



SEMACHAR

Newsletter of St Pius X College - Archdiocesan Seminary

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The Good Shepherd is here.

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**SEMACHAR WISHES YOU A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS
AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR 2024!!!**

SAFEGUARDING MINORS – A NEED OF THE TIMES

The protection of children must be at the heart of the Church's mission - @ Hans Zollner

Fr Hans Zollner SJ (Director of the Institute of Anthropology, at Gregorian University, Rome) addressed the gathering of seminarians, religious men & women on the 22nd of October 2023, about how safeguarding of minors is a significant proceeding in today's time. He highlighted different factors which could be taken into consideration such as, having an office for reporting in every diocese, respecting the laws of the states, mandatory reporting to church authorities, dealing with cover-ups, investigation of bishops and involvement of the laity. His focal point of attention was on how child protection is a serious concern and thus needs to be looked into with more sensitivity. He very well clarified several questions which came up from the audience on how, voicing out ones concern to the authorities will help not only the victim but others in society as well. The conference was attended, among others, by Fr Aniceto (our Rector), professors and different other concerned professionals.



- Edward Francis
2nd Year Philosophy

“Children are like tiny seeds, they need the right care, love and safety in order to grow into a strong tree.”

- Anonymous

GROUP BUILDING DAYS: PROPAEDEUTICS

“We rise by lifting others, for in union there is strength.”



As part of the academic and human formation, the seminarians of St. Pius X college, went for group building days from the 2nd to the 4th of October 2023. The main aim of the group building is to establish a very close bond between the

group members, so as to cross the bridges of trials and the sweet lake of joy together in their journey of formation as priests.

The Propaedeutics chose Mahad- Jan Kalyan trust as their place for the group building days. The journey began on a very flat note when, the night before the travel, they got the news about the trains being cancelled due to a derailment at Panvel station. The journey that now seemed impossible was made possible with the encouragement of the moderator and the unity in the group. Without any further negative thoughts the group boarded a bus and commenced the journey and safely reached the destination. We were warmly welcomed by Fr. Sunil Munis, Fr. Godfrey Malu and the young boarders of the trust. They made us feel comfortable with their chit chat and small laughs.

We had a lot of activities and fellowship during the three days. We visited the Farm (the archdiocesan mission station), Raigad fort and the market. The group also planned an evening of fun and frolic for the boarders with games and rewarding activities, which was indeed difficult because of the language barrier but nonetheless made possible with efforts. The bonding was not





just based on group activities but also on spiritual exercises. Everyday a very unique and creative form of prayer and Mass was animated by the Propaedeutics. The last evening in Mahad saw a greater fellowship, as the group had planned for a Barbeque night.

The highlight of the group building was the session conducted by Fr. John Barretto, the director of the

Propaedeutic year. This session was full of fun, laughter and also of judgements and critical thinking. The group building ended with the Mass and a fellowship lunch, after which the group returned to the seminary with happy memories of laughter and fraternal love.

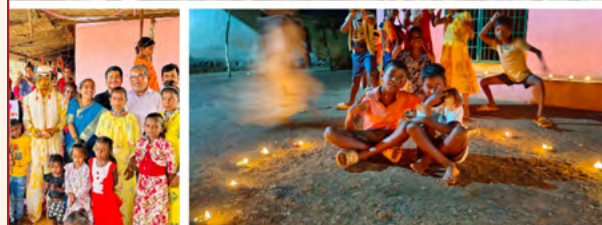
- Br. Rainel Lobo
Propaedeutic

MISSION EXPERIENCE AT MANGAON

We had gone for our mission exposure to the Sarva Vikas Deep (SVD) which is just two minutes away from their most accessible bus depot. Having stayed in the SVD house for two days, we were then split into two groups, being permitted to stay and experience - life.. like a normal tribal village-resident. Our time spent with the village people, especially with the little ones.. was really memorable; not just for us but also for all those whom we catered to. Wholly living their lifestyle' to a certain extent... altered our understanding in accepting wilful- simplicity in life. Having seen their shops so filled with items we 'city-dwellers' would have stockpiled ! As it was, no item was out of stock ! This made us realise the 'vanity': My vanity.... of seeking convenience, of seeking luxury. Thus staying with them made us recognise and encounter the beauty of simplicity and being satisfied with what is necessary.

(Not knowing: what new phone's thriving in the market, which fashion trend is in vogue right now, not lost in any vanities with which the world lures us; the tribals do their work responsibly and timely, providing or seeking to provide for family - However, the lure of liquor may sometimes be an obstacle).

Staying in their 'ecofriendly ecosystem' which they have grown their entire communities, by balancing between relishing 'the goods', the nature provides for them, its apt use and its conservation & non-exploitation, we, too, perceived our (urgent)' need to find a balance in our living likewise. On returning to the House, we felt truly replenished after participating in the Eucharistic celebration post our five-day stay. We had a serendipitous time -rejuvenating and re-learning at the Sarva Vikas Deep house, sharing with the fathers our experience , learnings and feedback. Even our



experience commuting like a common man on our way back was an eye opener to the realities of the uncertainty and also awareness of the communal injustices inflicted up on the poor and 'the peripheries,' my peripheries....

- Br. Humilis Rodrigues
Propaedeutic



RETREAT – 1ST & 2ND YR PHILOSOPHY



It is said that ‘Retreat is a withdrawal from all activities and to be with God.’ It is one of the spiritual exercises which brings us closer to God. The Charismatic retreat for first and second-year philosophers was guided by Fr. Solomon Rodrigues in St. Pius X College, Goregaon. His inspiring sessions, which touched our

heart, striking testimonies and his own experiences gave us insights into the various aspects of spirituality and faith. The prayer services both morning and evening, energetic action songs, and praise and worship were led by brothers to create a devout atmosphere.

The evening adoration services contributed to building our relationship with God. The healing service and the invoking of the Holy Spirit were the remedies for the spiritual life. The sessions were about the relationship with God and our neighbours, the Love of God and people. On the whole, the sessions were collectively connected to the present situation of the seminarian’s life and even the world. It made us reflect on where we are and, as Servants of Christ, where we are ought to be..?

It has not only contributed to our faith but also our priestly vocation. Each one of us had a rewarding and renewing experience from this retreat through the blessing of Jesus Christ and the guidance and inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Praise the Lord!!!

- Br. Tejas Bunkauli
1st Year Philosophy

RETREAT – 2ND YR THEOLOGY

A PALETTE OF SPIRITUALITY: BLENDING ART AND FAITH OVER FIVE DAYS

We, the Second Year theologians, went on a spiritual journey - the five-day guided retreat led by Rev Fr Wendell D’Cruz S.J., our mentor and guide who was always available to guide us in exploring the depths of our spirituality. This retreat employed a unique approach to self-expression: paint as a medium to channel our innermost feelings. This creative method was novel and challenging, as it required us to translate emotions into vibrant swathes of colour, each brushstroke yet another step on our spiritual journey. The careful blending of paint to create specific hues symbolises the intricate process of understanding and expressing our emotions. This showed us the colourful spectrum of our inner world with all its moods. We began our retreat with a sense of gratitude and ended with being sent out filled with gratitude after the Eucharist. Each day started with reciting the inspiring prayer of St. Anselm of Canterbury: “O Lord my God, teach my heart this day, where and how to find you.” This set the tone for our daily exploration, grounding us in a quest for spiritual understanding and asking for special grace each day. Each hour of prayer led us to focus solely on the Lord and wait for him to respond in his time. We learned



to use the language of colours to articulate feelings when words get in the way. It was a journey that enriched our spiritual lives and gave us a newfound appreciation for the art of painting as a medium of deep emotional and spiritual expression.

- Fabian Rose, CPD
2nd Year Theology

GAVINATORS GROUP BUILDING DAYS AT DAMAN



The Gavinators embarked on a journey to Daman for our Group Building Days. We were warmly welcomed by the family who took care of us throughout our stay. During our visit to Daman, we had two sessions. One session on history and the second one on sacred art – we were exposed to the theological significance of some rare plaques of the mysteries of the rosary. Also, we examined how an involuntary sense of inculturation crept into the carving style of the local artisans. Overall, the group building days was a memorable experience for us as we got the opportunity to relax, bond and refresh ourselves which is a must and to be ready to face the second term with a clear mind.

- Br. Ivan Kamble
2nd Year Theology

GILADIATORS – MARCH TO ALIBAUG FEET ARE TIRED, BUT HEART IS HAPPY

We embarked on our journey from the seminary on 2nd October early morning 6.30 am, We reached Alibaug, around 11 'o'clock and were welcomed by Fr. Simon, the Parish Priest of Mary of Nazareth church and the director of the CCO. We freshened up, had a short breakfast and left for our mission exposure. We visited the wadis (the villages) where the Centre for Social Action is working currently and interacted with a few villagers, conducted games for the kids, and also distributed snacks. It was a wonderful experience to see the children enjoy this small token of our love. In the evening, we went to a neighbouring convent 'St. Mary's' run by the sisters of the Carmelite order; we were overwhelmed by the hospitality of the sisters. Then we went to Alibaug fort and also had a quality time at a beach near the fort.

The next day we visited the Korlai church and were hosted by Fr. Bonaventure Nunes, the Parish Priest of 'Our Lady of Mount Carmel'. Then we left for the Korlai fort. Though it was a tiring journey we enjoyed our trek to the fort. Then we were treated to a delicious lunch and are grateful to Fr. Bona for such great hospitality.



On the 3rd day morning, we had a thanksgiving Eucharist celebrated by Fr. Gilbert and expressed our gratitude to all who hosted us, especially Fr. Simon and his staff members. Then we travelled back to the seminary. It was a wonderful and memorable experience, for which we are grateful to the seminary and our moderator Fr. Gilbert.

- Br. Robinson. P
1st Year Theology



ADRENALITES- ADVENTURE AT GORAI



Our journey from the seminary to Gorai on bikes marked the commencement of a remarkable three-day adventure. The bike rides were simply phenomenal, setting the stage for an unforgettable trip. We set base at Bosco Wadi, which served as a great place to nurture camaraderie among the group.

Each day kicked off with prayer and the celebration of the Eucharist, instilling a sense of gratitude for God's blessings. The enjoyment unfolded as we engaged in spirited card games, soaked up the sun in and by the pool, and savored nightly barbecues complemented by some great movies. A part of our itinerary we visited a few parishes, Our Lady of Vailankanni Shrine and a convent as well a shelter for boys run by Montfort fathers and brothers. These experiences enriched our understanding of compassion and community as well helped us unravel the cultural richness of the parishes and shrine.

The overall experience fostered a deepening group bonds. The memories forged during this journey will resonate in our hearts for a long time. As we reflect on our time in Gorai, it becomes evident that this adventure transcended geographical exploration, transforming into a collective odyssey of spiritual and interpersonal growth.

- Rolwyn Lobo
3rd Year Theology

WALTER BOYS II GBD UNITY MAKES US STRONG AND MAKES US TO ACHIEVE..

For the group building days of the academic year 2023-24 we, the Walter boys II Moderator team, decided to visit Pune. We started our journey from the seminary on 2nd of October at 4.50 am. We reached Pune by 10.30 am and moved to St. Joseph's boys' school, Khadki. Fr. Anand, the manager of that school, made the arrangements for our stay there. After a short refreshment there we visited Aga Khan Palace. After spending time at this historical place, we moved to Pune Papal Seminary. We had our lunch there and had some interaction with the brothers there. Later we went to Phoenix mall and returned to the school at Khadki. In the evening at 7.30 we had our Holy Mass. After supper we conducted some games and entertainment. In the morning of the second day we had our morning prayer followed by breakfast. After that we visited the historic Sinhagad fort and Katraj Zoo. By evening, we returned to the school. After Holy Mass we had some entertainment programs and supper. Third was the last day of our group building days. After breakfast the students and staff members of the St. Joseph's school arranged a welcoming program for us during the school assembly. Then we had a



session on group building. Later some of us went to khadki market for shopping and after lunch we returned back to seminary. All in all, we Walter Boys with Fr. Walter enjoyed those moments !

- Br. Sachin Joseph Thoppil
1st Year Philosophy



A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY OF BROTHERHOOD IN LONAVLA THE 'BENHURITS'



To celebrate our bond and strengthen our brotherhood, we journeyed to Lonavla, embracing warmth, spirituality, adventure, growth, and exploration. Our adventure began with a warm welcome at Don Bosco's house. A visit to Monsoon Lake, surrounded by nature's tranquillity, reminded us of the peace in our brotherly bond. We participated in a Eucharistic service, deepening our

spiritual connection as brothers, emphasizing the spiritual side of our relationship. Our journey also included visits to the Jesus and Mary Convent, the Rosary Garden, and the Stations of the Cross. These serene locations provided moments of quiet reflection and contemplation, allowing us to appreciate the spiritual aspect of our relationship as brothers. Kune's Mission Waterfall was a beautiful sight, the lush surroundings left us in awe of the beauty of nature. Our journey also featured sessions on personal growth and overcoming addiction. These sessions were an opportunity for us to learn and grow together. One of the most exciting parts of our group-building experience was the thrill of discovery as we climbed the hills and trekked through the beautiful landscapes. The challenges we overcame and the beauty we witnessed were a true testament to the power of teamwork and brotherhood. Our sojourn in Lonavla created lasting memories and strengthened our unity for years to come.

- Br. Deekshith Sandyag. B
2nd Year Philosophy

VISIT TO MANGALORE DIOCESE – DEACONS GROUP BUILDING DAYS

Our visit to Jeppu Seminary from 1st October to 4th October has been a very unique and memorable one. Fr. Aniceto Pereira the Rector of St. Pius X Institute of Theology in collaboration with Fr. Ronald Serrao, Rector of Jeppu Seminary initiated this beautiful glimpse of the 'Mangalore Diocese' for us Bombay Deacons. I think nothing could have been much better than this event as we are just about to plunge into our full time diaconate ministry. Personally this interaction with the Diocesan priests and Laity has been an eye opener for me. I was amazed to see the Diocesan priests run an Engineering College, Medical Institutions, Charitable Trusts and a beautiful Clergy Home at high professional standards. Also a handful Diocesan priests managing the devotional centre of St. Anthony's Ashram and simultaneously caring for the aged and mentally challenged with great commitment is really very commendable. We had long interactive discussions with the priest team and parishioners of Bijai which proved to be a very fruitful one. The honest answers to our questions covering both the achievements and challenges gave us a holistic



picture of the Parish functioning and clergy-laity collaboration. Having shared a few High lights of our Mangalore visit I am convinced that as a Diocesan priest one can do much, much more beyond the normal. Lastly but not the least I sincerely thank Fr. Ronald Serrao for his kind and whole hearted co-operation in this joint venture of the Dioceses of Bombay and Mangalore.

- Dn. Anthony Rodrigues
Bombay Diocese



RETREAT – 1ST YR THEOLOGIAN 'TO GO ACROSS THE OTHER SIDE'

Our semester holidays ended on October 12th, and the retreat began with the theme 'To go across the other side', which was the primary focus of the next five days and connected to various themes, including biblical characters like Moses and David. Focused on the importance of the rosary and Mother Mary in our lives. The retreat was also unique in its psychological dimension, where the retreat also focused on our psychological aspects. During the course of five days, there was a personal conference with the retreat preacher. The retreat ended with a theme: 'Today is your birthday', which focused on giving thanks to God

for all the gifts showered in our lives and also a spiritual renewal. The retreat was guided by Fr. Tony, who, with his personal experience and simplicity, gave us a great insight into our vocation to the priesthood. The annual retreat was a wonderful experience to bring back the focus towards the Lord and also days of peace and contemplation.



- Br. Melvin Varghese
1st Year Theology

"HUMAN DIGNITY AND PASTORAL ACCOMPANIMENT" THE NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM (17 – 19 NOVEMBER, 2023)

The crimes of sexual abuse offend Our Lord, cause physical, psychological and spiritual damage to the victims and harm the community of the faithful. In order that these phenomena, in all their forms, never happen again, a continuous and profound conversion of hearts is needed, attested by concrete and effective actions that involve everyone in the Church and society. This becomes possible only with the grace of the Holy Spirit poured into our hearts, as we must always keep in mind the words of Jesus: "Apart from me you can do nothing" (Jn 15:5). These lines from Pope Francis Apostolic Letter issued Motu Proprio "Vos Estis Lux Mundi" on 25 March, 2023 express the trauma suffered by the victim of abuse, the felt need for a change of heart and a corresponding change of life and the accompanying presence of the Holy Spirit to ensure that our desires are translated into committed action.

The St Joseph Safeguarding Centre, together with the CBCI Office for Justice Peace and Development, the CCBI Commission for Doctrine and Theology, Communio of the CCBI and the FIAMC Bio-Medical Ethics Centre, chose to come together and jointly organize a National Symposium on the theme: 'Human Dignity and Pastoral Accompaniment of the Vulnerable, Minors and Victims of Injustice: Theological, Legal, Psychological, Ethical and

Pastoral Perspectives'. The participants were 340 from all parts of India, and included 70 seminarians and 32 Speakers.

The Symposium covered a wide range of topics: The Raison-d'Être of studying Human Dignity and Pastoral Accompaniment of the Vulnerable, Minors and Victims of Injustice today, Vos Estis Lux Mundi - The Church's Response to Sexual Abuse, Universal Guidelines' Framework on the Child Protection Policy and its Implementation, Understanding of Human Dignity in the Context of Women and Children, Biblico-Theological Perspectives of the human person, Legal Perspectives in the context of POCSO and POSH, Current Rulings of the Supreme Court on human dignity of the Vulnerable, Mental Health and Concerns for Victims of Abuse, and the Canonical and Ethical and Pastoral Perspectives relating to the victims of sexual abuse were studied in depth as well. The plight of the Unborn was also dealt with great sensitivity.

The Symposium was oriented to awareness and action and so fittingly concluded with a CONCLUDING STATEMENT calling all the participants to make a difference in safeguarding the dignity of every vulnerable person they are called by God to care!

- Fr Gilbert de Lima



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER FEAST



On 4th Dec, community of St. Pius X College, celebrated the solemnity of St. Francis Xavier. The day began with morning Prayer at 6:25 a.m., followed by a solemn Eucharistic celebration celebrated by Fr. Cedric Rosario, assistant parish priest of Our Lady of Lourdes. The theme for the Eucharist was “Jivo Bhavarth Urben Porgottat” (Proclaiming the Living Faith with Fervour). Fr. Cedric, through his homily enlightened us on the life of St. Francis Xavier as a missionary to India, reflecting on preaching the good news with fervour and passion and urged the brothers to incorporate the missionary zeal of this saint into their own lives. The highlight of the day was the relic of St. Francis Xavier. Through the generosity of Archdiocesan Heritage museum, a piece of St. Francis Xavier’s chasuble was exhibited in the seminary chapel for veneration.

SIDDHANT – USOOLON KI JUNG A CLASH OF PRINCIPLES



As the part of formation St. Pius X college, Goregaon host’s a major play production as their annual cultural program. This year the theme for the play was “Siddhant Usoolon ki Jung.” The seminarians along with the staff members began their preparation way ahead of time, the director Mr. Sandesh did a fantastic job in directing this play and even the brothers gave their heart and soul for their performances. The play was all about respecting women, principles of life and

also battle of the conscience. For the course of three days guest’s were invited to witness their hard work as well as to share in their joy. This was indeed a moment of pride and happiness for all the seminarians who worked day and night sacrificing their rest and their comfort to put up this grand production.


- Br. Lawrence Dcunha
Propaedeutics



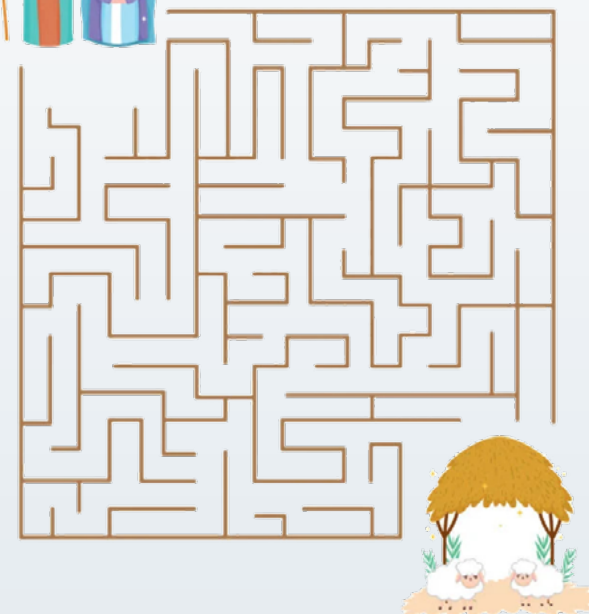
ST. PIUS LENS GLIMPSES OF NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM



FUN CORNER



Help Mary and Joseph get to the stable.




NATIVITY SCENE

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

ANGEL
ANIMALS
BIRTH
CAMELS
CHILD
CHRIST
COWS
DONKEY
GIFT
GOLD
HALO
HAY
HORSES
JOSEPH
MANGER
MARY
MULES
MYRRH
NIGHT
SHEEP
SHEPHERD
STABLE
STRAW

H S S A U D Y E K N O D T L
A H E G N S R A S B T J C U
Y E L B L G N E C E O F I O
B E U E C I E O H S S T I H
P P M S M H W L E P H R R G
R A B A J S R P B G E R O B
C E L T S H H I I A Y H D H
D S G R T I T N S M T G S E
B W L N R T R R L T O S U N
H U Y R A M C H I L D W X O
O L A H W M L C D B M U U C

The words appear UP, DOWN, BACKWARDS, and DIAGONALLY.
Find and circle each word.



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MEMES CORNER



Eureka! I can see the South Pole of the moon!

Silly fellow, what he's actually seeing is your head!!



WHAT ARE YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS?

TO COME OUT OF MY SHELL!

TO LOSE A BIT OF WEIGHT. I FEEL HUSKY.

TO LEARN HOW TO DANCE!

OH! AND, ALSO TO GET BETTER AT PUNS.

Happy New Year!
4AMSHOWER by guly Kopsombut
Happy Monday 12/18/18

LOVE WAS BORN IN A MANGER

Love was Born in a Manger
In a humble manger, a baby lay
Born on Christmas Day
Wrapped in swaddling clothes, so meek and mild
The Savior of the world, a precious child
Love was born in a manger that night
A gift to all, a shining light
A message of hope, for all to hear
A promise of peace, to calm all fear
The angels sang, the shepherds came
To see the babe, with hearts aflame
The wise men brought gifts, from afar
To honor the King, the Morning Star

Let us remember, this Christmas Day
The love that was born, in a manger lay
May it fill our hearts, with joy and peace
And bring us hope, that will never cease
For in this child, we see God's love
Sent from heaven, to earth above
May we all embrace, this gift so true
And share His love, in all we do
So let us celebrate, this Christmas season
With hearts full of love, and hearts full of reason
For in this child, we find our way
To a brighter tomorrow, and a better day.



Nativity of Jesus, by Botticelli, c. 1473-1475

Editorial Team: Fr. Julian Saldanha SJ, Br. Jewlyn Fialho, Br. Edward Harris, Br. Joywin Thadavious, Br. Kristudass. A

St. Pius X College - Archdiocesan Seminary, Aarey Road, Goregaon (East), Mumbai 400 063

Tel: 29271217 / 29271560 / 29271554 / 29276891 | Email: stpious.semachar@gmail.com | Website: www.stpiusxcollege.in