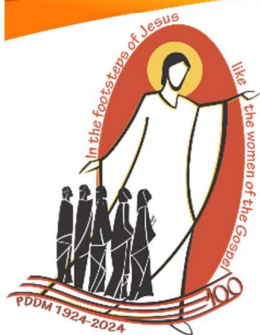


Disciples India

Email ID – inpddmwebsite@gmail.com - 01/04/2023



New Life In Jesus Christ

In the secular calendar, the month of April begins with 'April Fool's Day'. But for us, believers, the beginning of April leads us into the intense preparations for the Holy week followed by the Easter celebrations which remind us that the crucified Christ a stumbling block to Jews and folly to the Gentiles is the Power and Wisdom of God to us who believe. (1 Cor 1: 22-24)

On 4th April, we affectionately recall the 139th Birthday of our beloved founder who continues to accompany us from above and beckons every sister disciple to a renewed life of Discipleship. The Centenary Jubilee summons us to give a new facelift to the legacy/patrimony which he had handed over a hundred years ago. It is the responsibility of each one of us who is part of this significant moment.

May the Risen Christ, break open all the shackles of our fears and insecurities and let loose our energies for a renewed Mission in the New Century. Happy Easter to every reader and enjoy the New Life of Easter.

The Cross of Christ Speaks

From the very beginning, nobody loved me, I was lonely, and cursed and people trembled when they heard about me, in this darkened world of mine there came a ray of light when I met a Galilean who was sentenced to death. At first, I thought he was just another criminal but the way he embraced me, made me feel so different, though he was bruised, wounded, and weak he carried me all the way to Calvary. When we reached, I was worried how he would bear that excruciating pain, it was for the first time I forgot about my pain and was thinking of him, and he was nailed to me and was hanging there for about 3 hours and finally breathed his last.

I was with him for a few hours but those hours changed my life forever. Centuries have passed and I have become an identity to the followers of Christ, my presence can be seen in every church and in the life of every Christian. Without Christ I am empty, but with Christ on me, even the Pope venerates and honours me. My encounter with Christ has made a lasting impact on me which lasts till the end until he returns.

Just imagine if he can do such marvels for me, a mere piece of wood, how much more will he do for you whom he loves so dearly. You may be weak, sinful, dirty, depressed, useless, ugly, and even discouraged, but yearn for an encounter with Christ. In this quest, once you encounter him, the rest will be history. Life will never be the same, and your identity will be changed forever. You will shine forth in your own beautiful way, even if you feel you are experiencing suffering and difficulties, if you feel that the lent of life is never-ending, desire for an encounter with Christ, he will make the light of Easter shine on you, not for a day, a week, a month or a year but forever.



- Sr M. Jenipher Dominic

The fire of Easter



Easter the greatest festival in the catholic church begins with the ceremony of fire. Fire often symbolizes eternity and forever. It is commonly referred to as the ‘eternal flame’ (Jesus Christ) which refers to the symbolic flame that protects life. It is believed that as long as the flame continues to burn, life will remain forever in the world.

Fire is one of the most fascinating elements in the world. Fire is associated with strength, activity, blood, and life force. It is also seen as highly healing, purifying, and protective, consuming impurities and driving out the darkness and has a transformative power, and it has been used throughout history for a variety of purposes.

In the Bible, fire plays a significant role as well. But what does fire represent in the Bible?

In Biblical terms, fire represents:

1. **Holy Spirit**
2. **Baptism**
3. **Judgment**
4. **Wrath**
5. **Purification**
6. **Testing**
7. **Destruction**
8. **Holiness**
9. **Zeal/Passion**
10. **God’s Presence**
11. **Angel of the Lord**



Fire is a powerful force. It has the ability to both create and destroy.

In the same way, God is a powerful being who is both good and just. He has the ability to bless His people abundantly, but He also has the power to judge those who disobey Him. Often, fire is seen as a Purifier. It has the ability to cleanse and make pure that which was once impure. In much the same way, God desires to purify His people and make them in His image. When we allow Him to work in our lives, He can take away our impurities and make us into people who reflect His image and likeness.

Finally, fire is often associated with warmth and light. It brings comfort and illumination into the darkness. In the same way, God is a source of warmth and light in our lives. He brings hope into our darkness and reminds us that we are never alone. May the words of Jesus to young Alberione more than 100 years ago ***“Be not afraid, I am with you, From here I will enlighten you, Be sorry for your Sins”*** which inspired, strengthened and fired him into action to do great things for God; fire us too with the same Spirit and zeal to do something beautiful for the new century of our congregation.

- **Sr M. Regina Sebastian**

Accelerated Learning Experience

“My soul Magnifies the Lord for all that He has done in our lives”.

The word Jnanodaya, itself means “The abode of wisdom” the wisdom of God and of Self. I deem this opportunity a privilege to pen a few lines of our experience at Jnanodaya.



It was indeed a golden chance to march toward the wisdom of life, to get immersed into it, and to learn to swim in the ocean of God's love by living our Consecrated life to the full. Jnanodaya is the place where the sisters in temporary professed come to equip themselves in many aspects of religious life whether it is in Biblical, Moral, Prophetic, Psychology, or Mariology, etc... Under the roof of Jnanodaya, there is no discrimination between intelligent and weak, talented and less talented, etc. All are equal and walk together to help each other to come out of themselves and to feel one with each other.

In the classroom, the professors were quite friendly and explained the subject matter in simplicity and with clarity. We were free to clarify our quarries and they would help us to come out of our fear and go forward with courage. Lots of opportunities were given to each sister to bring out our inner potentialities and to give expression to our true selves by shaping ourselves through classes and other activities and by the end of the course we could experience the change in us.

The one-year course (Diploma in Theology and Religious sciences) was great learning. Through various subjects, we could arrive at one goal namely fullness of life in Christ and be a committed and joyful religious in our own respective Congregations and in our communities amidst all the challenges and difficulties. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Sr. Celine Cunha and her team for this golden opportunity and for all their support and encouragement to take this challenge as part of a learning process that boosted us to complete our study successfully.



We too appreciate Sr. Josephine our formator who has been always guiding us spiritually and followed our juniorate journey. we also take this occasion to thank Sr. Shyla and the community members who have been a great support to us through their prayer and encouragement.

- **Sr M. Theresa Kholuru & Sr M. Velencia Munis**

My experience of Theological studies in Vidya Deep Collage

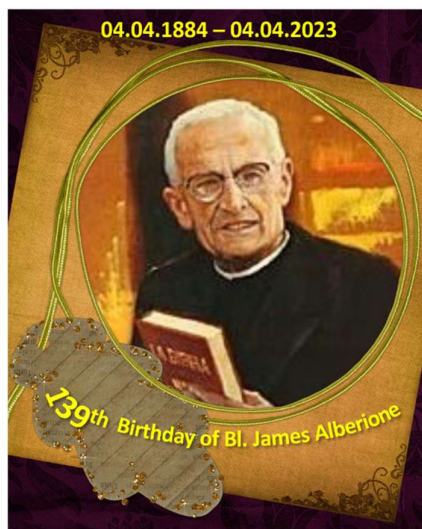
It was a wonderful opportunity given to study BRS in CRI. Without God's grace, it would have been an impossible task. I certainly believe that during the course of this study, God has communicated with me through many individuals and I have responded to Him with faith and trust.

I believe that amazing things do happen when God joins forces with humankind, and I have personally witnessed millions of great things through the instrumentality of the former provincial superior Sr Rose Mary and her team, who opened a door for my study and broadened my religious experiences which have deepened my life and mission. I owe them a sincere debt of appreciation and gratitude for providing me with this opportunity.

During my journey at CRI, as I began to view everyone as my sister and brother, my salvific mission began. The more we are committed to God's word the more our life's mission will become expansive. Though I have endured a lot of hardships during these 3 years of my study in Vidya Deep Collage these have helped me grow stronger as a person, and tangibly experience God's guiding hand and leading me on.

My research work on the topic "Formation of Women Religious" was an opportunity for me to read many books, and articles. It was an eye-opener and an excellent learning experience. The words of Jesus, "**For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you**" (Mt 10:20) gave me courage and strength during my comprehensive and Viva exams. I sincerely thank Sr. Celine Cunha and her team who were very supportive during my final years of study. I am indebted greatly to Sr. Shyla the superior, and every member of the community of Bangalore and the Province for the prayers and encouragement given to me during my academic endeavours. May this study help me to come closer to God and be generous in my apostolic activities. May God Bless you all.

- Sr M Roshni Minz



April 3, 1947: Holy Thursday, the Decree of the diocesan approval, Virginis ecclesiae, is promulgated in Alba.
Let us give thanks and praise to the Divine Master for this marvelous gift.

Interculturality Workshop - Asia Oceania



International online workshop on Interculturality organised by UISG was held from 6th to 11 March 2023. It was a great privilege to take part in this workshop in which 60 congregations took part. We were four PDDM sisters, Sr Maria from Australia, Sr Cristina from Philippines and Sr Columba from Korea and myself from India. My sincere thanks to Sr M Celine Cunha and the Team for giving me this opportunity. I am also grateful to Sr Giovanna Uchino the General Councillor who coordinated with UISG to help us attend the seminar.

It was a unique experience that enriched me personally. I discovered that the intercultural issues are serious issues and need to be addressed carefully. All the communities especially international communities need to be empowered to live in a supernatural way observing Gospel values. The whole week had been a wonderful exercise of learning, unlearning, and relearning about interculturality and various aspects that affect intercultural community living. Being aware that we are children of the same Father, we learn to accept each other's differences knowing that we are called for a specific mission and that mission can be accomplished only by harmonious living.

All the sessions were given by well-known and well-prepared speakers.

Sr Mary John, in her talk said that all the cultures and countries have something good to contribute. Therefore, the attitude of tolerance, respect, curiosity, empathy towards other cultures is very essential. We were born cultureless, and then as we grew up, we acquired it from people around us. For no culture is perfect, all are in a process of evolution and need to be evangelised.

From Fr Robert's talk I learned that all should move from tolerance of differences to appreciation and celebration of differences. This is a great challenge to those who look down on others and devalue their contribution based on their cultural background. To see others from God's eyes is a must to be true religious. It is a supernatural faith-based living that requires compromise, real vision, and dialogue. A revolution of interculturality in religious life specially in international community is very essential for survival.

Sr Paula took us to the monoculture of Jesus and the openness he had for a change towards intercultural sensitivity with different experiences and persons. The examples from the Scripture, The Canaanite woman, The Samaritan woman, and Good Samaritan were apt examples that depicted how Jesus dealt with intercultural issues.

What we need the most is dialogue that makes space, openness that gives way to change and stepping forward without getting offended creates understanding.

Intercultural community living and reconciliation by Sr Miriam has given lot of inputs to be adapted by intercultural community that faces challenges. To address intercultural issues courageously, to verify before judging and to forgive and reconcile. To own our wounds in God's presence and allow him to embrace our woundedness and hurt.

Sr Patricia Murray has well dealt on Interculturality, leadership and vows. A leader is expected to live Gospel values of empathy, openness, mutual sharing, hospitality, inclusiveness and to develop deep connectedness.

As a whole we were given sufficient knowledge in few days on interculturality. Sharing in groups opened us to the realities of international communities that face intercultural conflicts. This workshop will certainly yield good fruit in our personal lives as well as in our mission. I thank Sr Paula, Sr Cristina and the entire organising team for their meticulous arrangements.

- Sr M Precilla Patrao

"Walking" is the best exercise!!!

Walk away from arguments that lead you to nowhere but anger.

Walk away from people who deliberately put you down.

Walk away from any thought that reduces your worth.

Walk away from failures and fears that stifle your dreams.

Walk away from people who do not care for you and who are opportunistic.

The more you Walk away from things poisons your soul, the happier your life will be.

Give yourself A Walk towards love, peace, kindness and goodness.

Give yourself A Walk towards God's ways and plans for you.

May God help us daily *to walk* in the right direction, *to walk* towards him and with him.

Let's walk more.....



April 27, 2003: Fr. James Alberione is proclaimed Blessed