



semachar

Newsletter of St Pius X College - Archdiocesan Seminary

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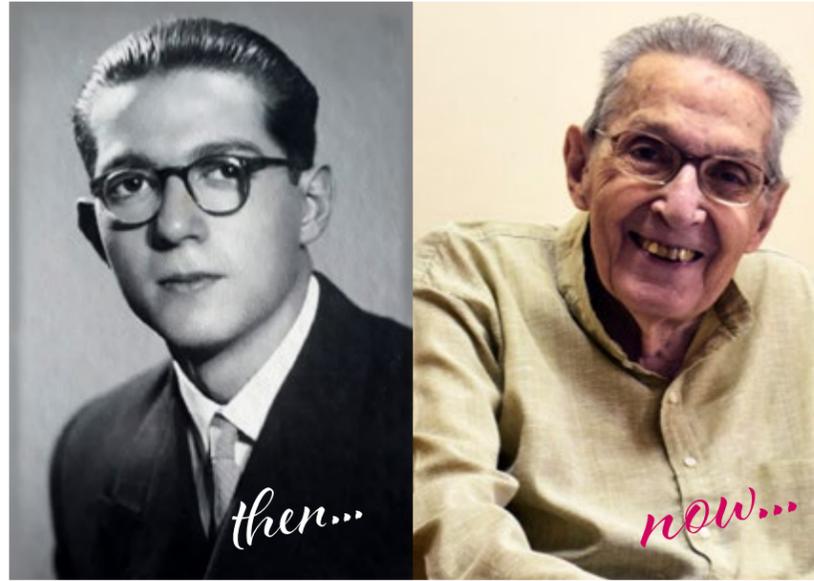


They recognized Him in Emmaus

The Semachar Editorial Team Wishes our Readers
the Peace and Joy of the Risen Lord!

“It takes courage to answer a call”. Does it?

Fr Felio



By then, a teenager, other relationships entered my life, including relationships with girls. It was a very attractive discovery, at times also disconcerting. Thank God I could share all with my spiritual director. He taught me how to interpret experiences, and day by day made me absolutely certain that Jesus loved me, the same Jesus of my first communion. I must have been 16 or 17 when I felt that maybe one day I should share my life with a girl I loved, and so have a family of my own. Only that Jesus had a different gift for me; he was offering me the joy of choosing him in a unique way and forever. The attraction of the Lord became irresistible and, after one year in college, I joined the Jesuits. Today many decades later, I still think that it was the most rewarding decision of my life. Even though I was only eighteen, I never doubted that my choice was right, and so I never made a ‘new’ choice again.

After that, everything followed almost naturally. I heard the Lord calling me to India; it was not a different call but rather a call within a call. And I joined the staff of Bombay Seminary, the place assigned to me by the Church and the Society of Jesus.

Between 1967 and 2019 my life has been mostly to serve God in the seminary, putting my little talents (“how many loaves have you? Only five!”) at the service of the candidates to the priesthood. My friends are now in the seminary, as well as in Mumbai at large and in the whole of India. My relationship with Jesus continues, and that Jesus of my first communion has become an adult while I am already an old man. But love is always new, and I continue realising that the best moments of my life are still to come.

..... *Fr. J. M. Felio S.J.*

How do I encapsulate, in this brief account, the ninety years of my life? Of these, fifty-two years have been spent in Goregaon seminary. But first, a word about my priestly vocation.

The earliest memories of my vocation go back to my First Communion, though at the time I never imagined myself as a priest. Though I was only six, I still recall vividly the first time I received the Eucharist and how I felt that Jesus and I liked each other. Later our mutual love grew deeper. I suppose my family had something to do with it, for I was lucky to have loving parents. Between the age of nine and sixteen I attended a Jesuit school where I breathed the same fresh air of my home. Also, as a member of Our Lady’s sodality, I had a rich exposure to a variety of friends, healthy and even boisterous, with whom I had an extremely enjoyable time. This was shaping my future character. I and my friends liked sports, especially soccer, basketball, swimming, mountaineering too; more than once covering 35 miles in fifteen hours, all in one day. Many thought we were mad!

Helped by family, school and sodality, I also developed a concern for the poor and illiterate. I was happy going every Sunday afternoon to one of the poorest suburbs of my native city Barcelona in Spain, and spending long hours with the youth. The Barcelona FC team, our dearest Barça, was playing in town and we would miss the thrill of watching the matches live and even listening to the radio transmission; no TV at the time. But the people of the suburbs were more attractive to us, and the joy was double when in the late evening we would learn that our Barça had won, sometimes against the archrival Madrid.

CELEBRATING FAMILY DAY

6th January 2019, the feast of the Epiphany, will be a day fondly remembered by the Bombay seminarians along with their parents, siblings and relatives, who gathered together for a day of prayer, fellowship and fun. The presence of the wives and family members of the Candidates for the Permanent Diaconate further made the day very special too.

The day commenced with the Holy Eucharist celebrated by Cardinal Oswald Gracias. The homily centred on the gifts presented by the Magi to the Infant Lord, which the families of the seminarians have also emulated, by offering their son or brother or husband in the service of the Lord. The Eucharist was followed by



a cultural program that included testimonies of brothers highlighting the role that their families have played in fostering their vocation. There were also songs sung, showing love and appreciation for the families. The event furthermore brought families together and was a fruitful experience, enriching every person present.

The Rector, Fr. Aniceto Pereira, thanked the Cardinal for his presence despite his busy schedule and also the families for making the Family Day event a grand success.

..... *Br. Keith Miranda, 2nd Year Philosophy*

MEDIA CLUB A new beginning!

“Give a man a fish, and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish, and you feed him for a lifetime.” This famous quote pretty much sums up the objective of the Media Club of St Pius X College. In this age of media and technological advancement it’ll be a grave shortcoming to ignore their pros and cons. Moreover, utilizing the age old means to evangelize and to get the Gospel message to the masses is more difficult than ever before.

The priest of today is required to possess knowledge about videography, photography, usage of social media, prudent and ethical use of the internet, and so on, and effectively bring the message of Christ and His Church to as many people as possible. In view of this, a group of seminary brothers, along with the Catholic Communication Centre (CCC) of the Archdiocese of Bombay, began the Media Club as a means to



help the seminarians get hands-on experience with the various aspects of media and communication. The seminary has already invested to facilitate this venture with a new audio and visual recording studio along with the necessary equipment which will be inaugurated shortly.

The Media Club focuses on familiarizing the seminarians with the latest know-how and enabling them to use it prudently in our day-to-day ministry. We thank God and seek his guidance for this new beginning.

..... *Br. Herold Quadros, 1st Year Theology*

Deacons Share Their

WE CONGRATULATE OUR DEAR DEACONS FOR THEIR

Formation Experiences

PRIESTLY ORDINATION TO BE HELD ON 6TH APRIL 2019...

My seminary experience was a wonderful time of discovering myself and growing in my relationship with Jesus. After working in the corporate world for around 14 years, it took me some time to get used to the life in the seminary. I remember during my very first year of formation, we went to Vimla Nursing home and the Home for the Aged every Thursday for pastoral experience. Seeing people commute to work in a hurry would make me feel uncomfortable, and I would tell myself, "what am I doing wasting my time, I've got to start working like them". I had to learn to relax and



get used to the pace of life in the seminary, which although not exactly slow, is different. When we joined, our seniors would often tell us that the eight years in the seminary would fly by. It was hard to believe them then, but seems so true now! One gets so engrossed in studies, assignments, portfolios and various other activities in the seminary that time does fly quickly. The most fulfilling time of my formation was the year of Regency and Diaconate ministry, where I have experienced God working through me to reach out to His people.

Deacon Leon Viegas

The seminary comprises a very balanced approach to all the areas of formation namely spiritual, academic, pastoral and human formation. All these are interlinked and make holistic development possible, resulting in one becoming a good human being.



and theology. Studying theology furthermore helped me understand the mind of the Church. The outflow of this milieu of academics and spirituality has led me to apply myself effectively in pastoral work. My stints at various parishes in the Archdiocese and encounters with different kinds of people have led me to be realistic, a good listener and possess good interpersonal skills.

When I look back over the past years of my formation in the seminary, I can sum up the entire experience as that of GROWTH. The uniqueness of different ways of praying helped me grow in my relationship with God, strengthen my vocation and find a sense of direction. The intellectual formation helped me keep myself open to new ways of thinking, rich insights and wisdom in various fields of philosophy

I feel proud to have been part of the community of St. Pius X College, and thank the Rector, Staff and students from whom I have learnt a lot; and this spurs me on to give back my best to the Church in my priestly ministry.

Deacon Ashwin Castellino

I owe a lot to St. Pius X seminary for helping me discover my talents and get me out of my comfort zone. Courses in theology and philosophy helped me understand my faith better. Moderator groups, manual labour, horticulture, one act plays, street plays, the annual major play, sports, the various spiritual exercises in the seminary catered to my wholistic formation. The staff are extremely approachable, giving us responsible freedom and accompanying us along our priestly journey as formators.



greatly because it helped me realise what is required of me as a priest. The different ministries assigned to us every year help us to cater better to the cells and associations we will be in charge of in the future. It is a bittersweet feeling as I near my ordination to the priesthood, because the seminary itself is such a beautiful and peaceful place to live in. Over the past seven plus years, I have been truly blessed to visit places I've never been to, and meet people whose lives are truly inspirational. I will especially miss the seminarians, past and present, with whom I have had the joy of sharing my formation years.

Weekend pastoral ministry is something that I cherished

Deacon Omar Fernandes

I remember a profound talk given by a priest, on the very next day after I joined the Seminary. He spoke of uncut diamonds. Though uncut diamonds have a value within, the real beauty emerges when they are carefully crafted. The Master Craftsman with all his tools carefully shapes the diamond into a masterpiece that radiates the splendour of beauty. As I journeyed through my formative years I saw the Master Craftsman, God himself, shaping and moulding me at the hands of my formators, spiritual directors, professors, the priests, and in a special way also the community of brothers. This has truly strengthened me spiritually by deepening my faith-relationship with Christ and his Church, equipped me intellectually to discern



the Truth, endowed me with the pastoral skills necessary to minister to the faithful, and above all, embellished me with a character that radiates the humanity of Christ the Good Shepherd.

I thank God immensely for having given me these grace-filled years of formation. I am grateful to my Rectors, moderators, spiritual directors and professors who have accompanied and guided me. I am grateful to the PSOL sisters, administrative and support staff for the care they rendered to me. Finally, I thank all the brothers- present and past whose fellowship, love and concern encouraged me and brought the best out of me. May God continue to shower his abundant blessings on each of you!

Deacon Renold D'Souza

Bombay brothers' picnic to Nashik on 4th-5th January 2019



Christmas crib by the Orients in December 2018



Pongal celebration on 22nd January 2019



Gonsalo Garcia Feast celebration on 8th February 2019





Ash Wednesday Recollection by Fr. Cyril De Souza SDB



Fr. Tom Uzhunnalil shared his testimony on 18th February 2019



Sports Day for the academic year 2018- 19

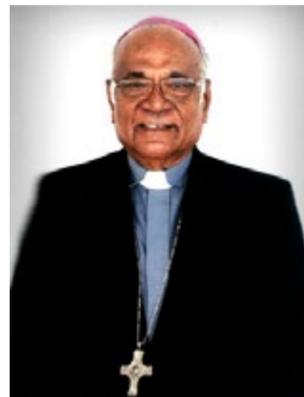


Session on Ecology by Fr. Luke Rodrigues SJ on 12th Feb'19

Down Memory Lane...

The Editorial Team continues the reminiscences of our retired Bishops, now resident in the Seminary.

By God's grace, I have had a truly long and successful innings. I began my priestly life with 18 years of eventful and fruitful ministry in four parishes. God also led me to be the Director of Catholic Charities where services were rendered towards Maharashtra Drought Relief work, Uganda Crisis Relief work and Bangladesh Refugee Relief work. On my successful completion of MBA and Doctorate in Health Management in the USA, I was appointed Director at St John's National Academy of Health Sciences in Bengaluru. When I retired from St John's, Bangalore after 15 years and returned to Mumbai in 2000, Cardinal Ivan Dias asked me to stay at St Pius X College and conduct Pastoral Management Courses for the Seminarians. In addition, the seminary authorities graciously provided me with a spacious office and all the necessary support, to continue building the Corpus Fund for the needy Catholics of the Archdiocese, a responsibility that was entrusted to me soon after my ordination as the Auxiliary Bishop of Bombay in 2001. I feel blessed that God led me throughout this entire project, which has touched over 1,250 needy families, including some of our workers and seminarians at this



"MY POWER IS MADE PERFECT IN WEAKNESS"
(cf. 2 Cor 12:9)

institution. In many other ways God has used me as his instrument and I am ever grateful to him. I now have three important duties while residing at the seminary:

1. My prayer life, for which this institution is beautifully suited;
2. The Corpus Fund responsibility; and
3. Spending my spare time in painting on canvass, which I enjoy thoroughly!

When I review the past, I wonder how a person like me achieved so much. Neither in the Primary nor in the Secondary Schools have I ever got close to 15th rank! Even when I joined the seminary, I was very poor in English and had to tackle English and Latin for the first three years without much success. I wondered whether I was in the right place! Against all odds, once in Philosophy and then in Theology the first miracle took place- I could excel in academics with flying colours! Although I struggled with English initially, to date I have authored nine books, published by the Daughters of St Paul and the Asian Trading Corporation.

I have always considered myself as a person of not more than average intelligence and abilities, but the Lord, who chose fishermen to lead his massive Church, has done wonders in my life too, which I still fail to comprehend! My message to all, especially those who feel they are short on talent and abilities, is to realise that every human persona is a masterpiece of God's creation and that each human person is really blessed with a lot more blessings than he/she knows or realizes!

Bishop Percival Fernandez

A Fairy Tale Experience At Farry's Resort...

The much awaited community picnic to Farry's Resort in Gorai dawned with the 4th of March. The brothers were all excited to spend this day of fellowship and



fun outside the seminary campus. The day began by imploring God's blessings through the Morning Prayer and the Holy Eucharist. After a quick cup of tea, all of us left the seminary premises at 8 am in two buses and reached our destination at around 9 am. The Resort is set in beautiful surroundings, with coconut trees and close to the beach. We all had a sumptuous breakfast and left for the beach for tele-games organized by the sports department. There were four teams formed and all played with great enthusiasm. There was much fun and frolic during the games as everyone were enjoying

themselves like little children. After the games, and nourished with coconut water, most brothers proceeded for a dip in the pool. There was an "unconventional" water-polo match between two teams which was worth the watch!

Later, we had a delicious lunch prepared by the Adena Caterers. As the tradition goes each year, the Deacons

served all of us cold drinks during the lunch. God Bless you Deacons! Post lunch, our brains were rattled with a few quiz games conducted by the cultural department. We finally had the prize distribution and the vote of thanks. The Rector too thanked everyone for their contribution in making the community picnic a success. Before leaving we had tea, cake and 'fugyaas'. This picnic was truly a memorable experience and we thank God for our community of St Pius!

Br. Cajetan Mendes, 2nd Year Philosophy

AN 'EVERGREEN' VENTURE!



At the start of this academic year, each class undertook the cultivation of a plot of land. While most of the work is done on Wednesday, some work continues on other days as well. Having been adequately instructed by Mr. Julius at the start of the academic year, the brothers toiled hard throughout the year. The project began with preparing the land—clearing it of stones, debris, fallen branches, wild plants and waste, accumulated over the years. This was followed by tilling and watering the soil, mixing it with manure and allowing it to be exposed to sunlight. We then sowed seeds and waited patiently for them to sprout. The sight of the first shoots gave us immense joy but none compared to the joy of witnessing the first fruit— a true testimony to our hard work.

The following are the details of the produce for this year (in kg): Lady Fingers-40, Red Spinach-49½, Cucumber-57½, Bottle Gourd-17, Brinjal-21½, Raddish-11, Vilayati Palak-7½, Ridge gourd-6½, Green beans-5½. Besides these, the other produce included Bitter Gourd, Coriander, Methi, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Hybrid Ridge Gourd, Chilli, Ivy Gourd & French Beans.

The entire exercise was fruitful and helped us bond as a class. The differences in methods of cultivation were amicably resolved too. The time spent on the field also

gave us new insights on Jesus' teachings, especially of bearing fruit in our lives! The allegories like vine and the branches, sower and the seed, wheat and darnel, and the unproductive tree have now become more meaningful and practical.

.....*Brs. Kenneth and Avinash*

SACERDOTAL GOLDEN 15TH MARCH 1969 TO 2019 CONGRATULATIONS



FR JULIAN SALDANHA SJ

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