



Edition #23



NEWSLETTER



DEHONIANS INDIA

April 2025

Voice of the Superior

The Lord is truly Risen! Alleluia!

Dear Confreres in the Heart of Jesus!

The blessings of the Risen Lord has been felt throughout the month of April. It has been a month of the **Vocation Camps, Renewal Retreat, Renewal of the Vows, Diaconate Ordination** and some Pastoral Visits. **Holy Week has been meaningfully celebrated** by all our Pastoral as well as Formative communities.

Fr. Daniel Ribeiro, our missionary from ICA (International Community of Asia) has led our young confreres into a **deeply nourishing Dehonian Retreat** in this Jubilee Year. His **experiential sharing on the Mission** has left a lasting impact on our young confreres.

We too are **blessed with 4 new deacons** (Dn. Sajeevan, Dn. Arun, Dn. Sathish & Dn. Ashwin). They were ordained as deacons by **Most. Rev. Antony Valumkal**, the Auxiliary Bishop of Verapoly.

Several of our confreres dedicated their time and energy to **be at the service of the faithful** throughout the **Lenten Season** and especially during the **Holy Week**.

Let us continue to **journey with the Risen to renew & to revive our Dehonian Commitment to be His Chosen**. May God bless all of us!

Fraternally Yours in the Heart of Jesus,

Long live to the Heart of Jesus
Through the Heart of Mary

Fr. Michael Augustine SCJ

Fr. Michael Augustine SCJ





During this season of Easter, we, the members of the community were engaged in pastoral ministries. Fr. Siju was giving retreats and lenten talks in different parishes while others were available for confessions and other pastoral services. In this month we have celebrated the birthday of two of our community members, namely Fr. Thomas and Fr. Martin. On Easter day we could visit and spend time in Dehon Bhavan community. Fr. Michael, along with two of our missionaries have visited the community and also St. Andrew's Basilica. After two months of stay both Fr. Asin and Fr. Johnson prepared to go to their newly appointed places.

Fr. Thomas Raju SCJ



Fostering Future Vocations in the DPN Community

The month of April marked a significant period for the DPN community, highlighted by the annual seminarian vacation and a highly anticipated vocation camp for prospective students. This camp, held from April 3rd to 5th at the Gorantla community, successfully brought together sixteen students who have completed their tenth standard, eager to explore God's call.

The success of the camp was a testament to the dedication of each DPN community member, who collectively ensured the students felt welcomed and at home. The planning committee, comprising Fr. Kishor SCJ (Vocation Promoter), Fr. Mariano SCJ (Superior), Fr. Vimal SCJ, Fr. Moses SCJ, and Fr. Thambi SCJ, meticulously organized a comprehensive program. They also invited esteemed fathers—Fr. Marianad SCJ, Fr. Rajesh SCJ, Fr. Mahesh SCJ, and Fr. Kiren SCJ—to deliver insightful sessions. These classes provided students with a deeper understanding of the congregation's founder, its values, the significance of a vocation, and the profound nature of God's call.

Beyond the informative sessions, the camp offered a vibrant and engaging experience through various cultural programs and action songs. Dn. Arun SCJ and Br. Ravi Teja Yadala SCJ played a pivotal role in leading these activities, fostering an energetic atmosphere. Their active participation in teaching dance, preparing skits, and coordinating programs ensured the students' enthusiastic involvement and made the camp truly memorable.

A special vote of thanks is extended to Fr. Kishor SCJ, the Vocation Promoter, and Dn. Arun SCJ for their tireless efforts in finding and motivating prospective students to attend the camp. A special thanks to DPN community for their great efforts to make this camp so successful.

Br. Ravi Teja Madanu SCJ





On behalf of the community of Divine Mercy Church, I would like to express my gratitude first of all to God the Almighty and Secondly to our District Administration for giving us the opportunity to render our service in the Divine Mercy Church Kalher assisted by Fr. Sajith and Regent Bro. Biren Ranasingh, lastly and to never ending thanks to the Parishoners of the Divine Mercy Church Kalher. It was really a true blessing for us to work; especially the month of April with the preparations and the celebrations of Easter starting with the Palm Sunday. It culminated with our Parish Feast of Divine Mercy on 27th April, together with the administration of the Sacrament of Confirmation, received by six of our Parish children and given by the Bishop of Vasai Thomas D'Souza in the presence of the guest Priest of the day Fr. Mc Queen Mascrenhas SCJ. The bishop also consecrated the same day the new Altar where the Christ is represented everyday with our Dehonian identity under the shadow of Dehonian Cross. This month we also celebrated the 4th Priestly Anniversary of Fr. Sajith as well as the Farewell to Bro. Biren on the Easter night.

Fr. Ajit Baxla SCJ





MY PASTORAL EXPERIENCE AT DIVINE MERCY PARISH KAHLER, VASAI

The month of April brought a mixture of joyous celebrations, as I observed significant events in the Christian calendar, including Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter. Additionally, I had the opportunity to attend a transformative five-day retreat in Aluva, which deepened my faith.

On Maundy Thursday, I participated in a meaningful mass that commemorated Jesus' last supper with his disciples. The ceremony, which included the washing of feet, served as a powerful reminder of the importance of humility and service in our lives. As I reflected on Jesus' actions, I felt a sense of gratitude for the opportunity to celebrate this sacred event with my community.

Good Friday was a somber day of reflection, as I contemplated the significance of Jesus' sacrifice. I attended a prayer service, where I felt a sense of unity with fellow believers. The service included readings from scripture, hymns, and prayers, all of which helped to create a contemplative atmosphere.

Easter Sunday was a joyous celebration of Jesus' resurrection, symbolizing hope and renewal. I shared Easter greetings and meals with loved ones, fostering a sense of togetherness and community. The celebration served as a reminder of the transformative power of faith and the importance of sharing joy with others.

The five-day retreat in Aluva was a transformative experience that allowed me to deepen my faith and connect with like-minded individuals. Through prayer, reflection, and group discussions, I gained valuable insights into my spiritual journey and felt a sense of peace and renewal. The retreat provided an opportunity to step away from daily routines and focus on personal growth and development.

Conclusion:-

The events of April have left a lasting impact on my spiritual journey, reminding me of the importance of faith, community, and personal growth. As I reflect on these experiences, I am grateful for the opportunities to celebrate, reflect, and grow with others.

Br. Biren Ranasingh SCJ



MY EASTER MINISTRY AT THE SACRED HEART PARISH, VEMPADU

My ministry in Vempadu Parish has been one of the most remarkable experiences ever in my life, where I was fully engaged in pastoral ministry and activities of the Parish. Twenty days of my exposure there, have taught me many lessons and my stay in the community was comfortable with fathers and my encounter with the parishners has been of great learning. I am immensely grateful to the community for providing me with ample of opportunities and possible guidelines all through my stay. I had the graceful opportunities such as to lead Holy hour, to deliver a short message in Telugu which helped me to gain somewhat of proficiency and efficiency in language, and to, assist in the Holy Eucharist. During the season of lent parish had conducted some of the charitable activities and the most touching experience was, taking the parish youth to one of the orphanages in Hanuman junction, and witnessing the reality of life of some children, who did not have basic things in their lives. The youth was really moved by the kind initiative of the Parish Priest. There are also other practices of lent in the form of conducting street prayers, arranging the confessions along with adoration in the substations and walk to Holy Land. These are some of the activities that helped people join together to pray as one family and was an opportunity to walk together as pilgrims of Hope. However, I indeed enjoyed my stay in the community and experienced fraternity and brotherhood. I thank God for beautiful community experience and fruitful pastoral exposure.

Br. Nirmal Uppatti SCJ



A MONTH OF RENEWAL AND CELEBRATION

April was a month of abundant blessings, meaningful experiences, and spiritual renewal for our community. As we entered the Easter season, the brothers actively participated in various liturgical celebrations and ministries. Some brothers remained in their own parish, contributing wholeheartedly to the Easter services, while others were called to serve in different parishes, bringing their energy and devotion to communities in need of assistance during this holy time. A joyful moment of fraternity was the celebration of Fr. Jayraj's Birthday where we expressed our love, gratitude, and appreciation for his dedicated life and priestly service. A significant spiritual highlight of the month was the renewal retreat held in Kerala. All the brothers attended and benefited from this, it was a time of deep reflection, prayer and returning with a renewed sense of mission and commitment towards their vocation. A special highlight was the Diaconate Ordination at the DVS community, where all the brothers were present to support and witness this important milestone. After the retreat, the community entered a period of holidays; while some brothers went home to spend time with their families and others chose to remain in the community to responsibly care for the house and maintain its daily functioning. Overall, the month of April was a vibrant blend of celebration, spiritual growth, responsible service, and joyful fraternity, leaving us deeply enriched and united as we continue our journey together.

Br. Ashwin Joseph SCJ



Having fruitfully completed our Annual Retreat 2025 preached by Rev. Dr. Daniel Ribeiro SCJ, a committed missionary in China, we are spiritually guided and fed, ignited and enlightened, enabled and enhanced, reformed and renewed in our hearts and minds during the five days of our annual retreat for all young Dehonians. The inputs delivered by Fr. Daniel were of great worth and value, both informative and reflective in our spiritual and intellectual journey as scholastics engaged in the ecclesiastical studies that helped us to enhance our exegesis of the Scripture and personalize it into our very lives as religious. The retreat consisted of only two talks a day and ample of time was given for more reflection and to do 'lectio Divina' on specific passages from the Holy Scripture. The talks were of deep spirituality that were ranging from Jesus' life, his apostles and Fr. Dehon. The combination of these three characters during our talks and reflection have helped us understand better the Dehonian mission and vision for the world and the Church. The retreat was concluded with the sharing of each one's personal encounter with God during few days of intense and immense consumption of our time with the Lord and everyone shared about their personal encounter with the Lord. The following day May 1st nine of our brothers renewed their vows in the presence of Rev. Fr. Michael Augustine, the District Superior.

The first day of our meditation has accentuated the need for deep conscience over God's natural process of calling to religious life and humans' rational choice in responding to his call with freedom. God calls us naturally but it is left to the individual whether to make use of the given freedom to respond to it to be faithful forever. St. Peter was demonstrated as the perfect epitome of making a choice to catch the men after his encounter with Jesus on the boat. The first day, we deeply reflected on character of St. Peter and how he remained faithful in his call despite his human frailty and limitations. This helped us to look not our limitations, but to the grace bestowed on each of us by God, and the same grace, further led us to resolute our decision to be his effective channels of love and mercy to the world.

The Second day of our meditation, we reflected on the guidance of the Holy spirit in the time of Jesus' temptations in the wilderness in connection to the challenges in the religious life of Fr. Dehon. As the spirit's assistance led Jesus to the resistance of the evil, the love of Fr. Dehon for the Heart of Jesus had led him to accept all possible challenges in founding the congregation. However, Fr. Dehon's unwavering dependence over the providence of God and his 'Never Give Up' attitude have taught us a lot in strengthening ourselves in following Christ more closely. And we were given the sure assurance that the Spirit is always with us in all the walks of our lives.

My message to people is this: Let us carry the memory of those who perished not as a burden but as a torch. Let their lives inspire us to build a world where no one is hated for their race, faith, or heritage. Let love triumph over fear. Let mercy guide our actions. And let us say, with our lives, Never again. (My Special Thanks to Fr. Michael Augustine Scj, the District Superior for this opportunity).

The third day our meditation has focused on the “greatest value of the beginning of Jesus’ Mission and Dehonian Way of Holiness”. The central theme that strikes all our hearts was ‘faith’ and ‘holiness’. Fr. Dehon has revealed to all of us the secret of being true Dehonians by his way of holiness that was lived up to the mark. The same holiness must become the prime motivation and aim of every Dehonian order to be effective instruments of God’s mission: in spreading his love and mercy to the world. Fr. Dehon’s life is a witness to all of us through various characteristics that were practiced, a perfect balance between natural and supernatural virtues, virtues coming from his spiritual life, act of forgiveness, ordinary holiness, generous soul and having zealous and Pious heart. These were the true motivations that have moved our hearts to reflect our Dehonian vocation in the congregation.

The fourth day of our meditation has enabled us look into each one’s ordinary way of experiencing God in simple things and what God expects from us. This reflective input really helped us a lot ,taking us a long way to recount the simple things that the Lord has done in our lives and burned our hearts to question ourselves what have we done for God and what we can. The basic nature of Jesus’ call is to be with him, to proclaim the good news and to cast out the demons. However, this input session has helped us to be grateful to the lord for his mission for each one and for his love.

The final day of our retreat, we have really taken up by the method of Jesus in proclaiming the gospel. Jesus did not directly preach the word of God rather he was attentive to the people; he accompanied, dialogued with them and then preached the Word which opens and burns every heart to announce the risen Lord. In the final session we had a beautiful sharing coming from each one’s encounter with God and experiences that were shared were genuine, inspiring and touching.

On the first of May,nine of our brothers have renewed their vows in the presence of Rev. Fr. Michael Augustine SCJ, the District Superior. He was the main celebrant of the Eucharist and delivered a homily on St. Joseph, the worker quoting about him from theApostolic letter “PatrisCorde”of the Holy Father Pope Francis as a perfect example for submitting oneself to the Lord’s Will. He spoke about seven characteristics of St. Joseph as mentioned in that letter: Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father, a creatively courageous father, a working father, and a father in the shadows. The homily moved our hearts to deep thinking of St. Joseph our patron’s qualities to be actualised in our lives too. We are immensely grateful to God for making possible all things to happen meticulously and miraculously.

Br. Nirmal Uppatti SCJ





