



**Bulletin of
Independent Delegation of Kolkata**

**Claretian Missionaries
December 2022 Vol II No.1**

Major Superior speaks ...

We are approaching the celebration of the joyful mystery of nativity of our Lord. Our God 'emptied' himself to become one of us. Each Christmas, we celebrate the ultimate Good News that the Word has become flesh and joined the human race as our brother and Saviour.

In Jesus, God was given a face and a heart. God became someone we could love. While God can be described as a moral force, as consciousness, and as high vibrational energy, the truth is, we don't (or can't?) fall in love with abstractions. So, God became a person "that we could hear, see with our eyes, look at, and touch with our hands" (1 John 1:1).

When speaking about Incarnation, Henry Nouwen said, "God came to us because he wanted to join us on the road, to listen to our story, and to help us realize that we are not walking in circles but moving towards the house of peace and joy. This is the great mystery of Christmas that continues to give us comfort and consolation: we are not alone on our journey. The God of love who gave us life sent his only Son to be with us at all times and in all places, so that we never have to feel lost in our struggles but always can trust that he walks with us. [...] Christmas is the renewed invitation not to be afraid and to let him-whose love is greater than our own hearts and minds can comprehend-be our companion."

As the days draw closer to the celebration of Christmas, our hearts begin to think about many different things. At times this may distract us from preparing ourselves to receive Jesus into our lives again on Christmas day.

What can we do to remain focused, and prepare our hearts in a simple way to celebrate the birth of our Saviour?

St. Teresa of Kolkata has some profound wisdom that is simple and should guide us throughout the season of Advent, especially in the final days before Christmas.

Advent is like springtime in nature when everything is renewed, fresh, and healthy. Advent refreshes us, makes us healthy and able to receive Christ in whatever form he may come to us. At Christmas, he comes as a little child, small, helpless, and in need of his mother and all that a mother's love can give. His mother's humility enabled her to serve. If we really want God to fill us, we must empty ourselves through humility of all the selfishness within us. Her advice may not seem like a secret, but it has such great power if we let it overtake our lives during this time of the year.

We look forward to Christmas because of what we will get, instead of what we will give. It is that selfishness that prevents us from having a heartfelt celebration of Christmas.

The key is humility and a spirit of charity that seeks to serve others above all things. If we can get that right, our Christmas will be a different experience and we will be able to welcome the Christ Child into our hearts. That will bring true peace in our hearts and in our communities. If we sustain it, we can see peace being extended to our society and the world at large. Let us continue to long for true peace our Lord brings us at Christmas.

Wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New year in advance.

Fr. Antony Bhyju CMF
Major Superior.



**Merry
Christmas**

AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

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DELEGATION ASSEMBLY 2022

Delegation Assembly was held on 16-21 May 2022, as a fruits of a long process of synodal discernment starting from the community, zonal and delegational levels of gathering together along with our partners in mission including lay people for discernment of what the Spirit is telling us to accomplish for the next triennium.

The theme of the assembly was “Conformed with Christ and Committed to Mission”, a reformulation of the General

They all expressed their consent of the appointment in the presence of the assembly.

FELICITATION TO THE NEW TEAM

The new council team was felicitated by the President Fr Manuel Tamargo CMF with shawl, flower and rosary and a blessing song was sung by the choir.

Followed by that Fr Bhyju CMF, the new Major Superior of



Chapter theme: “Rooted in Christ and Audacious in Mission”, suited to our delegational context. This theme will serve as programmatic guide for all our future reflection, planning and functioning.

Kolkata Independent Delegation, addressed the assembly on behalf of the new team.

Fr Lawrence CMF, the outgoing Major Superior also expressed his sentiments. In his address, he thanked the Provincials with whom he was serving, all his consultors, non-consultant prefects, the Secretaries and all the members who collaborated with him in his 8 years of service as Delegate Superior and he wished all the very best and God’s blessing to the new Delegation Team.

Rev. Fr. Manuel Tamargo, General Prefect of Economy, was the president of the assembly.

The president read out the letters of appointment by the Superior General Rev Fr Mathew Vattamattain CMF and the appointments are as follows: Fr. Antony Bhyju CMF, Major Superior, Independent Delegation of Kolkata, Fr. Jini P. CMF, Delegate Econome, Fr Telesphore Aind CMF, Consultor, Fr Anim Prakash Indwar CMF, Consultor.



NEWS

SUPERIORS MEET 2022

It was held from 14-16 October 2022, at Montfort Centre, Ranchi. The meeting began with orientation session by Rev. Fr. Kurian, OCD on the theme “Discernment in Everyday Life” (Practical application as part of synodal process).

The meeting covered various activities like - Presentation by superiors on the Role of Animation as Superiors, blessings and challenges, presentation on the highlights of the major superior’s meet with general government at

Nairobi and its assimilation by Fr. Antony Bhyju CMF, the major superior, presentation on the Delegation Assembly Documents 2022, by Fr. Augustus Kujur, CMF, presentation on Triennial Action Plan 2022-25, by various prefectures, discussion and approval on the protocol on Child Abuse. Independent Delegation of Kolkata: Guidelines & protocols for maintaining ethical boundaries in ministry with regard to minors and vulnerable and discussions and clarifications on common issues of the Delegation.



DIACONATE ORDINATION AND CLARET FEAST

Diaconate ordination of Stu. Arun Tirkey, CMF, Stu. Dani John, CMF and Stu. Sebastin, CMF and Claret Feast was celebrated on 23 October 2022, at Claret Nivas, Barrackpore. His Excellency Most Rev. Salvador Lobo, the Bishop emeritus of Baruipur, presided over the Holy Eucharistic celebration and conferred the order of diaconate. Many neighboring religious Sisters, Priests, St. Claret school teachers, guests and well-wishers graced the occasion by their presence.



ECONOMES MEET 2022

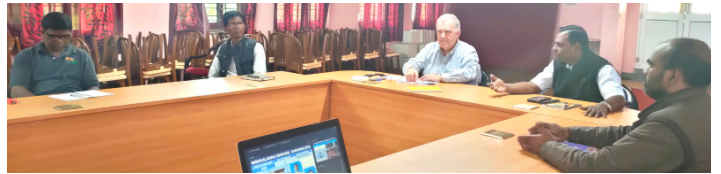
was held from 3-5 October 2022, at Marshal Sadan, Sahanagar. The following themes were discussed in the meet: training on project proposal writing, basic information for Economes on direct and indirect incomes, general financial administration, formatting salary scale, provident fund, explanation of economic policy etc.



Visit of FR. PEDRO CMF



The General prefect of Apostolate: visited Kolkata Delegation from 16-20 November, 2022. He spent his quality time with the New Delegation Team as part of his animation visit. He also visited and interacted with the students and teachers of St. Claret Schools at Barrackpore and Sahanagar. He



also participated in Christ the King procession organized by Rupantor Church, Debpukur.

BASMATA CHURCH INAUGURATION AND BLESSING



Blessing and Consecration of New Parish Church: The new St. Claret Church at Basmata was blessed and consecrated by His Excellency Most Rev. Julias Marandi DD, the bishop of Dumka, on 30th October 2022. Rev. Fr. Antony Bhyju, CMF, the major superior of independent delegation Kolkata, inaugurated by cutting the ribbon. The Pioneer missionaries, Fr. Chinnapan, CMF, Fr. Innasiar, CMF, and other missionary priests and sisters graced the occasion by their presence. Heartfelt gratitude to all missionary priests, donors, well-wishers and faithful for their good will and diligent contributions towards materializing this reality.



CLARET NIVAS

PADDY TRANSPLANTATION AND HARVESTING:

The activities of paddy transplantation and harvesting helps us to understand the hard works of our parents and helps us to connect with our family and mother earth.



FOUNDATION DAY

The communities of Formation Delegation Curia celebrated the 173rd Foundation Day of our congregation on 16th July 2022. It was an occasion to be grateful to God for the person of our Founder St. Antony Mary Claret and the Co-founders as we recall their exemplary life and openness to the Spirit in the founding of our congregation. It was a wonderful family celebration.



BICENTENARY OF BIRTHDAY OF CO-FOUNDER JAIME CLOTET

We, the communiteis, celebrated the bicentenary of the birth of Fr. Jaime Clotet (24 July 1822-24 July 2022), the co-founder of our congregation on 23rd July, 2022. Fr. Jaime



Clotet, a Claretian rooted in Christ and audacious in mission, is a great model for us to imbibe the spirit that moved St. Claret and let it shape our whole lives.

ECO WEEK CELEBRATION

Claret Nivas community, celebrated the Eco-week celebration from 27-29 July, 2022. This celebration helps to create environmental awareness and to ponder our connectedness with mother earth.



This also helps to appreciate the natural beauty of our surroundings and invites us to protect and enhance

it by our daily manual works. The community made resolutions to protect the nature from destruction and promote as an Eco-friendly community.

REFLEXOLOGY COURSE

The training on reflexo-therapy was conducted from September 2-7, 2022 by Fr. P.J. Xavier, CMF, an expert on reflexo-therapy. There were 45 participants, including Claretian priests, theology students, regents, pre-philosophy students and few lay people in the training. The purpose of this training was to make members of the Delegation experts and enable them to participate in the healing ministry of Christ more effectively.



BLESSING OF FOUNDATION STONE NISKALANKA BHAVAN SARANGLOYA



Rev. Fr. Antony Bhyju, CMF, the major superior of Interdependent Delegation of Kolkata blessed and laid the foundation stone for Nishkalanka Bhavan residence at Sarangloya on 10th November 2022, in the presence of Fr. Sunil Xaxa, Fr. Anim and Fr. Jini and parishioners.

This is the first missoion in the diocese of Khunti (Jharkhand) started in the year 2018.



REGENTS GET-TOGETHER

ORIENTATION PROGRAMME FOR REGENTS 2022

The programme was held on the 3 July 2022 at Claret Nivas, Barrackpore. 14 regents participated in the orientation programme which was led by Fr. Antony L., CMF, the prefect of formation. He instructed them for the fruitful and successful regency experience. The regents were also oriented on different types of boundaries like Physical,

Sexual, Emotional and Spiritual, which would eventually help them in their regency places.



MISSION CORNER

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

St. Anthony's Church, Moubhandar celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation on 12 June 2022. There were 21 children received the sacrament of confirmation through the hand of His Excellency, Most Rev. Telesphore Billung, SVD, bishop of Jamshedpur.



ECO – SUNDAY CELEBRATED

St. Anthony Church Moubhandar, celebrated Eco-Sunday to create awareness about the ecological degradation. To mark this celebration, all the families brought the plants of their choice to the church like crotons, fruit trees and flower plants. Some plants were planted before the mass and some after the mass in the church campus.



PARISH FEAST AND INSTALATION

The Parish Feast of Rupantor quasi parish, Debpukur, was held on 7 August 2022, on the feast day of Transfiguration of the Lord, during the pastoral visit of His Grace Most Rev. Thomas D'Souza, Archbishop of Kolkata.



During the Holy Eucharistic Celebration, he officially installed Fr. Subodh Kisku CMF, as new Parish Priest and Fr. Ponson Toppo, CMF, as Asst. parish Priest. On this day the parishioners also bid farewell to Fr. Jaswant Nayak CMF, the outgoing parish priest. His Grace interacted with the various groups of the parish like, parish council, St Vincent de Paul, Legion of Mary, and Youth.



Karam Festival in the parish was held on 25 September and our parishioners participated in the annual Karam Dance Competition held at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Barasat. Our



parishioners won the first prize in the Dance competition. Parish Youth Day Celebration was on 30 October 2022.



Children's Day Celebration was on 13 November, 2022.

CLARET ASHRAM SAHARI

ALUMNI MEET

On the 24 July 2022, more than 40 alumni of Claret hostel, Sahari gathered for the first time at Claret Ashram, Sahari. It was a big surprise to see them all grown physically, intellectually and emotionally dealing with their lives and relations responsibly. It was a moment of joy and gratitude for all, to return to Ashram and for us to see them flourishing in different fields. They all shared their varied experiences

from diverse contexts, their struggles and dreams. They also expressed their sentiments towards ashram and its possibilities of continued accompaniment until the end of their lives. They all proposed their longing to frequent the ashram often. All those, who came, said, "as long we were here, we never realized Ashram's role in our lives. In fact, Ashram has played a vital role in forming, empowering and transforming our lives and this humanitarian work has to be continued."



ST. CLARET SCHOOL BARRACKPORE

FELICITATION TO ABHISEK BISWAS, ISC TOPPER

St. Claret School was delighted to felicitate Claretine Abhisek Biswas, the ISC Topper 2022. He secured a staggering 99.75%. He secured the rank of no.1 not only in the school but also in the National level Merit lists. His hard work, perseverance and dedication is an example and inspiration for all the students at St. Claret Schools.



AUGUSTINE CRICKET LEAGUE



To bring out the cricketing talent among students, "Augustine Cricket League" organized a three day league from 4-6 April 2022, hosted by St. Augustine's Day School, at Panihati Sporting Club Ground, Sodepur.

Asian International School secured the first place by winning the finals against St Claret School by 5 wickets. Debadrito Pyne from X-A and Arpan Roy from XII of St Claret School were awarded with 'Man of the Match' title. The title of 'upcoming Batsman' was awarded to Arpan Roy from XII. Although we were the runner up, which is no lesser feat, our students have made us very proud with their remarkable performance during the matches.

SEMINAR IN AMERICAN CENTRE



The plethora of knowledge we gain everyday does make way to light from darkness. We didn't know we lived in. But what is it good for, if not invested? As said by Sydney Harris years ago- "The purpose of education is to turn mirrors to windows".

On 5 August 2022, was a 'meet and greet' meeting held where individuals from various departments: graduates, undergraduates, postgraduates etc. had witnessed the events. Among them were students belonging to grade 10-12 who represented St. Claret School. It was organized under the USMEF an educational project.

LABOURS' DAY

'No human masterpiece has been created without great labour'. World labours' day is celebrated on 30 April each year to pay respect and make the labours realize their importance in the society.

On this day the teachers and students of St. Claret School celebrated labour's Day to pay respect to the non-Teaching staffs of the school.



INVESTITURE CEREMONY



The Investiture Ceremony was held on 23 June 2022. This ceremony is held every year in St. Claret School, to delegate responsibility to certain students who are worthy of holding these offices. Many designations are awarded such as the Head Boy, Head Girl, Head Prefect, Prefect, Captains and Vice Captains. It is an honour for the students to be selected for this position.

On this auspicious day, the new body of responsible and dutiful students for the academic year 2022-23 were elected. Badges and Sashes were given out by the teachers of Discipline Committee.

An important part of this event was "Oath-taking".

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY



"Only one Earth." With this theme and slogan that focuses on living sustainably and in harmony with nature, students of Eco club of St. Claret School, celebrated World Environment Day, 2022. Everything that we see around us, is gifted by Mother Nature. World Environment Day is an Occasion to thank Mother Nature for the lives we have received from her.

On World Environment Day, students at St. Claret School involve themselves actively in planting medicinal and flower plants in the school campus.

MISSION MANKIND



On 10 July, Mission mankind club of St. Claret School and Robinhood army collaborated for a food donation drive and set up health check camps in the neighbourhood of Barasat. The Robinhood Army is a volunteer-based, zero funds, organisations that works to get surplus food from restaurants and the community to serve less fortunate people. On that day people from the slum areas were given masks and sanitizer, along with this, food and clothes were also given. Free health check-up was done for the poor kids. The drive was successful one, that helped mitigate hunger and brought smiles to people's face.

ST CLARET SCHOOL, SAHANAGER

SEMINAR ON MENSTRUAL HEALTH AND ITS IMPORTANCE AMONG FEMALE STUDENTS

IMI Kolkata (International Management Institute, has recently taken an initiative in collaboration with Claret School to spread awareness of menstrual health and its importance among girls students. Menstruation in our country is associated with various myths and restrictions leading to lack of awareness among adolescent girls. Insufficient menstrual hygiene practices are the cause of stress associated with menstruation and reproductive tract infections.



For this purpose, IMI has donated and installed the Sanitary Vending machine for all female senior students and distributed the napkins for the senior students.

We thank sincerely the IMI, Kolkata for their social service and the awareness that was created among the female students on health and hygiene.

TEACHERS DAY CELEBRATION: 2022

Claret school, sahanagar celebrated Teachers Day in a meaningful way. All students as they entered received the blessings of the teachers and welcomed them with roses and colourful wishing cards.



From LKG to XII std, expressed their respect and honour through various cultural programme. All students have taken promise to respect and obey the teachers and to cooperate with the teachers for quality learning in coming days. They assured their prayers to

all the teachers and wished them to have prosperous life.

MOUNTAIN TREKKING:

Claret School arranged for ONE DAY EDUCATIONAL TRIP for Physical Education Department (11 Std & 12 Std) to Bankura District for Mountain Trekking in a forest Area.



Mr. Arijit Mallick the Physical Education teacher with the co-teachers arranged this educational trekking trip on 19 Nov.

This Trekking is part of their curriculum and was evaluated with various events and competitions. All students and teachers were enriched to gain confidence and to face the situations of Life.

THE GLORIOUS ACHIEVEMENTS:

Inter-School & Inter-College Fest "X-Tron 2022 Revive the Reverie" held on 28-29 November, 2022 at St. Xavier's College, Burdwan.



Digital Events: **Photography (X-Shots)**- Stu. Mahendra Murmu – First Prize; **Solo Singing: X-Muse Eastern Solo:** Stu. Gowri Maddy (XII-B) – Second Prize; **Group Dance: X-Dazzle Fusion** – Stu. Ashish Murmu, Stu. George Vergish Soren, Stu. Rajib Hembram, Stu. Abinash Murmu, Stu. Sujit Hembram (XII-B) – Third Prize; **Art Event: X-Pertise: Rangoli Making (X-Atrangi)** – Stu. Sujan Tudu & Stu. Sujit Hembram (XII-B) – Second Prize

Congratulations to all.

ST. CLARET SCHOOL BISHRAIL

INVESTITURE CEREMONY

The investiture ceremony for the academic year 2022-2023 was held on the 28 June 2022. The newly selected students pledged to work earnestly and uphold the honour and glory of the institution while receiving their prestigious flag, badge and sash from the principal Rev. Fr. Michael Raja CMF. The Head Girl, Head Boy, Sports House Captains and Prefects stood high while holding the flags as destiny prepared itself to bring in many more laurels to the school.



INDEPENDENCE DAY

The Independence Day was celebrated with great joy. Rev. Fr. Vinnarasu CMF was the Chief guest of the day. Students from all the houses participated in programs. They sang patriotic songs, recited poems and performed beautiful dances.



SUBROTO FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

The football team of the school participated in the Subroto Football Tournament which was held of 5-7 July 2022 at Soth City International School, Kolkata. They won two matches

to reach quarter final. Fr. Anup Lakra CMF and Mr. Tapan Kumar Mondal accompanied the team.



ST. ANTONY MARY CLARET PARISH, BISHRAIL

COMMON WORK AT BATOL VILLAGE

The parishioners of Batol Village organized common work on 10 & 13 June 2022. The work was to save the church ground and trees from soil erosion during the rainy season. People have contributed with bamboos, labour and money. They worked tirelessly from morning till evening voluntarily. The day was concluded with agape meal.



SANTHAL HUL DAY CELEBRATION

St Claret Parish celebrated Santhal Hul Day (Santhal revolution 1855) on 30 June 2022 at Batol. The celebration was inaugurated with Holy Mass by Fr. Paulus Hembrom V.G of Raiganj Diocese. His homily was inspiring and more informative about Heros of Santhal revolution Sidu and Kanu. And these heroes and martyrs of the revolution were honoured with flowers according to tribal rituals.

In the honour of this festival the parish also organized football match for the parishioners. There were eight participating teams and Magurpur stood the winner. There were also other competitions like, Santhal cultural dance, arrow shooting, pot breaking and water filled pot race. All the winners were awarded with prizes.



BEC - BASIC ECCLESIAL COMMUNITY

BEC animation was organized on 29 July 2022 at St Claret Church, Bishrail. Animation program was conducted by the diocesan BEC team consisting of Sr. Celin, Mr. Nogen catechist, Sr. Alphonsa and Nirmla. 30 People from different substations and catechist in the animation program.



Second animation meeting was held in Bishrail for youth on 30th July. Eighteen youth participated. The third animation meeting we had in Ratanpur on 14th August. The whole village participated. Mr. Markuse Soren and Daniel Mardi animated the program. The fourth animation meeting was organized in Bishrail on 19 Aug. Forty two people participated in the meeting. Fr. Cornelius Mardi, Sr. Usha DSA, Mr. Nogen catechist were resource person for meeting. Fifth seminar on BEC was conducted in Cinathpur Village on 20 August. The whole village participated in the meeting. The seminar was organized by Fr. Cornelius, Sr. Celin, Mr. Nogen and Markuse Soren head catechist.

Sixth Seminar on BEC was conducted in Batol village On 9 September. It was animated by Fr. Bimol Kerketta diocesan BEC coordinator and his team Sr. Celine, Sr. Mary Baskey, Sr.Salma Murmu, Mr.Nogen and Mr. Markuse soren.



Religious Profession



Celebrations 2023



Fr. Augustus Kujur, CMF



Fr. Basant Kispotta, CMF



Fr. Sony John G., CMF



Fr. Michael Raja A., CMF



Fr. Paul Toppo, CMF



Fr. Peter Johnson A., CMF



Fr. Teslesphor Aind, CMF

Congratulations



