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COMMUNITY

VOICE OF THE SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES

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EDITORIAL

COME, HOLY SPIRIT, ON THE SCCs IN OUR ARCHDIOCESE

Pentecost (from the Greek *Pentekoste*), the 50th day after Easter, is the Feast which celebrates the descent of the Holy Spirit on Mary and the Apostles in the Upper Room. It has its origin in the Jewish Feast of Weeks, which used to be 50 days after the Passover, when the first fruits of the corn harvest were offered to God (Deuteronomy 16:9). For us Christians, Pentecost is an important Feast, as the Holy Spirit whom we have received on the day of our Baptism, challenges us to go out and proclaim the Good News that Jesus is alive, just as the Apostles did when they received the Holy Spirit.

The outpouring of the Holy Spirit is vividly described to us in the Book of the Acts of the Apostles (cfr 2:1-4). What strikes us most in the passage is that two powerful images are used to refer to the Holy Spirit – mighty **wind and fire**. On the day of Pentecost, the apostles in the Upper Room heard a sound like that of a mighty **wind**. Wind symbolises the Holy Spirit, as Jesus Himself said, “The Spirit blows where it chooses” (John 3:8). The image of the wind reminds us that God cannot be controlled; He is a God of surprises. He knows how best to act in a given situation. No one on earth has the power to manipulate God. He is the beginning and the end; the Alpha and Omega. The second image used for the Holy Spirit is that of **fire**. The Acts of the Apostles describes it thus, “Divided tongues of fire appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them.” Fire, as we know, has the purifying characteristic; it removes rust/dross (Matthew 3:11). We can get gold only after it is “tested by fire”. The Holy Spirit purifies us from being selfish, individualistic and self-centred people to becoming other-centred and selfless, like the Apostles of the Risen Jesus Christ.

The Feast of the Pentecost is referred to as the Birthday of the Church, since it marks the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles. The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains, “On the day of Pentecost, when the seven weeks of Easter had come to an end, Christ’s Passover is fulfilled in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, manifested, given and communicated as a divine person; of His fullness, Christ, the Lord, pours out the Spirit in abundance.” (CCC 731-732). As soon as Peter received the Holy Spirit, he wasted no time on “this birthday of the Church”, and proceeded to baptise 3,000 individuals. This has been seen as the beginning of the Church, thanks to the Holy Spirit – the Feast of the Pentecost.

Having received the Holy Spirit on the day of our Baptism and having ratified the promises made on our behalf by our parents and godparents on the day of our Confirmation, we have no other option but to go out and fulfil the mission of the Church as commanded by Jesus: “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19). We can realize the Mission of the Church in our Small Christian Communities (SCCs) by the way we interact with our brothers and sisters, beginning at home, and moving into the neighbourhood, when we are walking on the streets, at our places of work, in our parish community and in our society, and surely, in our country. Though the situation in our country may not be conducive towards direct evangelisation, we can for sure, make Christ known to so many people, including those of other faiths, by our very lives – the way we speak, our conduct and character, etc. This can become the medium that makes people remark: “See how they love one another.”

The vision statement of the SCCs in our Archdiocese, ***No one in want***, is a very good motivator that must enthuse us to ensure that no one, including people of other faiths, is in want. These are our brothers and sisters, and should not go to bed hungry, or be deprived of education and/or medical facilities, because of lack of financial resources. It is our duty to reach out in service in our SCCs and clusters, so that we truly live as the early Apostles lived, where there was sharing and caring, as mentioned in the Book of the Acts of the Apostles. It is when we live as brothers and sisters, it is when we reach out to those on the peripheries – the poor, marginalised, exploited, have-nots, in short, the insignificant ones – that we will be able to proclaim by our very lives that “we are a Spirit-filled people”. Barriers of caste, creed or colour should not pose a problem; rather, break those barriers and build bridges of love, caring and sharing, as did the early Apostles.

For 2000 years, the Holy Spirit has been guiding the Barque of St Peter – the Catholic Church – towards the port of salvation, which is heaven. Through many a difficult time, the Church has struggled, and continues to struggle, but moves ahead courageously. Pentecost reminds us that we need to continue to listen to, and be guided by, the Holy Spirit. May the words of the hymn *Veni Sancte Spiritus* (Come, Holy Spirit) be continually on our lips, so that we can truly experience a renewal in our lives. Filled with the Holy Spirit, may we be challenged to make the SCCs in our Archdiocese truly Christian and truly Spirit-filled, ensuring that there is ***no one in want***, irrespective of religious beliefs, that we may consider each one as our brother or sister, no matter what the situation.

✠**Barthol Barretto**
Auxiliary Bishop of Bombay and
Bishop in-charge of SCCs
Archdiocese of Bombay

AN EASTER PEOPLE EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

We are an Easter people, and Alleluia is our song.

The Easter season, that follows the feast of Easter, is much looked forward to by believers in the faith. All of us, consciously or unconsciously, observed some Lenten practice of Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. This Lenten observance that culminates on Good Friday, and leads to the remembrance of our Lord's Resurrection on Easter Sunday, allows us to experience a sense of spiritual rejuvenation by helping us relook at our life, and the way we deal with the people we interact with or those around us.

It is our belief that the suffering and death of Jesus on the Cross was transformed by the Resurrection which promises us the joys of eternal life. As practising Catholics, we live this belief every day.

The Acts of the Apostles and the New Testament readings that describe the actions of the Apostles and of the early Church are fascinating, as they reveal how the Church evolved after the Resurrection of Jesus. Pentecost, the feast celebrated 50 days after Easter, is the occasion of the descent of the Holy Spirit on the disciples. Our Lord knew that we would need the power of the Holy Spirit to guide us and take forward His mission on earth.

Today, the Church puts the spotlight on Community in the larger sense of the word – our family, friends, neighbours, locality, people of other faiths. It was Jesus' mandate to His followers to go out and spread the good news. The Holy Spirit empowers us in this mission.

The early Christians, the Apostles and Evangelists, told the story of Jesus, the parables, beatitudes, values and the need for prayer. Though first preached 2000 years ago, the gospel values taught are relevant, or rather, more relevant today. Our life can be the best example of preaching the gospel. With the Holy Spirit, we need to go out of our way to journey together with our family and friends, neighbours, and all those we meet.

We are an Easter people; Alleluia is our song.

Let's join hands with community for that is where we belong.

Let's strive to give our time and talent for that is what we can do.

Let's journey together in our Communities, the new way of being Church so true.

Lest the Lord ask us, "I blessed you graciously, but what did you do?"

Michelle Pinto
Parish SCC Coordinator
Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Orlem



LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD

MY JOURNEY AS PARISH SCC COORDINATOR AND A MEMBER OF ART

Signing off as Parish SCC Coordinator at Sacred Heart Church, Andheri East, after 6+1 eventful years, I am filled with mixed feelings – of satisfaction and fulfilment for all that we were able to achieve in these seven years (which included the tough pandemic years), and immense gratitude for the guidance and encouragement received from every quarter which helped us achieve our goals.

I was appointed Parish SCC Coordinator in 2016 for a term of three years, and re-appointed for another three years in 2019 (plus the extra year that was granted in April 2022).

LOOKING BACK

My role as Parish SCC Coordinator involved working in close coordination with Bishop Barthol Barretto, my own Parish Clergy team, the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) and the SCC Coordinators of my parish, to foster communitarian growth, spirituality, and ensure the smooth functioning of the SCCs in the parish.

I have chosen to elaborate on the following six key aspects; these in no way undermine the other features of the SCC Ministry. Our efforts and passion to grow the SCCs of the Parish into an epic Ministry will continue, irrespective of the odds encountered.

- **Steering Committee Meeting (SCM)**

The Steering Committee Meeting is an extremely important aspect of the SCC Ministry of any parish, and MUST be held regularly; monthly if possible, or bi-monthly, or once in three months. The Steering Committee includes the Spiritual Director of the Parish SCCs, and the Community Coordinators through whom the communitarian spirit percolates down to the families. Being sensitive to the needs of the parishioners and addressing their misconceptions and challenges is of paramount importance. Through sharing of success stories at the SCM, SCCs that are faltering can bring themselves up to speed. The Minutes of the SCM must be sent to the Archdiocesan SCC Office (via email on bombayscc@gmail.com) for Bishop Barthol's perusal and valuable inputs.

- **Quarterly Reports (QRs)**

The QRs of each SCC, listing the regular and extraordinary activities in the prescribed format, should be forwarded at the end of every quarter via email to the Archdiocesan SCC Office, duly supported by the individual SCC reports, and accompanied by a comprehensive covering note, signed by the Parish SCC Coordinator and the Priest in-charge of SCCs in the parish. The deadline for each quarter is 15 days of the subsequent month.

- **Monthly Reflection Paper**

The monthly Reflection Paper which is released online on the first day of every month by Bp Barthol Barretto should be cascaded to every animator, immediately. It must reach every family in the parish through the communication network. This

Reflection Paper (along with Bp Barthol's Circular) is topical and can be used for SCC and cluster meetings as well as individual action.

- **SCC Core Group Meetings**

The SCC Core Group Meetings are mandatory and should be attended by the animators of the SCC. The presence of the respective Spiritual Director and the guidance they offer add to the value of the meeting. These meetings consist of two parts: prayer and reflection and the business matters. The business matters help us understand the needs of the community and the expectations at the parish level and accordingly strategise and execute.

- **Training**

Training is a vital component of the SCCs, and must feature in the annual calendar of the parish. Animators must be encouraged to enrol for the TOA (Training of Animators) course, Skills for SCC Animators and other related short/long term courses. Besides organising training at the parish level, each deanery must organise at least one interactive training session for all Animators during the year.

- **Parish SCC Rally**

A question often asked at the PPC is the meaning and necessity of a Parish SCC Rally. It may be explained as the coming together of the parishioners in Prayer and Solidarity towards the Small Christian Community Movement, the largest ministry in any parish with a humanitarian agenda. A standalone celebration of the SCC Rally would help parishioners understand its significance better.



THE WAY FORWARD:

- **Clusters**

Clusters are the need of the hour and will pave the way for a more participative Church. Clusters aim to evoke a sense of belonging, caring, nurturing, and of course, discovering hitherto untapped talent in the neighbourhood. Bp Barthol Barretto has been urging the parishes of the Archdiocese of Bombay to make a start. Several SCCs in many parishes have reported success; many are still struggling. It is imperative that in the next couple of years, the Archdiocese of Bombay can boast of many functioning clusters.

- **Small Human Communities (SHC)**

At the Andheri Deanery Training programme on February 19, 2023, Rev. Fr Gerard Rodricks SJ, the Priest Coordinator of the Andheri Deanery, explained the necessity of foraying into Small Human Communities thus: “In India, with just 3% of the population being Christian, we need to ask ourselves where our other 97% brothers and sisters are. Here is where Small Human Communities (SHC) come in.” Fr Gerard clarified that SHC does not replace SCC. While SCC meetings will carry on, we must also have occasional SHC meetings and gatherings, to share our religious values or just pray together.

- **Deanery SCC Rally in 2023-2024**

While many parishes have had their Parish SCC Rallies in 2022-2023, it is now important and imperative that we come together, deanery-wise, to celebrate our ONENESS as members of the Small Christian Community. It is advisable to organise the Deanery Rally in the winter months which are more comfortable, weather-wise.

ART FOR SCCS

- The ART (Archdiocesan Resource Team) is the Think-Tank of the SCCs under the leadership of Bp Barthol Barretto. I was inducted into ART in November 2019. Bp Barthol and the ART members meet every quarter.
- The ART members were instrumental in conducting the Synod deliberations for the SCCs in all the parishes of the Archdiocese of Bombay, and submitting the findings to the Synod Coordinating Committee for further action.

Candida Mendoza

Member of ART for SCCs

Parish SCC Coordinator, Sacred Heart Church, Andheri



(Click the image above to watch the video)

A living Church is a Church in movement. And ecclesial movements, as Pope Francis says in this month's video produced by the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, "are a gift, they are a treasure in the Church."

DECODING THE ROLE OF THE SCC ANIMATORS

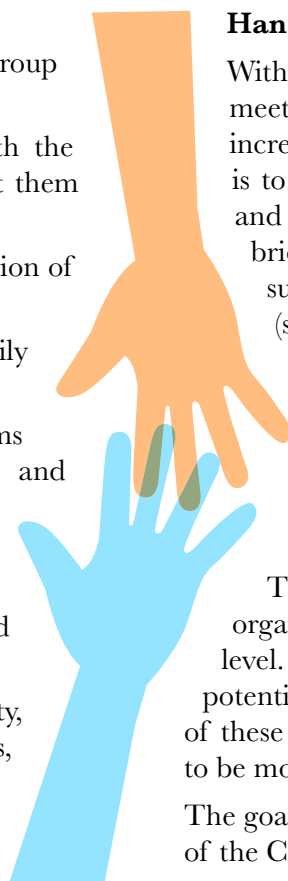
So, you've signed up to be an SCC animator... but apart from a vague idea about your role and duties, you have no clue what to do. Here we go, with some basic definitions and ideas on what next.

The word 'Animator' comes from the Latin word "Anima", which means to give life, to make something active. So an animator is called to do just that – activate and move a group of families that are in close proximity to come together and function as a cluster or an SCC. An animator is the link that binds the SCCs together.

Animators are chosen on the basis of their good will and desire to serve in the community. Humility, love and the readiness to serve are basic qualities required. Each Animator is responsible for a Cluster – a group of about 10 families in close proximity to each other and to her/him.

In her/his role, the animator has to:

- Attend the monthly SCC Core Group meetings without fail.
- Regularly visit and stay in touch with the families allotted to her/him and assist them in times of need.
- Be involved in the planning and execution of Community programmes.
- Maintain relationships with each family in their cluster.
- Identify potential talents and charisms that can be developed, encouraged and utilised for the programmes of the community and the parish as a whole.
- Think of new, meaningful programmes and activities that would be relevant and appeal to their Cluster members.
- Know the members of their community, especially their cluster – their problems, strengths, weaknesses and needs.
- Be the link between these families and the SCC Core Group.
- Be aware of the activities and happenings in the Church and parish.
- Understand the concept of SCCs clearly themselves.
- Attend training programmes regularly to hone her/his skills and acquire new ones.
- Work in a team; not dominate or dictate.
- Share information; enable others to perform and succeed.
- Be organised with Cluster data, prioritise and maintain a schedule of activities.



Handling Cluster meetings

Within their cluster, the animator would need to meet at least six times in a year. You are welcome to increase this frequency. The format of the meeting is to be kept simple – an opening prayer, sharing and discussion of the online Reflection Paper, a brief enquiry about the families of those gathered, suggestions/solutions if within one's purview (serious matters can and should be shared with the Spiritual Director of the SCC), closing prayer and a brief informal interaction with the members. There is no compulsion to serve refreshments. Each meeting must be attended by at least one member of each family in the cluster.

There are various Training Programmes organised at the Parish, Deanery and Archdiocesan level. The Animators, Coordinators and other potential leaders are encouraged to take advantage of these programmes, so that they are better equipped to be more effective in their ministry.

The goal of the SCCs is to reach out to every member of the Community, and thereby meet every need in the community. The Animator with her/his special skills can bring to life the various gifts and talents of the members of the community through spiritual, cultural, social and outreach activities.

So, you see, you play an important role in your SCC. The good news – there is no tenure for Animators. You can be an animator for as long as you wish.

Here's wishing you the best in your 'animation' journey.

Praneeta D'Souza

Parish SCC Coordinator, Sacred Heart Church, Vashi
Member of ART for SCCs

SCC RALLIES

CELEBRATING A FRATERNAL COMMUNITY OUR LADY OF FATIMA CHURCH, SEWRI



Our Lady of Fatima Church, Sewri held its SCC Rally on Sunday, February 05, 2023. This was a memorable event for all of us, as it was also the Diamond Jubilee year of our Church which was consecrated to Our Lady of Fatima on February 02, 1963.

Rev. Fr Gilbert De Lima, who has been in priestly ministry for about four decades, and who was recently appointed as the new Executive Secretary of the CCBI Commission for Theology & Doctrine was the main celebrant at Mass. Fr Gilbert's homily with a dash of wit and humour was quite interesting! He focused on the role of SCCs in parishes and the challenges Community Coordinators and their teams face. He cited situations where he too faced similar challenges while visiting communities and how he overcame them, encouraging and motivating the Animators present.

After Mass, all proceeded to the hall, where, after light refreshments, an interesting programme awaited us. Our Parish Priest, Rev. Fr Byron Mendonca, and the Pastoral team, along with Fr Gilbert and the Chief Guest, Mr Adrian Rosario, inaugurated the function. Our talented comperes, Carren Bryne and John Alberto, not only kept us entertained with their amusing conversations between items, but also conducted interesting games which were enjoyed by all.

The Welcome song set us all in the mood as the SCCs presented thought-provoking songs on love and unity based on the Rally theme, 'Celebrating A Fraternal Community'. Meaningful skits with a sense of wittiness served as eye-openers to the audience. One of the most

interesting games was the traditional Bombing the City, played without anyone from their seats.

Our Chief Guest, Mr Adrian Rosario, of the Archdiocesan Resource Team (ART) took us through an interesting presentation which displayed the functioning of SCCs, the challenges SCCs faced and the Way Forward. George Andrade, the former Parish SCC Coordinator, took us on a trip down memory lane, rekindling the Parish SCC History and enlightening the audience about all the hard work put in by the previous Pastors and lay leaders of the parish. Genevieve Dias, the current Parish SCC Coordinator, presented a report of the parish activities for the past year and thanked all the Community Coordinators for their selfless commitment towards building their communities, like shepherds who take care of their flocks. Maxim Albuquerque, the Assistant Parish SCC Coordinator, on behalf of the eight communities, presented the activities of each community. A moment of silence was observed for our parishioners who left for their heavenly abode during the COVID period.

Over 150 parishioners, both young and old, attended the Rally. Fr Philip D'Souza, the Spiritual Director of the SCCs, proposed the Vote of Thanks, appreciating the efforts to make the Rally a success. The programme concluded with a sumptuous lunch. Grateful thanks to all who helped make this SCC Rally at Our Lady of Fatima Church, Sewri, a memorable one!

Wilma D'Costa
Community Coordinator (St Jude)

CRADLES OF FAITH AND LOVE

ST JOSEPH CHURCH, JUHU

The four Zones of the Parish of St Joseph, Juhu (which are organised into nineteen communities) came together on Sunday, February 26 to celebrate an event of prayer, faith and fellowship at the SCC Rally held in our parish.

The festivities began with a Prayer Dance enacted by the children of St Joseph's School, followed by a Prayer Service conducted by the youth, and the lighting of the lamp by the Pastoral Team and the sisters from both the convents in the parish.

The Community march-past was well orchestrated with each of the 19 communities being led by a flag-bearer carrying a placard bearing the name of the community. Every group was greeted by the Pastoral Team before dancing back to their seats. It was a sea of yellow, red, blue and green as the participants were dressed in the colours assigned to their zones.

The stage performances comprised of skits, songs and dances which were based on the SACRAMENTS, thus strengthening the theme 'Cradles of Faith and Love', and reinforcing our belief in the power of the Sacraments. One cannot forget the 'Mee Hai Koli' dance performed by the Senior Citizens of the Hope and Life Group, who even brought "fishermen" to participate! The grand finale was a dance performance of all time Bollywood hits put up by a troupe of dancers, directed by two eminent choreographers of our parish.



Felicitations were expressed to the section heads of the four Zones, the senior-most members of some of the Cells and Associations, the Catechists and the Rally Organising Committee. Thereafter, the entire parish community was led into prayer and grace before a sumptuous dinner, which was preceded by some on the spot games and live music to work up an appetite.

The Rally was perfectly organised for over 1000 parishioners with everything moving with clockwork precision, ably managed by an efficient compere. All this was overseen by our wonderful, generous and thoughtful Pastoral team, comprising of Frs Simon Lopes, Allwyn Nazareth and Edwin Azavedo. A heartfelt bouquet of gratitude to these stalwarts of the Small Christian Communities of St Joseph's Church, Juhu.

Ingrid Creado



PARISH SCC RALLY

ST MICHAEL CHURCH, MAHIM



Our Parish SCC Coordinator, Edmund D'Souza, ably assisted by the SCC Coordinators of the sixteen communities, under the able guidance of Fr Lancy Pinto, Parish Priest, put together the much-awaited SCC Rally in the St Michael Auditorium on February 18, 2023.

The Rally commenced with the opening prayer by Fr Lancy Pinto. Mr Edmund D'Souza, Parish SCC Coordinator, welcomed the Chief Guest – Deacon Naveen D'Silva, in charge of the North Bombay Deanery SCCs, the SCC Coordinators, and all the community members.

The entire SCC Rally was centred around two important and most relevant topics - Dealing with

Addiction and Building Bridges, which were highlighted in the form of four dances/skits. Song and dance were beautifully inter-twined with the narratives, bringing out much colour, while at the same time, driving home the problems of addiction and how one can effectively handle addiction to alcohol, television, mobile, and even work addiction.

Our Chief Guest, Deacon Naveen, stressed the importance of the issues taken up in the Rally and correlated them to the day's Scripture readings.

Throughout the evening, our expert Master of Ceremonies, Dale, kept the audience entertained, while the ever-willing Ricardo and his team from Ric Sound provided soothing musical interludes between the performances.

Ms Avril D'Mello, PPC Vice President, thanked one and all for making the SCC Rally a great success. She highlighted the fact that it is only through effective participation that St Michael's Parish can remain vibrant and could serve the needs of all parishioners, young and old alike.

Our dynamic Brother Ambrose led everyone in Prayer and Grace before Meals.

PPC members and volunteers then served snack boxes to all those present, bringing down the curtain on a memorable SCC Rally.

Clarence Fernandes

TRINITARIAN COMMUNITY RALLYING TOGETHER AS ONE

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, POWAI

Sunday, March 05, saw the Parish of Holy Trinity Church, Powai rallying together as one Trinitarian Community. The Guest of Honour, Fr George Athaide, Dean of Thane Deanery and Parish Priest of St Pius X Church, Mulund, was welcomed by the Parish Fathers and the Parish SCC Coordinator. The School Band gave him a rousing welcome. The Parish SCC Coordinator carried the Parish Flag, and was followed by 21 out of 22 communities in procession carrying their Community Flags with 15-20 members wearing community T-shirts.

The entire programme was coordinated by the SCC Coordinators. The Liturgy was coordinated by Sr Selma and the Coordinators. The PPC members offered the Parish SCC map representing the Parish unity, Incense and Candles symbolising prayer life in the SCCs, Fruits symbolising the celebrations in the SCCs, First Aid Kit representing the care for the elderly and sick in the SCCs and Bread & Wine were offered. Deepak Fernandes conducted the Choir. After Communion, Fr George read out the SCC Pledge, with all the PPC members and SCC Coordinators



standing with their respective flags and the Parish SCC Coordinator holding the Parish Flag. The Animators stood in their places and all repeated the Pledge. This was a proud and solemn moment for us all.

After several meetings of the Steering Committee, various committees (to take care of the Liturgy, Hospitality, Technical, Bus, Seating, Ushering, Dinner and Back Stage) were formed with a few PPC members. Br Starson and Br Gabriel and the youth also helped in overseeing various arrangements. A big thank you to Fr Michael for steering us successfully.

The programme started with a Prayer Dance performed by Sr Selma Fernandes and a few Coordinators (choreographed by Sr Selma). The Parish SCC Coordinator gave the Welcome Speech and Fr George was presented with a potted plant. PPC member, David Fernandes, compiled the past year's activities of 17 communities, which was displayed on the LED Screen with the technical help of Deepak and Harish. Two groups of children and women performed a dance. The Tamil Youth group performed a foot-tapping dance. Elton Aranha and Vanessa Monteiro kept the audience entertained with some spot prizes. Deepak also composed an Anthem for all the 20 communities as they paraded on stage for 30 seconds waving their flag and dancing with at least 20 members each. Several rehearsals helped to get the timing right. Fr Michael gave us his IT Expert, Mr Harish, from St Xavier's High School, who along with Deepak and Ridge (Choreographer) helped put the visuals and audios/videos together, which was appreciated by all. Deepak also scripted a 20-minute humorous drama in English/Konkani/Hindi which conveyed the essence of community work and had everyone laughing.

Our Parish Priest, Fr Cajetan, and the Guest of Honour, Fr George, spoke a few words, appreciating everyone's efforts. Fr Michael gave the Vote of Thanks and said Grace. Dinner followed, and the evening continued with the Trinitarian Symphony performing live with many couples dancing. A DJ kept everyone entertained. Praveen Monteiro did a wonderful job with the Sound, LED Screen, DJ, and a Selfie Booth. Our photographer, Joseph D'Cruz and his team captured everything for memory. Our parish has never seen such an event like this before, with so much enthusiastic participation at community levels. We are grateful to our Parish Team for their support in making this Rally a huge success.

Clarissa D'Mello
Parish SCC Coordinator



WE ARE ONE IN THE SPIRIT

ST DOMINIC SAVIO CHURCH, WADALA EAST



Our parish of St Dominic Savio held its SCC Rally on February 18, 2023.

Two months prior, a committee of eight persons from among the members of the Parish Pastoral Council, headed by Fr Kenneth Pereira SDB, was formed.

The theme of the rally was: 'We are one in the Spirit'. Constraints of space compelled us to restrict participation to 15 members per SCC. The people assembled in the hall at 3:45 p.m. Snacks were distributed at the entrance itself. From the word 'go', Mrs Maryanne Silveira picked up the microphone and enlivened the mood of all with her cheerful compering.

At 4 p.m. sharp, all the community leaders made a solemn entry, each holding in his/her hands their SCC banner and a glass lamp. At the end of the procession, a samai was lit by our Chief Guest, Sr Rena Rodricks DHM, Fr Kenneth (Parish Priest), Fr Gregory D'Cunha (Asst PP), Mrs Emilia D'Mello (Parish SCC Coordinator) and Mr Bernard Rodrigues (PPC Vice-President).

The children of the Holy Cross and Fatima SCCs performed a graceful prayer dance to the strains of a Hindi bhajan. This was followed by a meaningful prayer service, comprising Scripture reading, reflection, intercessions and hymns, conducted by the Bhakti Park SCC. The audience was entertained by a soulful 'welcome song' sung by the Dosti Acres SCC.



Fr Kenneth Pereira, our Parish Priest, then welcomed everyone, and enlightened us on the essence of the Small Christian Communities.

The activities of the SCCs in 2022 were displayed in the form of a PowerPoint prepared by the Bank Buildings, Dolours and Margaret House SCCs, coordinated by Mr Bernard Rodrigues.

Our Chief Guest, Sr Rena, spoke eloquently on the day's theme: "We are one in the Spirit", touching on important subjects such as the Holy Spirit, Eucharist, Prayer, Mother Mary, SWOC (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Challenges). She emphasised that Jesus is our model and example of 'servant leadership' which, if emulated, can have a lasting impact in building communities.

A humorous skit—based on the usual problems of SCC meetings—was performed by the members of the Eucress and Dosti Estates communities. Two dance numbers were performed by the youth and children of the CGS SCC. These were followed by a vote of thanks in Marathi, given by Mr Louis Fernandes of the Salt Pans SCC.

By God's grace, the entire Rally went smoothly as planned. It was a good occasion for the various SCCs to showcase their activities through the year and to manifest their bonding.

Emilia D'Mello

Parish SCC Coordinator, St Dominic Savio Church, Wadala East



LET CHRIST'S LIGHT SHINE OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL CHURCH, KORLAI

The parish SCC Rally was held on February 08, 2023 at Mount Carmel Church, Korlai, with the theme 'Let Christ's light shine'. The five SCCs – Mount Carmel, Holy Cross, St Joseph, Holy Rosary and Mount Mary – had prepared several posters with Bible Quotations. The entire village came in procession along with the Sister-in-charge of the SCC. Each SCC group came on stage and read the Bible quotations; this was prayerful and meaningful. The Prayer service was conducted at the beginning followed by a prayer dance by the Sunday School children.



The lamp was lit by Bishop Allwyn D'Silva, Parish Priest Fr Bonaventure Nunes, and the PPC member and Sister-in-charge of each zone. All five SCCs had innovative presentations in the form of dance, song and skits on SCCs.

The Chief Guest, Bp Allwyn D'Silva, explained how SCCs started, how they help to build the unity and love in our community, and how we are united working for the growth of the SCC. He appreciated and encouraged all those who performed in the various stage items.

Fr Bonaventure expressed his heartfelt thanks and admiration for the SCCs, Bishop Allwyn, and all the sisters in charge and organisers.

Annual report of SCCs was presented by PowerPoint with different activities and photos.

Finally, a vote of thanks was presented by one of the parishioners.

It is the love of Christ that gathers us together; it is Christ who builds the community.

Sr Martha D'Souza SHM



CELEBRATING OUR ONENESS

SACRED HEART CHURCH, ANDHERI



View and enjoy the proceedings of our Parish SCC Rally 2023 by clicking on the picture

The parishioners of Sacred Heart Church, Andheri, came together in prayer and festivity at the Parish SCC Rally celebrated on February 05, 2023 on the Parish grounds. The dictionary defines a Rally as “a mass meeting of people showing support for a cause.” In this instance, the Lay Faithful came together as one FAMILY in support of the Parish SCC Ministry.

Rally highlights

The Rally commenced with a solemn Eucharistic procession of the Cross Bearer, the torchbearers, the Flag-bearers consisting of the Area Coordinators, PPC members and Community Coordinators, the Altar Servers, the Lectors and the Celebrants. Holy Mass at 5:30pm was celebrated by our Chief Guest and main celebrant, Rev. Fr Richard Mathias SVD, Provincial Superior, and concelebrated by our Parish Fathers. The homily by Fr Richard Mathias dwelt on the theme of the day: YEAR OF FAITH AND WORKS [James 2:14-26], citing many examples of the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy one could engage in during the course of the year.

And then it was Celebration Time!

Ms Marjorie Carvalho, our anchor for the evening, ably coordinated the programme, beginning with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp, followed by the dignitaries and the entire assembly intoning the Parish Anthem. The Prayer Dance, choreographed and performed by the Canossian Novices, invoking the blessings of the Almighty, set the tone for the evening.

Our young parish choir, led by Choir Master Osmond Pereira, got the entire crowd on their feet, clapping and dancing in their seats to the peppy music. This was

followed by a sharing of the highlights of the exemplary work done by our SCCs in the last three years, by the Parish SCC Coordinator.

A refreshing Skit performed by our newly confirmed young adults portrayed the challenges people encounter in taking those first steps to reach out to the less fortunate and fulfilling their calling.

Our Chief Guest, Rev. Fr Richard Mathias SVD's address was a powerful message of encouragement, appreciating the good work done and to carry on the SCC mission of reaching out, without discrimination. He urged us to emulate the words of Jesus in St Matthew 20:28, "Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Then the members of Area 5 (the Parish consists of 36 communities, further grouped into seven areas) enthralled the audience with a musical "GREEN MESSAGE" prompting all to start in their own small way to make our Parish a "Green Parish".

Our Parish Priest, Rev. Fr Innocent Fernandes SVD, in his inimitable style, outlined our task for 2023 – to religiously ensure that the tenets of the Archdiocesan SCC Vision "NO ONE IN WANT" namely; Food, Education, Shelter and Medical Assistance become part and parcel of our lives. He urged all to form Clusters and support the SCC ministry in becoming Basic Human Communities. His Vote of Thanks included all.

This beautiful evening of togetherness concluded with the Parish Konkani Choir singing a medley of Praise and Thanksgiving hymns.

Vincent D'Souza
Member, Parish Pastoral Council

LOVE AND CARE FOR ALL

OL OF HEALTH CHURCH, SAHAR

Our Parish SCC Rally was held on Sunday, March 05, 2023 with the blessings and support of our dear Parish Priest, Fr John Lopes, and the SCC Coordinators. There were about 170 attendees.

The Rally began with an opening prayer, followed by the lighting of Samai by our Chief Guest, Adrian Rosario from the ART Team, our Deanery SCC Coordinator, Fr Gerard Rodricks SJ, and Fr John Lopes. Both Fr Gerard and Adrian addressed us with strong inspiring messages on the formation of SCC, importance of Clusters and the people around us. The importance of our neighbours, not only of the Catholic faith, but looking at the wider meaning of neighbours, even those who belong to another faith, and how we can collaborate and stay loving and united and reach

out. The Archdiocesan SCC vision – **No one in want** – was very well brought out.

Fr John addressed us with message of love and care in our SCCs, and how we can build it better and stronger.

We had skits, dance and action song put up by few communities all related to SCC and building Community with love and trust in Jesus. All the attendees including Fr John loved the communitarian spirit and joy. We were given snack and refreshment organised by our Parish Priest. We had few spot prizes – Dairy milk chocolate sponsored by a loving sponsor. The Rally closed with Thanksgiving and Closing Prayer and a hymn sung in Marathi. Then we had the Holy Eucharist in Church at 06:30 p.m.

Lilian Dias

Parish SCC Coordinator

SCC RALLY

ST FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH, KANJUR MARG EAST



View snippets of the Parish SCC Rally 2023 by clicking on the picture

We were happy to have the long awaited SCC Rally on February 11, 2023 under the guidance of our Parish Priest, Fr Joseph Borges.

The Opening prayer was conducted by the sisters of Isha Prem. Sister Veronica, Superior of Isha Prem convent, led us in the prayer. SCCs 1 to 5 put up a welcome song in Marathi, English and Konkani, and also gave information on SCCs.

Youth anchors, Ria and Vivian, did a good job with spot prizes in between the items.

Bishop Barthol's message of encouragement was read by Abigail, the Steering member from SCC 10.

SCCs 6 to 10 came together to put up a song and dance by the children, giving a message of Love in our communities.

The Chief Guest, Father Joseph, shared his vision for the Rally and how we could make it successful. Those encouraging words with the leaders of the group, just a couple of meetings, and all were ready for the event.

SCCs 11 to 14 put up a Mime beat, showcasing how simple problems in the life of an animator and people become heavy if we try to solve it alone, but collective efforts make it possible to get the solution; a dance by the children showcased unity.

SCCs 21 to 25 put up a musical skit on environment; how we can do small things in our daily life and contribute to improving the environment. SCCs 15 to 20 put up a puppet show, and closed with the Birdie dance; the audience got up and enjoyed dancing to the beats and music.

Mrs Helen Sunderdas gave the Vote of Thanks; she did not miss a single soul to be thanked for all the efforts. Fr Joe appreciated all the participants and leaders by giving a token of appreciation to all of them, as we concluded the Rally.

Edrich D'Mello

SYNODAL JOURNEY: COMMUNION, PARTICIPATION AND MISSION

OUR LADY OF FATIMA CHURCH, AMBERNATH

On January 29, 2023, Our Lady of Fatima Church, Ambernath celebrated the Small Christian Communities (SCC) Rally after the 6:00 p.m. Mass at Fatima High School Quadrangle under the leadership of our Parish Priest Fr Minguel D’Souza SFX and his Parish team - Fr Johnson Sequeira, Fr Nelson Rebeiro and Deacon Alton Abranches, along with members of the Parish Pastoral Council and Cells and Associations.

The theme for the SCC Rally was ‘Synodal Journey: Communion, Participation and Mission’.

Our Chief Guest for the evening was Rev. Fr Philip D’Souza SFX, a well-known priest who had served previously in our parish. Fr Philip is currently the Priest in-charge of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Church, Ulhasnagar. Rev Fr Parel Fernandes SFX was our Guest of Honour.

Rev. Fr Minguel D’Souza, our Parish Priest, welcomed and addressed the gathering. He emphasised on the importance of Small Christian Communities and the members coming together for cluster meetings.

Deacon Alton conducted a meaningful Prayer Service for the event.

Each Zone displayed their banner on the stage with names of their communities and their Theme message.

As a token of appreciation, the esteemed Guests, along with Rev. Fr Minguel D’Souza and his team of priests and Sisters were felicitated with a sapling each.

The six zones, comprising of 33 communities, presented a stage performance based on their respective themes: Prayer Dance followed by Dance on Mission, Communion and Cultural Dance (Patriotic), Skit and Group Song. The performance of each zone was spectacular, unique and apt to the theme. Each group had a dress code, colourful, traditional and cultural, according to the theme.



Rev. Fr Philip D’Souza rendered an inspiring and motivational speech to our parishioners.

Our host for the evening, Ms Mystica, gracefully hosted this event. After each performance, she posed quiz questions to the parishioners. Winners were rewarded with spot prizes.

Tea and Snacks were also served to all 700 parishioners who participated in this Rally.

The SCC Rally ended with a Vote of thanks by the Parish SCC Coordinator, Josephine Fernandes, which was followed by a Closing Prayer, a hymn sung by our Youth and blessing by Fr Minguel D’Souza.

The SCC Rally was possible only because of the support of our Parish Priest, Fr Minguel D’Souza and his team of Priests, who were able to bring all our parishioners together in solidarity for this event. Also the hard work of our Councillors, Coordinators and Animators and all our parishioners who worked tirelessly to make this event successful.

Josephine Fernandes



SCC RALLY

O.L. OF THE SEA CHURCH, UTTAN

Our Lady of the Sea Church, Uttan organised our Parish SCC Rally on April 11, 2023. The Rally began at 5 pm with a traditional East Indian band ushering the dignitaries onto the dais. The people of each zone entered as a community into the church compound with a banner bearing a slogan and a message. The blessings of the Almighty were invoked by the lighting of the lamp by the Chief Guest, Bishop Barthol Barretto, followed by a prayer dance. After the formal welcome by the opening chorus, the dignitaries were felicitated by the Core Group with a bouquet of flowers. Fr Godfrey briefed the participants of the Rally about the day's programme.

What made the SCC Rally more successful was not just the presence of around 1600 people along with priests, nuns and other religious, but the active participation of the people in each zone who put up skits, dance, talk show, songs etc. Each zone presented their annual report of their SCC work.

Keeping in mind the theme of the Rally, Bishop Barthol addressed the gathering, expressing his happiness with the way the SCCs at Uttan were going about their activities. He stressed that he wanted each one to reach



out to more people, so that we could build a stronger SCC network in the parish. Just as the early Christians along with the apostles reached out to many people far and wide and spread the good news of our Lord, in a similar way each one of us is called to serve with the same zeal and enthusiasm to spread the Word of God and reach out to as many as possible. We must do our best to ensure No one is in want!

Fr Peter D'Cunha, Parish Priest, thanked Bp Barthol for gracing the occasion, and all the participants for turning out in large numbers for the Rally. There was a prize distribution for the best performances of the evening. The SCC Rally came to an end with the final blessing by Bp Barthol Barretto.

Fr Godfrey Malu



SHOUT THE JOYS OF FREEDOM EVERYWHERE...

OL OF HEALTH CHURCH, CAVEL

*Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high;
Where knowledge is free; where words come out from the depth of truth;
Where the mind is led forward by Thee into ever-widening thought and action,
Into that Heaven of Freedom, My Father; let my country awake.*

Rabindranath TAGORE

As the country awoke to a new dawn and to nation-wide 73rd Republic Day celebrations, the small Parish of Our Lady of Health, Cavel, geared up to celebrate another special day! Four 'small' Small Christian Communities (SCC) of the parish gathered together on Republic Day, Thursday, January 26, 2023, at 11 a.m. at the historic Catholic Library, one of the oldest libraries in Mumbai, and perhaps the only one, whose outer walls bear the Papal insignia. **The occasion: the first post-pandemic Parish SCC Day celebrations!**

The morning began with a substantial serving of snacks and a soft drink, and light-hearted chatter... for some, it was the first time that they were seeing each other after the isolation of the pandemic. Some faces were missing; they had gone to their Maker. But most were there! And what a joy it was to be together again! For those who have not seen it, the Catholic Library is a beautiful place to be in, reminiscent of an era when the sun came smiling in through wide-open windows, and joy sneaked in through the door, uninvited, but always welcome, along with the guests! Indeed, you may still see a centrepiece or two, atop cupboards housing timeless classics. And you will once again, be reminded of Tagore and his beautiful freedom song: *"This is my prayer to thee, my Lord: Give me the strength **lightly to bear my joys and sorrows.** Give me the strength to make my love fruitful in service. Give me the strength to raise my mind high above daily trifles. And give me the strength to surrender my strength to **Thy will with love.**"*

As the young ones got up to play the first game, 'Bursting the Balloon', which involved some running, the seniors too sportingly got up and ran; they burst balloons (as instructed!) They were the champions of the morning...

After having shown their prowess at bursting balloons, and the excitement that it generated, the next 'activity'

*"Let us make this world an 'Alleluia', let us make this world a better place...
Keep a smile handy, lend a helping hand, glorify our God with all our voices
Show Him we're sincere by all our deeds, shout the joys of freedom everywhere,
And we'll all join in, and sing: Here we are, all together as we sing our song... joyfully
Here we are, joined together as we pray we'll always be.*

was considerably calmer. You just had to stand in a circle, pass a parcel around.. or so it seemed! But like all games, there was a twist in the tail! Traditionally, the holder of the parcel, when the music came to a slow stop, was 'out'! But in this game, those to the left, those to the right, those diagonally opposite, and those any which way, all had to make a hurried exit!

One of the parishioners, Mrs Sylvie D'Costa, was called upon to speak a few words. She echoed the sentiments of all when she said it was a joy to be together after the pandemic. **Our last SCC get-together 'Love in Action'** with skits reflecting this theme, quizzes and games galore was on February 09, 2020!

And then it was time to put on those dancing shoes! The parish talent for dancing was on full display, as young and old boogied, birdie-danced and waltzed across the Library floor. Whoever said libraries were silent? This one resounded to the tapping of feet and the clapping of hands to the rhythm of the music.

And finally, after all that stomping around, it was time to sit down again... relax and play housie. The day's celebrations ended with Grace before meals and the 'breaking of bread'. Chicken biryani and pumpkin halwa were served; there was enough for everyone... and then some.. The young ones went around, fetching glasses of water, serving, helping the older ones, looking after the toddlers.

Many, many thanks to the Parish Priest, Rev. Fr Joe D'Souza, the Dominican Sisters, the Parish Pastoral Council, the animators, the caterers, and to one and all who worked so hard to put together this 'get-together'... a get-together which brought together two and even three generations. A get-together which brought joy within families, across families, and across communities! **God's love is so wonderful!**

Succorin Saldanha
Parish SCC Coordinator

SCCS - THE PULSE OF A PARISH

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH, PESTOM SAGAR



Holy Family Parish, Pestom Sagar celebrated the SCCs with a Rally of Communities on April 23, 2023. It was well planned and organised under the guidance of our Parish Priest, Fr Leon Mascarenhas, together with the Parish SCC Steering Committee.

The SCC Rally was organised to celebrate the spirit of togetherness and unity within the SCCs. The event began at 4:45 p.m. with the community members gathering community-wise in the Church hall, and proceeding to the church ground with their community banners.

At 5:30 p.m. the Holy Eucharist was celebrated by Fr Vernon Aguiar, who also explained why the 'PULSE' in the community is required i.e. Prayer, Unity, Love, Service and Equality for the SCCs to grow.

After the Eucharistic celebration, there was a snack break. At 7:15 p.m. the Children's Choir welcomed everyone with a captivating welcome song. This was followed by a skit by the six communities of Tilak Nagar, titled 'Helping Hands'.

The youth of our Parish have been an integral part of this Rally and we appreciate their continued involvement. They put up a dance performance portraying how the SCCs can be a place of emotional and physical support to those in need. This was followed by a skit presented by the six communities in and around Pestom Sagar which was titled 'Togetherness is Happiness'. Both the skits were well enacted, thought-provoking and meaningful.

The Youth Choir sang 'In the Jungle' accompanied by sounds of birds and animals; they changed a few words of the song in order to express togetherness in community life.

Ms Mariella Assumption, the Assistant SCC Coordinator and Mr Anthony Chettiar, the new Assistant Parish SCC coordinator were instrumental in ensuring the success of the event. Mr Clifford Rebello did an excellent job hosting the show with his own energetic style.

Fr Leon thanked the SCC animators and Coordinators for all their efforts and everyone for their presence and active participation in making the SCC Rally possible. He encouraged all to participate and support the SCCs for the renewal of our parish.

Overall, the SCC Rally was a resounding success, and we owe a debt of gratitude to everyone who contributed to its success. It was an excellent display of unity, love and togetherness in the communities.

The programme ended at 9.00 p.m. with a prayer and Grace before meals by Fr Oscar Nazareth OP, followed by a fellowship dinner served in the hall.

We pray that the SCCs may always be a sign of the establishment of God's Kingdom and an effective way of experiencing the presence of the risen Christ among us.

May the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph be with us and bless us.

Escolastica D'Souza
Parish SCC Coordinator



AN INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

ST ANDREW CHURCH, BANDRA

The Parish SCC Rally of all the communities of the parish was held on February 18, 2023 at St Andrew's School Quadrangle with the theme 'An Inclusive community'. It was an evening of Community fellowship with entertainment, refreshments, and catching up with neighbours and friends, youngsters and the young at heart.

The roads around the venue were dug for renovation, but that did not deter the 550 who came to the venue, waving colourful flags, to the tune of 'Light up your candle'. They were led by their Community banner-bearer and a mascot representing their patron Saint.

Our Chief Guest, Fr Henry D'Souza SVD, the Bandra Deanery SCC Coordinator was escorted to his seat by the parish mascots and our own little St Andrew mascot. Two representatives of St Peter's parish graced us with their presence,

After a brief introduction of our Chief Guest, a sapling was presented to him as a symbol of life in the SCC movement.

The Sisters of the Pious Disciples of the Divine Master opened the function with a beautifully crafted prayer dance in



classical Indian style. This was followed by a specially composed SCC Anthem. A medley of songs in jazz and pop style by the children of the St Paul Road and Hill Road SCCs set the tone for a foot-tapping session. A PowerPoint presentation highlighted the various activities conducted by the SCCs over the past few years.

Fr Henry, the Chief Guest, addressed the communities. With his humour and short anecdotes, he emphasised on the importance of the growth of SCCs through dialogue, being in contact with one another, outreach, or rather, 'No one in need'.

A brief break saw everybody head towards the snack stalls for some hot and spicy home-made snacks from some of the finest chefs of the SCCs.

After the break, we had the tribal community of Jharkhand, now living at Bandstand perform a tricky local dance. The seven Corporal works of Mercy was a skit performed by the Chimbai SCC. A fashion show by the Veronica Road SCC wrapped up the evening in a grand finale. Fr Cajetan Menezes proposed a vote of thanks, bringing the Rally to a close.

Neil D'Souza
Community O

UNITY TO BUILD COMMUNITY

ST ANNE CHURCH, BANDRA

Our SCC Rally was held on Sunday, February 26, 2023 on the parish lawns. It was well attended, with not an empty chair in the compound.

The main theme of the event was 'Unity to build Community'. The five SCCs were given a specific theme and colour to use within their community presentation to highlight "Unity". The evening began with a colourful display by all the SCCs with a foot-tapping entrance parade and an action song.

Our Parish Priest, Fr Mario Mendes, said a prayer and declared the Rally open. He welcomed our two Guests of Honour, Fr Frazer Mascarenhas SJ, Dean of Bandra and Fr Henry D'Souza SVD, the Deanery SCC Coordinator. Fr David read a passage from the Gospel and gave a blessing.

The PALAM SCC, with the theme 'Unity in the Holy Trinity' and dressed in white performed a prayer dance. They were well trained by the sisters of Prithi Kunj Convent.

A few animators were felicitated for their service of over 20 years as animators in their respective SCCs.

The Scheme SCC, with the theme 'Listen to foster Unity' and dressed in green had over 35 performers in a musical skit. They highlighted the importance and the need for us to "LISTEN" – to the needs of others in the family, community and the parish at large.

Fr Henry was invited on stage to share his thoughts on the SCC, and with his imitable style of humour, he gave us some food for thought.



The Malla SCC put up a skit. With yellow as their colour and ‘Strength in Unity’ their theme, everyone got a look at how SCC meetings are held, and the importance of animators working together as a team to benefit the community. Strength in a parish comes when all SCCs unite, thus making the parish more vibrant and alive.

This was followed by an interesting skit by the Sherly SCC. Their theme was ‘Respecting Diversity in Community’ and their colour was red. It was a silent play that had everyone’s eyes fixed on the stage. Though it was “silent”, it actually spoke volumes, as it beautifully depicted the need to respect other religions within our neighbourhood.

Last was the Rajan SCC who entertained us with a dance; their theme was ‘Care for Unity’, and blue was their colour.

The programme was well coordinated by our dynamic comperes, Alison and Adrian Rosario, who kept the tempo going with impromptu spot prizes. The SCC Annual Report was shared by our Parish

SCC Coordinator, Mrs Tricia Nakhuda, through a PowerPoint presentation. Wow! the communities did a marvellous job last year through so many activities!!!

Fr Frazer appreciated the programme, but stressed on how much we need to be united and an inclusive Church, synod and all.

The vote of thanks was proposed by Mrs Crystal D’Souza.

After so many years, it was great to have the SCC Rally. Special thanks were rendered to Dennis Borges and Troy Fernandes. There were two selfie points apt to our theme wherein the parishioners were happily posing. Snacks and dinner was a good filler. Brian provided the sound for the evening. It was a nice surprise to see a quartet - Sarah, Olinca, Ignatius and Akshay - perform LIVE on stage. It brought everyone on the floor for a dance or two, and finally Brian kept us rocking till the end with his playlist.

Such a wonderful friendly fun evening!! All thanks goes to our Parish Priest, Fr Mario Mendes, for encouraging and motivating us animators to care for our SCCs in ways that unite the parish.

Michele Lawrence



ENVIRONMENTALLY CONCERNED

COMMUNITY CLEAN UP DRIVE- HOLY CROSS SECTORS 1, 2 & 3 O.L. OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH, BORIVLI

On Saturday, November 05, 2022, a Community Clean Up Drive was organised by the Parish Councillors and Steering Committee for Holy Cross Sectors 1, 2 and 3 with the aim to 'Lead The Scene. To Keep It Clean'.

A number of enthusiastic youth and adults assembled on the Holy Cross Ground at 8.00 a.m. dressed in black or white, wearing masks and gloves, and we began with a prayer at the Cross. We were then given brooms, garbage bags and dustbins which were sponsored. We divided ourselves into groups to clean the three main open plots which were strewn with garbage. While some took charge of the Holy Cross Ground, others took over the plot on the opposite side, and the third group cleared up the Mayank Ground. We collected left-over construction material and bags of garbage

that had been dumped in the plots. There was fun and chatter as we worked with a common aim to clean the area around our homes. Water bottles were distributed to us as we worked. We then coordinated with the BMC workers who were on their morning rounds, and ensured that all the collected garbage was deposited into the BMC garbage trucks. When the work was all done, we looked around with a deep sense of satisfaction and accomplishment. Surely, we had made a difference in some small way.

We gathered together for tea, cake and biscuits sponsored by our Parish Councillors and Frooti by another sponsor. We ended the morning Clean-up with a Thanksgiving Prayer at the Cross.

Anne Athaide
Holy Cross Sector 2

MARATHI SECTION

लहान ख्रिस्ती समूह मेळावा होली मेजाँय चर्च - गोरार्ड

दनांक १ मे २०२३ आज ख्रिस्तीसभा कामगारांचा आश्रयदाता संत जोसेफ ह्याचा सण साजरा करीत असताना, आज पुन्हा एकदा गोरार्डचे धर्मग्रामस्थ एकत्र जमले आहेत. कारण ह्या सणाचे औचित्य साधून होली मेजाँय चर्च गोरार्ड येथे "लहान ख्रिस्ती समूह मेळावा" घेण्यात आला. संध्याकाळी ठीक ४ वाजता प्रत्येक पाखाडीतून (Zone wise) त्यांच्या त्यांच्या आश्रयदात्या संताचे नाव असलेले झेंडे आणत त्यावर असलेले घोषवाक्याचे फलक घेवून २१ पाखाडीतले लोक चर्चच्या आवारात जमले. त्यावेळेस बॅन्डच्या तालावर व प्रार्थना नृत्याने रेव्ह. बशिप बार्थोल बरेटो, रेव्ह. फा. एडवर्ड जसटो, रेव्ह. फा. ग्लेन डमिलो, सर्व ससिटरस, ब्रदर्स, पॅरीश कौन्सलि सभासद, सेवकनेते, चर्चच्या आवारात त्यांचे स्वागत केले गेले. रेव्ह. बशिप बार्थोल ह्यांनी रेव्ह. फा. एडवर्ड, फा. ग्लेन ह्यांच्या समवेत मसिसा अर्पण केली. मसिसामध्ये बशिप बार्थोल ह्यांनी त्यांच्या प्रेरणादायी प्रवचनाने सर्वांना प्रेमाचा, ऐक्याचा व शांतीचा संदेश दिला. त्यांनी सर्वांची स्तुती केली व सांगतिले की, आज





गोराई मध्ये आनंदाचे वातावरण पसरले आहे. आजच्या मेळाव्यात आपण सर्वजण पवित्र वचारांची देवाण घेवाण करीत आहात.

ज्याप्रमाणे संत जोसेफ ह्यांनी पारंपारीक सुतारकीचा व्यवसाय करून आपल्या कुटुंबाचे पालन पोसण केले तसेच आपण देखील विविध कामधंदे किंवा नोकऱ्या करून आपल्या परीवाराचे संरक्षण करतो. त्याचबरोबर काम करणे म्हणजेच सेवा करणे, आणि ह्या सेवेद्वारेच आपण आपला समाज बांधतो, आपला देश उभारतो, प्रत्येक काम हे देवाकडून आलेली एक अमूल्य देणगी असते आणि म्हणूनच अशा प्रामाणिक कामामुळे आपण येशूचे खरे कामगार बनतो आणि ह्या मिस्साबलिदानात सर्वांसाठी प्रार्थना केली.

त्यानंतर सर्व लोकांना होली मेजाँय धर्मग्रामातर्फे अल्पोहर वाटण्यात आला. त्याबरोबर बशिप बार्थोल बरेटो भाईदर डनिरीचे झोनल बशिप, रेव्ह. फा. एडवर्ड जसटो प्रमुख धर्मगुरु, रेव्ह. फा. ग्लेन डमिलो गोराईचे भूमीपुत्र व तनिही कॉन्व्हेंटच्या सुपरिअर स.ि. ब्लेसना, स.ि. वेरोणिका, स.ि. ससिलिया, मॅग्डलेन कणिगी वार्डस प्रेसडेंट पॅरीश कौन्सलि, मी. पटिर फरेरा संत जोसेफ कामगार संघटनेचे अध्यक्ष, म.ि. फ्रँकलिन कणिगी SSC – co-ordinators ह्या सर्वांना पुष्पगुच्छ देवून त्यांचे स्वागत केले. त्यानंतर समिना हनि कार्यक्रमाचे प्रास्ताविक केले. लहान खरसिती समूहाचा गाभा म्हणजे “No one in want” ही संकल्पना सांगून, SSC चे महत्त्व पटवून दिले. त्याचप्रमाणे प्रत्येक पाखाडी तर्फे लहान खरसिती समूहामध्ये कसे

वातावरण असावे, आपण एकमेकांच्या मदतीला कसे धावून जावे, ह्यावषयी नाटिका, नृत्ये, गाणी ही सर्व आपल्या ईस्ट इंडियन भाषेमध्ये करून त्याचे सादरीकरण करण्यात आले, ह्यामध्ये मुले, युवक – युवती, प्रौढ, वृद्ध अशा सर्वांनी सहभाग दाखवला त्याचबरोबर लहान खरसिती समूहाचा अहवाल वाचण्यात आला. अशा विविध कार्यक्रमांनी ही संध्याकाळ भरून गेली.

पुन्हा एकदा रेव्ह. बशिप बार्थोल बरेटो ह्यांनी आपल्या संदेशात नमूद केले की आपल्या प्रत्येक गावपरिवारात क्लष्टरची (लहान समूह) योजना राबवणे गरजेचे आहे, क्लष्टर तर्फे आपण व्यक्तीच्या विविध गरजांकडे लक्ष देवू शकतो. त्यामुळे एकही व्यक्तीकडे दुर्लक्ष होणार नाही, तसेच आज हा मेळावा साजरा होत असताना, प्रत्येक व्यक्तीने आपल्या गावपरिवारात, चर्चमध्ये व समाजामध्ये येशूचे कामगार म्हणून सेवेचे कार्य करण्यासाठी पुढे यावे. आजच्या ह्या सोहळ्याने माझे मन आनंदित झाले आहे, असे उद्गार बशिपांनी ह्या संदेशामध्ये लोकांना सांगितले व नंतर बशिपांनी प्रमुख धर्मगुरु फा. एडवर्ड जसटो, सहाय्यक धर्मगुरु फा. स्टविन किका, सर्व ससिटरस, PPC सभासद, सर्व सेवकनेते ह्यांचे अभिनंदन केले.

रेव्ह. फा. एडवर्ड जसिंटो ह्यांनी सर्वांचे अभिनंदन करून सर्वांना प्रेरित केले. शेवटी श्री. फ्रँकलिन कणिगी ह्यांनी सर्वांचे आभार मानले. पूर्ण कार्यक्रमाचे सूत्र संचालन श्री. पितर फरेरा ह्यांनी केली. आणि रेव्ह. बिशिप बार्थोल बरेटो ह्यांच्या प्रार्थनामय शुभेच्छांनी कार्यक्रमाची सांगता करण्यात आली.

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