



THE DISTRICT OF INDIA

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THE DISTRICT UPDATES

Birthday Celebration



Bro. Delmar Jorn greets Fr. Sudhir kujur.

On September 11, the Scholasticate community along with the District Administration organized an early birthday celebration for Bro. Delmar Jorn because he will be in the United States on his birthday. All of the communities in the Bangalore area came together to highlight this evening celebration, which began with a beautiful prayer service led by the Scholasticate community staff and the Brothers. The theme of the prayer was gratitude. It was a celebration of happiness and gratitude for Bro. Del and his service to the District.

Onam Celebration

On August 31, the Nirmal Deep (SM Novitiate) and the Nazareth Nilaya (FMI Novitiate) communities came together in Nirmal Deep to celebrate Onam, an annual harvest festival grandly celebrated all over Kerala. The day's celebration started with a "pookalam" (flower decoration) in front of the altar in the chapel. Both of the novitiate communities came around the altar by noon to celebrate the Eucharist and thank God for the blessings that we receive through the farmers.



The participants of the Oman day celebration.

The staff and novices cooked 15 varieties of traditional vegetarian meals and served them on banana leaves for the participants. After the meal, the participants played the Onam games with lots of enthusiasm, and the joyous day came to completion with evening tea.

CRDP Binda



The workshop participants at CRDP Binda.

In August and September, CRDP Binda organized several workshops for the villagers about farming, mashroom cultivation, and handicraft. Many villagers participated in these workshops and had an opportunity to interact with the trainers and the fellow villagers. All these workshops aimed to help the villagers earn a good income.



New Measures with Hope



The ongoing pandemic continues to disrupt many of our normal activities and our day-to-day lives. Our educational institutions in the District are trying their best to reach out their students through online platforms so that their education is not disrupted, regardless of the pandemic crisis. In this news update, Bro. Saju Chittadiyil shares with us the ongoing crisis' impact upon the St. Joseph Chaminade Academy.

Bro. Saju started his teaching career at Morning Star School Bharoul, Nepal, where he taught high school for two years, then became the school principal. In June of 2010 he was appointed the first principal of Jacob Gapp School, Khammam, Telegana. After the completion of advanced studies in education, in 2016 he was assigned to St. Joseph Chaminade Academy, Deepahalli, Bangalore. Here are his responses to common questions being raised during the pandemic:

Could you tell us about St. Joseph Chaminade Academy?

St. Joseph Chaminade Academy (SJCA) was established in the year 2013 at Deepahalli. The school had a humble beginning, with just 18 students, but has grown significantly to 350 students, considering the locality. At present, SJCA has classes from Pre-Kg to Grade VII.

These days, how are you conducting classes at St. Joseph Chaminade Academy?

SJCA was the first school in the neighborhood to embrace online classes. The schools in the state are supposed to begin the academic year in the first week of June. While many schools were still thinking about online classes, SJCA began conducting them from June 3. Since then, we have been conducting such classes online, using the latest technology and making learning happen. Our teachers record their teaching, then post it on the mobile app, which is available for students 24/7 to view and learn.

What app/tools do you use for online teaching?

At SJCA, we use the Google Classroom app for our online classes. Thanks to Google for accepting our 'G-suit for Education' application and giving us access to create a username for each student under the stjosephchaminade.com domain. We use Google Classroom app for grades from Pre-Kg to IV. The recorded videos of lessons are posted, assignments are posted, and even the exams are conducted there.

We use another app called "Pocket Study" for live classes for grades V to VII. The Pocket Study app is a subsidiary of My Class Campus app, which has been used by schools since 2017. Through this app, teachers are able to see the students, teach them, and interact with them regarding any questions or clarifications.



How many hours does a student need to attend classes online?

Students from grades V to VII have three classes per day and each class lasts 30 minutes. They have 15 minutes between each class to give them a break for their eyes and mental stress. We believe it is not important to have long hours of class, but to have short amounts of time with students who are eager and excited to learn. For students from Pre-KG to grade IV, the recorded videos are posted three days a week (Monday, Wednesday and Friday). The videos are available for them to view at any time. Therefore, there is no specific time limit for these students.

How do you evaluate the progress of the students?

It is difficult to evaluate the actual learning of students without being present with them. But we are happy that the students are enjoying the classes and the videos that our teachers are posting. One of the parents commented that “before, my child was only interested in comics on YouTube; now she is interested in watching the teacher’s videos and imitating them.” We conducted a formal assessment last month; the students took the test from home under the supervision of their parents. The results were good, showing that students are learning from these classes.



Have you organized any extracurricular activities online?

We believe that students should have the opportunity to do other things as well as the studies. Therefore, we are also giving classes for karate, dance, and yoga on recorded videos. We also conducted a few competitions such as dance, gardening, singing, etc. Nearly 50% of our students are participating and competing in these activities.

What is your advice to the students during this pandemic?

We believe that some students and parents are under the impression that this academic year will pass without much teaching and learning. They believe that they will be promoted to the next class at the end of the academic year whether they take classes seriously or not. Though it may be true, we believe that they will be losers for avoiding class this year because the curriculum is built progressively. Therefore, missing one step of the curriculum will cause them problems in the future. Therefore, our advice to the students is to attend the classes and learn as much as possible without ignoring it.

What are the advantages/disadvantages of teaching and learning online for the students?

The advantage of the online class is to keep the students in touch with the learning process when face-to-face classes are not possible. The disadvantage of the online class is that students can easily get distracted on their mobile phone/tablet/computer since there are unlimited possibilities for entertainment on those devices, which students can easily access when there is no one to monitor them.



What are the reactions of the parents about the online classes?

We feel that there are mixed feelings among the parents about the online classes. Some are very interested and very appreciative of this, while others are doubtful about their success. Parents who monitor students in their daily tasks and classes realize that a great deal of learning is happening, while parents who are unable to accompany their children are doubtful about the outcome.

Do you recommend school learning through online classes?

I do not personally recommend online learning to children who are below 15 years old. But it is important to have some learning going on when no other means are feasible.

How are you assisting your fellow teachers to conduct online classes?



Like anyone else, our teachers had to go through a learning process before they started to teach. We conducted three orientation days in which the app was introduced, and basic training was done. Teachers also did mock classes, using other teachers as students, and received feedback. We are fortunate to have teachers who were able to adapt to the situation quickly and learned the online methods quickly.

What are the most common barriers you see to academic progress in an online classroom?

We are lacking that personal contact with the students, as there are no face-to-face classes. Most student difficulties were solved inside the classroom with some personal touch/encouragement/motivation. In the online class, the teachers and students do not have those opportunities, which I believe affects the students' learning.



Teachers' Day



Bro. Paulus Lakra, the director of REDS Ranchi, lights a lamp to mark the teachers' day celebration.

In India, Teachers' Day is celebrated on September 5, the birthday of India's former President of India, Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. He was also a great scholar who highlighted the importance of teachers' roles in the lives of students. Usually on this day, students of our educational institutions across the District organize some celebration to mark the contributions of their teachers. However, this year the Teachers' Day celebration was very different due to the pandemic situation. Some of our schoolteachers came together to celebrate the day and they sent good wishes to their students through an online platform.

REDS Bengaluru



The Brothers with the beneficiaries.

During the last five months, REDS Bengaluru continues to engage in easing the pain of the

slum dwellers by distributing food provisions, vegetables, and cleaning supplies. In recent days, Bro. Showraiah Ravulapalli, the director of REDS Bengaluru, along with all the Infant Nilaya community's Brothers distributed essential food supplies to two-hundred families. The beneficiaries are extremely grateful to the Brothers and the REDS Program.

REDS Ranchi



A REDS staff distributes facemasks to a woman.

REDS Ranchi tirelessly tries its best to reach out the needy and to assist them in the time of their ongoing pandemic cries. In recent days, the staff has visited each and every family of the REDS children, has distributed masks for all family members, and checked their temperature. Apart from these regular visits, the staff has constantly advised the children and their parents about the importance of taking care of their physical and mental health.

Prayer Requests

Let's pray for the world that continues to be affected by the Coronavirus pandemic. May God heal those who are infected. May God bless those working to heal the sick. May God give us the strength to overcome this pandemic. May God help us to remain steadfast in His love. May He grant eternal peace to those who have lost their lives to this virus.

Mrs. Thelma Brohammer, the older sister of Bro. Delmar Jorn, passed away at the age of 91 on September 9. Let's pray for her soul and offer our deepest condolences to Bro. Delmar and those who miss her.

Mr. Panneerselvam, the uncle of Fr. Josephraj, passed away on September 11. Kindly pray for all his family members who mourn the loss. May his soul rest in peace.

Mr. Charles Kullu, the father of Bro. Anup Kullu, passed away on September 24. Kindly pray for the peace of Bro. Anup and those who mourn his loss. May his soul rest in peace.

Please pray for the Brothers who celebrate their birthdays during the month of October:

01 Minj, Vijay

06 Jorn, Delmar

11 Xalxo, Livens Peter

17 Kullu, Anup Ranjan

18 Soreng, Telesphore

26 Tete, Julius

30 Surin, Amit

