

LET US LIVE THE "LITTLE GOD"

The love of God that has taken human flesh and entered into the human spirit is an unparalleled event in the history of humanity that changed the human destiny once and for all. The song of the Angles on the Christmas night "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men of good will" (Lk. 2:14) is not just a beautiful heavenly chorus but it is a promise and a challenge. It is a promise that the kingdom of God has been established among us with all its glory and beauty. It is a challenge that we toil and pray always to make God's Kingdom accessible to us by becoming ourselves the ambassadors of "peace and goodwill". I pray that His kingdom may come among us and I wish you all the joy and peace of a Merry and Happy Christmas!

Pope Benedict XVI says, "God's sign is the Baby: we learn to live with him and to practice with him that humility of renunciation that belongs to the very essence of love" (Benedict XVI). God comes to our encounter, in the human form just as one among us. He appears in front of us with the humility of his swaddling-clothes: never before a "God-wrapped- in-swaddling clothes"! In the cold and the poverty of Bethlehem He begins to load his small shoulders with the weight of ordinary daily life. He continued to live the 'human life' in its most challenging and demanding ways. He had to toil hard for his daily bread that he taught us the best way is to pray to God the Father for our daily bread (Mt.6:11-12). Finally he has carried away our sins through his suffering and death and won for us the eternal life.



"Now I see why You had to do it" wrote Louis Cassels in A Christmas Parable. And indeed God had to do it, had to become one of us to make us understand because despite God's best efforts throughout all the Old Testament we still didn't get the message. Sometimes you have to, as we say, rub their noses in it to make them understand. Christmas is, in a sense, God rubbing our noses in it to make us understand. Christmas is God saying, "May be this will grab your attention." The Letter to the Hebrews expresses



it beautifully, "At various moments in the past and by many means, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our time, the final days, he has spoken to us in the person of his Son." (Heb 1:1-2)

God has spoken to us, the Word has become flesh. Let us then allow God's word to sink into our hearts. Let us live the "Little-God" in

our life and grow with Him just as He grew. May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give us a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring us to the full knowledge of Him.

Once again wish you all the beauty, blessings and joy of this sacred Season. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2017!

Fr. Jacob Arakkal John, CMF

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Provincial Superior

FORMATION

Claretian Seminary, Malleswaram**Ministries of Lector and Acolyte**

On 17 November 2016, eight of our 2nd year theology students made their first step in participating in the ministerial priesthood in the Catholic Church. During the Holy Eucharistic celebration Rev. Fr. Jacob Arakkal John, the Provincial Superior, conferred the orders of Lector and Acolyte on Birajman Tigga, Chetan Kumar, Jayaraju Oddepogu, Jessin Joseph, Kevin Prem, Nelson P. Thomas, Siljo Michael and Tony Mathew. Father Provincial expressed his sentiments of joy and hope, seeing eight young missionaries readying themselves for God's work, and thanked them for the gift of their commitment in the Claretian Congregation. He urged them to strive to live more fully their missionary vocation and to be moulded more perfectly in the likeness of Jesus the Master and our founder, Father Claret.

Inter-Sem Volleyball Final

It is after many years that the Claretian Seminary volleyball team reached the final of the annual Inter-

Sem Competitions. Earlier we had comfortably defeated the Kristu Jyoti team to enter the finals. The Final match was played in Dharmaram grounds at on 22 November 2016 between us and the O.Carm (Order of Carmelites) Seminary team. Claretians played well and finally conceded defeat. Considering the small number of students in the Seminary in the recent years, reaching the final was not a small achievement – Congratulations to the Captain Jayaraju and team!

Claret Niketan, Kailasapuram**Regents' Meeting**

Claret Niketan Kailasapuram, Vizag hosted the regents' meeting this year. Held on 13-14 November 2016, it was attended by all the six regents of the province. Travelling from Bangalore, Jharkhand and parts of Andhra Pradesh and coming together they shared their varied experience in diverse contexts. Their initial anxieties and fears in a new place and set-up melted away gradually. Each of them expressed: "We try our best to contribute to the life of the community and make the community richer and lively with our presence".



During personal dialogue, they expressed, though language learning at this stage is slow "we have a sense of satisfaction". They shared that superiors give them feedbacks, affirm them and community members do encourage them. Accompanied by fathers at Kailasapuram community, regents enjoyed an evening out visiting Kailasgiri and RK Beach. On the whole, it was a time of sharing – rejuvenation and an occasion for mutual up-building among the regents.

Claret Niketan, Belagavi**CLANIAC 2016-17**

The Claret Niketan Annual Competitions for the academic year 2016-17 was inaugurated on 11 November 2016.

Fr. Joseph Mundackal, the Vicar of the

community marked off the completions. The students were divided into three groups: Challengers, Dominators and Hunters. These competitions are aimed at the holistic growth of the students. The competitions include literary events, sports and cultural events.



MISSION

Snehajyothi, Athani**World Disability Day Celebration**

On December 3, 2016 Snehajyothi, Centre for the physically challenged, celebrated its 15th Annual Day and the World Disability Day. The day was marked by an awareness walk across the streets of Athani with slogans of equality



and opportunity and not to treat the disabled as cursed or burden in the society. On that day the students of Snehajyothi presented various cultural programmes which were well appreciated by the guests and inmates alike. Shri. Amareshwara Maharaja, a well-known swami of Athani, Mr. Mahaveer Padnad, congress leader, Mr. Dange, who donated uniform to all our students and Dr. Kumbar, Health Department Athani, were the main guests present on the day. On the previous day of the celebration, we had organized annual sports day for the students and prizes were distributed to the winners.

Catholic Ashram, Barwadih**Charismatic Retreat**

To mark the conclusion of the Year of Mercy, a three day residential charismatic retreat was organized from 16-19 November. About 700 parishioners actively attended



the retreat, which was animated by Fr. Binoy V.C and team from Devine Mercy Ashram, Hazaribag. A medical fund was also raised through dumb boxes given to each family at the inauguration of the year of Mercy.

Christu Bhavan, Bhattiprolu**Conclusion of Year of Mercy and Vocational Training**

On 13 November 2016, Christ the Redeemer Church organized parish level year of mercy concluding celebration with one day retreat by St. Claret Dhyana Brundham. The faithful from all the sub-stations responded enthusiastically

in large numbers. The retreat mainly focused on the theme: *"Be Merciful as the Heavenly Father is Merciful"*. The Sacrament of Reconciliation made the celebration more meaningful. At the end, all the sick and the elderly people from our parish were honoured with gifts.

Fr. Peter D'Souza, Vice Provincial and prefect of Apostolate addressed the gathering with his thought-provoking message. It was a grace-filled event for the Parish and the faithful. It also served as an on-going programme of spiritual renewal in the parish.



St. Claret Vocational Training Programme which aims at empowering and enhancing the women folk of the locality in their social and economic status, had started with a batch of 20

candidates, 18 of whom completed the course successfully by November 2016. The trainees were evaluated for their regularity, sense of responsibility, performance in the work album and tailoring skills. In the valedictory function they were awarded with the certificates. Rev. Fr. Peter D'Souza, the chief guest for the function, inspired the gathering with his short message and wished them every success in life.

Claret Sadan, Bola**Confraternity Sunday and Conclusion of Year of Mercy**

Mangaloreans are very unique and united in their expression of faith. This was another such occasion in St Lawrence Church, Bola. Though the major feast of the parish, which is scheduled in the second week of December is cancelled due



to forthcoming construction of the new parish building, the tradition of Eucharistic procession, also known as Confraternity Sunday, was celebrated with much solemnity. Eucharist was taken in procession with due respect and adoration. Rev Fr Vincent Sylvester, assistant administrator of Fr. Muller's Homeopathy Medical College, was the main

celebrant and meaningfully conducted the adoration. People participated in the celebration with vigour and joy. On November 21 the parish also made another rally to conclude the year of mercy.

Claret House, Chodavaram

Christ the King Feast

One of the most important celebrations in Chodavaram parish is the annual feast of the solemnity of Christ the King. After the intense preparation through Holy Rosary, the



reflection on the different aspects of Christ the King, Triduum and Holy Eucharist, on 17 November 2016 we celebrated the parish feast in the presence of a large gathering of faithful from in and around our parish. The celebration proper began with procession of the image of Christ the King. His grace Mallavarapu Prakash, the archbishop of Visakhapatnam, presided at the solemn Holy Eucharist. The presence and prayers of Rev. Fr. Peter D'Souza, the vice provincial, was a great blessing and a moment of fatherly encouragement. The participation of 23 priests from our Claretians communities and from the archdiocese, a good number of women religious from neighboring communities and the faithful brought showers of blessings for the parish. The felicitation of the guests, cultural programmes by the parishioners, followed by fellowship meal for all added more solemnity to the feast.

SS. Joseph and Claret Church, Dasarahalli

Christmas Carol Competition and Celebration for Sick and Senior Citizens



As part of Christmas celebration a carol competition was organised for the parishioners based on their wards on 11 December. There were 11 wards for the competition and St. Xavier Ward emerged

as the champion, second and third places were secured by St. George and St. Sebastian wards respectively. Indeed it was a tough time for judges to evaluate the competition. However, this herculean task was well done by Rev. Frs. Sabu Koottarappallil, Lindo Pullattu, and Mr. Lijo from Jalahalli parish. They also made the overall evaluation of

the programme and congratulated all the participants and distributed the prizes. Parishioners themselves cherished the event as all of them wholeheartedly participated in the competition. Parish Priest, Fr. Thomas thanked everyone for their wonderful performance and participation saying, occasions like this bring more joy and fellowship among the parishioners.



On 11 December on behalf of lay Claretian movement a special Christmas day celebration was arranged for the sick and the senior citizens of the parish, especially the people who are above seventy years old. The day began with the Holy Eucharistic celebration followed by honouring the grandparents with shawls and bouquets and giving them Christmas gifts. The duties of children to their parents were very well explained by Fr. Thomas Thanniyanickal during the homily. The day was indeed a memorable one for the entire parishioners. Lindo, a 25 year old youth who was paralyzed due to fever was also accompanied to church for the celebration. It indeed added more joy to the celebration.

St. Peter's Church, Doddaballapur

Blessings of New Presbytery and the Celebration of the Sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Communion



We, the Claretians are serving at St. Peter's Church, Doddaballapur for last twenty four years. Since the parish did not have a good presbytery, the archdiocese has constructed a new presbytery for the use of the parish. The new presbytery was blessed on 26 November 2016. Along with the Archbishop, Most Rev. Bernard Moras, Fr. Xavier Manavath, Episcopal Vicar for Religious in the archdiocese, Provincial Superior, Fr. Jacob Arackkal John, Frs. Peter D'Souza, vice provincial, John Payikkattu, and many Claretians, other priests and nuns were present on the occasion with a good number of faithful.

On the same day, during the Holy Eucharist, 20 of our Children from the parish received First Holy Communion and Confirmation. It was a great collaborative effort by the faithful and the missionaries in getting the children and the premises ready for the celebration. It was an occasion to thank and praise the Lord for His marvellous blessings upon us in our mission journey.



The Project Vision, Gawribidanur

Project Vision Rural Campus Inauguration



challenged people beyond Bengaluru.

On 3 December which was also the International Day for the Persons with Disabilities, Fr Peter D'Souza, Vice Provincial and Prefect of Apostolate, blessed the office and residence of the Director, the first building in the Project Vision campus, in the presence of Claretians and well-wishers of Project Vision. The place is about 100 kilometres from Bengaluru, near Gawribidanur in the border of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, in the Korategere Taluk in Tumkur District.

The campus, of which only a part of the building is ready now, is meant to provide an integrated prevention, treatment and rehabilitation program for the visually challenged people. A hospital, school, destitute care centre and a spectacle manufacturing unit are visualised in the campus eventually.

Christu Nilayam, Oleru

St. Francis Xavier's Feast Day Celebration



St. Francis Xavier's church, Oleru, celebrated its annual feast on 3 December 2016. Priests, sisters, and faithful participated in the feast day programme with due interest and piety. A good number of people turned for the feast, multiplying the joy of the local missionaries. After the festive Mass all the Xaviers were felicitated

with shawls, garlands and bouquets and everyone enjoyed the common meal. In the evening there was a procession which lasted from 7:00 pm to 12:30 am. People cherished the whole programme with great appreciation.

Seva Kendra, Sumanahalli

World AIDS Day Programme

Sumanahalli has been working since 1977 for the Welfare and rehabilitation of persons affected by Leprosy, HIV/AIDS and Person with Disabilities; and since last 8 years we are working for HIV/AIDS destitute by providing residential care



for 25 patients and also through various awareness and training programme in villages, schools and colleges.

As part of "Continuing Nursing Programme" Sumanahalli Society, in collaboration with Shri Lakshmi College of Nursing, organised half-day seminar on the eve of World AIDS Day Programme on

the 1 December 2016 at Shri Lakshmi College of Nursing Auditorium, Magadi Road, Bengaluru. It was followed by *Silent March* from Shri Lakshmi College to Sumanahalli, SUPPORT (Community Care centre) and concluded with taking of pledge along with inmates. There were 1210 nursing students from 10 different nursing colleges who participated in the programme. The Rtd. Deputy DGP Mr. Ponnappa, Founder of Sri Lakshmi Educational Group, Fr. Lindo Francis CMF, Director of Sumanahalli Society, Fr. Thomas Thannianickal CMF, Director of SUPPORT HIV Centre, Mrs. Bhagyalakshmi, Principal of Shri Lakshmi College of Nursing, Mr. Michael Babu Raj, Deputy Director of K H P T were the dignitaries of the day.

Mukti, Tenali

Parents Day Celebration



During the current academic year for the first time parents' day was conducted in Mukti, Tribal Residential School, on 4 December 2016. More than 200 people attended the

program and the Dy. D. E. O. and Mandal Education Officer were the guests of honour on the occasion. The Dy. D. E.O. instructed the parents to take active role in the education of their children. The dignitaries appreciated the management for taking up such a humanitarian service for the most down-trodden section of the society. Cultural programmes by children made the event more meaningful. There was more joy for Mukti, for our Hostel High School boys ranked runners up in the district level football competitions conducted recently.



EDUCATION

Catholic Ashram, Barwadih

One Day Seminar on Soft Skill Management



A One day seminar for all the staff of schools and institutions of Busar, Barikhajuri and Barwadi was organized on 3 Dec 2016 at

Barwadih. There were 86 participants including our priests and sisters who are partners in our missions. Fr. Christudas, Director, SIGN (the social work forum of catholic dioceses of Jharkhand) was the resource person. He emphasized on the need of skills when in dealing with children and patients. He shared that the collaborators in an institution are expected to share the common vision and work as a team. Perceptual differences cannot mar the charism and mission. The participants appreciated this very informative and enriching seminar.

St. Claret School, Buti-Bori

Cultural Synergy 2016



The XI Annual Day "Cultural Synergy 2016" of St. Claret School, Buti-Bori was celebrated on 10 December 2016. The colourful programme began

by School Band along with the School Captains escorting the dignitaries to the Dias in traditional Maharashtrian style. Prof Dr Parasher, Pro-Vice Chancellor (Indian Maritime University), the Chief Guest of the day in his address appreciated the Claretians and the teaching faculty for providing quality education to the students of the school with the support of modern technology and a beautiful school premises. He exhorted the students to excel in curricular and extracurricular activities of the institute. Rev. Fr. George Madeikal SAC, Director, Vincent Pallotti College of Engineering and Technology, was the Guest of Honour. Two of the senior Claretian priests Rev. Frs. George Kallampally and Mathew Njayarkulam were also among the dignitaries and were felicitated on this special occasion. The certificates were awarded to the students for their academic performances and other competitions conducted in the school. The students enthralled the audience with various colourful cultural items

based on different themes like patriotism, environmental protection, communal harmony, poverty, child labour etc. It was a wonderful opportunity for the students to exhibit their hidden talents. The parents expressed their satisfaction regarding the performance of their students and thanked the school management for the same. The colourful annual day was a success due to the hard work of the committed teaching and non-teaching staff under the leadership of Frs. Anandraj, Sunny Mathew and Anthony Bawanthade.

A.C. School, Jalahalli

Acian Agon – Compete to Achieve



Acian AGON- "compete to achieve", the Annual Sports meet of Anthony Claret School – 2016 took a gallant stride in the School

campus on the 12 November. The theme was framed in the background of the menacingly growing popularity of video games and the addiction to the other gadgets, that all physical exercises have taken a back seat for the worse.

The School made an attempt to portray the importance of taking part in various games and tournaments, through drills and displays. From rejuvenating disciplines, like Yoga and gymnastics to the indispensable self-defending skills like Taekwondo gave an impetus to the students and spectators on grooming one's personality with the right amount of physical as well as mental development.

Double Olympian Pramila Ayappa was the Chief Guest for the day. She highlighted the need for encouragement from parents for their wards to actively imbibe sport as a lifestyle. The overall championship was bagged by the Centaur House, represented by House Mistress Diana, house Captain Tushar B and Vice-captain Richard.

St. Claret School, Jalahalli

Patron's Day Celebrations 2016 and XXIX Annual Day Celebration



Patron's Day was celebrated in St. Claret School, Jalahalli in a grand and unique way. Floral tributes

were offered to our dear Patron, St. Antony Mary Claret by our Principal and Vice Principal. Students of classes IV and VI presented a spectacular skit and speeches on the life of St. Claret. The choir rendered a special song in praise of our Patron. Our Principal addressed the students, emphasizing the values of hard work, practiced by St. Claret.



A true soldier fights not because he hates what is in front of him... But because he loves what is behind him... St. Claret School celebrated

its XXIX Annual day on 2-3 December 2016. Dr Ganesha Bhatta H.S., Principal, M.E.S. Teachers' College, Bengaluru and Group Captain Mr. A. P. Selvan, Air Force Technical College, Jalahalli West, Bengaluru, were the Esteemed Chief Guests. Rev. Fr. Benny Matthew CMF, Manager, SCES presided over the event. They were accompanied by a panel of distinguished guests. The theme for the Annual Day was "The Life of a Soldier". Brilliantly choreographed dances, melodious songs and heart wrenching skits on the life of our brave Jawans stole the hearts of the audience. Meritorious students of SSLC as well as the proficiency toppers were felicitated on the day. The grand evening culminated with choral singing of the school anthem.

St. Claret Degree College, Jalahalli

One-day National Conference on Start-Up India



A one-day National Conference on 'Start-up India: Trends, Opportunities and Challenges' was organized by St. Claret College on 26 October 2016. The keynote speaker of the day was the renowned economist Padmashri Aloysius P. Fernandez. In his message, Dr Fernandez spoke on the importance of start-ups and the value of entrepreneurship in developing the economy of the nation. Post inauguration, the Conference continued with technical sessions and panel

discussions by eminent academicians and distinguished members from the industry. Dr R S Ponmagal (Professor & HoD), Dr MGR Educational & Research Institute, was the resource person for the Technical Session. The panellists for the Panel Discussion were Mr. B Vedhagiri (Director of IIFT), Mr. H R Jayaram (Founder and Promoter of Green Path Foundation), Ms. Y Tripuramba (Secretary ALEAP, Hyderabad) and Dr Jayalakshmi (Asst. Professor, CMR Law School). The Panel Discussion was followed by 60 paper presentations by the Conference delegates in parallel sessions on various themes such as IT, HR, Marketing, Entrepreneurship, Accounting, Finance and Governance.

St Claret College is proud to announce that Dhanya Krishnan K and Rekha M of 2013-16 BCA batch secured the IV and VI ranks respectively in the Bangalore University Examinations 2016. Last year, our two other students Shabnam F. and Ashwini C. of 2012-15 BCA batch had secured the I and VIII ranks respectively. The college is proud of our students who have been adding feathers to our cap and making us one of the best educational institutions in Bengaluru.

St. Claret PU College, Jalahalli

Ethnic Day Celebration - 2016

The Students of St. Claret PU College had a gala time on 19 November 2016, celebrating the Ethnic Day. The main event of the day was Stylo. All the classes were made to ramp-walk with their best attire. The prizes were distributed for the Culfet winners. The college band 'AUDIOPHILE' mesmerised the audience by their scintillating performance. The graceful Thiruvathira and Gujarati Folk dancers kept the audience delighted.



**Economes' Meet**

November 2016, Claret Nivas, Carmelaram.

**Inter-Province Retreat**

November 2016, Claret Nivas, Carmelaram.

Change of Phone Numbers:

Fr. Anthony D'Souza	=	09480273553
Fr. Deonis Kujur	=	09493828020
Fr. Mathew Kottayil	=	09491089334
Fr. Shibu Kalassiyil	=	09717343981
Fr. Thomas Perikilakatt	=	08277476133

OBITUARY

Mrs. Marithayamma (75), beloved mother of Fr. Joseph Shanthappa, expired on 15 December 2016 at Karahalli, Bengaluru. May her soul rest in peace!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

16-20 January	:	Canonical Visits to Bhattiprolu, Oleru and Tenali Communities
24-25 January	:	Council Meeting
30 Jan – 05Feb	:	ASCLA West Encounter of Youth Ministry, CPH, Malleswaram
09-17 February	:	Canonical Visits to Barwadih, Barikhajuri and Bhusar Communities
15 February	:	Jharkhand-Haryana Missionary Encounter
18-22 February	:	Canonical Visit to Gurgaon Community
27Feb – 01 Mar	:	Canonical Visit to Claretian Seminary
03-04 March	:	Canonical Visit to Vijayapura Mission
10-11 March	:	Canonical Visit to Karahalli Mission
17-18 March	:	Council Meeting
21-23 March	:	Pastors' Encounter, Medchal
27-30 March	:	Canonical Visit to Athani Mission
05-06 April	:	Canonical Visit to Seva Kendra, Sumanahalli



**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**
...
& a Happy new year!

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