



Semachar

Newsletter of St Pius X College - Archdiocesan Seminary

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A silent night,
a star above, a blessed gift
of hope and love!

St. Paul in his Letter to the Corinthians describes the Church as “one Body with many parts”. Every part in this living organism has a specific role to play in accomplishing a common purpose. That is a fine metaphor also for our seminary. As a part of our human formation, the seminary inculcates in us the discipline of team work in catering to the needs of all. Apart from academics, the seminary formation consists of a wide range of activities throughout the day and year.

All the activities in the seminary are managed by departments consisting of a team of brothers under a staff member. There are departments that handle the liturgy, choir and sacristy functions.

The Refectorian team looks after the arrangement of the meals. The general cleaning department allocates responsibilities to the brothers in systematically carrying out the maintenance and cleaning of the entire seminary, indoors as well as outdoors. The horticulture department takes initiative in helping brothers to plant and harvest vegetables and thereby maintain the vegetation around

the seminary campus. The Sports department organizes games and in-house tournaments helping brothers to participate in various sporting events. The infirmary department involves brothers who are trained in primary healthcare, who provide health care to the ailing members in the community.

We also have an in-house hair-cutting salon department which provides free haircuts to the members of the community. For the organization of various events, we have the Cultural department which plans them for the whole year. We have brothers who are involved in the Sound and Audio-visual department; they take care of the sound and visual needs during

programs, in addition to maintaining the equipment and providing technical assistance. We have brothers who are skilled in photography and videography who help in producing audio-visual media for the seminary. The Semachar department helps in publishing this magazine. The Public Relations department helps in attending to guests, visiting professors, posting of media

**ONE
BODY
MANY
PARTS**



The Semachar Editorial Team wishes our readers a

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2019!



like the Semachar, greeting cards, etc. This department maintains a data base of the seminarians too. The Library and Computer departments run the library and provide computer related facilities like printing, scanning and surfing the net. Furthermore, the various language notice boards are maintained by the respective departments. Besides all these, the class Beadles and house area 'Mayors' ensure the upkeep of all class related and area (colony) related activities. Apart from these in-house departments there are those who are involved in outdoor work, like the Purchase department who help the Kitchen staff in purchasing vegetables and groceries.

All in all, we can say that the seminary work ethic combines something of a home and a corporate house.

A home because in all that we do we keep in mind the welfare of each individual member; a corporate house because we work in collaboration to ensure that each task is accomplished efficiently and successfully. It helps us build an atmosphere of solidarity and team work while developing self-reliance. It motivates us to develop the required communication and professional skills which in the long run will enrich our pastoral ministry. It is here that we place our God given talents at the service of the community. This has been the hallmark of our seminary.

We pray that the Lord may grant us the grace to grow in greater sensitivity and generosity thus keeping ever alive the vibrant participatory spirit of the St. Pius X Community.

- Deacon Renold D'Souza

DOWN MEMORY LANE THE SEMINARY, MY SECOND HOME

The Editorial Team presents to all its readers some reminiscences of our retired Bishops, now resident in the Seminary: This issue features Bp Bosco Penha



In 1957, I was working at the National Bank of India, Fort. I was then 20 years of age and an active member of my parish, St. Michael, Mahim. At that time there was much talk of the new seminary planned by Cardinal Valerian Gracias, the then Archbishop of Bombay. We were asked to help in raising funds for this project,

which I willingly did. On one occasion, I was given a brochure to help in this effort and on the brochure was a picture of what the future seminary would look like. I was amazed and awestruck as I gazed at that huge edifice, never dreaming that it would turn out to be my second home. In 1958 I felt the call of God to join the seminary and on the 3rd November 1960 I was the first student to join the seminary, after the Solemn Blessing attended by numerous dignitaries from all over the country and some from Rome.

I was ordained in December 1967 after a memorable period of training, for which I can never thank God and my superiors sufficiently: a time of academic learning and even more, of inner transformation. Normally at the end of seminary studies, one moves on to the parish but my superiors informed me that I was chosen to be

on the staff of the seminary; and so, apart from one year in the parish of Holy Cross, Kurla and a four year stint of Postgraduate studies in Rome, I spent 25 years (1960-1985) in the seminary which I grew to love as my second home. During this time, I was appointed Professor of Theology, then Dean of Studies and finally, Rector.

It has always been a great joy to live in the seminary which has been called, "A city set on a Hill". The ambience is scenic and inspiring. When one enters the gate, people have remarked that one does not seem to be in Mumbai but in the countryside. It is generally enveloped in a great peace and the surrounding multitude of trees gives it the appearance of an ashram, an ideal place for solitude, prayer and spirituality.

When I had to leave the seminary, as I had become a bishop, and had to move all over the diocese I had always hoped to return to the seminary in my retirement. How great was my joy, then, when at the end of my term as a bishop, my Archbishop, Cardinal Oswald Gracias asked me to return to the seminary. I am delighted to be back. I do a little teaching and try to help in whatever way I can; but in the main, I have offered my life to God for the seminary and the archdiocese. I pray every day for each member of the staff, for each student and for each worker by name. This makes me happy because I believe that, "More things are wrought by prayer than the world dreams of". God bless our seminary!

- Bishop Bosco Penha

Look forward to the sharing from Bp Percival in the forthcoming issue.

MODERATOR GROUPS SHARE THEIR GROUP BUILDING EXPERIENCES

Many Players, One Team

A community is not just a group of individuals but a group of people striving towards a common goal; to achieve this there has to be a strong sense of community bonding and unity. With these very sentiments in mind, the Orientals had a three day Group Building outing to Nashik.

Accompanied by our moderator Fr. Prashant Padu, we began our outing with a short and enjoyable train trip to Nashik. We were warmly welcomed by Deacon Sachin Muntode, a student of St. Pius X College, who facilitated our stay. We had sessions by Fr. Prashant in the morning and games and other activities in the evening. We also visited several places in Nashik, including Panchavati, the Sula Vineyards, the Rock Museum and St. Patrick's Church which is the oldest Church located in Deolali near Nashik.

We visited the Capuchin Philosophate and Divyadan, the Salesian Institute of Philosophy. We were cordially greeted by the Fathers and seminarians at these places and their hospitality was overwhelming. No visit to Nashik is complete without a visit to the Shrine of Infant



Jesus. There we prayed for our seminary and loved ones. On the last day of our stay, we were blessed to have a private mass with Bp Lourdes Daniel, the Bishop of Nashik diocese. Although the trip was a short one, it provided all of us with a golden opportunity to grow in our understanding and appreciation for each other, as we continue to journey together towards the common goal of the priesthood.

- Br Dorson D. D'Mello,

To Form And To Build



“Ecce quam bonum et quam jucundum, habitare fratres in unum!” (How good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity!)

In the course of formation every individual has to learn how to develop love, acceptance and togetherness

in a community. Group building days provide this opportunity for each of us to introspect and internalize values, while striving to build a healthy group. Extending help, accepting each other and sharing our joys and sorrows, is the true spirit of brotherhood.

The first year philosophers, led by moderator Fr Benhur Rodrigues, enjoyed their group building days at Gorai. It was a gifted opportunity to experience the life of the other part of the busy Mumbai city. The culture, serenity and calmness all around were conducive to a pleasant stay. Living as a smaller community under one roof, doing our own cooking, and sessions on the psycho-sexual and other challenges faced by a seminarian and a priest today, contributed much to our personal growth. A day out at the Water Kingdom was fun - filled and thrilling. All in all, it was a memorable and fruitful time spent together. The experience will surely help us build community in our ministry, wherever that may be!

- Br Derrick Barnabas

THE ANTHONITES

journey to Karzzz-at...

A group building event is truly a time where the bonding of every moderator group becomes stronger in a cheerful way. With the aim of building team spirit in a relaxed atmosphere, we the 'Anthonites' led by Fr. Anthony L. Fernandes set out on our journey to Karjat. Prior arrangements were made for all at 'Carmel Oasis' situated in Vanjale at Karjat for our stay, with good amenities. We were warmly welcomed by the Sisters of the Congregation of Teresian Carmelites. The scenic beauty of the surroundings was itself refreshing. Our morning would begin with Holy Mass followed by Morning Prayer.

We visited 'Don Bosco Yuva Sanstha,' a registered charitable trust that runs a technical training institute to train the poor underprivileged youth. We enjoyed the wholesome fellowship. We had our moderator group sessions, team building inputs and games which fostered the bonding of the group. We also trekked for nearly an hour to Kondana caves situated near the Kondva village. We experienced the breath-taking greenery, steep hills and the beauty of nature. The most enjoyable moment was bathing under a natural waterfall. After a tiring and fun packed morning we all headed for lunch at Our Lady of Fatima church, Karjat where we enjoyed the generosity of Fr. Louis Kajar. The group photograph provided an opportunity for the brothers to exhibit the funny side of their faces, as some clicked away on their high definition cameras.



The memories of these three days will linger for a long time: all expressed a desire to revisit the place again! Overall, it was an enriching Group Building Days for the Anthonites!

- Br Cletus Ferrao

THE ANDRENALINES travel to a Salesian House...



The 14 Andrenalines, along with Fr. Andrew Aranha our moderator, travelled to the Don Bosco Apostolic Boarding School at Lonavala for the much awaited group-building days. We journeyed from Mumbai to Lonavala by train, spending time playing antakshari, cracking jokes, and also sharing ideas and snacks with another Moderator group which happened to travel on the same train! The three days we spent at Lonavla gave us many insights into our formation and our vocation, besides enjoying our time of bonding with each other. We also enjoyed the vistas of deep valleys and waterfalls that made us marvel at the beauty of God's creation. We set out on a long trek along the steep mountain slopes that led us to the historic Lohagad fort. It was an awesome

trek filled with memories to cherish for each one of us. On this journey we witnessed strong fellowship amongst the brothers, as we encouraged each other, lent a helping hand, and searched out new ways and paths to reach our destination. This experience taught us a great lesson on accompaniment in formation. On another occasion we visited the Maria Ashiana which is a rehabilitation centre for addicts run by a Salesian priest, Fr Xavier. The interactions we had there with some of the inmates helped us become aware of the amount of work that is still to be accomplished in the vineyard of Christ.

On our last night in Lonavla we cooked a meal together, which was relished by all and showed us what great fruits teamwork can bring forth. The icing on the cake was the lively group discussion that we had on points for the seminary community meeting, which showed us how truly interested seminarians are in their own formation. We journeyed back to St Pius with memories and images that we will treasure for a long time, and with bonds of friendship that are stronger than before.

- **Br Bernard Fernandes**

THE JOSEPHITES march to Pune...

We 'Josephites', led by Fr Joseph Gonsalves, went to Pune for our Group Building days. We stayed at the Shraddha Seva Social Centre during all the three days. Having reached the place after a tiring journey, we had our supper, followed by night prayer and a short game and then retired for a much deserved rest. The next day we went to Sinhagad fort; the view from up there was fascinating. Some of us were busy clicking photos to capture the awesome natural beauty. After spending quality time with each other in the group, we had lunch at the fort itself.

Post lunch we moved towards the Katraj Park where we saw animals and birds of various kinds. Finally, we visited the JDV (Jnana Deepa Vidyapeeth) campus in Pune, which houses the Papal Seminary. Two of the brothers, who were studying in our Seminary, showed us around, following which we returned to our place of residence. On the final day we had three sessions, two of which were conducted by Fr Joseph, the other by a brother. These sessions were really conducive to our growth. In the evening we had a stroll around the campus, mainly the St Patrick's Cathedral which is situated in the vicinity. For dinner that night, we decided to cook by ourselves and all the brothers chipped in to help. Fortunately the meal turned out to be delicious! Finally it was time to



head back to the seminary the next day, which we did by the afternoon and concluded the trip with a sumptuous lunch. Overall these days were filled with fun, enjoyment and a lot to learn and more importantly it helped us to understand each other better and bond well within the group.

- **Br Conrad Pereira**

In face of the hatred and anger of the world we must bring the gentleness and the smile of the infant Jesus of Bethlehem.
In face of the pride of the world we must bring the littleness and powerlessness of the tiny new born baby of the crib.

Little Sister Magdeleine



MARCEMELLOWS – 'Best Group Building Days Ever'

September, in the seminary, is a time for the Moderator Group Building Days. This year it was scheduled from 24th-27th Sept 2018 and as a group we went to Matheran, a Hill Station near Neral. As we set off on the trip, little did we realise how it would turn out to be, as one brother later expressed, the "best moderator group building ever". The main purpose of this group outing is to develop good bonding among the members along with some fun activities, entertainment and sessions on group building and personality development. Our Moderator for this year, Fr. Marcellus Crasto, accompanied us throughout. The outing was well planned with the sessions on how to form ourselves and the present situation of the Church in India and abroad. Apart from this, the entire group also ventured out for sight seeing, daily walks, a memorable visit to the church ruins of Matheran and playing indoor games. Matheran boasts of a beautiful nature, away from the routine urban life overly polluted with noise and vehicles. A high team spirit was clearly in evidence in all activities we did as a group. The hospitality, food and stay at the Holy Cross Church was most satisfying. Above all, the group building developed harmoniously, thanks to our regular group prayers and daily



mass as a foundation. Needless to say, the group building rejuvenated our souls after a hectic first term, filling us with tremendous happiness, and confidence to overcome the future challenges with zeal and new hope.

- Br Joseph David

The Long Refreshing Journey To Mahad...



The group building days spent at Jan Kalyan, Mahad a mission parish of the Archdiocese of Mumbai were memorable days for 13 young brothers led by our Moderator Fr. John Barretto. Even though the journey was long and tiring, it was enjoyable and fun.

On the first day, we visited the Raigad Chatrapati Shivaji Fort. Ascending the fort by means of the ropeway cable car experience was breath-taking. We admired the beauty of the hills and green pastures. The second half of the day was

spent in visiting the mission farm with its cattle, and relaxing by the natural 'pool' side discussing the community guide lines in preparation for the community meeting. The day had to end with a dip in the 'pool'!

The second day started off on an enriching experience when we visited the Adivasi tribal village. We spent our time visiting houses, interacting and also singing and dancing with the children and the young people. This indeed was the best part of our group building days. On our way back, we visited the beautiful Pancha Pandavas caves. Later in the evening, we interacted with the hostel boys where we lived. We had ice-breakers, presented motivational talks and performed a small funny skit through which moral values could be drawn. Finally, all sang and danced, including fathers, as a big group on the ground! It was a joyous day full of enthusiasm for all of us.

The last day began with an enlightening session on 'Vision and Mission' – something that will benefit

us for life! We also continued our group discussions on issues pertaining to seminary life. When we look back, we feel those sweet memories of our group building days

are unforgettable. We thank all those who helped us to have a memorable experience in Mahad.

- Br Kommu Sudharshan

THE ORIENTS' Mission Experience

On 19th October we left for 'Jan Kalyan' trust in Mahad, for our mission experience. There Frs. Callistus and Jodman briefed us about the life of the tribals and the requirements to adhere to during our stay in the villages. We were divided into four groups of three each and sent to different villages. The first two days were challenging but we were able to manage well. Irrespective of the villages we resided in, each of us experienced the warmth, kindness and love of the tribal people. The children and youth were very concerned too, and with their constant visits made sure we were comfortable. We interacted



with the elders of the village who described the various challenges they faced, many due to root causes of literacy, discrimination, superstitions etc. We also visited the schools and spread awareness on education and hygiene.

This mission experience was filled with more learning than teaching! Since we cooked our own meals, it taught us the value of meals served in our seminary refectory. We also learnt to be content with whatever we have. And finally, that we depend on God's Providence always! Thus, the mission experience was definitely a life transforming one for us. It has helped us to recognize the increasing need to work for the marginalized in our society.

- Brs Robinson and Ivan

THE 'FRAGILE ROCK' Indeed Rocked!!



Continuing the tradition of St. Pius, this year an English play titled "Fragile Rock" was staged on 8th and 9th December. The play oscillated between the strengths and frailties of St. Peter. It was based on the accounts of Scripture and tradition.

The play was filled with intense drama, action and moments of serenity. The captivating performance of the actors took the viewers back in time to the struggles faced by early Christians. The creative scenes showing

the beheading of St. Paul, the opening of prison gates by an Angel and the Crucifixion of St. Peter, besides others, stole the limelight and contributed to the grand success of the play.

The play further showcased the combination of talent, collaboration and diligence of all the brothers. We thank our benefactors, well wishers and all those who have directly and indirectly supported this endeavour.

- Br Noel D'Souza

St. Pius: A Bird Sanctuary?



All these birds either visit or reside in our campus. We are grateful to Br Biruthive Thomas (2 Yr Phil.), who painstakingly captured them on camera.

Editorial Team:

Fr Julian Saldanha SJ, Br Alan Fernandes & Br Noel D'Souza