of Christmas is to be seen as Christ's entrance into this world for the salvation of the entire Human Race. When we say Christmas, we actually refer to the Incarnation of God; in other words, the mystery of God becoming a human being.

It is also a time when we celebrate the fact that God chose that most vulnerable of humans, a child, to bring forth his divine purpose for the salvation of humankind. God's sign is simplicity. He makes himself small for us. He does not come with power and outward splendour. He comes as a baby in need of our help. Everyone loves the Christmas season for different reasons,



whether it be the gifts, carols, family gatherings. Some of the reasons of good news as per Luke 2:10-14.

- It is 'Good News' because it 'Banishes Fear' and it brings 'Great Joy'
- It is 'Good News' because it 'Save Sinners' and it 'Glorifies God'
- It is 'Good News' because it is for 'All People', and it emphasizes 'Human Values'.

Jesus came to seek and save the sinner, to heal the broken-hearted, to destroy demonic works and to establish His kingdom of peace and joy on earth where hostility, turbulence and division rule. The good news of the birth of Jesus cannot be contained to one season, one month, or one day: it is for every season, every month, every day - because it is for every challenge, every fear, every doubt, every stumble and fall, every dying hope, every broken relationship, every burden we carry, and every pocket of emptiness, sadness, brokenness, lostness, and despair within us.

The nativity Jesus, the Christmas is the mystery of God's presence in our world, in the flesh, in real life and in real time. God chooses the poor, simple shepherds to first hear the breaking news of his coming. He was born to a humble handmaid and His foster father was a simple carpenter. God has joined himself to us inseparably. He, the Immanuel came to be with us. Thus, God's solidarity with our sinful, suffering, oppressed, harassed and dejected humanity is complete. Jesus who walked, talked, touched and blessed the lives of people in hands-on ways, introducing and bringing God's forgiving and life-giving presence personally to them, whatever their circumstances is ever present today by caring

for all, caring for the world amid the corona virus pandemic and natural calamities.

Each Christmas season we are asked to hear liberating Good News. This was the central message in Pope Francis recent encyclical, Fratelli Tutti, - the call to global fraternity and social friendship, that all people will live together as a family, as brothers and sisters to one another, treating each other with dignity and equality. Furthermore, in his message for World Day of Peace, Our Holy Father promotes a culture of care as a path to peace, urging us against the prevailing culture of indifference to the sufferings of others, of waste, of hatred and confrontation, to practice the social teachings of the catholic church. Let this culture of care start in the family, the fundamental nucleus of our society, where we first learn how to live together and relate to each other with mutual love and respect.

The year ending brings a chance to reflect on who we are as people of faith and how we might become better followers of Christ and a sense of renewal. The lessons of the past year of pandemic highlighted our global interconnectedness and solidarity, our belief in the sanctity of life and respect for the dignity of every human person. We learned that showing our love for one another, friend or stranger, can be as simple as wearing a mask. The inconvenience of such practice is far outweighed by the opportunity to show our regard for the wellbeing of one another.

Birth of Christ as not being "out of tune" with the trial that we are going through, "because it is par excellence the feast of compassion, of tenderness. Its beauty is humble and full of human warmth." The beauty of Christmas shines through in the sharing of small gestures of concrete love.

It broadens the heart rebuilding the fabric of relationships for a more fraternal humanity. "Christmas is the season of goodwill, and can be a tough time for many people, including those who are homeless, recently bereaved, lonely or struggling to make ends meet. Research shows that acts of kindness can have a huge benefit to your own happiness, health and sense of well-being as well as those of the people you help.

Let us ask the Lord to grant us the grace of looking upon the crib this Christmas night with the simplicity of the shepherds, so as to receive the joy with which they returned home. Let us ask him to give us the humility and the faith with which Saint Joseph looked upon the child that Mary had conceived by the Holy Spirit. Let us ask the Lord to let us look upon Him with that same love with which Mary saw Him. And let us pray that in this way the light that the shepherds saw will shine upon us too, and that what the angels sang that night will be accomplished throughout the world: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among people with whom he is pleased." Let us prepare ourselves to enjoy the blessings of Christmas in our individual and family life and ask the divine grace to be the heralds of joy, peace and hope everywhere and respond to that presence positively in all possible ways. Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year 2022.

- Sr. Anjali Jacob UMI, Greater Noida

The Holy Father's Prayer Intention

DECEMBER - 2021

Intention for Evangelization - Catechists:

Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

We Three Kings!

(A Study Based on Biblical, Historical and Geographical Approach)

Biblical & Historical Parenthesis - Three Kings



Let us clear our doubt about, who are exactly these three kings? The evidence from the gospel is found in Matthew's account (Mt 2: 1-12). All we can glean from that passage is that they are the three kings.

Classical figures in every Nativity set - one king on a camel, one kneeling at the manger and one standing ready to offer his gift. But who were Wise Men and what do we know about them? Who were the Magi?

Magi or 'magicians,' they came from the East to Jerusalem and they had seen a star announcing the birth of the King of the Jews. The gospel does not say there three Wise Men. That ideas comes from the three gifts they brought. To track down who the Wise Men were, we must first look East.

Geographical Parenthesis - East

The obvious choice is the Parthian Empire. During the time of Jesus, the Parthian Empire was the name of what was formerly the Persian Empire. It was centered on the present day Iran and Iraq. In the Parthian Empire there was a caste of astrologer priests based in the ancient religion of Zoroastrianism. Most scholars think the Magi were Zoroastrian priest-astrologers from Persia. However, none of this is recorded in Matthew's gospel. Neither is there a mention that the Wise Men were kings - nor are there camels in Matthew's account.

So, where did the idea come from that the Wise Men were camel-riding kings? The idea of three kings and the presence of camels is linked with two OT prophesies. Psalms 72:10-11 reads, "May the

kings of Tarshish and the islands bring tribute, the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts. May all kings bow before him, all nations serve him." Isaiah 60 which also read in the liturgy on the feast of the Epiphany and like Psalm 72, Isaiah highlights the dual meaning of the visit of the Wise Men: that the light of Christ has come into the world and is for all people - not only for the Jews.

The prophecy reads: "Arise! shine, for your light has come, the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you. . . Nations shall walk by your light, kings by the radiance of your dawning. Raise your eyes and look about; they all gather and come to you - Your sons from afar. . . Then you shall see and be radiant . . . For the riches of the sea shall pour out before you, the wealth of nations shall come to you. Caravans of camels shall cover you, dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; All from Sheba shall come bearing gold and frankincense and heralding the praises of the Lord" (cf. Is 60:1-6).

Now we can see where the idea of kings and camels comes from. Matthew says the kings came from the East and Persia seems the obvious choice, but the passage from Isaiah predicts that the kings come from Ephah, Midian and Sheba. Where are Ephah, Midian and Sheba? Midian is the OT name for what was in Jesus' time, the kingdom of the Nabateans (cf Mk 3:7-8). It lies directly east and south of Jerusalem - in present day Jordan - and Ephah was a city of Midian further south in the Arabian Peninsula. The ancient Kingdom of Sheba was centered in what is present day Yemen, also to the east and south. If we are looking to the Scriptures for evidence, the prophecy from Isaiah suggests that the Wise Men came from what is now Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

If so, they probably did come on camels, since Midian especially was known for its abundance of camels. Can we use an OT prophecy to determine where the Wise Men came from? Those who believe in the accuracy of Biblical prophecy will not have a problem doing so. However, there are other indicators to suggest the Arabian Peninsula rather than Persia.

Final Parenthesis - Three Gifts

The three gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh are overlooked as clues to solve the riddle. Where did the gold come from? As mentioned, Yemen is the present day location of the ancient civilization of Sheba. The kingdom's fabulous wealth was based on gold mines in Ethiopia. Archaeologists have recently discovered what they believe to be the mines of the queen of Sheba. The story of the queen of Sheba (cf. 1 Kings 10), who came in procession with great royal gifts of wealth establishes a prophetic precedent. Just as the queen of Sheba came to bear gifts to the Jewish king Solomon, so it could be that the king of Sheba during Jesus' time came, like his illustrious ancestors, to bear rich gifts to the king of the Jews.

Furthermore, the kings of Yemen during the time of Jesus were Jewish. They would have had a keen interest in the goings-on in Herod's court and the

arrival of a new king of the Jews. Finally, Jesus himself mentions this link in Mt 12:42 when he refers to the queen of Sheba's visit to Solomon and referring to himself says, "There is something greater than Solomon here." There are more intriguing clues based on three gifts.

The Arabian Peninsula, especially the area of Midian and Sheba - is the only place in the world where the specific plants grow from which are harvested the resin to make both incense and myrrh. These two rich gifts used for their aroma and for medicinal purposes - were the cash crops of this part of the world. The origin of the three gifts would indicate that the Wise men came from the Arabian Peninsula. And the gifts were not simply rich gifts offered to baby Jesus, but were symbolic gifts from the kingdoms of their origin.

The gifts had diplomatic significance and suggest that the Magi were indeed either kings or ambassadors from the court of Nabatea and Sheba. Even more intriguing, there was constant traffic along the 'incense route' which came north from the southern tip of Arabia up to what is now Jordan and across Judea to Gaza. If magi were southern Arabia and the Kingdom of Nabatea (Present day Jordan), their trade route ran right past Jerusalem and Bethlehem. - Fr. Alok Toppo, Bengaluru

ARCHBISHOP'S ENGAGEMENTS (DECEMBER, 2021)

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| 1 | 60 Years Celebration of Delhi Province Society of Pilar | Education, Agra |
| 2 | Return from Delhi | 11 Jubilee Celebration: Holy Mass, M.C. Convent, Agra |
| 3 | Holy Mass: St. Francis Xavier Major Seminary, Agra | 12 Holy Mass: Cathedral, Agra |
| 4 | Diamond Jubilee Mass of Most Rev. Vincent M. Concessao and Rev. Fr. Victor D'Souza: at Sacred Heart Cathedral, N. Delhi | Holy Mass: Holy Communion & Confirmation, St. Thomas Church, Sikandra |
| 5 | Holy Mass: St. Francis Xavier Church, Etah | 19 CRI Meeting |
| 8 | Holy Mass: Bethany Convent, Greater Noida | 22 Christmas Programme: St. Peter's College, Agra |
| 9 | Annual Day Celebration: St. Alphonsa Special | 27 Missionary Get Together: St. Peter's College, Agra |

Unhappy Plight of the Poor

"The reality in the lives of the poor is only understood by the poor, who live in the world of the poor."



They live in huts, wretched homes, amidst unsanitary conditions, no roof over their heads, pavement dwellers, living under bridges, platforms, roadsides, outside closed shops, rickshaws.

people coming to pray, out of compassion buy her toys, She begs for food in the neighbouring houses. If she asks her son for food, he beats and sends her away. What a terrible plight to see this old mother being treated so cruelly with abusive words and beaten, by her son.



Daily life is a struggle, a real struggle for thousands for their basic necessities of life in which their life is sacrificed each day. Have we ever listened to their side of the story. They say we are treated like dogs, we have no life of our own, no time to think about our children, we just live only to serve, said a domestic worker. People affix terrible labels and condemn them with rude and nasty words, but to come closer to their lives, get under their skin and see their terrible plight is to discover for ourself the unhappy world they live in, exploited and oppressed.

Here are a few families undergoing difficulties; An old lady rejected by her own son, lives all alone, she is half blind, can't hear, she sells toys and feeds herself. The children playing on the street help her to put the bags of toys in the tempo and returning late evening, some other children, carry her bag and reach her home she struggles to walk in the dark for 15-20 minutes. Four times a week she goes to sell toys near a temple, the



Mani Ram is on street for 5 long years, unwanted by his family and relatives, he is lame, he was given a wheel chair, as he went begging it overturned and he fell hurting himself very badly, now he is crippled on his second leg. Completely helpless. He is living at the mercy of the passers by even to get a bottle of drinking water, no baths for months together. I was ready to get him admitted in the ashram of Charity Sisters, but his wife, daughters and relatives didn't allow. Each time I visit him I see his terrible condition. I can only take food and hot tea for him and some fruits. I am really helpless to help him. It's terrible to see how he answers nature's call unexplainable. He feels so happy when I sit besides him and place my hand on his shoulder and talk to him and make him eat in my presence, people gather around him whenever I go. I tell some people there to bring him drinking water everyday. Some passersby give him some coins out of pity, some give him tea and food sometimes. He cries and

tells please take me I am suffering here, with on one to help me.

Rajia 26 year old mother is sickly, swollen face and legs, when she feels better she goes to work, just 4 to 5 days, again on bed, no proper work for husband, so they find it difficult to get their daily bread. When she went for checkup before delivery, the nurse could not get any blood for testing. She was given half a litre of milk and some ration. After two weeks she went for delivery. Two hospitals rejected her saying she has no blood, we can't take the risk. The 3rd hospital by God's grace was ready provided they get 20 Thousand, only then she would be admitted. The husband went to his boss and asked him to lend the needed amount and deduct from his salary every month. The boss too didn't have, he borrowed from his friend and gave, she delivered a healthy baby girl it was a miracle both survived. Only prayers and the holy water in milk

and glucone D and praying fervently before the Blessed Sacrament and asking Jesus pour His blood into the mother and child, made this miracle possible for this poor family, by Jesus.

Machla and Bhoomi on the point of death having dengue. Their father said I have no money even to feed the family, so I can't take them to the doctor. He was so desperate, seeing his plight, I came to their rescue and did my level best, but most of all, prayers before the Blessed Sacrament, putting Holy water in the fruit juice and papaya leaves juice and pleading of the Lord, don't let them die, the five children will be orphans. It was God who did marvels for this family, who are rag-pickers. This Christmas let us seek Jesus in the poor and helpless and bring a ray of hope in their lives, remembering child Jesus laid in the cold manger and truly celebrate a joyous, blessed Christmas.

- Sr. Marina, St. Jude's Church, Agra

The Origin of the Christmas Crib

The origin of the Christmas Crib is often first ascribed to Saint Francis of Assisi, who in 1223 celebrated the Feast of the Nativity in a new way that led to a new devotional practice. Saint Francis sent for his friend, Giovanni Vellita, a landowner in Greccio where Francis had a favourite hermitage. "If now it seems good to thee that we should celebrate this feast together, go before me to Greccio and prepare everything as I tell thee. I desire to represent the birth of that Child in Bethlehem in such a way that with our bodily eyes we may see what He Suffered for lack of the necessities of a newborn babe and how He lay in a manger between the ox and ass."



Saint Bonaventure, Francis' biographer, said of the scene, "Many brothers and good people came at Francis' bidding, and during the night the weather also was beautiful. Many lights were kindled, songs and hymns were sung with great solemnity so that the whole world echoed with the sound, and the men of God stood by the manger, filled with the utmost joy, and shedding tears of devotion and compassion. By his order the manger had been so arranged that Mass was celebrated on it, and blessed Francis... sang the gospel and preached to the people on the Nativity of Christ our King, and whenever he pronounced His name with infinite tenderness he called Him the 'little Babe of Bethlehem.'"

The image of God is degraded and disgraced!

(Recollection Talk Based on Gen. 9:18-27 given by Rev. Fr. Shajun on 24 Nov. 2021)



Let's begin with a prayer - the prayer of King David: Deal bountifully with your servant, that I may live and keep your word. Open my eyes that I may behold wondrous things out of your Law. And we pray Lord,

that on this blessed day you would open our eyes that we may see wondrous things in your word, and we pray that your word deal bountifully with us that we may live and keep your word. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

Your Grace and Rev. Fathers for today's reflection I have taken a passage from the book of Genesis 9:18-27. In the book of Genesis there are four chapters devoted to Noah, his family and flood and so on. We read in the sixth chapter that when the wickedness of humankind was great in the earth, the Lord was sorry that He had made humankind on earth and it grieved Him to His heart. So the Lord said, I will blot out from the earth the human beings I have created together with animals and creeping things and birds of the air. But then only Noah found favour in the sight of God.

And we read in the Bible that Noah was a righteous man, obedient man, and how God saved him together with his family from the Great Flood. God makes a covenant of Grace with Noah. With Noah, God starts on the new world. God told Him to be fruitful and multiply just as He had said to Adam and Eve. God said to Noah to go out and settle the land, go out in the wilderness and make garden. And he obeys God and becomes the man of soil.

But then a significant event takes place in the

life of Noah. We are told that at the end of the chapter nine, Noah lived for another 350 years. And we don't hear anything about what happened at that time. There is only one event that took place in 350 years in Noah's life is highlighted. And this event is not pretty. Something does go wrong. And today I would like to invite you all to focus on this passage and be open to God's message for our life.

A Reading from the Book of Genesis 9:18-27 So here we have Noah, he was a master builder, he spent years constructing the Arc and now he became the man of soil. He became successful, made vineyard and produced wine from it. And God blessed him because of it. All went on well, so far so good. But then we read ahead-

He drank up the wine and became drunk and lay uncovered in his tent. Scripture generally refers wine as good thing a kind of blessing. However it is significant that the first mention of wine that we get in the Bible right here is associated with shame. Noah abuses the blessing of God and thus he passes out uncovered, he is naked. And it exposes him to shame. Noah the image of God with whom the Lord stared on the new earth is now lying naked, unconscious. The image of God is degraded and disgraced.

Now how did this happen? How did Noah all of a sudden given to this? He was a righteous man. In his generation he was blameless, continued in his obedience to God and enjoyed His blessings. He enjoyed the fruit of his labour. And he rightfully did, he had a glass of wine. But sadly this is when he led his guard down. When he was under the pressure of building that arc

with all the evil people around him, he stood standing strong. But now what he feels is that he is relaxed, the pressure is off and he let his guard down. The Lord had said to Cain, be vigilant and be filled with the spirit, for sin is crouching at the door. And at this time of relaxation Noah opened the door for Satan to enter in. Though he was a righteous man and faithful in his generation he was caught up in the sins of drunkenness.

Dear brothers in Christ Jesus, the first lesson that we can learn from this state of Noah is - Even the most Godly are prone to sin. It could be a warning to us that after walking closely with God for years we could even fall at any moment of our life. We have many examples in our Bible like, Samson, King Saul, King Solomon, Judas. They had their moments of great glory and splendor. But when pride and self interest crept into their lives, they lost the touch of God's Hand. Our past Godliness doesn't guarantee future Godliness. Neither age nor maturity provides protection against temptation. We must walk in dependence upon the Lord daily. Noah's sin also teaches us that we are often the most vulnerable when the pressure is off. When Noah was surrounded by wickedness he lived righteously but when the storm was over he fell into sin. When the pressure is off, our self control comes down. Therefore we are reminded today to be vigilant and filled with the spirit, for sin is crouching at the door.

Now we read in the verse 22 that Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father and told his two brothers outside. This particular verse has been the subject of lots of debates and discussions among the scholars. The reason to talk about this is because some say that Ham's sin was graver than just seeing his father naked.

Some even associate Ham with sin of incest and homosexual. But anyway it is not helpful for our reflection. Let us focus on the main issue here. The face with which Ham saw his father's nakedness is not really the issue. The issue is he went out of the tent and told his brothers. That is the real sin of Ham. And the fact that he went out of the tent and told his brothers about his father reveals something about Ham's heart. Now let's consider this proverb for a moment. Proverbs 17:9 where we read, "whoever covers an offence seeks love but he who repeats a matter separates close friends". Whoever covers an offence seeks love. If Ham had loved his father he would have covered him up. But he didn't. He left him there naked and told his brothers. This reveals his heart that he hated his father, he had contempt for his father, and he publicly humiliated his father by reporting his nakedness to his brothers. This is the real sin that Ham committed. And this is the behavior we see in the devil. The devil is the accuser, the devil is the slanderer, and devil is the gossip. And this is what we see in Ham. He accuses his father, he slanders his father, and he is a gossip. The same thing happened with Adam and Eve. When they disobeyed God's word and listened to Satan's word they accused each other saying; it's your fault, it's your fault.

Dear brothers in Christ Jesus, it is a warning for us. How do we respond to the other people's sin? How do we respond when other priests commit sin and offences? The way we respond to the sins of the others will reveal something about our heart. If we report the sin of the others and if we take delight and relish in gossip, and if we want let others to know about this person's weakness or this person's failure then that's not Godly to do, it is satanic. That's what the devil does.

The words of Noah here are not just words of curse or blessing but it is presented to us as an oracle, a prophecy. That the descendent of Canaan will be the cursed people, hate filled and rebellious people. And the Church history witnesses to this prophecy. The Israelites entered the Promised Land defeating the Canaanites, the descendent of Canaan. And the Blessing on Shem and Jephthah also is fulfilled as we see the people of Israel, the so called the descendent of Shem and Jephthah are now called as the covenant people, God's chosen people.

We are too indeed the descendents of Ham and Jephthah through family line of Jesus.

Silence: Let's listen to the warnings that we

get from the life of Noah. There is a call for all of us- to be sober minded, to be self controlled. This is the fruit of the Spirit, that is self-control and sober minded. And it's a reminder to watch ourselves; sin is crouching at the door. We need to be vigilant; we need to keep our eyes open. And it is a reminder to us that how we respond to others when they fall and how do we respond to other's sin. Do we expose it as Ham did and brought curses to his descendents? Or do we cover it as Shem and Jephthah did and bring blessings to all? Above all, love one another earnestly, since love covers the multitude of sins.

Fr. Shajun, St. Patricks' Church, Agra

The Legend of the Christmas Tree

(by Lucy Wheelock)



Two little children were sitting by the fire one cold winter night. All at once they heard a timid knock at the door and one ran to open it.

There, outside in the cold and the darkness, stood a child with no shoes on his feet and clad in thin, ragged garments. He was shivering with cold and he asked if he could come in and warm himself. "Yes, come," cried both the children; "you shall have our place by the fire. Come in!"

They drew the little stranger to their warm seat and shared their supper with him, and gave him their bed, while they slept on a hard bench.

In the night they were awakened by strains of sweet music and, looking out, they saw a band of

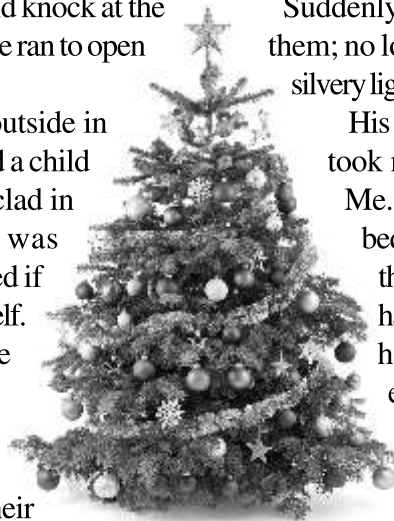
children in shining garments approaching the house. They were playing on golden harps, and the air was full of melody.

Suddenly the Stranger Child stood before them; no longer cold and ragged, but clad in silvery light.

His soft voice said: "I was cold and you took me in. I was hungry, and you fed Me. I was tired, and you gave me your bed. I am the Christ Child, wandering through the world to bring peace and happiness to all good children. As you have given to Me, so may this tree every year give rich fruit to you."

Saying so, he broke a branch from the fir tree that grew near the door, and planted it in the ground and disappeared. But the branch grew into a great tree, and every year it bore wonderful golden fruits for the kind children.

– Fr. Vineesh Joseph, Mathura



स्मृतियों के झरोखों से: क्रिसमस की तैयारी!



हम ख्रीस्तीयों के लिए आगमन काल क्रिसमस का एक अभिन्न हिस्सा है। यह वह समय है जब हम अपने को आत्मिक रूप से प्रभु

के आगमन के लिए तैयार करते हैं। केवल नए कपड़े, पकवान, घर की सफाई- पुताई से त्योहार नहीं मनता। भौतिक व्यवस्थाओं के अतिरिक्त आत्मिक रूप से अपने को पूरी तरह दिल और मन से प्रभु के आगमन के लिए तैयार करने की आवश्यकता है।

मैं इसी संदर्भ में अपने बचपन की कुछ यादें साझा करना चाहती हूँ। जब मैं लगभग 8-9 वर्ष की थी, तब मुझे तालीम की शिक्षा देने वाली सिस्टर का नाम था सिस्टर जोसफिन, जो क्रिसमस से पहले आगमन के विषय में हम बच्चों को सिखायी थीं कि हमें प्रभु के आगमन के पहले रविवार से ही अपने दिलों को प्रभु के



योग्य बनाना है, जिससे वे क्रिसमस पर हमारे दिलों में जन्म ले सकें। वे कहती थीं कि हमें एक छोटा सा बॉक्स (पिगी बैंक) की तरह तैयार करना है। जब हम अपने काम से अपने त्याग से दूसरों की मदद करके कोई भी

अच्छा काम करते हैं, तो हर काम के बदले एक छोटा सा लकड़ी का एक टुकड़ा उस बॉक्स में डालना था और क्रिसमस वाले दिन उसे खोलकर गिनना था, कि हमने बालक येशु के आगमन के लिए कितना त्याग किया। उन लकड़ियों की संख्या सिस्टर को बतानी थी। फिर क्या था! हम बच्चों में

लकड़िया इकट्ठी करने की होड़ सी लग जाती थी। हम हर रविवार सिस्टर को अपने अच्छे काम गिनवाते थे। जब भी मौका मिलता था, हम अपना बॉक्स बजा-बजा के देखते थे व उसका वजन तोलने की कोशिश करते थे कि कितना भारी हुआ। आज भी मैं कभी-कभी सोचती हूँ अगर हम बच्चे होते तो अच्छा होता! और क्या हम बच्चा बनकर दुनिया में अच्छाई नहीं ढूँढ सकते। आइये, हम भी प्रण लें कि अपना घर तो सभी सजाते हैं, अगर हम किसी के भी चेहरे पर मुस्कराहट ला सकें, तो हमारा त्योहार सफल हो जाएगा और ऐसा करने से हमारी खुशी दोगुनी हो जाएगी।

- अंजलीना मोसस, संत जूड चर्च, आगरा

DATES TO REMEMBER

DECEMBER

- 05 B.D. Fr. Sunny Kottoor
- 06 B.D. Fr. Mathew Thundiyl
- 08 O.D. Fr. Arul Kumar
- 10 B.D. Fr. George Paul
- 10 B.D. Fr. Dominic George
- 15 B.D. Fr. Rogimon Thomas
- 15 B.D. Fr. Santosh D'Sa
- 18 B.D. Fr. Roshan D'Silva
- 24 B.D. Fr. Stephen K.
- 25 B.D. Fr. Ignatius Miranda
- 26 B.D. Fr. Joseph Dabre
- 28 B.D. Fr. Mathew Kanjirathinkal

Christmas Tree by Christian Samaj Seva Society, Agra

CSSS is organizing "Christmas Tree" in loving memory of Late Mr. Michael Silvera for the poor and under privileged children and families on Sun. 19 Dec. 2021 at 1:30 p.m. at Kothi No. 95, Naulakha, Agra Cantt.

- Dennis Silvera (President)

The Simplicity of Christmas (Luke 2:8-20)



Our world has incredibly complex problems: pandemic, wars, terrorism, famines catastrophes. People have complex problems: physical, emotional and family problems. Sometimes we despair we try to help others or to deal with our own problems. At times, the proposed solutions seem too complex that we aren't sure we can implement them. But God provides a

simple solution for all the complex problems we face in this world. It is the simple solution of the saviour, whose birth we celebrate at Christmas. Some would scoff and call it a simplistic solution, one that really doesn't work. Others would say that it's a nice legend, harmless enough; but they would never consider it as a serious solution to any significant problems.

God knows that the basic problem with the world is the sin of the human race. Any solutions that leave out dealing with the sin problem are the simplistic solutions. The only solution that offers true hope and help is that which takes into account the sinful hearts of people and offers a practical solution to that universal problem.

God's Christmas message to us offers such a solution. The Saviour whose birth we celebrate was to be named Jesus (Jehovah saves), for he would save his people from their sins (Mathew 1:21). The Christmas story of the shepherds who went to see the Lord Jesus on the night of his birth

reveals that...

God's simple solution for man's complex problems is a Saviour, who is (Christ the Lord).

The three things strike us about this family story is:-

1. The Christmas message is for simple people. God chose simple shepherds to be the first to know of the birth of the Saviour is even stranger than by human standards because in Israel shepherding was a lovely task.

2. The Christmas message is simple in content nothing could be more simple and yet more inscrutably profound! God brings salvation to Adam's fallen race by taking human flesh to himself, yet without sin. Then, as our sinless substitute. He bore our sin to satisfy the righteous justice of God so that God may be both "just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus" (Romans 3:26).

3. The Christmas message is simple in its obligation how should we respond? Just like the shepherds responded. They believed the word of God through the angel, as shown by their leaving their flocks and going to Bethlehem. They told others what they had seen. And they went back to their sheep glorifying and praising God.

Whatever problems you face, He is God's simple solution the saviour who is Christ the Lord. He was born so that you can be born again. Will you receive Him as God's gift for you this Christmas?

- Mahima Lal, Havelock Church, Agra



Celebrate Christmas Meaningfully



Christmas is the event of the greatest sacrifice -God became man. It is the day when God gave man the greatest gift- his only begotten Son.

I would like to present to you how to celebrate Christmas meaningfully. (5 A's)

ADORE THE LORD

Let us adore and worship the Lord Jesus by acknowledging who He is and what He has

done for us. Let our souls magnify the Lord and our spirits rejoice in God our Savior (Luke 1:46, 47)! Someone has written, "Jesus had no servants, yet they called Him Master. He had no degrees, yet they called Him

teacher. He did not learn medicine, yet people called Him Healer. He had no army, yet the kings feared him. He had won military battles, yet He conquered the world." Are we not privileged to worship this unique and incomparable Christ! So make this time of Christmas a time of praise and adoration.

ABANDON YOUR SINFUL LIFE

As there was no room for the baby Jesus in the inn (Luke 2:7), there is no room for him today in the lives of many people as they celebrate Christmas. Many a time we shut Jesus

out of our Lives by indulging in sinful and evil things. As we have come to the end of this year, examine our hearts to find out whether Jesus is in the centre of our life. If we have crowded him out by giving importance to the other things in our hearts, invite Him back to take his right place. Decide to abandon all evils habits, wicked practices and bad friendship. Jesus is standing at the door of your heart and knocking. If you hear his voice now and open the door of your heart, He will come in and bless you richly (Rev. 3:20).



ACT TO MAKE PEACE AND LIVE IN PEACE

The Bible says, 'if it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men' (Rom 12:18; Heb 12:14). Jesus has also said that we should

become peace-makers (Matt. 5:9). We must make every effort to make peace between people during this season. Billy Graham in his book, 'the Secret of happiness' says that Christians should be peace makers at home, in the community, in the church and at work. Wherever relationships are at stake, we need to work for peace and get engaged in the ministry of reconciliation.

ATTEND TO THE NEEDS OF THE POOR

When we ponder the realities of a tragic

world, one in which fellow Human beings are engulfed in chaos, pain, fear and death, we will not allow the selfishness and greed which usually rule over us during the season. Mother Theresa once prayed, 'Make us worthy, Lord to serve those people throughout the world who live and died in poverty and hunger. Give them through our hands, this day, their daily bread, and by our understanding love, give them peace and joy.'

The Christmas story exemplifies the spirit of giving (John 3:16). Let us search for ways to share our wealth with the less fortunate of the world. Jesus told, '...when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous' (Luke 14: 12-14). The bible promises blessing to those who consider the poor (Read Psalm 41: 1-3; 112:9).

Mother Theresa once said: "When a Person dies of hunger, it has not happened because God did not take care of him or her. It has happened because neither you nor I wanted to give that person what he or she needed.' Let us decide to be contributors to the well-being of those

अग्रेडियन्स (महाधर्मप्रांत की समाचार पत्रिका) अपने पाठकों, लेखकों और सहयोगियों को ख्रीस्त जयन्ती की हार्दिक मुबारकबाद और नववर्ष 2022 की शुभकामनाएं देती है।

हमारी प्रार्थना है, कि प्रभु येशु हमारे हृदयों और निज जीवन में जन्म ले और अपनी शांति व आनन्द से भर दे। आशा है, कि भविष्य में भी हमें आपका सहयोग इसी प्रकार मिलता रहेगा।

- अग्रेडियन्स परिवार

around us rather than just being consumers!

ANNOUNCE THE GOOD NEWS

Have you spoken to at least one non-Christian this year about Christ? Decide to share the love of God with those who have never heard about the first Christmas! Ask God to lay on your heart one person who needs to hear the good news of Jesus this month. And ask him for an opportunity to show the love of God to that person. Make the Christmas season a time of aggressive evangelism! Our message needs the message of glad tiding desperately.

As we celebrate the Christmas season together and move towards 2022, we pray we will see a year of new beginnings and great hope.

May the light of Christ bless our world and fill our homes and families, this Christmas day and always.

**Sr. Juliet Pullokaran PSOL,
Divya Prabha, Baluganj, Agra**

**मैं ख्रीस्त के द्वारा चुनी और नियुक्त की गयी हूँ
कि फल उत्पन्न करूँ। (योहन 15:16)**



पिता ईश्वर तथा माता मरियम के प्रति कृतज्ञता प्रकट करते हुए हम सपरिवार रिश्तेदारों और शुभचिंतकों के साथ मिलकर 4 जनवरी 2022 को अपनी प्रिय पुत्री **सिस्टर प्रतिमा तिकी** के (आखिरी मन्त) **धन्यवादी ख्रीस्तयाग** के शुभ अवसर पर ईश्वर को धन्यवाद देने तथा हमारी खुशी में सहभागी होने के लिए आपको सादर आमंत्रित करते हैं। स्वागत समारोह प्रातः 9 बजे, धन्यवादी ख्रीस्तयाग एवं नये गोटो की आशीष और मूर्ति स्थापना प्रातः 11 बजे एवं चुमावन, नाच-गान एवं प्रीतिभोज दोपहर 1 बजे।

विनीता: श्रीमती इडिट तिकी एवं परिवार
पहारकंडरिया बेड़ो, राँची

सृष्टि का बादशाह



मज़हब में दिलचस्पी रखने वाला प्रत्येक प्राणी ये जानता है कि मसीह खुदावन्द की तरफ से दोबारा आने वाले हैं लेकिन गाफिल आदमी इनकी आमद नहीं पहचान पा रहा है क्योंकि वह मसीह की ताकत को नज़र अन्दाज़ कर रहा है। आइये हम गौर करें सृष्टि का बादशाह पैदा हुआ है जिसके पास जन्नत की चाबी है, इल्म और हिकमत के सारे खज़ाने जिसके पास मौजूद है वह कहाँ पैदा हुआ चरनी में, जहाँ जानवरों के रहने का स्थान है। वह चाहता तो किसी बादशाह के महल में भी पैदा हो सकता था लेकिन उसने वह स्थान न चुनकर उन निरीह जानवरों को सर्वप्रथम दर्शन दिये क्योंकि मनुष्य अपने स्वार्थ हेतु उन जानवरों की बलि देता था। परमेश्वर ने कहा है कि अगर मैं भूखा होता तो तुझसे नहीं कहता, क्योंकि जगत और जो कुछ उसमें है वह मेरा है। परमेश्वर को धन्यवाद का ही बलिदान चढ़ा। (भजन संहिता 50:12-13) और पैदा होते ही उसने सभी जानवरों को स्वतन्त्र रहने का अधिकार दे दिया कि आज के बाद आपकी नहीं, मेरी बलि चढ़ेगी।

इस्माइल को इब्राहीम का बेटा, यूहन्ना को जकरिया का बेटा कहा जाता है। सब ही बेटे अपने-अपने नाम अपने पिता से पाते हैं फिर मसीह को उनकी माँ के नाम से क्यों पुकारा जाता है। क्योंकि, जैसे औरों के बाप होते हैं वैसे इनके कोई दुनियावी बाप नहीं थे, उनकी पैदाइश तो खुदा के फज़ल से खुदा की मौहब्बत से हुई थी। इसलिए पैदाइश से पहले ही खुदा ने उनका नाम इम्मानुएल रख दिया। (इम्मानुएल का अर्थ खुदा तुम्हारे साथ है) वचन देहधारी हुआ उसने अनुग्रह और सच्चाई से परिपूर्ण होकर हमारे बीच में निवास किया और ऐसी महिमा देखी जैसे पिता के इकलौते पुत्र की। (यूहन्ना 1:14)

खुदा ने आदम को मिट्टी से बनाया था इसलिए हम सब आदमी कहलाते हैं। सच यह है कि हम सब जमीनी लोग हैं यानि नीचे के। लेकिन मसीह ऊपर से ताल्लुक रखते हैं क्योंकि वह आसमान से उतरे थे और आसमान में चढ़ गये और उन्होंने खुदा की तरफ से हमारी खिदमत अपने जिम्मे ले ली और हम मिट्टी के पुतलों को पाक साफ किया। मसीह की पैदाइश खुदा की रूह से हुई है और पैदाइश से ही वह खताओं और गुनाहों से दूर रहे। यीशु ने लोगों से कहा, “जगत की ज्योति मैं हूँ। जो मेरे पीछे- पीछे आएगा वह अन्धकार में नहीं चलेगा, परन्तु जीवन की ज्योति पाएगा” (यूहन्ना 8:12) प्रभु यीशु ने कहा “अपने दुश्मनों से मौहब्बत रखो और अपने सताने वालों के लिए दुआ करो” (मत्ती 5:44)।

प्रभु अक्सर कहते थे कि बिना दया भाव किए संसार में बड़ा दुख है। सहायता करना सीखो। शत्रु-मित्र दोनों के प्रति समदृष्टि होना सीखो। जब ऐसा हो सकेगा तो तुम्हारे मन में कोई कामना नहीं रहेगी तभी लक्ष्य को प्राप्त समझना चाहिए। कामना के वृक्ष को अनाशक्ति के कुठार द्वारा काट डालो। ऐसा करने पर वह बिल्कुल नष्ट हो जाएगा। किसी व्यक्ति से विशेष भाव से प्रेम करना बन्धन है। सभी से समान रूप से प्रेम करो तब तुम्हारी सभी कामनाएं विलीन हो जाएंगी, कामना चाहे अच्छी हो, चाहे निकृष्ट असल में वह अशुभ ही है। परमेश्वर इस जगत में मूल सत्ता है जो हमारे मन के द्वारा अनुभूत हो रही है। सर्व भक्षक काल के आने पर सभी को जाना है। अन्त में सभी विनष्ट हो जाएंगे इसलिए यीशु के चरणों में अपार सुख है। परमेश्वर इस संसार के प्रत्येक जीव पर अपनी करुणा, दया और आशीष प्रदान कर रहा है। उसे समर्पण कर हम उसकी आशीष को प्राप्त करें। उसी में परम सुख और आनन्द है।

एस.बी. सेमुएल, केन्द्रीय विद्यालय, आगरा

ST. PETER'S COLLEGE: A Saga of Selfless Service and Excellence



St. Peter's College has entered the do-dransbicentennial (175 year) of its establishment. For the past 175 years the College has done yeoman's service in the field of education and has carved a niche for itself in the educational map of the country in particular and of the world in general. The journey of 175 years has been a long one, serving the nation with a stamp of distinction that has been the hallmark of the College.

The College has maintained a consistently high position for 175 years which has been by no means an easy task. It has required the toil and sweat, dedication and sacrifice, mission and planning of its administrators, teachers and other employees. It has also required the active cooperation of the parents and the well-wishers.

Danish philosopher Soren Keirkegard Said, "Life can only be understood backwards, but it must be lived forwards". The 175 years of existence of the College allows us to reflect on the achievements of the past but challenges us to look ahead. It reminds us that we must protect what is precious from the past, and look forward and continue to innovate and strive to excel.

Numerous and significant changes have occurred nationally and globally after the

establishment of the College in 1846. But the College has stood the test of time, has thrived telling the story of courageous leadership, vision, mission and the zeal of the pioneers who explored the unchartered areas to disseminate light of knowledge. Along the way it has adapted to the shifting sands of changing education style. Thus the Anniversary is an occasion to look back in time, pause and reflect on our identity, who we are and where we are heading. Our long history provides us outposts to explore new areas, the vantage point from where new knowledge is to be sought. St. Peter's has lived up to its mission and belief that the young men that come out of the institution should be men of great calibre and charisma making a tangible difference in their world.

Though St. Peter's has seen impressive growth and expansion over 175 years, the mission remains the same - to prepare young boys for academic success in the College and to challenge and inspire them to be leaders for good in the world. In the book of Isaiah chapter 33 verse 6 we read "And wisdom and knowledge shall be thy stability of the times, and strength and salvation: the fear of the Lord is his treasure."

The Gospel power of witnessing vibrated

through the 175 years, guaranteeing the mission of the Church, has had its influence over the society and culture. Christ's vision of the human person, of life and of the world have been the well-knit fibre of the educational service rendered by the hard labour of all who headed the institution and the Archbishops who shepherded the diocese.

We gratefully remember all the Bishops and Archbishops, especially Archbishop Joseph Anthony Borghi, O.F.M. Cap., the founder of the College. His enterprise, labour and devotedness to the cause of education were well-known throughout India.

There have been many who have toiled and laboured to make St. Peter's what it is today. The administrative arrangement of the College in the first 125 years of its existence was that, a Rector was the Chief Administrative head. A Headmaster was appointed to look after teaching, discipline and other extracurricular activities. We are beholden to all of them who served the College from 1841 to 1966. In 1966 this arrangement of Rector and Headmaster was replaced by a single functionary, the Principal, Rev. Fr. Columban Gomes being the first incumbent on that post. Many activities took place during his principalship which helped the institution to grow by leaps and bounds.

Fr. Alexander took over as Principal in 1976. He remained in office for less than two years.

In 1978 Fr. Jerome D' Souza became the Principal. His tenure witnessed overall development in academic and co-curricular fronts.

Fr. Sebastian Pantaladi who succeeded Fr. Jerome was the first diocesan priest to hold the post from 1983 to 1986. To cope with the increasing number of students new sections were

Fr. Jose Maliekal took over as Principal in 1986, who ensured that students have a productive ambience to study.

In 1987 Fr. George Paul assumed office as Principal. During his tenure stress was given to extracurricular activities like games, Sports, dramatics, debates etc. Academic excellence reached a new height during his principalship.

Fr. Dennis D' Souza took over in 1995. It was during his tenure that the College celebrated its 150th Anniversary. His motto was "discipline with love" but never compromised with anyone who indulged in indiscipline.

Fr. Mathew Kumbalumottil was appointed Principal in 2001. He got the Primary wing constructed in 2005. He maximised the learning potential of the students by developing a fear-free ambience which helped develop a strong bond between the students and teachers.

Fr. John Ferreira succeeded Fr. Mathew. His tenure witnessed the construction of the Main Gate, Yoga Gallery, and Yoga Hall. The statue of the Christ the Redeemer was also erected in the eastern side of the 'A' field. A yoga exponent, he proved that Yoga not only nourishes the body of the students but also brings discipline in their lives.

Fr. Dr. Paul Thannickal took over the reins of the College in 2013. His principalship was known for stress on discipline and academics. The renovated Senior Block, the Archbishop Albert D' Souza Silver Jubilee Memorial Hall, the very hall where you are seated are his additions to the infrastructure of the College.

And I have been doing my best to follow their footprints in my capacity as the Principal.

I take this opportunity to thank all the former Vice Principals who served the College with devotion. They are Rev. Fr. Thomas

Paramundayil; Msgr. K.C. Thomas, Prelate of Honour; Rev. Fr. Jose Maliekal, Rev. Fr. Sebastian Panthladi, Rev. Fr. George Paul, Rt. Rev. Dr. Raphy Manjali, the Archbishop-elect of Agra; Rt. Rev. Joseph Thykkatil, Bishop of Gwalior; Rev. Fr. Simon Lopez, now Principal of St. Xavier High School and Junior College, who had the longest term as Vice Principal; Rev. Fr. Paul Matthew, Rev. Fr. Dr. Robert Varghese, now Principal of St. Francis Sr. Secondary School, Hathras; Rev. Fr. Roy Dolphus, Rev. Fr. Prakash D' Souza, Rector, St. Lawrence Seminary; Rev. Fr. Roshan Perreira, Rev. Fr. Francis D' Souza, Rev. Fr. Praveen D'Costa,

The following were the heads of the College during the Jubilee years.

Silver Jubilee:	Rev. Fr Semphorian, O.C.	1870-1871
Golden Jubilee:	Rev. Fr. Englebert , O.C.	1895-1896
Platinum Jubilee:	Rev. Fr. Norman D.D.	1920-1921
Centenary:	Rev. Fr Pius Lyons, O.C.	1945-1946
Quasquicentennial:	Rev. Fr. Columban, OFM. Cap.	1970-1971
Sesquicentennial:	Rev. Fr. Dennis D' Souza,	1995-1996

I, in my capacity as the Principal, am doing my level best to organise the Dodransbicentennial Celebration at an opportune time depending on the ebbing of the pandemic.

We embark on the 175th Anniversary celebrations filled with appreciation for the past, excitement about the present and inspiration for our future. We intend to hold a yearlong series of programmes and activities

Rev. Fr. Lawrence V. Raja and the current incumbent Rev. Fr. Santeesh Antony.

I take this opportunity to thank all the Managers, Fr. Stephen Kolandaiswamy, Fr. Bhaskar Jesuraj and Fr. Dr. Paul Thannickal, who served the College with devotion and dedication.

We are also indebted to the Headmistresses who had put in their best efforts to help the Principal in the administration. They are Sr. Ann Joseph (Mother General F.C.C.), Sr. Hugo, Sr. Daisy Mathew, Sr. Albert Maria, Late Sr. Annie Flossy, Sr. Peter, Sr. Barson, Sr. Bridget Mary and the present Headmistress Sr. Daisy Maria.

that tie into the College's rich history and long standing ideals. The Opening Ceremony of the same was held on 5th December 2020.

We thank the Lord for the hard and honest work, sweat and labour put in by the sterling men and women and students and staff of yore. We pray that St. Peter would intercede for us God's blessing not only for the next one year but many more years and centuries to come.

- Fr. Andrew Correia, Principal

Silent Night! Holy Night!

*All's asleep, one sole light,
Just the faithful and holy pair,
Lovely boy-child with curly hair,
Sleep in heavenly peace! (2)*

(Silent night was written in 1816 by an Austrian assistant priest Joseph Mohr. He was told the

day before Christmas that the church organ was broken and would not be repaired in time for Christmas Day. Saddened, he sat down to write that could be sung by Choir to Guitar Music. "Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht," was heard for the first time at that midnight mass in St. Nicholas Church in Oberndorf in Austria.)

Saint of the Month

St. Nicholas

Feast Day : 06 December



St. Nicholas, also called Nicholas of Bari or Nicholas of Myra, (flourished 4th century, Myra, Lycia, Asia Minor [near modern Demre, Turkey]; Western feast day December 6; Eastern feast day December 19), one of the most popular minor saints commemorated in the Eastern and Western churches and now traditionally associated with the festival of Christmas. In many countries children receive gifts on December 6, St. Nicholas Day. He is one of the patron saints of children and of sailors.

Nicholas's existence is not attested by any historical document, so nothing certain is known of his life except that he was probably bishop of Myra in the 4th century. According to tradition, he was born in the ancient Lycian seaport city of Patara, and, when young, traveled to Palestine and Egypt. He became bishop of Myra soon after returning to Lycia. He was imprisoned and likely tortured during the persecution of Christians by the Roman emperor Diocletian but was released under the rule of Constantine the Great. He may have attended the first Council of Nicaea (325), where he allegedly struck the heretic Arius in the face. He was buried in his church at Myra, and by the 6th century his shrine there had become well known. In 1087 Italian sailors or merchants stole his alleged remains from Myra and took them to Bari, Italy; this removal greatly increased the saint's popularity in Europe, and Bari became one of the most crowded of all pilgrimage centres.

Nicholas's reputation for generosity and kindness gave rise to legends of miracles he performed for the poor and unhappy. He was

reputed to have given marriage dowries of gold to three girls whom poverty would otherwise have forced into lives of prostitution and to have restored to life three children who had been chopped up by a butcher and put in a tub of brine. In the Middle Ages, devotion to Nicholas extended to all parts of Europe. He became the patron saint of Russia and Greece; of charitable fraternities and guilds; of children, sailors, unmarried girls, merchants, and pawnbrokers; and of such cities as Fribourg, in Switzerland, and Moscow. Thousands of European churches were dedicated to him—one, built by the Roman emperor Justinian I at Constantinople (now Istanbul), as early as the 6th century. Nicholas's miracles were a favourite subject for medieval artists and liturgical plays, and his traditional feast day was the occasion for the ceremonies of the Boy Bishop, a widespread European custom in which a boy was elected bishop and reigned until Holy Innocents' Day (December 28).

After the Reformation, devotion to Nicholas disappeared in all the Protestant countries of Europe except Holland, where his legend persisted as Sinterklaas (a Dutch variant of the name St. Nicholas). Dutch colonists took this tradition with them to New Amsterdam (now New York City) in the American colonies in the 17th century. Sinterklaas was adopted by the country's English-speaking majority under the name Santa Claus, and his legend of a kindly old man was united with old Nordic folktales of a magician who punished naughty children and rewarded good children with presents. The resulting image of Santa Claus in the United States crystallized in the 19th century, and he has ever since remained the patron of the gift-giving festival of Christmas.

Sr. Shalini, Satya Seva Sisters, Agra



**" Faith helps us to get through!"
Our Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Graces,
Sardhana (Meerut)**



Faithful people since ages have been undertaking and going on holy trips and pilgrimages. These pilgrimages strengthen the faith of the people in God and in his supreme power. Thus, with this intention we the people of Agra city made our pilgrimage to the world famous shrine of Our Lady of Graces in Sardhana, 22 km away from Meerut, on 18-19th November, 2021.



We were 50+ young and old people from all four parishes of the city. We were led by Mr. Lawrence Masih (St. Patrick's Church, Agra Cantt) and Rev. Fr. Eugene Moon Lazarus, Spiritual Director, St. Lawrence Minor Seminary, Agra.

We gathered in St. Mary's Church, Agra, where Rev. Fr. Prakash D' Souza, Rector of St. Lawrence Minor Seminary explained us the meaning of pilgrimage. It was followed by a short orientation to Pilgrimage by Rev. Fr. Eugene Moon Lazarus and instructions by Mr. Lawrence. We left for Sardhana at about 10:00 pm. Before Hathras our bus broke down, as there was a technical problem in the gear box. Then, someone rightly remembered that the halt has occurred, because we didn't recite the Rosary. Thus, within no time, we all had beads of Rosary

in our hands. Meanwhile the problem was solved and the bus started again. We stopped at Aligarh for a tea break.



Early in the morning by 3:30am we found ourselves in Sophia Girls College, Meerut, one and a half hour before our scheduled arrival time. The MSA Srs., especially Rev. Sr. Gail (Principal) was extremely kind with us. By 6:30am we all had a delicious breakfast, courtesy MSA Sisters.

Then we left for our final destination. By 8:15am we were at the feet of OLG, Mother's lovely and world famous shrine. Rev. Fr. Eugene Moon Lazarus offered the Holy Mass for all of us. In his homily he reminded us to be obedient and faithful children of our Divine Mother. After the Mass, most of us spent quality time in the Shrine, thanking and praising her, for her constant love and protection. Then, Rev. Sr. Meena Naidu, RJM, offered us hot tea and Samosas. Thank you dear Sr. Meena ji! After tea and snacks, some of us went for shopping souvenirs etc. whereas some preferred to buy fresh jaggery and sugarcanes.

Sharp at 12 noon, we started our 'Stations of the Cross' at the magnificent live- size statues in front of the Shrine. Mrs. Nishi Augustine and

Sir Lawrence Masih conducted the devotion. Then, we had our lunch- garmagaram Choley Bhaturey. Thank you Mintoo bhaiya for arranging the lunch.

Then after the sumptuous meal we bid farewell to the Lady of Sardhana, assuring her that we will come back soon to her protection and care. We though, were tired, but enjoyed playing tambola (housie) and antakshree games on our way back. We halted at Bulandsheher for tea etc. And then proceeded to Hathras, where Rev. Fr. Sunny Kottoor and Rev. Fr. G. Xavier along with some devout parishioners were waiting for us. Rev. Frs. offered us tea with some refreshments. We will never forget your kindness and generosity dear Hathraswalas!

At about 10:00 pm we reached back to St. Mary's Church, Agra. We are extremely grateful to Rev. Fr. Eugene Moon Lazarus, Mr. Lawrence Masih and all those who organised this memorable pilgrimage.

We left behind our mental baggages of worries, tentions and troubles. On the contrary, we brought joys of peace, love, companionship, faith, hope and compassion. May Our Lady of Graces continue to watch over us and pray for us.

-Khyati Lazarus & Devina Lamba

ख्रीस्त राजा का महापर्व सेंट पैट्रिक्स चर्च, आगरा में धूमधाम के साथ मनाया गया

आगरा, 21 नवम्बर। चर्च कैलेण्डर का अंतिम रविवार पूरे विश्व में ईसाई समुदाय के लिए बहुत खास होता है, क्योंकि इस दिन माता कलीसिया राजाओं के राजा, ख्रीस्त राजा की जयंती मनाती है। इसी क्रम में संत पैट्रिक्स पल्ली, आगरा छावनी ने हर्षोल्लास के साथ राजाओं के राजा प्रभु येशु का महापर्व मनाया।

पल्ली पुरोहित फादर ग्रेगरी के निर्देशन में, श्रद्धेय

फादर शाजुन के सहयोग एवं श्रद्धेय फादर भास्कर की सहायता से पवित्र मिस्सा बलिदान एवं तत्पश्चात ख्रीस्त राजा का जुलूस सम्पन्न हुआ।

सर्वप्रथम पवित्र मिस्सा बलिदान चढ़ाया गया, जिसमें संत पैट्रिक्स पल्ली के सभी वार्डों से बड़ी संख्या में विश्वासियों ने भाग लिया। पवित्र मिस्सा बलिदान परम श्रद्धेय डॉ. आल्बर्ट डिसूजा द्वारा चढ़ाया गया। उन्होंने अपने आशीर्वचन में हमें बताया, कि प्रभु येशु हमारे जीवन में कितना महत्व रखते हैं। उसकी कृपा के बिना हम अपने जीवन की कल्पना भी नहीं कर सकते।

पवित्र मिस्सा बलिदान के पश्चात सभी ने जुलूस में भाग लिया। जुलूस चर्च परिसर में ही सम्पन्न हुआ। जुलूस में सर्वप्रथम पवित्र क्रूस, पेरिश काउंसिल का झण्डा, उसके बाद संत अल्फोंसा यूनिट के सदस्य, उसके बाद संत फ्रांसिस फैमिली यूनिट, संत जॉन डि ब्रिट्टो यूनिट, संत थॉमस फैमिली यूनिट एवं सबसे अंत में पवित्र परमप्रसाद लिए हुए महाधर्माध्यक्ष डॉ. आल्बर्ट डिसूजा जी थे। परमप्रसाद के आगे आगे पुष्प बिखेरती बालिकाएं (फ्लावर गर्ल्स) चल रही थीं।

जुलूस चर्च परिक्रमा करके पुनः चर्च में लौट आया जहाँ परमश्रद्धेय डॉ. आल्बर्ट डिसूजा जी ने परमप्रसाद की आशीष दी। अंतिम आशिष के उपरांत मिशन इतवार को हुए एकल एवं गायन प्रतियोगिता के पुरस्कार वितरित किये गये। अंत में सभी ने जलपान का आनन्द लिया।

-लॉरेन्स मसीह, सेंट पैट्रिक्स चर्च, आगरा छावनी

ईसाई पूजन वर्ष की समाप्ति पर ख्रीस्त राजेश्वर का पर्व मनाया गया: विशेष पूजा-प्रार्थना व शोभायात्रा सम्पन्न

आगरा, 21 नवम्बर। “ईसा मसीह आज भी मानवजाति को करूणा एवं प्रेम का सामाजिक संदेश देते हैं। उनका जीवन दर्शन आज भी प्रासंगिक है”, ईसाई पूजन वर्ष के अंतिम वर्ष के अवसर पर ख्रीस्त राजा राजेश्वर के पर्व

पर विश्वासियों के जनसमूह को सम्बोधित करते हुए आगरा के महाधर्माचार्य डॉ. राफी मंजलि बोल रहे थे। इस अवसर पर स्थानीय निष्कलंक माता महागिरजाघर में धन्यवाद का पवित्र मिस्सा पूजा बलिदान चढ़ाया गया, जिसमें महाधर्माचार्य के साथ करीब 10 पुरोहितों ने बलिदान चढ़ाया। समारोह में सीमित संख्या में लोगों ने भाग लिया। समारोह में मुख्य प्रवचन में महाधर्माचार्य ने कहा, कि “ईसा मसीह प्रेम के राजा हैं। वे हमारे दिलों पर सत्य, अहिंसा और प्रेम के माध्यम से राज्य करते हैं। उनका राज्य अन्य सांसारिक राजाओं के जैसा नहीं है।”



पवित्र मिस्सा के बाद चर्च प्रांगण में ही परमप्रसाद की परंपरागत शोभायात्रा निकाली गई। इस दौरान सभी विश्वासी अपने हाथों में जलती मोमबत्तियां लिए भक्तिमय गीत गाते व माला विनती जाप करते रहे। महागिरजाघर में पवित्र परमप्रसाद की आशिष के साथ समारोह सम्पन्न हो गया। ईसाई विश्वास के अनुसार परमप्रसाद प्रभु ईसा मसीह का पवित्र शरीर और रक्त होता है। धन्यवाद ज्ञापन फादर विनिवर्सल डिसूजा ने किया।

कोविड-19 और डेंगू संक्रमण के प्रोटोकॉल को ध्यान में रखते हुए इस वर्ष यह समारोह गिरजाघर स्तर पर ही रखा गया, जिसमें सीमित संख्या में विश्वासियों ने मास्क लगाकर, सामाजिक दूरी को ध्यान में रखते हुए भाग लिया। गत वर्ष यह समारोह आयोजित नहीं किया गया था। इसी प्रकार के समारोह सेंट पैट्रिक्स चर्च, आगरा छावनी, सेंट

मेरीज़ चर्च, प्रतापपुरा, सेंट थॉमस चर्च, सिकन्दरा तथा सेंट जूड चर्च, कौलक्खा में भी आयोजित किए गए।

सेंट थॉमस पल्ली में ख्रीस्त राजा का त्योहार हर्षोल्लास के साथ मनाया गया



आगरा, 21 नवम्बर को सेंट थॉमस पल्ली, सिकन्दरा में राज राजेश्वर का पर्व मनाया गया। समस्त पल्लीवासियों ने अत्यन्त हर्ष व उमंग के साथ इस त्योहार में सम्मिलित होकर अपने प्रभुओं के प्रभु और राजाओं के राजा के प्रति नतमस्तक होकर उनकी महिमा एवं स्तुति करते हुए इस समारोह में प्रतिभाग किया।

पल्ली पुरोहित श्रद्धेय फादर डेनिस डिसूजा के मार्गदर्शन में पल्लीवासियों ने अत्यन्त भक्तिभाव एवं प्रार्थना के द्वारा अपने प्रभु का स्वागत किया तथा पवित्र साक्रामेन्ट के आदर में भक्तिपूर्वक जुलूस में कतारबद्ध होकर माला विनती जपते और भजन गाते हुए पवित्र मिस्सा बलिदान में भाग लिया। इस विशेष त्योहार पर श्रद्धेय फादर डेनिस डिसूजा के साथ सेंट कॉन्नेरेड्स आश्रम के श्रद्धेय पुरोहितों ने भी पवित्र मिस्सा बलिदान में भाग लिया और अपनी पावन उपस्थिति द्वारा हमें कृतार्थ किया।

यह त्योहार हमारे प्रभु येशु मसीह के महिमामयी जीवन आदर्शों का स्मरण कराते हुए हमें विनम्रता, क्षमाशीलता व दीनता जैसे महान जीवन मूल्यों को अपनाने का मार्ग दर्शाता है।

हमारे ख्रीस्त राजा ने किसी शक्ति व बल के आधार पर नहीं वरन् अत्यन्त दीन बनकर अपनी असीम करुणा व दया से हम पर राज्य करते हैं। उनका कहना है— “मानव पुत्र अपनी सेवा कराने नहीं, बल्कि सेवा करने तथा बहुतों के उद्धार के लिए अपने प्राण देने आया है।” हमारे प्रभु अपनी चुनी हुई प्रजा के स्वामी हैं। वह परम विधायक दीन-हीनों के सहायक और निराश्रितों के शरणदाता हैं। हमारे प्रभु परमपिता परमेश्वर के साथ ही शासन करते हैं और एक शाश्वत् व सार्वभौम राज्य के अधिकारी हैं। उनका राज्य न्याय और सच्चाई, प्रेम और शांति, पवित्रता और अनुग्रह से परिपूर्ण है, वह दयासागर, परमपावन हम सबके लिए स्तुत्य है, उनका स्वामित्व हमारे तन, मन, हमारी आत्मा, हमारे आचार विचार को सदैव बल प्रदान करे।

- श्रीमती मेरी जौन, सिकन्दरा, आगरा

फातिमा अस्पताल द्वारा निःशुल्क स्वास्थ्य जांच शिविर का आयोजन



आगरा। फातिम हॉस्पिटल, आगरा की 6 मलिन बस्तियों में चल रहे, एच.सी.डी.पी. प्रोग्राम के अन्तर्गत गोबर चौकी, ताजगंज, आगरा क्षेत्र में 23 नवम्बर को हॉस्पिटल की सोशल वर्क प्रोजेक्ट इंचार्ज सिस्टर जॉली फ्रांसिस के नेतृत्व में निःशुल्क स्वास्थ्य जांच शिविर का आयोजन किया गया। शिविर में कोरोना संक्रमण

सम्बन्धी सभी प्रशासनिक निर्देशों का शत-प्रतिशत पालन किया गया, जिसमें सोशल डिस्टेंसिंग का पालन करते हुए, सभी लोगों का थर्मोस्कैन से जांच करके और हैंड सैनिटाइजर व मास्क लगवा कर शिविर में आने दिया। शिविर में सभी लोगों का निःशुल्क मास्क और दवाओं का वितरण किया। इस शिविर के माध्यम से सभी लोगों को स्वास्थ्य के प्रति लापरवाही नहीं बरती जानी चाहिए का संदेश भी दिया।

शिविर में टी.बी. रोग विशेषज्ञ डॉ. दिनेश गोयल, शिशु रोग विशेषज्ञ, स्त्री रोग विशेषज्ञ तथा सामान्य चिकित्सकों द्वारा लगभग 180 लोगों की स्वास्थ्य जांच की गई। जिसमें हॉस्पिटल प्रशासिका सिस्टर अखिला मेरी, स्वास्थ्यकर्ता श्रीमती मौली जोस व अजय कुमार, उदल सिंह, संजय कुमार व सोशल वर्कर स्टाफ की भागीदारी रही।

कम्यूनियो रविवार मनाया गया



आगरा, 28 नवम्बर। आगमन काल के प्रथम रविवार को सेट थॉमस पल्ली, सिकन्दरा में 'कम्यूनियो रविवार' मनाया गया। इस अवसर पर पवित्र मिस्सा बलिदान के आरम्भ में 'कम्यूनियो रविवार' की प्रस्तावना व उसके प्रारूप से पल्लीवासियों को अवगत कराया गया। पल्ली पुरोहित फादर डेनिस डिस्जूजा ने अपने प्रेरणादायक प्रवचन में 'कम्यूनियो रविवार' का अर्थ व उसकी महत्ता पर

प्रकाश डालते हुए बताया कि इस मिशन कार्य को सफल बनाने में हमारी उदारता, निष्ठा एवं लगन के साथ हम सबका सापेक्ष योगदान अपेक्षित है। इस अवसर पर महाधर्माध्यक्ष डॉ. राफी मंजलि द्वारा प्रेषित पत्र व सी.बी. सी.आई. सचिवालय द्वारा सलंगन 'कम्यूनियो रविवार प्रपत्र' जिसमें इसे आयोजित करने और इस श्रेष्ठ कार्य के निमित्त प्रेम और उदारतापूर्वक मिलजुलकर योगदान करने का आह्वान किया गया है, उसे समस्त पल्लीवासियों को पढ़कर सुनाया गया।

प्रभु ही हमारी आशा है। वही हमारे हृदयों को अपनी पावनतम उपस्थिति द्वारा प्रकाशवान बनाये, इसी विश्वास के प्रतीक स्वरूप में आगमन की प्रथम मोमबत्ती को प्रज्वलित किया गया। सुन्दर गीत, संगीत व भजन के साथ 'कम्यूनियो रविवार' को अर्थपूर्ण एवं सफल बनाने में श्रद्धेय पल्ली पुरोहित के साथ समस्त पल्लीवासियों ने अपना सहयोग प्रदान किया।

श्रीमती मेरी जौन, सिकन्दरा, आगरा

फातिमा हॉस्पिटल द्वारा विश्व एड्स दिवस मनाया गया



आगरा, 1 दिसम्बर। फातिमा हॉस्पिटल द्वारा एस.पी. उपाध्याय इण्टर कॉलेज, रोहता, आगरा में विश्व एड्स दिवस मनाया गया। कार्यक्रम की शुरुआत सिस्टर जॉली फ्रांसिस द्वारा की गई। स्तोत्रकर्ता श्रीमती मोली जोस ने विश्व एड्स दिवस का महत्व बताया और एड्स पर

महत्वपूर्ण जानकारी दी। साथ की कोविड-19 के सम्बन्ध में लोगों को जागरूक किया। कार्यक्रम के अन्त में फातिमा हॉस्पिटल द्वारा एड्स विषय पर एक लिखित प्रतियोगिता आयोजित की गई, जिसमें विजेताओं को पुरस्कार देकर सम्मानित किया गया। इस कार्यक्रम में फातिमा अस्पताल के सोशल वर्क स्टाफ संजय कुमार, उदल सिंह, अमित, सोनवीर, रूबी आदि योगदान रहा।

- सिस्टर जॉली फ्रांसिस, आगरा

कैरोल सिंगिंग के साथ क्रिसमस महापर्व की तैयारी शुरु



आगरा, 1 दिसम्बर। ईसाई पंचांग (कैलेण्डर) के नववर्ष में आगमन काल के पहले रविवार के साथ ही नगर के ईसाई समाज में प्रभु ईसा मसीह के जन्मोत्सव (बड़ा दिन या क्रिसमस) समारोह को लेकर तैयारी शुरु हो चुकी है। विभिन्न गिरजाघरों में पुरोहितगण क्रिसमस की आध्यात्मिक तैयारी पर विशेष बल दे रहे हैं। अपने प्रवचनों के माध्यम से वे दान-दक्षिणा, त्याग-तपस्या आदि को प्राथमिकता दे रहे हैं। कैरोल सिंगिंग (क्रिसमस के गीत), सितारे, गौशाले और क्रिसमस ट्री बनाने का काम भी शुरु हो चुका है। हम मसीही लोग ईसा मसीह के दो आगमनों के बीच में निवास कर रहे हैं। पहला आज से 2000 वर्ष पूर्व जब वे इतिहास में जन्मे थे और दूसरा संसार के अंतिम दिन जब उनका पुनरागमन होगा।

इसी क्रम में छवनी स्थित ऐतिहासिक हैवलॉक मैथोडिस्ट चर्च में यूथ फैलोशिप ने 'हैलो दिसम्बर' नाम

से एक कैरोल गीत संध्या का आयोजन किया, जिसमें नगर के विभिन्न गिरजाघरों की गीत मण्डलियों ने भाग लेकर एकल, युगल एवं सामूहिक गीत गाए। मुख्य अतिथि मैथोडिस्ट चर्च के जिला इंचार्ज पादरी पंकज सिंह थे। पादरी हौरिस लाल की प्रार्थना के साथ संध्या समारोह का शुभारम्भ हुआ। समारोह में सेन्ट्रल मैथोडिस्ट चर्च, सेंट जॉन्स चर्च (हास्पीटल रोड) तथा सेंट पैट्रिक्स चर्च को क्रमशः प्रथम, द्वितीय एवं तृतीय स्थान प्राप्त हुआ। सिकन्दरा चर्च को चौथा स्थान मिला। विशिष्ट अतिथि मुस्तफा क्वार्टर पुलिस चौकी थाना सदर के प्रभारी श्री तेजवीर सिंह, पादरी विनय प्रकाश एवं फादर मून लाजरस उपस्थित थे।

संगीत संध्या में फैलोशिप की अध्यक्ष सुश्री महिमा लाल, माइकिल जॉन, दीपिका औटो, पल्लवी कम्फर्ट, रूबी कम्फर्ट, रोबिन सिंह, लारेन्स मसीह एवं प्रवीण मिश्रा सराहनीय योगदान रहा।

- महिमा लाल, हैवलॉक चर्च, आगरा

विश्व दिव्यांग दिवस पर सेंट अल्फोंसा विशिष्ट विद्यालय के बच्चों ने दर्शकों का मन मोह लिया



आगरा, 3 दिसम्बर। प्रति वर्ष की भांति इस वर्ष भी विश्व दिव्यांग दिवस पर सेंट अल्फोंसा विशिष्ट विद्यालय, आगरा के शिक्षकों व बच्चों में विशेष उत्साह देखा गया। इस वर्ष 'सूक्ष्म' सेवा समिति (ब्रज प्रांत) द्वारा यूथ हॉस्टल, संजय प्लेस, आगरा में दिव्यांगों के सम्मान में

एक विशेष समारोह आयोजित किया गया। नवनियुक्त ब्रजप्रांत की अध्यक्ष डॉ. प्रियंका मसीह द्वारा सेंट अल्फोंसा स्कूल के बच्चों को विशेष रूप से कार्यक्रम में आमंत्रित किया गया।

बच्चों ने कार्यक्रम में मनमोहक सांस्कृतिक प्रस्तुतियाँ दीं। इस अवसर पर बेबी दिया ने विश्व दिव्यांग दिवस के बारे में बताते हुए एक गरिमामय संभाषण दिया गया। मास्टर विन्सेण्ट ने अपनी सुमधुर आवाज में सभी दर्शकों और विशेषकर अपने दिव्यांग साथियों से अपने जीवन में कभी भी निराश या मायूस न होने का प्रभावशाली सन्देश दिया। मास्टर हिमांशु ने एकल नृत्य प्रस्तुत किया। बच्चों के ओजस्वी कार्यक्रम को देखकर मुख्यातिथि पूर्व कैबिनेट मंत्री (उ.प्र.) महाराज महेन्द्र अरिदमन सिंह, जिला पंचायत अध्यक्ष श्रीमती मंजू भदौरिया एवं केबीसी धारावाहिक की दिव्यांग विजयी (शिक्षिका) सुश्री शिवानी बुंदेला भाव विभोर उठे। मुख्यातिथियों ने लखनऊ में प्रदेशीय स्तर पर आगरा जिला का नाम रोशन करने वाले मास्टर अमन और हर्षित को शॉल व शील्ड देकर सम्मानित किया। कार्यक्रम में उपस्थित सभी दिव्यांग छात्र-छात्राओं का मनोबल बढ़ाते हुए उन्हें भी शॉल ओढ़ाकर तथा शील्ड देकर सम्मानित किया। इस अवसर पर सेंट अल्फोंसा विशिष्ट विद्यालय के कर्मठ शिक्षक श्री धर्मेन्द्र एवं श्री नितेन्द्र पाल की सेवाओं की सराहना करते हुए उन्हें सम्मानित किया।

- रजनी मदान

“व्यक्तिगत पवित्रता हमारी प्राथमिकता”:

आर्चबिशप आल्बर्ट डिसोजा

मसीह विद्यापीठ का वार्षिकोत्सव सौल्लास सम्पन्न

आगरा, 4 दिसम्बर। “पुरोहितिक प्रशिक्षक की प्राथमिकता उसकी व्यक्तिगत पवित्रता और जनसेवा होनी चाहिए। प्रभु का यह आदेश है कि हम नर में उसे खोजें और सेवा-सहायता करें”, आगरा के निवर्तमान महाधर्माध्यक्ष डॉ. आल्बर्ट डिसोजा एत्मादपुर स्थित मसीह

विद्यापीठ के वार्षिकोत्सव पर पुरोहित बनने का प्रशिक्षण प्राप्त कर रहे छात्रों को सम्बोधित कर रहे थे। विद्यापीठ इस वर्ष अपनी स्थापना की चौबीसवीं वर्षगांठ मना रहा है। वार्षिकोत्सव के अवसर पर भोर में धन्यवाद की पूजा महाधर्माध्यक्ष डा. राफी मंजलि ने सम्पन्न कराई। अपने संक्षिप्त उपदेश में उन्होंने सभी छात्रों का आह्वान किया के वे अपने संरक्षक संत फ्रांसिस जेवियर के समान धार्मिक, सच्चा और सादगी भरा जीवन जीने का आदर्श अपनाएं। सायंकाल गुरुकुल के प्रेक्षालय में छात्रों ने एक रंगारंग कार्यक्रम प्रस्तुत किया। कार्यक्रम का मुख्याकर्षण था, सुप्रसिद्ध हिन्दी एकांकी 'पसीने की कमाई'। इसके माध्यम से छात्रों ने सामाजिक अव्यवस्था एवं धनाढ्य-निर्धन वर्ग के बीच बढ़ती खाई पर प्रहार किया। इस अवसर पर गुरुकुलाचार्य फादर जोसफ फ्रांसिस डिसूजा ने गुरुकुल की वार्षिक रिपोर्ट भी प्रस्तुत की।



एक कैथोलिक पुरोहित (फादर) बनने के लिए 12-13 वर्ष का समय लगता है। इस प्रशिक्षण अवधि के दौरान छात्र को दर्शनशास्त्र व ईशशास्त्र के साथ-साथ स्नातक की पढ़ाई भी कराई जाती है। छात्र भारतीय योग, संगीत, मनोविज्ञान, हिन्दी भाषाओं के समुचित ज्ञान, उतर भारत के प्रमुख तीज-त्यौहारों सहित अन्तरधर्मीय संवाद का भी अध्ययन कराया जाता है। पूर्ण रूप से योग्य पाए जाने पर छात्र के दीक्षांत पर पावन पुरोहिताभिषेक किया जाता है, जहाँ प्रत्येक उम्मीदार छात्र को आजीवन ब्रह्मचर्य एवं आज्ञापालन का व्रत दिलाया जाता है। मसीह विद्यापीठ में इस समय 115 छात्र पुरोहित बनने का अध्ययन कर रहे हैं। यहाँ दर्शनशास्त्र एवं इग्नू से स्नातक कराया जाता है।

क्रिश्चियन समाज सेवा सोसाइटी के अध्यक्ष श्री डेनिस सिल्वेरा ने स्थापना के 25 वर्ष में प्रवेश करने के लिए स्टाफ व छात्रों को बधाई दी।

- डेनिस सिल्वेरा, आगरा

विद्यालय वार्षिकोत्सव में सेंट अल्फोंसा विशिष्ट विद्यालय के बच्चों ने धूम मचाई



आगरा, 9 दिसम्बर। सेंट अल्फोंसा विशिष्ट विद्यालय, आगरा के वार्षिकोत्सव के दौरान विद्यालय के दिव्यांग छात्र-छात्राओं ने धमाल किया। रंगबिरंगी प्रस्तुतियां देकर बरबस ही मुख्यातिथियों और उपस्थित माता-पिता व अभिभावकों का मन मोह लिया।

वार्षिकोत्सव की अध्यक्षता आगरा के वर्तमान धर्माध्यक्ष डॉ. राफी मंजलि ने की। विशिष्ट अतिथि के रूप में आगरा महाधर्मप्रांत के निवर्तमान महाधर्माध्यक्ष डॉ. आल्बर्ट डिसोजा उपस्थित थे। इस अवसर पर सेंट पीटर्स कॉलेज, आगरा के प्रधानाचार्य फादर एण्ड्र्यू कोरिया, योग गुरु फादर जॉन फरेरा, सेंट पॉल्स इन्टर कॉलेज के प्रधानाचार्य फादर जेकब पालामट्टम, फादर पायस, फादर शिबु कुरियाकोस, फादर जेमिल्टन, फादर लॉरेन्स राजा, फादर विनिवर्सल डिसूजा, फादर मून लाजरस एवं सक्षम (ब्रज प्रांत) की अध्यक्षा श्रीमती (डॉ.) प्रियंका मसीह के अलावा विभिन्न धर्मसमाज के धर्मभाई-बहनें और बच्चों के माता-पिता उपस्थित थे।

कार्यक्रम की शुरुआत में प्रमुख अतिथियों द्वारा दीप प्रज्वलित किया गया। प्रार्थना नृत्य के बाद प्रधानाचार्य सिस्टर अल्फो मैथ्यू ने विद्यालय प्रगति की वार्षिक रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत की। इस अवसर पर बच्चों ने विभिन्न गीत-नृत्यों की रंगारंग प्रस्तुतियां दीं। कार्यक्रम का मुख्य आकर्षण था- पवित्र बाइबिल के दृष्टान्त उड़ाऊ पुत्र (पिता के अमर प्रेम) की आधुनिक प्रस्तुति, जो सभी दर्शकों के मध्य सर्वाधिक लोकप्रिय रही।



समारोह में विशिष्ट अतिथि महाधर्माध्यक्ष डॉ. आल्बर्ट डिसूजा ने कहा, कि “समाज को आगे बढ़ाने की जिम्मेदारी सबकी होती है। समाज की कमियों-बुराइयों को दूर करने की हमारी सामाजिक जिम्मेदारी है। सबको समाज की मुख्यधारा से जोड़ना हमारा कर्तव्य है।” इस अवसर पर मुख्यातिथि महाधर्माध्यक्ष डॉ. राफी मंजलि ने कहा, कि “आर्चबिशप आल्बर्ट डिसूजा ने अपने 12-13 वर्षीय कार्यकाल में बहुत सी प्रतिष्ठित संस्थाओं की स्थापना की है। उन्हीं में से एक है, सेंट अल्फोंसा विशिष्ट विद्यालय। हम जानते हैं कि बड़े-बड़े स्कूलों में बच्चों के साथ बहुत मेहनत करनी पड़ती है, अब हम समझ सकते हैं कि इन विशिष्ट बच्चों के साथ शिक्षकों को कितनी मेहनत और आज के इस कार्यक्रम के लिए कितना प्रयास करना पड़ा होगा। आप सभी हमारी बधाई के पात्र हैं। हम इन दिव्यांग बच्चों को सिर्फ दे ही नहीं रहे, बल्कि उनसे ले भी रहे हैं। हम इन बच्चों की वजह

से बेहतररीन इंसान बन रहे हैं।”

समारोह के दौरान दोनों मुख्यातिथियों ने विभिन्न प्रतियोगिताओं में विजयी हुए बच्चों को पुरस्कार प्रदान किए। अंत में श्रद्धेय फादर साजी पालामट्टम ने सभी के प्रति धन्यवाद ज्ञापन दिया। स्कूल के एंथम गीत के साथ वार्षिकोत्सव समाप्त हो गया। विशिष्ट अतिथियों के लिए जलपान की व्यवस्था की गई थी। सभी बच्चों को फूड पैकेट्स प्रदान किए गए। वर्तमान में 45 विशिष्ट बच्चे यहाँ पर 12 शिक्षक-शिक्षिकाओं के करकमलों से विशेष शिक्षा प्राप्त कर रहे हैं।

- नीतेन्द्र पाल सिंह (शिक्षक) आगरा

जनरल बिपिन रावत के दुःखद निधन पर मसीही समाज की ओर से शोक संवेदना: शोक सभा व श्रद्धांजलियां अर्पित की गईं



आगरा, 9 दिसम्बर। भारतवर्ष के सर्वोच्च सेनाधिकारी जनरल बिपिन रावत के आकस्मिक निधन से संपूर्ण देश के साथ-साथ आगरा धर्मक्षेत्र के मसीही समाज में भी शोक की लहर व्याप्त हो गई।

महाधर्माध्यक्ष डॉ. राँफी मंजलि और निवर्तमान महाधर्माध्यक्ष डॉ. आल्बर्ट डिसूजा ने अपने संयुक्त शोक संदेश में जनरल बिपिन रावत को एक महान योद्धा बताया और कहा, कि उनका निधन देश के लिए अपूर्वनीय क्षति है, जिसे आसानी से भरा नहीं जा सकेगा। जनरल

विपिन रावत एक कर्मठ, निष्ठावान और काडर सैनिक थे, जिन्होंने अल्पायु में इतनी प्रतिष्ठा और सम्मानपूर्ण पद प्राप्त कर लिया था। उनका कुर्बानी व्यर्थ नहीं जानी चाहिए। हर भारतीय को उनके त्याग और गौरवशाली जीवन पर गर्व होना चाहिए। महाधर्माध्यक्ष द्वय ने दुर्घटना में मारे गये सभी जाँबाज शहीद सैनिकों की आत्मशांति के लिए प्रार्थना करते हुए उनके शोकाकुल परिवारिजनों व शुभचिन्तकों को सांत्वना मिलने की कामना की है।

क्रिश्चियन समाज सेवा सोसाइटी के अध्यक्ष श्री डेनिस सिल्वेरा ने भी अपने शोक संदेश में दिवंगत आत्माओं को आत्मशांति मिलने की कामना की है। उन्होंने चर्च के सभी पल्ली पुरोहितों से अपने गिरजाघरों में जनरल रावत व उनके साथ मारे गये सभी सैन्य अधिकारियों के सम्मान में श्रद्धांजलि सभा आयोजित करने का अनुरोध किया है।

इसी क्रम में शुक्रवार 10 दिसम्बर को सद्भावना और मसीही शिक्षकों-पुरोहितों ने शहीद स्मारक पर सायं साढ़े तीन बजे श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित की। इस अवसर पर फादर वर्गीस, फादर मून लाजरस, फादर शाजी पालामट्टम सहित पादरी अनिल बी. लाल, पादरी पर्सी सोलोमन, डॉ. एण्ड्रयू प्रकाश, डॉ. मधुरिमा शर्मा, डॉ. एस.एस. चौहान भी उपस्थित थे।

रविवार 12 दिसम्बर को अपराह्न 3 बजे नार्थ ईदगाह स्थित गुरुद्वारा पर भी एक सर्वधर्म प्रार्थना सभा का आयोजन किया गया, जिसमें सद्भावना की ओर से फादर वर्गीस कुन्त ने भाग लेकर मसीही समाज की ओर से शोक संवेदना प्रकट की। प्रार्थना के बाद सभी सदस्यों ने शहीद पृथ्वीराज चौहान के निवास के निकट स्थित हनुमान मंदिर पर जाकर अपनी श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित की।

- फादर मून लाजरस

Rev. Sr. Dolorosa MC celebrated Golden Jubilee of her Religious Commitment

Agra, 11 Dec. Rev. Sr. Dolorosa MC celebrated the golden jubilee of her religious

commitment. His Grace Most Rev. Dr. Raphy Manjaly, the Archbishop of Agra offered the Holy Eucharist along with Parish and Seminary Fathers.



On behalf of Rev. Sr. Annliese MC superior of the community Sr. Emma welcomed everyone and briefed the congregation with the jubilarian life-sketch. It was followed by lighting of the jubilee candle by Sr. Dolorosa. His Grace highly appreciated the works and charisma of the jubilarian. He said that we must learn and imbibe the heavenly qualities of our dearest mother Saint Theresa of Calcutta. It is indeed a great challenge to work and serve the less fortunate ones.

The melodious choir was led by the seminarians under the able guidance of Rev. Fr. Prakash D'Souza, Rector of the Seminary.

Later Sr. Dolorosa expressed her gratitude, saying that God has been very kind and generous with her long journey of 50 golden years.

After the Jubilee Mass, we all gathered together to felicitate our dear Sr. Dolorosa MC. The jubilee cake was cut and everyone relished it. Than a sumptous lunch was served to all present.

To mark the jubilarian, Regional Superior Rev. Sr. Amrit MC and Sisters from various neighbouring MC communities were present.

- Bro. Suman Toppo, Agra

Archdiocese At A Glance

अलीगढ़ में दो एम.सी. सिस्टर्स की जुबिली मनाई गयी



अलीगढ़, 25 अक्टूबर। मिशनरीज़ ऑफ चैरिटी धर्मसमाज (अलीगढ़) की दो धर्मबहनों के धार्मिक जीवन (व्रतधारण) की जयंतियां मनाई गईं। श्रद्धेय सिस्टर नीता की स्वर्ण जयन्ती एवं श्रद्धेय सिस्टर सुधीरा की रजत जयन्ती की मनाई गईं।

इस अवसर पर अति सुन्दरता से सजाए गए कॉन्वेंट के चैपल (प्रार्थनालय) में महाधर्माध्यक्ष डॉ. राफी मंजलि ने दोनों धर्मबहनों के लिए धन्यवाद की पवित्र मिस्सा चढ़ाई। मिस्सा में पल्ली पुरोहित फादर जॉन रोशन परेरा सहित फादर जोस अक्कारा, फादर जोसफ डाबरे (विकार जनरल), फादर एलियास कोरिया, फादर सुरेश एवं फादर चार्ल्स टोप्पो ने भी भाग लिया। विभिन्न नजदीकी कॉन्वेंटों से बहुत सी धर्मबहनों ने भाग लेकर दोनों जुबिली धारकों के लिए विशेष प्रार्थना की। गायन मण्डली का संचालन, सेंट फिदेलिस चर्च, अलीगढ़ की मण्डली ने किया। मिस्सा में भाग लेने के लिए दूर-दूर से जैसे आगरा, मुरादाबाद, लखनऊ, बरेली, गाजियाबाद, हल्द्वानी, लखनऊ से भी एम.सी. सिस्टर्स ने भाग लेकर समारोह की सुन्दरता में चार चाँद लगा दिए। प्रारम्भ में आगरा से आए प्रेमदान (मिशनरीज़ ऑफ चैरिटी) के बच्चों ने प्रार्थना नृत्य किया। तत्पश्चात सभी पुरोहितों के साथ

दोनों जुबिलीधारक सिस्टर्स ने जुलूस के रूप में प्रार्थनालय में प्रवेश किया। सिस्टर कीर्ति चन्दर ने सबका स्वागत किया और दोनों जुबिलीधारक सिस्टर्स के जीवन परिचय पर प्रकाश डाला। प्रवेश गीत के समय प्रारम्भ में दोनों जुबिली धारक सिस्टर्स ने जुबिली मोमबत्तियां जलाईं।

अपने प्रवचन में महाधर्माध्यक्ष ने सबको यह बात याद दिलाई, कि “हमें भी मदर तेरेसा के समान एक कर्मठ और तेजस्विनी महिला बनने का प्रयास करना चाहिए। हमें माता मरियम के दिखाए रास्ते पर चलने के साथ-साथ मदर तेरेसा की भांति निस्वार्थी, निडर और प्रार्थनामयी बनना चाहिए। वही मदर संत हमारे लिए प्रभु से निरन्तर प्रार्थना करती रहे।”

प्रवचन के बाद दोनों जुबिलधारकों ने रीजनल सुपीरियर सिस्टर श्रद्धेय सिस्टर अमृत की उपस्थिति में अपने धार्मिक व्रत दोहराए।

पवित्र मिस्सा बलिदान के बाद दोनों सिस्टर्स के सम्मान में एक अभिनन्दन कार्यक्रम का आयोजन किया गया। बधाई गीत के साथ जुबिली केक काटा गया और सबका मुँह मीठा कराया गया। इस अवसर पर आगरा मिशनरीज़ ऑफ चैरिटी, प्रेमदान से आए बच्चों व बालिकाओं ने तीन मनोहारी सामूहिक नृत्य प्रस्तुत कर समा बांध दिया। लंच के साथ समारोह सम्पन्न हो गया।

- कृ. मेघा मैथ्यूस, प्रेमदान, आगरा

Parish Children received the Sacrament in St. Joseph's, Greater Noida

It was wonderful and a spiritual bliss to witness 22 students of St. Joseph's Church, Greater Noida receiving the Holy Body of Jesus Christ for the first time in their lives on 14th November, 2021. There were also 29 candidates

who received the sacrament of Confirmation. Most Rev. Dr. Raphy Manjaly, the Archbishop of Agra prayed for the descent of the Holy Spirit upon them, so that they may be strengthened and Spirit-filled to witness Jesus Christ. He conferred the Sacrament of Confirmation to them. The Archbishop offered the Holy Mass along with Rev. Fr. Vinoy Pullivelil, the Parish Priest. Many other priests, concelebrated with him. Rev. Sisters from neighbouring convents and many parishioners participated in the Eucharist. The enthusiasm of the children was blessed by the presence of their near and dear ones who came to pray and witness the occasion. It was great celebration for the St. Joseph's Parish, as we were able to attend such a beautiful ceremony after a long time.



The joyful mood of the parishioners was seen through their coordination and cooperation in arranging the things and welcoming the guests. The choir was led by the youth of the parish which made the event a memorable one. The inspiring and meaningful homily of the Archbishop added more bliss to the solemnity of the day. The Archbishop, Parish Priest and everyone in the parish wished best to the children for their spiritual journey.

The Archbishop also gave away the trophy and prizes to the winners who won prizes of the Archdiocesan Family Bible Quiz based on Year

of St. Joseph. He congratulated them for their efforts. Then the Archbishop and all the priests had the refreshments along with the children who received Sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion. Later, we had a short Parish Council meeting with the Archbishop where he discussed the progress of the activities of the parish. The parish community of St. Joseph's Church, Greater Noida, considers this day as a special gift from God.

-Mrs. Raji Andrews, Agra

बस्तर (कासगंज) में नुक्कड़ नाटकों का आयोजन



19 से 26 नवम्बर 2021 तक आगरा कैथोलिक डायोसिस समाज सेवा संस्था द्वारा महिला एवं किशोरी सशक्तिकरण एवं दिव्यांगों के पुर्नवास के लिए चलाई जा रही स्वास्थ्य एवं सामुदाय आधारित पुर्नवास परियोजना के अन्तर्गत 24 गाँवों में नुक्कड़ नाटकों का आयोजन किया गया। समन्वयक सिस्टर संध्या के नेतृत्व में कला मंच, पीलीभीत-बरेली टीम द्वारा इनका आयोजन किया गया।

नुक्कड़ नाटकों के माध्यम से लोगों को दहेज प्रथा, नशा मुक्ति, शिक्षा, स्वास्थ्य, लिंग भेदभाव और पर्यावरण के बारे में जागरूक किया गया। इसके साथ ही लोगों को कोविड-19 टीकाकरण के लिए प्रेरित किया गया। इन नुक्कड़ नाटकों के माध्यम से 5439 महिला-पुरुष, किशोर-किशोरियाँ जागरूक किए गए। जागरूकता कार्यक्रमों को सफल बनाने में परियोजना स्टाफ ने भरपूर सहयोग किया।

-नरेन्द्र पाल, बस्तर (कासगंज)

सेंट फ्रांसिस जेवियर चर्च, एटा में राजा राजेश्वर का पर्व मनाया गया



एटा, 21 नवम्बर। राजा राजेश्वर के महापर्व अवसर पर पल्ली पुरोहित फादर अरुल कुमार ने पवित्र मिस्सा बलिदान चढ़ाया। उन्होंने मिस्सा बलिदान के समय राज राजेश्वर येशु मसीह के बारे में बताते हुए सभी विश्वासियों के मन में येशु राजा के प्रति भक्तिभाव जगाया।

फादर ने अपने सारगर्भित संदेश में राजा राजेश्वर द्वारा स्वर्ग राज्य को पृथ्वी पर स्थापित करने के विषय में संक्षिप्त वर्णन किया। इस विश्वास के साथ सभी विश्वासियों ने पवित्र मिस्सा बलिदान में भाग लिया।

मिस्सा के पश्चात पल्ली के सभी लोगों ने येशु राजा की जय जयकार करते हुए जुलूस बनाकर भक्तिभाव से पवित्र परमप्रसाद के प्रति सम्मान प्रकट किया। अंत में परम प्रसाद की आशीष के साथ समारोह सम्पन्न हो गया।

-संगीता बैजामिन, एटा

The Golden Jubilee Year begins at St. Francis Church, Hathras



Hathras, 21 Nov. 17 July 1972, is an unforgettable day written in glittering golden imprints in the history of St. Francis Church, Hathras. It is dated for the foundation of St. Francis Inter College and St. Francis Church Hathras. The inauguration of the Golden Jubilee celebration was marked on 21 Sunday, November, 2021 with the hoisting of jubilee flag by Rev. Fr. Jose Maliackal, the founder of St. Francis Inter College and St. Francis Church, as well. It was followed by the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. The esteemed presence of Rev. Fr. Elias was encouraging. The whole parish was assembled to witness the inaugural session.

Rev. Fr. Jose Maliackal was the main celebrant of the Eucharist. Rev. Fr. Sunny Kottoor, Rev. Fr. Xavier and Rev. Fr. Joseph Rodrigues were the concelebrants. Fr. Jose Maliackal in his homily highlighted the initial struggles faced and painstaking efforts made to begin the school and the church. His words indeed could revive the old faded memories of many.



It educated and enlightened the young and old alike with the past experiences. Everyone admired the manifold and marvelous ways of God. He highlighted how God turns adversities into opportunities and problems into solutions. God chose Fr. Jose as an instrument to sow the seeds of faith, and paved the way for evangelization at Hathras. It was an enriching experience and happy moment for all the parishioners of St. Francis Church to learn how the seed that was sowed, turned into saplings, and gradually grew to be a strong and sturdy tree spreading its branches all around, broad and wide, now welcoming everyone to enjoy the shades underneath.

After the Holy Mass, there was Rosary procession in the premises of the Church, led by the Youth Association of the Parish. Then, everyone joined the agape, prepared by the Association of Friends of St Joseph.

-Biju Augustine, Hathras

Quinquagenarian St. Francis Inter College, Hathras celebrates inaugural ceremony of Golden Jubilee Year (21-22)



Hathras, 29 November will always be remembered for distinguished its historical significance in the city of Hathras as the campus of St. Francis Inter College was festooned for the formal Inauguration of Golden Jubilee Ceremony. The humble beginning of this reputed institution on 17th July, 1972 at B. H. Oil Mill, Hathras by Very Rev. Fr. Jose Maliekal with 20 pioneer students, stands as one of the eminent landmarks in the city today, enlightening more than 3500 students and imparting quality education with its well-defined infrastructure, highly qualified and experienced faculties.



The ceremony commenced with the hoisting of the Golden Jubilee Flag by Rev. Fr. Raphy Vallachira, the Manager. Thereafter, at the arrival of the Chief Guest, His Grace Most Rev. Dr. Raphy Manjaly, the Golden Jubilee Flag was hoisted by him in the Senior Wing Campus in the august assembly of Guests of Honour, Dignitaries, Teachers and Students.

The programme started with a brief history of the school since 1972 to 2021. Most Rev. Dr. Raphy Manjaly, the Archbishop of Agra, Most Rev. Dr. Albert D' Souza, the Archbishop

Emeritus, Very Rev. Fr. Jose Maliekal, the Founder Principal, the former Principals, Rev. Fr. Sebastian Pantaladi, Rev. Fr. Vijayan (OFM. Cap.) Rev. Fr. Dr. Robert Varghese and one of our former Vice-Principals, Rev. Sr. Virgin MSA, were greeted with floral welcome.

The lighting of the ceremonial lamp by the dignitaries followed by prayer invoked the Divine inspiration. The gracious prayer dance was a true worship and veneration to the Omnipotent. The melodious choir serenaded with a welcome note to the audience. The evolution of the Golden Jubilee Logo in an animated video was utterly captivating. The sensational unveiling of the same was a phenomenal presentation by the graceful dancers.

The elite gathering was addressed and blessed by Most Rev. Dr. Raphy Manjaly, Most Rev. Dr. Albert D' Souza and Very Rev. Fr. Jose Maliekal. The documentary on the Five Decade Long Journey from 1972 - 2021 was nostalgic and impressive. The young talents from primary wing had stolen the hearts of the audience by their fusion dance. The scintillating finale choreography by the rocking troupe was an extravaganza. The Inaugural Ceremony was thus concluded with a tribute to the Nation by the chorus of the National Anthem. The audience relished on the sumptuous feast and dispersed with a thank heart.

-Chinnadurai Amalasevan, Hathras

विश्व एड्स दिवस पर भव्य कार्यक्रम आयोजित

2 दिसम्बर 2021 को आगरा कैथोलिक डायोसिस समाज सेवा संस्था द्वारा विश्व एड्स दिवस का आयोजन सेन्ट जोसफ स्कूल, बस्तर (कासगंज) में किया गया। कार्यक्रम की शुरुआत गणमान्य अतिथि सुश्री रुखसार (काउन्सलर, गोविन्द सेवा समिति), विशिष्ट अतिथि

सि० मरिया (प्रधानाचार्या, असीसी कॉन्वेंट स्कूल, एटा), फादर पायस (निदेशक, यू०के०एस०वी०के०, आगरा), फादर शिबू कुरियाकोस (निदेशक, आगरा कैथोलिक डायोसिस समाज सेवा संस्था, आगरा) द्वारा दीप प्रज्ज्वलन के साथ किया गया। प्रार्थना नृत्य के साथ कार्यक्रम की शुरुआत की गई। कार्यक्रम में 609 महिला-पुरुषों, किशोर-किशोरियों ने भाग लिया।



श्रीमती कमलेश द्वारा संस्था का परिचय एवं परियोजना की रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत की गई। 55 लोगों ने सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रम में भाग लिया। इस अवसर पर सेन्ट जोसफ स्कूल, बस्तर के बच्चों द्वारा एड्स पर नुक्कड़ नाटक के माध्यम से लोगों को एड्स फैलने के कारणों, बचाव, उपचार एवं लिंग भेदभाव के बारे में जागरूक किया गया।

संस्था निदेशक फादर शिबू कुरियाकोस ने अपने सम्बोधन में कहा, कि 'हमारे समाज में एड्स नामक बीमारी फैली हुई है, और इससे बचने के लिए हमें जानकारी की सख्त आवश्यकता है, क्योंकि एड्स की जानकारी में ही इसका बचाव है।' इसके साथ ही फादर ने बताया, कि 'हमारे समाज में कोविड-19 नामक एक अन्य खतरनाक बीमारी भी पनप रही है। इसके लिए हमें टीकाकरण जरूर करवाना है, तभी हमारे परिवार की सुरक्षा होगी।'

गणमान्य अतिथियों द्वारा महिलाओं एवं किशोरियों को सिलाई प्रमाण-पत्र देकर सम्मानित किया गया। कार्यक्रम

को सफल बनाने के लिए समन्वयक सिस्टर संध्या, सिस्टर एलिस, सिस्टर बसंती, सिस्टर मर्सी, सोशल वर्क स्टाफ एवं सन्त जोसफ स्कूल के शिक्षकों का सम्पूर्ण सहयोग रहा। धन्यवाद ज्ञापन के पश्चात जलपान के साथ कार्यक्रम का समापन हो गया।

- सिस्टर संध्या, बस्तर

सेन्ट जोसफ स्कूल, बस्तर में विश्व दिव्यांग दिवस का आयोजन किया गया



बस्तर में 3 दिसम्बर 2021 को आगरा कैथोलिक डायोसिस समाज सेवा संस्था द्वारा चलाई जा रही समुदाय आधारित पुर्नवास परियोजना के द्वारा सन्त जोसफ स्कूल, बस्तर (कासगंज) के प्रांगण में विश्व दिव्यांग दिवस का आयोजन किया गया। कार्यक्रम की शुरुआत मुख्य अतिथि फादर मून लॉजरस (आध्यात्मिक निर्देशक, सेन्ट लॉरेन्स सेमीनेरी, आगरा) विशिष्ट अतिथि फादर पायस (निदेशक, उत्तर क्षेत्रीय समाज विकास केन्द्र, आगरा), फादर शिबू कुरियाकोस (निदेशक, आगरा कैथोलिक डायोसिस समाज सेवा संस्था, आगरा, फादर शीजू पिण्डीकनाइल (प्रधानाचार्य, सेन्ट जोसफ स्कूल, बस्तर), फादर बबिन (सहायक पल्ली पुरोहित), श्री राजीव (ग्राम प्रधान, बस्तर) एवं श्री मुकेश द्वारा दीप प्रज्ज्वलन कर कार्यक्रम की शुरुआत की गई। सेन्ट जोसफ स्कूल के बच्चों द्वारा प्रार्थना नृत्य किया गया। इसके साथ ही सभी गणमान्य अतिथियों का एक-एक पौधा देकर स्वागत किया गया। कार्यक्रम में करीब 305 दिव्यांगों ने भाग लिया। दिव्यांगों एवं स्कूल के बच्चों ने सांस्कृतिक

कार्यक्रम के माध्यम से लोगों का मन मोह लिया। श्री चाहत मियाँ (दिव्यांग) एवं श्री धीरेन्द्र (दिव्यांग) के नृत्यों ने कार्यक्रम में चार चाँद लगा दिये। उनके इस प्रयास से अन्य दिव्यांगों में भी जोश भर गया और एक सन्देश गया, कि 'हम भी किसी से कम नहीं।'

कार्यक्रम की इस कड़ी में मुख्य अतिथि फादर मून लाज़रस ने अपने सन्देश में कहा, कि 'यदि हम निरन्तर प्रयास करते रहेंगे, तो एक दिन आसमान को छू लेंगे।'

फादर पायस ने अपने प्रेरणायक शब्दों के माध्यम से बताया, कि 'हमें लक्ष्य प्राप्ति के लिए निरन्तर प्रयास करते रहना चाहिए, तब ही हम लक्ष्य को प्राप्त कर सकते हैं।' फादर शीजू ने अपने सम्बोधन में कहा, कि 'हम सब ईश्वर की संतान हैं, जिनमें कोई छोटा-बड़ा नहीं है इसलिए हमें भेदभाव नहीं करना है किन्तु एक-दूसरे का सहयोग करना है।' ग्राम प्रधान श्री राजीव जी ने बताया, कि 'दिव्यांगता हमारे शरीर में नहीं बल्कि हमारे दिमाग में होती है, जो हमें आगे बढ़ने से रोकती है।'

अन्त में संस्था निदेशक फादर शिबू कुरियाकोस ने बताया, कि अगर 'हम कहीं जाते हैं तो पहचान पूछी जाती है; जैसे आधार कार्ड एवं अन्य दस्तावेज वैसे ही दिव्यांग लोगों के पास उनका दिव्यांग प्रमाण-पत्र होना अति आवश्यक है, क्योंकि अगर वे सरकार से जुड़कर लाभ उठाना चाहते हैं, तो पहले दिव्यांग प्रमाण-पत्र जरूरी है, इसलिए सभी दिव्यांगों को दिव्यांग प्रमाण-पत्र बनवाना चाहिए।

कार्यक्रम को सफल बनाने के लिए समन्वयक सिस्टर संध्या, सिस्टर बसंती, सिस्टर एलिस, सिस्टर मर्सी एवं सोशल वर्क स्टाफ श्री विजेन्द्र, श्री नरेन्द्र, श्रीमती रोजलिना, श्रीमती कमलेश, श्री मोहित एवं श्री एन्डी लावर का भरपूर सहयोग रहा।

अन्त में धन्यवाद देते हुए सभी दिव्यांग भाई-बहनों को प्रेमस्वरूप एक-एक गरम शॉल भेंट की गई। जल पान के साथ कार्यक्रम समाप्त हो गया।

- विजेन्द्र कुमार, बस्तर

सेंट फ्रांसिस चर्च, एटा में संरक्षक संत का त्योहार मनाया गया



एटा, 5 दिसम्बर। सेंट फ्रांसिस ज़ेवियर चर्च एटा में संरक्षक संत फ्रांसिस ज़ेवियर का महापर्व धूमधाम के साथ मनाया गया। पर्व दिवस पर समारोही पवित्र मिस्सा महाधर्माध्यक्ष डॉ. राफी मंजलि द्वारा अर्पित किया गया। उनके साथ तीनों नवाभिषिक्त पुरोहित फादर अजय, फादर बबिन और फादर जस्टिन सहित पूर्व पल्ली पुरोहित फादर राफी वल्लाचिरा, फादर रॉबर्ट, फादर जोसफ पिण्डीकनाइल, फादर अरुल कुमार (पल्ली पुरोहित) ने भी भाग लिया। मिस्सा के प्रारम्भ में पल्ली की महिलाओं ने प्रार्थना नृत्य करते हुए सभी पुरोहितों की वेदी तक आगवानी की।

अपने सारगर्भित प्रवचन में महाधर्माध्यक्ष ने कहा, कि 'हमें नया व्यक्ति बनने का प्रयास करना चाहिए। हमारे भीतर क्या कमियां हैं, उन्हें दूर करने की कोशिश करनी चाहिए।' मिस्सा के समय गायन मण्डली का संचालन एफ.सी.सी. धर्मसमाज की धर्मबहनों और पुरुष मण्डली ने मिलकर किया। सिस्टर जेसमीन और सिस्टर किरण ने वेदी को पर्व के लिए सुन्दर रीति से सजाया।

मिस्सा के बाद धर्माध्यक्ष राफी के प्रथम बार एटा आगमन पर उनका स्वागत सत्कार किया गया। माल्यार्पण कर उनका सम्मान किया गया। कार्यक्रम में पल्ली और सेंट मेरीज़ स्कूल के छात्रावास की कन्याओं द्वारा रंगारंग प्रस्तुतियां दी गईं। श्री इम्मानुएल लाल ने सबके प्रति धन्यवाद दिया। संचालन श्री जोसफ लाल एवं श्रीमती जोविता ने किया। इस कार्यक्रम का समापन प्रीतिभोज के साथ हो गया।

- संगीता बैंजामिन, एटा

Indian Catholic Press Association Annual Meet in Mumbai



Mumbai, Dec 1, 2021: Nearly 45 catholic journalists from across India attended the National Convention of Indian Catholic Press Association (ICPA) on Dec. 1, 2021 in Mumbai. The theme for the convention was: "Hit the Streets: Listen, Encounter, Engage" based on Pope Francis's message this year for the World Communications Day that focuses on "Come and See (Jn 1:46): Communicating by Encountering People Where and as They Are."

Speaking at the inaugural function, Justice Aloysius Aguiar, a former Judge of Bombay High Court, said, "A good journalist is one who hits the street in pursuit of truth despite all the hardships and threats to life. But unfortunately, the fourth pillar of democracy in the country has failed in its sacred duty of scrutinizing the government's policies and programs. Instead, it has turned out to be a pliable institution trying to live out of the 'favors' dished out by the government."

In a panel discussion on the theme, speakers expressed concern over how media has failed to be a watchdog and instead it has become a tool to peddle fake news and spread misinformation and a means to malign individuals and denigrate

communities. The panellists were Mohan Sivanand, former editor-in-chief of Reader's Digest, Jesuit activist Father Cedric Prakash and Shaison Ouseph, head of Department for Film and Television, St. Xavier Institute of Communications in Mumbai.

Sister Sujata Jena, a nun-political-activist belonging to the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, Odisha, Father Cedric Prakash, a well-known Jesuit activist Priest based in Gujarat and Ranchi based Hindi magazine Nishkalanka, were awarded during the convention for their courageous contribution to the people through media activism.

The final statement urged journalists to have the courage to heal the illness plaguing society. "Today we pledge to listen to the people, encounter and engage with them to make our communication more effective and responsive until that time truth, justice, reconciliation and peace prevail," the statement added.

Social Justice Crusader, Father Cedric Prakash, SJ appealed to all journalists to stick out their necks and fight for a just, free and equitable world. Accepting the Indian Catholic Press Association (ICPA) award, Father Prakash said "We need to wake up now, to be visible and vocal, to use our God-given talents for a more harmonious and peaceful world." He called upon the media to fight a relentless war on behalf of the poor and the marginalized. He asked media persons not to get carried away by electronic gadgets and to concentrate on their core concerns of fighting for human rights.

Sr. Sujata Jena who writes for various national and international online portals to highlight the

plight of the marginalized and bonded labourers, made a passionate plea to continue the fight against discrimination for the weaker sections of the society. The SC/BC Special Award was instituted by the ICPA and sponsored by the CBCI office for Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes to promote the welfare of the marginalized peoples.

In his video message, His Eminence, Cardinal Oswald Gracias, Archbishop of Mumbai and President of the Catholic Bishops Conference of India congratulated the ICPA members. He stressed the importance of the word of the Gospel on issues of social justice and human rights.

Courtesy: Fr. Saji Palamattom

Archbishop Vincent Concessao makes it to Diamond Jubilee



New Delhi 4th December, 2021. The Archbishop Emeritus of Delhi Most Rev. Vincent M. Concessao along with his companion priest Rev. Fr. Victor D'Souza celebrated the Sacerdotal Diamond Jubilee on Sat 4th December, 2021. His Excellency Most. Rev. Leopoldo Girelli, Papal Nuncio to India and Nepal, Archbishop Most Rev. Dr. Raphy Manjaly, Archbishop Emeritus of Agra Most. Rev. Albert D'Souza, Bishops from Simla- Chandigarh, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Gwalior, Meerut, Jaipur and Faridabad (Syrian) Dioceses concelebrated in the solemn Thanksgiving Mass. Rev. Frs. Jose Maliekal and Eugene Moon Lazarus represented the

Archdiocese of Agra.

Following the strict COVID 19 protocol priests from Delhi Archdiocese and limited number of Religious Sisters and guests and family-friends were invited for the Jubilee celebration.

The liturgy began sharp at half past ten, with a detailed introduction of the liturgy and life-sketch of both Jubilarians by Rev. Fr. Jose T.J. In his lovely homily Archbishop Most Rev. Anil J Couto beautifully highlighted the hard work and charism of both jubilarians. He said in nutshell, that 'they are the heroes and legends of our Archdiocese.'

Archbishop Most Rev. Vincent M. Concessao sharing his initial days' memory said that, in 1953 we, 17 young boys left home and joined the Minor Seminary. In 1961, we all were ordained priests. During the course of time, 14 of them have gone for their eternal reward. We two are in Delhi, whereas the third one Rev. Fr. Dennis D'Souza is working in Mangalore Diocese. "He also said that, "it was providential that God saved him-otherwise he would have drowned in the school pool, within 3-4 months of his priestly ordination."

Later, after the Mass, a Felicitation Programme was organised in Diocesan Community Centre Hall. Rev. Fr. Richard was the MC of the programme. After the ceremony, a palatable lunch was served to all guests present.

Rev. Fr. Victor D' Souza, the Jubilarian has served the Archdiocese twice as Administrator and once as the Vicar General. For the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations, he was brought from the hospital just previous week on a wheel chair. We pray for his full recovery and wish both Jubilarians God's all choicest blessings.

- Fr. Eugene Moon Lazarus, Agra

Archdiocese at a glance...cont.



Ilin weds Anurag, Cathedral 6 Nov 2021



Simon weds Stephy, Cathedral Nov 2021



Jarvis weds Fiona, Cathedral 22 Nov 2021



ACDSSS organises Street Plays, World Aids' Day & World Disabled Day



Alphonsians make a difference



MVP celebrates Patron's Day



CNI marks ST' Day



Catholic Priest blesses Hindu Samuhik Vivah



Jubilation at MC Convents Aligarh & Agra



Rita & David Das
S. Jubilee, 26 Nov 2021, St. Jude's Church



Youngest member of St. Thomas' Church, Agra
Ryan Cris James, 30 Sep 2021



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St. Peter's College, Agra



Most. Rev. Joseph Anthony Borghini,

O.F.M., Cap.
(1811-1839)

St. Peter's College, Agra



Wazirpura Road, Agra - 282 003 (U.P.)
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E-mail : agradance@yahoo.com