



"I believe that in our pursuit of happiness and fulfilment, we should never lose sight of paradise which is the ultimate desire of existence. We may not be called to die for someone but are definitely called to love and share life." – **Fr. Patric Lepcha SDB**



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We have entered into the fourth month of this year and this month is the month of University Examinations, holidays for some of you, and above all we celebrate the greatest feast of Easter – the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. I want to wish all of you the peace and joy of Easter. God wants all of us to enjoy inner peace and joy. I assure each one of you of my prayers for you and your near and dear ones.





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I heard recently one of the old students and presently a superannuated faculty making this statement: "April Showers bring on May Flowers". Yes, one thing leading to another is an experience of life. For students of course it is April Exams and August results, or March Farewells and July beginnings.



More Inside



My Dear Friends (Alumni),

We have entered into the fourth month of this year and this month is the month of University Examinations, holidays for some of you, and above all we celebrate the greatest feast of Easter – the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. I want to wish all of you the peace and joy of Easter. God wants all of us to enjoy inner peace and joy. I assure each one of you of my prayers for you and your near and dear ones.

Sometimes as we go through life we get disappointed with our work or with our relationship. There can come moments in which we tend to give up. I want to share with you the following incident that can change our thought pattern.

As a man was passing by a herd of elephants, he suddenly stopped, confused by the fact that these huge creatures were being held by only a small rope tied to their front leg. No chains, no cages. It was obvious that the elephants could, at anytime, break away from their bonds but for some reason, they did not.

He saw a trainer nearby and asked why these animals just stood there and made no attempt to get away. "Well," the trainer said, "when they are very young and much smaller we use the same size rope to tie them and, at that age, it's enough to hold them. As they grow up, they are conditioned to believe they cannot break away. They believe the rope can still hold them, so they never try to break free."

The man was amazed. These animals could at any time break free from their bonds but because they believed they couldn't, they were stuck right where they were.

Like the elephants, how many of us go through life hanging onto a belief that we cannot do something, simply because we failed at it once before?

Failure is part of learning; we should never give up the struggle in life.

Ever your affectionate Father and Friend,

Fr. Mathew Pulingathil SDB

Rector, Salesian College Siliguri

Dear Friends,



I heard recently one of the old students and presently a superannuated faculty making this statement: "April Showers bring on May Flowers". Yes, one thing leading to another is an experience of life. For students of course it is April Exams and August results, or March Farewells and July beginnings.

Every day and every season has its special flavor. In fact, we who live out the day, the week and the month make the difference rather than the other way round. The hours roll on or tumble over depending on how much we want to and can pack into that hour. Students writing the three hours or four hours papers know well, what a packed action of an hour can mean.

Let the spring time of April with its freshness of the first rains and promising greenery early on its way, remind us all of what we can achieve, together and as individuals entrusted with our respective responsibilities.

As the batch of 2014 will take leave this year, and as the last exam awaits them on April 19th 2017, I would like to invite and remind each of them of their enrolment into the Alumni Club in order to keep in touch with the college to nurture their memories of the undergrad years. Thanks to the senior Alumni, in advance, for welcoming them and ensuring their membership.

Fr George Thadathil sdb

Principal

Salesian College





Pilgrimage to **Subiaco** and **Trastevere**

- Fr. Patrick Lepcha SDB, from Rome.

Don Bosco used to say that holidays are just the change of occupation. After the first semester examinations I had few days of vacation. It was definitely a welcoming change. It provided me ample space to breathe and acquaint myself with some of the historical and sacred places of Rome.

On 12th of February, 2017 me with Fr. Philip SDB of Dimapur Province went to visit Subiaco Monasteries which were established by St. Benedict and St. Scholastica of Nursia. Subiaco. The place is almost 80 km. from the city of Rome. It is perched on hillock. The view from this place is panoramic. The ancient path is still preserved as it is. It was an ethereal feeling when we were walking up to the monastery of St. Benedict.

Subiaco was an important place for the Romans. The area around Subiaco was inhabited by the Aequi people until they were defeated by the Romans in 304 BC. Under Roman rule, four aqueducts were built to bring the water of the Anio River to Rome. Later, Nero had the river dammed to form three artificial lakes and built a villa for himself next to them. The area was named Sublacus ("below the lakes"), which later became Subiaco.

Benedict was born in a rich family in 480AD in Nursia. He came to study in Rome but the city life appalled him and he left his studies. He sought solitude on the forested slopes of Mount Taleo

near Subiaco, where he met a monk named Romanus. A monastery was already established in the area, but Benedict chose to live alone in a cave (the Sacro Speco) for three years, sustained only by scraps of food dropped in a basket by Romanus. He frequently fought temptation, famously casting himself naked into thorn bushes to combat lust.

Benedict was eventually discovered in his cave and invited to become the superior of the nearby monastery of Vicovaro. However, the monks soon found his rule so unpleasantly strict that they tried to poison him. Benedict returned to his cave, but by



then had attracted so many followers that he could no longer continue the solitary life.

St. Benedict organized his first monastic community at Subiaco, dedicated to St. Clement of Rome and housed in part of Nero's old imperial villa. Benedict lived there for 20 years, during the time he founded 12 daughter monasteries and wrote his famous Rule

that would become the standard guideline for western monasticism. The motto of the monastery was "ora et labora" which meant, prayer and work.

In 529 Benedict left Subiaco for Cassino, where he converted the population from paganism and built the famous Montecassino Monastery. It was there that he completed the final version of the Benedictine Rule and died on March 21, 547. He is called the Father of Western Monasticism.

Benedict had a younger sister named as Scholastica. She too followed his footsteps and established monasteries for women followers. There is a poignant incident between these two siblings. The rule of the monastery was that, the men could not spend a night in the women's monastery. One day Benedict visited his sister Scholastica in her monastery. In the evening when Benedict was about to leave she begged him to stay overnight and continue their dialogue on spirituality. Benedict was adamant to leave. It is recorded that Scholastica prayed to the Lord for this favour and there came storm and rain the whole night which made impossible for Benedict to leave. Hence, they talked through the whole night and in the morning Benedict left for his monastery. It is also recorded that after three days Benedict saw in a vision a dove flying up to heaven. He concluded that his sister had died. And it had happened as he had told.

On 14th of February, we visited the place called Trastevere, in Latin, *Tiberim*, meaning literally "beyond the Tiber". It is also known as South

Rome. It is a popular tourist hotspot. It has its own ancient and modern touch of life. The whole locality has a homely appeal.

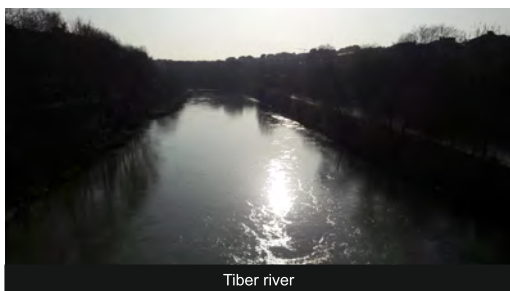
What is so interesting in Trastevere? For me, it had a pilgrimage appeal. There is the famous Basilica dedicated to St. Cecilia. She is the patron of all sacred music and musicians. She was born in a rich family and was beautiful. She wrote music and sang praises to the Lord. She was martyred for her faith around 177 AD. Before her death, she had dedicated her house to be converted into a house of prayer and a home for the homeless. I was thrilled to be in this holy place. Her original house is still preserved below the Church, known as the crypt.

At times many questions trouble me. What makes people of great wealth and possession renounce everything and even their life? It is amazing to look at the lives of Sts. Benedict, Scholastica and Cecilia; what made them do, what they did? The Holy Scriptures provide the answer, "What benefits you, if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul?"

I want to conclude my sharing with the words of Don Bosco himself, he used to say that a little bit of paradise, sets everything right. I believe that in our pursuit of happiness and fulfilment, we should never lose sight of paradise which is the ultimate desire of existence. We may not be called to die for someone but are definitely called to love and share life. Let us do it in Don Bosco way, "not only love, but make yourself loved."



Basilica of St. Cecilia



Tiber river



Monastery of St. Benedict



Statue of St. Cecilia



Frs. Philip & Pat

UPDATES

Salesian College Sonada & Siliguri Principal Dr. Fr. George Thadathil SDB released SCS Journal "SALESIAN" and the book THE TEESTA ON THE RUN" in Chennai. Before the release he addressed the Team Visit assembly including Rector Major and his General Council with 12 provincial councils of south Asia region.



Salesian College Siliguri Alumni Association received a request letter through **Mr. Johnny Joseph** of Siliguri campus asking help for the wedding of a girl from Siliguri named Bishakha Dutta who was going to get married on 2nd March 2017. The financial condition of her family was not well enough to arrange her wedding. The association helped her family with cash and lots of goods as her wedding gift.

May God Bless the newly wedded couple.



From the campus

Ethnic Day

On 25th of February 2017, Salesian College Siliguri celebrated their annual Ethnic day. The various clubs of the campus (Louis, Rinaldi, Rua, Albera, Mickey, Savio, Bosco and Mazzarello) participated in the event. Based on different cultures of India the students were dressed and they performed theme dance, firewood cooking, fashion show, rangoli and face painting.



Life Orientation Programme

The Siliguri campus of Salesian College organised a two days Life orientation programme for the outgoing batch of 2017 on 9 and 10 March. For the past five years, Salesian College has been organising life orientation programmes for their graduating batch every year to orient them towards life holistically. The LOP thrusts mainly into career orientation, family life, social contribution and Pedagogical Values of Don Bosco education.



On the first day a 'career fair' was organised for the students by Salesian College Siliguri Campus on 9th March 2017. The representatives of the Corporate Houses and Higher Learning Institutions were invited to the campus.

The second day of LOP was divided into four sessions conducted by Fr. (Dr.) Mathew Pulingathil the Rector, Fr. Jose Velloorputhenpura, Mr. Rajan Banerjee and the Alumni Association of Salesian College.



Fr. Mathew Pulingathil, Rector, Salesian College Siliguri Campus, held a session on core values of life and the 'Eight Essential Teachings' that makes someone a humble human being. This session was supported by a power point presentation and a short film. Fr. Jose Velloorputhenpura, Principal, Don Bosco, Mirik discussed the life, teachings and the principles of Don Bosco. He also highlighted on the importance of having a good family life. Mr. Chanchal Agarwal, the President of Salesian College Alumni



Association along with other office bearers conducted an interactive session with the outgoing batch, sharing their thoughts and memories of college days. The session was followed by power point presentation on importance of being a part of Alumni Association and their contribution towards society.

Mr. Rajan Banerjee, the Guest Speaker, spoke on faith, spirituality and life choices. He discussed the nine stages of human life, and emphasised on how values are incorporated in the mind of an individual.

Graduation Day

Siliguri Campus

On 11th March, 2017 Salesian College, Siliguri organised a Graduation ceremony for the students of 2014-17 batch where the students were declared provisionally graduate.

Chief Guest Dr. Sanjay Roy (Head of Sociology Department, NBU) lightened the ceremonial lamp followed by Fr. (Dr.) Mathew Pulingathil (Rector, Salesian College Siliguri Campus), Fr. (Prof) George Thadathil (Principal), Fr. (Dr.) George Chempakathinal (Vice Principal) and Erick Singh (President of the Student Council).



Welcoming words and blessings by Fr. (Dr.) Mathew Pulingathil (Rector, Salesian College Siliguri Campus) was followed by Rabindra Sangeet performed by the third year students. Fr.(Prof) George Thadathil (Principal) presented the annual report which was followed by the roll call and appeal to the Principal by the Heads of the various departments to graduate the students.

The solemn 'Oath taking' ceremony led by the Principal, witnessed the graduating students resolving to stand by the truth and support the poor and the downtrodden, to serve the society and to develop the nation by becoming a flame that enlightens and enlivens. On the same day students from various departments with outstanding attendance and academic excellence were also felicitated

Sonada Campus

Graduation Day 2017 of Sonada campus was held on 16 March. Mr. John West, the Educationist as well as former Rotarian president of Darjeeling who has been associated with Salesian College Sonada since 1965 was the Guest of Honour along with South Asia Don Bosco Youth Animation director Dr. Maria Charles from New Delhi and Vice-Principal of Jesus and Mary College New Delhi Dr Molly Abraham.



Principal Dr. Fr. George Thadathil led the solemn 'Oath taking' ceremony which witnessed the graduating students resolving to stand by the truth and support the poor and the downtrodden, to serve the society and to develop the nation by becoming a flame that enlightens and enlivens. On the occasion of Graduation Day, students from each department with outstanding attendance and academic excellence were also felicitated.

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