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“When we finish our studies we leave the college and come back only when we need help: may be to get admission for our children or a job. But, the Giving Tree: our parents and teachers at the SCS never forget their Amirs and Prettys...they constantly think of them with affection and remember them in their prayers...and are always happy when they come and meet them again: just to enjoy the company of one another and share their joys and sorrows. “ – **Fr. Scaria Thuruthiyil**, Alumni and former Professor of Philosophy , Salesian College Sonada

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Achievers from Salesian College Siliguri campus

It was a proud moment for Salesian College as four students of Siliguri campus 2015 batch were awarded Gold and Silver Medals by the University of North Bengal on 18 February 2016.

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Dear Alumni

In an ancient temple, a number of pigeons lived happily on roof top. When the renovation of the temple began for the annual temple feast the pigeons relocated themselves to a Church nearby. The existing pigeons in the Church accommodated the new comers very well. Christmas was nearing and the Church was given a face-lift. All the pigeons had to move out and look for another place.



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More Inside



Dear Friends (Alumni),

The following is worth reflecting upon!

In an ancient temple, a number of pigeons lived happily on roof top. When the renovation of the temple began for the annual temple feast the pigeons relocated themselves to a Church nearby. The existing pigeons in the Church accommodated the new comers very well. Christmas was nearing and the Church was given a face-lift. All the pigeons had to move out and look for another place. They were fortunate to find a place in a Mosque nearby, The pigeons in the Mosque welcomed them happily. It was Ramadan time and the Mosque was repainted. All the pigeons now came to the same ancient temple.

One day the pigeons on top found some communal clashes below in a market square. The baby pigeon asked the mother pigeon. "Who are these people?"

The mother replied; they are "Human beings".

The baby asked,

" But why are they fighting with each other...?"

The mother said "These human beings going to temple are called 'Hindus' and the people going to Church are called 'Christians' and the people going to Mosque are called 'Muslims'.

The Baby pigeon asked, "Why is it so? When we were in the Temple we were called Pigeons, when we were in the church we were called Pigeons and when we were in the Mosque, we were called Pigeons. Similarly they should be called just 'Human beings' wherever they go"?

The mother Pigeon said,

'You and me and our Pigeon friends have experienced God and that's why we are living here in a highly elevated place peacefully. These people are yet to experience God. Hence they are living below us and fighting and killing each other.

We Human beings have much to learn. May we all experience God in our daily lives. God bless you all.

Your affectionate Father & Friend
Fr. (Dr.) Mathew Pulingathil SDB
Rector



Fr Elio Proietto

Tribute

Fr. Frank Freeman, an alumnus of Salesian College Sonada, reports from Australia about the demise of Fr Elio Proietto who was his colleague and erstwhile companion in Sonada way back in 1952. He has passed away after a long illness on 23rd February 2016 at the nursing home of the Little Sisters of the Poor at Northcote (Melbourne), he was of 81 years age.

The entire alumni and present generation of students and staff of Salesian College Sonada and Siliguri offer condolences to the Salesian Province of Australia and his near and dear ones.



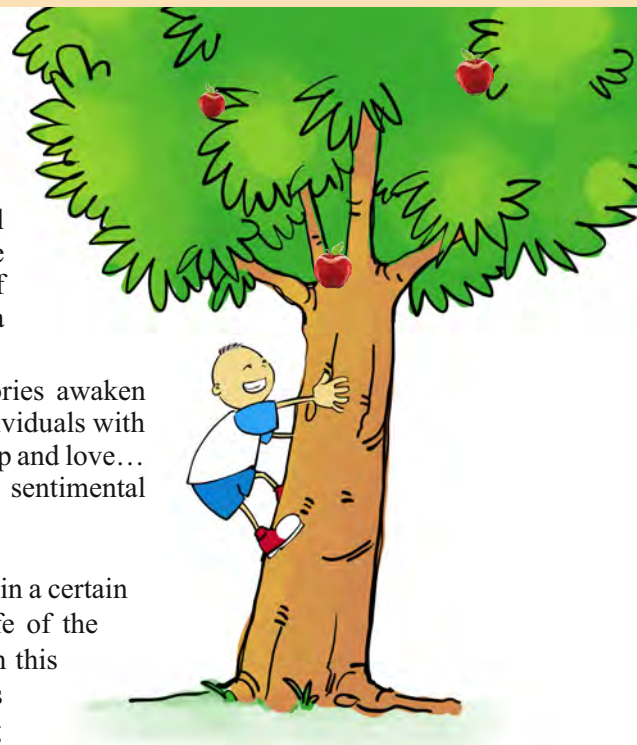
Nostalgia

Prof. Dr. Scaria Thuruthiyil
Salesian Pontifical University, Rome
Alumnus and former Professor of philosophy of
Salesian College Sonada

Most of us have sweet memories of our alma mater. Sweet memories awaken nostalgia not so much for the place or the buildings, but for those individuals with whom we lived and had lovely and wonderful relationship of friendship and love... it's a feeling that invades and envelops us...a 'missing' feeling...a sentimental yearning for... but at the same time 'sweet' like home sickness.

You certainly know the parable of the 'Giving Tree'. Once upon a time in a certain village in North India, there lived a big mango tree. The entire life of the villagers, especially during the hot summer months, was centered on this tree. Under its shade, not only the villagers but also domestic animals (cows, dogs, cats, hens, chickens, etc.) found respite from the scorching sun. While the elders usually engaged themselves in conversation (just chatting or exchanging news and views) or while away in a nap or sleep, the children were fully engaged in playing games. Their joy and laughter used to fill the air. The Tree was happy that he could give shade to all, including animals, in the village. He was particularly happy to see the children, playing around him, even climbing on his branches, swinging from one branch to another, plucking his juicy, sweet fruits and enjoying them. Among them was a little boy called Amir who loved to come and play around it every day. He used to climb to the top of the Tree, eat the mangoes, enjoy himself swinging from one branch to other, take a nap under its shade ... He loved the Tree and the Tree too loved him and wanted to play with him. Time went by, the little Amir grew up, and he no longer came to play with the Tree. The Tree was sad and anxiously waited for his return!

One day, after a few years, the Tree saw Amir from a long distance coming along and shook himself with joy. Amir had a sad face. The Tree called him: "Amir, my boy, come and play with me". "I am no longer a kid", he said, "and I don't play around trees anymore. I want to buy many things. I want to buy toys too and I need money to buy them. Can you give me money?" "Sorry", replied the Tree "I don't have money... but I have an idea. You can climb on me and pluck all my mangoes and sell them so you will have money." Amir was so excited; he plucked all the mangoes on the tree and left happily. But, Amir stayed away and didn't come back. The tree was sad, nonetheless anxiously waited for his return!



One day, Amir, by now a grown up man, was passing by... The Tree recognized him from far ... and was so excited to see him, called him by name and shouted: "Amir, my son, come and play with me". "I don't have time to play. I got married and I have no house for my wife and two children. We need a house for shelter. Can you help me?" "Sorry, I don't have a house", said the Tree, "but I have an idea: you can chop off my branches and build your house." So, Amir cut all the branches off the tree and left happily to build his house. The tree was very glad to see him happy but once again, Amir forgot the Tree, stayed away and didn't come back. The tree was again lonely and sad.

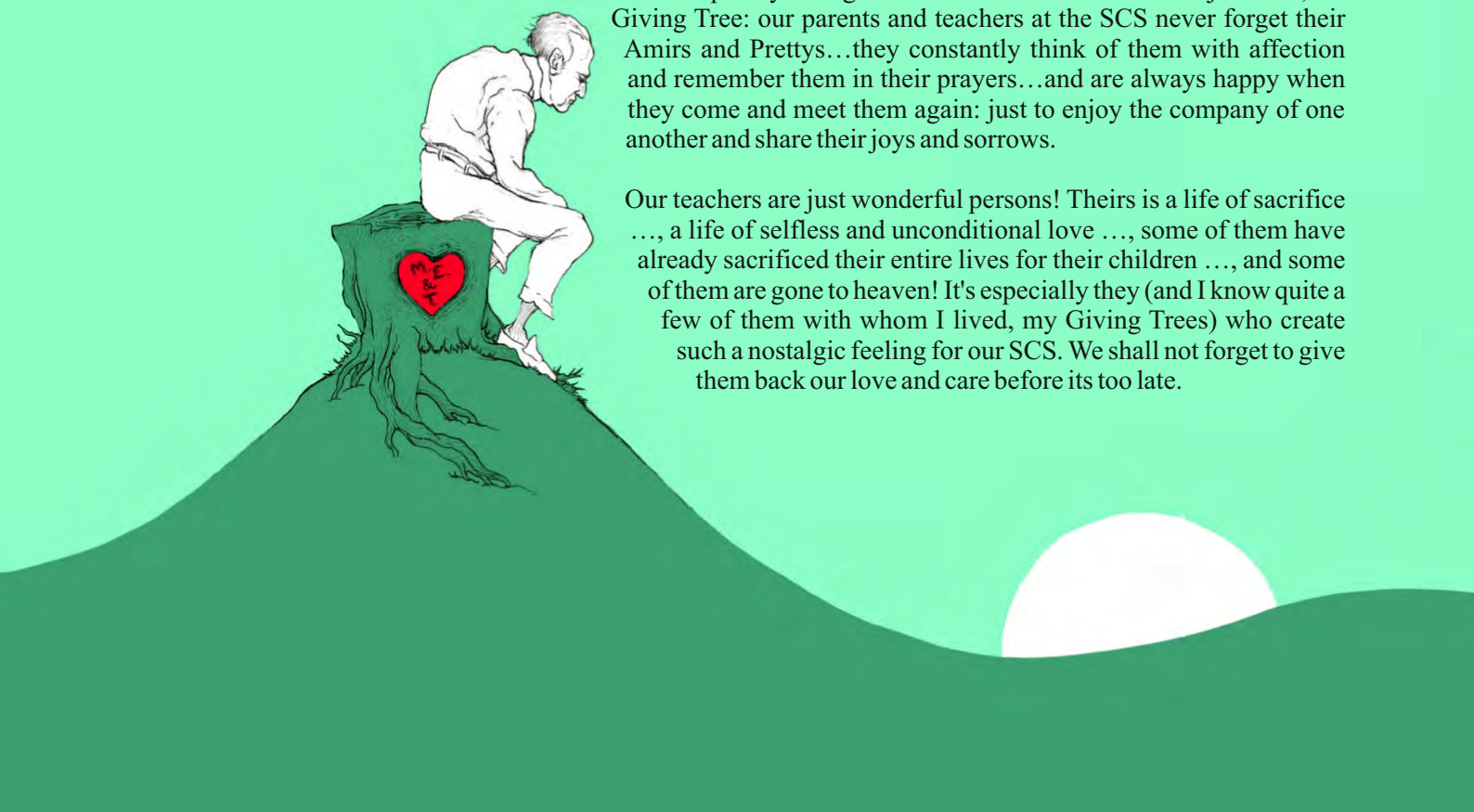
One hot summer day, Amir came along the road adjacent to the Tree and the Tree seeing him was delighted. "Come and play with me", the Tree said. "I lost my job and am now without one ... I am really sad... I don't know how to feed my wife and children. Can you perhaps give me job"? The Tree felt very sad for Amir, his beloved son. He didn't know how to help him out... but then got an idea: "You are a fisherman... do one thing... cut my trunk down and build a boat ... you can use the boat to catch fish and you will have a permanent job. So, Amir cut the tree trunk and made a big boat. He went sailing into the deep seas and caught enough and more of fish, which he sold and got even rich. Again, he forgot the Tree and didn't come back for a long time.

Finally, after many years, one day Amir, by now an old man, came along walking on the road with a stick in hand. The Tree, now only a Stump, was so happy and shook with joy on seeing him again. "Come my son... you look tired and worn out ... I really can't give you anything more, the only thing left is my dying stump, but come and sit on me, and take some rest", said the Tree. "I don't need much now, just a place to rest. I am tired after all these years," Amir replied. "Good! My old Stump is the best place to sit on and rest. Come sit down with me and rest", said the Tree. Amir sat down on the Stump, the Tree smiled and was immensely happy ... and Amir fell asleep!

The Tree in the story represents first our parents, then our teachers who take their place. When we are young, we love to play with them. Our parents and teachers are also happy to spend time playing with us. Spending time in playing, with companions, teachers and parents are some of the best moments of our life! We are their joy, their pride. Our teachers at the SCS consider each one of us as unique. They spend time not only teaching subjects in the class rooms, but make sure to be constantly present with us. Their dedication and loving kindness really grip us. They try to bring out the best in each one of us with care, concern and encouragement: be it in sports, music, games, dance, theatre or in various other extracurricular activities. How can we forget the human, cultural, social and religious values they instill in us! How many of us get a good advice like: "If you succeed it will make your parents and us proud but even if you don't you will not have any regrets that you haven't tried". "There is no substitute for perseverance, hard work, determination, and passion for what you do". "Never forget to spend a few minutes in prayer before going to sleep... have faith in God and everything is going to be alright". "If you love what you do, nothing else matters".

When we finish our studies we leave the college and come back only when we need help: may be to get admission for our children or a job. But, the Giving Tree: our parents and teachers at the SCS never forget their Amirs and Prettys... they constantly think of them with affection and remember them in their prayers... and are always happy when they come and meet them again: just to enjoy the company of one another and share their joys and sorrows.

Our teachers are just wonderful persons! Theirs is a life of sacrifice ..., a life of selfless and unconditional love ..., some of them have already sacrificed their entire lives for their children ..., and some of them are gone to heaven! It's especially they (and I know quite a few of them with whom I lived, my Giving Trees) who create such a nostalgic feeling for our SCS. We shall not forget to give them back our love and care before its too late.





From left to right: Tanisha, Subham, Nikita



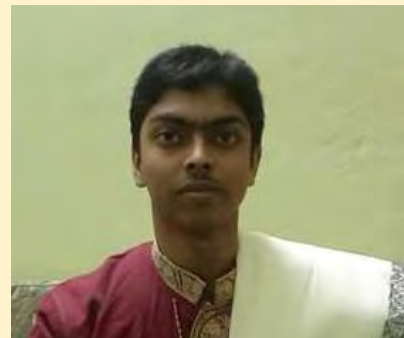
Achievers from Salesian College Siliguri campus

Priyamrita Chatterjee, Alumni Coordinator

It was a proud moment for Salesian College as four students of Siliguri campus 2015 batch were awarded Gold and Silver Medals by the University of North Bengal on 18 February 2016.

Tanisha Kansal of B.Com Management, awarded with Gold Medal, was an active and diligent student. She feels proud to be a part of this beautiful Institution and expressed her sincere gratitude to her teachers for being extremely supportive towards her. Presently she is pursuing her M.Com from North Bengal University.

Diganta Roy, the Gold medalist from the department of English was academically oriented; much focused and had a mind for research. He is a very good writer. In his words “People, who create literature, including those who write and those who read, all try to accommodate their own selves in the texts in a variety of ways possible. So it's more a matter of expressions than anything else. Classes were all about reading a thing together and enjoying it in our own way. And then some lines from a poem, some explanations by the teachers, some passing subplot of a novel get wedged to the mind forever, and we slowly relish it like a lozenge. Marks have no taste for me.” Diganta is doing his post graduation in English from Jadavpur University and aims to become a skilled poet in future.



Diganta Roy

Another gold Medalist, Subham Agarwal of B.Com Accountancy, was always a meticulous and sincere student. “This prize was quite unexpected as I was preparing for my CA examination along with B.com. It was my teachers of Salesian College who taught me to balance the studies and succeed in both the examinations” says Subham. “Work hard in right direction and this will surely bring success in your life” is the message of Subham for the present students. Presently he is pursuing CA

Nikita Sharma of B.Com Accountancy is awarded Silver Medal by the NBU. She is thankful to her teachers for their constant supports and helps to pursue her CA along with B.com. Nikita describes her College as the best college of Siliguri in terms of teaching, care, library, events and everything. As told by her department she had given her best at the last year and has achieved the result of her hard work. The same voice is echoed in her message for the present students: “I did not study sincerely throughout the years so now I regret that I could have done better, I say to my juniors to be serious about their studies right from the beginning so that they don't have to repent later”.

FREE DENTAL Check up camp for Deprived



Kuljeet Kaur,

Secretary, Salesian College Siliguri Alumni Association

To mark the occasion of Don Bosco Feast Day on 31st January 2016, Alumni Association of Salesian College Siliguri organized a free Dental Check up camp in collaboration with Milestone Oral and Dental Care in the college campus. It was an endeavor to create awareness among the children and the deprived people on health and hygiene.

The camp started from 10:00 AM with registration desk headed by Mayank Agarwal and Bipasha Agarwal and continued till 3:00 PM. Dr. Jyoti Gupta from Milestone Clinic had conducted the check up. Total 138 people including students, alumni members, faculty, staff and poor people of the locality within the age group of 5-50 years had received free dental check up.

Dr. Gupta gave her best in treatment and also advised a few to visit her clinic as they needed further treatment which will be on discount and completely free for the poor. Survey was done on sensitivity of teeth by filling up questionnaires.

Sensodyne toothpaste as prescribed by the doctor, tooth brush, Soap and oil were distributed among the needy people. It was a great experience and moment of satisfaction for all the members of the association as they successfully contributed and provided their services to the society as St. John Bosco had always wished.

Mr. Pintulal from Milestone Clinic and the entire team were very happy to work with the Alumni team in Salesian College Campus and also wished to organize such camps at least once a year. Fr. George Pulangathil, the Rector also congratulated the Association saying that it was the best way to celebrate Don Bosco Feast. Ms. Priyamrita Chatterjee, the Coordinator, Mr. Chanchal Agarwal, the President, Mr. Surya Kr. Jha, the Jt. Secretary along with other active members like Rohit Agarwal, Kuljeet Kaur, Nelson Kindo, Deep Kumar were also present during the camp. The local media were present there for the coverage.





“Veni, Vidi, Vici”: I Came, I Saw, I Conquered.

Sajan M. George, (1994-1997 batch of Sonada)

(cont.....)

Here again I remember our late President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam's message to the young, “My message, especially to young people is to have courage to think differently, courage to invent, to travel the unexplored path, courage to discover the impossible and to conquer the problems and succeed. These are great qualities that they must work towards.”

In the last three decades, we are experiencing remarkable social and cultural changes due to the phenomenal advancement in technology of internet and TV. Today interpersonal relationship is getting vanished. Instead, greed and intensified forms of individualism with self-centeredness and egoism are playing their roles. Television and internet, which should have helped educate and entertain, are turning out to be destructive and disintegrative, provoking greed, unlimited self-gratification, and leading to absence of moral restraint in its young audience.

Today's youth are put into confusion due to the faulty system of education which gives greater emphasis on competition and rivalry, thus creating a feeling of marginalization and exclusion of the lesser achievers or the under achievers. We need to rise against it to bring in well-rounded, balanced and useful citizens. All of us need to recognize that we have to ensure a better world for today's children who will be adults tomorrow. We should start working towards this objective now, without waiting for the crisis to occur and then react - let us be prepared.

In such adversaries, what we need to have is a self-belief. Like the 44th President of America, Mr. Barak Obama had it for his election campaign – 'Yes We Can.' He thought it so and had fixed dates with destiny. At this juncture that is what everyone needs to believe - in one's capacities that can truly deliver. We should not be defeated in our mind itself.

Young people are the future of the nation, who bring in new ideas and energy. Only they can lead us to new discoveries and developments. As again, if I steal an idea or two from our late President Dr. Abdul Kalam, “To succeed in your mission, you must have single minded devotion to your goal.” If you fail, never give up because F.A.I.L. means “First Attempt In Learning”. End is not the end, if fact E.N.D. means “Effort Never Dies.” If you get No as an answer, remember N.O. means “Next Opportunity”. So let's be positive.” “Confidence and hard work are the best medicine to kill the disease called failure. It will make you a

successful person.”

Can education give us everything? It may or may not be! However, persistence and self-belief can make a difference in the world. Few of such influential people who have made that difference in the world have created wealth and great product offerings through innovation and a strong determination to succeed in life. For example, Steve Jobs (Apple) who was born in San Francisco, dropped out of college after six months. Bill Gates (Microsoft), who was born in Washington never had a definite study plan as a college student and along with his friend he started own computer software company. Rest is history today for the richest man on the planet. Dhirubhai Ambani (Reliance Industries) was a low wage villager. Just after his annual matriculation examination, he had to earn for the family. Today we know where reliance industry stands. Dear friends all these and more are possible, as Steven Paul Jobs suggests “Do what you love: put a dent in the universe – big, bold, clear, concise vision. Say no to 1000 things, but focus, streamline and kick start your brain by doing something new - Think differently.”

So move on to explore the blue ocean and do not get stuck with the read ocean. Every youth is supposed to be a pathfinder and not a path seeker. He is supposed to be a challenge giver and not taker. We need to stand together. There would be mountains of difficulties. We climb over and it disappears, for that, know yourself. Remember, this world is ours. We make it or break it. So let us join our hands together and make this world a better place to live in.



From the campus

The NSS unit of Salesian College Siliguri Campus organised a seven days annual camp at Bidhyang busty, Kalimpong from 15th February to 21st February 2016. The journey began at around 7:30 AM with 14 volunteers and two accompanying faculty members. The programme was organised by NSS programme Officer Mr. Sandeep Sundas. The camp focussed on social service, community outreach and a service learning experience for the volunteers. Varied types of community services, keeping the discipline of time management and shared duties were keenly insisted upon by the Programme Officer. The camp was an enriching experience for all the volunteers with interactive sessions, firewood cooking, game sessions and community services.

Contact :

Priyamrita Chatterjee, Alumni Coordinator
email: Priyamitrac@gmail.com | Ph.: 76799 24752