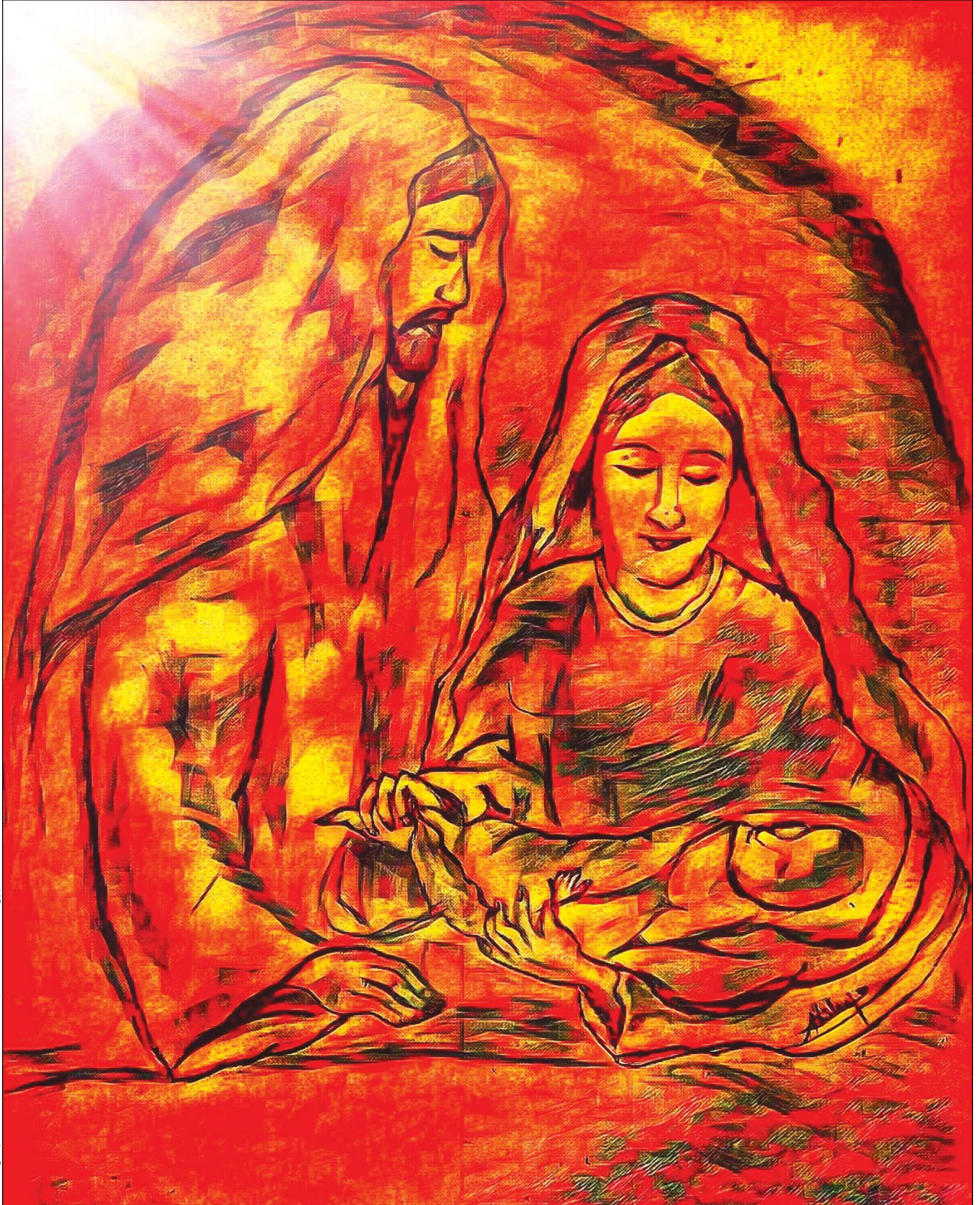




Samachar

Newsletter of St Pius X College - Archdiocesan Seminary

December 2021 | Vol XXI, Issue 1



Painting by BR Akhil Kalapurackal (3rd Year Theology)



“JOURNEYING TOGETHER” – AN EDUCATIONAL PRINCIPLE FOR FORMATION

We are all aware that Pope Francis has invited us to embark on a very ambitious project of making ‘synodality’ a way of life in the Church, whereby Christian life is to be necessarily understood as a ‘journeying together’ with everyone else around us. Since this is meant to be a constitutive definition of the church, the Pope considers it absolutely essential that “the spirituality of journeying together is called to become an educational principle for the formation of the human person and of the Christian, of the families, and of the communities”. (Synod Preparatory Document, No. 30). Thus, the programme in our Seminary, which is a house of formation, ought to become an experience of a ‘journeying together’, rather than that of an isolated institution.

This principle of formation as a ‘journeying together’ is actually reminiscent of the method used by Jesus to form his own disciples! Soon after choosing them, he instructs them: “follow me”! Thus begins for the group of twelve a three-year-long ‘journeying together’ with the Master. Along the way, no doubt, Jesus provides them with instruction by way of discourses, miracles and parables. But these truths will be driven home, overcoming their ignorance and their hesitations, through the myriad interactions that Jesus provides them with as they are ‘journeying together’ quite literally, from place to place, “assimilating the heart in the image of the heart of Christ” (Ratio Fundamentalis, 89). They will witness some persons who openly admire Jesus, others who do so

clandestinely; some who are convinced by Jesus’ retorts, others who begin to plot against him when they have been embarrassed by his replies; and still others who use their power to, presumably, silence him, unaware of his invincible nature. And after his Resurrection, the Risen Lord ensures that this ‘journeying together’, abruptly interrupted by Calvary, continues in a renewed manner with his apparitions to them, during which he helps them to understand that he is passing on the baton to the Holy Spirit with whom the Church would be ‘journeying together’ until the end of time!

As we explore ways in which to reform our formation in the Seminary in the perspective of synodality, the paradigm of ‘journeying together’ brings into focus the role of the community in the formation of future priests. And if we define this community as comprising all those who interact with seminarians, inside the Seminary and outside of it, then we will understand that a vibrant community life is truly “the environment in which the human, spiritual, academic and pastoral dimensions of formation come together and interact, and where they attain to mutual harmony and integration” (Ratio Fundamentalis, 90). The educational principle of ‘journeying together’ challenges us to truly make community the heart of priestly formation in seminaries!

- Fr Aniceto Pereira
(Rector)

STAFF FOCUS

The Advantages of Affiliation

4th JUNE 2020 was a red-letter day in the history of St Pius X College, when the Vatican Dicastery for Catholic Education (DCE) formally approved our application for affiliating our theology program with the Faculty of Theology, Jnana Deepa Institute of Philosophy and Theology, Pune. The affiliation was granted for an initial period of five years, and may be renewed subsequently. As a consequence of this affiliation, students of theology who successfully complete all the academic requirements of the B.Th. program will be awarded a baccalaureate (Bachelor's) degree in Theology.

The consequent increased workload, for both students and staff, is definitely worth it. There are several advantages of being affiliated to an internationally recognised theological faculty like Jnana Deepa. I can highlight three significant ones: Firstly, the granting of affiliation is a formal recognition by the DCE that our theology program meets global standards for baccalaureate programmes in theology. This is surely a matter of pride for our students and faculty. Secondly, students graduating with a BTh from



St Pius College and who intend to pursue further studies will find it much easier to get admission into Masters-level programmes anywhere in the world, since they now possess a recognised ecclesiastical degree. Moreover, affiliation also helps us to maintain high academic standards and proper accountability. As an affiliated institute we have to ensure that our syllabus is comprehensive, up-to-date, relevant, and taught by persons who are competent and qualified in their respective fields. This translates ultimately into a better quality of philosophical and theological education being imparted to our students.

Acquiring the status of an affiliated institute is only the first step for St Pius. It is now up to us and future generations of students and faculty to keep striving for academic excellence, and ensure that our current standards are maintained and even surpassed in the years to come!

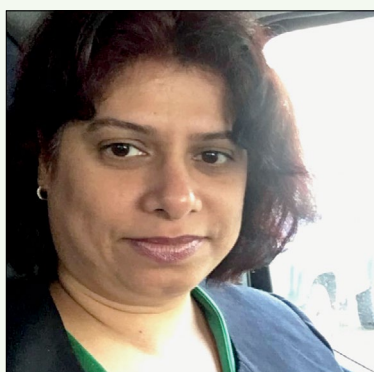
- Fr Andrew Aranha
(Director of Theology)

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Journeying to find myself

My journey at the Seminary began in 2012 when I joined the Ministry of the Word to learn scripture. What began as a purely academic exercise soon became a passion. I realized that I was called to teach and proclaim God's word. Three years into teaching, I felt something missing; I needed to know more so as to have greater clarity and conviction. That is when I came across an advertisement inviting the laity to join a five-year course in Philosophy and Theology at the Seminary.

My interest was in Theology, so upon my request, I was allowed to skip Philosophy and be admitted directly to theology. However, as the year progressed, I began to feel that I was missing something. After much thought, I decided to go back and study philosophy, without which my understanding of theology would have been incomplete. It was a big decision to take, as it would



extend my course by two more years. However, I decided to make a leap of faith. Before I knew, two years had flown past, and my thirst for knowledge became unquenchable; my mind was a bottomless pit greedily lapping all that was offered, and still wanting more. Philosophy, the subject, and professors opened new vistas. I was challenged to step out of my comfort zone and think out of the box.

After two years of philosophy, theology began to make sense. Concepts became clearer as my reading improved. I now had greater conviction and even authority when I taught; I also experienced a lightness that I had never known before. The journey has not been easy, but it is definitely worth it. Sometimes I think that I have changed so much, only to realize that I did not really change, I just found myself!

- Jane Soares
(3rd Year Theology)

Brotherhood of the study-circle

(An experience of our Comprehensives and Ad Auds Exam 2021)

The moment for which we had been preparing ourselves from the very beginning of our theological training came in the month of August this year. We'd like to thank the staff members responsible for bringing in the Fourth-year theology class back to the seminary in time before our Comprehensive Exam.

Though we had begun our preparations well in advance via Zoom calls and other online forums, due to the situation created by the ongoing pandemic, the aspect of studying together in-person made a lot of difference. We were blessed with encouraging and supportive batchmates who took up the responsibility of tutoring each other through regular study-circles. With the exam dates nearing, the anxiety soared; however, the support of our fellow brothers was extremely helpful. By the grace of Almighty God, all of us performed well in our comprehensive exam.

Having achieved that milestone, and with the experience of giving a test in front of an exam panel gave us confidence; therefore, the exam stress for Ad Auds was comparatively



less. I personally had a lot of fun while preparing for Ad Auds, as we got to discuss thought provoking case studies that gave us an in-depth understanding of various moral and canonical principles. Our professors went out of their way to answer our doubts and clear our queries. Also, their timely feedback and insights helped us prepare meticulously for the exam. The day of the exam will always be etched in our memory and I would describe it as a bitter-sweet experience. On the one hand we were all ecstatic because our eight years of theological studies

had reached a culmination point; but on the other side, we also realized that we will never have another opportunity like this one, of studying together for an exam as brothers of the study-circle. Nevertheless, it is said that all good things must come to an end!

- Deacon Herold Quadros
(4th Year Theology)

Propaedeutic Year: My Vocation Story

Luke 1:38

“Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word”

I believe that Mary leads me closer to Jesus. Her love for Jesus is truly inspiring. My vocation was deeply nurtured by the example of Mary's Life - her “Yes” to God's command. I choose to faithfully serve the Lord by saying “Yes” to proclaim his abundant love among the people.



- Br Starson Gaurea
(Archdiocese of Bombay)

Isaiah 61:1

“The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me”.

I first expressed my inclination towards priesthood as a child; it solidified after an encounter with Jesus while in college. I approached the seminary after graduation but was asked to get some work experience. After 15 years of working, I now come with a lot of experience to help people in my ministry.



- Br Matthew Fernandes
(Archdiocese of Bombay)

Jeremiah 1:5

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you”.

I had a great desire to become a priest since my childhood. The priests and religious who served in my parish inspired me. I joined the seminary soon after my schooling. My vision is to be a pastor who takes care of his people like the Good Shepherd.

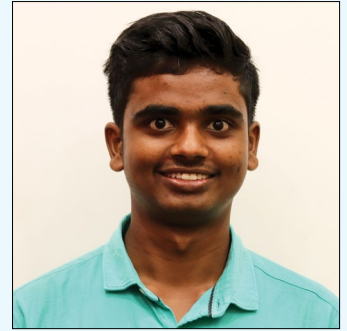


- **Br Jeston Sannuth**
(Diocese of Mysore)

John 15:16

“You did not choose me, but I chose you”.

I had no desire to become a priest. I feel, it was God’s plan, that I was pushed into the seminary by my dad. But later, I found myself inspired to become a priest by understanding more about the priesthood. And now, here I am, after my own discernment to become a worthy labourer in the vineyard of God.



- **Br Leo Jeswin**
(Diocese of Mysore)

Romans 8:38-39

“For I am convinced that neither death, nor life...will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord”.

As a child, I never desired joining the priesthood. While graduating, I deeply encountered the love of the Lord through the life of Saints. My vision is to mould my life as a missionary, working in remote regions for the poor and destitute.



- **Br Sunnith Brayan Mathias**
(Archdiocese of Bombay)

Matthew 4:19

“Follow me...”

I always sensed God asking me to follow him but never acted on it. My family encouraged me to consider religious life. During the pandemic when I was struggling to stay afloat at work, God intervened and provided for me. Now, the whispering turned into a definite call: “Follow me and you will see more.” This was the moment I decided to leave everything and follow Him.



- **Br Joshua D'Souza**
(Archdiocese of Bombay)

John 5:12

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”

Through the vocation of the priesthood, I want to share the love I received from God, with all unconditionally by being available 24/7. I’m not a perfect being. In my brokenness I want to be clay, allowing Jesus to mould me as per his will; and I humbly desire to be another Christ.

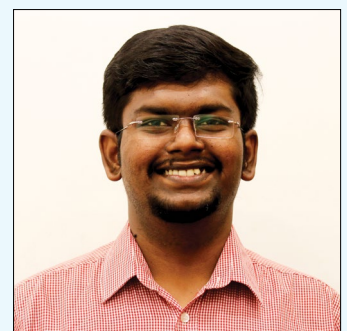


- **Br Shawn Gomes**
(Archdiocese of Bombay)

Genesis 12:1

“Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you.”

As a child I always desired of becoming a Catholic Padre. I would question myself, “Why are these men in white so different?” This desire was strong even after my graduation. As a priest I would love to be among people (specially Children) and focus on spreading the love and joy of Jesus, not only by preaching but practicing it.



- **Br Edward Francis**
(Diocese of Pune)

NEWS WORTH NOTING

Come and see! - An Invitation to journey with Jesus

The 31st of July 2021, will be cherished by all of us 'Propaedeutics' as we took our first steps into a new and Christ-filled life. The word 'propaedeutic' means "to introduce to or to teach beforehand." It is a call to a spiritual and personal journey inward. Even in these challenging times, God calls us and uses us to serve him; and the nine of us were chosen this year to answer his call. Our induction ceremony was held in the Seminary chapel. The prayer service began with a warm welcome by Fr John Barretto, introducing us individually and each of us responding with "Here I am", a firm statement of conviction and confirmation of our vocation.

The Rector of St Pius X College Rev. Fr Aniceto Pereira then addressed the gathering, speaking of 'Family' and its impact on our vocation - beginning from our homes, then moving onto our Parish, and culminating here in our new family - the St Pius X family as we prepare to serve the Lord and his Church. We felt elated when all of us were addressed officially as "brothers" and welcomed into St Pius X family, which is now our 'home'. We were ecstatic to see our families joining us on this special day via Zoom. We also had some of our classmates joining us online



owing to the quarantine restrictions. Even in these trying times, God indeed makes a way for us to stay together in unity. After the prayer service, it was heartwarming to see our moderator, Fr Prashant Padu and our Rector, Fr Aniceto interact with and greet our families with warmth and affection.

We are indeed blessed by God with the gift of the vocation to the priesthood. We are the "uncut diamonds" who will now be formed patiently and carefully, so that we may shine among the people of God, (cfr. The Gift of the Priestly Vocation) being true "Ambassadors for Christ". (2 Cor. 5:20)

- Br Joshua D'Souza
(Propaedeutic Year)

Welcome Newcomers! Let's celebrate the gift of vocation

The St Pius X community gathered on 21st of August 2021 as a "Family" to celebrate New Comer's Day and the Feast of Pope St. Pius X, the patron saint of our Seminary. During the Eucharist, presided over by Fr Aniceto Pereira, he exhorted us to draw inspiration from the simple living and robust pastoral life of Pope St. Pius X. He urged us to draw inspiration from the motto 'To Restore All Things in Christ - Post Pandemic' in light of future challenges.

A mélange of individual personalities and cultures have been added to the St Pius X Family in the form of newcomers who have joined our community this year. The current international trends shaped the theme 'Khela Hobe' which was chosen as a theme for this year's celebration of the New Comer's Day. During the gathering, the new arrivals displayed an array of talents through skits and infused humor which left the audience in splits. The vibrant comperes kept the audience busy with spot prizes from magical pockets. Br Ambrose and his team gave the audience a display of an upcoming talented band with skills to produce a melodious harmony.

The community was addressed by Fr. John Barretto, who challenged us to draw inspiration from our patron saint Pope Pius X to enrich ourselves in 3 simple ways:



- 1) Simplicity & Humility: As opposed to materialism of the world and to grow in a charitable way in God's sight.
- 2) Deep Love for the Eucharist: To grow in deep love with the Lord whom we encounter in every eucharistic celebration.
- 3) To Reconcile All Things in Christ: This should be our motto and the root of all apostolic activity with the glorification of God in every way possible. The gathering ended in a spirit of fellowship looking forward to a positive academic year and new brotherly relationships.

- Br Dashiell Fonseca
(1 Year Philosophy)

“AD JESUM PER MARIAM”

Ordinations to the Diaconate 2021

The year 2021 has been comparatively better than the previous year though we are still in the midst of the pandemic, lockdown, third wave etc.; but God has been gracious to all of us. In the midst of uncertainty, the Family of St Pius X Seminary had a reason to celebrate because seven of our brothers were ordained as Deacons on the 29th of August 2021 i.e., Aaron Sequeira and Herold Quadros for the Archdiocese of Bombay, Hencel Macwana and Surjith Golden for the Diocese of Ahmedabad, Crisler Perumbully and Laurance Murmu for the Diocese of Amravati, Anish Devasia for the Diocese of Baroda.

A prayer service was conducted the previous evening, during which the seven candidates for the Diaconate made their profession of Faith, i.e., to be faithful to the teachings of the Catholic Church and her Magisterium. In addition to this, they also took the vow of fidelity and the promise of celibacy as an expression of their unwavering commitment to the church and her mission. The seminary Rector, Fr Aniceto Pereira then addressed



the community, and especially the ordinandi, about the significance of these vows they were taking and recalling the example of exemplary priests who lived their vocations faithfully in the past. The Diaconate ordination mass was celebrated by Bp. Barthol Berretto Auxiliary bishop of Bombay along with

Bp. Agnelo Gracias and the seminary staff. The newly ordained Deacons chose as their motto “*Ad Jesum per Mariam*” which means “*To Jesus through Mary*”. Moreover, Bp. Barthol in his homily spoke about the need to reach out to the poor, orphans and widows. He urged them to translate Christ’s love in action, especially given the challenges posed by the pandemic.

We congratulate the newly ordained deacons; and wish them all the very best in their ministry. As they prepare for their sacerdotal ordinations, we pray that they may continue to experience the love, joy and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- Br Angelo Carlos Silveira
(I Year Philosophy)

KNOW YOUR SEMINARY

SPECIAL FEATURES

Archdiocesan Heritage Museum

The Archdiocesan Heritage Museum is Mumbai’s first and India’s second museum dedicated to preserving and promoting Christian art and culture. Ivan Cardinal Dias established the Archdiocesan Heritage Committee on March 26, 2006 with the objective of caring for the Church’s extensive historical treasures and conscientizing the faithful about the timeless gems of their very own local churches.

Inaugurated in 2011 by His Eminence, Oswald Cardinal Gracias, the museum holds more than 3000 artifacts under its care. The collection includes religious objects, paintings, sacred vessels, sculptures, and other antique artifacts from numerous locations within the Archdiocese. The artifacts depict an amalgamation of the Western and Indian culture, a fusion of Indo-Portuguese ethos, and combine elements from various religions. The contemporary design, ambience and edifice of the museum teleports one back in time wherein each artifact unveils its story making it a ‘living museum’. It hopes to raise awareness



and enlighten visitors about the city’s Christian heritage through exhibitions, seminars, field trips and guided tours. The highlight of the museum is the timeline that dynamically chronicles the story of the local churches.

On its 10th anniversary, a coffee table book was published featuring photographs and detailed descriptions of 114 artifacts. The museum provides a unique opportunity for Christians to reflect on their glorious historical heritage. It broadens religious and cultural horizons, infuses a love for art and history and challenges one to be the guardians of antiquity.

- Br Ashton Pinto
(I Year Theology)

WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCE

Mother Mary in our Life

On 13th September 2021, the seminary invited Bishop Agnelo Gracias to address the seminarians on our relationship with Mother Mary. As the reflection progressed, the focus shifted towards highlighting the qualities of Mary who embodies elegance, gracefulness, compassion and tenderness. No one can deny the role of Mother Mary who intercedes for us as we walk on the path of Jesus. Throughout the ages, a number of faithful have found consolation in times of loneliness and sorrow, through the maternal care of Mother Mary. Bp Agnelo quoted a few lines from the famous poem by William Wordsworth, entitled “*The Virgin*”, in which he praised Mary as “*our tainted nature’s solitary boast*”. It is to the great credit of Pope Paul VI, that he announced at the Second Vatican Council that henceforth Mary would be honoured under the title “Mother of the Church.”

- Br Abhilash G
(3rd Year Theology)

Golden Jubilee of the FABC!



The Federation of Asian Bishops’ Conferences (FABC) is an association of episcopal conferences of the Catholic Church in South, Southeast, East and Central Asia. As the FABC celebrates its 50th anniversary, a session was organized for the seminarians on 12 September 2021 to discuss the FABC 50 General Conference (Guide Document). Bp Allwyn D’Silva who was the main speaker at the event, accentuated the contributions of the first Indian Cardinal, Valerian Gracias to the FABC as President during its early years. We then browsed through the FABC Guide Document “*FABC 50: Journeying together as peoples of Asia*” and the challenges facing Asia. The document reflects on the text of the Epiphany from the Gospel of Matthew “*...and they went a different way.*” (Mt 2:1-12)”. The seminarians received an overview of the ‘15 Emerging Realities and Trends of Concern in Asia’ that have been underscored in the document. “The church in Asia”, said Bp Allwyn, “*is known for its contemplative practices; and this is what we can contribute to the universal church*”.

- Br Akilesh Paul
(1st Year Philosophy)

MEDIA DEPARTMENT

Workshop on Parish Website Management

On 21 Sep 2021, a workshop on parish website management was organized by the Seminary media department. The session primarily focussed on designing and hosting a website but also included information pertaining to mobile apps, search engine optimization and social media. The speaker, Brinston Carvalho from AMCF Catholic Communication Centre, gave the participants a complete guide for beginners; beginning from how to choose a web host provider and add-on services to selecting a web hosting plan for uploading the website. During the interactive session, questions related to content management were raised by the participants and the speaker was kind to address them. By the end of the session, the participants acquired knowledge about the basic components of a website as well as technical know-how to link the website with social media platforms such as Instagram, Facebook and WordPress.



- Br Anthony Samuel
(1st Year Philosophy)

Workshop on Video Editing

The cyber world has opened a new dimension in the way human beings commune and interact. To stay relevant to the demand of rapidly evolving times, St. Pius X College has optimistically encouraged digital literacy for its community members. On 5th October 2021, Br. Ashton Pinto conducted an interactive workshop to equip the seminarians with basic video editing skills. Various tools required in video creation were explored by a live demonstration. The attendees were given an opportunity to get their hands on the software, apply their learnings and create a video. The workshop was an exciting adventure and a one-of-a-kind experience for the seminarians of the ‘e-future’.

- Br Alton Extros
(2nd Year Theology)

WILDLIFE & NATURE CLUB

Small steps for a better present

The Nature club planted two *Jamun* (Malabar plum) saplings in the campus on 19th September 2021. This act commemorated the beginning of the “Season of Creation” of the Archdiocese of Bombay. “Season of Creation”, an ecumenical initiative coordinated by Bp. Allwyn D’Silva, gives a list of eco-friendly activities for a day. One of the activities was to plant saplings within the campus. Fr Andrew Aranha led this initiative, along with the assistance of Frs Prashant Padu, Marcellus Crasto. The non-teaching staff, along with student members of the Nature Club, also participated in this activity. On Earth Day 2015, His Holiness, Pope Francis, said, “*The Earth is our environment to protect and the garden to tend to.*” Let the words of Pope Francis inspire us to take small steps for a better present.



- Br Noel D’Souza
(1stYear Theology)

PIOUS ASSOCIATIONS

The Legion is a hundred years old!

The Legion of Mary is a lay catholic organization whose members give service to the Church on a voluntary basis in almost every country. To celebrate the centenary of the Legion, the praesidium of St. Pius X Seminary invited Fr. Anthony Fernandes, the spiritual director of the legionaries to share his experience and thoughts. One of the most important points elucidated by him was the opportunities provided by the association to help Catholic laypeople fulfill their baptismal promises and be able to live their dedication to the Church in an organized structure, supported by fraternity and prayer. “*The essential*



aim of the Legion of Mary”, he reiterated “*is the sanctification of its members through prayer, the sacraments and devotion to Mary and the Trinity, and of the whole world through the apostolate of the Legion.*” Before concluding the meeting, there was a Q&A session, in which the invited speaker responded to questions from the audience.

- Bro Liron D’Cunha
(2nd Year Philosophy)

Mystery of the Stoic Squirrel

One evening, some of the community members spotted a ‘*stoic squirrel*’ with eyes tight shut and paws joined in prayer position. I am calling it ‘*stoic*’ because it was unusually calm and wasn’t afraid of us going near it. Upon further investigation, we realized that it was the mother who was keeping a careful watch over her babies. They were nesting on a ledge of the seminary building; thus, she wasn’t afraid and did not run away. Someone has said that a mother’s heart is like the heart of God - I think that applies to both; humans as well as the animal kingdom.

- Br Sunil Godinho
(3rd Year Theology)

SPORTS

Sports Inauguration Day

“*MENS SANA IN CORPORE SANO*” is a Latin phrase which means “a healthy mind in a healthy body”. This is the theme we have chosen for sports activities to be held in our seminary this year. On Sunday, September 26, 2021, soon after the Eucharistic Celebration, a recorded video of the ceremony of the torch relay was screened. This included an opening prayer and a relay of the captain and vice-captain of every team. Fr. Anthony, our sports moderator, addressed the community on the importance of sports in the life of seminarians. Our rector, Fr. Aniceto Pereira then inaugurated the sports notice board that would update us with sports-related activities to be held throughout the year. Thereafter, the oath of ‘willingly participating in every sport with a true spirit of sportsmanship and solidarity’ was taken jointly by members of the community. It marked a fitting start to a ‘sporting year’.



- Br Amol Thopelya
(3rd Year Theology)

PASTORAL OUTREACH

Pastoral Ministry during Pandemic times



The hallmark of an educational institution is its ability to instil in the students the varied dimensions of quality formation. Keeping this in mind, St. Pius Seminary imparts special pastoral formation. This pastoral formation is possible

because of the vibrant life of the Christian community in Mumbai, the large catholic population in each parish, the diversity of pastoral situations in the metropolis, the wide range of pastoral experiences and experiments carried out in the Archdiocese of Bombay. Unfortunately, this year because of Covid 19 and the pandemic situation – our churches could not open and so pastoral ministry took a huge hit.

However, it is said, *“When God closes one door, he opens another”*. When we reopened the seminary and started online classes in July 2021- we placed the seminarians in parishes, formation houses, minor seminaries or pastoral centres. This helped in not only creating an atmosphere that was conducive to study but the seminarian also got the feel of a pastoral setup. We began the academic year with a seminar on pastoral work – conducted by relevant resource persons. Thereafter every seminarian got involved in pastoral online ministry such as conducting catechism classes, animating youth and small Christian communities and conducting prayer services for adults. The priests everywhere were a great help in involving seminarians in any kind of ministry that benefitted the parish or the institution. Then from the month of November as the pandemic eased and parishes gradually opened, our seminarians are now joyously visiting their parishes for their ministry. Knowing that pastoral ministry should be oriented to the formation of true shepherds of souls after the model of our Lord Jesus Christ, our seminarians accompanied by a pastoral work supervisor march ahead to serve God and his people.

- Fr John Barretto
(Coordinator of Pastoral Work)

ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

The Joy of Giving is beyond words

The experience of the joy of giving is unique and cannot be expressed in words. This uniqueness is something that is very closely linked to human nature itself. Unfortunately, the natural human tendency is to be selfish and satisfy

one's greed. However, we humans are also created in the image and likeness of God; therefore, just like the nature of God which is love, so is also the case with human nature which comprises of various emotions including love, that is at the core of our being. St. Teresa of Calcutta is one of the most exemplary models of love in action. She touched the lives of so many needy and underprivileged people by the sheer act of reaching out and giving help.

*“There is so much good in the worst of us,
and so much bad in the best of us,
that it ill behoves any of us to find fault with the rest of us.”*

- James Truslow Adams

The good in all of us must be channelized in the right direction. The seminary is an institution that endeavours to guide the good in us by forming priests who will build communities based on the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ. The seminary is preparing the light of the world and salt of the earth disciples to serve in the Lord's vineyard. In my opinion, a seminarian discerning his vocation to the priesthood is giving himself in an act of love and service; hence, they need our prayers and support. On one occasion in the past, I had the opportunity to visit the seminary for an event where some seminarians had shared their vocation stories. I suggest the seminary organize such events for the youth in the parishes to inspire our youngsters, because *“the harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few”*.

- Mr Leopoldo D'Sa
(Benefactor)

St. Pius X College - My Alma Mater



After SSC (XI std) in June 1974, I joined St. Pius X Seminary and got right into the flow of things; spiritual exercises, sports, dramatics and other community activities. And then I relocated home to complete my B.A honours with Psychology.

Back again to the Seminary in June of 1978 for the long haul till Ordination on 13th April 1985. In the fitness of things, a year of Orientation set the ball rolling and life gathered momentum as Philosophy, Regency at Our Lady's Home, treatises of Theology and Sacred Scripture were brought to bear upon us in those years. Academics was liberally punctuated by retreats and recollections, dramatics and music, community activities, games, tournaments and picnics. An unforgettable feature of these years - besides the cool acreage of St. Pius, the imposing building and the magnificent Chapel - is surely the “classmate experience” and the weekly “moderator group meetings”. These will be

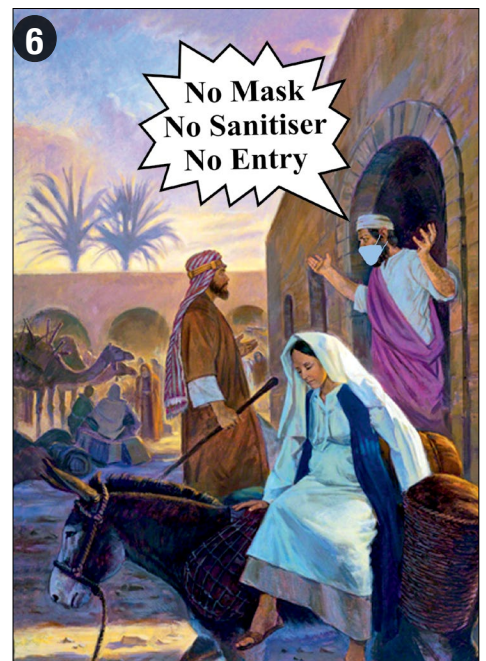
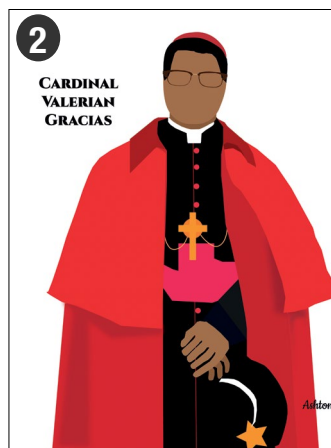
forever normative of the way we shaped up to what we are as clerics today - I dare say. Sharing portfolios in different departments of responsibilities and ending as Community Beadle in my final year, certainly shaped the way one would handle ministry and apostolate as a priest.

Music and dramatics were and still are my passion and there was ample scope for expression through the choir groups, liturgical singing and AIR radio broadcasts. The annual major plays honed skills and sharpened the ear for finesse. I can't forget my Rectors and Professors;

my formation-mentor-friend, Fr. Aniceto Pereira, the out-of-the-box-thinking, Fr. Albert Menezes and the late music maestro Fr. Aniceto Nazareth, for these priceless encounters and learnings. Little wonder then, that any and every opportunity to spend time withing the portals of my Alma Mater, are eagerly awaited, cherished moments. Hail St. Pius X Seminary...!

- Mr Fr. Austin Norris
(Alumni and Parish Priest of
St. Vincent De Paul Church, Khar)

STUDENT ARTWORK



1. Christmas Meme: Conceptualized by Br Nikunj Parmar, graphic design by Br Anand Patil and drawing by Br Angel Patil.
2. Cardinal Valerian Gracias: Artwork by Br Ashton Pinto.
3. Four Pillars of Formation Meme: By Br Clinton Rayar.
4. Spontaneous Prayer Painting: By Br Anthony Rodrigues (An expression of prayer through spontaneous movements of the paint brush during a spiritual retreat.)
5. Mother Mary and Baby Jesus: Artwork by Br Ambrose Haruck.
6. Christmas Meme: Conceptualized by Br Nikunj Parmar, graphic design by Br Anand Patil and drawing by Br Angel Patil.



1. Lectors



2. Acolyte



3. Rite to Candidacy



Glimpses from the Group Building Days



The Semachar Editorial Team wishes our readers a

Happy Christmas and a Joyful New Year

Editorial Team: Fr Julian Saldanha SJ, Br Sunil Godinho and Br Kenneth Pinto

St. Pius X College - Archdiocesan Seminary, Aarey Road, Goregaon (East), Mumbai 400 063 | Tel: 29271217 / 29271560 / 29271554 / 29276891 | Email: piuscol@mtnl.net.in