



page 1

A rain drop from the sky: if it is caught by clean hands, is pure enough for drinking. If it falls in the gutter, its value drops so much that it can't be used even for washing your feet. If it falls on a hot surface, it will evaporate.




page 3

A place called **ARAIMIRI** was chosen to open a Secondary school, which was later upgraded to a Senior Secondary School (Grade XII level). This school was unique since it welcomed the unselected students to Grade IX. As per educational system, there is a public examination at the end of primary education, i.e. Grade VIII. Those who don't get a percentage could not get admission to Grade IX



More Inside



Dear Friends (Alumni),



I wish you yet another beautiful month of joy and happiness.

A rain drop from the sky: if it is caught by clean hands, is pure enough for drinking. If it falls in the gutter, its value drops so much that it can't be used even for washing your feet. If it falls on a hot surface, it will evaporate. If it falls on a lotus leaf, it shines like a pearl and finally, if it falls on an oyster, it becomes a pearl.

The drop is the same, but its existence and worth depends on whom it is associated with.

Always be associated with people who are good at heart. You will experience your own inner transformation.

God bless you all
Always your Loving Father and Friend,

Dr. Fr. Mathew Pulingathil SDB

Rector,
Salesian College Siliguri



Vice Province of PGS

(Papua New Guinea-Solomon Islands)

Fr. Dominic Kachira SDB, Alumnus of SCS (1973-76)

As an alumnus of SCS (1973-1976), I am glad to share something of the mission I am engaged in Oceania, telling you a brief history of the Salesian presences in this part of the world.

In 1980, the Salesians from Philippines opened the first Salesian presence in Papua New Guinea in one the poorest and least developed region known as the "Gulf Province". A place called **ARAIMIRI** was chosen to open a Secondary school, which was later upgraded to a Senior Secondary School (Grade XII level). This school was unique since it welcomed the unselected students to Grade IX. As per educational



Group photos of SDBs of PGS

system, there is a public examination at the end of primary education, i.e. Grade VIII. Those who don't get a percentage could not get admission to Grade IX and they would be drop outs forever. The Salesians proved that with better environment and facilities, these so called 'drop outs' could be brought back to the mainstream. Boardings were opened for boys and girls and thanks to volunteers from Philippines and local teachers who dared to come and live in this remote malaria infected area with minimum facilities. Under very challenging situations, the school is a success story. Along with the school, faith formation and medical facilities improved and the people of the area grew in enthusiasm.



DBTS school drama

With the need to have a base in the city, in 1985, another project was opened in the Capital city "**Port Moresby**" at **GABUTU**. This was something innovative, a Technical Secondary school. Since it was something new it was classified as a 'permitted school'. Our preference was for boys who dropped out after Grade VIII. Along with the syllabus for

Grades IX and X, the students were taught a trade, with the possibility for the students to pursue the Technical stream. This was indeed a challenging situation for boys classified as 'dropouts' doing Secondary and Technical courses, and being a success story. Today this school has over 1000 students, which is a very big school in PNG.

Invitations from Catholic Bishops and Provincial Government departments began to pour in with



Fr. Ambrose of Mumbai province (R) and Fr. Dominic of Kolkata (2nd left) with Apostolic Nuncio and 2 Filipino Salesians

the success stories spreading of Don Bosco's system of education. 1985 saw the commencement of an Agro-Technical Secondary school in the East New Britain Province, at **KOKOPO**. This was modelled on the *Gabutu model* only for boys, with agriculture as another trade. Boarding was added since many students came from nearby islands and interior villages.

1997 saw the beginning of Don Bosco Technical School in the Highlands at **KUMGI**, for boys and girls which has presently become a Technical College offering 3-year diploma courses in Technical subjects.

In 1995, a plot of land was acquired at **BOROKO** in the Capital city, with the intention of a Training College for Technical Teachers, known as **DBTI** (Don Bosco Technological Institute). In 1998 it accommodated the **SAVIO HAUS** for candidates who wished to join Salesian life, while attending courses in DBTI. In 2005, a Shrine was built in honour of Mary Help of Christians, which was declared by the Bishops Conference of PNG as a National Shrine. Today the institute offers Diploma and Bachelors degree courses.

SOLOMON ISLANDS has a different story. In 1995, the Salesian Province of Japan opened an outreach centre at TETERE, 30 km away from the Capital city of Honiara, looking after Christ King Parish in the Archdiocese of Honiara. With the passion for Young People it was decided to open an educational centre for 'drop outs'. Unlike in PNG, the public exams for Primary School students was after Grade VI which left many youngsters uneducated. A *Gabutu model* of Technical Secondary School was pioneered at HENDERSON, close to the capital City of Honiara. However, Japan was not prepared to take up an educational institution since very few Salesians felt comfortable with English. A decision was made to ask Philippines to take over the 2 presences in S.I. Hence, in 2005 PNG and SI was made into a DELEGATION of the Province of Manila.



Cultural dance

I came to Tetere in February 2006. Apart from the Parish, we pioneered an agriculture-based Rural Training Centre, which has become a much sort after institute with hostels for boys and girls, pursuing a two-year course in agriculture. I have spent 8 years in Solomon Islands (4 years at Tetere: 2006-2009 and 4 at Henderson: 2013-16) and 3 years at Gabutu in PNG: 2010-12. In 2017, I have returned to PNG-SAVIO HAUS which has been moved to a new location just outside the city of Port Moresby. We have 16 young men from PNG and SI aspiring to become Salesian Priests and Brothers, while attending tertiary institutions.



Cultural dance from the central province



After Eucharist on 15th August 2017 at DBTS



Leaders of cultural dances --students of DBTS



Core committee meeting of Alumni Association of Salesian College Siliguri

- Kuljeet Kaur, Secretary, AASCS

The core committee meeting of the Alumni Association of Salesian College Siliguri was held on 30 July 2017 in the Conference Hall of Salesian College Siliguri. Fr. Mathew Pulingathil, the Rector & the Patron of the Association and Mrs. Priyamrita Chatterjee, the coordinator were present along with the members of core committee.



The meeting began with a prayer to invoke blessings for all. The main agenda of the meeting was the approval of Bylaws by the members of core committee and then get it officially signed by them for further process towards its approval. The President explained the clauses of Bylaws along with duties of each office bearers and procedure of selecting office bearers. All approved the rules and signed

the document of Bylaws.

Apart from the above mentioned points there was a discussion on the plans for the upcoming events which included the Foundation Day celebration and welcoming of the new members.

The Association decided to organise a workshop on GST in collaboration with the commerce department of Salesian College Siliguri.

The meeting was concluded with a closure prayer and distribution of snacks to all.





Alumni Association of Salesian College Siliguri
organised



workshop on GST

Chanchal Agarwal, President, AASCs

Now a days the Goods & Service Tax is in the Centre of discussion and most of the people have no clear concept of it which is creating a lot of confusion and misunderstanding. Keeping in mind this situation the Alumni Association of Salesian College Siliguri in collaboration with Commerce Department organised a workshop on Goods & Service Tax (GST) on 4th August 2017 for the students of Commerce Department of Siliguri campus.

The speaker for the day was CA Vishal Jain, he conducted a two hours long session which was very interesting and knowledgeable for all those who attended. Around 97 participants were there including Students, faculties and Alumni members.

The workshop started with introduction and welcome notes by Mr. Chanchal Agarwal, President of Alumni Association followed by the Prayer by Fr. Mathew Pulingathil, the Rector of Salesian College.

CA Vishal Jain explained each and every points related to GST through suitable examples from our daily life. He answered all the questions asked by the participants in a very unique way. The participants were really very happy to be a part of this workshop.

All the participants received participation certificate and a Memento as token of thanks was handed over to the Speaker.



From the campus

Continuing of Education for Disadvantaged Adolescents in South Asia

The second regional training session by the Centre For Coordination of Research, International Federation Of Catholic Universities (IFCU) was held in Salesian College, Siliguri Campus from 20th to 22nd July, 2017. The objective of the three day training session was to bring together the participants of the IFCU project "Continuing Education for Disadvantaged Adolescents in South Asia" and train them on the methodological options planned for the fieldwork phase and techniques of conducting life histories.



The three day training comprised of sessions on methodological approaches, techniques of conducting interviews, sharing of the proceedings of the meeting held at Aquinas University, Sri Lanka and presentation by participants on the interview experiences.

The participants of the training session were from Notre Dame University (Bangladesh), Stella Maris College (Chennai) and Salesian College (Siliguri and Sonada campus). The resource person for the event was Dr. Sandra Joseph, Associate Professor, Stella Maris College, Chennai.

Session on Studies in Media

Dr. Kaushik Dutta Sharma, Associate professor, HoD, Department of Theatre & Acting Skills, RamojiKrian Universe (RKU) organised a session on Studies in Media, Design, Creative Arts and Applied Social Sciences on behalf of Ramoji Krian Universe, Film City, Hyderabad, on July 28, 2017 in Salesian College, Siliguri Campus. The main objective of the session was to give an impetus to futuristic skills for a knowledge society in a developed economy. Dr. Kaushik enlightened the students about the history of Indian cinema & television. He talked about the benchmark that Ramoji Film City has created in the world of entertainment. He spoke about television being entertainment, development and consumerism.

Swachhta Pakhwada

On 9th August 2017, the NSS Unit of Salesian College Siliguri observed the Swachhta Pakhwada as desired by the University of North Bengal by cleaning the campus. The drive was an initiative to Swachh Bharat Abhiyan



Human Rights Cell

The Department of Political Science, Salesian College, Siliguri Campus has established the 'Human Rights Cell' on 9th August, 2017. The inaugurator and keynote speaker for the event was Dr. Rakesh Kumar Singh, Assistant Professor, and Dept. Of History, K.G.T. College, Bagdogra. The Bylaws of the Cell were proposed. Fr. (Dr.) Mathew Pulingathil (Rector, Salesian College, Siliguri) gave his prayerful message on the occasion. Fr. Jose Velloorputhenpura (Bursar, Salesian College, Siliguri) encouraged the audience with his active presence.



A documentary on the history of human rights, their evolution since the decrees Cyrus made in 539 B.C. 'Universal Declaration of Human Rights' was screened.

Dealing with Choices

The Siliguri chapter of Young Indians (YI) organised a session on "Dealing with Choices" on August 4, 2017. All the newly registered YUVA members of Salesian College, Siliguri Campus, participated in the session the guest Speaker was, Mr. Punit Mishra, the Group Commander, Indian Air Force.



Mr. Mishra, spoke about YUVAs making choices in life, listening to one's heart and keeping the focus. He shared about the benefits of meditation he had in his life and encouraged students to practice meditation, irrespective of any religion. The session enlightened the students about the various benefits of meditation; starting from being calm, focusing to producing good results. The students felt stimulated towards the meditative process.

Iner Campus Experience



Given the political Instability and disturbances affecting the normal life in the hills for over two months now, more hundred students and nearly a dozen faculty from Salesian College Sonada had their Teaching-learning experience in the Siliguri Campus.

Salesian College Sonada conducted the COP Examinations of NBU despite the non-normalization of life in the hills, as there was no alternative - by way of second centre or timing for the examinations. During this unrest the Radio Salesian 90.8 FM is providing solace and thoughts for the day through the various programmes and have an increase in the listeners count over the months.