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Newsletter of St Pius X College - Archdiocesan Seminary

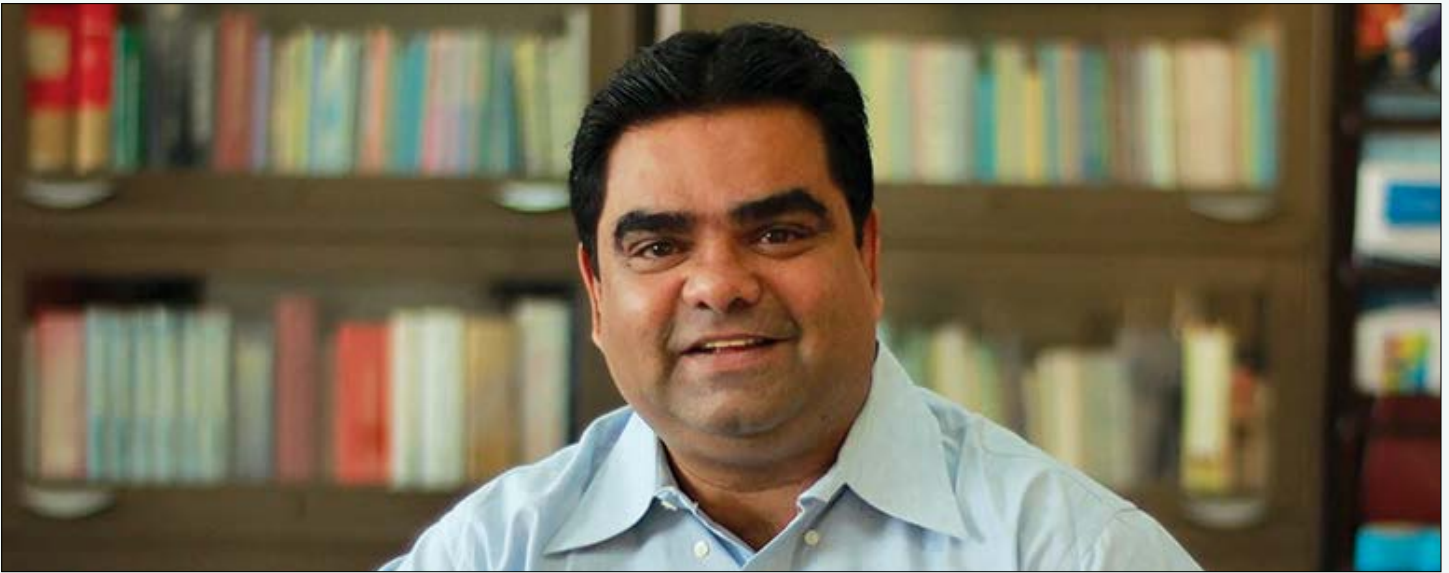
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WE WISH ALL OUR READERS A
HAPPY
Easter

PASTORAL SKILLS FORMATION



The whole purpose of seminary formation is to help seminarians become true pastors of the Christian faithful after the example of Our Lord Jesus Christ (OT 4; PO 11).

Keeping this in mind, St. Pius Seminary imparts quality pastoral formation to its seminarians. A well-structured pastoral work program has been put in place which provides our seminarians with exposure to a wide variety of pastoral situations and also with knowledge and skills that will prepare them for their pastoral ministry as priests. Each year, the seminarians receive training in a different area of pastoral ministry and so by the time they complete their formation they are well-equipped to take on responsibilities in these areas at the parish level.

The Philosophers are involved in the field of Sunday School and Catechesis for children. The primary emphasis is on developing their pedagogical and catechetical skills. Besides this, they get an overview of the methodology and the various catechetical endeavours envisioned by the Diocesan Catechetical Centre.

The First Year Theologians are involved in animating Small Christian Communities. Besides receiving theological inputs and sessions on animation which are crucial for them to function in this area of pastoral ministry, which remains an archdiocesan priority, they have a hands-on experience working with various Small Christian Communities in different parishes.

The principal ministry of the Second Year Theologians is Youth Animation. At this stage in their formation with greater personal maturity and more solid theological training they are better equipped to animate youth and to deal with the questions and challenges posed by them. The Diocesan Youth Centre assists in many ways to enrich their formation.

Finally, in the Third Year of Theology, the primary focus of the seminarian is on Adult catechesis and Confirmation classes. Our emphasis is on training the seminarian to be a more effective faith-formator, to impart the theology and spirituality that he has learnt in the seminary in a parish situation in order to build up the faith of people.

Monthly input sessions by guest professors and trained laity enables students to build on their strengths and learn from their limitations. A system of monthly reporting, evaluation and feedback helps each seminarian to critically reflect on his pastoral experience, build on his successes and learn from his disappointments in the field.

We do not rest on our laurels but constantly search for ways in which we can improve the quality of pastoral formation. Our mission is to train holy and effective pastors, after the heart of Christ, the Good Shepherd!

Fr. John Barretto
Pastoral Moderator



ADULT CATECHESIS

Pastoral formation is one of the four pillars of Priestly formation. The document on Priestly formation titled, “The Gift of the Priestly Vocation”, by the Congregation for the Clergy, clearly states the aims for the Pastoral Formation of Candidates. Pastoral formation is to help the seminarian to acquire the inner freedom to live the apostolate as service, able to see the way of God in the hearts and lives of the people. Seen in this way, when he is an ordained minister, pastoral activity will take on the form of an ongoing school of evangelization” (Ratio 119). The Pastoral Formation program at St. Pius X seminary not only fulfils these aims but deepens their dynamic effects in the formative life of the seminarians.

As a 3rd year student of Theology, I serve at St. John Bosco Parish, Borivali (W). My primary pastoral activity is Adult Catechesis which includes Bible Study Classes, Confirmation Catechesis and Animating sessions for candidates in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) program. Due to the openness of the parish team and the guidance of Fr. Solomon Rapol SDB, I’ve had a very fruitful year of pastoral formation. I have specifically grown in the teaching and catechizing aspects of priestly ministry. Witnessing the pastoral life of Salesian priests, who focus on the education and



evangelization of the youth, has also helped me learn and imbibe the youthfulness and energy required for this specific ministry. During this year, there were a few moments of difficulties but the guidance of the priests and other lay animators helped convert those difficulties into learning experiences. As I move towards the last segment of my priestly formation, the opportunities afforded me through the pastoral formation have helped me grow in discipleship and inner freedom to serve the people of God and his people in ministry.

Br. Santan Fernandes
3rd Year Theology

PRISON MINISTRY

Being part of Prison Ministry for the last year as part of my Pastoral work, has been an enriching and fruitful ministry. I had opportunities to visit various prisons and remand homes in Bombay, namely David Sassoon Remand Home (Matunga), Children’s Aid Society (Dongri), Bal Kalyan Nagri (Mankhurd), Thane Central Jail, Aadharwadi Jail (Kalyan) and Arthur Road Jail (Mumbai Central). Interacting with prisoners and children of the remand home was always a different experience every Thursday. At times there were certain cases which were probably not very pleasant to hear about. However, it was in those moments that I realized that I am called to work for everyone without any bias. Having such an outlook makes a big difference, and this is a marvellous gift that I have received through this ministry. It has been



a great learning through the year and I shall cherish these moments.

Br. Ivan Kamble
1st Year Theology



YOUTH MINISTRY



Pastoral formation is one of the most important pillars of priestly formation. St. Pius X College gave me an opportunity to have a pastoral experience on weekends at St. Joseph's Church, Mumbra. Being a 2nd Year Theologian, I was allocated the youth ministry. My foremost learning from this ministry is to be a good listener with a kind heart. I had a fruitful youth ministry at St. Joseph's Church, Mumbra and the sub-station St. Francis Xavier's Parish, Diva. By God's grace and the kind co-operation from the parish priest and the people, I had a wonderful pastoral experience.

Br. Ignatius Pramod
2nd Year Theology

SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES

The early church met in their homes to sing hymns, psalms, recount stories of Jesus and his teachings and to celebrate the Eucharist. Through these meetings they experienced the Risen Lord amongst them. They even saw to it that there was no one in need. Widows and orphans were taken care of. The SCCs too seek to do the same. In the SCCs the people experience fellowship and a sense of bonding. They even grow in communion with the Church and one another.

This year has been a great experience for me as I got an opportunity to be a part of the SCC ministry. There follow a few points that I feel are worth knowing about this ministry: group bonding, personal sharing and growing together in faith are salient features of this ministry. Through these meetings we get to know the people and their difficulties by actually going to them and not getting information from books. The Gospel sharing that is done in the meetings may be simple without any exegesis, but how the people relate to God's word in their lives is something extra-ordinary. This experience also helps to prepare our homilies and reflections; whether it be starters or applications in daily life. The communities also try to continue their practice of action and outreach. Donations from among the small Christian community members are pooled into a treasury that has been used to help them or their neighbours in need.



The well-organized structure is a boost for the growth of the community and the well being of each one in the group. Hence, I would conclude by saying, 'Small communities are powerful vehicles for adult faith formation, providing opportunities for learning, prayer, mutual support and the shared experience of Christian living and service to church and society.' (*Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us*, USCCB, 106)

Br. Anselm Miranda
1st Year Theology



SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CONFIRMATION CATECHESIS

Catechesis is fundamental to pastoral ministry and this academic year gave me this opportunity.

The experience I had with the Sunday School and Confirmandis was one of joy and learning. The Class X students eager to see the world had doubts of this and sought answers 'how to engage with the world'. The Confirmandis had very practical questions in terms of faith and of the world based on their experience. They wanted to be treated as adults and it was imperative to interact with prudence. This gave me the opportunity to immerse myself in preparation of classes that tackled such question in a deep manner. It helped me understand how they perceive the world. The reasoning process and dependence on prayer helped me grow deeper in my faith.



The research process for the class helped build my own knowledge. The co-catechists supported me in carrying out various activities for the students that helped them build their faith and knowledge on this journey. Their support to me was very crucial and I will always be grateful to them for their assistance. The opportunities provided to me by the Pastoral team at St. Anthony's Church Vakola will surely go a long way in preparing myself for the ministry of the Priesthood.

Overall, the experience was one of bonding, conversing and walking along this journey of life.

Br. Dashiell Fonseca
2nd Year Philosophy

PASTORAL MINISTRY MAKING GOD AND HIS WORD THE CENTERPIECE

“A Pastor who cares about the spiritual growth of his people must make God and His word the centrepiece of his ministry” - Steven Law

On the 7th of June 2022 the appointment list of each one of us (seminarians) was put up with regard to the academic year's pastoral ministry. Everyone was eager to know who is appointed and where; so was I! The moment I read St. Francis Xavier's Church, Dabul, there were questions running in my mind. How will I manage in a parish where I do not know any of the priests or the people? How will it be? Will I be able to complete my given tasks?

It's been months and we are almost nearing the end of the academic year. The love, concern, care, happiness & different learning experiences that I have gone through is something which plays a vital role in my formation. The wonderful time which I spent with the Sunday school children will surely be among the most important memories of my life. They all have



been truly amazing. There were instances where I felt challenged, but it was God and my faith in him which helped me overcome them all.

The parish team priests (Fr. Leonard Noronha, Fr. Joshan Rodrigues, Fr. Tony Fernandes) played a very important role in my pastoral work. Their concern & support has been a great source of encouragement for me. Though St. Francis Xavier's Church, Dabul

completed its sesquicentennial Jubilee of 150 long years in Dec 2022, it is indeed still very young and known to be among the vibrant parishes of the South Bombay Deanery. I personally feel extremely privileged and blessed to witness this special Jubilee year of the Church.

Br. Edward Francis
1st Year Philosophy

OUTREACH MINISTRY AT FOCOLARE AND SHANTI NIVAS



Our Outreach Ministry is held every Thursday wherein, we the students of the Propaedeutic year, go to Focolare (on our campus) and Shanti Nivas (St. Jude's Parish, Malad). We are divided into groups

of two, and visit the places alternatively. The students of the neighbouring schools come to Focolare every Thursday and we help those students with their studies. Brothers also mingle with the kids, while conducting games and teaching brief dance movements to make their day. The brothers visit Shanti Nivas, a home for the specially-abled people in the parish of St. Jude. Here they help with the day-to-day activities of the centre viz. grooming of the inmates, housekeeping of the residential area, etc.

We would like to thank both our Outreach Ministry Houses for giving us an opportunity to serve them.

Br. Joel D'Silva
Propaedeutic Year

REGENCY – A FORETASTE OF PRIESTHOOD

“Where would you like to go for your ‘Regency’, Ambrose?” was a sudden interrogation by my moderator and instantly I replied, “To a Parish” where I will get acquainted with the parish/pastoral activities.

Well, here am I at St. Michael's Church, Mahim, my regency place, chosen specifically to get in touch with the parish realities. Many thanks to Fr. Lancy, my parish priest, for he meticulously planned my



schedule for the entire week so that my ministry runs smoothly. Every day was a different experience with various portfolios, such as teaching in the school, learning as well as working in the office, working with various people through the Ashadeep Community Centre (Social Work), working with the youth, Confirmation students, Altar servers, associating with the parish communities, parishioners etc.

Having entered into the Platinum Jubilee



year of Novenas to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, other portfolios were added on to my ministry such as “Sneha-Bhojan” – distributing free meals to the devotees, which I consider is the highest point in my regency and the Musical (play) etc. All these have contributed tremendously in shaping my vision of the priesthood and will always remain etched in my memory.

The parish has provided me with ample learning experiences. It has given me everything in abundance, right from God’s grace to all the high and low moments in life. And without a doubt, it really has given me a Foretaste of the Priesthood.

Br. Ambrose Haruck
Regent

THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS!

My regency experience can be described as ‘the best of both worlds’. I am appointed for regency in an Institute that is Bishop’s House, situated in the parish of St. Gonsalo Garcia, Barampur. In the Bishop’s House I get valuable exposure, where I am able to interact with numerous people from all walks of life. It does help me in my administrative skills. It’s a privilege and pleasure to have regular interactions with Archbishop Felix Machado. The insightful conversations and discussions with the Archbishop enrich and inspire me every day. Along with my daily responsibilities, my prayer life (Breviary, Holy Mass, Adoration, spiritual direction) has helped me and shaped me to be a better person.

Being a youth animator in Barampur parish is another bite of the cherry, as it is a wonderful opportunity to work and be amongst the youth. During this year, I have been part of various extravagant events organized by the vibrant *Garcian* youth. My prior experience of being a member of a Parish as well as diocesan youth group has helped me to organize the event and delegate



responsibilities effectively. I am grateful to have immense support and encouragement from priests, and the staff at the Bishop’s House. My moderator, Fr. Richard is more like an elder brother, always guiding and supportive. I am blessed for receiving this regency experience as a part of this wonderful journey to the priesthood! I am enjoying my ministry and looking forward for the remaining years of formation in the seminary.

Br. Liron D’Cunha
Regent

A STUDENT’S SPOTLIGHT IT’S TOTALLY WORTH IT!

When I first informed my mother that I had enrolled myself for the Theology course she sarcastically questioned if I intended to join the seminary. Another priest acquaintance scorned the idea and suggested that I simply stay home and just look after the children. “How is theology going to be useful to you?” was his cynical question to me.

As I reflect on my decision to take on this course and allow it to influence every waking moment of my life, I

see the changes it has brought about in me. Not just in academics but also as a person. I have grown leaps and bounds in the past three years. The decision to join was not sudden. In hindsight, I see it as God making a way for me to come here and learn, that which I was seeking to learn and understand from YouTube. As a mother of two teenagers and three young adults, I have been jabbed in the face with questions about faith that I didn’t always have proper answers to.



Thus, I lost almost all of my bouts with them. I had come with my injuries to find a remedy from the doctors of Theology here at the Seminary.

The courses on 'Scripture' gave me the understanding that the word of God is inspired and that God reveals himself to us in more ways than we can even comprehend. The mystery of the Holy Trinity deepened my relationship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. My prayers have changed, I seek a relationship now, rather than favours like I did earlier. The course on 'Eschatology' came as a consolation when my father passed away. It helped me comprehend the teaching of the church on death and life after.

I learnt that the Sacraments are windows to grace and the privilege of every Catholic. How fortunate we are to have them! A deeper understanding of each one of the sacraments has helped me to see how wonderful our God is and how He provides means to sanctify us, so that one day we will be with Him. 'The History of the Church' has helped me understand the journey the church has made to get to where she is now, and how inspiring that journey is. To have the heart and mind of Christ at all times is the spiritual mantra I picked up here during the course. I learnt that there is no Justice in life but only Sacrifice from one of



the professors, and this profound reality will remain with me always. God's love and His mercy in the lives of people and in the working of the Holy Spirit in the church, is something marvellous to see time and again in the various subjects that are taught here. Spirituality, social outlook, pastoral work enrichment, ethics, Mariology and Christology above all have shaped my life and the core of my being to the extent that I cannot imagine life without it now.

Learning Theology has changed my life for the better. I am grateful to all of the professors, the Dean and the Rector for this opportunity. I have found my lifeline and I pray that God uses me where He sees fit.

Blessy Rebello
Lay Student

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS' DAY - SYMPOSIUM

On the occasion of the feast of St. Thomas Aquinas, a one day workshop was held for the Philosophers.

The workshop themed "Education & Formation" was conceptualized by Fr. Dolreich Pereira. Fr. Arun Simon SJ moderated proceedings and Prof. Aninha Lobo was the 'Guest of Honour'.

Ms. Anju Panikulam summarized "Genealogy of Self-Making Experience: Thinking beyond the Binary of Teaching and Learning" authored by Fr. Nishant Irudayadason, Pune. Br. Joywin Thadavious presented "Developing an Existential-Ethical Compass in Science Education and Research" authored by Fr. Keith D'Souza SJ.

Ms. Anju highlighted aspects within the learning experience that go beyond the personal intellectual dimension of learning. Br. Joywin acknowledged the lack of ethics in scientific study and called for methodologies of learning that develop an existential-ethical compass and a critical thought process.



The group discussions yielded a dialogue of ideas that invigorated the joy of the learning experience. Fr. Aniceto Pereira emphasized the three faculties of mind, heart and will that would help us add efficacious value to the education in pastoral ministry.

Br. Dashiell Fonseca
2nd Year Philosophy



PONGAL – THE HARVEST FESTIVAL

Pongal is the main festival celebrated in southern India. It is a harvest festival. The celebration marks the importance of natural resources and a good harvest for the season. Therefore, the brothers belonging to the various dioceses of southern India along with the St. Pius X Community celebrated Pongal festival in the seminary on January 20, 2023. The day began with a solemn Eucharistic celebration at 7 a.m. with Fr. Gnana Jyothi, Priest-in-charge at Christ the King Church, Govandi, as the main celebrant. The theme for the Eucharist was “Thanksgiving.” Fr. Gnana Jyothi emphasized the significance of Pongal celebrations in Tamil culture, recalling his own childhood memories. In the afternoon, there was a festive meal prepared and served in the Tamil tradition; there was also a cultural programme with a dance and choral performance by the brothers. Fr. Aniceto, the Rector, spoke about the



Pongal festival and distributed gifts to the parishioners of Our Lady of Rosary Church, Goregaon West, who assisted in preparing food for the celebration. Grateful thanks to everyone who contributed to making this day a huge success and a meaningful event.

Br. Roger Ruther Ford A
1st Year Philosophy

ST. GONSALO GARCIA FEAST CELEBRATION

On 7th February the Church in India celebrated the feast of St. Gonsalo Garcia, a son of the soil from Vasai, a missionary to Japan and a martyr there for the faith. He is venerated as the first Indian saint. St. Gonsalo being one of the two patrons of the Archdiocese of Bombay, the community of St. Pius X Seminary celebrated his feast with a special mass and fellowship. Fr. Avinash Dhodade, an alumnus of St. Pius X and a recently ordained priest from the diocese of Vasai was the main celebrant for the Mass.

The theme for the Mass was “My soul is thirsting for you O Lord”. Fr. Avinash Dhodade, during his homily, reminded all how St. Gonsalo Garcia was filled with zeal for the mission of Christ. It was this passion that took him to the far away foreign land of

Japan. St. Gonsalo used his skills and talents to build the Kingdom of God and ultimately won the crown of Martyrdom. Fr. Avinash highlighted that we, having answered the call of Christ, have entered the seminary to become priests. Yet we too like St. Gonsalo need to have an unquenchable thirst for the mission of Jesus, our Saviour. While we may not be called to shed our blood as martyrs, we are called to seek his will in all our daily actions and words, especially as seminarians and priests called to minister to the people of God. He pointed out that we too may have to face some form of trouble and persecution, but we need to persevere in our faith and continue the mission of Christ entrusted to us.

Later in the day, a short cultural program was held by the Brothers, showcasing the cultural traditions of Bombay and Vasai through traditional attire and songs. The Rector Fr. Aniceto Pereira addressed the gathering, reminding all present, that we too like St. Gonsalo, need to strive working for the mission of Christ and offered St. Gonsalo as a model to emulate. This was followed by a traditional meal with delicacies from Bombay and Vasai.



Br. Sanal Tuscano
1st Year Theology



BOMBAY BROTHER'S OUTING



The Bombay Brothers of St. Pius X college flocked to Alibaug for their annual outing on 6th January. Fr. Simon Rodrigues, the priest in charge of 'Mary of Nazareth Church', hosted us. And there we nested until the event concluded the following day. Highlights of the outing were Fr. Simon's vocation story, the Holy Eucharist, visit to Korlai fort, visit to Mount Carmel high school and fun and games on Alibaug beach. The ferry ride from Bombay to Alibaug was enjoyable. All the Bombay brothers also participated in a bonfire in the night which uplifted spirits after a bustling day.

The Carmelite Sisters treated us with their kind hospitality and lots of delicacies. We also visited Mt. Carmel church famously known as 'Korlai Church' where Fr. Bonaventure challenged us to hunt for a plaque displaying the name 'St. Francis Xavier' up at the Korlai fort. Overall, the event left everyone wishing for a longer stay. However, we came back rejuvenated to begin the second term with zeal and enthusiasm. Here's to good times!

Br. Mathew Fernandes
1st Year Philosophy

BOMBAY BROTHERS' FAMILY DAY

The Bombay Brothers' Family Day program was held on 8th January, 2023. The program began with breakfast for the families of brothers and candidates for the 'Permanent Diaconate'. We then had a cultural event for the families with games, music and dance conducted by Frs. Gavin, John, Prashant and Benhur. The families greatly enjoyed themselves, winning prizes and lucky dip hampers. This was followed by the Eucharist led by Cardinal Oswald Gracias. We then had a felicitation of the Cardinal on the occasion of his Episcopal Silver Jubilee. The families were very happy to interact with and cherish a family photo with the Cardinal. It was a fun time for the Bombay Brothers to meet and know the families of their fellow brothers. We thank Fr. Aniceto Pereira, our Rector who has a



special concern for the bonding of the brothers and families. The program ended with a festive lunch.

Br. Joyous Koreth
3rd Year Theology



THE GETAWAY



“Rainy days and Mondays always get me down”, thus sang the Carpenters, except for Monday, 20th February, when we all went for the Community Picnic at Rajodi Beach Resort, Virar. It was a day filled with excitement, a Monday that was joyfully looked forward to. Occasionally, getting away from the busy Monday is essential to bring down our stress levels and keep our minds sharp and well-rested. This outing was meticulously planned. It offered opportunities to gain new memories, renew friendships and strengthen the bonds of trust and confidence in each other. The fun and games, the beautiful environment, the journey together, and the interaction, especially the pranks we played with the coconuts, were hilarious. All these gave a feeling of peace and satisfaction that no Visa or Master Card can buy. It does not matter if it is for a day or a week – great memories captured will last a lifetime. A big thank you to the staff members and the organising committee; the day was well-spent, giving us an emotional recharge and strength needed to continue our formation.

Fabian Rose

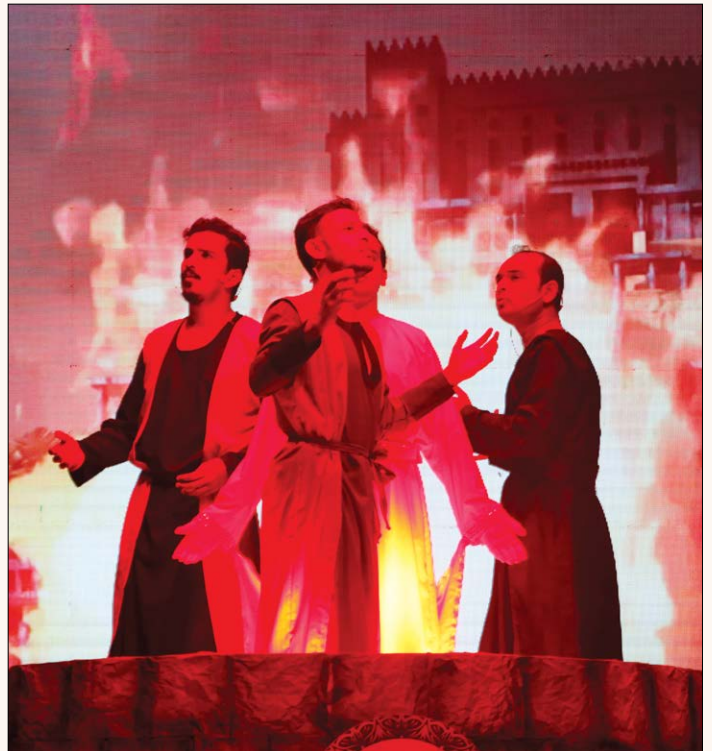
Candidate for Permanent Diaconate

DANIEL – GOD’S FAITHFUL INSTRUMENT

Every year, St. Pius X Seminary stages an Annual event in the month of December. This year, the community staged a Major play on three successive days on the theme, ‘Daniel: God’s faithful Instrument.’ The play was staged in two Acts and was a great success with the life of Daniel coming alive. The audience were mesmerised with the brilliant production, script, choice of characters, sets and visuals. Chief Guests for the event were: on the first day, Sr. Dr. Ashrina Miranda and Dr. Laila Abdurahiman; on the second day we had Dr. Chris D’Souza. On the last day the Chief Guest was Bp. John Rodrigues, with Cardinal Oswald Gracias as the Guest of Honor for the event. The brothers along with Fr. Walter D’Souza and Fr. Benhur Rodrigues worked tirelessly to make this event a meaningful one. We thank everyone who strove to make this event a grand success.

Br. Cris Veigas

3rd Year Theology





Daniel – God’s Faithful Instrument



Pongal – The Harvest Festival



Republic Day

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