



Happy Christmas

"Greetings from Rome. In advance, I want to wish you all A Joy filled Christmas and Prosperous New Year 2018. I believe that we all will enter into the New Year with some achievable concrete plans and projects which will bring success and happiness to our family and nation." - Fr. Patrick Lepcha SDB, Alumni of Salesian College Sonada



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Dear Friends (Alumni),



As we have entered into the last month of this year, let me wish you a Very Happy and Holy Christmas and a grace-filled New Year 2018. I assure each one of you that I will be placing each of you before God for His blessings on you and your family. Now let me give you a little but profound thought for our life's journey.

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Dear Friends,



The Rising Sun reveals the Morning Glory

The Smiling Face welcomes the stranger

The Clasp Hand assures the wearied

The Warmth of Hug dispels hidden fears

More Inside



My Dear Friends (Alumni),



As we have entered into the last month of this year, let me wish you a Very Happy and Holy Christmas and a grace-filled New Year 2018. I assure each one of you that I will be placing each of you before God for His blessings on you and your family. Now let me give you a little but profound thought for our life's journey.

A man was asked to paint a boat. He brought with him paint and brushes and began to paint the boat a bright red, as the owner asked him. While painting, he noticed that there was a small hole in the hull, and quietly repaired it.

When finished painting, he received his money and left. The next day, owner of the boat came to the painter and presented him with a nice cheque, much higher than the payment for painting.

The painter was surprised and said: "You've already paid me for the painting the boat Sir!" "But this is not for the paint job. It's for having repaired the hole in the boat."

"Ah! But it was such a small service... certainly it's not worth paying me such a high amount for something so insignificant."

"My dear friend, you do not understand. Let me tell you what happened. When I asked you to paint the boat, I forgot to mention about the hole. When the boat dried, my kids took the boat and went on a fishing trip. They did not know that there was a hole. I was not at home at that time.

When I returned and noticed that they had taken the boat. I was desperate because I remembered that the boat had a hole. Imagine my relief and joy when I saw them returning from fishing.

Then I examined the boat and found that you had repaired the hole! You see, now what you did? You saved the life of my children!! I do not have enough money to pay your 'small' good deed"

So, no matter who, when or how. Just continue to help, sustain, wipe tears, listen attentively and carefully repair all the 'leaks' you find, because you never know when one is in need of us or when God holds a pleasant surprise for us to be helpful and important to someone.

You may have repaired numerous 'boat holes' along the way... of several people without realizing how many lives you've saved. So keep up the good work...

I want to thank everyone who repaired my boat this year 2017 in every way like Good Wishes, Thoughts, Love, Care and Prayers...

With much love and Affection
Your Father and Friend
Fr. Dr. Mathew Pulingathil SDB
Rector, Salesian College Siliguri



Dear Friends,

The Rising Sun reveals the Morning Glory
The Smiling Face welcomes the stranger
The Claspng Hand assures the wearied
The Warmth of Hug dispels hidden fears

The December cold reminds of Winter
The Advent of Memories from Childhood
The Year ends as days dwindle in the Month
The Babe expected to arrive as the Saviour

May our days and years be filled with Joy
May our joyful labour for peace bring Hope
May our Hopeful waiting never cease Surprise
May our Friends and Families be our Solace

Fr George Thadathil sdb
Principal
Salesian College





COLLEGE FACILITATES NATIONAL COLLOQUIUM ON HIGHER EDUCATION



Fr. C.M. Paul SDB, Vice Principal, Salesian College Sonada

Kolkata — A first time national colloquium among Catholic Universities was held in Kolkata, 16 November, entitled "Future of Christian Higher Education and Contemporary Transitions in India."

Moderator of the colloquium, principal of Salesian College Dr George Thadathil said "The topic is pertinent in the contemporary educational scenario in India and subtle attempts are being made to saffronise educational establishments of the country."

The colloquium was held at Don Bosco School Park Circus to commemorate the 80th year of Salesian College, Sonada, Darjeeling.

Dr Thadathil asserted, "We have a right to be present [In higher education] and that very right is being challenged."

Prof Thadathil, who was moderating the discussion on behalf of Chancellor of Don Bosco university Salesian Fr V.M. Thomas underscored the rights the Constitution guaranteed to the minorities.

Several speakers expressed their anguish at the sense of anxiety and apprehension that has crept into the country in the past three years.

"The situation is changing very fast.... In the last three years, we have come across certain changes which we could never think of before," said former principal of St. Stephen's College, Delhi Dr Valson Thampu who had earlier released his latest book "On A Stormy Course" chronicling his turbulent years spent as 12th Principal of St Stephen's College Delhi.



"We are passing through a stage when we need to be extremely circumspect. We can't afford to stay static. We have to be cautious about the challenges. And we must understand our greatest challenge is to survive," Thampu added.

Vice Chancellor of Christ University Dr Thomas C. Mathew warned against the threat from corporates entering Higher Education and its commercialisation.

However, Xavier Board Secretary former Principal of Stella Maris Chennai Dr Annamma Philip FMM insisted that “the uniqueness of Christian institutions of excellence cannot be replicated by corporates.”



Coordinator of Jesuit Higher Education in India Dr Xavier Alphonse encouraged institutions of excellence to upgrade to university status.

Former Principal of Patna Women's College Dr Doris D'Souza AC further explained the various options in upgrading to university status.

Vice Chancellor of St Joseph University Kohima Nagaland Dr Joseph Dunston shared his experience of starting up a university for tribals.

Seven speakers participated in the colloquium and almost all of them expressed dissatisfaction with the way the minorities were not being recognized for their contribution to education and allowed to enjoy the rights granted to them in the Constitution.

Responding to Professor of Eminence in Sociology from Tezpur University Dr Virginius Xaxa's paper, principal of Loreto College Calcutta Sister Christine Coutinho said “rights guaranteed by the Constitution were being breached. Here has been breach of ideals enshrined in our Constitution. Such as the Articles 29 and 30.”

Archbishop Thomas D'Souza of Calcutta said “the identity of Christian education should be clear.”

“Like Mother Teresa had no confusion about her mission: to work for the poorest of poor.”

Coordinator of Jesuit Higher Education and promoter of Community Colleges in India Jesuit Father Dr Xavier Alphonse shared experiences of St Xavier University (Kolkata & Bhubaneswar).

Salesian College, started in Shillong in 1933. A fire gutted the wooden building in 1936. Since then the college was re-located at Gorabari village on Siliguri-Darjeeling Hill Cart Road (National Highway 55).





My University:

Universita` Pontificia Salesiana (UPS) ROMA.

*Fr. Patrick Lepcha SDB,
Alumni of Salesian College Sonada, Rome*

Greetings from Rome. In advance, I want to wish you all a Joy filled Christmas and Prosperous New Year 2018. I believe that we all will enter into the New Year with some achievable concrete plans and projects which will bring success and happiness to our family and nation. And my Plan is to complete my studies in June 2018 and return to India (Kolkata Province).

In this short write up I would like to share with you about the Salesian University at Rome. It is known as Universita` Pontificia Salesiana (UPS) or Pontifical Salesian University.

A brief story:

The Pontifical Salesian University was promoted by the Salesian Society of St. John Bosco and canonically erected there by the Sacred Congregation for the Seminaries and Universities of Studies (now Congregation for Catholic Education) with Decree of 3 May 1940 (Prot. N. 265/40) with the title "Pontifical Salesian University".

Of the new title "Pontificia Studiorum Universitas Salesiana" (Pontifical Salesian University) the University was decorated by S.S. Paul VI with the Motu Proprio Magisterium vitae of May 24, 1973.

It consists of the following Faculties:

1. Faculty of Theology
2. Faculty of Education Sciences.
3. Faculty of Philosophy.
4. Faculty of Canon Law.
5. Faculty of Christian and Classical Letters
6. Faculty of Social Communication Sciences.

From December 8, 1986, the Department of theology and the Faculty of Educational Sciences has established a Department implementing the Youth and Catechetical Pastoral Curriculum.

By decree of the Congregation for Catholic Education (Prot. N. 1258/85/8) on June 29, 1986, the Higher Institute of Religious Sciences was established within the Faculty of Theology.

The Salesian Pontifical University is an ordinary member of the FIUC - Fédération Internationale des Universités Catholiques, the FUCE - Fédération des Universités Catholiques Européennes and the EUA - Association Européenne de l'Université.

It is an institution serving the society, the Church and the Society of St. Francis of Sales, which is intended as a special purpose to devote particular attention to the study and solution of issues related to education and pastoral action especially among young people and the popular classes, in the spirit of Don Bosco. I would like to add that from last academic year, the university has started in the Faculty of Theology, one new Institute to do Diploma or Licentiate which is called Youth Pastoral or in Italian: Pastorale Giovanile. I belong to this new Institute of Youth Pastoral and in second year licentiate. Statistics of the University : This Academic year (2017-2018)

Total number of Students: 2068

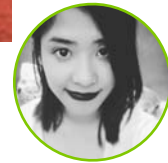
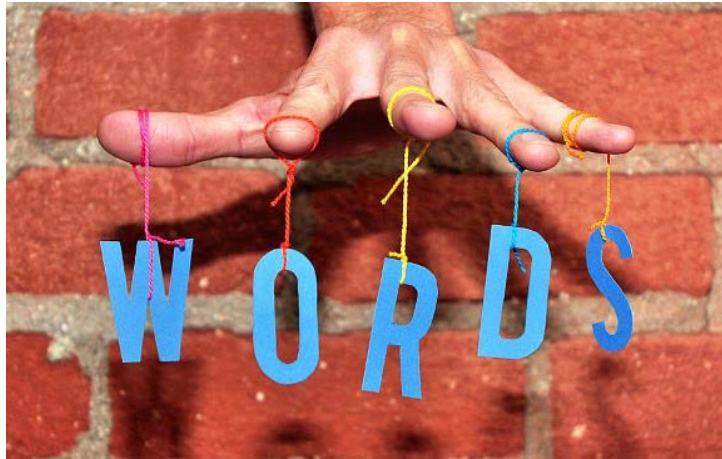
Continent wise:

Europe: 1455, Asia: 179, Africa: 271, North America: 7, Central America: 57, South America: 99 and Indians at UPS: 75 of us, highest number as External Students.

This is a great news for us. Hence, I make an appeal to you all if you want to study Youth Pastoral or ministry, do join us in UPS Rome (To tell you the truth, no other universities offers this course).

Once again Happy Christmas and Happy New Year.





Power of Words

Kate Sarah, Alumni of Salesian College Siliguri

And God said "Let there be light," and there was light. – Genesis 1:3

"[T]he LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. – Genesis 2:7"

Before creation, words were with God. With words God created the universe. Above all his creations, God created mankind and infused them with the superpower that is speech. We are above all the creations, the most advanced, the human race, because we are blessed with words. But we should be very careful while using this beautiful gift of God as whatever we speak whether it is blessings or curse, always comes back to us.

1. Confess that you are beautiful: If you cannot love yourself, you cannot love others. Confess you are beautiful, Confess love to your soul and your body.
2. Confess the goodness of God: In all your ways acknowledge the super power, God. The trick is, it will keep you rooted and humble.
3. Confess your future that you want: "No way that's never gonna happen to me..." If you believe so, it won't happen because you are saying so. Confessions give birth to faith. Faith comes from hearing. So when we confess we hear words and the words can sparkle light out of darkness. Faith can create and destroy too.

Words are powerful. Use them wisely. Spread the Good News of love. Be soft and considerate. Don't give up on yourself. Shower words of encouragement, gratitude and care. Remember we all are different beings fighting different battles. Words were given to us as a means of communication. A gift to mankind, these words are magical.

Confess words of wisdom and positivity. Forgive others and yourself. Believe in God. Believe in Science, logic and reason. Believe that words have power if you believe in them.



BLOOD DONATION CAMP

- Priyamrita Chatterjee, Alumni Coordinator, Salesian College

On 10 November 2017, the Alumni Association of Salesian College Siliguri had organized a blood donation camp in collaboration with Siliguri Blood Plus and Siliguri Rotary Blood Bank in the college campus. The blood collection team from Siliguri Rotary Blood Bank was present in the campus to collect blood and provide other helps. The donors were provided with refreshments and certificate.



Students, alumni members, faculty members and administrative staffs donated their blood and altogether 65 units of blood were collected.

Fr. C.J. George the Vice Principal of Salesian College Siliguri, Ms. Priyamrita Chatterjee (Alumni Coordinator), Mr. Chanchal Agarwal (President of Alumni Association) along with other office bearers of Alumni Association were present on the occasion.



From the campus

Volley Ball match in Sonada campus

Salesian College Sonada organised a Volley Ball match between staff and students on 4th November 2017. Students won 3 matches and staff two.



Free Medical camp

On 11 November 2017, a Free Medical Camp was held at Salesian College Sonada. 264 people from nearby villages came to the camp. It was organized by [B.Com](#) Dept and NSS Group along with a Siliguri based NGO Harimaya Chettri Memorial Welfare Organisation.

Freedom of the press in Darjeeling - A panel discussion

The newly started Department of Journalism and Mass Communication at Salesian College Sonada organised a panel discussion on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of National Press Day, 21 November. The National Press Day is normally observed on 16th November.

Asst Professor Privat Giri of the Dept of Mass Communication was the moderator. The panelists included Mr Rajiv Ravidas from 'The Telegraph', Ms Rinchu Dolma from 'The Darjeeling Chronicle', Mr P. Rai former creative head of ABN News first Nepali language satellite channel in India and Mr Barun Roy from 'The Himalayan Beacon'. Vice-Principal and Director of Radio Salesian 90.8 FM and the HoD of Journalism and Mass Communication Fr. C.M. Paul gave the key note address. Principal of the College Fr. (Dr.) George Thadathil SDB gave the concluding remarks. The MT Groove, a Darjeeling based rock band selected to attend prestigious Horn Bill Festival in Nagaland gave a guest performance on the occasion.



Photo: Principal poses with the panellists and moderator.

Hay Fever

On 30-31 October 2017, the department of English at the Siliguri campus organised 'Hay Fever', a fest celebrating the vast literary output of the English language. The programme began with poetry writing, essay writing, skit and story writing competitions. The students from various departments participated

in the event. The event was concluded on a grand note with the “Out of the Book” competition, which had students dressed up as different literary characters.

Compumathix

Salesian College Siliguri campus organised 'Compumathix' on 13 November 2017. It is an annual event jointly organised by the Dept. of Computer Science and Application and Dept. of Mathematics. This event is an extension program of the college, where schools from Siliguri and suburbs are invited to participate in the competition. All events are conducted by the college students under the supervision of faculty members.



College Principal revives inter-faith meet in the hills

A group of religious heads and academicians come together to revive once active inter religious forum in Darjeeling Hills. It is an effort of Salesian College Principal Dr. Fr. George Thadathil. The core team met at Ashyana, the residence of Darjeeling College Prof Irshad Ahmed on 11 November 2017. The team plans to revive the decade old Forum with new initiatives to bring the message of peace and religious harmony to the different communities of Darjeeling and its surrounding.



Celebration of NCC Day

Salesian College Siliguri Campus NCC Cadets participated at NCC Day Celebrations on 26 November 2017. The programme was held at the campus of Siliguri College.



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Our Media Partner

