



“ Life is short, however long we might live. Every one of our known co-travelers of life who have moved on, young or old, are a reminder of this truth.”



– Fr. George Thadathil sdb, Principal, Salesian College

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More Inside



My Dear Friends (Alumni),

We are already in the second month of this New Year and time is fleeting fast for all of us. Every one of us is busy with our own daily chores. I am sharing a very important thought that will definitely help us to have happy and graceful days with our families and colleagues.

A man just got married and was returning home with his wife. They were crossing a lake in a boat, when suddenly a great storm arose. The man was a warrior, but the woman became very much afraid because it seemed almost hopeless: The boat was small and the storm was really huge, and any moment they were going to be drowned. But the man sat silently, calm and quiet, as if nothing was happening.

The woman was trembling and she said, "Are you not afraid?" This may be our last moment of life! It doesn't seem that we will be able to reach the other shore. Only some miracle can save us; otherwise death is certain. Are you not afraid? Are you mad or something? Are you a stone or something?

The man laughed and took the sword out of its sheath. The woman was even more puzzled: What he was doing? Then he brought the naked sword close to the woman's neck, so close that just a small gap was there, it was almost touching her neck. He said, "Are you afraid?"

She started to laugh and said, "Why should I be afraid? If the sword is in your hands, why should I be afraid? I know you love me.

He put the sword back and said, "This is my answer: I know God Loves me, and the storm is in His hands. SO WHATSOEVER IS GOING TO HAPPEN IS GOING TO BE GOOD. If we survive, it is good. If we don't survive, then also it is good because everything is in His hands and He cannot do anything wrong.

Develop Trust. This is the trust which one needs to imbibe and which is capable of transforming your whole life. Any less won't do! Believe that God is working in your life even when you don't feel like that sometimes. He will use your entire life time to prepare you for eternity.

When God wants to make a mushroom, He does it overnight, but to make giant oak He takes 100 years. Be patient with the process, because He knows your worth....

Remember how far you have COME, not just how far you have to GO. God isn't finished with you yet; so keep moving forward. Even the snail reached Noah's ark by perseverance!

Great leaders are trained in pits n prisons Not in playground or palaces! Have a great time ahead trusting in God.

Your affectionate Father & Friend

Fr. Mathew Pulingathil SDB

Rector, Salesian College Siliguri

Dear Friends,



Life is short, however long we might live. Every one of our known co-travelers of life who have moved on, young or old, are a reminder of this truth. America has over 15,000 persons living beyond the age of hundred. India has presently the oldest person living on earth. Life is, the philosophers tell us, unending. We die because we are born. Life itself is without a beginning and without an end, it is eternal, and so its co-existent with the source of life, God, the Divine Agency behind the reality we know and are yet to know.

As we bid adieu to Saurabh Agarwal, a young man in his 20s, alumnus of Siliguri Campus, who just started out his life with his life partner Ankita, and Tom Punchekunnel, in his 70th year, brimming with life and just been to our part of the world just recently, though working in Eastern Africa for more than 30 years, an alumnus of Salesian College Sonada, are both known to many of us Salesians and Salesianites. We miss them and offer our condolences to their family and friends. May this reminder of the shortness of life that comes to us through their liveliness and zest in life, be pointers that guide us in the days ahead.

Fr George Thadathil sdb

Principal

Salesian College



Obituary

Sourabh Agarwal

The sudden demise of our very good friend Saurabh has saddened all of us undoubtedly. Just a couple of months back he was elected the Joint Secretary of the Alumni Association of Salesian College Siliguri. He was a very active and enthusiastic member of our Association.



We know very well that a **good heart** and a **good nature** are two different issues: a good heart can win many relationships and a good nature can win many hearts. Our friend Sourabh had a good heart and a good nature. I pray God that He may welcome our friend into Eternal Life (Heaven) prepared for those who Love. The Holy Bible says - "The beloved of the Lord will dwell in safety by Him." (Deuteronomy 33: 12)

Fr.(Dr. Mathew Pulingathil SDB

Rector Salesian College Siliguri

Fr. Thomas Punchakunnel, sdb

Fr. Thomas Punchakunnel, an Alumni of Salesian College Sonada, who has been a faithful and dedicated Missionary and pastor to himself, has passed away on 4 January, 2017 at Nairobi. He was born in Pala, Kerala, India on 2 November 1947. From 1967 to 1970 he studied at the Salesian College Sonada.



He was part of the first group of Salesians of Don Bosco who went as missionaries to East Africa. He was there from last 37 years and has contributed a lot to the development of Salesian Mission in East Africa. He was one of the pioneers.

May the Lord reward his generous missionary commitment in East Africa and Grant him eternal peace.

Army Cantonment felicitates community radio team

Fr. C.M. Paul sdb, Salesian College Sonada

Darjeeling: An army cantonment in Darjeeling felicitated outstanding community services during their annual events held for civilians on January 15.

The Jalapahar and Lebong military cantonments in Darjeeling held Run for the Nation – mini marathon for civilians with prize money awarded both for male and female categories of winners who participated in the six kilometer run in the hills.

More than 500 runners participated in the event scheduled for the sunny Sunday morning in the chilly winter weather. "The overwhelming number of participants compelled us to close registration for the event pretty early," said Chief Executive Officer of the Cantonment Yashpal Singh (IDES).

At the conclusion of the marathon after the victors were felicitated with trophy, certificates and cash awards, some outstanding civilians were felicitated for their contribution to the hills people. Among them were persons who made a mark in music, theatre, media, art and social work.

Colonel Sanjeev Bajpai felicitated Station Director of Radio Salesian Fr C.M. Paul, Darjeeling Satellite Television CEO Mr Milan Chhetri, and Darjeeling Press Guild representative Mr. Prashant in the media category.

Radio Salesian is the first college run Community Radio in West Bengal and entire northeast India officially launched December 8, 2016.

The Citation awarded as a token of appreciation on the behalf of the entire Defence Forces to Station Director Radio Salesian Fr C.M. Paul reads "your outstanding commitment and dedication to the community sets you above the others as leader and

advocate for providing services, stability and empowerment to the community you serve."

Program Coordinator of Radio Salesian RJ Samir Chhetri too received a similar citation. The six members of Radio Salesian RJ team were also felicitated with ceremonial scarves.

Speaking at the event, Chief Guest, Superintendent of Police Amit P. Javalgi highlighted the social problems Darjeeling Police face and called upon young people to keep away from drug and alcohol addiction; and abuse of internet which often led to sex trafficking and sexual abuse. He also warned young people of the dangers of

addiction in the use of mobile phone which prevents young people from staying physically fit. He pleaded with parents "to engage children in outdoor activities."

Speaking to Matters India Singh who has charge of more than 3,000 people in the Type 4 cantonment, explained the purpose of the mini marathon as "our response to create awareness and instill the habits of cleanliness and health campaign Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched."

The Cantonment also runs Vocational Training Centre in

Jalapahar and Lebong where the military imparts free technical education such as Computer Science, Communicative English, Beauty and Hair Styling. The hill VTC provide such courses free of cost with all the facilities viz. computers, books, uniforms, shoes and even free medical facility to students.

The students in Dept. of Computer Science are taught video editing, audio editing,





A Trip to Salesian College Sonada Campus

Sayak Moitra, Treasurer
Salesian College Alumni Association

On Thursday, 22nd December 2016 to mark the occasion of upcoming Christmas, the alumni members of Salesian college Siliguri campus visited the Mother campus at Sonada., The team was led by Alumni Co-ordinator Mrs. Priyamrita Chatterjee and President of Salesian College Alumni Association Siliguri, Mr Chanchal Agarwal along with other office bearers. The journey started from Don Bosco more at 9:00 AM. After having breakfast at Rohini, members reached campus at around 12 noon. Members were welcomed at the entrance by Miss Divyani Agarwal who is a member of Alumni Association of Siliguri but teaching at Sonada campus. From there all went to meet Father George Thadathill, the Principal. Members had interaction with father in his office and after that they were made to visit the campus. Father George narrated the history and further prospect of the campus if the college receives the autonomous status. The team also visited the new building of the campus. After roaming around the campus all the members gathered at the Chapel and joined in prayer.

All enjoyed a scrumptious lunch at college canteen. After lunch they visited the Salesian Radio station. The RJ on duty explained them the techniques of broadcasting and recorded their New Year message to be broadcasted through FM radio. It was quite a fun filled experience for all the members.

After bidding adieu to Father George, members went to visit Batasia loop. It was a nice get-together where old friends met and got the opportunity to cherish their college days. They returned with heart full of memories.

From the campus



PEN, PAIN AND WRITING

Department of English of Salesian College Siliguri had organised a two days National Conference “Pen, Pain and Writing (Re) Thinking Links, Connectives and Negotiations” on 6th and 7th Jan 2017. The aim of organising this conference was to explore the new style and modes of arts through writing. The guest speakers for the event were Dr. Anirban Das (Associate Professor, Dept of Cultural Studies, Centre for Studies in Social Sciences Calcutta), Prof. Ghosh, (Dept of English, NBU), Dr. Saunak Samajdar (Speaker on invitation, Dept. of English, Panchanan Barma University) and Prof. Niladri Chatterjee (Dept. of English, Kalyani University). Professors and Students from different Universities and colleges participated in this event and presented their papers.



A faculty development programme was organised for the staff of Salesian College on National Education Policy and the role of Catholic Educational Institutions in it, on 19 January 2017. Fr. Joseph Manipadam SDB, National Executive Secretary, Catholic Bishop Conference of India (CBCI) Education and Culture, New Delhi was the Resource person.

Congratulations



**Alumni Ashmita Agarwal (BA Batch 2014) weds
Mr. Sumit Agarwal on 22nd January.
We wish them a happy and fulfilled conjugal life.**