



DEHONIANS INDIA

September 2024

Voice of the Superior

Centennial of our Dehonian presence in Asia (Indonesia)

Dear Confreres in the Heart of Jesus!

The month of September has brought us manifold blessings to each of us. During this month, we have re-started our **Senior Aspirancy Program** at Velim, Goa after the gap of 4 years. Currently we have 2 candidates for this program and we hope to get some more potential candidates for the next academic year. During this month, I have had the possibility to visit the **Indonesian Province** to participate in the **Centennial of our Dehonian presence** over there.

During the Centennial Celebration, we had the fruitful **meeting of the Asian Superiors with Fr. General** and have made some plans for the coming years. I have also had the chance to have personal talks with Fr. General and other provincials and our missionaries (Fr. Kus, Fr. Teja, Fr. Guntoro, Br. Sis). They are very supportive of our young Dehonian Presence in India.

It was a **3-day Centennial Celebration**. On the first day, we had a celebration with the benefactors. On the second day, we had 4 priestly ordinations & 1 diaconate ordination in the morning. And in the evening, there was a Creative Cultural evening organised by the province to mark the 100th year of SCJ presence in Indonesia. On the third day, we visited some historical places in Palembang and had a Fraternity Dinner organised by the SCJ well-wishers in the evening. The presence & the ministry of our missionary confrere **Br. Xavier Viju** with the Indonesian Province has been well appreciated.

As a whole, this celebration has ignited in all the participants the sense of '**We the Congregation**' and the sense of '**Internationality**' and '**Interculturality**'. Fr. General in his address to the Asian Superiors has stressed the fact that we as the Dehonian confreres, we all **belong to the 'Congregation' and not just to the 'entity'** which calls for **fostering a 'missionary mentality' to generously** extend ourselves to the '**Apostolic Mission of the Congregation**'. As we are marching towards the **Centennial of the Death of Dehon**, our Founding Father, let us inculcate in our hearts and minds the spirit of '**Dehonianness**' i.e. the profound **spirit of being 'missionaries'** in our own land and abroad wherever our presence is necessitated.

May the spirit of **Sint Unum, Ecce Venio & Ecce Ancilla** of our Founder be our guiding force and let us journey towards materializing our Dehonian mission: **Adveniat Regnum Tuum** in order to convincingly echo like our Founder: **For Him I live: It is Christ who lives in me (Gal. 2:20).**

Fraternally Yours in the Heart of Jesus,

Fr. Michael Augustine SCJ

**Long Live to the Heart of Jesus!
Through the Heart of Mary**





Time of Prayerful Reparation & Preparation

Greetings to all of you from the Divine Mercy Parish, Kalher, Bhiwandi, Maharashtra. The month of August 2024 was the month of Blessings in many ways as we began the pilgrimage of thanksgiving to God for the Centenary of the Birth into heaven (verse dies natalis) of our Founder, Venerable Fr. Leo John Dehon, and the 150th Anniversary (2028) of the founding of our Congregation. In fact, August 12, 2025 will be exactly 100 years since his death and June 28, 2028 will be the 150th anniversary of the foundation of the Congregation of the Priests of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. As written by our Superior General Fr. Carlos Luis Suárez Codorniú, scj and his council in the letter addressed to all the members of the Dehonian Family, it is indeed a **Year of Preparation** (from August 12th 2024 to August 12th 2025) and **three years of celebrations**.

This opportunity gave the community members to come together for the first time as the Community of Vasai & Goa to celebrate the Founder's day with our own confreres, with the Priests, Religious and the Faithful to whom they serve and work within Goa. It was impressive to see their work with the Local Church and the relationship with the society to bring about the **Reign of the Sacred Heart in the Souls and Society**.

We also had the meaningful celebration of the Solemnity of the Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary together with the 78th Independence Day of our country. We also had the Canonical Visit of our District Superior Rev. Fr. Michael Augustine scj. It was the moment of sharing our joys and difficulties as well as receiving some inputs from him to make our Dehonian religious life joyful and fruitful.

During this month, we celebrated the Gift of life of Fr. Ajit Baxla scj on 25th August 2024 combining it with the Founder's Day celebration of our Founder with the faithful of the Parish and Swearing in of New Parish Council Members of our Parish.

Fr. Ajit Baxla scj





Nativity of the Blessed Mother Navigating the Faith Community

The month of September was a vibrant and spiritually enriching period for our parish community. We embarked on various religious activities, celebrated significant feast days, and engaged in educational initiatives that brought us closer together as a faith community.

One of the highlights of September was the celebration of the Nativity of the Blessed Mother Mary. This significant feast day was marked with great devotion and reverence. The celebrations included a special solemn festal Mass, which was well-attended by parishioners of all ages. The active participation of children and families added a joyful and communal spirit to the festivities. This event was a testament to our parish's deep devotion to Mary and our commitment to celebrating the important milestones in our faith calendar.

In anticipation of Rosary Month, our parish undertook extensive preparations to ensure meaningful participation from all the members. The Rosary Month is a cherished tradition in our community, emphasizing the importance of prayer and the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This year, we began our rosary recitation on September 24th, with a structured plan to cover all 36 units of our parish. Each unit was assigned specific days to lead the rosary, fostering a sense of unity and shared devotion. This careful planning aimed to culminate in a grand conclusion on October 31st, ensuring that the entire parish had the opportunity to participate in this spiritual exercise.

Dn. Dennis SCJ





Formative Programs and Fraternal Celebrations

We are very happy to share some of our experiences in the month of September. Thanks to the Almighty for His blessings and guidance throughout this month. As the Rainy season is coming to an end, our community is working hard to start our work in the vegetable garden. It is a beautiful experience when we come together to work. It really exhibits our sense of brotherhood and the helping nature. Our brothers (both philosophy and Degree), prepare for their exams. On 15th of September, we had community Onam celebration. We invited the families of those who are working in our formative community.

On 17th, we had Area Onam celebration and the Area meeting in our community. It was a good time for our brothers to meet all our fathers of the area and to speak with them and to get to know them through their fraternal interactions. We are also enjoying the presence of Bro. Xavier in our community. He stays with us and also shares his missionary experience in Indonesia which is an inspiration for our young confreres who are in their initial formation. Please continue to pray for our brothers and support them in their vocational journey.

Fr. Christy Peter SCJ





Divine Mercy Church, Parkal, Warangal

Spiritual and Social Activities in the Mission Parish

We are grateful to the Lord for everything that he has been to us. The month of September was filled with so many blessings and we could experience the mercy of God in all the activities that we had in our Divine Mercy Mission Parish.

We had a special Adoration and the Eucharist in our parish; we distributed the food and the fruits to the poor and the needy, and also visited the sick and the suffering. It was a great blessing that inspired some people to undertake this act of love. Fr. Balraju scj, our parish priest, was hospitalized due to dengue fever and recovered by the grace of God. Fr. Kishore scj, had been in our parish, looking after the spiritual needs of our parish for a week and we are so grateful for his availability, care and love that he showed for the people here during his stay.

During this month, Fr. Balaraju had a meeting with the parish Council and the youth to plan out various pastoral and spiritual activities. From this month, we began the devotion of St. Antony of Padua in our parish which will continue for thirteen Tuesdays. We sincerely extend our gratitude for all your payers and for your fraternal support for Fr. Balaraju especially when he was ill.

Br. Arun Gabbetta SCJ





Celebration and Vacation

In the month of September-2024, our students were busy with their preparation and the attendance of their semester exam in the collage, Onam celebration, and vacation. Our students from Kerala had a 10 days Onam vacation and they all returned on 20th of September. On 21st of September, Fr. Christy Peter scj, the Superior of Dehon Vidhya Sadhan accepted our invitation to guide the monthly Recollection to our students. Our Orissa brothers, who were here without having their vacation, were taken for a day of outing with Fr. Ajith scj and Bro. Nithin scj. During their vacation our students could go to Arthunkal community in order to help the community in cleaning the new land purchased recently.

Fr. Abraham SCJ



Thiru Hrudaya Bhavan, Arthunkal

Festivity facilitating Fraternity

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The month of September was a blessing for our community. We were engaged in carrying out our regular ministries. One of our neighbouring parishes invited Fr. Siju to lead the three days of retreat in preparation of their parish feast. Fr. Martin, has recently given the monthly recollection for the minor seminarians (Verapoly diocese). Towards the end of the month our brothers from the minor seminary, along with Fr. Megha have come to our community and helped us in cleaning our land. Fr. Siju is doing the remaining paper works of our land and we have cleansed the land and prepared a temporary road in it. As community we have joined for both onam celebration and meeting of our Area. It was a moment to cherish our fraternal love and really had great time with all fathers and brothers.

Fr. Thomas Raju SCJ



Senior Aspirancy mediating Saviour's Intimacy

Divine Mercy community is a patroal cum formation community. Three fathers and two students stay in this community. Our main ministries are helping the nearby parishes for masses, giving talks, helping them for confession, recollection and retreat, besides we also take care of the spiritual needs of the missionary sisters of charity, Little sisters of the poor and SMI sisters. We keep ourselves occupied with the possible ministries in and around the place we are located.

During this month, we have officially began our senior aspirancy program with two students. We have found a small house (filial house to Divine Mercy Home) to temporarily run the Senior Aspirancy Program. We not only focus on the academic development of the students, but also are training them in all the aspect of formation especially psycho-spiritual aspects, teaching them about our founder, our congregation etc. so that they may be inspired by our Founding Father Leo John Dehon. We are a happy community trying to help and support each other and fraternally correcting each other when one needs help. We pray that we may continue to serve the Church and the Congregation more faithfully leading many more faithful closer to God following the footsteps of Fr. Dehon.

Fr. Lourdu Prem Kumar SCJ





Kundra Bloc, Odisha Mission

Spreading the Fragrance of the Kingdom

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God's glory is shown through human expressions. It still looks amazing and beautiful even though we are limited and trying to express the unlimited glory of God. Therefore, we are just His instruments and the holder of love and the essence of love and the giver of love is God. Only love and glory of God would work for us in spreading the Kingdom of God. Everything that we do becomes fruitful because of holding the spark of the highest glory and the love of God. We the Dehonians keep working hard to make it happen in the midst of difficult situations with love and feel responsible for spreading the aroma of God's love all over the world, specially in Odisha in the midst of the simple people who deserve to know and to experience God's love. As the Psalmist says "declare His glory among the nations, His marvellous works among all the peoples." (Psalm 96:3), we make concrete attempts to proclaim His glory in words and deeds.

Here are some of the special recent events in Odisha mission :-

Fr. Ashit lima scj, the newly ordained priest was welcomed by people of Kundra mission in Odisha

There were also meaningful celebrations such as Founder's day, Assumption of our Blessed Virgin Mary, Independence Day, Birthday celebrations of the simple people in our missions, Solemnity of the birthday of Mother Mary.

We also had the visitation of the sisters from MSST congregation who are planning to collaborate in our mission in Kundra block, Odisha

Our Dehonian fathers, namely Fr.Mathew & Fr. Ashit had a special meeting with the bishop of Rayagada

During the past months we are also engaged in the construction of the new Church in Kumbikkari as part of sustaining the faith of the people in our mission. Through various initiatives we are also spreading our presence through new places of mission, especially extending our love and care to the sick and the suffering humanity in our locality which is our priority in our mission.

Dn. Sabon Nayak SCJ





Innovative Formative Initiatives

The month of September began with much excitement and anticipation, especially surrounding our basketball tournament. While we didn't secure a victory, the experience was far from discouraging. We truly shared and embodied the spirit of unity.

Within our community, we celebrated several significant events. Spiritually, each batch took turns conducting the Holy Eucharistic Adoration every Tuesday, offering a beautiful opportunity for reflection and prayer. We also had the joy of blessing new images erected in the prominent corners of our house, serving as symbols of grace and inspiration in our daily lives.

A special highlight was the celebration of Brother Gowtham's birthday, which brought much joy and a deepened sense of brotherhood to our community. On Teachers' Day, we honoured our formators, expressing heartfelt gratitude for their wisdom, guidance, and unwavering support in our vocational journey.

We were also enriched by insightful sessions on Human Development, offered by Fr. Kiran. His guidance has been instrumental in our growth, and while it was difficult to bid him farewell in this month, his impact will surely continue to resonate with us.

Additionally, we hosted a CRI meeting, providing an excellent opportunity for meaningful discussions and exchange of ideas. Our community recollection, led by Fr. Kiran, was a spiritually enriching experience, offering us profound insights and personal reflections.

As the semester progressed, we embarked on our exams, an important phase in our academic journey. Lastly, we are delighted to welcome Fr. Mahesh to our community. His presence has already been felt positively, and we look forward to his continued contributions to our shared mission.

Br. Kanchi Gowtham SCJ





Pastoral Activities for the Faithful

Month of Rosary: We began the Rosary month. There will be Rosary Rally throughout the month, which goes around the village, covers 30 units.

A day with plus one catechism students: with the permission of the catechism department and the parish priest, the students along with their class teacher (Sr. Mable) visited Home for Physically Disabled and Orphans.

A day for the Priests: On the feast day of St. John Mary Vinay, the BCC has honoured the clergymen and prayed for their priestly ministry and service to the faithful.

A day for youth: At ward level, we organize youth gatherings. It was successful and it was animated by the resource person, the president of Jesus Youth.

Dn. Alex John SCJ



The month of September has marked the beginning of many ventures in academics, cultural activities, and celebrations. Although the month marks the end of the first semester bringing the exam atmosphere, there were also other cultural activities and celebrations within the campus. On September 6th we happened to celebrate the Teacher's Day and Pope's Day. On the 15th we too had Onam celebrations. On 17th we had two lectures conducted in the campus- Talk on religion and politics by the Mayor of Cambridge for which I was given an opportunity to anchor the event and, in the afternoon, we had the annual lectures on Dalit solidarity.

On the 24th September, we embarked on our journey to Kushal Nagar in Mysore to attend the inter-religious dialogue with the Tibetan Buddhist monks on the theme so called **"Building the bridges of understanding: Buddhist and Christian masters come together in unity and discovery"** at Sera Jey Monastic University. Our stay there, was one of the unique experiences that I have ever had in my life, being within the Buddhist monastery for one week has made me to understand and experience their novelty through their hospitality, and kindness. The Holy eucharist was celebrated every day in a private space that was allotted to us and I had the opportunity to go out to see the vicinities of the monastery where I encountered how the Buddhist monks live, learn, debate and pray. There are various disparities between the Christian monks and Buddhist monks but chastity and search for truth is the most common in both religions. Though they have no particular God or even the concept of God, they are led by the virtues of love, compassion, and kindness towards all sentient beings in the process of enlightenment. The main motive of them is to get liberated from the cycle of Samsara and liberation has meaning only when the liberated liberates the others also.

Throughout our exposure we have come across subjects like Buddhist Noble truths, cosmology, phenomenology, psychology, six perfections of Buddhism and science. However, the topics we have dealt are enlightening and opened a new path to look at the reality from Buddhist perspective. There will be lots of ambiguities and confusions when we read about a religion and its practices merely in a printed volumes but standing on their feet and looking at the reality helped us understand Buddhist religion and their way of life.

The formation of the monks studying there consists of 20 years of intense specialization to get minimum graduation in study on Buddhism. Four to six more years are to be done in order to get the doctorate in Buddhist philosophy. However, the time allowed me to learn the great things through experience and taught me the great virtues of kindness, generosity, hospitality, and compassion from their very life. We had also the opportunity to make a visit to the Golden Temple and some other tourist areas nearby. The month of September has been completed with its rich commitments and fulfilments in my life granting me many opportunities to grow and to explore.

Br. Nirmal Uppati SCJ
DVK, Bangalore



Sacred Heart Parish Church, Nambur

Extending a Helping Hand to the Needy

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The month of September was filled with God's blessings in all the activities of our parish community. Some of the significant events include:

The Birthday of Mother Mary:

We celebrated the birthday of Mother Mary with great fervour and devotion. The event began with a solemn Mass, celebrated by Fr. Naveen. After the Mass, delicious food was served to all the people. The celebration concluded with a beautiful cake-cutting ceremony, accompanied by the singing of "Happy Birthday" and Marian hymns.

Tuition at Our Parish:

There are tuition classes at our parish Church from Monday to Saturday at 6 pm. The tuition teacher, along with Deacon Vinod, takes care of the children. We also celebrated Teachers' Day with great enthusiasm, offering a heartfelt tribute to the tireless efforts of educators who shape young minds.

The Floods:

A severe flood affected Nambur village due to the heavy rainfall and the overflow of nearby rivers. Many people were badly impacted as floodwaters entered their homes. In response, Fr. Naveen provided bed sheets as flood relief. We distributed bed sheets to around 80 people who were in need.

Dn. Vinod Koduru SCJ





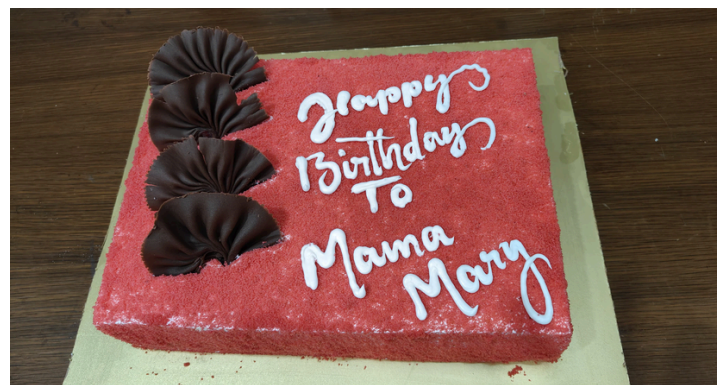
Festive Season in the Parish Community

Greetings to all of you from the Divine Mercy Church Kalher, Bhiwandi (Maharashtra). The month of September was the Festive season for our Parish as we had the celebration of **Teachers Day, Monti Fest, Onam** and the Feast of the **Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary**.

We celebrate the Teachers Day as most of our parishioners are involved in the teaching field to honor and to encourage them as they impart the knowledge to our parish children spiritually as well as academically. Monti Fest is the celebration of the Konkani speaking people especially of the Mangalorian community. Monti refers to the name **"Mary"** and it is celebrated together with the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary to offer the first fruits of harvest to God as it is also the harvest feast just like the celebration of the Feast of Onam.

All these celebrations, we had celebrated together on 8th of September with the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To prepare ourselves and celebrate meaningfully the Birthday of our Blessed Mother Mary, we had Nine days of Novena. All the Nine days Novena were distributed among the various community of the Parish to organize and animate the liturgy.

Fr. Ajit Baxla scj



My Holiday Experience: A Journey of Connection and Celebration

This holiday season was truly memorable as I had the chance to reconnect with family and engage with my community in meaningful ways. Each visit brought its own unique experiences, making this time special.

Visiting Family

The highlight of my holidays was undoubtedly spending quality time with my family. Being together again, sharing love and laughter and prayer together, reminded me of the bonds that keep us close, even when I am far away in mission of Christ. I could celebrate my gift of life (birthday) with my parents and family members after many years. The experiences I had during holidays, I'll cherish for years to come. During my stay at home, I could visit my parish every day for mass and spiritual activities.

Visiting our Minor Seminary: Dehon Prema Nilayam, Gorantla

One of the wonderful moments of my holiday was visiting the minor seminary. It was inspiring to see the dedication and commitment of the students there. I had the opportunity to engage in thoughtful discussions about faith and vocation through my life example, I could joyfully take part in the Founder's Day celebrations and it gave me all the more joy when I met and spent good amount of time and sharing of joy and love with my confreres from Andhra and Telangana area. I felt very happy to preside over the Eucharist on August 15, which marks the Independence day of India and hosted the flag by the invitation of Fr. Mariano Fernandes SCJ. Fr. Vimal Thiagarajan SCJ, Fr. Kishore Chelli SCJ, Fr. Kiran Silarapu SCJ, Fr. Moses Thanagala SCJ and Bro. Raviteja SCJ.

I am very thankful the Gorantla community and fathers over there for giving me accommodation and for the fraternal invitation to spend my time in the community.

Visiting the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Nambur:

My visit to the parish was another highlight by the loving invitation and acceptance by Rev. Fr. Naveen SCJ and Dn. Vinodh SCJ. It was wonderful to see familiar faces and to participate in the parish's activities. In a special way Fr. Naveen SCJ asked me to preside over the Mass on the occasion of the 10th Anniversary of Legion of Mary and there after joining in the fellowship meal reminded me of the importance of pastoral activity in our spiritual lives. The sense of belonging and shared faith was palpable, and it reinforced my commitment to being an active part of the parish community.

I thank sincerely Fr. Naveen SCJ and Dn. Vinod SCJ.

Visiting the Divine Mercy Parish at Parkal, in Warangal:

My visit to the parish was a wonderful experience by the loving invitation by Rev. Fr. Balraj Sampathi SCJ and Bro. Arun SCJ. It was wonderful to see our new presence in my home Diocese of Warangal. In a special way Fr. Balraj SCJ asked me to preside over the Mass on the occasion of the solemnity of the Nativity of Mary and thereafter joining in the fellowship meal to strengthen our Dehonian bonding in our spiritual lives.

I thank sincerely Fr. Balraj S SCJ and Bro. Arun SCJ.

Visiting Christu Dehon Nivas, the Theology House

Next, I visited the theology house, where Fr. Sundar SCJ, Fr. Jayaraj SCJ, Bro. Sajeevan SCJ and all brothers invited me joyfully with love and laughter. Fr. Sundar the rector of the Seminary gave me opportunity to share my international experience which I have been experiencing in Rome. And he also invited me to preside over the Eucharist in our community; Fr. Jayaraj SCJ invited me to preside over the Eucharist at the Holy Family brothers seminary. It was a rich experience filled with lot of memories to recall my olden days especially before coming to Rome I was in this community and recalled all those days.

I thank sincerely Fr. Sundar SCJ, Fr. Jayaraju SCJ, Fr. Kiran SCJ, Bro. Sajeevan SCJ and all brothers.

Visiting Social Service center in Eluru:

It was a great time with Fr. Jojappa SCJ and Fr. Adam SCJ as I spent time together with them in sharing our experiences and followed by sharing of a fraternal lunch.

Visiting the Sacred Heart Renewal Center in Nambur:

My visit to the Sacred Heart Renewal Centre added a reminder of my novitiate days. I could have a fellowship dinner with the community by the very invitation of Fr. Joseph Gopu, Fr. Bhaskar Yeruva, Fr. Raju Dummala, Fr. Ravindra Uppuluri, Fr. Benerji Gera and Bro. Harish. I am sincerely thankful to the community for the love and care.

Visiting the District house at Chennai:

With love and care Fr. Micheal Augustine SCJ, the district superior invited me to come to the District House and to spend time and to partake in the Holy Matrimony of his nephew and the birthday celebrations of his cousin sister, so that I can happily fly to Rome from Chennai Airport. I could spend a quality time with the community in Chennai.

I was privileged to attend the wedding celebration. Celebrating love and commitment in such a joyful setting was a beautiful way to cap off my visits. The ceremony was filled with emotion, laughter, and hope for the future. Relaxing and celebrating with friends and family made the day unforgettable, and it reminded me of the joy that community brings during significant life events.

I thank sincerely Fr. Micheal Augustine SCJ, Fr. Praveen Kumar SCJ, Fr. Maria Pavan SCJ and Bro. Mathew Nayak SCJ

Conclusion

Overall, my holiday experience was a perfect blend of family, faith, and celebration. Each visit contributed to a greater sense of connection and belonging, enriching my spirit and reminding me of the importance of relationships in our lives. As I return to everyday life, I carry these memories with me, looking forward to nurturing the bonds I've strengthened during this special time. I am very grateful to the Congregation and to the District who made this trip possible for me. Seeking your prayerful blessings and support for my studies on Communication in Rome, the Eternal City.

Fr. Harish Kumar SCJ



Pastoral Initiatives and Persistent Challenges in the Mission

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want (Ps 23:1)

Dear beloved confreres in the Sacred Heart of Jesus, greetings and peace of Christ from Ananthapalli Mission Parish. The following are the pastoral and spiritual activities that are undertaken in our parish in the month of September.

We have begun to construct a new grotto to our beloved Mother Mary in one of the substation churches namely Subadrapalem. We motivated the people to help us in this construction. So one family came forward to take up this task of constructing the grotto. With the help of the people and the energetic work of the youth, we have done almost half of the work. We will soon finish this work. We have also motivated the people to paint the entire Church because after the inauguration no one painted it. Some people came forward to help us. We are planning to finish this project by the end of December and to inaugurate this new grotto in the month of January in the presence of our bishop.

As some of you might know about one of the substation Churches namely Thelikicherla where we faced lots of problems with the people and the catechist who rebelled against the priests and the catholic Church and took away 100 families and started his own Church. After the long discussion and prayers, we have taken a decision to bring the bishop of Eluru to this Church on the 27th anniversary of the Church which will be held on 21st of December 2024 to have a fresh beginning. It is a great pastoral challenge for us but we rely on the Providence of God's help.

So we request each of you to keep us in your prayers. We thank each and every one who are supporting us directly and indirectly with your prayers.

Fr. Ravi Kumar SCJ

Fr. Jesu Prasad SCJ





Formators as Teachers Fostering Talents

As we reflect on the month of September, we are filled with gratitude for the numerous blessings and graces bestowed upon our community. This month was marked by the significant events that fostered unity and appreciation among the members. We had the community meeting on 2nd where we discussed various changes, aimed at enhancing the well-being of our community. This platform allowed the members to voice out their opinions and collaborate on initiatives that strengthen our bonds and improve our shared commitment.

On September 5th, we celebrated teachers day in a heartfelt Manner. Our students organised a surprise event to honour the fathers in our community, recognising their invaluable roles as teachers and as educators. The students eloquently highlighted the great qualities of the fathers and expressed their respect and reverence to a special felicitation ceremony. This event not only showcased the student's creativity but also reinforced the appreciation of our fathers' contribution.

September was also a month of joy as we celebrated several birthdays. On 14th, we celebrated the birthday of Sritam, creating joyful memories for him and for his loved ones. On September 15th we celebrated the birthday of Fr Vimal scj. On this beautiful occasion he expressed his heartfelt gratitude to all the community members for their support and presence in his life making the day truly memorable.

Finally, September was a month filled with gratitude, celebrations, and community spirit. We thank God for his blessings and look forward to continued growth and unity in the coming months.

Br..Ravi Teja Madanu SCJ



All-embracing Albanian Experience of Administering the Sacraments

Greetings to all from Dehonians, Albania.

Here I would like to narrate my ministry and mission experience in Albania.

As I am working in the parish community, our daily programmes are related in serving the people in different ways, in their spiritual needs, like visiting the sick people and administering the sacraments of anointing the sick and distributing the holy communion, and going for house blessings etc.

And regarding material needs, distribution of food items for the poor, and to be part of some social activities. During the summer, we were busy in preparing and administering the sacraments of baptism, matrimony and confirmations. With the help of the youth from our parish, we had organised the summer camps for children. It was so beautiful to have this mission experience with the youth.

As we have started the academic year 2024-2025, we have also started the Catechism for children preparing for the first Communion and for the sacraments of confirmation a good number of children are registered from different mission stations of our parish and we have fixed the timings for the Catechism.

Overall my experience is very meaningful and everything is going on well. Also from time to time there are community meetings to review our lives and our Dehonian mission in Albania.

Fr. Moses Sayala SCJ



