



semachar

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MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR

At St Pius College, this year, we are specially grateful to God for the 23 new comers who have joined our family: 17 seminarians, 3 Candidates for the Permanent Diaconate, 2 Sisters and 4 Lay Persons! And we also remember and pray for those who completed the course last year and who have left St. Pius to enter the Lord's vineyard : 5 Priests, 2 Permanent Deacons, and 1 Layman. We thank God for our beloved Institution, St Pius College, and we are very aware of the challenge, to welcome and nurture our students to grow into fine labourers in the contemporary church ... a very daunting task indeed!

We are glad that the Holy Father has called for the 15th General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops on the theme "*The Young, Faith and Vocational Discernment*," in October 2018, to discuss this issue, the preparations for which are already under way. Recently, from 11th to 15th September 2017, an International Seminar was held at the Vatican on the condition of the youth in the world. It was attended by 82 people invited from five continents – young people, experts, formators and representatives of the Holy See. The themes that were explored during this Seminar have a lot to teach us.

The first theme dwelt on today's young men and women in search of identity, along with the importance of education in the formation of this identity. The young people shared the challenge of being open to guidance and reconciliation which forms an integral part of their identity formation. At St Pius, we too need to grapple with the challenge of helping our students integrate into their personality, as ambassadors of Christ, the various dimensions of the Seminary curriculum, right from the 'magnum silentium' to the vigour of stage performance!

Another theme that was discussed at the Seminar was young people and work, and the personal investment of young people in career preparation. At St Pius College, those who have joined after a considerable work experience, and also those who have had no such experience, are challenged to adopt the lifestyle of a

disciple commanded by the Lord to "*sell all you have and ... come follow me*" (Mt 19:21).

The third theme dwelt on young people and socio-political engagement, including a general mistrust felt by young people towards the world of politics, trusting rather the newer social solidarity movements. Our students too have to grapple with the socio-political conditions which are very often at the base of problems faced by people, requiring careful strategizing of pastoral approaches. For example, what can we do to protect the green cover of Aarey Colony which is right in our neighbourhood?

The fourth theme that emerged in the Seminar was young people and the future scenario of technological development, particularly new media technologies which, on the one hand cause complex moral and relational problems, while on the other offer interesting paths for evangelisation. Students at St Pius are clearly faced with these challenges, and it is very difficult to gauge whether the benefits of the new media technologies outweigh the risks.

The fifth and last theme was young people, the sacred and the faith, studying how the search for the transcendent is experienced today by young people within the Church as well as through other forms of spirituality. Students at St Pius College have also to struggle to listen to the voice of God, sometimes feeble and sometimes clear, in the midst of the tumult of voices that reverberate in contemporary society.

Interestingly, while concluding the Seminar the young people present summarised their experience in a video presentation, using the phrase "*We are a family, let's listen and grow together!*" From this significant slogan there emerges a clear direction forward. We can choose to live in St. Pius, a house of formation, as a family, with unique individuals forging the way forward together, because of being bonded by the call we have all heard from the same Teacher and Lord!

FR. ANICETO PEREIRA - Rector

LECTIO BREVIS



With the Feast of St. Thomas the Apostle and the Holy Spirit Mass on 3rd July, we commenced our academic year. We were honoured to have Cardinal Oswald Gracias as the main Celebrant, accompanied by members of the staff as concelebrants. During his homily, the Cardinal encouraged the entire house to grow in relationship with God. After celebrating the Eucharist, the entire house gathered in the auditorium, where our acting rector Fr. Andrew Aranha welcomed the Cardinal. After a moment of silence in memory of the late Cardinal Ivan Dias, he delivered his much awaited “*Lectio Brevis*” (brief lecture) .

The emphasis of the talk was on Seminary Formation. He mentioned the stakeholders pertaining to this area, i.e. Professors and Spiritual Directors along with Moderators. He urged the seminarians to realize the fact that, ‘Each one of them are also formators’ (for Self and Others) i.e. informing, instructing, sharing life with one another. And he illustrated it with an example of the family bonds and their one ultimate goal, Jesus (the Way, Truth and Life). He shared his experience of recently interacting with principals, teachers and staff about how we should value the skills and knowledge of every person. Further, the Cardinal stressed the importance of a prayerful atmosphere in the House of formation, along with discipline, order and silence, which helps to lead us to God. The challenge

of answering the doubts of youth and being missionary disciples in today’s world was also highlighted. The significance of prayer life and pious practices while keeping in mind the spiritual, intellectual, human and pastoral areas of formation were also referred to. The Cardinal reminded the seminarians of their moral duty to remain physically healthy through sports which is also a part of formation.

On a global scale, His Eminence updated us about the sexual scandals that have affected the church and the victims in recent times and cautioned us about the same. The Cardinal also briefed us about the problems faced by the Church in Asia, with the help of the example of China. On the national level, the Cardinal spoke about the CBCI’s plans to enrich and streamline areas such as faith formation, youth and family. Being relevant to the parishioners of each parish of the archdiocese of Bombay should also be our concern.

Cardinal Oswald ended by stressing the seven qualities of priesthood which are: strengthening our relationship with God and his people, serving his people closely, ministry of mercy, simplicity, integrity, transparency and being a source of blessings to people.

BR. JOSEPH DAVID
2nd Year Theology

NOTE TO READERS

In case you wish to receive an e-copy
of the Semachar, kindly write to us at
stpius.semachar@gmail.com

WELCOME TO THE NEW COMERS, ORIENTS BATCH, 2017-18



June 25, 2017 was a red letter day in the history of St. Pius X College, for on that day, the Seminary welcomed ten young candidates for the Priesthood; nine of them for the Archdiocese of Bombay, and one for the Diocese of Sindhudurg.

The First Year of Seminary Formation, which is called the Orientation Year, is a year of spiritual growth, formation and discernment. This Orientation Year has basically three main objectives:

- The candidate is helped to clarify and concretize his calling and his vocation.
- The candidate deepens his spiritual life.
- The candidate is prepared for his future seminary studies, namely Philosophy and Theology.

The heavy rains did not deter or dampen the spirits of these 10 young candidates, as all were present well before the appointed time. Our new comers, their parents, family members and friends were first treated to tea and some tasty snacks. This was followed by a meaningful prayer service.

Fr. Aniceto Pereira, Rector of St. Pius X College, addressed the gathering, warmly welcoming the 10 candidates. He gifted them the “*Everyday Prayer Book*”, which the new seminarian will use to pray at least thrice a day.

After a moving prayer service, all were eager to be photographed in the beautiful Main Chapel of the Seminary. The new candidates and their families felt at home, as the Staff Members and the Permanent Deacons interacted with them. Soon after the program, the new candidates had their first session with Fr. Jervis D’Souza, Moderator of the Orientation Year.

We hope and pray that these young men may persevere in the Seminary and become Priests after the heart and mind of Christ.

FR. JERVIS D’SOUZA
Moderator of Orientation Year

THE SEMINARY HAS BEEN BLESSED WITH 9 VOCATIONS THIS YEAR.

THEY STATE THEIR VISION OF THE PRIESTHOOD.



ADRIAN MISQUITTA

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH, BANDRA

I wish to do God's work of helping those in need, through His Holy Church. I also want to balance prayer with action, to achieve the vision and mission that Jesus set for us to follow.



ANAND PATIL

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, UTTAN CHOWK

"I have called you by name, you are mine" (Isaiah 43:1). God has chosen me to work in his vineyard, to serve his people and witness God's love to them.



IVEL MATHIAS

SACRED HEART CHURCH, VASHI

To spread God's love and message in humility through prayer, service and kindness.



JEWLYN FIALHO

OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH, KALYAN WEST

We are all called to serve Christ, in some way or the other. I feel Priesthood is the best way I can serve Christ. My vision of priesthood is to have a mind like Christ. I strive to walk in his footsteps and imitate his virtues such as simplicity, being meek and humble of heart, loving and caring, helping selflessly and showing mercy to the needy.



KENNETH PINTO

ST. PIUS X CHURCH, MULUND

“To give without counting the cost”. My vision of the priesthood is that of God presenting me the opportunity to give myself unconditionally to God and to the service of the Church by primarily being Christ like in thought, word and deed. Secondly to build the body of Christ - the Church as a community of love as Jesus defined it.



NOEL D'SOUZA

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH, KANJURMARG

I wish to do God's work of helping those in need, through His Holy Church. I also want to balance prayer with action, to achieve the vision and mission that Jesus set for us to follow.



AOUSSIE PAUL

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH, PANVEL

To be a servant of the Lord and His flock; to be able to give myself for the service of the Lord to the fullest of my ability



RICHARD FERNANDES

DIOCESE OF SINDHUDURG

There is nothing more beautiful than someone who goes out of his way to make life beautiful for others. I hope to be one such person.



ROLWYN LOBO

OUR LADY OF LOURDES, MALAD

The priesthood is a ministry of love where God through His priests ministers peace, grace, mercy and joy to his children. To a world torn apart in so many different ways, God's priests are soldiers restoring and uniting the world to him.

MARCH TO THE MOUNT!

During the month of September, the Catholic community as well as people of different faiths all look forward to the veneration of Our Lady at the Mount in Bandra. Every year after the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, celebrated on 8th September, throngs of people visit the Mount. And so the St Pius X College community also embarked on its annual walking pilgrimage to the Basilica of Our Lady of the Mount.

The journey of 16 kms began with a Prayer Service in the Main Seminary Chapel at 2.30 am. There were about forty of us who began our march to the Mount at around 3 am. We immediately faced thunderstorms and heavy rains. This made the pilgrimage all the more challenging and risky, as flooded roads in some areas with knee-deep water made the walk difficult. However, the pilgrims kept walking and praying despite all the difficulties of the way. This reflected the spirit of the St. Pius X Community. It was indeed an inspiration to have our Rector, Fr. Aniceto Pereira and some staff members accompany us on our pilgrimage. We halted at Sacred Heart Church premises, Santa Cruz for a short breather and refreshments, after which we resumed our final lap to the Mount.

All the groups arrived at the Diocesan Pastoral Centre to a warm welcome, where we could freshen up and get ready for the Holy Eucharist at 7.30 am. The seminary choir led us into



a beautiful celebration, with Fr. Stephen Fernandes as the main celebrant along with the entire Seminary Staff.

Thanks to the intercession of our Blessed Mother, who brought all of us safely to our destination. It was indeed a joy to see the entire St Pius X College community assembled at the Basilica to express their love and devotion for the Blessed Virgin Mary. May she continue to pray for us and guide us on our journey towards the Priesthood in service of the People of God.

BR. JOYOUS KORETH
1st Year Philosophy

NO LIGHTS, NO CAMERAS, ONLY ACTION

One of the many highlights of an academic year in St. Pius X Seminary is the Major Play. It is presented to the Priests, Religious, Family, Friends and Benefactors of the Seminary during the second term. However, the precursor to this is the Inter Class One Act Play competition. The One Act Play competition has been a long standing tradition of the Seminary. Each class presents a 25 minute play based on any topic where the creativity and talents of the Seminaricians takes centre stage. Invited to this event were our neighbours on campus: the PSOL Sisters, Nirmala Niketan Sisters and the Shantinivas family. Their presence was encouraging to the brothers.

This year the One Acts plays were held on 8th September, 2017. Six classes presented creative plays based on varied contemporary issues. These included Beef Ban, plight of the farmers, GST, child labour, dilution of faith practices, family difficulties, religious ideological rigidity and so on. Some plays were written by the brothers themselves. An enormous amount of hard work and collaboration went into all the productions and revealed the many talents. The judges for this event were Frs. Harold Vaz, Warner D'Souza and Mr. Omkar Bhatkar, all of whom have extensive experiences in Theatre and Dramatics.



Their constructive comments at the end made the whole exercise a fruitful learning experience and a good preparation for the forthcoming major play.

BR. SANTAN FERNANDES
2nd Year Philosophy

TEACHER'S DAY POEM

A Teacher is someone who is wise
Who cares about the students and wears no disguise
But is honest and open and shares from the heart,
Not just knowledge about the Bible and Philosophy,
But also values for life.
A teacher takes time to guide and hear
All whom he encounters in the theology,
philosophy and orientation year.
Not that we were the perfect students
But because you were the perfect teachers.
Thank you Fathers!

BR. CONRAD PEREIRA
1st Year Philosophy



Felicitation of the Staff on Teachers' Day

GOODBYE

After seventeen years of dedicated service, as Sister-in-charge of the Sacristy, Sr. Agnes D'Mello, PSOL left us to join the PSOL community at Stephen Hall. Sr. Agnes was universally and greatly appreciated for her orderliness, efficiency and foresight in managing the sacristy, in an institution where there are often large scale liturgical services. She leaves behind many grateful memories. We wish her the Lord's blessings in her new appointment.



SR. AGNES D'MELLO

WELCOME

Sr. Thecla Pereira, PSOL has replaced Sr. Agnes, as Sister-in-charge of the Sacristy. She has just completed the golden jubilee of her entry into the PSOL Congregation. She has been teacher and/or Principal in a High School and Junior College, and superior in various communities. She has worked in places as widely apart as Mumbai and Bhopal, Yavatmal and Karwar, Uran and Goa. We wish her all the best in her new assignment, which she has undertaken with cheerful enthusiasm.



SR. THECLA PEREIRA

Sr. Josephine Colaco, PSOL joins Sr. Shiny in running the seminary kitchen. She replaces Sr. Angeline, who had to leave for health reasons. She is 'an old hand', as she has served here earlier. She has served in various capacities and in a variety of dioceses, apart from Bombay: Aurangabad, Amravati and Vienna. She is happy to give her services once again to the Seminary and we extend to her a warm welcome!



SR. JOSEPHINE COLACO



Blessing of the new seminary vehicle



Inauguration of the Library on August 21st



Bp. John Rodrigues ordained 4 new deacons on August 13th



Felicitation of the newly ordained priests on August 21st



Inauguration of the Gym on August 21st



Recollection by Bp. Barthol Barretto on August 4th



St. Pius Seminary vs Athletic Madrid Foundation



Welcome to the newcomers on July 3rd

**We wish to express our gratitude to
Br. Cedric Rosario & Br. Allen Gomes,
the outgoing editors.**

EDITORIAL TEAM:
Fr. Julian Saldanha SJ, Br. Omar Fernandes,
Br. Conrad Pereira & Br. Jordan Govind