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- Fr George Thadathil sdb, Principal of Salesian College

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“SCS ... The Nostalgia is still on ... Series 3

- Mr. Thomas Mathew D.

Page 7 >>

Dear Alumni

A bus full of passengers was travelling while suddenly the weather changed and there was a huge downpour and lightning all around. They could see that the lightning would appear to come towards the bus and then go elsewhere...



Page 2 >>

More Inside



Dear Friends (Alumni),

As we begin this new month of June, allow me to share with you a thought that is very dear to me.

A bus full of passengers was travelling while suddenly the weather changed and there was a huge downpour and lightning all around. They could see that the lightning would appear to come towards the bus and then go elsewhere. After two or three horrible instances of being saved from lightning, the driver stopped the bus about fifty feet away from a tree and said: **"We have somebody in the bus whose death is a certainty today.**

Because of that person everybody else will also get killed today. Now listen carefully what I am saying. I want each person to come out of the bus one by one and touch the tree trunk and come back. Whom so ever death is certain will get caught up by the lightning and will die and everybody else will be saved."

They had to force the first person to go and touch the tree and come back. He reluctantly got down from the bus and went and touched the tree. His heart leaped with joy when nothing happened and he was still alive. This continued for rest of the passengers who were all relieved when they touched the tree and nothing happened.

When the last passenger's turn came, everybody looked at him with accusing eyes. That passenger was very afraid and reluctant since he was the only one left. Everybody forced him to get down and go and touch the tree.

With 100% fear of death in mind, the last passenger walked to the tree and touched it. There was a huge sound of thunder and the lightning came down and hit the bus - **yes the lightning hit the bus, and killed each and every passenger inside the bus.**

It was because of the presence of the last passenger that earlier the entire bus was safe and the lightning could not strike the bus.

At times, we try to take credit for our present achievements, but this could also be because of a person right next to us.

Look around you - probably someone is there around you, in the form of your parents, your spouse, your children, your siblings, your friends and the like, who are saving you from harm !!

You will surely find that person!!

Remember my dear friends: Alone I can 'Say', but together we can 'Talk'.

Alone I can 'Enjoy', but together we can 'Celebrate'.

Alone I can 'Smile', but together we can 'Laugh'.

That is the beauty of Human Relations. We are nothing without each other.

Whether it may be a Machine or Human Relationship, maintenance is always cheaper than repair.

Your Affectionate Father and Friend

Fr. (Dr.) Mathew Pulingathil SDB



Dear Friends,

It is indeed a source of comfort and encouragement to know that there are old students of the college in different parts of the world, who keep following up the developments in the college, and are happy to give feedback and support for our continued work in the same place that they were years or decades ago. It is indeed gladdening to read the comments, and reports from different parts of the world and to get to know what you - the alumni - are doing now.

In fact, in some sense the place and the ambience remains the same, though materially some additions and subtractions have happened and the nature of activities have undergone change, despite the persons - both faculty and students keep changing.

What everyone, salesians or former salesians, who have been through the earlier years of the student in house training recall fondly is the intensity of the life lived, experiences garnered and skills acquired in the process of technically achieving a Bachelor's degree and/or Philosophy Certificate.

As life rolls on for each one, in different countries, contexts and circumstances, it is indeed an ennobling factor to note the recurrence of that part of 'life together as batch mates or classmates' at Salesian College Sonada or Siliguri as having had an indelible impact, especially when it comes to the search for meaning and purpose in what we do. Those years, whether recent or past, act like a touchstone to the values you valued and the 'rectitude' you sought after.

I guess this continued search for the norm of valuation of the ideal, the perfect, the better, the good, the wholesome act in each and every stage of life and when it comes especially to passing on to children or students of a new generation, it matters much to say there is something of an 'ideal attempt at living fully' that one can look back and cherish.

Our concern and constant struggle is of course is to retain and remodel the possibility of such a wholesome experience being offered again in its total sense to new generations of students, brothers and sisters who come into the college year after year.

With Best Wishes,

Fr George Thadathil sdb
Principal, Salesian College



Fr. Diamond with his mother Mrs. Marie Trowbridge

A morning with Fr. Bryan K. Diamond

Priyamrita Chatterjee, Alumni Coordinator, Salesian College

Despite the scorching heat of May in Delhi it was a pleasant rain drenched cool morning and I was on my way to meet Fr. Bryan K. Diamond SDB. When I was entering through the gateway of Don Bosco Alkakananda I had hardly any Idea that such a warm reception was waiting me. I was moved by the amusing personality and hospitality of Fr. Babu Verghese, the Principal of Don Bosco Alakananda, and an alumna of Sonada Campus.

Fr. Bryan. Diamond SDB is of the 1954-1957 batch of alumni from Sonada campus. He is an Australian Priest who has dedicated his whole life for the service of Indian youth.

There are some moments in our life that freeze forever in our mind. The first glance of Fr. Diamond was one such moment for me. He came across as a humble and affectionate personality with remarkably sparkling eyes, and I was mesmerized and at a loss for words.



Fr. Babu Verghese and Fr. Diamond

Fr. Diamond was born in Melbourne on 4th January 1933 and the journey of his priesthood started from 1953. In the year 1954 he had bid farewell to his own country and had arrived at Salesian College Sonada. The atmosphere, culture and environment of India were completely unknown terrain for him. In his words “Initially my study assignment to India did not evoke much enthusiasm in me.....I slowly began to feel very much at home as I gazed out of the Salesian College windows and admired the splendid Himalayan Landscape consisting of deep valleys and slopes covered with neatly trimmed tea gardens producing some of the finest worlds famous blends of Darjeeling tea.....”. Even as he spoke, recalling those days after more than half a century, his face brightened when he said he would be very happy if he ever gets back those SCS days once more.

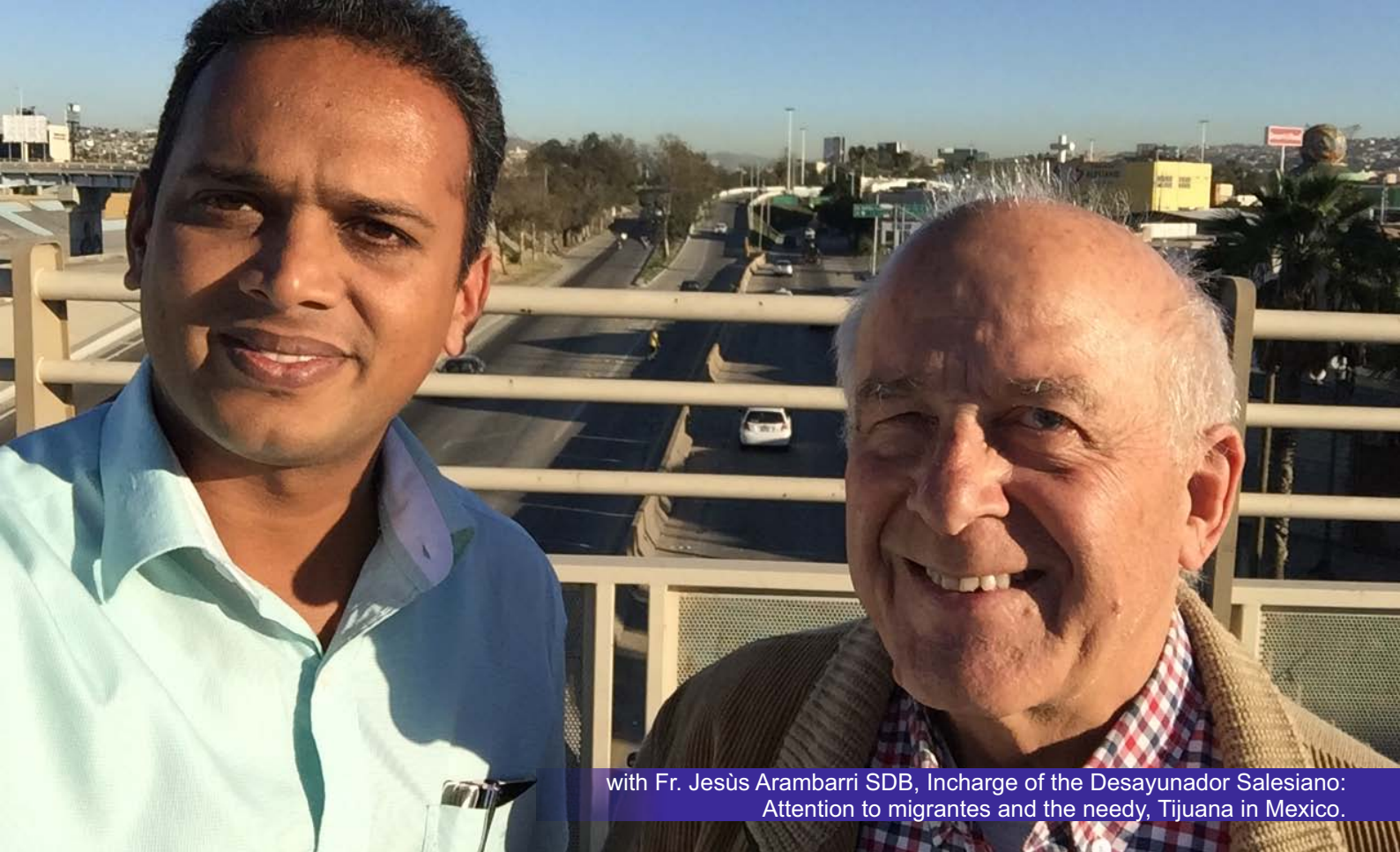
He landed as a stranger in this country but in his Sonada days he became aware of the stark contrast between the natural beauty and the poor Nepali families struggling to eke out a livelihood while living in the little hutments by the mountain roadside. This realization struck him that amidst the breathtaking scenic beauty there were so many people, especially youth, needing help and attention. Now he has completed 62 years in India. Ever since his ordination at Dominic Savio Orphanage, Tirupattur in Tamilnadu, he has dedicatedly worked for the youth of different states like West Bengal, Jharkhand, Delhi, Assam, Meghalaya and Madhya Pradesh.

This 83 years old evergreen youth is presently residing at Don Bosco Alakananda. Due to some health issues his ability of communication is a bit affected, Fr. Xalxo Norbert another alumna of Sonada campus (1998-2001 batch) helped him a lot to communicate with me though it seemed that he had little left untold as seen in his hearty gait and shining eyes.

When I asked him for his message for our present generation of Students and Alumni he pointed his finger towards the last paragraph of his Autobiography “60 years in India” where it is written “Don Bosco has been responsible for a vast multitude of dedicated disciples; not only Fathers, Brothers and Sisters but also lay-people who have perpetuated and lived his spirit throughout the world; let us vow to propagate his spirit more and more amongst priests, religious and lay-people.” His message, in sum, for all the alumni of Salesian College is to work unceasingly for the good of the Nation.



Fr. Diamond and Fr. Norbert



with Fr. Jesùs Arambarri SDB, Incharge of the Desayunador Salesiano:
Attention to migrantes and the needy, Tijuana in Mexico.

New Mission for Migrant YOUTH

Shijumon Thottupurathu, Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, Mexico

"No one is illegal"; "All have the right to live a better life"; "All are equal before the law"; "All have the right to migrate"; these are some of the phrases used to emphasize the right to migrate. The recent short visit of Pope Francis, to Lesbos and the earlier visit to Mexico mentioned strongly about the migrants, and the urgent need to assist them.

Since October 2014, the Inter American provinces had decided to start a mission among the migrants. The USA-Mexico border is an increasing scene of tension for migrants in the American continent. The need to assist them is an urgent task of the Church and various organizations are involved in various types of activities. The Scalabrinians (congregation founded to work for the migrants) are doing a good job along with other congregations and dioceses as well as government and non-government organizations. The Salesians have a center of attention in Tijuana, Mexico, near the border of California USA, feeding everyday more than 1000 (One Thousand) migrants and the needy. They also give various services like health care, clothes, help prepare documents and provide short-term courses. Since the migrants are a moving group, it is difficult to assist them on a regular basis. The congregation felt that it was not doing enough and decided to do something especially for the migrant youth. The meeting of 2014 provoked the superiors of the region to take up new tasks to assist the migrants especially teenagers and youth who are not accompanied by a family member.



In January 2016, the Salesians of Inter-American provinces started an international community within the parish community of Nuevo Laredo in Mexico, very close to the USA border with Texas. From the Central American province, I was asked to be part of this project. Up to now, two of us (Fr. Ernesto Hernández - from the province of Guadalajara, México) and I are involved in this project. The first stage of our task is to take stock of the situation and to prepare a definitive plan of action for this population. We are on the move to visit our Salesian presences in USA-Mexican border, to create a hub to facilitate this project.



Migration is not only a problem of Mexico but all over the world. With document or without document, lots of them, especially young people, migrate to different countries, especially looking for a better economic opportunity. The situation in this part of the world too is economic along with the added dimension of violence. The governments are unstable and are not able to provide security and job opportunities for their citizens. On the contrary, the NARCO TRAFFIC (drug dealings) has become a culture in Latin American countries. Many youth are trapped into this danger and most of them try to run away from this evil and become migrants in other countries. This is a very sad situation because one has to leave everything, once and for all to save his or her life. Most of them never meet their

parents again because they are illegal in another country, and there are no one to help them to get their rights. Thank God that the cry of such people are heard by God and many groups are out in the street now to defend the rights of the migrants.

The church has taken a major role in Mexico-USA, like other Latin American countries. Mexico, however is the entry point to USA and the control of the border is practically in the hands of mafia associated with narcotics. The migrants are vulnerable to all types of dangers during their transit. It takes from one month up to one year or more to reach their destination (USA).

We had chance to listen to various testimonies that touched the hearts and brought tears to our eyes. The life of such migrants are tough and many who put their trust in God reach to their destinations. The stories of hundreds and hundreds, who lose their lives on the way, are not noted but can be found on the dead bodies in



the deserts, in abandoned houses, and in burned vehicles. It is the call of the Spirit and a sign of the times to the congregation to venture out to the field of the migrants to stand for their rights and to defend them against dangers. All have the right to migrate to any part of the world, and its upto the world community to realize the same. However, one of the tasks is to educate them to be aware of the real situation in different counties to which they aspire to migrate.

The migrants migrate not to impose their culture rather to adapt to the reality and the condition of a new place. The migrants are not dictators out to colonize the countries or territories, rather they are simply homeless and jobless until accepted in the place of their arrival. They come to learn to adapt to the culture of the new place, and this is comparable to the incarnation of the divine becoming human. We are called to assist them being reminded by our Father and Founder Don Bosco to make of each youth "Good Christian/Human being and an Honourable Citizen". May our little endeavor bear fruit among migrants.



Ahh ! Those were the Days !!

Adhiesh Newar, Batch of 2015- Siliguri campus



Ahh ! Those were the Days !
The 90s, or say our Childhood.
Did it fascinate me alone?
Or was everyone fascinated by theirs?

Ahh ! What an era it was!
The days when we played with mud!
The times we spent outdoors,
Quality time indeed, with friends and family.

Ahh ! Those were the Days !
When every aspect was a mystery,
When everything was like 'magical'
When every stuff was a fancy.

Ahh ! Those were the Days !
When we idolized reel characters,
Often trying to duplicate them
Ans often reaching the doctor in the end ! LOL !!

Ahh ! Those were the Days !!
Whether it is the never-ending now.
Or is it the busy schedule of life !
Time flies fast, that's what I've realised !

Ahh ! Those were the Days !!
But make sure you do not always dwell in the
past !!



“SCS ...The Nostalgia is still on ... Series 3

- Mr. Thomas Mathew D.



When the well known Sonadian Psychologist, Rev. Dr. James Chacko was ordained a priest some 26 years ago in his native place, Mylacombu, in Kerala with some Sonadians flanking him - Mr. Sunny, and Mr. Thomas Mathew, Rev. Dr. Thadathil and Rev. Jose Mathew (Provincial of SDB Delhi Province) – we all studied, played, worked and lived together for nearly 10 years... The incorrigible sense of humour of Rev. James Chacko is nostalgia personified and petrified...



With Rev. E. J. Anthony, our Music Master, who was ordained a priest by the Pope himself in Rome...Oh! Those Sonadians! (Sonada Campus made many famous musicians, and one of them became a Band Master of the Indian Army.) Courtesy: Mr. P. X. Joseph, Howrah. Absolute-ly reliable info...

With Rev. Dr. Shaji Joseph Sdb, my classmate for 10 years, who secured the University Rank for PUC from NEHU in 1981. He was a Professor of Theology in Shillong and is now in Salesian Pontifical University in Rome, Italy. (This Photo was taken when I met him at his brother's house in Kerala nearly 25 years after parting from SCS.)

In Bandel Church, Hooghly, with the Prior, Rev. I.C. Jacob and Rev. T.T. Sebastian – We had come to fulfil a vow to Our Lady, Mother of Jesus at the Bandel Basilica –after our wedding on 31st Jan. 1994 ... (does the day ring a bell?)

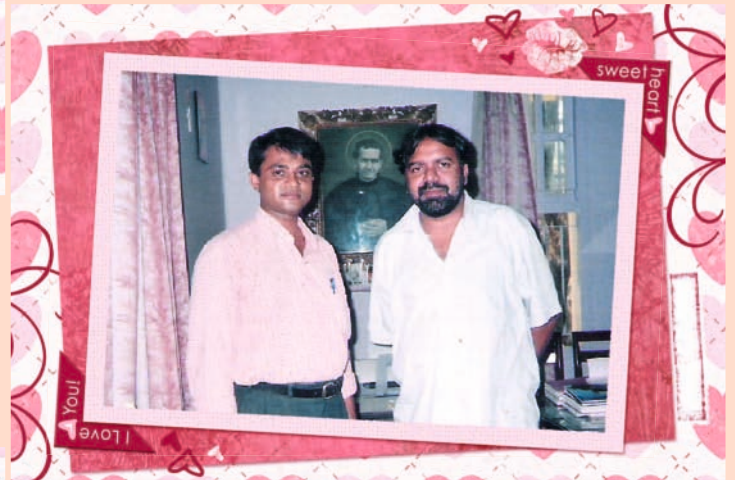


With Rev. Dr. A. U. Jose, SDB, our Indian Philosophy Professor, whose influence has had a fission like effect on me



A snap with my batchmates Rev. Jason Sdb (Economer, DB Tech., Mirpara) and Rev. Edward Dang Sdb (DB Tech. School, Delhi) taken in Don Bosco School Park Circus, Kolkata-17 in 1988

This snap is taken with my 3Year Senior of SCS, Rev. Joe Andrew, when he was the Vice Provincial of SDB Chennai Province in 2002. He was a Pop Singer especially of the ABBA and BoneyM numbers; but now he is very quiet and holy I must say.....



my classmate Rev. Arokiasamy, the Director of Ashalayams (Anbu Illams) – Home for Destitute Children, in Chennai in the year 2000. Now, Rev. Arokiasamy, Sdb, is in Kilinochi, Sri Lanka, rehabilitating the children and youth in the once war torn Northern part of the Island Country. Where all does SCS take you!!! (And Alumni of SCS,, what do you plan to do in nation building??)

With my family at Ghoom Loop Railway Garden in 2006. My twins Auxilia and Bosco and the elder daughter Teresa in the middle. For you Alumni, and Alumnae,,, if my daughter does her 2nd year PG in English Literature in Loyola – Chennai, after taking Computer Science for Std. XII, the confidence comes from the sound foundation in the English language and literature, giving us independence, imbibed from SCS...!



My visit to SCS 20 years after my studies... April 21st 2006. 10 years have passed and I would like to visit the Gorabari as well as the Siliguri campuses... VERY SOON !! It helps you to get back the spirit of Saint Francis of Sales, a jolly good Bishop and that of our own dear Saint John Bosco, a very practical man of God...

Congratulations



Our heartiest congratulations to Yunam Tamu of 2013 batch of Siliguri Campus for tying the nuptial knot on 19 April 2016. We wish her a successful conjugal life.

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