



Edition #18



NEWSLETTER



# DEHONIANS INDIA

November 2024

## Voice of the Superior

### Dear Departed! Dearest Dehon & Dedicated Dehonians

Dear Confreres in the Heart of Jesus!

Month of November has been a blessing indeed. During this month, we all could pray for our **Dear Departed** and also for the poor and the unknown souls. We as the Dehonian confreres had the opportunity to be together for the **Ongoing Formation** in two groups. Ongoing formation helps us to get in touch with one's own innermost self and to deepen the motivation of our call for which we have been called. **Formation never ends as it bends us interiorly and sends us out to serve intentionally** for the well being of the human being.

During this month, we met several bishops to seek their availability to ordain our deacons as well as to see how we can **expand our Dehonian presence to reach out to the poor and the marginalized**. As a **Missionary Congregation**, we are to prepare ourselves to be more **generous and magnanimous missionaries to render our missionary service as Dehonians** in various parts of our beloved nation India. As we celebrated the **Dehonian Memorial Day** on 25th November, it once again reminded us of the powerful words of our Founding Father: **I am a Missionary and a Martyr...** It is our **Dehonian Call** and it is our **Dehonian Conviction**.

As we are approaching **Dehon's Death Centenary**, we need to **internalize and to interiorize Dehonian ideals of availability, fidelity and hospitality** to carry out whatever is entrusted to us with a deep sense of **responsibility** to be more rooted in our **identity** which is **Dehonianity**. It concretely implies that we share all that we have and all we are with a **profound sense of conviction and compassion to experience and to extend transformation** and transfiguration and we will be able to echo the words of St. Paul like our Founding Father Leo John Dehon, **It is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me (Gal.2,20!**

Fraternally Yours in the Heart of Jesus,

*Fr. Michael Augustine SCJ*

Fr. Michael Augustine SCJ



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











## Inauguration of St. Mary's Church & the initiation of Messianic Faith

Month of November is the Month of Souls and we remembered all the departed souls in our everyday masses. We the Odisha Mission community spent our time and energy for the preparation of the **inauguration and blessings of the New Church namely St. Mary's Church, Kumbhikari, Kundra Block, Jeypore Odisha**. We are blessed with this New Church and people are so happy because **they have a place to pray and worship the Lord**. We could see smiles on the faces of the people. All the people of St. Mary's Church and the other Churches of ours gathered and welcomed the **Bishop and Priests and our District Superior Rev. Fr. Michael Augustine SCJ and our Councilors, Rev. Fr. Sampati Balraj SCJ, Rev. Fr. Gopu Joseph SCJ and Rev. Fr. Praveen Richard SCJ our administrator**. We were happy with the presence of our SCJ Fathers, and we spent some time with our Fathers.

We also celebrated the **Solemnity of Christ the King in Dudumpadar Church**. This Church is named after Christ the King. All our faithful came from our three Churches and we had a meaningful celebration. After the Eucharist we had a procession and the slogans. As a whole, it was a good spiritual time with the faithful who came for the inaugural Mass and participated actively.

**Fr. Ashit Lima SCJ**









## Solemnity and Solid Sacramental fraternity

The month of November for the community of Divine Mercy Parish, Kalher, Maharashtra began with the **Solemnity of All the Saints** recognizing our vocation as **we are called to be Holy on the journey towards Heavenly Jerusalem** to be in the company of all the Saints. Following day, we **commemorated all the Departed Souls** remembering and praying for all the souls of our loved ones and for those souls who are forgotten and for those who have nobody to pray. All together we had three Holy Masses and there was active participation of the faithful to attend the Masses and **to pray for their dear departed** who are no more in this world.

On 10th of November we had the Solemn celebration in the Parish as two of our Children received the **First Holy Communion from Fr. Ajit and one of the new born babies received the Sacrament of Baptism from Fr. Sajith**. It was a touching moment for all the parishioners as it symbolized the new entry and welcoming of the new member into the Church through Sacrament of Baptism by the entire Church. On the other hand it was also one of the most important & happiest days in the life of two of our children as **they encountered Jesus for the first time through the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist**.

In the Homily, the celebrant addressed to both of these children that **Why this should be the Happiest day of their life** because for the first time they were going to receive and welcome the Biggest Celebrity Jesus, **How does Jesus come into their hearts** which is through the Consecrated Bread & Wine, **Why does Jesus come to us as Bread & Wine - as food & drink** which is our Spiritual Food and **What will they do after receiving Jesus in the Holy Communion** as they become the carrier and Tabernacle for Jesus and our Body becomes the Temple of God.

On 13th of November we had the short visit of Fr. Abraham Lazar with regard to Divine Mercy Trust which was sorted out. From 20-22 November, Fr. Ajit participated in the **Ongoing Formation Program** organised by the District at CDN Scholasticate community. On 24th of November we had the Celebration of the **Solemnity of Jesus Christ, The King Of the Universe** with our Parishioners with the small procession and Mass offered by Fr. Sajith Pillai scj.

Fr. Ajit Baxla SCJ







## A Month of Gratitude and Growth

This November was a month filled with joy, reflection, and meaningful encounters that strengthened the bonds within our community. We began with a special time of adoration, dedicating ourselves to prayer and inviting the grace of God to guide our endeavors.

The celebrations of Bro. Jeevan's and Bro. Aspel's birthdays brought moments of joy and gratitude as we honored their lives and vocations. A highlight of the month was the **ongoing formation meeting** for our priests, an enriching experience of shared wisdom and fraternity that left a lasting impression on all of us.

We also had the bittersweet task of **bidding farewell to four of our brothers**—Bro. Gowtham SCJ, Bro. Robin CST, Bro. Tinse CST and Bro. Aspel; through a heartfelt and grand celebration filled with gratitude and prayers for their future paths.

As a community, we came together for a meeting where we shared our thoughts and perspectives openly, fostering greater understanding and unity. Towards the end of the month, we **prepared ourselves spiritually for the Advent season** through the **recollection talk** by Sr. Maria MSI, whose inspiring words left a deep impact on our hearts.

Amid these activities, we also began **preparations for the perpetual profession of our brothers**, an event of immense significance and joy for our community. Looking back, we are filled with gratitude for the blessings of this month, which has **deepened our commitment to our mission and strengthened our fraternity**.

Br. Ashwin SCJ









## Innovative Formative and Pastoral Initiatives

In the month of November, the community of Dehon Bhavan was very much busy with Pastoral ministries, ongoing formation program at CDN, Monthly Recollection for the students, and the visitation to the cemetery by the students. We had our **Community Council** meeting on the 4th of November-2024, where all could **share their experiences and exchange different ideas for the well being of the Community**. Since all the Diocesan Priests were attending their Annual retreat, we were shouldered with the responsibility to attend the **Pastoral needs of their respective parishes** in their absence. All the members had a good time at CDN Scholasticate community during their ongoing formation program.

Every Sunday **Fr. Sunil Roman SCJ** made himself available to guide an hour of **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and sharing of the Word of God with the people** from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm. Our students are doing well and this month all the fifteen of our students were given **different Biblical topics to make a 5 minutes' presentation** during supper. It was really helping them to **deepen their understanding of the Bible** as well as their **skill of presenting in English**. Our students could pay a visit to the cemetery of the parish and spend a time of prayer for all the departed souls. This month **Fr. Arunjani, Odem**, one of the priests from the **Congregation of Our Lady of Mercy** gave a **recollection talk and confession to our students**.

**Fr. Abraham Lazar SCJ**









## **‘Philosophical Reflections on Populism’**

The month of November had brought forth many remarkable events in the community as well as in the college in Bangalore. The month began with the **recollection and Holy hour on the First Friday**. We celebrated **World philosophy Day together on the 21 November** with some of the affiliated institutes and attended the **seminar on ‘Philosophical Reflections on Populism’**. Each institute has presented various topics related to populism of both in Western and Indian perspectives. I was given the opportunity to be the **Master of the Ceremony (MC)** on that day. We had really a pleasant time together by getting to know new brothers and fathers which helped me to widen my relational as well as academic horizon.

And the other special occasion was on November 25 & 26, the **faculty of philosophy** had hosted **Dharma Endowment Lectures** on the theme **“The inbuilt heterogeneity in Indic Religions & Its Implications**. The Honorable Speaker (Sri. Jawahar Sircar) a retired IAS and a member of Rajya Sabha had **enlightened the gathering with his experiential insights and expositions on Indic religions, in particular Hinduism and its pitfalls, festivals and contradictions in its faith and rituals**. He also accentuated the greater need for informed and **constructive dialogue among all religions to have harmony and unity**.

There was also a **special day dedicated to the Rector of Dharmaram**. We had celebrations and enjoyed watching the **Drama based on the life of St. Sebastian hosted by Dharmaram brothers on the eve of Rector’s Day**. The last day of the month had marked the **monthly birth and feast day celebration in the community**. We also celebrated the fixing of the star as we enter the season of Advent. However, the month of November although has been so academic in its duration, it has taught me new lessons and has shown me so many gateways to improve and enhance my talents in various fields. I thank God for His solid support and dynamic guidance.

**Bro. Nirmal Uppati SCJ**





## Exposition of the Sacred Relics of St. Xavier

Being the pastoral and formation community, we keep ourselves engaged with our pastoral ministries in and around, near and far from our community. We have begun our month with the **Solemnity of All Saints and All Souls day** rendering our ministries in different parishes. In this month, we also engaged in the sacrament of the **Anointing of the Sick in Carmona parish**, the parish where we are regularly invited to help, besides this we are also given a handful of opportunities to serve in the parish celebrating masses and leading the novenas.

During this month, we also had a few guests, as the owner of the house where we stay came down to Goa for the Exposition of the Sacred Relics of St. Xavier and for the renewal of the document of the house in which we live. We also had the privilege of taking care of our **Dehonian bishop (Jose Alfrado) who came from Madagascar** along with a **permanent deacon Jean Luc**. Fr. Mcqueesn and Fr. Prem participated in the **ongoing formation** of the first batch while Fr. Wency attended the second.

Month of November is very special for us because of the **Exposition of the Sacred Relics of St. Francis Xavier**. Fr. Prem had the privilege of participating in the inaugural ceremony along with our students and Mr. Oscar (the house owner) while Fr. Mcqueen and Fr. Wency had their ministries fixed in the different parishes. On the other hand our students, the **Senior Aspirants** are also doing well in their studies and in their formation. Overall, the month of November was fully packed with ministries and classes. We pray that through the intercession of St. Francis Xavier may all of us remain blessed in the Saviour.

**Fr. Prem Kumar SCJ**









## Advent... Aspirancy.. A period of joyful expectancy...

The month of November has been an enriching period for our community. It is marked by significant and different events like meetings, visits, and preparations for the upcoming Christmas season.

One of the main highlights of November was the **ongoing formation meeting** attended by our fathers in Eluru. The meeting was held over several days and was done in two groups. The fathers participated actively in the formation meetings.

In November, our brothers had the privilege of **meeting and interacting with the Dehonian fathers** from various communities. These visits allowed our small brothers to engage with new faces and build connections with the fathers who were previously unfamiliar to them. The opportunity to converse with the visiting fathers offered our brothers **a chance to learn from their experiences** and some fathers also celebrated and shared their vocation stories to motivate the brothers. This experience was memorable and contributed to the **personal growth and the spiritual enrichment of our brothers**.

As part of the preparation for the upcoming Christmas season, our brothers actively participated in **decorating the community**. This initiative allowed them to express their creativity and **showcase their talents and skills** in various parts of our formative community. The efforts that our brothers put into the Christmas decorations was not only an act of service but also a valuable experience that brought the community together **in anticipation of the joyous occasion**.

**Br. Ravi Teja Madanu SCJ**









## Ongoing Formation for Ongoing Pastoral Mission

We, the Arthunkal community, are very happy and as usual engaged in our pastoral ministries. We all could attend the **ongoing formation** which was held in our theology house. **Fr. Martin** was engaged in the parish for a week, where he goes for his ministry. **Fr. Siju** was being invited to **St. Francis Xavier's parish, (Neyyatinkara Diocese)**, by Fr. Aji Aloysius SCJ (Parish Priest), for **giving a week-long renewal retreat for the parishioners**. On 27th of this month, the Kerala area meeting was held in our community. **Fr. Michael Augustine SCJ, our District Superior**, had visited the community and along with deacons met the **Bishop of Alleppey** to finalize the date of priestly ordinations of **Dn. Ashin & Dn. Dennis**. The community also participated in the **first anniversary memorial mass of the father of Fr.Siju**.

Fr. Thomas Raja SCJ





## Pastoral and Spiritual Engagement with the Faithful

The Eleos Community in Vempadu and the Sacred Heart parish, had a meaningful celebration of **All Souls' Day**. We also had the celebration of **Fr. Marianands birthday** and also we welcomed **Fr.Emmanuel Nanduri** to our parish community. We also **prayerfully began the season of Advent**. **Fr.Thambi Mada** and **Fr.Thomas** meticulously carry out the **Tailoring as well as hostmaking Centres** besides rendering the pastoral service to the faithful. The youth, the children and the elders in the parish are spiritually nurtured through our various pastoral as well as spiritual activities in the parish.

**Fr. Marianand SCJ**





## Formative Activities for formidable Attitudes

Dear friends, we would like to share some of our experiences and events of the month of November. On 1st November, we had the First Friday. On the 2nd was the **day of Recollection and Confession**. **Bro.Xavier Biju** gave the Recollection talk. Our Degree students as well as our Philosophy brothers wrote their University exams this month. So this month they were focusing on their **University exams**. They did well with their exams.

For **philosophy brothers** had classes on **Rule of Life** and for **Degree students on discipline and good manners**. The community works together to arrange the house and do some maintenance work. All are working together to have a good garden. Planted some vegetables and fruit plants. So the community is active and alive with the hard work of all the community members and seminarians. We thank the Almighty for His blessings and guidance. Thanks to all of you for your prayers and support.

**Fr. Christy Peter SCJ**





Fr. David, a redemptorist priest, led inspiring sessions on the essential aspects of priestly life, aiming to deepen our commitment and help us live our priesthood more fully and effectively. The key areas covered included:

### **1. Embracing a Spirit of Prayer**

Fr. David reminded us that the spirit of prayer goes beyond just the feeling of prayer. He emphasized cultivating a steady, enduring relationship with God through a prayerful disposition, which sustains us even in times of spiritual dryness or emotional challenges. True prayer flows from this spirit, anchoring us in our daily ministry.

### **2. Taking Care of Ourselves and Our Brothers**

He encouraged us to practice self-care and foster a culture of mutual support within our priestly community. Recognizing our own needs and looking out for our brother priests, including our families, keeps us grounded and resilient in ministry.

### **3. Cultivating Detachment and Letting Go**

Fr. David highlighted the importance of detachment from material possessions and ego-driven desires. As priests, we are called to a life of simplicity and freedom. This “letting go” attitude helps us to focus on God’s will and remain available to serve others wholeheartedly.

### **4. Commitment to Reconciliation**

The journey of priesthood is deeply connected to the sacraments of reconciliation and absolution. Fr. David encouraged us to embrace these sacraments not only as ministers but also as individuals, recognizing their vital role in our own growth and healing, as well as in the spiritual journeys of those we serve.

### **5. Overcoming Ego**

Humility is foundational to priestly life. Fr. David discussed the need to overcome ego and to let go of self-centered ambitions or pride that can cloud our vision. A priest is most effective when he is humble, open, and allows Christ to work through him.

### **6. Living the Priestly Sacrifice**

As priests, we have dedicated our lives to follow Christ in a radical way, often renouncing personal comforts and attachments. Fr. David reminded us that the priest is, at his core, a man of sacrifice. This lifelong commitment began in our youth and continues to shape us, calling us to a life of offering and service to others.

### **7. Strengthening Our Relationship with Christ**

Central to our vocation is an intimate, ever-growing relationship with Jesus Christ. Fr. David emphasized that this relationship is the heart of our priesthood, sustaining us in all we do and in all the challenges we face.

In addition to these reflections, Fr. David facilitated a group activity that allowed us to engage more deeply with these themes, encouraging practical steps for incorporating them into our daily lives.



Fr. David's sessions were not only uplifting but also provided us with clear, actionable insights to enrich our lives and ministries. It was a powerful reminder of our unique calling and the importance of living it out with renewed purpose and joy.

**Fr. Kiran Sagar Kakkumanu SCJ**





The ongoing formation sessions for the second batch began on 20th December. Fr. Sundar Raj, the community Superior, introduced the resource person, Fr. David from Bangalore. He belongs to the Redemptorist Congregation. He is a motivational speaker, preacher and his inputs are practical.

He started the first Session, with the introduction that, “He was not going to talk about something that we do not know”. The first session was mainly focused on the life story of a doctor named, Dr. Sivakumar. His approach to the patients who came to him with hopelessness, was highlighted in his talk. Through the experience of this doctor, Fr. David told how we as priests need to update, learn, relax and learn from one another.

The second session was centred around the following questions.

### **What is the necessity of priests? Do we need priests today?**

Father shared a few incidents in connection with these points. The session concluded by emphasising the point that, “the Lord has chosen you from the many and imperfections are part of our reality.” The third session was merely a game. Through the game, a few points like hesitation, working together, Dialogue, success, failure, Perseverance etc. were pointed out.

On the second day, in the first session, the preacher narrated two incidents in connection with the power of prayer. Both the incidents were healing from cancer. He explained how beautifully God intervened in the lives of these people by the power of prayer. Jesus can raise those who lost hope. The prayer of a priest is very powerful. But today many priests are ashamed to pray. He also showed examples of prayer from the life of Jesus. Jesus was praying from his childhood. His parents were his models for prayer life.

He began the second session with the story of a bird that was wounded. He further pointed out that we all are wounded birds and the world has wounded us in different ways. Life is a mystery. We do not know what will happen next in our life. He further narrated the story of a young girl who won the game with rigorous practice for a day. He concluded the session with a game. The third session in the afternoon was of prayer and healing service.







## Social Apostolate through Pastoral Apostolate

Ananthapalli parish has 6 substations such as Thelikicharla, Chodavaram, Pothavaram, Pothineedupalem, Subadrapalem, and Cheepurugudem. They are entrusted to our pastoral as well as spiritual care. Besides the spiritual nourishment of the faithful with the administration of the Sacraments and the breaking of the Word of God, we have undertaken following Social projects:

- ✓ With the help of Mother Vannini hospital which is run by Camillian sisters we have conducted medical camps in all our substations which helped a lot to our people in their medical needs.
- ✓ With the help of Jagruthi Hospital from Tadepalligudem, we have conducted the free eye medical camps as well as free eye operations in all the substations.
- ✓ We are conducting free dental camps with the help of Smile Dental Hospital from Nallajerla in all the substations.
- ✓ We have started the education of the students by conducting tuitions in our Churches and Catechism to the youth and children.
- ✓ We have started to construct four grottos in our substations namely Chodavaram, Cheepurugudem, and Subadrapalem.
- ✓ With the local contribution and our community, we are painting 2 big Churches namely Thelikicharla and Subadrapalem which have not been painted for a long time.

**Fr. Ravi Dasari SCJ & Fr. Jesu Prasad SCJ**





