



# Sambachar

Newsletter of St Pius X College - Archdiocesan Seminary

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## THE DIAMOND JUBILEE YEAR OF ST PIUS X COLLEGE

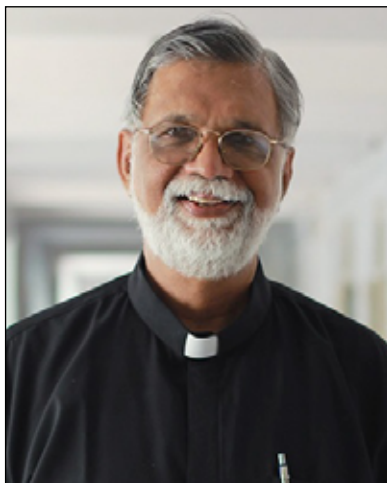
### *From the Rector's Desk*

Permit me to greet you very fondly on this occasion when St. Pius X College enters its Diamond Jubilee Year, having been inaugurated on 5th October 1960 at the hands of Gregory Peter Cardinal Agagianian, then Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of Propaganda Fide, in the presence of the late Valerian Cardinal Gracias, then Archbishop of Bombay. This is a proud moment indeed for all of us, since the Church in Mumbai looks upon its diocesan seminary with great regard, affection, admiration and a sense of responsibility for its upkeep!

Our Patron, St Pius X, while being known as the “Pope of the Eucharist”, is also remembered as an “anti-modernist”, in his honest attempts to help the church of his time come to terms with the challenges thrown up by the winds of the enlightenment; it would, we all know, be unfair to judge his efforts by using the yardsticks of today to tackle such crises. In the same vein, observing the upheavals that Pope Francis is creating in the world and in the church in the present era, it may be really unfair to dub him as an “ultra-modernist”, as his critics would like to call him; and such critics are not in a minority!

In its diamond Jubilee year, the Seminary draws inspiration from both, St Pius X as well as Pope Francis. We have chosen to remain with our motto, sourced from St Pius X, “Instaurare Omnia in Christo” for all our renewal efforts! And we look to the guidance provided by Pope Francis, the “ultra-modern”, or perhaps just the evangelically audacious Pastor of the universal Church, to cast our nets into the deep!

Pope Francis is known, characteristically, to have the ‘smell of his sheep’ and speak in a language that is simple and direct, touching the hearts of his sheep! But



Fr. Aniceto Pereira

that does not mean he is not profound nor rigorously sound. Massimo Borghesi, author of a book entitled *The Mind of Pope Francis: Jorge Mario Bergoglio's Intellectual Journey*, (Collegeville, Minnesota, 2017), helps us appreciate the background to the Pope's profound thinking. He says on pg. xix-xx, “Bergoglio's language... is ‘simple’ because he wants it simple. It is simplicity that is rooted in long reflection and in evangelical simplicity, not in any limitation of expression.

Behind it lies a rich and original thought process, derived from the Jesuit school and nourished not only by Argentine teachers but also, and above all, by European ones. When young Bergoglio was a student of philosophy and theology at Colegio Maximo in San Miguel, his standard references were the Jesuit intellectuals of the French sphere: Henri de Lubac, Gaston Fessard, Michel de Certeau. Some were representatives of the French school. These are his teachers.” We realize that the Holy Spirit was preparing Jorge Mario Bergoglio SJ for the chair of Peter not only through the myriad pastoral assignments he had, but also through an exposure to a broad spectrum of intellectual influences!

As we pay attention to restoring all things in Christ during this Diamond Jubilee Year, it will be our effort to ensure that in our seminary our students too are well grounded in the intellectual influences that will help them understand the tremendous changes taking place in contemporary society, forge new models of evangelisation, and critically evaluate them, in order to continue to be relevant to today's fast-changing pastoral situations. We count on the grace of the Holy Spirit, specially his gifts of wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord, to help all our students grow into effective “missionary disciples” in the modern world!

## LECTIO BREVIS

The Holy Spirit descended on the apostles and set them on a mission. Similarly, we at the seminary invoke the Holy Spirit, at the start of every academic year, to guide and influence us. This year Cardinal Oswald Gracias celebrated the Mass of the Holy Spirit for the community of St Pius X Seminary on 8th July, 2019. He prayed in a special way for the staff and students. He also expressed how important the seminary is to him and how he reserves this day every year to visit the seminary community.

At the Lectio Brevis the Cardinal spoke about his close interactions with the Pope, as one of his six consultors. The pope, he said, is gearing the churches to focus on spreading the Gospel of Christ. He also spoke of the “Francis Effect” the Pope’s great emphasis on mercy and compassion. He wants the church to be an inclusive church, and a missionary church. Even we priests and bishops must go to the “peripheries”. We in our dioceses need to empower our Laity so that they become “missionary disciples” (quoting from *Evangelii Gaudium*). Cardinal Gracias stressed that we must acknowledge and encourage the contribution of women and listen to and communicate with the youth in our ministry.

Being a former President of the Asian Bishops’ Conference, the Cardinal told us that the November 2020 plenary assembly will draw up a pastoral plan for Asia, which he is eagerly looking forward to. He then shifted his focus to India and his ongoing dialogue with the government of India, specifically with the Prime Minister’s office.



Closer to home, 2019-20 marks the Diamond Jubilee Year of St. Pius X Seminary. The Cardinal congratulated the community and expressed his excitement and vision for the seminary in the course of this year. He made a special mention of Cardinal Valerian Gracias who is chiefly responsible for the seminary building and complex that we call home today. Concluding on this positive and hopeful note, he then took a few questions from the house and answered all of them patiently.

As this year unfolds, we are propelled by the grace of God and the blessings of our Shepherd.

**Bernard Fernandes**  
3rd Year Theology

## SEVEN NEW “NOTES” TO CREATE A NEW MELODY FOR THE LORD

Do Re Mi Fa Sol La Si are the seven basic notes that make a melody when combined in harmony. The ‘orchestra’ of St Pius X College, Goregaon was delighted to welcome seven new “notes” (candidates) to create a new melody for the Lord, on Sunday, 16th June 2019. The staff and students of the seminary warmly welcomed these seven energetic men; three for the Archdiocese of Bombay, one each for the Dioceses of Baroda, Belgaum, Mysore, and Poona.

As they are embarking on a journey of priestly formation it was fitting that they commence this journey seeking the blessings of God. These seven candidates along with their parents and family members took part in an inspiring prayer service organized for them in the same Chapel on the second floor, where the candidates will spend a considerable amount of time in prayer and reflection

during the Propaedeutic Year. As these candidates took their first steps towards the altar, Fr Prashant Padu, the moderator of the propaedeutic year, introduced the candidates to all. The opening prayer expressed sentiments of gratitude to God as well as sought his blessings on these candidates whom he has called to become “missionary disciples”. A reading from the Gospel according to John narrating the call of the first disciples made the candidates conscious of Jesus’ call to “Come and See” (John 1:39). Then followed the intercessions and the Lord’s Prayer, after which, Fr. Aniceto Pereira, the Rector of the Seminary led the concluding prayer. The Rector then directed the attention of the candidates onto the painting of Jesus calling his disciples by the sea and encouraged them to contemplate their own call each and every time they looked





at the painting. Lastly, the candidates were invited to feel at home as the Rector gave them a Fatherly hug and as a gesture of welcome offered a copy of the document on priestly formation, “The Gift of the Priestly Vocation” and a Bible Diary to each of them.

These seven candidates have now begun their initial formation to the

priesthood with the Propaedeutic stage. The Gift of the Priestly Vocation is a document on priestly formation, which describes this stage as “a period of time of preparation of an introductory nature, in view of the priestly formation to follow” and also “a real time of vocational discernment, undertaken within community life.”

Let us call upon the Blessed Trinity and seek the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary that these seven unique and diverse “notes” may create a delightful melody for the Lord and truly become “Ambassadors for Christ.” (2 Cor 5:20).

Fr. Prashant Padu

## WE HAVE NEW DEACONS



St. Pius X seminary rejoices to have seven chosen men, “Called in Grace, Formed in Love and Sent to Serve” as deacons. Bishop Dominic Savio Fernandes, Auxiliary Bishop of Bombay, ordained them on 28 July 2019, six are for the Archdiocese of Bombay and one for the diocese of Belgaum.

In his homily, Bishop Dominic highlighted the importance of a Deacon as an ordained minister of the Church, to be a Disciple of Christ. To be a disciple is to know Jesus more intimately, to be His witnesses and to be the salt of the earth and light of the world; sent out to bring about

healing in the lives of the people. He exhorted them to be committed and generous in doing so, to spend quality time in prayer because as future priests they are called to ‘prepare the path of the Lord’.

The ordination witnessed a lot of priests, family members and friends taking part in the joy and happiness of our deacons. We thank the parents who have generously sacrificed their sons for the Church and pray for our deacons that they grow in Jesus and serve the church faithfully.

Derrick Barnabas  
2nd Year Philosophy

## TAKING THE FIRST STEPS TOWARDS PRIESTHOOD



**AMBROSE HARUCK**  
Archdiocese of Bombay

You did not choose me but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will remain forever. (John 15:16)

I always believe that God works or reveals himself through people and by serving his people I want to serve God as Jesus himself did. My vision of the priesthood is to grow with people to whom I have been sent to serve.



**ANILBHAI GAMIT**  
Diocese of Baroda

I accepted Jesus as my savior in 2003. Before that I used to go to Hindu temples and worship other gods. I have experienced God's hand in my happiness, failures, difficulties and distress (depression). This deeper realization led me to leave my job and join the priesthood to proclaim the good news. I want to spread Love, Joy and Peace by practicing forgiveness and our Lord's teaching.



**JACOB**  
Diocese of Mysore

"Follow me and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19)

Since childhood I had a desire to become a priest. I used to be an altar server in my parish and after completing my 12th, I joined the Diocese of Mysore.

My vision of priesthood: taking Christ to the people.



**LIRON D'CUNHA**  
Diocese of Vasai

It all began from the thought, what is purpose of my life? What is God's plan for me? I took time to discern my vocation. At times I tried to relinquish the thought of becoming a priest. With the help of my spiritual director, I decided to join the seminary. As a Priest I would focus more on youth, Eucharistic celebration, Sacrament of Confession and Visiting families.



**REGAN SOUZA**  
Diocese of Poona

"The harvest is plentiful and the laborers are few" (Mt 9:37)

The seed of vocation was planted in my heart when I was an altar server. I completed my studies and worked for 5 years in the IT world to support my family. I joined the seminary after a time of discernment, making retreats and being guided by my spiritual director. My desire is to work for the Youth and Vocations.



**RICHARD CHETTIAR**  
Archdiocese of Bombay

The idea of being a priest scared me to death, I thought I had better plans for myself. The more I ignored priesthood for the past eight years, the more I thought of it in my Solitude. Finally taking courage from My Lord, at last I answered to his voice, completely aware of my unworthiness, yet knowing I have Hope in Christ.



## “THE ARK” ARRIVES AT ST. PIUS COLLEGE

Every year St. Pius community enthusiastically welcomes new members into “St. Pius family”. This year the new comers’ day was held on 8th of July, with the unique theme “The Ark”. The Ark started its voyage at 5:30pm to discover new talents and splendours in the world. In keeping with tradition the whole community came together to welcome the new recruits to the Ark with a token of Love.

The journey began with prayer. The new recruits thrilled the community with their talents in unique and creative ways, some by dance and skit, while others by singing and using the shairi in Hindi. The community was engrossed in appreciating and applauding the talents of the newcomers. The entire community was kept on its feet with many spot prizes and some community games. The fancy dress competition showcased the innovative attires of several brothers who tickled the funny bones of all with their quirky and outlandish presentations.



The amusing and entertaining evening came to an end when the Captain of the Ark, Fr. Ancieto Pereira thanked everyone involved for putting up this memorable programme and exhorted everyone to carry on this family spirit in the days to come. As a family eager to dance, the floor was thrown open with Bollywood and Hollywood songs, thus lowering the curtain on a fun filled evening.

Lanson Pinto  
2nd Year Theology

## HOME COMING



On 21st August, the feast of our Patron, St. Pius X, we celebrated the ‘homecoming’ of the newly ordained of 2019 in our seminary:

Frs. Ashwin Castelino, Renold D’Souza, Omar Fernandes, Leon Veigas, John Kochuveetil, Sachin Muntode, Wilson Sahaya and a motherly figure, Ms. Daphne who was a member of their class. All were coming home to relive their time in their Alma Mater. The reliving experience began with a thanksgiving Eucharist concelebrated by the Ordinati. Fr. Ashwin Castellino’s homily was based on the theme: ‘The soft hearted nature of St. Pius’.

The expression ‘soft hearted’ was a call to blend harmoniously pastoral activity and administration, social and spiritual life. In the context of

Pope Francis’ message he made us aware of our ways and attitudes of over spiritualizing everything, mainly in times when people are suffering, and we often tend to give them advice but not cry with them. The fresh new Ordinatis’ presence and participation during the Eucharist was an edifying experience for all of us. It continued in the hall thereafter. Firstly we congratulated and felicitated each ordinati by a hearty welcome and joint cutting of the cake. We then watched a screened video documenting the past memories of each newly ordained priest that was prepared by the Media department. After that came the old tradition of our deacons presenting a tribute of songs for the Ordinati in their own inimitable style. Fr. Aniceto and a couple of brothers then recalled and shared their experiences in brief about each ordinati respectively. The celebration ended with a festive lunch. Truly, the ‘Homecoming’ brought joy and a family feeling in everyone.

Dylan D’Souza  
1st Year Theology

## AA GAYE NAUTANKI

Imagine a night where you can be anyone you want, do anything you will and express anything you feel, as long as its not scandalous. That's what the one act plays are all about. These 25 minute acts, which are presented before the seminarians, Sisters, Fathers and our ever-critical judges take at least a month of preparation. These preparations include hours of writing, editing and rewriting scripts, getting the cast right, trying to fit our practices in our busy schedule, making the best use of the sound and light facilities and execution of our act in the best way possible. As the heavy rains flooded our streets outside, the thought-provoking storyline, the touching performances, engaging background music and complete transformation of our brothers kept pouring out from each and every corner of the stage. This acts were just a foreshadow of the mega event coming up in December, as these same brothers would be actors, directors and script writers for the Major Play.

The program was compered by Dn. Godfrey Malu who very creatively gave us a jhalak of what we would be witnessing.



The judges' panel consisting of Fr. Savio De Sales, Mrs. Jill Forte, Fr. Gilbert D'Lima and Mr. Parag Chaurasia had a tough time deciding the winners, since there was a close contest between each class. They also shared their critical and valuable insights on the plays and encouraged the brothers to keep up the spirit. Overall, it was an amazing evening where we all experienced a sense of joy, working with our fellow classmates and watching the other acts

Cliffy Fernandes  
3rd Year Theology

## PILGRIMS WITH MARY



The feast at Mount Mary's Basilica, Bandra, is a very precious time for all Catholics as well as people of other faiths in and around Mumbai. St. Pius X Seminary is ever grateful to our Blessed Mother Mary for her intercession and continued blessings on each of us. As a spiritual gesture of gratitude, every year most of us undertake this walking pilgrimage to the Mount from Goregaon Seminary. This year on 11 September 2019, the Staff and students went up to the Mount, as usual.

The Holy Eucharist was celebrated at Mount Mary's Basilica at 7.30 am by Fr. Joseph Gonsalves, Professor at St. Pius X College. Bp. John Rodrigues, the Rector of the Basilica, welcomed the staff and seminarians of St. Pius X College

at the beginning of the Eucharist. 'We are divided among ourselves and this division is not what the Lord intended. We need to be united among ourselves because God never deserts anyone who believes in Him and does His work irrespective of who we are', said Fr. Joseph Gonsalves during his Homily.

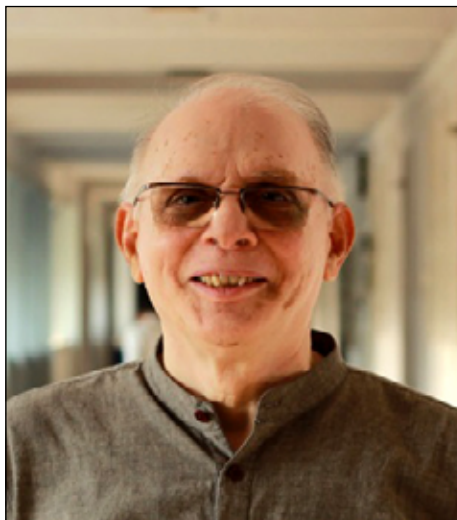
The Rector of the seminary Rev. Fr. Aniceto Pereira thanked the people for their continuous support and prayers to the seminary. He also urged them to pray more fervently this year, since it marks the Diamond Jubilee of our seminary, and to plead with the Master of the harvest for more labourers in his vineyard.

Kanika Dass  
3rd Year Theology



## FAREWELL TO FR. JEROME D'SOUZA SJ.

Fr. Jerome D'Souza, SJ completed eight years in the seminary, from 2011 to 2019, serving in various capacities. He served as Language coordinator, Professor of Psychology and most importantly as a challenging and ever available Spiritual Director. The St. Pius X college community bade farewell to him in March 2018. Fr. Jerome who is known for combining psychology and spirituality very well has left an indelible impression on all of us, especially on his spiritual directees. His ability to challenge his directees and his patience truly sets him apart as a robust light house of Christian spirituality. Brother Melvyn Colaco in his farewell speech highlighted this fact and thanked Fr. Jerome on the behalf of the whole community. Fr Aniceto described Fr. Jerome as a dedicated spiritual guide whose help could be sought at any time. He said that Fr. Jerome was always



dedicated to his task as spiritual Father and also as the Language Coordinator and Professor of Psychology in spite of his health problems and busy schedule. Fr. Jerome then shared his thoughts and thanked everyone for the support and encouragement he received during his stay in the seminary. His next appointment is as a full time spiritual guide in Vinayalaya, where he would be able to reach out to lay people in a greater capacity, a task that is close to his heart. Fr. Jerome would also continue to offer his services as a visiting spiritual director to the

seminary. We thank you, Fr. Jerome, for your dedicated service to the seminary and for the impact you made on many of us in the seminary. We wish you all the best for your future ministry and assure you of our prayers for you.

Francis Crisler Perumbully  
2nd year Theology

## YOU SHALL BE MISSED FR. ROLAND

The passing away of Fr. Roland Fialho was very sad news. We all know that our dear Fr. Roland Fialho was ailing for some time. But thanks to the intense prayers of so many, and the very good medical care he received from Dr. Joe Sequeira and the staff of Holy Spirit Hospital, he was feeling better. It appeared that the disease was under control.

Fr. Roland Fialho kept up all his responsibilities at the Seminary, specially the Spiritual Direction of so many Seminarians. Also the Ministry of the Word programme which was so effective. It was very much appreciated and has benefited both the spiritual life of the participants and their apostolate in the parish.

I met Fr. Roland Fialho shortly after Easter and we discussed

*Message of Cardinal  
read at Fr. Roland's Funeral*



the Ministry of the Word programme. We spoke about the assistance to be given to him. Just last week Fr. Roland sent me a letter saying that he was feeling weak and wanted to hand over full responsibility to someone else.

The Lord has taken away Fr. Roland Fialho to Himself. I am confident that his intercession will bring many graces to all of us: to the Seminary, the Archdiocese, the Church in India and specially to those of us who loved him so much.

I regret that I am not present for the Funeral Mass as I am in Bangalore for CBCI Meetings. My condolences to all the members of his family.

✠ Oswald Cardinal Gracias  
Archbishop of Bombay  
May 7, 2019

## A HEARTY WELCOME

Fr. Gilbert De Lima



Rejoined the staff in June 2019 after serving as the Parish Priest of Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Orlem. He is professor of Systematic theology and director of Permanent Diaconate Program.

Fr. Caesar D'Mello



Fr. Caesar rejoins the seminary staff after many years. He will be serving as a Spiritual Director.

Fr. Shailendra Rodrigues IMS



Fr. Shailendra Rodrigues IMS taught Philosophy at St. Pius for many years as a visiting Professor. From June 2019, he is part of the resident staff.

RITE OF CANDIDACY CONFERRED BY  
BP PERCY ON 29TH JUNE, 2019



CONFERRAL OF THE MINISTRY OF ACOLYTE BY  
BP BOSCO PENHA ON 11TH JULY, 2019



CONFERRAL OF THE MINISTRY OF LECTOR BY  
BP BOSCO PENHA ON 11TH JULY, 2019



INAUGURATION OF THE MEDIA STUDIO  
ON 26TH JULY, 2019



We wish to express our gratitude to  
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### Editorial Team:

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