

Dialogue

No. 116 (For private circulation only)

October-December, 2023

Complaining Christians do not give a Credible Witness to the Gospel: *Pope Francis*



(Pope Francis addresses pilgrims in St. Peter's Square for his Wednesday general audience on Nov 15, 2023)

Credit: Vatican media.

Vatican City, Nov 15, 2023



POPE FRANCIS in his Wednesday general audience on 15th Nov 2023 said that Christians who are always resentful and full of complaints are not credible witnesses to the Gospel because joy is an essential ingredient for evangelization.

“Humanity abounds with brothers and sisters waiting for a word of hope,” Pope Francis said in St. Peter’s Square on Nov. 15.

The pope explained that people today, like people of all times, need the Gospel

and need Jesus, especially living in a society with “institutionalized secularity” that “leaves the spaces of religious meaning deserted.”

“This is the right moment to proclaim Jesus,” Pope Francis underlined.

“Immersed in today’s fast-paced and confused environment, we too indeed may find ourselves living our faith with a subtle sense of resignation, persuaded that the Gospel is no longer heard and no longer worth striving to proclaim. We might even be tempted by the idea of letting ‘others’ go their own way,” he added.

“Yet this is precisely the time to return to the Gospel to discover that Christ is always young and a constant source of newness.”

Pope Francis marked the 10th anniversary of the publication of his apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel)

at his **general audience** on Wednesday.

“The Gospel is a proclamation of joy,” he said. “The Gospel is a smile, it makes you smile because it touches the soul with the good news.”

Francis explained: “This is why a Christian who is discontented, a sad Christian, a dissatisfied, or worse still, resentful or rancorous Christian, is not credible. This person will talk about Jesus but no one will believe him!”

The pope advised Christians to “keep watch over one’s sentiments” and to remember “the joy of having the risen Jesus.”▲

Editor’s Note



Pope Francis in his Wednesday general audience on 15th Nov 2023 said that Christians who are always resentful and full of complaints are not credible witnesses to the Gospel because joy is an essential ingredient for evangelization.

“Humanity abounds with brothers and sisters waiting for a word of hope”, he stated. “The Gospel is a proclamation of joy, the Gospel is a smile, it makes you smile because it touches the soul with the good news,” he said.

Rev. Bro. Thampy Alex in his message invites us to reflect on the profound meaning behind the festive decorations and twinkling lights of Christmas. During the four weeks of Advent we light candles of hope, peace, joy and love. Each flame represents a beacon of anticipation, guiding us towards the profound significance of Christ’s birth. Christmas is a celebration of divine love breaking into our world. He exhorts us to let the spirit of Advent guide us filling our hearts with gratitude, compassion, and a renewed sense of wonder.

In the present age of religious fanaticism, the English romantic poet John Keats’ assertion that **love is the true and only religion worth dying for** is absolutely relevant. In these turbulent times we want the overwhelming power and reach of love that can touch and change every individual. As we know Christmas itself is “a celebration of divine love breaking into our world.” Love cannot be confined to a mere emotion. It is the very kernel of human existence and the essence of humanity. In the words of John Keats, “To feel for every soul and relate to every drop/ My love continues to move, it cannot stop.”

In this issue **Bro. Alex Diamond** gives a brief report of the 16th Montfortian Scouts & guides Integration Camp from 1st – 5th Oct 2023 held at Montfort School, Roorkee. In this camp over 200

Scouts & Guides from different schools of our province had participated. The theme of the camp was “Service above self”. During this province level integration camp, the 350th Birth Anniversary of our founder, St. Louis Marie Grignion de Montfort also was given due importance.

1979-81 novitiate batch has been coming together on a regular basis once in a decade and sometimes even before that. They found the coming together and reliving together their novitiate days with their Novice Master had a formative, reassuring, and re-energizing dimension. With the same objective in mind the same batch had gathered together from 24-26 Nov 2023 at St. Louis Villa, Yercaud. You will find a short report about it in this issue.

Hymn no. 92 by Bro. Emmanuel P.J., titled ‘Come Home Lord and stir my Heart’ is a creative reflection on the dialogue between Jesus and Zachaeus on the sycamore tree. It reflects the yearning of human heart to be with the Divine.

Mr. Pratyush Ratna Pandey, PET, MIC, Lucknow had been privileged to represent India as the Head of Indian squad of Vovinam Martial Art at the World Championship held in Vietnam from 22-30 Nov 2023.

It is a matter of great satisfaction to mention that this edition of DIALOGUE also carries news from **16 communities** of our province, one common house of formation, one inter-cultural community (Montreal), and three Colleges of Theology (Vidyadeep, Bengaluru, KJC, Bengaluru and Vidyajyothi, Delhi) where our Brothers are students. Congrats to all the LSs and local correspondents for your efforts in that direction. Only St. Charles Lwanga, Port Moresby and St. Gabriel’s House, Sitagarha are not represented in this edition.

May your hearts be filled with gratitude, compassion, and joy throughout the year 2024!

Bro. T.T. Mathew, SG, Editor

Message from the Provincial



Dear Brothers and Readers,

Greetings from Montfort Villa and wishing you all a very Happy Christmas.

As the winter chill sets in and days grow shorter, our hearts eagerly anticipate the warmth of the upcoming

Christmas season. Advent, a cherished time of preparation, invites us to reflect on the profound meaning behind the festive decorations and twinkling lights.

During these four weeks of advent leading to Christmas, we embark on a spiritual journey, lighting candles to symbolize hope, peace, joy, and love. Each flame represents a beacon of anticipation, guiding us towards the profound significance of Christ's birth.

Dear Brothers, in the quiet moments of Advent, take time to meditate on the timeless story of Bethlehem. Immerse yourself in the promises of hope, find solace in the pursuit of peace, rejoice in the simple joys that bring genuine happiness, and embrace the transformative power of love.

Today I want to express my deepest gratitude to all my dear brothers. Your tireless efforts have brought about transformation and hope. Today, we are recognized not just by our work but the spirit behind it – a spirit that resonates with the very heart of Christmas.

Let this Advent season be a reminder that, amidst the tinsel and carols, there lies a deeper purpose – a celebration of divine love breaking into our world. As we prepare for Christmas, let the spirit of Advent guide us, filling our hearts with gratitude, compassion, and a renewed sense of wonder.

As we look ahead to a new year, let us carry the lessons learned and the spirit of togetherness with us. The Montfort brothers have set an inspiring example for others especially in the field of education. Let us pledge to continue supporting the mission and strive to make a positive impact in our own spheres.

As we conclude our time together in 2023, let us carry the Christmas spirit in our hearts. Let the values of love, kindness, and generosity guide us in the days to come. Dear brothers, thank you for being beacons of light in our communities.

Wishing each one of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year filled with hope, peace, and the joy of shared moments.

Bro. Thampy Alex, SG Provincial Superior

The Readers Write

Dear Bro. Mathew,

Greetings from Rome on the occasion of the World Teacher's Day. As one of the Greeting Cards I received today says, "Your guidance lights the way for countless students". May the tribe of committed and competent teachers increase!

This comes to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of DIALOGUE No. 115. It has come out beautifully well, in terms of the lay out, the content and the relevant photograph. Congratulations to the Editorial Team and to all the contributors of the news items, the articles, the reports, the hymn, etc. It was

certainly encouraging to see that detailed news items were received from almost all the communities in India, PNG, the Formation Houses, and the International Community in Canada. As our 32nd General Chapter rightly said, "We are convinced that effective communication leads to greater communion between us".

In union of prayers,
Bro. John Kallarackal, SG Superior General
Fratelli di San Gabriele
Via Trionfale 12840
Roma – 00135, ITALY.

Dear friend Bro. T. T Mathew, Your excellence is truly a huge part of The Montfort



Brothers of St Gabriel's pride and success. Thank you for your dedication and hard work to disperse THE DIALOGUE to me regularly. I have definitely believed that your commitment to excellence and reliability of the information would be appreciated by BSG communities internationally. God bless you, Brother.

Mr. Van Chachaval S. Chiangmai, Thailand

Greetings. Thanks for the copy of your "Dialogue". Congrats

for the colourful edition and for the regularity.

I have directed the novices at Eachinkadu to send you the news regularly.

All the best in your service mission. Regards,

Bro. Paul Raj, SG

Director of Novices, Eachinkadu
Novitiate, Yercaud, Salem, T.N.

Dear Bro. Mathew T.T.,
Greetings from Nantes
(France).

This is to acknowledge the receipt of DIALOGUE N° 115.
Thank you for all the news from

Delhi Province, we receive regularly and faithfully. Congrats.

Fraternally yours,

Bro. Georges Le Vern

Provincial Secretary
Frères de Saint-Gabriel
2, Côte Saint-Sébastien
44200 NANTES (France)

Thank you, Brother Mathew for the DIALOGUE No.115.

I cherish reading it. Hope you are doing well. Regards,

Mr. Suresh Reddy Thumma,
Hyderabad.

Thanks for the soft copy of DIALOGUE No. 115. It is well edited.

Mr. Joe Pathiyil,
Montreal, Canada

Dear Bro. T. T. Mathew thank you for the copy of the Dialogue No. 115. It is well presented and meticulously arranged. Glad to know about the spiritual growth of the Brothers under the guidance of the Provincial, Bro. Thampy Alex.
Mr. Raju John, Palai, Kerala

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Montfort, Lucknow

Bro. Neeraj Lakra, SG

Bro. T.T. Mathew, the PFD had gone to Montfort School, Harinagar on 6th Oct night to accompany Bro. Atish Bage there. He returned on 10th Oct early morning.

Rev. Bro. Thampy Alex, the Provincial visited our community on 11th and 12 Oct. We had community dialogue, meeting with the Coordinators, the MGA members and the School Managing Committee meeting chaired by him. Bro. Provincial also met the Brothers individually. He was very appreciative of the way our education mission is carried out here, the positive energy that is prevailing in the campus, the daily routine of the community, and the way various records are maintained in the school as well as in the community. The Provincial left for Bhopal on 12th Oct.

On 14th Oct morning Bro. T.T. Mathew received the shocking news of his sister, Mrs. Mercy Prasad's fatal road accident. With the permission of the Provincial he left for Kerala on the same night. He reached home on 15th afternoon. He, along with his sister Mrs. Ancy Babu visited Caritas hospital at Thellakom where she was admitted in a coma state. Due to severe head injury, she never gained consciousness even after three days. The following day her own daughter from Mosco and other relations came from far and wide and met her. That was the only consolation. The Lord called her to His

abode on 17th at 10.30 pm. She was the youngest in his family and was only 53 years old. The tearful funeral took place of 20th at 10.00 am. Bro. T.T. Mathew reached Lucknow back on 23rd Oct. He is thankful to all the Brothers, friends and well-wishers who sent messages of condolence and offered prayers for the departed soul and for the bereaved family.

On 19th Oct we had the Annual Fest of **class IV**. It was a beautiful programme.

Bro. Jinu Abraham attended the annual retreat organized at Montfort Villa, Bhopal from 20- 26 Oct.

On 27th Oct we had a seminar for the students of classes **VI – VIII** on 'Rights of a Child' to make them aware of their rights and duties so that they could raise their voice and stand for their rights when they are violated.

On 28th Oct we had Hindi debate for **classes XI & XII**. The topic for class XI was 'Should there be Limit for Freedom of Expression?' The topic for class XII was 'Promotion of Local Products, an Adequate Solution to create a Prosperous India.' The students presented their views on the given topics in a logical and interesting way both for and against the motion. On the same day afternoon, we had the Annual Fest of **class III** on the theme, 'Colours of Life'. It was a mesmerizing performance by the budding artists of MIC.

The 31st Oct was the turn of **class I** to showcase their talents in front of their parents. Their theme was, 'God Made Us Special'. The young Montfortians were full of zest and zeal on the stage. It was joy to see them perform with amazing

confidence. In his message Bro. Jinu Abraham, the Principal told the parents that here at MIC we endeavour to bring out the hidden talents in every child by giving them various opportunities. Class-wise Annual Fest is one of such efforts aimed at that. The parents could gauge the improvement in the levels of smartness and self-confidence of their ward from what they were a year ago and now. All of them have grown in every aspect. The aim of Montfortian education is make our students persons of competence, confidence, conscience and compassion. Quoting Albert Einstein he added that education is what remains in a person when he/she has forgotten what has been taught. In other words, the morals and values they imbibe in the years of their schooling. We strive to instil the values of teamwork, co-operation, honesty, self-sacrifice, humility, respect for the elders, service-mindedness, polite behaviour, self-confidence, etc. in our students through these activities. He was also appreciative of several days of hard work put in by the teachers and the students and the whole-hearted co-operation of the parents.

Month of November was quite hectic with diverse activities. **MIC Fest 2023** was organized on 3rd & 4th Nov 2023. It was the 26th edition of the same. This year there was an unprecedented response from the city schools (19) to these two days of multifaceted inter-school competitions. The Chief Guest for the inaugural ceremony was **Dr. Mrs. Vinitha Prakash, Principal, I.T. College, Lucknow**. In her address, Dr. Vinitha Prakash stated that MIC Fest gives a platform for the students from different schools to show-case their diverse talents. She appreciated the Principal, Rev. Bro. Jinu Abraham and the Management of MIC for providing such a platform. This year's theme was 'Global Village'. After two days of hectic competitions **St. Fidelis College, Aliganj** emerged overall champions followed by Jagran Public School, Gomti Nagar. MIC, being the host institution, did not compete for prizes. Bro. Jinu Abraham, the Principal thanked and appreciated the core committee headed by Mrs. Nina Das and other members of the Staff for carrying out the allotted duties in a responsible way within the scheduled time.

From the middle of October practically every Saturday we had the Annual Fest of Classes I to V. All the programmes were well prepared and presented. It was made sure that every child gets a chance to come to the stage which was highly appreciated by the parents. Sr. Anugraha, OSB and her team of Montfort Primary Section deserve appreciation for preparing each class with quality programmes.

Bro. T.T. Mathew represented the Lucknow diocesan unit of CRI in the U.P., Rajasthan and Uttarakhand (URU) Regional meeting of Bishops, Major Superiors, the Presidents & Secretaries of CRI

of different dioceses in this region and two elected members from the Priests' Council from each diocese of this region. It was held on 14, 15 & 16 Nov at Nav Sadhana, Varanasi. The theme of the meeting was '**Church as an Agent of Building Human Communities.**' The resource persons were Fr. Anand, IMS from Varanasi and Fr. Sebastia L. Raj, SJ, Executive Director, ISI, New Delhi.

On 21 Nov we had the School Annual Day for classes VI to XII. **Rt. Rev. Dr. Gerald John**



Mathias, the Bishop of Catholic diocese of Lucknow was our **Chief Guest**. This being the 350th birth anniversary of our founder, St. Louis de Montfort, we had staged a play from the life of



Montfort. It was scripted and directed by Mr. S. Majumdar, PGT, English. Yet another classical play staged by our students was the '**Sound of Music**' which showcased how a talented, understanding and loving teacher could transform even the most mischievous students and even their parents. All the songs of that play were sung live and melliflously by our school choir under the leadership of Mr. Alfred Masih, our music teacher. The whole musical drama was directed by Dr. Asha Solomon, PGT English. The Chief Guest in his message applauded and appreciated the excellent performance of all the students and the able guidance and training given by the principal and the teachers. He added that the purpose of education should be to nurture the students as good human beings. The teachers have a duty to make their students **human** and **humane** who are persons of character, competence, conscience and compassion. It is more important than teaching them Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, etc. The musical play had clearly brought out that aspect, the Bishop added. St. Louis de

Montfort was imbued with that spirit. He also exhorted the parents to have the same ideal for their children so that at home also they would encourage those values. Let humanity prevail always!

On 30th Nov we had the annual Fest of UKG. It was another soul-elevating performance by our little ones. Congrats to Sr. Pushpa, OSB and her team of MKG teachers for preparing the kids so well.



MKG who trained them with patience and perseverance.

Finally, let me wish all the readers a JOYOUS Christmas and Grace-filled year 2024!

In **CBSE Cluster-4 in Football** our students performed remarkably well. There were 42 teams in all. In this tournament we reached the Final and it was played against DPS, Kanpur. The final was played absolutely well. In the tie-breaker we lost the match by 04-05 goals. Thus, **we are the Runners up** in Cluster -4. Master **Arnav Gosin** of our school was adjudged **the Best Scorer**. Congrats to Mr. M.U. Khan and Mr. P.R. Pandey, our Physical Education Teachers.

From 4 – 12 Dec 2023 we had the 2nd Unit Test for the lower classes and Pre-Board exam for classes X & XII.



On 16th Dec **Declamation competition** was organized for classes VI – VIII. Class VIII declaimed some of the famous speeches of world leaders. Class VII were given the speeches of some of the Freedom Fighters. Class VI imitated some Fictional characters. It was absolutely impressive and mesmerizing as they put on the same attire of the hero whose speech he/she declaimed.

On the same evening the **students of LKG** showcased their talents in front of their parents. The parents were awe-struck seeing their kids perform on the stage with amazing confidence and ease. Congrats to **Sr. Pushpa, OSB and the teachers of**

Montfort, Raipur

Bro. Sunil Kumar Ekka, SG

Montfort community at Raipur has turned out to be a transit place for many religious as we had many religious drop in due to its proximity to airport and to a great extent we owe this to our Brothers who have created a unique identity among the religious and priests over the years for their hospitality and welcoming attitude. From among many visitors were Rev. Bro. Jerome, Provincial Superior of Patrician Brothers, Rev. Fr. Paul Raj, Provincial Superior of SVD Indore and Rev. Sr. Provincial of Sisters of St. John the Baptist and her team. Our Brothers of Hyderabad Province, Rev. Bro. Thampy Alex, the Provincial Superior with Bro. James K.C. and the Brothers of Mandla community also paid a short visit on account of some work.

The acquiring of required permissions for the construction of the school building is in the process. The old Montfort School now serves as the office of NHAI (National Highway Authority of India). We have sown wheat, gram and mustard in the new land and have cultivated some vegetables in a small portion of the land. The new house to be purchased is nearing completion and we hope to shift there by March, 2024. Bro. Sunil Kumar Ekka attended a seminar on 10th & 11th November, 2023 organized by the Education Commission of India at MSC, Bengaluru. Bro. Simon C.M. had been to Bhopal to cast his vote in the assembly election on 17th November, 2023 and from there he flew to Bengaluru to attend a seminar on Organic Farming held at MSC, Bengaluru and returned on 26th November, 2023. Bro. Sunil Kumar Ekka was away in Bhopal for a fortnight for inspection of school, Provincial Council Meeting and for his M.Ed. examination and returned on 9th December, 2023.

With the change of state government fear and uncertainties regarding the Minorities' rights and privileges are brewing. We have only to wait and see; however, we hope for the best.

St. Montfort, Banea

Bro. Sandeep Horo, SG

“Therefore, the Lord Himself shall give you a sign; Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel” (Is 7:14).

Greetings of peace, joy and love from St. Montfort, School, Banea to all the readers who are interested to know more about the province of Delhi.

Rev. Bro Thampy Alex, the Provincial Superior along with Bro. Sunil Kumar Ekka made a short visit to our community on **21st Oct, 2023**. We gave them a warm welcome with a colorful cultural program. He delivered a beautiful message which was very apt and motivating for all the students including the teachers. He emphasized that “practice makes a person perfect”. He also quoted the concrete example of Thomas Alva Edison’s 1000 times failure before inventing electric bulb. After having heard regarding the failures followed by success most of us felt that it is very true. Normally once we fail, instantly we get disappointed and embarrassed rather than take it positively and try again and again until we succeed.

Soon after the program we had a staff meeting in which the Provincial shared his vast and profound experience with all staff about the education mission. He also talked about the rapid development and the better result for our school.

In order to become an effective teacher, we need to prepare a lesson well and also be thorough with the subject which we teach. We also should upgrade ourselves with the modern challenges and technology in pedagogy. And thus, he challenged us with better result and promised all of us to take us to South India for a tour.

There was enough and more time to meet the Provincial Superior. All the Brothers met the Provincial individually. His presence made a lot of difference and gave encouragement and revitalization for the community members.

16th Montfortain Scouts and Guides Integration Camp: An excited group of 16th Scouts and Guides with their Scouts Master/teacher Mr. Mahipal Xaxa and Guide Captain Miss Maxima Toppo, along with Bro. Sandeep Horo as an assistant, proceeded to Roorkee for the province level Scouts and Guide camp on **27th Sept 2023**.

The 16th Montfort Integration Scouts and Guides camp was organized by Montfort school,



Roorkee, Uttarakhand. It was conducted from **1st to 5th Oct. 2023**. In Scouts and Guides cultural competition our school got the **first prize**.

On 26th November our parish took initiative to have procession on the occasion of the feast of Christ the King. It was held in Radhapur village, 4 kms



away from our parish. Our CLC students performed the procession dance on the way upto the stage. Bros. Prem Murmu and Sandeep Horo joint the singing group. After the Eucharistic celebration Bro. Edmond Soreng was the MC of the program that followed. Thus we, the Brothers actively participated in it.

On 30th November there was a career guidance program for our students by Mr. Jainendra Patar (SMSI). At present many students in this area are not aware what they have to study after 12th class. So, the resource person explained nicely about the graduations and diplomas in different subjects. He mostly spoke about professional studies related to Agriculture. He is attached to our school, so he continues to guide our students who pass out of our

school. Many of them achieve their goals. He made clear to everyone of us about the usefulness of Degrees in different subjects. This career counselling has helped our students to choose better subjects for their future.

On 2nd December we held a singing competition among the students; boys and girls separately. Most of the girl students came forward to sing. We could notice their hidden talents. They sang melodiously and mesmerized us with their soul elevating songs.

On 7th December there was an awareness program for the students about growth, changes and attraction towards complementary sex. Firstly, we divided them into four groups. We also told them clearly about the bad touch, harassment and the right way of dealing between the age groups. We mainly, explained to them about changes and reaction in the body as they attain teenage, falling in love, the internet and its positive and negative influence on the society. The students were enlightened by the sessions and we believe it would help them to grow up as matured and responsible individuals.

From 11th December our school will conduct half-yearly examination. The students are preparing well for their examinations by clarifying their doubts with the teachers. The teachers have completed the syllabus and have revision. All are working diligently to make improvement. We wish them all the best for the examination.

As we have entered into Advent season and we are preparing ourselves internally and externally to receive infant Jesus into our hearts. It is a great occasion for all of us to create an ambience not only for ourselves but also for the people by whom we are surrounded by giving them the message of love, peace and joy.

We wish all the Brothers of our Province, all the staff members and students a very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous year 2024!

Montfort, Ambikapur

Bro. Johnson Beck, SG

On 10th Nov 2023 Montfort school, Ambikapur celebrated Diwali festival. On that day we had various activities such as rangoli competition, group singing competition, and so on. A cultural program was also organised where students showed their talents through their amazing dances and drama about Shri Ram's *Leela*.

We celebrated children's day with a lot of enthusiasm and zeal on 18th November 2023. We commemorated Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, keeping in mind his words, "I may not have time for adults but



I have enough time for children." Children are the most precious treasure of any country. The celebration began with a group song sung by teachers which made the atmosphere festive. After that the speech was delivered by Brother Principal which motivated the students.

The Annual Day celebrations of our school were held from 22nd November to 2nd December. The main theme of these celebrations was the 350th Birth Anniversary of Saint Louis Marie de Montfort. This annual function was named "Spectra Gala". Each day the program was organized by different classes. Every day the event started at 3:00 p.m. and concluded at 5:00 p.m. with different Chief Guests. The first two days Middle School had the celebration, the next three days Pre-primary and the last two days High School students performed. All the programmes were well organized and everybody appreciated them.

St. Montfort, Khandwa

Bro. Suresh Ekka, SG

Greetings and best wishes for Christmas to all the readers from St. Montfort I.T.I. community. Happy Christmas to all.

Advent Message: As we enter the season of Advent, I am filled with profound joy and gratitude for each and every one of you. The anticipation of Christ's birth brings forth a renewed sense of hope, love and peace within our hearts.

During this Advent season, let us reflect on the significance of Christ's coming. Just as the Shepherds eagerly awaited the arrival of the Messiah, we too anticipate His presence in our lives. Let us open our hearts to receive unending grace, allowing it to transform us from within. And let us also remember the importance of sharing Christ's love with others in a world that often feels divided and disconnected our role as part of the body of

Christ, becomes even more vital. Let us be ambassadors of peace, offering a message of hope and reconciliation to those around us.

Construction of Boundary Wall: We are thrilled to share some exciting developments at Montfort ITI Khandwa. The Provincial Superior and counselors have sanctioned finance for the construction of a new boundary wall on our campus. The construction has officially begun. We are extremely happy that new boundary wall will likely enhance security and aesthetics. We hope the construction progresses smoothly and we will soon have completed the project by the end of December.

Short Visit of Provincial: On 16th October we were delighted to welcome Rev. Bro. Thampy Alex, the Provincial Superior along with Bro. Simon, Bro. KM Mathew and Bro. KC James. They had a short visit to our community.

On 3rd December we had gone to Bhagwanpura for the parish feast of St. Francis Xavier. We participated in the Eucharistic celebration and the meals that followed.

On 8th December SMMI Sisters celebrated the feast of Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. All the priest and religious of the parish were invited for the fellowship meal at 7:30pm.

Montfort, Delhi

Bro. James Pasala, SG



The birth anniversary of the great soul Mahatma Gandhi was celebrated with utmost zest and fervor by the tiny tots of Class II-B on **4th October 2023** in the Primary wing. The assembly commenced with a dance performance dedicated to Gandhiji and proceeded to show glimpses of his glorious journey. Gandhiji's famous bhajan *Raghupati Raghav Raj Ram* was sung by the students with great zest.

Important incidents from his life and his active involvement in the freedom struggle were depicted

in the form of a dance drama. Babu's principles of Satyagraha, non-violence and love for the down trodden were also highlighted through quotes and poems. Our budding dancers showed their moves enthusiastically as they performed on patriotic numbers bringing out the feeling of secularism and unity.

Rev. Bro. Joy Thomas appreciated the presentation by the students and encouraged the students to tread the path of honesty.

On 7th October, 2023 green colour day activity was conducted by the students of Pre-Primary classes.



Special Assembly was organized to extend a warm welcome to Rev. Bro. Thampy Alex Provincial Superior & Award Ceremony for the CBSE Toppers of Class X & XII and Winners of various Inter School and State Level competitions.



Elocution Activity: "Public Speaking is the art of diluting a one minute idea with one hour vocabulary." An eloquent speech does not reach from the lips to the ears rather it reaches from heart to heart. With this thought in mind, the students of the primary wing prepared for the elocution competition on 12th October, 2023. The children stood with fervor to speak out their voice in this event. Parameters like -

a) Level of Confidence b) Command over Speech c) Expressions d) Vocabulary e) Content were used as the judgment criteria. Each student delivered their best performance and kept the show alive with their fiery speeches. The elocution competition concluded with praises for all the participants and encouragement for all the other students to step forward in such events in the future.

On 13th October, 2023 LKG class singing activity was conducted. All the students delivered their best performance.

On 2st October, 2023 an inter-section 'Story Enactment Competition' was organized for classes VI-VIII. The talented participant showcased their talents and performed their characters through their remarkable gestures, actions and dialogues. All the children participated enthusiastically. The competition inspired the children to think, work and enact creatively and promoted artistic excellence and made the event most enjoyable for one and all.

21.10.23 was celebrated as Yoga Day by the children of Pre-Primary to convey the message of keeping mind and body fit through asanas.

The students and teachers participated actively and enjoyed this activity.

On 22.11.2023 - INTER CLASS ENGLISH DEBATE ACTIVITY: The students of class 5 A,B, C, and D took part in an Inter Class Debating Activity and the topic was THE INTERNET- A BOON OR BANE. There were four participants from each section who spoke FOR and AGAINST the MOTION. The speakers spoke with great fervor and enthusiasm. We thank Bro. Joy, Bro. James, Sr. Lucia and the judges Ms. Gurleen and Ms. Sonia Batra for their flawless judging. A big thank you to the coordinators Ms. Belmera Lobo and Ms. Sonia Chawla for the success of this activity.

On 24th November 2023, children of Classes 1 to 5 participated in the GK Quiz. A quiz was shown to the children on the smart board. There were around 25 questions. Children were told to write down answers on sheet provided.

All the children enjoyed doing this activity and participated with full enthusiasm and zeal.

A special assembly on Gurburab was conducted by the students of Class 5 D on 25th Nov'23 to mark the birth anniversary of the first guru of Sikhs, Guru Nanak Devji. The assembly commenced with a morning prayer. A mesmerizing Shabad rendered by the students left the audience spell bound. The students enlightened the significance of Gurburab and various rituals associated with the festival. The Principal, Bro. Joy Thomas addressed the gathering and emphasized on the importance of the teachings of the great Sikh guru in present times. The assembly was well appreciated by the audience.

On 28th November, 2023 Students of LKG C showcased a heartwarming Gurburab assembly, radiating joy and cultural significance. All the little ones participated in various performances including soulful renditions of Shabad, Ek Onkar and an energetic bhangra dance. They also explained the importance of five teachings of Sikhism which Guru Nanak ji taught. Their colourful attire and innocent expressions added a delightful touch to the celebration making it a memorable event for everyone present.

1st Dec 2023, Fancy Dress: The fancy dress nourishes the child's social interaction skills and

encourages the child to showcase his/her imaginative side to the world. It also helps in building effective conversations and relations from an early age.

The students of classes I and II showcased their talent in front of the students on topic "my country" and "technology" respectively.

On 2nd December, 2023 - Red Colour Day (Pre Primary Wing) activity was conducted.

On 10th December, 2023 the Scouts and Guides of our school organised a rally with community development slogans, to make people aware. They spread the messages of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Clean India Green India, Save Water Save Earth, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, and many more. They shouted the slogans and flashed the placards.

12th December, 2023: Rhymes and stories are the most powerful way to put ideas into the world today. It not only boosts the language skills but expands the imagination and improves listening skills of the young students.

Recitation and story narration activity was organized for UKG children where they came up with beautiful rhymes and their favorite stories full of life and expressions. Brother James Pasala encouraged the students to keep the spark alive in them and to perform better in all their activities.

On 14th Dec 2023 early morning around 7 a.m. Bro. Joji Joseph reached Delhi from Papua New Guinea. All the Brothers of our community warmly welcomed him. The following day we celebrated Bro. Joji Joseph's birthday with an appropriate prayer and a birthday meal in the presence of Brothers from nearby communities.

Montfort, Harinagar

Bro. Atish Bage, SG

Warm greetings to all the readers of DIALOGUE!

A Recap of Recent Events:

On September 13th, something special happened at Montfort School. Fr. Linjunius blessed three new rooms added to the Primary block, making space for more students. This expansion shows our dedication to providing a better learning environment. The expansion marks not only physical growth but also a commitment to offering enhanced opportunities to our students.

On Sept 27th Bro. Atish's birthday was celebrated with prayers and warm wishes. The event was filled with camaraderie and joy, creating cherished moments for everyone present. The celebration reflected the love and respect the community has for Bro. Atish.

At the end of September, Montfort School organized a Scouts and Guides camp. Students engaged in various activities, learning survival



skills, teamwork, and leadership principles. The camp culminated in a showcase of talents, highlighting the dedication and commitment of the young participants.

October 3rd was dedicated to celebrating Mahatma Gandhi's legacy. Students from different classes participated in drawing, speech, and essay competitions, expressing their understanding of Gandhi's ideals. The day emphasized values like truth, tolerance, and the power of non-violence.

November 4th brought a vibrant Rhythm competition, showcasing the talents of LKG and UKG students. The event was not just about competition but also about fostering camaraderie and confidence among the participants.

From November 4th to 8th, the school hosted a lively Sports Day, promoting teamwork and athletic talents. Rev. Fr. Jerome, the Parish Priest of Dunglepada, highlighted the importance of sports in holistic development. The event celebrated not only athleticism but also the school's commitment to nurturing well-rounded individuals.

November 9th marked Diwali and Children's Day celebrations. The school was filled with colorful activities, performances, and games. Bro. Promod, the Principal appreciated the efforts of students and teachers in making the celebration a success, reinforcing a sense of community.



From Nov 28th to 29th, the school welcomed Provincial Superior, Rev. Br. Thampy Alex and Br. Mani V.J. Their visit strengthened the bond between the School and Provincial leadership, fostering constructive dialogue and strategic planning.

Finally, from 8th Dec Montfort School geared up for half-yearly exams. The halls echoed with the pursuit of knowledge, showcasing the dedication of

both students and teachers. The week-long assessment journey culminated on December 16th.

These events reflect Montfort School's commitment to holistic education, fostering a spirit of learning, unity, and community.

Montfort, Mandla

Bro. Sunil Aind, SG

“Lord is coming, always coming. When you have ears to hear and eyes to see, you will recognize him at any moment of your life. Life is Advent; life is recognizing the coming of the Lord.”- Henri Nouwen.

Montfort school, Mandla celebrated its 30 years of existence and its service to the people of Mandla, and to mark the 350th Birth Anniversary of our Founder, St. Louis Marie de Montfort, we had organized an Annual Day of Primary wing named



‘Tri-centennial Elation’ which presented the incredible traditions and culture of Mandla District. The program was well appreciated by the parents and the people of Mandla. Rev. Bro. Thampy Alex, the Provincial Superior was the Chief Guest of the day. In his address he spoke about our Montfortian ethos and our vision of running the school here. He also

Superior was the Chief Guest of the day. In his address he spoke about our Montfortian ethos and our vision of running the school here. He also





thanked everyone for their efforts in bringing up the school.

The School Management Committee meeting was organized in which the Chairman suggested some ways to improve the academic results of classes X and XII.

The school celebrated the festival of Diwali and Children's Day together in which students and teachers participated with great enthusiasm and vigor.

The month of November brought many visitors to our community. Brothers from Hyderabad and Pune were present on their way to Garratola for the Silver Jubilee function of Montfort School there.

On 27th November, the community celebrated the birthday of Bro. Sunil Aind. Special prayers were offered, and Eucharist was celebrated and Brothers from nearby communities were present which added joy to the occasion.

St. Gabriel's, Jabalpur

Bro. George Pottakaran, SG

Greetings and best wishes of Christmas season to all the readers of Dialogue. The months of October, November and December were full of activities in the School. The festivals of Dussehra and Diwali were celebrated with a lot of enthusiasm in the school. In spite of greater awareness and strict rules regarding the harmful effects of noise and air pollution, the loudness and chemical pollution of the air haven't reduced during the Diwali season. The bursting of fire crackers continued even after a week of Diwali. During the Dussehra holidays Bro. George had gone to Bhopal for the retreat, he also attended a review meeting of MGA members who participated in the International Conference in France. The review meeting was held at MSC, Bengaluru.

Our school has been participating in all the Jabalpur Sahodaya School Complex activities and has been doing excellently. St. Gabriel's School stood first in the dance competition in the JSSC,

Jabalpur. In the Khelo India MP Youth Games 23, in the Chess finals held in Katni on 3rd and 4th October 2023, four member Jabalpur team represented by St. Gabriel's students stood second and were awarded with a trophy, track suits and a cash prize of Rs. 21000=00. This year St. Gabriel's School has been excellent in various competitions of JSSC. Out of 16 activities, St. Gabriel's were Champions in 12 activities; Basketball, Football, Chess, Singing, Dance, etc...



After a gap of three years, the school has started organizing the Annual functions class-wise for the parents. It is being held on every Saturday evening. The Annual functions for classes; 8th, 7th, 6th and 5th were held on 4th November, 25th November, 2nd and 9th December respectively. Every student gets the opportunity to



discover, develop and perform their talents in front of their parents. The annual functions of primary and KG classes are scheduled in January and February 2024.

The construction of boundary wall at our Aamakoh land began on 8th December after the blessing by Fr. Alexander, Parish Priest, St. Thomas Church, Ranjhi. The work is progressing very fast and we intend to complete it by March 24.

Bro. Emmanuel had planned to visit home this year in December; accordingly he reached home on 10th December. His sister Lucykutty, who lives in Erumely, Idukki expired on 13th Dec. She was bedridden subsequent to a fall and had broken the thigh bone. She had other complications like memory loss and diabetes. She had lost her husband this year on 1st August. Bro. Emmanuel was able to attend the funeral rites and spent some time with his nephews. We pray for the departed soul, that she may have the eternal life and rest in peace. We also pray for his two nephews and their families that God may give them the strength to go through this bereavement period.

The four young Brothers have just completed their Semester examinations and are now busy with Carol singing of the Parish and preparing themselves and others for the Christmas. We Brothers had participated in the Advent recollection organized by CRI, Jabalpur on 17.12.23. The Community of Jabalpur wishes you all a very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Montfort, Roorkee

Mrs. Lizy Philip

The 16th Montfortian Scouts and Guides Integration Camp: The 16th Montfortian Scout and Guide Integration Camp was organized at Montfort school Roorkee from 1st to 5th October 2023. The theme was '*Service Above Self*'. During the grand colorful opening ceremony, the Principal Bro. Albert Abraham welcomed the dignitaries. He highlighted



the importance of this year as it is the 350th birth anniversary of our Founder, St. Louis Marie Grignon de-Montfort. The Provincial Superior and Chairman, Rev. Bro. Thampy Alex, declared the camp open.

Complying with the government's Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, the Scouts and Guides were taken to an Anganwadi, at Belda village. They collectively cleaned the premises aiding each other in garbage collection and piling.

The camp fire on different days were graced by Rev. Bro. Thampy Alex, Provincial and Chairman, Rev. Bro. Shine Alex, the Provincial Superior of the



province of Hyderabad and Convener of National Education Commission. A few Brothers from the province were also present. A number of other dignitaries, parents and well-wishers also witnessed



the cultural evenings. A rally was organized on the theme '*Youth Empowerment*' on 3rd October 2023. Mr. Pradeep Batra, MLA, Roorkee flagged off the rally. Many people from Roorkee city enthusiastically participated in the rally. Rev. Bro. Thampy Alex addressed the gathering and thanked the SDM, the police authorities, the traffic department, the political leaders and every one for their valuable contribution. Bro. Albert Abraham too thanked the authorities for the help done for the success of the rally. The 16th Montfortian Scouts and Guides Integration Camp left an indelible mark on all those involved, fostering a sense of unity, achievement and memories to cherish for a life time.

Inter-School Badminton Championship:

The Inter-School Badminton Championship was organized on 23rd & 24th Nov, 2023. Many schools from in and around Roorkee took part in it. Amidst the heated matches, Montfort School emerged triumphant, clinching the overall championship. The spirited competition provided a thrilling experience for participants and spectators alike. The Principal, Bro. Albert Abraham commended the efforts and encouraged them to keep the spirit of sports alive in them always.

Roorkee Half Marathon: The Roorkee Half Marathon, held on 26 November, 2023 was a collaborative effort between the Indian Army and the Rotary Club. Some of our students participated in the 5 km race for under 18 category. The race not only showcased their physical prowess but also fostered a sense of community and fitness.

Children's Day: The children's day celebration this year was a vibrant and memorable event. The teachers came out with a variety of programmes to engage and entertain the students. Students enjoyed thoroughly every bit of the programs as they captivated the attention of each and every student. Principal Bro. Albert Abraham extended his heartfelt wishes to everyone. He appreciated the students for their achievements both in academics and extracurricular fields. He exhorted the students to imbibe the right values which would guide them in their future life.

Science & Mathematics Exhibition: VAMMO, an organization for Women Scientists organized a Science and Mathematics exhibition on

3rd December 2023. Many students from classes 6 to 9 participated in the event. They presented models on various themes. Class 9 students, cognizant of the economic context ingeniously crafted a winning model of magnetic levitation for trains. Seamlessly blending Mathematics and Science concepts, their presentation stood out, and won the first prize. For the students this event was more than just a competition, as it was an enlightening journey where they absorbed valuable insights.

Festivals: Montfort School encourages the students to create a festive and educational atmosphere, fostering a sense of cultural understanding and appreciation. Various festivals like Dussehra, Diwali, *Igaas Bagwal*, etc were celebrated. Students presented thematic poems, aesthetic dance dramas, and melodious rendition of meaningful songs. These celebrations will go a long way for the students to learn the spirit of tolerance and respect for various customs and traditions.

Class Picnics: In order to provide a break from the routine and to offer a relaxed environment students of all classes were taken to different places for class picnics. Students thoroughly enjoyed every moment as the outings strengthened their team spirit and gave them lasting memories.

St. Charles', Sardhana

Bro. Rakesh Sharma, SG

Children's Day: "Children are the gifts of God and childhood is a beautiful and joyous time." Children's Day was celebrated on 18th Nov in St. Francis' Primary School. The program began with a melodious prayer song by the teachers followed by the floral tribute to Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru. It was a fun-filled day for the students. The teachers made the day special as they had a lot of surprises lined up for them. The Children's Day was celebrated in St. Charles Inter College on 19th November. The program began with a prayer song by the teachers which was followed by the cultural program presented by the students. One of the school girls delivered a beautiful message on the importance of



Children's Day and highlighted the life of the first Prime Minister, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru. On the Children's Day we had a basketball match between the staff and the students. The students won the match.

Feast of Our Lady: The feast of our Lady of Graces was celebrated on 11th & 12th November 2023. Lakhs of pilgrims from different parts of the country visited the shrine of Our Lady of Graces and our campus.

Visit of the Provincial Superior: Rev. Bro. Thampy Alex, our Provincial Superior was on his annual visitation, to St. Charles' Inter College on 14th Dec 2023. He was welcomed by the Brothers. The community meeting was organized in the presence of Rev. Bro. Thampy Alex. He thanked and appreciated the Brothers for their dedicated work and encouraged them to continue with their mission.

Birthday Celebration: - "Celebrating a birthday is exactly celebrating life and being



thankful for it." We were glad to celebrate the Birthday of Bro. Jose Thottiyil on 16th of December. On that joyous day neighboring religious communities - Fathers, Sisters and Brothers were invited and they shared their love and concern through their prayers and wishes.

Sector Meeting: Brothers from Delhi sector gathered at St. Charles' Inter College, Sardhana on 17th December. All the communities of the Sector except Lucknow were represented, and it was a wonderful gathering altogether. The main purpose of coming together was to enhance the spirit of brotherhood among us. We had a befitting prayer



service followed by birthday celebration of Bros. Jose Thottiyil, James Pasala, Joji Joseph, and M.K. Jose.

Christmas Preparations: The preparation for Christmas celebration is going on in full swing. The Boarding children along with the Bros. Balla Francis and Rakesh are getting ready the crib. Brothers are always with them helping them and guiding them. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and A Happy & Prosperous Year 2024.

St. Francis', Bhopal

Bro. Antony Samy, SG

Dear Brothers, Wish you all Happy Advent! As the days grow shorter and the nights grow colder, let us kindle the flames of hope for the season of Advent. May this be a time of preparation and waiting for the arrival of beacon of light in the darkness! Let us embrace the spirit of renewal and the promise of new beginning! Let us celebrate the joy, hope and peace that this special time brings. Together, let us light up the world with kindness and love!

The half-yearly exams in our school commenced on September 14th and concluded on September 27th, 2023. The students diligently prepared for the exams, demonstrating their commitment to academic excellence. The school administration ensured a conducive environment for the students to focus on studies and perform their best abilities.

The exams covered all the subjects taught in the first half of the academic year, providing a comprehensive assessment of the students' understanding. The exams served as a valuable assessment tool, providing students with feedback on their progress and areas for improvement. We organized PTM in the school and gave results on 7th October 2023.

Bro. Cyriac, the Principal's Birthday, was celebrated in school on 27th September 2023. The celebration included a special school assembly and a staff gathering to honour Bro. Principal. The day was marked with distribution of sweets to children, a cake-cutting ceremony with teachers, bringing joy and festivity to the school community. Additionally, the teachers and staff were given a special lunch as a token of appreciation for their hard work and dedication. The event served as a wonderful opportunity to express gratitude and celebrate principal's special day, nurturing a sense of unity and joy within the school and in the evening, we had special birthday prayer service along with local priests and our Brothers followed by table fellowship.

On 2nd October 2023, the birthday of Bro. Mathew Montfort was celebrated in the community. Our Provincialate and Montfort School, Bhopal community were invited to the celebration. The

occasion included an appropriate prayer service organized by Bro. Antony Samy which added a spiritual dimension to the birthday gathering. The celebration also included a fellowship meal which provided an opportunity for the community to come together and share the joy of the occasion. Overall, it was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the life and contributions of Bro. Mathew Montfort to our province and to our congregation at large.

We had organized inter-class Art and Craft competition, singing, dance and debate competitions for students on 4th of October 2023 and a week-long inter house football tournament. The winners were



encouraged and honoured with certificates and trophies. We celebrated Dussehra festival on 21st October 2023. The children enacted a drama on that day. We had a dual celebration on 9th November 2023, commemorating both Children's Day and the



Festival of Lights, Deepavali. This grand event was marked by a cultural program and an inspirational message. The school's basketball court was a hub of exhilaration and delight as the teachers displayed their artistic skill through singing, dancing and drama performances, much to the amusement of the students.

On November 20, 2023, our Provincial, Rev. Bro. Thampy Alex visited our school and community. We welcomed him with a floral bouquet in the school assembly, where he delivered an inspirational speech to the students, motivating them to work hard and study diligently. That day, we held separate meetings for both coordinators and associate members. Bro. Thampy Alex commended the coordinators for their outstanding work in collaboration with Brothers in our education mission.

In the meeting with associate members, he outlined the Montfortian vision and mission, the MGA movement within our congregation and encouraged the Brothers to include more catholic teachers as members and organize prayer meetings,

Holy Mass and sharing sessions. On the same evening at 7:00 p.m. we held a community meeting and prayer service, organized by Bro. Antony Samy. All the members of the community shared their experiences of work and life in the community.



We had an internal assessment of the school over a course of three days from 28th to 30th Nov 2023. This assessment was led by Bro. Mathew Montfort, Bro. Albert Abraham and Bro. Sunil Ekka. We warmly welcomed the Brothers to our school in assembly with bouquets of flowers. Bro. Mathew Montfort took time to brief both the staff and students during the assembly about the purpose and process of the school assessment. Our principal, Bro. Cyriac had arranged teachers from Montfort School Bhopal, St. Mary's School and Holy Cross School to observe classes of our teachers.

Prior to this, we had distributed a Google Form to parents, teachers and students to gather their feedback regarding the school assessment. This was a crucial part of our preparation and helped us ensure that everything went according to plan. Overall, the assessment of the school was conducted smoothly and as per the schedule.

On 2nd Dec we organized PTM in the school for the parents to clarify their doubts regarding students' learning and examination. On the same day provincial council visited St. Francis School and conducted a two-day meeting in our community. We have started 2nd term and pre-board examinations on 4th December.

Christmas is the season for kindling the fire of hospitality! Christmas is the melody of love and the New Year is the symphony of hope. Together, they compose the beautiful music of a life well-lived. May the spirit of Christmas bring peace to your heart, joy to your soul, love to your life and may the New Year be a journey of growth and happiness! We are sending you all prayerful wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2024.

St. Montfort, Bhopal

Bro. Vijay Minj, SG

Inter K.G. Dance Competition: - "Dance is the loveliest of all the arts because it gives us the slightest excuse to feel and be completely beautiful". St. Montfort School Kindergarten had organized a

solo dance competition on 29 Sept 2023, where the little dancers from Nursery to KG classes equally participated to showcase their talents in front of us. All the students enjoyed it a lot with their vibrant and wonderful performance. The main aim of conducting such competition was to develop their self-confidence and bring forth their hidden talents.

Sarvdharma Prarthana Sabha: - Anticipating Mahatma Gandhi's birthday on 30th Sept an all religions prayer service, popularly known as *Sarvdharma Prarthana Sabha* was organized in the morning special assembly. It was a moving and enlightening experience for all attendees. It served as a reminder of the need for tolerance, respect, and unity among people of different faiths and backgrounds. The event reinforced the values exhibited by Mahatma Gandhi and encouraged students to carry forward his legacy of peace and non-violence.

Reading India Events 2023: - "There is no friend as loyal as a book." On 3rd Oct the Ministry of Culture and Development conducted Reading India Events in top schools of India to improve the reading habits of the children. The inaugural ceremony was done by the school Principal, Bro. Monachan K.K. In the expo there were books over 5000 titles with 40 different publishers recommended by CBSE. The sponsors of BBC groups also presented a memento to the Principal as a mark of appreciation for the active participation. The fair has truly spread the message, "A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies; the man who never reads lives only once."

Scouts and Guides Camp: - An overnight Scouts and Guides camp was held on the school campus. It was organized on 13th Oct by the Scouts and Guides teachers for the new members of class VI.

13th Montfort Cup inter School Basketball Tournament 2023-24: The 13th edition of inter school basketball tournament was held on 20th October 2023 which was inaugurated by Mr. Rajgopal Iyengar, the Chief Guest. He is the lead District Manager of Bank of India, Bhopal. The



school choir presented a soulful prayer song after lighting of the lamp. The 2nd and final day of boys and girls inter school basketball tournament was

concluded on 21st Oct 2023. The Champion's Trophy was lifted by St. Theresa's Girls School in the Girls category and by Sharadha Vidhya Mandir in the Boys category. The tournament concluded with the vote of thanks proposed by Bro. Monachan K.K. and he formally declared the tournament closed. The programme ended on a note of patriotism with the National Anthem.

Dussehra Celebration: - "The victory of good over evil inspire you towards your own victories over evil." Keeping the festival spirit alive a special



assembly was presented by the students of class 3rd A, B, C, D, E and F, on October 21st. The assembly started with the special prayer song followed by a fitting prayer. Students staged astounding programs which gave message that good always triumphs over evil.

GK Quiz Competition: - GK quiz plays a significant role in promoting education and healthy competition among the students. St. Montfort School Primary wing organized GK quiz competition on 21st October. There were total 23 participants from classes 1 and 2 with their critical thinking and problem solving skills. All participants gained valuable knowledge during the competition.

Mom and Me Show: - A mother always has to think once for herself and twice for her daughter. With this idea our school took the initiative and gave the opportunity to all the beautiful mothers of Kindergarten to enjoy every moment of the day with their wards in "mom and me" show 2023. Organized on 3rd Nov for classes Nursery and KG



-1 students along with their mothers. Both mothers and their children were dressed up in beautifully matching attires having charm in their faces. Finally, the program was ended by enjoying some games like musical chair, tug of war, etc...

13th Montfort Cup Inter-School Music Carnival 2023:- The 13th Montfort Cup Inter School music carnival for Primary classes 3rd to 5th was held on 4th Nov 2023 .The purpose of the competition was to give a platform to the budding talents so that they could enhance their talents. The young talents exhibited their melodious voices which thrilled the audience. The program commenced with the lighting of the lamp to evoke God's blessings followed by a prayer song.

The rules for the competition were intimated to the participants. Each school was represented by a team of 12 members and 3 instrumentalists. Each team performed for 10 minutes and the theme was 'Raag' based songs. All the songs were in Hindi.

Special Assembly on Diwali: -The primary wing presented a special Diwali assembly on 7th Nov 2023. The assembly was a delightful celebration of the festival of lights, filled with enthusiasm, creativity and a message to celebrate eco- friendly Diwali. The assembly featured melodious performances by the students as they were dressed up in colourful traditional attire showing their understanding and the significance of Diwali through skit and dance performances. This way they spread the message to celebrate an eco-friendly Diwali.

Guru Nanak Jayanti: -The birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji was celebrated with great exuberance on 20th Nov. Special assembly was conducted by the students of classes 8th D, E and F to mark the occasion. The students came dressed in



traditional Sikh attire. The assembly commenced with a special prayer, 'ek omkar' sung by the students which filled the whole campus with spiritual ambience and inner peace.

Children's Day Celebration: - Children's day was celebrated along with the International Children's Day on 20th Nov 2023 which began with a special morning assembly organized by the teachers to celebrate the spring of life known as childhood. The assembly was filled with laughter, music and vibrant colours setting the tones for a day of fun and enjoyment. The heart of the celebration was the cultural program staged by the talented teachers. The performances ranged from lovely prayer dance, dance, dance drama, *Nukkad Natak*, ballet expressing childhood- a spring of life, melodious songs, an epilogue of the program that conveyed important message about the significance of education, friendship and creativity in a child's life. Dedicated teachers took this opportunity to express their love and appreciation for the students. They shared heartfelt messages encouraging every child to dream big, explore their talents and embrace the joy of learning.

Eachinkadu Novitiate

Rahul Tirkey (1st Year Novice)



Greetings from Eachinkadu novitiate to all the readers of Dialogue!

Indeed, it is my pleasure to share with you all some of the events and happenings of Eachinkadu novitiate.

Our Formation: Our novitiate formation has incorporated some of the modern techniques; blending tradition with contemporary insights on personal integration, group integration, and technological integration, which are enhancing our prayer life, community life and has created a platform for new learnings.

Personal Integration: Engaging in varied prayers, attending classes on different topics, and practicing meditation on the Word of God, breaking of the Word of God play an integral role in the personal growth and formation of novices. This

multifaceted approach contributes to a holistic development that encompasses spiritual, intellectual, and emotional dimensions of the Novices. This daily reflective practice on Word of God nurtures in the novices a profound understanding of moral and ethical principles, guiding novices in their decision-making and fostering a compassionate and empathetic outlook toward others. Delving into the scriptures through meditation allows novices to internalize the teachings of the Divine Word.

Group Integration: Living groups prayers and KYC (Know Your Companion) Rosary play a crucial role in the growth and integration of the novices, fostering a sense of community, mutual support, and shared spiritual experiences. Our Living Group prayers create a sense of belonging and unity among the novices. The shared act of coming together for prayer for each other fosters a strong bond, helping novices feel connected to a supportive community that shares common values and spiritual goals.

Technological Integration: Technological integration in the novitiate has brought about a significant enhancement in our prayer life and the personal growth as well. It has created an opportunity for the Novices to know the need of the technology and its proper usage in day-to-day life. The online platforms offer a variety of prayer resources, guided meditations, and scripture readings, exploring different prayer styles, and access to a wealth of spiritual content. We are learning how to use them prudently for evangelization for the future.

Cooking Picnic: The cooking picnic to Honey Rock Lake proved to be a delightful break from routine for the novices. The novices' cooking picnic was a resounding success, combining the joy of outdoor cooking, the beauty of nature, and the spirit of community. The events like, cooking in groups, fun games and swimming in the lake exemplified the importance of coming together and helped us to foster unity among Novices and created lasting memories, which have paved a way to personal and communal growth.

Recollection and Seminars: We had our 3rd monthly recollection on the theme '**God's love towards Consecrated persons**'. Bro. Arulanandam, the Administrator helped us to understand the topic with his wonderful talk and well organised prayers.



reviewing the book helped us in various ways like, it fostered reading habits, enhanced teaching skills, learnt new vocabularies and has boosted our self-confidence.

Brotherhood Day Celebration: *‘Let me know my brother or sister, as I know myself’*

His thoughts, insights and examples from his own life and well framed reflective questions brought deeper awareness of God’s love on us.

We had four days of seminar on the topic **“Montfortian Prophetic Presence in the 21st Century”** which is the theme of our 33rd General Chapter. Bro. Rajashekar and Bro. Arulanandam headed this seminar very efficiently with the help of the document *‘Instrumentum Laboris’*. They took their time in explaining the importance and challenges of being a prophet in the 21st century as Montfortians. Indeed, it was our privilege to reflect on the thought-provoking theme and to be part of our 33rd General Chapter preparation. We have gained lots of insights and knowledge through this seminar.

Teachers’ Day Celebration: *“The role of the teacher is like the proverbial LADDER; it is used by everyone to climb up in life, but the ladder itself stays in its place.”*

Teachers’ day reminds us the great sacrifices of our teachers and their key role in our life. We are very fortunate to have our THREE Brothers in our community as our teachers who take great pains for our growth. In gratitude, we paid our respect to them and celebrated Teachers’ Day.

Birthday Celebration: On 8th of September, we celebrated the birthdays of our Blessed Mother Mary and of our dear Bro. Arulanandam. Indeed, it was a great day, filled with lots of blessings, fun, cheer and excitement. We had a processional Rosary service in the noon and a short cultural programme to mark the day of dear Bro. Arulanandam.

Visit of Assistant General Rev. Bro. Pratap Reddy: Our community was graced by the presence of the Assistant General, Rev. Bro. Pratap Reddy. His words encouraged us to be strong and firm in religious life. We met him Province wise. His words inspired us to move forward with great zeal and enthusiasm.

Book Review Presentations: We successfully completed our 1st book review presentations. All of us prepared well and presented well. The book review presentation has solidified and promoted a holistic approach to teaching skills. We felt that

meaningful Brotherhood Day celebration in our Novitiate. We started our day with a well organised Symposium on **Brotherhood**. Everyone shared his views on the event and relevance of being called a BROTHER. The sharing and insights received from this symposium gave us the real meaning and understanding of Brotherhood. As we experienced that the Brotherhood Day is not a one-day programme rather it has to be lived in everyday of our lives.



Ashram Experience: The Ashram experience of novices at Kulithalai near Trichy proved to be a profound and enriching chapter in their formation. The meditations and prayers not only deepened our spiritual practices but also fostered a sense of community, cultural understanding, and a renewed commitment in our spiritual path. As the novices departed Kulithalai, they carried with them the echoes of a transformative experience that would continue to shape their spiritual lives. The ashram experience was followed by visit to some communities of Trichy Province and ended with a pilgrimage to Vailankanni. We are grateful to all the Brothers of the communities at Palakurichi, Manapparai, Montfort Kattur, Provincial house and Campion, Trichy for their brotherly welcome, hospitality and love. We were touched by their love and welcome.

Canonical entry into the Novitiate and total consecration to Jesus through Mary: The postulants at Eachinkadu Novitiate began their 33 days of preparation for Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary as taught by Montfort. For all the 32 days there were special prayers, processions and Marian prayers organized for them. Simultaneously the postulants also prepared themselves for their

canonical entry into the novitiate. The four days of retreat prior to the entry was preached by our Brother C.A. James of Hyderabad Province. It was a well animated retreat on the theme “Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary”. All of us greatly appreciated the way Bro. James animated the retreat and we benefitted a lot spiritually from it. We thank him sincerely for his wonderful animation. On 8th December, on the feast day of Immaculate Conception, in the presence of Rev. Bro. Irudayam, National Chairman and Bro. Johnson, Provincial of Yercaud Province, the postulants were officially welcomed into the canonical year of the novitiate in a simple ceremony. All the 14 novices are happy and excited after becoming the members of the congregation.

M. Bhawan, Sardhana

Bro. Rockey Kerketta, SG

*May you be wrapped with Love and Warmth and
be blessed with a long and Healthy Life.*

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!



16th Montfortian Scouts and Guides Integration camp at Montfort School, Roorkee: The 16th Montfortian Scouts and Guides Integration Camp took place at Montfort School, Roorkee from October 1st to 5th October, 2023. This event was organized under the guidance of the Education Commission of Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel, Province of Delhi and had the theme "**Service above Self.**" Bro. Alex Diamond was the Secretary of the camp. Our candidates visited the camp on the fourth day which was an educative experience for them.

Annual Retreat: Bro. Alex Diamond attended the annual retreat at Montfort Villa, Bhopal in



Dialogue, October-December, 2023



October, 2023. It was a meaningful and refreshing retreat for him.

Annual Pilgrimage: Annual pilgrimage at Our Lady of Graces Shrine, Sardhana took place on 11th and 12th of November, 2023. Our candidates were volunteers for both days and helped the organizers in a significant way.

Provincial's Visit: *“Leaders become great, not because of their power but because of their ability to empower others.”*

It had been our great honour and privilege on 14-11-2023 to have had amongst us our Provincial Superior Rev. Bro. Thampy Alex whose mere presence lights up any room he walks into. The fragrance of flowers spread only in the direction of the wind. But the goodness of our Rev. Bro.

Provincial spread in all directions. We welcomed our Brother with a token of gratitude on behalf of St. Charles' Family. It is rightly said, “Dance is the music made visible.” To express our emotions towards the Provincial we had a colorful cultural programme by the candidates. Bro. Provincial addressed us with his truly inspiring words. His speech worked wonders on the minds of our young candidates and inspired us all to do our best in life. Integrity, insight, inclusiveness are three essential qualities of a leader and our Provincial Rev. Bro. Thampy Alex embodies them. As a whole, it was a day filled with goodness and joy... a day to remember.

Silver Jubilee of Montfort School Garratola: I, Bro. Rockey Kerketta am an ex-student of Montfort School,

Garratola. Celebrating the Silver Jubilee of a school is a monumental event, a testament to its enduring legacy and the impact it has had on countless lives. This milestone is not just a celebration of the institution's existence, but a

commemoration of its achievements, challenges overcome, and the community it has served over 25 years. In the year 1998, the Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel, Province of Hyderabad, under the leadership of Bro. Sebastian K.M arrived at Garratola village. They rented a single room where two classes were started. On 5th June 2000 Bro. Shajan Antony was appointed the first Principal of the School. He was a young and hardworking person with a strong personality. Bro. M.A. Antony came to Garratola as the Principal in 2005 after the transfer of Bro. Shajan. I did my schooling during Bro. M.A. Antony and Bro. David Indwar's time. From the academic session 2013 Bro. David Indwar took over as the third Principal. He continued till the year 2018. Bro. Arogyam Pasala was appointed as the Principal for three years from 2018 to 2021. From the academic year 2021 till date once again Bro. David Indwar is at the helm of affairs at Montfort School, Garratola. Our school celebrated its silver Jubilee, marking 25 years of its success. A grand function was organized to celebrate this milestone. I was also invited for the programme and took part in the same. The celebration was an opportunity to relive the school's journey, appreciating the growth that has taken place since its inception 25 years ago. It invited us to acknowledge the vision of the founders, the dedication of the teachers, and the relentless efforts of the students that have culminated in the success of the school in various fields.

Christ the King Procession at Meerut: The Diocesan celebration of Christ the King Feast and the Eucharistic Procession took place with great devotion and spiritual pomp along with a large number of faithful, priests and religious of the Meerut Diocese on 26th November 2023 at the St. Joseph's Cathedral, Meerut. The service commenced at 2:30 p.m. with the recitation of the Holy Rosary, Holy hour followed by Eucharistic Procession. It was attended by Most Rev Fr. Valerian Pinto, the Administrator of the diocese, several Priests, religious Brothers and Sisters and a large number of faithful. The concelebrated Eucharist was marked with well-prepared liturgy with excellent singing and a meaningful homily given by Fr. Peter Prakash, Rector of St. John's Seminary, Sardhana. We, the Montfort Brothers and the candidates also attended this spiritual event.

Carol Singing Competition: The 3rd carol singing competition was organized by Fr. John Chiman, the Parish Priest of St. Joseph's Cathedral, Meerut. He wished the participants every success. As many as 18 teams with 20 to 25 members in each team took part in the competition which was held in two languages - English and Hindi. Each team was given five to eight minutes to sing a carol. We also had taken part in it and we were well appreciated. The competition was judged by competent

musicians. The occasion was graced by the esteemed presence of the local religious. The competitors sang a variety of Christmas songs. They came up with melodious voices and music that impressed the audience and judges. The following were the prize winners: Assembly of God Church, Meerut (First), St. Peter's Church, Kankerkheda (Second), St. Luke's Church, Saket (Third).

Birthday Celebration: Birthdays are important as they are momentous occasions that commemorate a person's birth anniversary. It helps people feel grateful to God for all that they are and reflect on everything they have been blessed with. We were glad to celebrate the Birthday of Bro. Jose Thottiyil on 16th of December. On that joyous day the Fathers and Sisters of neighboring religious communities came and wished our Brother.

Sector Gathering cum Birthday Celebration: On 17th Dec Brothers from Montfort Schools Delhi and Roorkee came to St. Charles', Sardhana for both Sector gathering as well as for Birthday celebration. We had a fitting reflection given by Bro. Alex Diamond during the birthday prayer service which was jointly conducted by Bro. Rockey & Bro. Alex Diamond. After the prayer service, all the Brothers gathered for a short meeting. Bro. Joy Thomas, the sector in charge welcomed all the Brothers to share their community happenings. All the Superiors shared their views and got the help from each other. We have decided to have next meeting in May at Montfort school, Delhi.

Intercultural Community, Montreal

Bro. James Ekka, SG



Greetings from Montreal, Canada! The Province of Canada celebrated the Golden Jubilee of Ordination of Bro. Guy St. Onge. He is a Brother-Priest. Some 70 people - Brothers, friends and well-wishers were present for the Thanksgiving Eucharistic celebration lead by the Bishop of Montreal. Apart from his close family friends, the



presence of his elder sister aged 94 was a great blessing for the occasion. The culmination of the celebration was a well arranged lunch in one of the hotels

here in Montreal.

The province had its Provincial Chapter discussing and deliberating on “*Instrumentum Laboris*” on 10th & 11th October 2023. Rev. Bro. Dionigi, the Vicar General was present for the Chapter. He made use of this opportunity to visit Haiti. He also visited the Communities of Brothers and met all the Brothers individually and also as community.

On 1st November we were happy to have three Brothers from the Community of Saint-Lazare visiting us. It was a welcome opportunity to spend some valuable time sharing our life and mission with each other. The Community of Garnier is grateful for their visit. We had Brother Andre Roberge’s sister and brother-in-law visiting us one day. We also had cousin of Brother Jean Francois and her husband with their only son visiting us. We thank them for their kind visits. One of the helping staff members having served the community for 25 years retired on 31st of October. The Community hoisted a fitting

dinner on 17th of November to honour her for her long and dedicated service.

The Province had half a day recollection on 22nd Nov 2023 in the Provincial House. It was well organised by Bro. Ronald Brissette and participated by 21 Brothers. After a fitting Eucharistic celebration, a well-planned community meal was shared and thereafter Brothers dispersed for their respective communities.

The actual winter has set in. This is my first winter in Canada. Though every now and then it has been snowing, the heaviest of all so far was on 3rd December and the following night. More of this is awaited.

Its Advent season and soon we will be celebrating the commemoration of Jesus being born to us. May He continue to be born every day in our hearts! Let me take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and Bright New Year 2024. May this new year fill you and your dear and near ones, with Love, Peace, Joy and Happiness!

***JOYOUX NOEL ET BONNE ANNEE 2024 ***

Vidyadeep, Bengaluru

Bro. Sevak Gabriel, S.G.



Season’s Greetings from Vidya Deep College, Bengaluru. As we embrace this festive season, I extend warm and heartfelt greetings to you all. May this season of Christmas be filled with joy, peace and abundance of cherished moments with our communities, families and friends. Wishing you all a wonderful and joyous celebration.

Karam Festival Celebration: On September 16, 2023, we the Brothers and Sisters celebrated the Karam festival. The festival was organized by the Brothers from Chhota Nagpur. The cultural program was very well organized with the processional dances and songs. The chief guest for the program was Brother Sevak Gabriel, SG, the Director of Vidya Deep College. In his speech he explained the importance and the significance of the Karam festival. He said that the festival is primarily dedicated to the worship of Karam Devta, who is considered a deity associated with fertility and

prosperity. The rituals are performed to seek the blessings of Karam Devta for a bountiful harvest. The festival involves a series of rituals and customs. A ceremonial branch or a pole, often adorned with leaves, flowers, and other decorative items, symbolizes the Karam Devta. The inclusion of the traditional rituals, dances and music added a lot of liveliness and joy to the festivity, fostering a sense of togetherness among everyone involved. Everyone enjoyed the celebration with a traditional lunch.



Institute Day: “Institute Day celebration promotes community spirit”. On the auspicious occasion of Institute Day, which was celebrated on the 7th of October, 2023, the atmosphere at our institute was imbued with excitement and camaraderie. The event was graced by esteemed guests Rev. Bro. Shine Alex, S.G., the Provincial Superior of Hyderabad Province as the chief guest,



and Rev. Bro. T. Amalan, FSC, Provincial Superior of Dela Salle Brothers, as special guest. Their presence added an aura of wisdom and inspiration to the commemoration. The day commenced with an air of anticipation as students, faculty, support staff and local religious gathered to mark this significant day. The celebration was not just a festivity; it was a culmination of efforts, dedication and the spirit of unity within the institute. Bro. Shine Alex, S.G. in his address enlightened the audience with motivational insights and encouraged everyone to strive for excellence. His words resonated deeply, inspiring each individual present to aim for the pinnacle of success while upholding ethical values. Bro. T. Amalan, FSC, shared his valuable experiences and emphasized on the importance of fostering a harmonious learning environment. His presence served as a beacon of encouragement for

all, instilling a sense of purpose and dedication among the attendees. The celebration was adorned with various activities that showcased the diverse talents of the student Brothers and Sisters. Cultural performances, artistic displays and academic exhibitions captivated the audience, exhibiting the multifaceted abilities of the members of Vidya Deep. The event fostered a sense of unity and pride among the student Brothers and Sisters. It served as a reminder of the institute’s rich heritage and its commitment to nurturing both academic excellence and holistic development. It stood as a testament to the collective efforts and dedication of all the members towards a brighter and promising future.

Exploring Life: Second year students’ Exposure Program in Tirunelveli: In an endeavour to broaden the horizons of second year students and provide them with hands-on experience, an

innovative exposure program was organised in the picturesque city of Tirunelveli. For a span of two weeks, the students embraced the role of daily labourers, immersing themselves in the heart of the city’s workforce. This unique initiative aimed to provide a real-world understanding of earning one’s livelihood and to instil a sense of appreciation for the toil and dedication put forth by daily labourers in their occupations. Student Brothers willingly embraced the challenges, ready to engage in tasks that ranged from construction work to agricultural labour, contributing their efforts to the various facets of daily life. This experience was transformative, as students learned different professions, experiencing the sweat, determination and perseverance integral to this vocation. The program aimed not only to expose them to these practical realities but also to foster empathy and respect for the labour force that often goes unnoticed. The Students returned to their academic pursuits with a newfound perspective, appreciating the value of manual labour and its significance in society. This exposure program was a transformative journey that instilled in them invaluable life lessons. It opened their eyes to the world beyond textbooks, enriching their understanding of livelihoods and fostering a sense of respect and admiration for the hardworking individuals who form the backbone of many industries.

Annual Retreat at Cluny Sisters of St. Joseph, Bengaluru: a Spiritual Journey: The serene and spiritually enriching Annual retreat was organized from 19th to 25th Nov 2023, at the peaceful campus of the Cluny Sisters’ of St. Joseph in Bengaluru. The retreat was a profound opportunity for introspection, reflection and spiritual growth for all participants. Fr. Antony Rajan, a revered Redemptorist priest, graced the retreat as the animator, guiding us through a series of insightful



sessions that enabled the participants to delve deep into spiritual contemplation and personal introspection. His wisdom, coupled with his engaging delivery, resonated with the hearts and minds of all attendees, fostering a sense of spiritual awakening and renewal. The presence and guidance of our Director, Bro. Sevak Gabriel, SG, along with Bro. Johnson, BSM, added a sense of fraternity and support throughout the retreat. Their presence not only provided guidance but also exemplified the importance of communal spiritual journey and the nurturing of faith within a community. The retreat served as a haven for reflection, prayer and inner healing. Participants were encouraged to detach from their daily routines and immerse themselves in moments of silence, prayer and meditation. The tranquil surroundings of the location offered a serene backdrop for this introspective journey. The devoted attention, motherly care and welcoming attitude of the Cluny Sisters contributed immensely to the spiritual experience. Their hospitality created a sense of satisfaction, making the retreat a truly enriching spiritual journey for everyone involved.

Provincial's Visit: On 9th November, 2023 Rev. Bro. Thampy Alex, SG, the Provincial Superior of Delhi province visited Vidya Deep College along with Bro. N.T. Cyriac, SG and met the Brothers of his province individually. His visit provided a great opportunity for personal interaction, mentorship and encouragement tailored to each brother's academic and personal needs. These meetings often provide a platform for guidance, motivation, and affirmation, helping Brothers navigate their educational pursuits and offering guidance for their overall well-being.

Province Formation Director's Visit: Bro. T.T. Mathew's visit to Vidya Deep College on November 26, 2023, as the Province Formation Director has been an enriching experience for the junior Brothers. Such interactions are pivotal for providing guidance and motivation assisting these young Brothers in their personal and professional development within the context of their religious formation.

Excursion to Mysore and Coorg: Excursion to Mysore and Coorg was typically a memorable experiences for us all. Mysore, known for its rich cultural heritage, offers historical sites like the

Mysore Palace and vibrant markets showcasing local arts and crafts. Coorg's lush landscapes, coffee plantations and trekking trails provide a serene escape into nature. Such trips often offer a blend of cultural exploration, adventure and relaxation, fostering camaraderie among students and

creating cherished memories of exploration and discovery. We had the privilege to visit the Namdroling Monastery, also known as the Golden Temple. It is a prominent Buddhist Monastery located in Bylakuppe near Kushalnagar in Coorg, Karnataka, India. Established in 1963, it is one of the largest Tibetan Buddhist centers in the world outside of Tibet. The Monastery is renowned for its stunning golden statues and intricate Tibetan architecture. The main attraction is the awe-inspiring gold-plated statue of Buddha, **Padmasambhava** also known as **Guru Rinpoche**, and **Amitayus**. The vibrant and ornate paintings on the walls and ceilings add to the monastery's beauty and ambiance. Visitors can experience the Monastery's serene atmosphere, witness daily prayers and rituals performed by the monks, explore the peaceful surroundings and learn about Tibetan Buddhism teachings and culture. The Namdroling Monastery in Coorg stands as a symbol of peace, spirituality and cultural heritage, attracting tourists and devotees from around the world.

Christmas Celebration and Holidays: The anticipation of Christmas festivities at Vidya Deep College on the 19th of December marks a joyful time filled with cheer and celebration. The subsequent closure from 19th December to 3rd January 2024 will provide a well-deserved break for all, allowing everyone to cherish the holiday season with their loved ones or in their respective provinces and return refreshed for the New Year ahead.

Kristu Jyoti, Bengaluru

Bro. Binod Kerketta, SG



Fraternal greeting and best wishes to all the readers of the **DIALOGUE** from Kristu Jyoti

College, Bengaluru. In the last three months, from October to December many events have taken place in our college.

On 26 & 27th Sept Kristu Jyoti College (KJC) conducted a seminar on 'A decade of Legacy: Pope Francis' Vision of the Church'. In this seminar many Professors had given talks about the journey of Pope Francis. In this seminar neighboring religious congregation sisters also took part. On the last day of the seminar a quiz was conducted on the 10 years of Pope Francis Journey. In this quiz competition B.Th. batch-wise and also M.Th. students and some novices also attended. The First prize was won by I year B.Th. student.

On 12th October, we celebrated the festival of Karma. We began the celebration with Holy Mass. After the mass we, the North Indian Brothers presented a cultural program. The Karma festival was celebrated for the first time in K.J.C. All the Fathers appreciated it very much.



13th of Nov 2023, the Diwali day, marked also the College Day at K.J.C., celebrating Christ the Light, its heavenly patron. The theme of the day was **"Inflame the World with Love."** The event was graced by the esteemed presence of Fr. Dr. Stephen Alathara, the Deputy Secretary General of CCBI who delivered the keynote address, highlighting the College's impact on the Church in India and emphasizing the significance of love in ministry. The event began with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist in the Kristu Jyoti Chapel at 9.00 am. Rev. Fr. Sabu Thottumkal, the Principal, presided over the Holy Eucharist with a large array of priests – Professors, students, and guests – concelebrating. The academic session commenced at 10:30 am with a prayer dance by Diploma students, setting a spiritual tone for the event. The ceremonial lighting of the lamp was then conducted by Fr. Dr. Stephen Alathara, the Chief Guest; Fr. Dr. Sabu Thottumkal, the Principal; Fr. Bosco Ponthokkan and Fr. Dr. Alex Kalathikkattil, the Rector of associated communities; Fr. Seby Kidangan, the Registrar; Sr. Elizabeth Maria and Dn. Thomas, student representatives; symbolizing enlightenment. Fr. Sabu Thottumkal welcomed the attendees, and Fr. Bosco Ponthokkan and Fr. Alex Kalathikkattil gave the

felicitation addresses. Fr. Bosco emphasized the relevance of theological study to the local context, highlighting the need for dialogue and transdisciplinary theology, echoing the words of Pope Francis. Fr. Alex's felicitation revolved around the celebration of light amidst darkness, drawing parallels with global conflicts. He urged everyone to be a beacon of hope, brightening the lives of others through selfless acts. As is the custom at K.J.C, several books by the Kristu Jyoti Publications were also released during the event. A vibrant cultural extravaganza showcased the diverse talents of K.J.C. students, adding a touch of entertainment and creativity to the celebration. In conclusion, Kristu Jyoti College Day was a harmonious blend of spirituality, academic excellence, and cultural celebration, resonating with the theme "Inflame the World with Love." The speeches, performances, and events collectively reflected the college's commitment to social responsibility, academic prowess, and the nurturing of a compassionate and service-oriented community.

On 15th of November, the farewell of the Deacons, we began the program with holy Mass. During the holy Mass we prayed for them and wished for their ordination as they are going to dedicate themselves completely to follow Jesus Christ for their life as priests. All the Deacons announced their motto during the Eucharistic celebration which they have chosen. After the Mass the 3rd year Brothers were welcomed with flower bouquets. Then they showed the farewell video which was prepared by 3rd year students. It was a re-cap of their three years of their stay at KJC.

On 3rd December SSG children and I year students went on a picnic to fun world Bengaluru around 9:30 am. We had taken Lake Montfort school buses. Around 350 students were there. All the children and Brothers enjoyed playing games the whole day. It was a nice experience to be with children.



In Kristu Jyoti College, our regular classes go on. In November our second semester exams were over and in December we began the third semester classes. The first-year students are preparing for the pre-Christmas celebration.

We are in the time of Advent, preparing the way and ultimately our hearts to welcome the infant

Jesus. We are ready to express in anticipation the joy of the birth of Jesus in Kristu Jyoti College campus and beyond. Together let's raise our hands in praising the benevolent God for showers of his blessings. We joyously look forward to better days in the New Year and pray for strength to face all the challenges. **Warm wishes to all. May the Christmas season bring you peace, Joy, and friendly gathering with loved ones. Merry Christmas and happy New Year 2024!**

Vidyajyoti, Delhi

Bro. Karthik Ekka, SG

Greetings of peace and love of Christ! I would like to share some events that occurred at Pratiksha Major Seminary last three months. Bro. Suraj Xalxo and I, Bro. Kartik Ekka, study theology at Vidyajyoti College of Theology, Delhi and reside in the Pratiksha Major Seminary of the Archdiocese of Delhi. We are thirteen brothers from different dioceses and congregations. Our Rector, Fr. Peter Emmanuel of Delhi diocese takes care of us well.

Our first Semester exams began on 13th Nov and concluded on 18th Nov. It was followed by a week of semester holidays. During this break, we went on a cultural tour to Shimla and Kulu Manali in groups to explore and learn.

A wonderful event, *Baal Mela*, was organised in our college on Dec 3rd for children from various places of ministry. The theme was "**SMALL STEPS, BIG DREAMS,**" and Ms. Natta D'Souza, the All India Mahila Congress President, was the Chief Guest. Around 300 children actively participated in all the events of the day. After lunch cultural programs from different ministry groups added to the excitement, providing a fantastic opportunity for children to exhibit their unique skills and talents.

The well-conducted programme and caring for all the needs of the children, including food, made the event a memorable and joyful experience for everyone.

Parish Ministry: "Embracing heart, building community, and spreading God's love - parish ministry, where faith comes alive."

Experiencing parish ministry is a deeply enriching journey for us as theologians. We visit different parishes, connecting with the community, serving others, and growing spiritually. We engage with parishioners, providing emotional support during challenging situations and initiate outreach programs to address local needs. In the parish, we conduct Catechism classes on Sundays, guide young children on their journey of faith, which is both a privilege and a joy for us. In the afternoon, we also visit houses of the sick and the elderly, sharing prayers and providing comfort through our presence.

Tribal Ministry: Guiding Christian and non-Christian tribal ladies involves a nuanced blend of spiritual, cultural, and community-oriented approaches, drawing from our experiences. We begin by immersing ourselves in their cultural context, fostering trust through open communication and a genuine understanding of their unique perspectives. Using what we have learned before, we organize Bible studies that include cultural elements to make their spiritual journey relatable and more meaningful.

Building on our knowledge, we also create opportunities for skill development, providing both spiritual and practical education. Drawing from our past successes, we empower experienced women to guide those facing challenges. Through community events like celebrating their cultural heritage within a Christian framework, we create a sense of belonging. We address not only spiritual concerns but also the specific challenges faced by Christian tribal women in their daily lives.

Montfort Villa, Bhopal

Bro. V.J. Mani, SG

The month of October was marked by the annual retreat for the senior Brothers which was attended by most of the senior Brothers. The others are expected to join the retreat for the junior Brothers after Christmas. Whatever be the occasion, Brothers' gathering is a joy for us and we the inmates try to make their stay comfortable and pleasant.

The first week of December witnessed the seminar cum training for the coordinators from all our schools in the Province. The participants expressed their happiness, having benefitted from the program.

We are happy that Bro. Mathew Montfort has joined the Montfort Villa community on the 11th December.

A sector recollection and gathering is being organised on the 17th Dec during which sector outing also will be planned. We are also organising a gathering of the men religious of the parish, strengthening our bond of brotherhood and camaraderie.

We are looking forward to receive the retreatants after Christmas. Meanwhile, we the inmates of the Provincial house wish all the readers a very happy and blessed Christmas, ushering all of us into a bright New Year 2024.



PNG MISSION

St. Gabriel's Technical Sec. School, Kiunga

Bro. Lucianus Lakra, SG

During the one- week 3rd Term break, Federation of Religious of Daru Kiunga Diocese organized retreat for all the priests and religious which Bro. Lucianus, Bro. Joji and Sr. Teresa from St. Gabriel's attended as their annual retreat. During the same time Bro. Joy Mathew from St. Charles Lwanga, Port Moresby had come to Kiunga for the last time before his return to India for medical treatment. In the 1st week of Term IV we had the Holy Mass at St. Gerard Parish for the students of Grade 10 and 12 praying for them especially as they appear for the National exam which was scheduled 2nd and 3rd week of October respectively. We also had the Best Wishes lunch organized for them on 6th October 2023 to which all the staff and BOG members were invited. Grade 11 students did the work of cooking and serving the food. National exam for Grade 10 was held from 9 to 13 and of Grade 12 from 16 to 20 October 2023.

We also have Flexible Open Distance Education (FODE) run through the NGO Kokoda Track Foundation (KTF), Australia. Bro. Lucianus is the coordinator for St. Gabriel's FODE unit. This is totally sponsored by the NGO. National exam for this was held from 16 to 20 Oct for Grade 10 and 23 to 27 Oct for Grade 12.

Along with the education mission Brothers and collaborating SMSM Sisters are involved in religious education, Small Christian Community meetings, programmes of Federation of Religious, organizing parish liturgy, singing, music, etc. with the help of the boarding students. Every year the

school prepares the Catholic students for the Sacrament of Confirmation. This year 15 students received the Sacrament of Confirmation prepared by Bro. Lucianus.

The newly appointed Principal of St. Gabriel's Technical Secondary School, Bro. Mathias Minj arrived Kiunga on 26th Nov 2023 early enough to get acquainted with his new responsibilities before Bro. Johnson moved to St. Charles Lwanga Port Moresby as he is transferred to that place. A grand welcome was given to Bro. Mathias at the airport by Brothers, Sisters and some of the staff. Member of Parliament of the constituency of Kiunga region, Hon. James Donald too traveled to Kiunga by the same flight from Port Moresby so it was a grand welcome to the new principal.

Graduation Ceremony: Graduation Ceremony held on 30th November, was the climax of the activities of the year 2023. Lots of preparations were done involving every one's generous cooperation, staff both teaching & non-teaching, students and parents under the efficient guidance and meticulous planning of the principal. This was the 23rd Grade 10 and 13th Grade 12 Graduation Ceremony. Theme was 'PROMOTING PEACE AND POSITIVITY THROUGH EDUCATION'. *St. Louis de Montfort, Our Founder's 350th Birth Anniversary also was incorporated into this mega gathering. Beautifully decorated portrait of Montfort was placed right in front of the stage to which tribute was paid by way of offering flowers by the Chief Guest, Bishop, and the Principal.*

Chief Guest of the program was Hon. James Donald, Member of North Fly, Guest of Honour, Mr. Avini Vira, CEO OTDF, Special Guests Rt. Rev. Joseph Durero, SVD, Bishop of Daru-Kiunga Diocese, Mr. Melchior Dabuna, District Education Coordinator, Mr. Gidu Ludu, Senior Secondary School Inspector and many dignitaries, Fathers, Brothers, Sisters, BOG



Brothers and Sisters with students received the Sacrament of Confirmation



Welcoming of Bro. Mathias Minj at airport on his arrival

members, Business house representatives, parents, students, children and well-wishers were present to witness the program in huge numbers.

The program started with the Inauguration and blessing of three new Staff houses and two new Dormitories for the boarding students. Guests were escorted by the school band to the site of the new buildings. All the New buildings were blessed by Rt. Rev. Bishop Joseph Durero, SVD and inaugurated



Blessing and inauguration of the new staff houses by Rt. Rev. Bishop and Hon. James Donald, MP

by Hon. MP, James Donald. Thereafter an appropriate prayer was led by Sr. Selvarani and team, followed by National Anthem, Flag hoisting, National Pledge and School Anthem. It was followed by a series of variety entertainment programs, speeches, messages, distribution of the attainment certificates, prize distribution and special achievement awards. The program ended with thanksgiving and pre-Christmas celebration song and Santa Clause distributing the toffies.

Farewell and Welcome: On 1st December 2023 all the priests and religious were invited including Bishop for the fellowship meal to bid farewell to Bro. Johnson and Sr. Selvarani as both of them are transferred to St. Charles Lwanga Secondary School, Port Moresby and to welcome the new Principal Bro. Mathias Minj. Bro. Joji welcomed all the priests and religious and briefed about the purpose of gathering. Sr. Treesa organized an appropriate prayer service for the occasion. Bro. Lucianus in his message enumerated many qualities of the outgoing Principal, Bro. Johnson and highlighted one of the most significant contributions of Bro. Johnson to school, to the society at large and Western Province by bringing the school in the limelight as National Rank holder in the country of

Papua New Guinea in his very first year of taking charge as Principal and it continued till date among the top ten schools of the country. He Congratulated him and wished him all the BEST for his mission in Port Moresby. Sr. Selvarani's contribution to the school was inimitable. Her dedication and commitment to the work and particularly care and concern for the students were excellent. She too was wished BEST of LUCK in her new field of mission. In the same breath Bro. Mathias was heartily welcomed to the place as the new Principal although he had been there for 8 years before. He was assured of whole hearted support by all present.

P and C Meeting: On 6th December we had the P&C meeting in which all the parents were very happy about the performance of the school and are ready to cooperate with the management. On the same day results of the students of grade 9 and 11 were handed over to the parents.

Pre-Christmas Gathering: On 7th December the school organized the pre-Christmas celebration and closing of the academic year of 2023. All the teachers with their family and ancillary staff with their family including the members of Board of Governance were invited to the celebration. Teachers prepared varieties of delicious food and enjoyed sharing together. Every one received a Christmas gift wishing each other Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year 2024.

Home Visit: On 8th December, Bro. Johnson, Bro. Joji, Sr. Selvarani and Sr. Treesa left Kiunga to go to India for home visit. A big group of staff, students, parents and well-wishers came to the airport to see off and bid farewell to Bro. Johnson and Sr. Selvarani as they are transferred to St. Charles Lwanga Sec School, Port Moresby. The school is closed for Christmas vacation until 21st January 2024. Bro. Mathias is busy taking care of the repair and maintenance of the school buildings, furniture and staff quarters and thus getting ready for the reopening of the school.

WISH YOU ALL A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR 2024

Hymn No. 92

Lk.19:01-10

Chorus: Come home Lord and stir my heart.

Verses:

1. Take note Zac, Come down to me
Shall stay with you there this eve
Oh! My heart rippled with throbs
Grateful for the awesome order.
2. Come home Lord post Sycamore
Amidst sin pain and labour
There exists a line of silver
The light to guide, hearts to conquer.

3. Come home Lord post Sycamore
My heart is trained to go ashore
From traits of evil then to fore
The Lord has dinned with me at home.
4. Come home Lord post Sycamore
Bid me come to you my Lord
Touch my heart give it a stir
Let ripples rise, push it ashore
5. Come home Lord post Sycamore
My heart delves deep on your plan
Let my heart seek your Canon
To love you more and my neighbour

Bro. Emmanuel P.J.

Pratyush Ratna Pandey, PET, M.I.C., Lucknow represented India

Mr. Pratyush Ratna Pandey, PET of Montfort Inter College, Lucknow represented India as the **Head Delegate of Indian squad of Vovinam Martial Art** at the World Championship, which was held in Ho Chi Minh city of **Vietnam** from 22-30 Nov 2023.

More than 40 countries had participated in this championship including France, Germany, Japan, China, Belgium, Belarus, Algeria, Iran, Cambodia, India and Pakistan. Indian team won **three medals** consisting of **one silver** and **two bronze**. Indian squad comprised of 26 players (men & women) and 07 Officials. These players were from Manipur, Assam, Gujrat, UP, and Maharashtra.

We **CONGRATULATE** Mr. P.R. Pandey on this rare recognition.



16th Montfortian Scouts and Guides Integration Camp

Oct 1st to 5th, 2023

Theme: **Service above self**
Bro. Alex Diamond, SG
(Camp Secretary)

THE 16th Montfortian Scouts and Guides Integration Camp took place at Montfort School, Roorkee from 1st to 5th Oct. 2023. This event was organized under the guidance of the Education Commission of Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel, Province of Delhi and had the theme "**Service above self.**" Over 200 Scouts and Guides from different states participated, came together to celebrate the **350th birth anniversary** of the founding father, St. Louis Marie de Montfort. The camp commenced with a briefing session on September 30th, where Bro. Albert Abraham, the Principal of Montfort School, Roorkee, welcomed the attendees and introduced the core committee team. Bro. William Kerketta, the Camp Leader, explained the camp's proceedings. In the event, he welcomed participants from 10 schools within the Province of Delhi, with the exception of Montfort School Harinagar due to train cancellation. The gathering comprised Scouts and Guides from Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand and Delhi. The camp began with the flag hoisting ceremony on 1st October, emphasizing the importance of the flag, salute and '**jhanda geet.**' Mr. Ravindra Mohan Kala, the State secretary of Bharat Scouts and Guides, U.K. and other dignitaries

Bro. Thampy Alex, the Chairman and Provincial Superior of the Province of Delhi, were welcomed by the school band and escorted to the stage with beautifully decorated umbrellas. Bro. Albert Abraham extended a warm welcome to the Chief Guest and Guest of Honour, presenting them with shawls, mementos and flower plants.

During the camp, various Scout and Guide skills were taught, up to the Dwitiya Sopan syllabus. Activities included March Past, Daily Inspections, Shelter Making and Gate competitions. Patrol-wise competitions included First Aid, Estimation, Pioneering, Mapping, Compass and Signalling, while the Quiz was organized at the school level. Individual competitions featured Kim Games,



S.T.A., Friendship and Camp log book. Camp Fire evenings included captivating cultural presentations, such as folk dances, group songs, and skits honouring St. Louis Marie de Montfort's 350th birth anniversary. The Grand Camp Fire, a tradition of Scout and Guide camps, took place on the fourth day, offering an evening filled with festivities and inspiration. The Chief Guest was Bro. Shine Alex, the National Education Convener of the Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel, India and Chairman and Provincial Superior of Hyderabad. The evening's Guests of Honour included Bro. Thampy Alex, Mr. Purvender Sharma, District Organization Commissioner of Bharat Scouts and Guides and others. Bro. Shine Alex encouraged the participants to focus on life, praised the qualitative organization of the camp and the cleanliness of school campus.

On 5th October, the camp concluded with the prize distribution ceremony. The prizes were awarded to the winners of various competitions held during the camp. **Bro. Albert Abraham** officially closed the camp, symbolically passing the flag to St. Gabriel's School, Jabalpur, whose turn it is to host the next camp. The participants expressed their gratitude for the hospitality and support provided by Montfort School, Roorkee and praised the meticulous planning and schedule.

The success of the 16th Montfortian Integration camp was attributed to the tireless efforts of the organizing committee, led by Bro. Albert Abraham and the dedication of the staff and students. The



attended the ceremony. The Chief Guest, Mr. Ravindra Mohan Kala, along with Guest of Honour



camp aimed to foster the theme, ‘**Service above Self**’ and empower the youth to contribute positively to their communities. In conclusion, the 16th Montfortian Scouts and Guides Integration Camp was a grand and successful event that brought together Scouts and Guides from various regions to celebrate their shared values and learn important life skills. The camp's focus on service, youth empowerment and community involvement left a lasting impact on the participants and highlighted the importance of selfless service and unity in today's world.

The Highlights of the 16th Montfortian Scouts and Guides Integration Camp:

❖ To mark the **350th Birth Anniversary** of our Founder St. Louis Marie De Montfort.

❖ The presence of **Rev. Bro. Thampy Alex** (Chairman and Provincial Superior of the Province of Delhi).

❖ The presence of **Rev. Bro. Shine Alex**, the Convenor of National Education Commission, Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel, India, and Provincial Superior of Hyderabad.

❖ **Eminent Chief Guests** for all the Camp Fires.

❖ **Rally** – “Youth Empowerment and Road Safety.”

❖ Visit to **IIT Roorkee**.

❖ **Swachh Bharat Abhiyan**.

❖ Visit to **Haridwar**.

❖ Witnessed **Army Drill Show**

❖ Visit to **Bengal Sappers-Army Engineering Core Unit**.

❖ Visit to **Army Infantry Unit Rajrif**.

❖ Visit to **Adventure bases** of Army Cant.

❖ Delicious food and excellent arrangements.

Re-union of 1979-81 Batch

WE HAD a re-union of 1979-81 novitiate batch at St. Louis Villa, Yercaud from 24th – 26th Nov 2023. This was our 5th gathering as a group within a span of 42 years. In all the 04 earlier gatherings of our batch, our Novice Master Bro. Jacob Ezhanikattu was present. We felt his absence in this re-union. May his departed soul rest in peace!

There were 08 of us. We reached Yercaud on 23rd Nov evening. We were warmly welcomed by Rev. Bro. Johnson S., the Provincial of Yercaud and one of our batch mates. Other members who made it are Bros. Appoli D’Souza (P), T.T. Mathew (D), Paul Raj (B), Thomas K.K. (B), Varghese Koonamav (B), Mr. Leo Tan (Singapore) and Mr. M. Joseph (Trichy). The Brothers who could not be



present for this re-union are Bros. Jose M.K. (D), Franky Noronha (P), Edwin Joseph (Madagascar), Arokiaraj A. (T), Nicholas Peeranun (Thailand), and Joseph Surakit (Thailand).

We began our sharing session on 24th Nov at 9.00 am with a prayer. We remembered all our novitiate formators like late Bro. Jacob Ezhanikattu, Late Bro. Joseph John. Late Bro. Felician, and Mr. Joy Paul and prayed for them. We took stoke of all our novitiate companions and offered them to the Lord. Most of us are in touch through 1979-81 WhatsApp group. We found that out of **36 Novices** who made the **First Profession** on 12th April 1981, **12 of us have persevered** in our religious vocation and **24 have chosen another way of life**. We accorded a special welcome to Mr. Leo Tan from Singapore and to Mr. M. Joseph from Trichy who made themselves available to attend this meeting, despite the fact that they are family men. On 24th Nov we continued with our sharing sessions, complementing and encouraging each other till 4.00 pm. While sharing we realized that from our batch there have been **04 Provincials** and **01 General Assistant**. One of the Provincials, **Bro. Johnson S.** is still in Office. It is a matter of great pride.

At 5.30 pm we left for Honey Rock Estate, enjoyed the fresh air and water of the surrounding in the company of Bro. V.U. Thomas, the Manager and Bro. John Benedict. After a delicious dinner there and the quality time spent together, we returned to Louis Villa by 9.15 pm. We are grateful to Bros. V.U. Thomas and John Benedict for their warm welcome and hospitality.

On 25th Nov we had Holy Mass at Montfort School chapel and breakfast at Louis Villa. It was followed by another hour of sharing. At 10.00 am we left for Eachinkadu novitiate. There we were cordially welcomed by the novices. At 10.30 am we prayed at Heritage Park (Cemetery of Brothers) especially at the tomb of Bro. Jacob Ezhanikattu. At 11.15 am the novices had arranged a colourful welcome program for us. At 11.45 am some of us shared our novitiate experiences and its formative value with the present novices. At 12.45 pm we had



a well-prepared lunch with the novices. After a short walk around the campus by 2.00 pm we returned to Louis Villa. We are thankful to Bros. Paul Raj, the Novice Master and Bro. Y. Rajashekhar, the Socius for all the beautiful arrangements at Eachinkadu which enabled us to recall our own novitiate days. After a little rest we left for GRT Resort at Yercaud. Bro. Dominic Savio, the Principal of Montfort School and Bro. Paul Kachapilly from Louis Villa also had joined us. There we relaxed for almost two hours and after a sumptuous dinner returned to Louis Villa by 9.15 pm.

On 26th Nov (Sunday) we had the Eucharistic celebration at Montfort School Chapel. The school choir sang melodiously. We were glad to see the chapel full of students both boys and girls. There we were happy to meet two Montfort Sisters who are collaborating with the Brothers to run the hostel for the girls. Then we had breakfast with the community



of Montfort School. At 9.30 am we had the final sharing session. After completing the sharing by every member, we **thanked Bros. Johnson S., Britto Lourdasamy and Paulraj** for the excellent arrangements and meticulous planning which made possible this happy re-union. We have decided to meet again as a group **in the year 2031** which will be **our Golden Jubilee year**. After a couple of group photographs we left for Montfort School to have the concluding lunch with the Brothers of that community. We are indebted to **Bro. Dominic Savio and community** for hosting a yummy lunch in our honour. After the lunch all of us dispersed with fond memories. Thus, this re-union has re-energized us to go ahead in life with even greater enthusiasm. We look forward to our next re-union in the year 2031!

Bro. T.T. Mathew, SG
On behalf of the group

Love is the Only Religion worth Dying For

“I have been astonished that men could die martyrs for religion – I have shuddered at it – I shudder no more. I could be martyred for my religion – I could die for that.” These lines by John Keats, English romantic poet, assume far greater profundity in our age of religious fanaticism when dying for one’s faith is seen as something very exalted and worth emulating. Love is the true and only religion worth dying for.

The idea of Keatsian love is like that of Jalaluddin Rumi, “My love is like the morning glow that suffuses and subsumes the whole sky and leaves no corner darkened.” In these turbulent times, we want the overwhelming power and reach of love that can touch and change every individual. Keatsian universal love can uplift and sublimate all souls because love is non-discriminatory, non-denominational and non-categorical.

Elsewhere, Keats says, “I love for the sake of love.” We need to develop this sublime idea of love for the sake of love. That’ll demolish and diminish all

the barriers and walls of hatred. When love exists for an object, person, or idea, it becomes selfish. But when love encompasses all in its ambit, it becomes universal. In other words, love cannot be confined to a mere emotion. It is the very kernel of human existence and the essence of humanity. ‘*Pyaar har rang mein logon ko sada deta hai/ Pyaar ke parde mein hum sabka Khuda rahata hai.*’ – Love calls you in all hues/ Behind the curtain of love, resides our God.

Keats could realise, rather envisage, that sooner or later, love would have the last laugh. “To feel for every soul and relate to every drop/ My love continues to move, it cannot stop.” This is the quality of love. It continues forever and evolves every second. “Once love begins, it ends with the world,” opined Latin poet Ovid.

Keat’s idea of love had a humanitarian appeal; it was universal in nature. It was devoid of selfish elements of a young and starry-eyed romantic. Keats was a part of a famed Romantic Trio comprising his coevals PB Shelly

and Byron. They all professed love and believed that love would finally have its way and become the zeitgeist.

An extremely sensitive soul with the most tender and gossamer sentiments, Keats could never reconcile with the violent streaks in humans. Man was born to love and die for it was his lifelong dictum. This belief in humans and human nature that violence is alien to them and love is their real nature will remain Keats’ legacy. It also consolidates our belief that we are inherently good and loving and are actually incapable of hating. That lofty perception seems to have got obscured at the moment. We need to revive and restart the flow of love that can cleanse every heart and every soul.

Twenty-six-year-old Keats visualized a world, sans all religions but wanted the crux of religions to survive. And what was the gist of all faiths, according to Keats? It was love. Shouldn’t we try to prove him vindicated?

(Compiled by **Bro. T.T. Mathew, SG**)

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The next issue is to appear by 31st March. All the items received upto 15th March, 2024 will be included in it. Address them to the editor:

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January

09 Bro. Fuldeep Jojo
12 Bro. Jinu Abraham
12 Bro. Alex Diamond Raj X.
21 Bro. Joseph PT
21 Bro. George Pottakaran
27 Bro. Joy Thomas
27 Bro. Promod Tete
28 Bro. Shaji Joseph
29 Bro. James Ekka
31 Bro. Chacko Azhakath

February

02 Bro. Rocky Kerketta
05 Bro. Pankaj Awaya
20 Bro. Rajan Bilung

March

01 Bro. James K.C.
02 Bro. Sunil Kumar Ekka
03 Bro. Om Prakash Tirkey
05 Bro. Binod Kerketta
07 Bro. Gabriel Lakra
12 Bro. Suraj Xalxo
13 Bro. William Kerketta
25 Bro. Mani V.J.
26 Bro. Binu Cherian
29 Bro. Prem Murmu

HAPPY BIRTHDAY