



# semachar

Newsletter of St Pius X College - Archdiocesan Seminary

March 2024 | Vol XXIII, Issue 3

**SEMACHAR  
WISHES YOU A VERY  
HAPPY EASTER**



## PONGAL BLISS: ST. PIUS X COLLEGE'S FEAST OF UNITY AND TRADITION

Br. Nirmal Anthony C  
1st Year Philosophy



The Pongal festival, a vibrant celebration of harvest, was joyfully observed by the St. Pius X community on January 16th. The day began with a Tamil Holy Eucharist, accompanied by beautiful hymns in Indian classical music. Fr. S.M. Michael SVD, the main celebrant, provided insights into the significance of Pongal during the homily, emphasizing its role as a festival of gratitude for the bountiful harvest. The refectory, adorned with mango leaves and banana plants, became a center of cultural activity, hosting a traditional vegetarian feast and a mesmerizing 'Karaghatum' dance performance by the brothers. The Rector's heartfelt wishes added a personal touch to the festivities, concluding a day where people from diverse backgrounds came together to experience warmth and joy. St. Pius X College truly embodied the essence of Pongal – a celebration of unity, gratitude, and cultural diversity..

## PROPAEDEUTIC RECOLLECTION

Br. Lawrence DSouza  
Propaedeutic



The seminarians of St. Pius X College participated in group recollections on 17th and 18th January 2024 as part of their academic and human formation. The Propaedeutics visited Pasayadan, a part of the Diocese of Vasai, starting their journey by train and then traveling by road from Vasai Station to Pasayadan. Upon arrival, they were warmly welcomed by Fr. Robert D'souza, the Priest-in-charge of Pasayadan, and Fr. Cajetan Rodrigues, the Assistant Priest. The evening began with an orientation talk by Fr. Robert and



Fr. Cajetan, introducing the brothers to Pasayadan and emphasizing its significance. Following a group sharing session and dinner, the community Rosary was prayed, followed by a session on Fraternal Correction by Fr. John Baretto. The day concluded with a community mass at 12 pm, followed by lunch. The brothers also had the opportunity to visit the Sequeira Brothers Sculpture manufacturing workshop, where they met Mr. Benzoni, the owner, who provided them with a tour and demonstrated the process of creating sculptures. To end the day, they visited Br. Lawrence D'souza's family in Vasai before returning with a sense of enthusiasm and camaraderie from the group recollection.

## WHY ME

**Hydon B.M.**  
1st Year Philosophy



The Water Boys II group recollection was led by Fr. Jerry, CSSR, at Vinayalaya. Our session began with introspective questions such as “Who am I?” and “What is my net worth?” As philosophers, we were encouraged to respond with “I am a conscious being in the world” to the question of our identity. This reflection allowed us to contemplate our personal values and vocational purpose. During the recollection, Fr. Jerry guided us to uncover the underlying factors that hindered our deep connection with God. Through meaningful adoration, we confronted and overcame the obstacles in our spiritual growth. Additionally, we cherished moments of prayer, silent contemplation of His words, and meaningful confessions, all of which strengthened our bond with God.

Overall, our stay was fulfilling, and we concluded the recollection with the Holy Eucharist. As the Water Boys II, we express our heartfelt gratitude to God and Fr. Walter for their unwavering support throughout these days. With the recollection coming to an end, we embark on a new chapter of our reflective lives.

## BENHURITES RECOLLECTION

**Br. Jaykumar Solanki**  
2nd Year Philosophy



On January 17, 2024, our group of second-year philosophers embarked on a journey to Sadbhavna Bhavan in Nala Sopara for a moderator-led recollection. The serene surroundings and the beauty of nature captivated us all. Fr. George warmly welcomed us at the retreat house, displaying immense kindness and hospitality. It is through God's divine grace that vocations are bestowed upon us, often favoring those who have experienced heartbreak rather than those who possess great intellect. Fr. Michael shared his personal encounter with vocation, prompting us to reflect on profound questions such as "Why did you choose to pursue priesthood?" and "Who am I? Can you truly know Jesus without having a personal relationship with Him?" He drew parallels to Paul's transformative journey to Damascus as an illustration. Our day commenced with a peaceful morning prayer in a tranquil setting, creating a truly enriching experience. Some of our fellow brothers organized a session of adoration centred around the theme of vocation, allowing us to connect deeply with the Lord. Subsequently, we gathered in groups to share our own vocation stories, which served as a powerful reminder of our calling and the purpose behind our decision to join the seminary. Additionally, we had the opportunity to partake in the sacrament of reconciliation, further nurturing our spiritual growth. The recollection culminated with a solemn celebration of the Holy Eucharist, during which Fr. Benhur delivered a thought-provoking homily on vocation, drawing from his own pastoral experiences.

As part of our visit, we also had the privilege of exploring Holy Trinity Church, where Fr. Michael, the parish priest, warmly greeted us. The delectable cuisine provided during our stay further enhanced our overall experience, leaving us with cherished memories that will last a lifetime.

## LENTEN SPIRITUAL CONFERENCE

**Br. Mathew Fernandes**  
2nd Year Philosophy



Rev. Fr. Neil Dos Santos guided us through a period of reflection to commence the Lenten season with a spirit of renewal. He emphasized the significance of the dual process of regeneration and conversion, as well as the need for a heartfelt transformation. Fr. Neil stressed that Lent is a time to create space for God and deepen our commitment to a life of holiness. Through Adoration and confession, we were able to repent for our shortcomings and reconcile with God. The second part of the session focused on our vocation as future priests. We were reminded of our call to holiness and the various preparatory aspects and exercises that seminary life offers to help us grow in sanctity. Fr. Neil's wake-up call for us to reflect on ourselves and strive for holiness during Lent was based on his own experiences. He also outlined the qualities that the laity seek in priests, with holiness being the primary trait. The day concluded with the holy Eucharist, where the ashes served as a reminder of our mortality and dependence on God.



## TO BOLDLY GO WHERE CHRIST MAY SHOW

**Starson Gaurea**  
2nd Year Philosophy



The Archdiocese of Bombay and the Diocese of Vasai are fortunate and honored to have the courageous Saint Gonsalo Garcia. His feast always brings joy, happiness, and a sense of our rich heritage to the seminary. This year, our chosen theme was 'To Boldly Go Where Christ May Show.' Brother Ambrose took charge of the event under the guidance of Fr. Aniceto Pereira, our Rector. Rev. Fr. Amol, the main celebrant of the Holy Eucharist, captivated us with his incredibly inspiring homily on the life of St. Gonsalo. The day was meticulously planned, incorporating various elements such as a solemn Liturgy, traditional food, cultural decoration, traditional attire, and cultural programmes. With the unwavering support of the entire community, we had a truly memorable time. It provided us with a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with the Koli, Kunbi, and Kupari traditions, and we remain eternally grateful to St. Gonsalo Garcia for instilling the seeds of faith within us.

## ST. THOMAS AQUINAS WORKSHOP

**Br. Jeston Sannuth**  
2nd Year Philosophy



St. Pius X College's Philosophy department successfully organized the St. Thomas Aquinas workshop on January 30th, 2024. The workshop focused on exploring the concept of "Personhood of Artificial Intelligence." During the first part, we were privileged to have presentations on three thought-provoking papers. Br. Roger presented his paper on the "Congeniality of personhood in AI," followed by Br. Leo's enlightening discussion on the transition from spiritual immortality to digital immortality. Lastly, Br. Julius presented a captivating paper on big data ethics. The workshop was skillfully moderated by Br. Matthew.

The second part of the workshop involved engaging group discussions on various questions related to the theme. Participants actively shared their views and thoughts, contributing to a deeper understanding of personhood and AI. Distinguished guests and esteemed professors also graced the event, sharing their valuable perspectives and enriching the overall experience for everyone involved.



## AN IMPORTANT DAY FOR THE SEMINARY: COMMUNITY MEETING

**Br. Joel Ivan D'Silva**  
1st Year Philosophy



The community gathering for this academic year took place on February 21, 2024, at the Main Hall of the community at 6:00 PM. The event commenced with a prayer song led by Brother Edward Francis. All the staff members and students of the house were present for the meeting. Brother Rolwyn Lobo, the Community Prefect, began the session by providing a brief report on the various events that occurred throughout the year. Brother Kenneth Pinto chaired the meeting, with Father Renold D'Souza serving as the vice chairperson. Brother Joel D'Silva and Brother Edward Harris acted as the secretaries. Brother Kenneth then opened the floor for a series of discussions that needed to be addressed. The evening was filled with a diverse question-and-answer session, actively participated in by both staff members and students. Following the discussion, Community Prefect Brother Rolwyn expressed his gratitude to the members of the house who had been a guiding support to him throughout the year. The evening concluded with the election of the Community Prefect and Assistant Community Prefect for the upcoming year, efficiently conducted by the Second Year Philosophers. The election results appointed Brother Edward Harris as the Community Prefect and Brother Ambrose as the Assistant Community Prefect. We wish both of them a year filled with grace and enlightenment in their new roles.

## RECTOR'S TALK

**Br Roger Ruther Ford A**  
2nd Year Philosophy

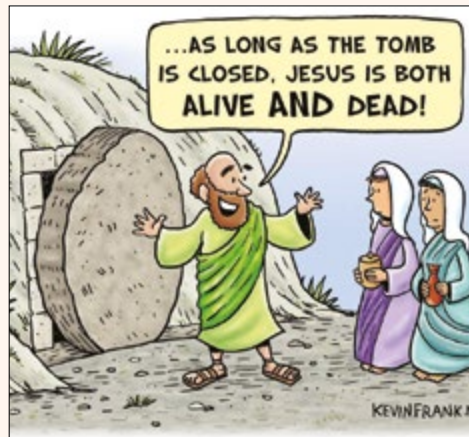


In the second address by the Rector for the academic year 2023-2024, Fr. Aniceto Pereira expressed sincere appreciation to the outgoing community prefect, Br. Rolwyn Lobo, and Assistant Community Prefect, Br. Ivan Kamble, while warmly welcoming the new prefect, Br. Edward Harris, and Assistant Prefect, Br. Amrose. The symbolic transfer of responsibilities highlighted both continuity and rejuvenation within our community. The Rector, in a show of gratitude, recognized the combined efforts of students, faculty, staff, and



workers, acknowledging their crucial role in the successful conclusion of the academic year. Fond farewells were extended to departing regents and deacons, marking their transitions with dignity. Taking inspiration from Pope Francis' recent address to seminarians, the Rector emphasized the Church and the journey to priesthood as dynamic "construction sites." He elaborated on the Pope's message in the context of the Synodal synthesis report, emphasizing that the Universal Church and the path to priesthood are akin to construction sites where individuals journey together in synodality, attuned to the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the signs of the times. The Rector underscored that our seminary mirrors this construction site and encouraged active participation in the challenges of priestly ministry, nurturing a culture of dedication and attentive listening. Concluding with the words of St. Oscar Romero, he urged everyone to embrace our educational relationships, acknowledging the diverse roles within our seminary community as essential to our shared development and mission. The address concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Br. Edward Harris.

**MEMES CORNER**





Candidacy of Br. Armstrong & Br. Karthik



Ordination of Fr. Santan Fernandes



The editorial team wishes to express its gratitude to the AMCF, Catholic Communication Center for designing all the issues of Semachar.

**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: stpius.semachar@gmail.com