



## Bulletin of Delegation of Kolkata, India

Claretian Missionaries

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### Major Superior Speakes...

My dear brothers and friends in Christ Jesus,

Christmas is a joyful celebration in which we relive the greatest event in history when the only Son of God became man like one of us to be very close to the humans and the entire creation. With this the God who used to be seen far from us became "Immanuel", God with us. It is a gracious act of God's love, incarnating in the human and cosmic realities. In this way he identified with our smallness, weaknesses, suffering and infirmities that his presence in our life becomes down to earth that we can experience him always in and around us. Even we can say that every atom and the minutest particles of this universe is touched and revived by this incarnational grace. God who used to be behind the curtain of the temple in the Old Testament now through the incarnational event silently became one with every created reality making the cosmos shine with his saving presence. That is why Col 1:17 says "in him all things hold together". He has become the centre of the universe and in his motherly hand he holds everything together and all of us individually can experience all the time his loving touch.

Pope Francis who is fondly called today "the Pope of the Peripheries" speaks about this love as "Patient Love", a love that can keep its flame burning amidst the winds of adversities, betrayals, oppressions, evils of lies and cover ups, discouragement, poverty and different forms of suffering. At the base of this patient love is the enduring presence of God very close to our hearts humming a sweet melody of joy which can keep us calm and make us move forward bracing all difficulties.

Mother Mary was the first human temple who carried in her body the incarnational presence of the almighty God. And so, her God experience was cellular, in the sense that She did experience Jesus in her every single cell. It is this intimacy which transformed her as a missionary of the divine presence to go to the periphery of the Hill Country to share the same presence with Elizabeth and the boy in her womb. She is a great model for us to personalise this incarnational grace and become like her capable of contemplating this presence in the daily events of life.

Our Christmas celebration should lead us to that Height. Let us learn to leave our comfort zones and to reach out and become one with all those who need our presence, care and love, in particular the poor and the suffering creation. As Jesus emptied his life on us in humility, our self-emptying in love will bring joy and peace to others.

The first edition of our News Letter "Flame Kolkata" after we have become a major organism is in your hands. Its aim is to communicate what we are and what we do with our brothers and sisters around the globe. I take this opportunity to thank the General government for the paternal support given to us and to the Chennai province for its maternal guidance. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Fr. V. Lawrence, CMF  
Major Superior



MERRY  
CHRISTMAS  
&  
A HAPPY  
NEW YEAR

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FROM THE MISSION STATIONS

**BARRACKPORE: ST. CLARET SCHOOL**

**Telegraph Award for Mission Mankind:** On 24th August 2019, the Mission Mankind club of our school was awarded the certificate of appreciation for Social Service at the Telegraph awards 2019 held at South City International School, Kolkata for rendering financial Aid to the victims of the Kerala flood and to various ill and differently-abled individuals



in the community. The biggest reward however, is seeing the smiles on the faces of the less privileged and knowing that we have nourished another life.

**Auxi Aura:** This year Auxilium Convent School, Barasat organized an

Inter School Cultural Competition, Auxi Aura, where our school had put up a spirited show to bag the 4th position. The categories like street play and unconventional orchestra had been the most interesting. Their efforts were appreciated by the judges and the audience as well.



**Bharat Scouts and Guides:** Each year, a few members of the school's Scouts & Guides get the opportunity to visit the Governor's House (Raj Bhawan) to receive the State Level Award, the Rajya Puraskar from the Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal. This year the event was held on 21 & 22 of June and Arkadeep Das of Class XI was a recipient of this award.



**Independence Day 2019:** The 15th of August 2019 had its own significance for our school not only of the 72 Independence Day Celebration but also because of the Investiture of the First Batch of Cubs and Bulbul which is a junior section of Bharat Scouts and Guides. The seniors and juniors received awards, scarves and Prabesh Batches.



**Inter-School Debate:** Every year the CISCE organizes the All India Inter School Frank Anthony Memorial Debate Competition to foster the communicative skills in students. This year the participants in Category II Abhishek Biswas of Class X and Arpita Ghosh Class IX debated against ten schools on the

topic "Education Fosters Democracy". Our school was the winner with Abhishek Biswas getting the Best Speaker award.

**Douglas Mega Sports 2019-20:** In this academic year, Douglas Memorial higher Secondary School, Barrackpore organized a Mega Sports events where more than 15 schools participated in different events like swimming, chess, athletics, volleyball, cricket, carom, table-tennis, badminton, football, throw ball and karate. Our school, for the first time ever, had participated in an inter school sports event. The categories of participation were athletics, table-tennis, karate and cricket. The children excelled in all of them bagging 9 medals in all, 4 gold medals in karate and table tennis and athletics (800m and 200m) each, 2 silver medals in athletics and 3 bronze medals in athletics and karate. Our school became the runner-up team in athletics.



**BIZRAIL: SILVER JUBILEE OF ST. CLARET PARISH**

St. Claret parish at Bizrail is celebrating its Silver Jubilee. As the saying goes, "The blood of the martyrs is the seed for the growth of Church", Fr Packianathan's sacrifice of his life was the origin of this mission which is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year.

We the missionaries and the faithful at Bizrail Mission are indeed glad to express our heartfelt gratitude to God for showering abundant graces on us for the past 25 years. We joyfully remember all the blessings received



from the Lord, in particular the beautiful parish church building that is nearing completion. This is definitely the Jubilee gift from God. The missionaries had a humble beginning in the year 1995; the community has had a slow and steady growth with lots of ups and downs due to its geographical and social conditions. It consists of 17 villages namely, Bishrail, Batol, Cinathpur, Kududbari, Sahanali, Nandanpur, Tholahar, Ratanpur, Radhanagar, Ditol, Anaharpara, Kanipukur, Sibdangi,



Development of Bizrail

Dangapara, Khosalpur, Sonsabad and Bapitol. Most of the people here are Santhal Tribals with a few Mahali and Oraon families. I am deeply drawn into the pool of joy of being missionary at present in this parish. We are engaged in spreading the Word of God through different means like retreats, BCC meetings, seminars etc.. We experience the guiding presence of God always in our life and ministry. Our people are slowly maturing in Christian faith and becoming a participatory church. As Claretians we focus on the spiritual needs of the people. Regular Sunday Eucharist at all Mass centers, other sacramental celebrations, seminars and conferences to different groups like youth, women, catechists, children, couples etc. are going on. The service of St. Claret School also has contributed a lot for the education of our children. The catechists have played important role in shaping the faith of the people. The presence of the Sisters of the Queen of the Apostles Congregation in the parish is very helpful. The hard work and commitment of the former parish priests has contributed a lot for the growth of this parish. Our people are farmers and they are generally poor. They are not always available for programs and celebrations because of the nature of their work. We are trying our best to get their collaboration and participation



to build up a vibrant church here. The diocesan bishop and the priests are very friendly and helpful in many ways. This year we are arranging special programs to mark the silver Jubilee. We have conducted a few seminars on the recent Papal encyclicals to different groups which were well attended. We have a few more programs to be accomplished and the most important of them would be the inauguration of the parish church which is scheduled to take place in February. Fr. Martin Soren, CMF

**MASAGRAM: Harvest Festival**

We, the St. Stephen parish community at Masagram celebrated the harvest festival known as Nawae porob on December 08, 2019 on the occasion of the immaculate conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is thanksgiving festival after finishing the harvest of the paddy. We began the solemn celebration of Nawae porob with the Holy Eucharist at 10am. People had brought newly harvested paddy as well as home made sweets as the symbol of joy and happiness. People offered the newly harvested paddy and sweets during offertory time. After the Holy Eucharistic celebration people shared the sweets with everyone which is a reminder to all the people that we need to share the God's gifts with all as well to be grateful to God for what has been given to us. Fr. Clarence, CMF



**NUAON: Claretian Mission**

Responding God's call, the Claretian Missionaries stepped into the State of Bihar in 2014 by taking up the Nuaon mission at the invitation of Rt. Rev. Sebastian kallupura, the Bishop of Buxar. It is one of the fringe missions of the diocese very rural and Hindu majority area. We are three missionaries and one of us is working as diocesan youth director and in-charge of Mary's Meal – Bihar Zone.



House visiting helps us to know the reality of the families. People love such visits as God's own visit and are motivated to be faithful to the church. It is an opportunity for the missionaries to pray for the house.



Our missionaries are involved in different activities such as strengthening the catholic faithful through regular Sunday and weekly Eucharistic celebrations in different villages, house visits, alternative SSC prayer service in different villages and conducting English coaching for the neighboring children.

The prophetic role of SSC today is active witness of faith and building up the body of Christ in their own places. We have trained one special group for the SSC prayer service which helps the faithful to understand the word of God and live accordingly. The word of God teaches them to purify their values. SSC prayer service is arranged in all the villages. This year eleven members from our parish participated in the SSC National Hindi Convention on 25-27 of October 2019.

Every Sunday we have the Eucharistic celebration in the main center and people show interest in coming together. Through these we share our joy and faith with the Parishioners. Preaching the Word of God, sacrament



of reconciliation and devotion to the Eucharist give abundance of spiritual blessings and strength for our people. Those who are from far flung areas have village Eucharist every 2nd and 4th week. Villages are given Masses on Special days.

Tuition class for the children is one of the best ways and means to motivate the children. In our contexts in the schools classes are not taken properly. In our tuition center we clarify the students' doubts and teach the lessons properly. Our daily tuition classes are well appreciated by the people. Fr. Ajit Kullu, CMF.

## SAHANAGAR: ST. CLARET SCHOOL

**Investiture Ceremony:** To crown the Leaders of Claret school, Sahanagar, we organized an investiture ceremony in which all Leaders of the School for Classes, Clubs, Departments were given Batches and they have taken Oath to do the service in all aspects of Claret School for its Growth, Development and specially on Discipline of the School. Prayerful Wishes to all new Leaders of Claret School. Rev. Fr. John Kerketta SJ, was the Chief Guest of the programme and he encouraged all Leaders to be effective and committed in service.



**Children's Day Celebration:** On 14 Nov. 2019 Claret School, Sahanagar celebrated the Children's day in a grand manner. Rangoli Competition was conducted for the Students. Many students participated well. Save the Children from Child Labour was the Theme of the Rangoli Competition. Congratulations to the participants and the Winners.



**Foot Ball Champions:** A Great Achievement in Foot Ball Tournament. Claret School, Sahanagar participated in the Inter-School Football Tournament at Barrackpore, in which it won the Final Match and became the Champions, Student Bapa Soren was awarded the best goal keeper. Congratulations to the Players.

Stu. Prem Soren of VIII Std has been selected as the National Foot Ball Team player and received the Gold medal for scoring the highest number of goals.

### The Logo "Flame Kolkata"

The title logo of our news letter combines Claretian features and Kolkata landmarks creatively. The letter "C" has the three blue borders of the saree of St. Teresa of Kolkata, as she is our patroness. On top of the letter "M" the symbol of the Holy Spirit is seen. The letter "F" begins the flame of love of Christ which should be the core value of every Claretian. And the name of the Delegation "Kolkata" is mounted on our famous land Mark "Howrah Bridge". The newsletter on the whole is to be a bridge of communication between our life and mission with the others worldwide spreading the flame of Christ's love everywhere. V. Lawrence, CMF.



**Go Green:** Claretines of Sahanagar came forward voluntarily to take care of the nature. All these students have been entrusted with a tree each to take care and nurture it on daily basis. All these students are more responsible and becoming lovers of nature. A team of Teachers and students keep the campus clean and safeguard the plants.



**Clay Modelling Competition:** Cute Claretine kids of Sahanagar participated with lot of creativity in clay modelling competition. It was conducted as part of children's day celebration. It was a great learning experience for them.

**Charity Day:** Claret School, Sahanagar organised charity day as part of Christmas celebration in our School. The poor and deserving people were invited to our school. Many people came from Radhakantapur, Balidanga, Debpur and Sahanagar. With the Claretines' generous Monday donation of rupees 2 we bought woollen blankets and cloths and food packets to share with the poor people. This event helped all students to witness the Joy and Happiness of the poor people in their smiles. All students took the promise to grow in the sense of helping others in their need. The village headman was invited to be the chief guest who appreciated the generous attitude of the students.



### UNIVERSAL MISSION:

A Missionary Sent off was given to Fr. Anuj Hemrom, CMF at Claret Nivas, Barrackpore on 21 September, who joined the Italian Delegation, of the St. Paul's Province. We wish him all the best for his future ministry.



## BASMATA: St. Claret School

**Mary's Meal:** St. Claret School Nimpahari, Basmata received Mary's Meal on 12th November 2019. Among the 543 students of the school majority of them is from the poor families and they don't come with their lunch box. They have their meals at home only in the evening after the school gets over.



Knowing the situation Fr. Siby, CMF from Barwadhi arranged for Mary's Meal for our children. It was inaugurated by the village Mukhiya Mrs. Sabita Tudu in the presence of Dumka Mary's Meal Co-ordinator Mr. Jetha Marandi. We extend our special thanks to Fr. Siby.

**Annual sports:** On 17th Dec 2019 for the first time we had the Annual sports of the school. Fr. John Soren, CMF was the chief guest, Mrs Sabita Tudu, the village Mukhiya, was the guest of honour, and some parents too were present to encourage the children. There were various programs

like cultural dance race and the intellectual game race tug of war, etc. in which many students participated My sincere thanks to all the teachers and staff and the community members.



**Harvest Feast (nawai porob):** Nawai Porob, a cultural feast, one of the biggest feasts for the Santhal Tribe, was celebrated on 1st of Dec 2019. The parishioners brought the first fruits to offer to God, baskets filled with paddy, decorated with flowers and incenses. After the Holy Eucharist there was sharing of the eatables which were brought by them. Fr. Bijay Panna, CMF

## SAHARI: Good Samaritan

Each and every year Sahari and surrounding 7 to 8 villages face acute water scarcity during the months of March, April, May and June. Men and women, young boys and girls go out by bicycles one kilometre to fetch water. They go early in the morning and late in the evening because during the day time water source dries up. In these months, Government supplies water only for one hour for two to three times in a week. Our bigger children also go taking their buckets to collect water. Many times children are not allowed by the villagers to take water.



In our neighbouring village called Chhotto Gondapal lives an old woman, Mrs. Baha Mandi, aged 85, rich Santhal lady, non-Christian, is filled with Christ values and missionary in nature. Though she is old, she stays alone in her big house. She has a well and a pond always with water even in the summer. She is generous enough to provide water for our drinking and daily uses of our mission. Looking at her generous work neighbours and villagers became jealous as well as angry and they have objected and forced her not to provide water for us. Her response to them always was "I have received freely and I will give freely, I will not take money from them... my desire is children must get their education... Ashram should not suffer and be closed down because of lack of water. I see in Ashram - a great hope for our people. So Ashram has to grow."



A Good Samaritan at the time of need and mother of Claret Ashram Sahari, Mrs. Baha Mandi has shown great love and concern for our children. My regular weekly visit makes her happy and always the one question she asks is, about the children, about their health, about water whether we have sufficient or not? We are living in a place where there is not even a single Christian but this mother is filled with Christian charity.

We have received water for drinking and for constructions, tractors of good mud for the cultivation, bamboos, mangos, jackfruits, plantain and what not everything freely for the Ashram from her. I honour and praise her great act of sacrifice for the mission. I thank God for giving us a generous mother to support us where we are still seen sceptically by others.

### CLARETIAN YEAR

Pope Francis says, "An institute remains youthful by going back to its roots, by listening to its older members... there is no growth without roots and no flowering without new buds." Mandated by the XXV General Chapter, "to help all Claretians, personally and in community, know and live deeply and passionately our beautiful spiritual patrimony" (MS 74.1).  
Contd. p.9

## RURAL BANGLADESH WELCOMES THE CLARETIANS

On 9th Dec. 2019, on the feast day of the Immaculate Conception a new mission in the diocese of Mymensingh in Bangladesh was opened by the Kolkata Claretians. It is the 69th country newly added in the Claretian world map. This newly erected parish called "Gazirvita" is bifurcated from the mother parish of Biroi Dakuni.



The inaugural Mass began at 10.30 am after a traditional ceremonial welcome given by the people to all the dignitaries. There were about 1500 participants including the diocesan and religious priests, sisters, representatives of the Church of Bangladesh, the Local Member of the Parliament and the Chairman of the local administration. The Holy Eucharist was colourful with different Gharo dances and melodious singing.



Fr. J. Christu Raja, CMF is appointed as the new parish priest and Fr. Gabriel Mankin Sangma, CMF from the North East Delegation as assistant parish priest. The bishop, his Excellency Rt. Rev. Ponen Paul Kubi D. D. in his homily thanked the Claretians for their missionary zeal to collaborate in the ministry of evangelization with his diocese. He requested the Claretians to concentrate on two areas, namely, deepening the simple faith of the people and to lead them in all round development.

Fr. V. Lawrence, CMF, the Major Superior of Kolkata Delegation read out the message of Very. Rev. Fr. Mathew Vattamattamin, CMF, the Superior General and in his speech thanked the bishop for welcoming the Claretians in his diocese and highlighted the importance of charisms coming together to make the ministry of evangelization more fruitful. This year we are celebrating the golden jubilee of the arrival of the Claretian Congregation in India and Gazirvita indeed is jubilee gift of God to the ASCLA West Claretians!



The new church is named after Mother Mary, i.e. St. Mary's Church. Gazirvita is situated in the extreme North East of the Mymensingh diocese, one of its most rural parishes without electricity and other amenities. It is on the Indian border of Meghalaya. 95% of the Catholics in this region are Gharo tribals and the rest are Bengalis. The parish consists of 13 villages with a total number of about 3500 parishioners.



**Congratulations and prayerful wishes to the missionaries and the people**

CONGREGATIO MISSIONARIORUM FILIORUM  
IMMACULATI CORDIS  
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**Message on the occasion of the founding of the mission in Bangladesh**

Dear Fr. Lawrence,

Fraternal regards from Medellin. I want to greet you together with the General council, the Major Superiors of America and their councils gathered in Medellin. We are here to discern together what the Spirit is asking of us in the continent of America in our times. It is a joy for us to know that the Delegation of Kolkota is opening our first mission in Bangladesh in the diocese of Mymensingh on the feast of our blessed Mother. Please greet Mons. Ponen Kubi, the bishop of the diocese, priests, religious and the people who grace the occasion with their presence.

In the integral ecology of the Church, various charisms have their unique contribution to build up the community of the people of God in shared mission. Our presence in the diocese of Mymensingh should enrich the Church in Bangladesh from the gift of our charism. Our Constitutions remind us thus: "In the Church we are steadfast helpers of its Shepherds in the ministry of the word, using all means possible to spread the good news of the kingdom throughout the world.... In communion with the bishops and under their leadership, we strive to serve in the building up and growth of the Church" (CC 7). The Spirit will bring forth fruits of our charism in the local Church where the Lord is sending us to start a mission.

I congratulate the missionaries who have made themselves available for this new beginning. Dear brothers, the mission is of the Lord and everything you do there should be fruit of your deep prayer and collective discernment. Without the Lord at the center, you can do nothing worthwhile. When you go about doing what the Lord asks of you, the Lord will work with you and confirm your proclamation of the word by the signs that accompany it (Cf Mk 16:20).

I commend this new mission to the immaculate heart of Mary who accompanies her sons sent in mission. The intercession of St. Anthony Mary Claret and our martyr brothers will be there for you.

God bless you all.

Fr. Mathew Vattamattam CMF  
Superior General



## FROM THE FORMATION HOUSES

**BARRACKPORE: CLARET NIVAS**

**Paddy Transplantation:** Paddy transplantation is one of our community activities which give us an experience of the lives of the agrarian society around us. While learning the farming we also labor for our own sustenance. The members of the community worked as a family several days early at the dawn and in the evening with enthusiasm. While we were planting, we also shared our life experience and some other chits-chats which hid our tiredness aside. This experience also helped us to understand the pain and sufferings of the farmers and their life struggles which is sometimes neglected in our reflections.



**Diaconate Ordination:** 7th September 2019 was a memorable day for the Claretians of Kolkata. On this day students Honest Raj, cmf and John Britto, cmf received the diaconate ordination through the hands of Most Rev. Thomas D'Souza, the Archbishop of Kolkata.

After the ordination the deacons were felicitated and Fr. Lawrence V, the Major Superior of Kolkata proposed a vote of thanks to everyone. He expressed his gratitude to the archbishop for his gracious presence.

**RANCHI: CLARET VIDYANIKETAN**

**St. Claret Feast:** The Claretians of Ranchi from Claret Vidyaniketan, Nayasarai, Claretian house, Claret Deep, Lalpur and Niskalanka Bhavan, Sarangloya jointly celebrated the triple celebrations of feast of St. Antony Mary Claret, Golden jubilee of Claretian presence in India and the canonical erection of Claretian independent delegation of Kolkata.



**Distribution of Blanket to the Homeless:** "When I was naked you clothed me". These words of Jesus echoes in our ears when we see a person who is without clothes. During the season of winter, cold weather reaches its extreme level in the northern part of India. Though the climate changes, the painful reality of the people who are left in the streets do not change. They continue to suffer, suffer even more in the chilly weather. The Claret Nivas community initiated the project to distribute woollen blankets for the homeless people along the streets from Barasat to Barrackpore. The project was conceived and carried out by the brothers of Claret Nivas with the support of formators dating from December 07 to 10, 2019. It was totally by the generous contribution of people who respond to the human need.



**Eco - Week:** The celebration with the nature took place on ..., There were shared reflections, prayers and intercessions offered for the care of mother Earth. We had nature meditation, which gave us a feeling of being one with the nature.



The celebration happened within a well-animated and meaningful Eucharist in the evening during which the principal celebrant His Grace Felix Toppo SJ, the Archbishop of Ranchi Archdiocese highlighted the essential call to be faithful to Jesus of Nazareth. He also praised the missionary urge of St. Antony Mary Claret and invited the faithful to be adherent to his charism.

**Parents' Day Celebrations:** As we are celebrating the golden jubilee of our Claretian presence in India we arranged for the parents' day celebrations this year. We invited all the parents of our formees who assembled joyfully to witness the lifestyle of their children in the seminary. They attended the seminar animated by Rev. Sr. Sabina Soren SND, on "The Life of Seminarians and the Responsibilities of their Parents in their Vocational Journey" on 23-10-2019. On the next day we arranged for a recollection along with sacrament of reconciliation which was led by Rev. Fr. James Dung Dung SM. We could feel the radiation of joy in the faces of the parents as they also participated in the triple celebrations on 24 October 2019. The parents also shared their expectations and were reminded of their responsibilities in shaping up the vocation of their sons.

**Courses for the Formees.** To meaningfully utilize the Pooja holidays we had arranged for the two short courses for our formees. On 8th October 2019, it was on "The Beauty of our Vocation" and the resource person was Rev. Fr. Philemon Hansda, St. Leo Seminary, Raiganj, West Bengal. In his elaboration he shared the various types of vocations and the supreme call that is given by Jesus the Lord. The students were highly edified and had a high motivation to realize their vocation to consecrated and priestly life as the Lord wants them to do. We also arranged for another course on 9th October 2019.



The theme of the course was "Our Body is the Temple of the Holy Spirit" having Rev. Sr. Dr. Eileen, OSU, MBBS, MS, Medical Superintendent, St. Ursula Hospital, Lohardaga as the resource person. There was a well animated presentation through which the students were trained to take care of themselves for their bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit. There were question and answer sessions and all were greatly enthused to love their bodies which are created to glorify the Lord. These courses were also attended by the formees of other religious congregations.

**Health from Within:** A seminar for religious on "Health is guaranteed and Happiness is confirmed" was arranged on 5-7 October 2019. Dr. S. Seshuraja, (Former Head and Associate Professor) Department of Philosophy, Arul Anandar College, was the resource person. The course had the following aspects.



1. There was a session exclusively to get rid of our old assumptions.
2. The new way of understanding reality from the point of view of quantum physics was explained.
3. Understanding our human body from the light of quantum physics was specified.
4. Ancient wisdom and health tips were given to lead a hale and healthy life sans medicine.

**Program for Leprosy Parients.** The Claret Vidyaniketan community was pleased to share the joy of the nativity of the Lord with all the inmates



Claretian Missionaries

of Leprosy and rehabilitation centre run by Missionaries of Charity, at Radharani on 8th December 2019. We had staged a variety of cultural programme and had a lively encounter with the afflicted brethren. They felt joyful to have our presence with them. Having shared some eatables with them we bid good bye to them. It was a thrilling experience for our brothers to move among the marginalized ones.



**Blood Donation Camp.** The Claret Vidyaniketan community organized a blood donation camp on 15 of December 2019 to help the 175 thalassaemic children across Jharkhand who need regular blood transfusion. This is the fourth blood donation camp since 2016 which was inaugurated by Rev Sr. Teresa Murmu, SPG, The Superior General of Sisters of Providence of Gap. In her inaugural address Sr. Teresa said that "the mother church is clear that in itself it is a good and meritorious thing freely to donate blood to those in need. This is a powerful expression of human solidarity and of Christian charity. Such actions can help build a culture of life, a culture in which life is cherished.



**Come Let's Celebrate Ourselves (Know and be Known).** The Claret Vidyaniketan community had a pleasure to bring the religious together to celebrate the diversity of charisms. It's a wonder that we the CMF, MSI, SM, CDF, SCJM, SCB, TOR, SND, DSA, EF, FC, MC, MMS, CDDS, SRA and MISSION AD GENTES, belong to various religious congregations and apostolic societies. On 15 December, 2019 under the moderatorship of His Excellency Theodore Mascarenhas SFX, 200 Religious came together at our community and shared the beauty of our Charisms with the vision and mission of our founders and Foundresses.

The theme "Come let's celebrate ourselves-Know and be Known" was an invitation to become spellbound at the marvel of the One, Holy, Catholic, Apostolic church. The richness of each charism was shared among us that we started wondering at the benevolent Triune God who constantly invites us to centre ourselves on Jesus our dear Lord. In his presidential address Bishop Theodore said that we need to receive Jesus in order to give Jesus to others. This invites us to anchor on Jesus the Lord who is the source of being in the world. Finally we had a family meal and shared the nativity of the Lord by sharing cakes.

(Contd. from p.5) The Claretian Year is an instrument of daily use that accompanies all the Claretian Missionaries of the world, throughout every day of the year, in getting to know our roots better, in order to revitalize our life."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**INAUGURATION OF KOLKATA INDEPENDENT DELEGATION**

We, the Claretians of Dependent Delegation of Kolkata, had a triune celebration namely foundation day, inauguration of golden Jubilee of our presence in India and canonical erection of Independent delegation of Kolkata on 16th July 2019 at Claret Nivas, Barrackpore.



The great event was solemnized by the holy Eucharist, which was presided over by Most Rev. Fr. Mathew Vattamattam, our Superior General and concelebrated by all major superiors of different organisms in India namely Fr. Jacob Arakkal, Province of Bangalore, Fr. Jose Thenpillil, Province of St. Thomas, Fr. Jesudoss and his council, Province of Chennai, Fr. Pius Thurithiyil, the major superior of the Independent delegation of North East, Fr. Rex Constantine, the Delegate Superior of Sri Lanka and President of ASCLA West, Fr. James Patteriyil, Provincial economer of German Province, Fr. V. Lawrence, Delegate Superior, Kolkata.

Along with them the former Provincials Frs. S. Maria Arul, S. Anselmus, A. Raphael Raj, who were the early gardeners of the newly erected delegation also were present. Fr. J. A. Santhanam, the Rector of Morning Star College, a big number of Claretian priests, brothers and sisters from the neighbouring religious communities also participated in the great



historical event. Followed by the Holy Mass, the dignitaries were felicitated and thereafter, the first assembly of the independent delegation of Kolkata was moderated by the Superior General himself which continued through the following day.

**GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATION AT BARACKPORE**

24th of October 2019 was indeed a joyful, prayerful and remarkable day for the Claretian communities of Barrackpore, when we celebrated the feast of our beloved founder St. Anthony Mary Claret, the golden jubilee of Claretian presence in India and the erection of the new organism "Kolkata Independent Delegation".

The Eucharistic celebration began at 10.30 am at St. Claret Primary School stage. Fr. L. Antony gave the introduction. It was presided over by Rt. Rev. Salvadore Lobo, the Bishop of Baruipur with the concelebrants Rt. Rev. Fulgence Aloysius Tigga, the Bishop of Raiganj, Rt. Rev. Cyprian Monis, the Bishop of Asansol and Rev. Fr. Zacharias Barla, representative



of Rev. Fr. V. Selvaraj, the Diocesan administrator of Port Blair and many priest. The main celebrants were brought to the altar in a solemn procession.



Bishop Salvadore in his homily highlighted the salient features of St. Claret's spirituality and appreciated highly the success story of the

Claretians in India. He said that he was touched by the simple life-style of Claretian missionaries in his Diocese.

Soon after the Eucharistic celebration, the students of St. Claret School, Barrackpore put up a colorful cultural event and all the bishops and Fr. Zacharias gave felicitation messages. Towards the end of the cultural program, Rev Fr. V. Lawrence, CMF, the major superior of Kolkata Independent Delegation proposed vote of thanks. He acknowledged gratefully the constant support and co-operation received from all the Bishops, priests, religious men and women of different congregations with whom we are working. The Presence of Bishops, Priests and, Nuns, and other guests brought a lot of joy to us, which was concluded with a fellowship meal.



### ECONOMES' ENCOUNTER

The First Economes' Encounter of the Independent Delegation of Kolkata was held on Nov 15 and 16, 2019 at Divya Darshan, Nilganj. The

meeting began with the inaugural prayer session organized by Frs. Sunil Xaxa, cmf and Jain Charles, cmf. Fr Jini, cmf, the Delegate Econome welcomed the gathering. Fr. V. Lawrence, cmf, the Major Superior gave the opening note for the meeting.



Fr. Jini presented the newly formed Economic Administration Policy. The second session was an open sharing and clarifications with the auditor.



### REV. FR. DRINBERGER MEMORIAL FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

On 2nd November the Prefecture of Education Ministry of Kolkata Independent Delegation conducted Rev. Fr. Drinberger Memorial Football Inter-School Tournament at St. Claret School, Debpukur. The occasion was graced by the Claretian Fathers. Rev. Fr. V. Lawrence, the Major Superior was the Chief Guest of the Day. Fr. Michael Raja was the president of the tournament, who inaugurated the opening match with good motivating thoughts. Fr. Antony L, the Prefect of Formation, Fr. Arockia Samy, Fr. Philip Dayanad, Fr. Kuldeep, Fr. Antonish Iakra, Fr. Jaswant Nayak were present with full support in organizing the event. After the prayer service all the players took sports oath.

Fr. Michael Raja the president addressed all the sportsmen and inspired them to show their talent and sportsmanship. He also encouraged them to look at sports as a field of career. All four football teams had participated

### ASCLA WEST CLARETIAN BIBLE SEMINAR

An enlightened person says very beautifully, "God has a reason for allowing things to happen, we may never understand His wisdom but we simply have to trust his will". Yes, it was true in our life. Fr. Prabhat Tara Ekka and I were given opportunity to participate in the Claretian Bible Seminar organized at Thewette in Colombo from April 28 to May 4, 2019. The Claretian missionaries of St. Joseph Vaz independent Delegation, Sri Lanka were very hospitable and unfailingly very inspiring. Their hard work and creative apostolate edified us.



The seminar was organized by Fr. Hendry Omonisaye, CMF, General Consulter on the theme, "Biblical inspiration of our life and Ministries as

### MISSIONARY SENT OFF TO FR. CHRISTU RAJA, CMF

Kolkata Independent Delegation gave missionary sent off to Fr. Christu Raja, CMF on 6 Dec. 2019 for the new mission in Bangladesh at Gazirvita. During the solemn Eucharist Fr. V. Lawrence, CMF,



The afternoon session was on the presentation of the economic status of different communities. After that, all gathered in the chapel for the Holy Eucharistic celebration presided over by Fr. Maria David Antony, CMF, of Chennai Province.

The second day's program started at 9.00am with a hymn to the Holy Spirit. Some of the challenges in economical realm were raised by the participants. Fr. David clarified them and in his presentation highlighted on the important duties of the Economes. He also insisted on the role of the Economes for the self-sufficiency and the growth of the mission. Then Fr. Jini presented his final suggestions on Economy and Accounting. The Meeting was concluded with Marian Hymn at 4.15 pm. Fr. Jain Charles, CMF

with great enthusiasm. The Claret School, Sahanagar successfully bagged the first position. Claret School Bishrail and Claret School Barrackpore participated well with their full spirit. The winner teams were awarded trophies and medals by Rev. Fr. Lawrence and he gave also a meaningful talk on the purpose of the tournament and a few information on Rev. Fr. Drinberger. Stu. Clement Murmu was awarded the Best Player and Stu. Bapa Soren the Best Goal Keeper of the Tournament. Fr. Arockiasamy and Fr. Antony L arranged all the facilities with the help of Claret Nivas brothers.

Finally, Fr. Peter Johnson, the Prefect of Education ministry thanked the Major Superior, his consulter and all the Claret School Principals, the fathers who were present and all the Claretine Students who participated well. With the final prayer the Inter-School Football tournament was successfully completed for the academic year 2019-2020. Fr. Peter Johnson, CMF.

listeners and servants of the word". We were about 40 participants including a lay Claretian and Fr. Krystof, a Polish Dehonian Missionary. The inspiring presence of Fr. Alberto Rossa, CMF from China was very helpful. Each organism gave a short presentation about its Bible ministry some of them were innovative to us. We both presented our Bible ministry in seminaries and in our missions which were well appreciated by all.

We had the opportunity to visit a few missions of the St. Joseph Vaz Delegation and historical places of the country. The humanitarian services done at "Varode" were really touching.

I was personally blessed by the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Sri Lankan national basilica. Both of our participation in the Seminar was well appreciated by all. It was our first participation in an international congregational program. We came to know many new faces. We discerned and deliberated certain concrete action plan for each organism to implement in their respective missions as well as to organize interprovincially. I am sure the Bible ministry in our organism will pick up speed and momentum with this experience. Fr. Michael Raj, CMF

the major superior wished him and gave him the missionary cross as the token of love and mandate of a Claretian Missionary in the presence of the council members and the Claret Nivas, Curia and Formation communities. We wish him and Fr. Gabriel Mankin Sangma, CMF from the Delegation of North East a blessed and fruitful ministry in the new and challenging Bangladesh Mission.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jan 12: Priestly Ordination of Dn. Suraj Tete at 6.30 am, Assumption Church, Kusumdegi (Rourkela)
- 13: First Mass at 8.00 am Bagburh Girjatola.

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