

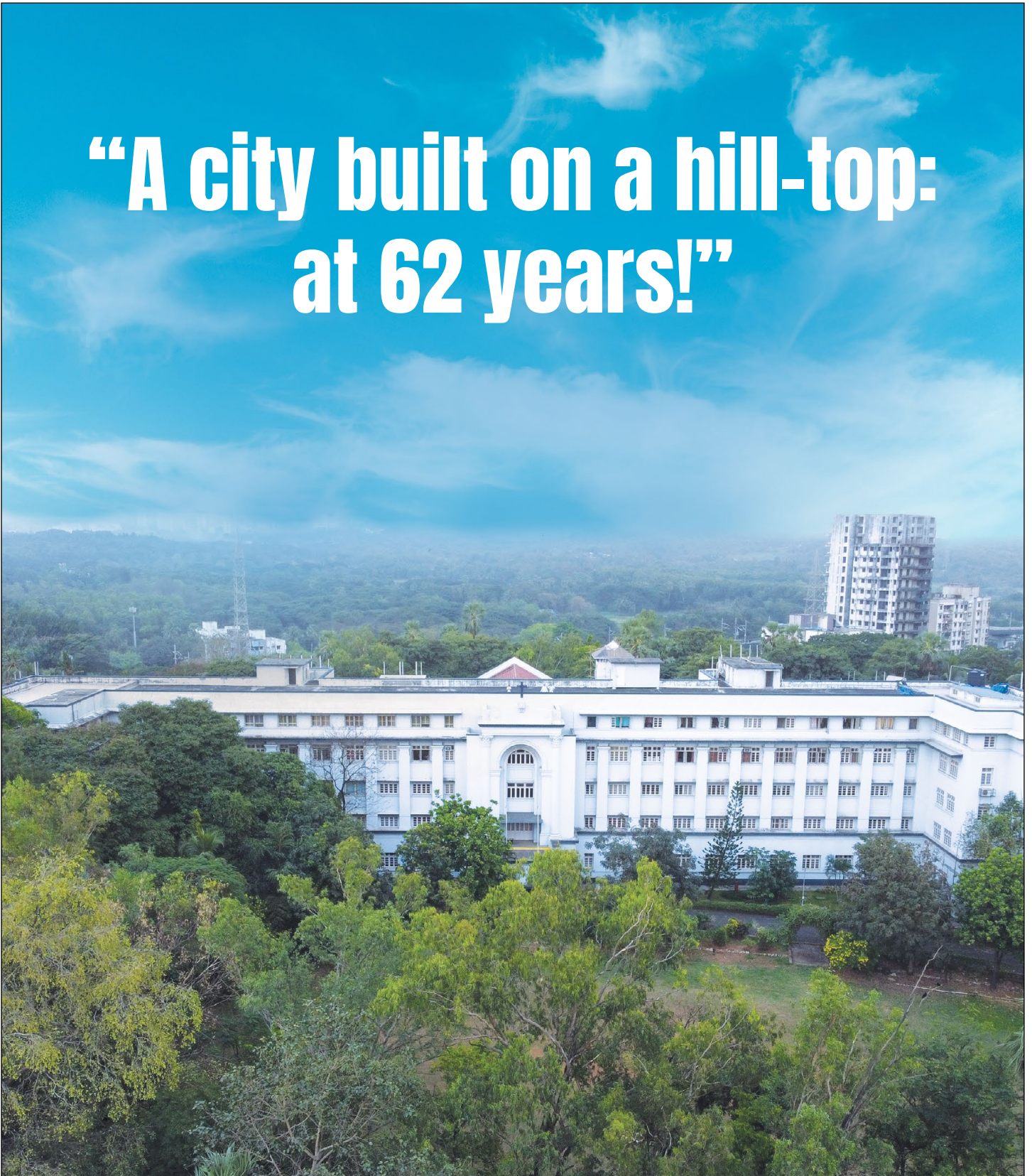


Sambachar

Newsletter of St Pius X College - Archdiocesan Seminary

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**“A city built on a hill-top:
at 62 years!”**



A VIEW FROM THE RECTOR

“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 spirituality of journeying together, ‘synodality’ is expected 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

RESPONSIBLE, RESPONSIVE AND RESPECTIVE

LECTIO BREVIS



On 18th June, Professor Angelo Menezes delivered the lectio brevis to the community of St Pius X college. He spoke on the theme of leveraging ‘Fratelli Tutti’ to navigate India. He referred to sections in Fratelli Tutti and how they could be utilized to mend the fractures of our broken society. He stressed on the need for an action that is ‘Responsible, Responsive and Respectful’. Together these 3R’s form the basis of a spirituality that begins with piety and leads to praxis. This qualifies in a way what we hear in the New Testament, that is to justify our faith with works. It was a very enriching experience to hear an economist who spoke about the need of the hour for us to be responsible, responsive and respectful in all that we do and say.

Br. Joyous Koreth (3rd Year Theology)

TAKING THE FIRST STEPS

MY JOURNEY TO THE PRIESTHOOD



I would like to become a priest because I want to bring people closer to God and I want to build them in spirituality.

Br. Tejas Bunkauli (Archdiocese of Bombay)



My vision of the Priesthood is to comfort the people who are spiritually weak, help the poor and be kind and lovable to all.

Br. Nirmal Anthony (Diocese of Mysore)



To be a servant of the Lord and a good shepherd of the people.

Br. Jobin Jayabalan (Archdiocese of Bombay)



My vision of the priesthood is to imitate Jesus in every way and to give myself completely to the service of others.

Br. Reuben Michael (Archdiocese of Bombay)



My vision of the priesthood is to make Jesus famous, to spread his joy to everyone and to show compassion to the last, the least and the lost.

Br. Joel D'Silva
(Archdiocese of Bombay)



My vision of the priesthood is to grow in my relationship with Jesus each day, to serve God in his people and to share the love and blessings which I have received from the Lord with others.

Br. Julius Kendi
(Diocese of Poona)



I want to be a priest to love and serve the Lord and bring back those gone astray, glorifying the Lord through my life.

Br. Brijeshkumar Macwan
(Archdiocese of Ahmedabad)

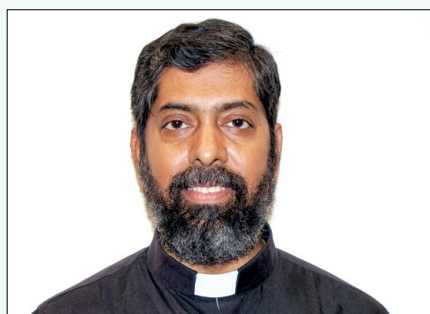


My vision for the priesthood is to be a servant contemplating the life of Jesus, to reach out to those on the peripheries, live in simplicity and proclaim God's mercy.

Br. Joyston Odathumparambil
(Diocese of Vasai)

THE SAINT PIUS X FAMILY CORDIALLY WELCOMES TO THE SEMINARY

Fr Walter D'souza, having completed his PhD in Biblical Studies, has joined as a new member of the seminary Staff. Recently he has written a book; *As you have Sown So shall you Reap: Exegetical-Theological Study of Galatians 6:7-10.*



Fr Walter D'souza

Fr. Walter also holds a certificate in 'Performing Arts and Theatre' and has been guiding the seminarians in their annual 'Major plays' for quite some time.

ANNUAL RETREAT

AND HE SAID TO THEM, “COME AWAY BY YOURSELVES TO A DESERTED PLACE AND REST A WHILE.” (MK 6: 31)

The brothers from Third Year Theology made their 30-day retreat based on Ignatian Spirituality at St Joseph’s Capuchin Friary, Kotagiri in Tamil Nadu. The retreat was in preparation for our candidacy and our journey towards the Diaconate and the Priesthood. Being a hill station, the place was a perfect choice for prayer and reflection.

The retreat director Fr James Dabhi, a renowned Jesuit guided us to into the Ignatian method of meditation and contemplation. It was indeed a time of deep introspection, rediscovering of our self, our vocation, and our relationship with Christ himself.

We were enriched with a new experience and revived with a zeal for the Kingdom as we traversed across the life of Jesus. One of my best experiences was that the more I came to know about God, the better I discovered myself. Furthermore, we had a daily hour of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament with the brothers edifying each other through the sharing of



their spiritual experiences. We thank God for the Rector and staff who have helped us and supported us to make this beautiful retreat.

Br. Clinton Rayar (3rd Year Theology)

CHURCH IS THE MISSION

The academic year for the Second Year Theology Students began with a weeklong retreat from 9th to 16th June 2022 guided by Fr Wendell D’Cruz, SJ. The focus of the retreat was to realize that the Church is ‘The Mission’ and not an institution. God is the first and the greatest evangelizer of all time. The mission is always God’s work and we are only the channels to work in his vineyard. Therefore, one should understand and accept in complete humility that the missionary achievements are not our personal credit and glory but of God. Pope Francis emphasizes ‘a church of and for the poor’ and this should be the focus of our mission. As priests and religious we are called to uplift the poor from their struggles and challenges. The poor in spirit and those who lack faith should be our primary concern. The retreat re-emphasized time and again that the Church is the mission and we are called to be carriers of this mission. Hence our preparation for priesthood should focus on the church’s mission.

Br. Derrick Barnabas (2nd Year Theology)

JOURNEYING TOWARDS THE ALTAR



We started our new academic year 2022-2023 with an Annual Retreat conducted by Fr. Tony Menezes SVD. He explained to us that “Retreat is a time to withdraw, introspect, and to know oneself”. This retreat focused on our journey toward the altar and the priesthood. Fr Tony explained the ‘allegory of appetite’ connecting it to Sacred Scripture. Appetites are one’s own food, thoughts, feelings, and relationship with God, others, and self. He urged us to choose a healthy appetite over an unhealthy one. He reminded us that we are a resurrection people and through the resurrection everything changes. It was a very enriching and memorable experience.

Br. Ashwin Barnis (1st Year Theology)

“WE ARE NOT RETREATING - WE ARE ADVANCING IN ANOTHER DIRECTION.”

The Annual Retreat for the Philosophers of St. Pius X College, for academic year 2022-23, marked a beautiful flowering of spirituality in our lives. The retreat was organised for six days and it started on 10th June 2022. Fr. Errol Fernandes a well-known personality was the retreat preacher.

Fr. Errol's experience and his deep knowledge of scripture, helped us to understand and participate actively in the retreat. He divided the retreat into different parts. Each day we meditated on the life of Jesus under various headings. “Transform into the Lord” was the theme of the retreat. Fr. Errol encouraged us to introspect and find answers to our inner questions by comparing the events of the Bible with our current situations. He insisted us to concentrate more on the ‘examination of

conscience’ to grow more in our spiritual life. He also taught us to have a right disposition in our prayer life and to eliminate an attitude detrimental to our community life.

Father guided us on many such aspects, making it easy for us to understand and experience the life of Jesus. At the end of each day, we would spend an hour before the Blessed Sacrament meditating on the day's reflections. He made himself available for confessions and spiritual direction guiding us into the process of inner healing. Our active and wholehearted participation in the Holy Eucharist left a profound impact on our lives.

Br. Starson Gaurea, Br. Angelo Silveira
(1st Year Philosophy, 2nd Year Philosophy)

AN EXUBERANT CELEBRATION

NEW COMMERS DAY



It has been an ongoing custom of St. Pius X seminary to warmly invite the newcomers into the community. The beauty of this ‘House of formation’ is that it attracts new candidates from several dioceses every year and this year there was a total enrollment of brothers from sixteen dioceses.

The gathering began with the attendees, comprising of staff, seminarians, sisters and lay candidates being formed into six groups that were named after saints. What followed was a blend of inter-group activities, spot prizes and performances by the newcomers of every class. The performances were really brilliant and merited the praise of everyone present. A fancy-dress competition by 3rd year Theologians was interspersed

throughout the event to keep the spirits high. The play by the Propaedeutics delivered a beautiful message. Fr. Walter D'Souza, who has joined the teaching staff this year, made a grand entry and performed a stupendous musical that captured the audience. The snacks were scrumptious, to say the least. The Rector of St. Pius X Seminary, Fr. Aniceto Pereira, addressed the gathering and presented all newcomers with a welcome gift. The floor was left open for an energetic jam session with which the event came to a close. We wait in anticipation to welcome the new ‘Ambassadors of Christ’ next year.

Br. Mathew Fernandes (1st Year Philosophy)

“TO BE THE WORD BROKEN FOR ALL”

LECTORS AND ACOLYTES



On the 14th of July 2022, the community of St. Pius X seminary celebrated the mass for conferral of the ministries of acolytes and lectors. The theme chosen for this mass was ‘To be the Word and Bread broken for all’. The Eucharist was celebrated by Bishop Percival Fernandez. Those who received these ministries took a step closer towards becoming priests, thus making it an occasion of joy and happiness for the entire St Pius X family. The theme taken for the mass itself was a reminder to all about the sacrificial nature and calling that the Priesthood entails.

The ministry of the lectors calls the candidate to proclaim the Word of God from the Altar with faithfulness. The ministry of the Acolytes calls one to serve at the Altar by assisting the celebrants.



Both these ministries have their origin in the early Church and are ministries of service to the Church and the faithful. In his homily Bp Percival emphasised the importance of these ministries and the need to fulfil these with diligence, while being firmly grounded in the Word of God and the Eucharist.

The ministry of Lector was conferred on 9 Seminarians and 1 Candidate for the Permanent Diaconate from 1st Year Theology; and the ministry of Acolyte was conferred on 13 seminarians from 2nd Year Theology. Those receiving the ministries belonged to various dioceses of India. The Bishop concluded the Mass with an episcopal blessing on all the seminarians as they continue their journey towards the priesthood.

Br. Dorson D’Mello (2nd Year Theology)

“CALLED TO SPREAD THE LIGHT OF THE GOSPEL”

CANDIDACY

21st of July was a very special day for the Third Year Theologians as they moved one step closer towards their ‘Vocation of the Priesthood’. On this day, they underwent the rite of Candidacy to the Diaconate and Priesthood.

The previous evening, the Rector presented the Cassock to the brothers during the vestition ceremony. During the prayer service a video clip showing Elisha receiving the mantle from the Prophet Elijah was displayed; it



conveyed a similar meaning to the vestition ceremony. Fr. Rector emphasized the symbolism of the cassock as a sign of service.

The following day the Eucharist was celebrated by Bp Percival Fernandez. The theme chosen by the brothers was 'Called to spread the light of the Gospel'. The Bishop in his homily stressed the need to place God at the centre of our lives, by making time for prayer, so as to strengthen our relationship with Him.

He mentioned that we should not miss any opportunity to joyfully serve others whenever the occasion presents itself.

It was indeed a significant moment for the Third Year Theologians, challenging them to deepen their relationship with God - a reminder to help and serve the people of God in their ministry.

Br. Conrad Pereira (3rd Year Theology)

"TOTALLY YOURS IN LOVE AND SERVICE"

ORDINATION TO THE DIACONATE

It fills my heart with great happiness to report on the Ordination to the Diaconate. On the 7th of August 2022, all in the chapel of St. Pius X College were brimming with joy, as four of our brothers from the Archdiocese of Bombay were ordained to the Diaconate. After a long wait for this day, the ordinands participated in a beautiful and meaningful service celebrated by Bishop John Rodrigues, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Bombay. The families of Brs. Dylan, Jordan, Sunil and Amol were very delighted to see them ordained as Deacons. It was an amazing experience for me, as it was the first time I had ever witnessed an ordination to the Diaconate and understood the "sweet burden" placed on the Deacons' shoulders.

Br. Brijeshkumar Macwan
(Propaedeutic Year 2022-23)



PIUS CELEBRATIONS

FEAST OF SAINT PIUS X AND ORDINATI DAY

The Seminary at Goregaon celebrated the feast of its Patron, Pope Saint Pius X. It was a day filled with the spirit of immense joy and enthusiasm amongst the members of the community. On this day, the seminary also celebrated Ordinati Day in which twenty-five newly ordained priests belonging to the batches between the years 2019 and 2022 were invited to be a part of this auspicious day. The Eucharist began at 10 am. Fr Vinit Ninama was the main celebrant for the Eucharist. Fr Allen Gomes preached the homily on the theme of 'God of Surprises.' Fr Kelvin Santis delivered



the vote of thanks, peppered with good humour. After the Eucharist, there was a special program held for the Ordinati in the Seminary Auditorium. They entered the auditorium in procession and moved towards the stage, as the entire community welcomed them with a loud round of applause. The program began with a prayer song, cutting of the cake, welcome song, cultural songs, speeches, and flashback images of the priests during their seminary days in the form

of videos. Towards the end of the program, our Rector Fr Aniceto Pereira gave a concluding speech, thanking the Ordinati and all community members for being a part of this event. After the program, the community welcomed the Ordinati for lunch by lining up on either side of the passage towards the main refectory. Participating in our joy were some of our neighbours from the campus and from neighbouring parishes.

Br. Cris Veigas (3rd Year Theology)

THE PROMISE OF OBEDIENCE FOR DIOCESAN PRIESTS

'SPIRITUAL CONFERENCE'

The spiritual conference on 11th July was conducted by Fr K.T Emmanuel. He spoke on the promise of obedience for the diocesan priests. The diocesan priest makes a promise: 1) of obedience to the bishop; 2) of celibacy (at the time of Diaconate).

Father K.T Emmanuel also drew attention to the biblical examples of obedience and disobedience. In the book of Genesis Adam and Eve are disobedient to God but when we look into the New Testament, Mary obeys and receives the grace to become the mother of God. He underlined that a priest pledges his commitment to celibacy only once but pledges obedience twice, that is on the day of his diaconate and the day of his priestly ordination. A priest must be a person who takes initiative in his commitment to the church. He pointed out how Jesus called the disciples to be with him and to be sent them out on his own mission. Similarly, Pope Francis distinguishes

an inward looking church and outward looking church. This implies going out to the peripheries and giving Christ to all people. Fr K.T Emmanuel finally concluded with a challenge to the seminarians to look at obedience as our obedience to Christ.

Br. Siljo Mathai Nadackal (3rd Year Theology)



75TH ANNIVERSARY

INDEPENDENCE DAY

I share a few unforgettable moments about the Independence Day celebration. The hard work of the seminarians made the surroundings cheerful and lively. We had a solemn Eucharistic celebration, on the occasion of the solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the 76th Independence Day of India. Holy Mass was celebrated with local flavour, with the celebrants being welcomed with



the Aarthi and the congregation seated on the floor. Fr. Gilbert De Lima was the main celebrant accompanied by several con-celebrants. Dn. Dylan gave a well studied sermon comparing both the Magnificat and the National anthem. After the Holy Eucharistic Celebration we had a small ceremony honoring the freedom fighters who shed their blood for our nation. The Chief Guest, Mrs Jennifer Fernandes hoisted the National Flag. Br. Sanjay Parmar delivered a vibrant

speech with the theme, “to make a better India”. Br. Starson was the commander-in-chief who lent pep to the event with his crisp commands. Fr. Gilbert gave a concluding talk and thanked the seminarians whose vigorous efforts made the event a great success. We were also very fortunate to have a surprise visit by Cardinal Oswald Gracias who encouraged the future priests to help build a glorious nation.

Br. Hamish Anto (1st Year Philosophy)

BOMBAY ARCHDIOCESAN SYNOD

AT ST. PIUS X SEMINARY

In October 2021, Pope Francis inaugurated a worldwide two-year Synodal programme on Synodality. This emphasizes our journeying together as a church, while keeping in mind the three important words ‘Communion, Participation, and Mission’ to make the church more vibrant and inclusive.

In response to this, the Archdiocese of Bombay organized a two-day healthy discussion on the 3rd and 4th of June at St. Pius X College, Goregaon. There were several priests, religious and laity who participated in this event. There were four main topics that were covered in this event by various resource persons i.e., *An Inclusive Church, A Collaborative Church, A Faith-filled Church & A Church Relevant to the Times.* A talk show was also held where Cardinal Oswald Gracias spoke about the synod and answered questions raised by the audience.

The true success of this event is seen in the fruit that it bears. Towards the end of this event, many of the delegates shared their views and experiences. The youth were very much intrigued by seeing various people participating and sharing their sense of joy and fellowship with one another. The event concluded with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist where the faithful surrendered the discussion to God.

Br. Ivan Kamble (1st Year Theology)



THE AGE OF EMPIRES

INAUGURATION OF SPORTS DAY

The sports inauguration day was held on 8th July 2022. It commenced with a loud bang of music, followed by the participants dressed in colorful jerseys, trooping into the main hall.

The theme of the Sports Day for this year was “Togetherness, Participation, and Brotherhood.” The chief guest, the Rector Fr Aniceto Pereira declared the sports day open with a brief encouragement to all, to participate in sports not only for entertainment but also for physical fitness. He invited all to walk together as one family. There were four teams named after the four empires of the world namely Mongolians, Spartans, Romans, and Huns. The competitive spirit was very apparent as the four groups presented their slogans and themes in a fun and energetic way.



There was wholehearted participation by all the groups. The event came to a close with a prayer of thanksgiving.

Br. Jeston Sannuth (2nd Year Philosophy)

TALENTS SHOWCASING

ONE ACT PLAYS



On September 9th, 2022 the seminary conducted its annual intra-class One-Act Play competition after an interruption of 2 years. There was great enthusiasm in the house as the brothers and lay students prepared for this competition, despite hectic schedules. With a month to go, the students began writing the scripts. Each class was appointed a moderator who would approve the scripts and suggest improvements. As the

day for the competition drew closer the excitement was there for everyone to see. The practices ran late into the night and during the day the brothers ran about the house and campus collecting and creating props for the acts. The students came up with imaginative scripts and then used every creative bone in their body to bring their imagination to life on the stage. Each play was from a different genre, mostly offering a social message. Frs. Carlos Colman, Joshan Rodrigues and Ms. Harriet Fernandes were the judges for the event. They expressed joy and happiness on seeing the performances put up by the students. The program concluded with the awarding ceremony with the 1st Year Theologians bagging the first prize, followed by the 3rd Year Theologians and lastly the 2nd Year Philosophers. That brought the curtain down on an evening of excitement and satisfaction.

Br. Rolwyn Lobo (2nd Year Theology)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

ST PIUS X BOOK SALE

“Knowledge is power”. What we feed our bodies today decides our health in the future. The same goes for

thoughts. There is a famous saying, “Not all readers are leaders but all leaders are definitely readers”.

This is absolutely true. We, the students of St. Pius the 10th College who are being trained to be the future leaders, were given a wonderful opportunity to enhance the quality of their leadership, by patronizing the Book Sale organized by the library department on 29th July 2022 from 1:30pm to 4:00pm. St. Paul's Sisters, Bandra provided us with a wide variety of books. Some books were also made available at discounted rates. The staff and the students availed of this golden opportunity of buying books.

Br. Ignatius Pramod (2nd Year Theology)



WORKERS WELFARE!

WORKER'S DAY CELEBRATION

As an act of gratitude to all the workers in the community, St Pius X Seminary organised Workers' Day Celebration on the feast of St Joseph. To begin with, the community remembered and prayed for all the workers during the Morning Prayer and Eucharist. In the course of the day, many brothers volunteered to substitute the workers for their work. In the afternoon, a fun filled program was organised for the workers. The chief guest for this event was Fr Simon Rodrigues who, when he was a Seminarian, headed the portfolio of workers' welfare! The program began with a short prayer followed by welcoming Fr Simon Rodrigues. As a mark of tribute to the workers, a video was screened depicting the work being carried out by them in the Seminary. After which the Chief Guest, Fr Simon shared with us his pleasant experiences of having animated the Seminary workers during



his formation years in the Seminary. Our Rector, Fr Aniceto also spoke a few words, thanking all the workers for their constant hard work and dedication and also encouraging them to continue the same. This was then followed by some moments of fun and fellowship beginning with a magic show, followed by games like Relay Carom, bucket ball, etc. The program ended with a vote of thanks followed by the distribution of gifts and snacks. We thank all the Fathers and Brothers who helped in making this event a meaningful one.

Br. Cris Veigas (2nd Year Theology)

FLORA AND FAUNA

BIRD RESCUE



In the month of March, on a fine morning a few brothers along with the kitchen staff helped in the rescue of a Kite. It seemed to be hurt and unable to fly. We gave it water and some eatables to which it did not respond well. Intending to save the life of the bird, with the help of the St Pius nature club, we managed to contact the 'Aarey animal and bird rescue team'. When contacted, we were asked to send a video of the condition of the bird. The rescue team soon arrived with a van at the premises of St Pius College. They wrapped the bird in a towel, placed it in a little cage to provide it the necessary treatment. We believe this effort to rescue the bird is a small gesture to of kindness towards the flora and fauna in our lush green complex.

Br. Melborn Poshapir (3rd Year Theology)

PILGRIMAGE TO MOUNT MARY




Pilgrimage is a beautiful act of faith, where one realises the destiny of our life is in reaching God. On 15th September, the seminarians and staff of St. Pius X seminary went on a walking pilgrimage to the Mount Mary's Basilica, Bandra. This was my first walking pilgrimage at St. Pius X College. The walking pilgrimage began at 3 am. with a prayer and blessing by Fr. Rector. The brothers prayed several rosaries observing a prayerful atmosphere. These were also moments mixed with fun and challenge which I will always cherish from my first walk. I experienced some difficulty half-way through, however, within me there was a strong desire to complete the pilgrimage. The tea break arranged by Sacred Heart Parish, Santa Cruz, was a much-desired gesture after a tiring lap. On reaching the Mount, the FHIC sisters guided us to

their convent for refreshments. We had a wonderful celebration of the Holy Eucharist concelebrated by the seminary fathers, accompanied by solemn singing of the seminary choir.

The whole pilgrimage was a memorable one where I witnessed the devotion and faith of the people. This also helped me to reflect on my own faith and devotion towards Our Lady.

Br. Praveen Cris (2nd Year Philosophy)



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