



NEWSLETTER

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Some people are insecure because they pay too much attention to what others are, where others are going, wearing and driving. Take whatever you have, the height, weight and personality. Dress well and wear it proudly, you are blessed. Stay focused and live a healthy life. - **Fr. Mathew Pulingathil, SDB, Rector, Salesian College Siliguri**



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My Dear Friends (Alumni),

Right at the beginning I would like to wish you God's blessings as you get busy with your many busy schedules. Allow me to share an experience that might throw light on our mode of behavior.

I was jogging this morning and I noticed a person about half a km ahead. I could guess he was running a little slower than me and I felt good. I said to myself - I will try catch up with him. I had about a km before I needed to turn off. So I started running faster and faster. Every block, I was gaining on him just a little bit. After just a few minutes I was only about 300 feet behind him, so I really picked up the pace and pushed myself.

You would have thought I was running in the last leg of an Olympic competition. I was determined to catch up with him. Finally, I did it! I caught up and passed him. Inwardly I felt very good. "I beat him". Of course, he didn't even know we were racing.

After I passed him, I realized I had been so focused on competing against him that I had missed my turn to my house. I had gone nearly six blocks past my turn and I had to turn and go back.

It then dawned on me, isn't that what happens in life when we focus on competing with co-workers, neighbours, friends, family, trying to outdo them or trying to prove that we are more successful or more important and in the bargain we miss on our happiness within our own surroundings?

We spend our time and energy running after them and we miss out on our own paths to our given destination. The problem with unhealthy competition is that it's a never ending cycle.

There will always be somebody ahead of you, someone with a better job, nicer car, more money in the bank, more education, a prettier wife, a more handsome husband, better behaved children, better circumstances and better conditions etc. But one important realization is that 'You can be the best that you can be, when you are not competing with anyone.'

Some people are insecure because they pay too much attention to what others are, where others are going, wearing and driving. Take whatever you have, the height, weight and personality. Dress well and wear it proudly, you are blessed. Stay focused and live a healthy life.

COMPARISON IS THE THIEF OF JOY

Your Affectionate Father and Friend,

Fr. (Dr.) Mathew Pulingathil SDB

Rector



Dear Friends

Indian scenario of education is fast changing. Think of those years when modern education was just making its arrival into India. It was Welcomed by some sections as the panacea for all ills. 300 years down the line the same education is being decried by those who curry favour in the corridors of power presently.

In these times of divisive strategising it takes all our commitment and ingenuity to retain the critical spirit and apply it successfully against the marauders of pride in a false sense of the past, forgetting the injustice perpetrated by the Pre modern tradition.

We look forward to your honest assessment of what the college has given you and in what way it (that which you received) can help nurture a new indigenous modernity without regressing into a pathetic revival of false pride against the interests of the vast majority of people (among whom feature the minorities, Dalits, adivasis and their women) and for the benefit of a minuscule minority (among whom feature those who manoeuvre the falsification of consciousness)without conscience.

I do welcome your feedback on these ruminations which could be elaborated and are born of a sense of loss and pain.

Fr George Thadathil SDB

Principal

Salesian College



Photo: Radio Journalists team with patron Bishop Paul Simick of Kathmandu

Salesian Radio initiates Indo-Nepal Friendship

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

Darjeeling: How can a community radio take initiatives toward building people to people friendship between neighbouring countries? A college community radio in Darjeeling hills has shown how a small gesture at promoting understanding and fellowship through people to people initiative can go a long way to establish rapport and gain people's good will.

Radio Salesian 90.8 FM, set out on a historic "Indo-Nepal Friendship Tour", 7 to 14 January 2018, with a team of Radio Journalists (RJ) under the patronage of Bishop Paul Simick of Kathmandu, Nepal and principal of Salesian College Sonada (SCS) Darjeeling, India Dr George Thadathil. The roadshow team consisted of station director and SCS Vice-principal Fr C.M. Paul along with Programme Coordinator RJ Samir Chhetri, senior RJ Sagar Rai and driver Kabir Tamang.

The tour on Radio Salesian 2005 model Maruti Omni Van was flagged off on Sunday 7th January at 7.07 am from Sonada passing through Indo-Nepal Kakravitta border near Siliguri and proceeded to Dharan from where Don Bosco Centre Nepal started and reached Kathmandu in Central Nepal. The roadshow covered 1,606 kms in eight days visiting 7 Don Bosco institutions in Nepal managed by SCS alumni. The tour also marked 80th year celebrations of Salesian College as well as 25th year of Don Bosco Society Nepal (DBSN). DBSN marked its 25th year of service to the people of Nepal by handing over fifth earthquake resilient school to villagers. A total of ten schools in remote and inaccessible areas affected

by the 2015 earthquake in Nepal are being got ready to be handed over. The radio team covered the handing over ceremony of fifth school which took place on January 11 at Kallery Basic School in Sindhupalchawk district in central Nepal some 90 kilometers east of Kathmandu.

“The week-long programme consisted of visiting Community Radio stations in Dharan (Radio Vijayapur 98.8 FM estd in April 2010), Biratnagar (Radio Purbanchal FM 101.3 estd in 2013) women operated first radio of Nepal, and Kathmandu (Radio Sagarmatha FM 102.4 estd in May 1997) community radio station with earthquake resilient studio facility.

One of the most successful learning interaction during the trip was with the founder director of the first community radio set up in South Asia, Radio Sagarmatha Nepal, Dr. Raghu Mainali. After an extensive exchange of community radio programming, planning and strategizing toward a sustainability model, Dr Mainali gifted the visitors with 13 books on community radio, among them 4 books are in Nepali language. Dr Mainali also gave the visitors a guided tour of the recently constructed earthquake resilient studio and granted permission to use their Nepali language radio serials on health, disaster preparedness, and radio plays.



With Dr Raghu Mainali director Radio Sagarmata in Kathmandu - first community radio in South Asia estd in 1997.



With Engineer Mr S. Sunderajan at Indian Embassy Kathmandu, 12 January 2018

The team also visited plus two (senior secondary) schools along the way - 7 schools in Dharan, 6 in Biratnagar and 2 in Kathmandu) to promote higher education in Salesian College Darjeeling and Siliguri campus. Radio Journalist Mr Chhetri adds, “We also made radio programs on 25 years of NDBS and interact with mission pioneers and Church leaders.”

Time spent with tour patron Bishop Paul Simmick of Kathmandu, Nepal, a priest from Indian diocese of Darjeeling, too was most fruitful as the team interviewed him for a radio program on experiences of living in a foreign country and working for people of similar culture and language. The history of NDBS began in 1992 with Dharan centre, in eastern Nepal, initiated by late Fr George Alakulam who ventured out from Don Bosco School Mirik then under the care of SCS.



Indo-Nepal Friendship Tour team at Don Bosco Thecho Kathmandu on Wednesday 10th January 2018.

The Salesians then reached Sirsia (1996), followed by the capital, Kathmandu, with two centers - in Lubhu, established in 1996, and Thecho in 2001 – after which came Baroul and Chakkarghatty (2014) East Nepal and, finally, Biratnagar in 2017 for a total of seven houses, managed today by 18 Salesians from various states around India.



MEMORY-COLLAGE

- Mahima Kashyap, Alumni of Salesian College Siliguri



New Year comes with new hopes, new ambitions, new challenges, new promises and much more novel things added to all those which persist through the year. A week before the New Year began, I had already stepped into the last semester of my MA programme. So you might have guessed already, it was going to be tough novelty to deal with, and I wasn't fully unaware of the approaching challenges. Many a times, in the course of life, when the movement is steady and swift, as the pace of time is, the old memories begin fading and new burdens, plans to deal with them and the worry of all that which is still to be heaved upon us, tend to occupy our time and thoughts. And thus, it's very natural that fond memories of bygone days would secure those recesses of our mind from where we don't even get time enough to retrieve those or revisit them very often. They are never forgotten but lie there to return with slightest of incentive. One such spurring moment came in the very first week of January when I began reading Greene's *The Power and the Glory* followed by Joyce's *A Portrait of an Artist as a Young Man*. Without delving deep into the text, the subtext and several ensuing interpretations, I would talk about that incentive which brought the memories of college days afresh. Christian faith and Catholicism lie in the very centre of these novels. And Joyce has been too extravagant in dedicating some considerable portion of the novel to the practices of church and an annual retreat for schoolchildren. But all those words and phrases like sermon, chalice, communion, sacraments, wine and bread, chaplets, chasuble, Lent, Ash Wednesday cannot be read over without bringing back the memory of Don Bosco Shrine, even though momentarily, making it much easier for me to retain those words, their significance and to know how sacrilegious the entire episode of stealing wine from sacristy can really be. Had not it been for the few friends whom I pestered with my weird and seemingly stupid question and who took the trouble to satiate my inquiries, these texts would not only have been tardy readings but also very challenging to comprehend.

And even during the busy schedule of reading and finishing some assigned tasks before the approaching deadline, this one spur of connection was enough to agitate the dormant memories and pushed them forth from the recesses, reminding of several connected and distanced events.

There's one particular thing about Siliguri which I shall always treasure, my coming in touch with people from several cultural backgrounds, learning about their culture, living with them, adapting in the environment which to me was very new and different. Apart from the hostel and the campus, an important hub of such interactions would be the Shrine. And one such memory whose reminder would still force a smile on my lips was catching up the phrases like 'yeshu badai', practicing to get accustomed to it like that of a new word entering a child's small repertoire of words which it tends to speak funnily followed by a fit of innocent laughter and by and by getting comfortable with the usage

even with the strangers who would never miss to greet you in good spirit. How difficult it was to feel at ease with a new custom, like that of bowing to the neighbours sitting beside one on the pew in a pre-communion ceremony and gracefully wishing them "peace be with you" which however, I could never make myself to speak without a tinge of discomfort, a shiver in voice which often devoured the last few words, not because the utterance was a difficult one but for the reason that so much of effort went into articulating the required posture that words would give in. However, this is but a fragment of an unending tale of associating with different people during my sojourn in the city which to me is so distant and yet never so far.

I went through the similar kind of feeling when I first came to Rajasthan from where I am presently pursuing my masters. There are people from different parts of Rajasthan, Haryana, Uttrakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar and very few from West Bengal, Sikkim and Meghalaya. The amalgamation of several cultures both confounds and interests one, and see how the famous lyrics of Nepalese Bhanchhan Kohi Jindagi Yo was replaced by Rajasthani Kalyo Kood Padiyo Mela Main or Kumaoni TakTakaTak Kamla, again not without admitting my failure in being able to understand the lyrics and their meaning. But at a point of time one realises that human beings are all same, with similar instincts, similar range of behavioural patterns differing on the level of language and cultural practices. The happenings around often remind of the good old days for several reasons; many a times because of the stark dissimilarity between the past and the present, or sometimes owing to the relatedness, and also in those situations when the present is an extension or aggravation of the past.

From the Campus



The All India Association for Christian Higher Education (AIACHE), New Delhi, in its 18th Triennial Conference and general body meeting held at Christ University from January 29 to 30, 2018 elected Principal of Salesian College Sonada and Siliguri Dr. Fr. George Thadathil its President

Awareness programme for the children of Govt. Primary school:

On 15 January 2018, the YUBA members of Salesian college Siliguri campus organised an awareness programme for the Children and teachers of Roy Colony Govt. Primary School on the issue "Good touch bad touch". The programme was initiated in collaboration with ChildLine. Mrs. Agnes Sarkar Mondol, Principal of Baikhunthapur Govt. School was the Recourse person along with Mr. Ajay Kedia and Mr. Shiv Shankar Agarwal. The programme was aimed to create awareness about sexual abuse among the children and make



the teachers better equipped to handle such situations.

Educational trip to Bhutan :

The students and the faculty members of Department of Sociology, Salesian College Sonada had set out for an educational tour to Bhutan on 21st December 2018. The trip was aimed to expose the rich culture of Bhutan along with its natural beauty to the students. The tour lasted for three days and four nights.

Salesian College Sonada - expansion work in progress to mark 80th year celebrations



Radio Salesian Team organised a 3-day news reporting workshop for first year brothers of Salesian College Sonada from 19 to 22 January 2018. They will went out to 19 youth centres run by Salesian College Soanda for field reporting and returned with bytes for radio and blog.



Both the campuses of Salesian College at Siliguri and Sonada celebrated the 69th Republic Day on 26th January 2018.

