



STEPS



KHRIST PREMALAYA REGIONAL PHILOSOPHATE

DECEMBER 2011

Editorial...

Stimulus Struggle and Star Gazing

My father wanted me to become an engineer. I didn't have good brains for that. I chose economics. Not long ago when I was deciding to do a masters in philosophy my friends insisted that I must look for something better. When it comes to choosing university subjects and careers everyone opts for fields that promise to be profitable: business, engineering, computer science, medicine, etc. Philosophy and other liberal arts would be last in the list. One motivating factor behind such choices is the salary. The average starting salary of a graduate engineer is impressively much higher than a philosopher or any other arts graduate. Given the high cost of education this trend is not surprising.

But I think there are better ways to calculate profit and loss than by looking at starting salaries. Specialized training alone is not sufficient for the advancement but the ability to think critically and judge wisely. Philosophy is traditionally believed to develop such habits of mind. Perhaps that is one of the reasons philosophical studies are made compulsory for all clerical candidates. In India there are over a sixty major Catholic philosophical institutes where hundreds of seminarians have enrolled for their studies.

However, reports tell us of a decline in the interest in philosophy among seminarians. If philosophy is becoming unpopular, who is or what is to be blamed for this? Not in my opinion the subject itself which is neither dull nor difficult. I see two reasons. It has to do frankly with the way we present philosophy. Philosophy taught in our institutes has lost its practical orientations and has become more theory centered and shrouded with technical jargon. This can make learning philosophy a frustrating experience. Any inclusion of practical philosophy in our syllabus has taken many people by surprise. We need to look for inventive ways to present philosophy as something useful and practical.

The second reason is perhaps more drastic than the former. I am afraid of the unbecoming tendency to hide behind the all pervasive catch-phrase in our seminaries: "It is okay to be just so so - *Chaltha hai*". Ask teachers if these students learn anything of value. Ask if the threat of low grades or dismissal motivates them. Quite contrary, these students know they will be passed from term to term until they receive a degree. Do our seminaries fail to provide stimulation, adventure and excitement to these disinterested students? The extreme demands of a competitive world force young boys and girls to be excellent achievers, creative, inventive and exploratory. Why doesn't it happen with our students?

On my first day of philosophy learning my teacher Dr. Chetany instructed the class to do two things: write questions the more questions the more the marks scored and wondering at the world, specially star gazing. I ignored the first but did the second faithfully. I don't know whether Dr. Chetany knew the story of Thales, an ancient philosopher.

While Thales was studying the stars and gazing into the sky, he fell into a pothole. A jolly and witty Thracian servant girl made fun of him, saying that he was crazy to know about what was up in the heavens while he could not see what was in front of him. We do not know if the servant girl Thales had before him was pretty or not! An unlikely story went around that he had met his death by just such a fall while stargazing. This year 54 students are commencing their first lessons of star gazing. So far no one has fallen into any potholes. And I am yet to hear any *Thracian beauties* commenting upon these young men! The second issue of Steps brings to you the stories of these star gazers. I thank Bro. Arokia Doss and Sr. Christopher csj for helping me in the editorial work.

Merry Christmas to our Readers.



Antony Puthussery SVD



An ex-seminarian who loves priests

Words and sentiments of criticism can spring from a mind that is warped and angry and thus its aim could be destructive, belittling and defaming of the target of criticism. It can also spring from a mind that is enlightened, healthy and concerned and then its aim could be building up, enhancing and acting as a catalyst for soul searching, reform and revitalization of the object or matter that is targeted. I judge the letter given below, sent to me by an ex-seminarian (given in italics) belongs to the second category and thus we may have a few lessons to learn from it if we make a careful perusal of it.

Let me start telling you with one remark, which a professor said in the class while teaching us. He had associated the seminarians with the parable of the Gold Coin in the gospel of Luke chapter 19 that all the people in the seminary are with one talent as the last servant in the parable: that it is because of the one talent that they chose to be in the seminary, if not they would have been in some other profession. I very confidently agree with what he said and that there is a lot more we can do in multiplying the one talent into many.....but, that is a very big question mark!!!

Now that I have a very slight experience of living on both the sides (in the seminary and outside), I got a very good opportunity in mingling with different kinds of people (students). There is a special reason of my mentioning all this. Earlier I had been told by many priests that the fathers and brothers are the ones who speak good English and so on. I too used to feel proud of myself that I could speak and write something in English very well. And when I had to

prepare myself for the aptitude test to get admission for MBA, I found myself not able to do even the comprehensive and other verbal ability part of English and also the logical part which I had learned in the seminary during philosophy. Ultimately I had to go to some coaching institute for cracking all these. Now the question is whether we are taught all these modules on its applicability and the question is how much really is the taking away!!!!

I was surprised to learn that people who are falling below my age category possess a lot of knowledge and leadership skills. Many of the things which a man should know were not known to me. I was told in the seminary that priests are public people and that they are to lead people in the parish. Gone are those days when people believed priests blindly and obeyed them without questioning. Now you do not know the thinking process, skills, knowledge level, leadership skills, and the leadership ability that people around us possess.

Another thing I observed was of the attitude. I found these people again defeating me in terms of spiritually. They are far better spiritually than the brothers in the house. They very voluntarily do fasting and penance. They have the mentality of sharing and caring etc. where as we do not care for other persons in the seminary. Why so? Is there something lacking in the system? I have no answer for it.

I feel in olden days the priests were empowered because they had knowledge and awareness of

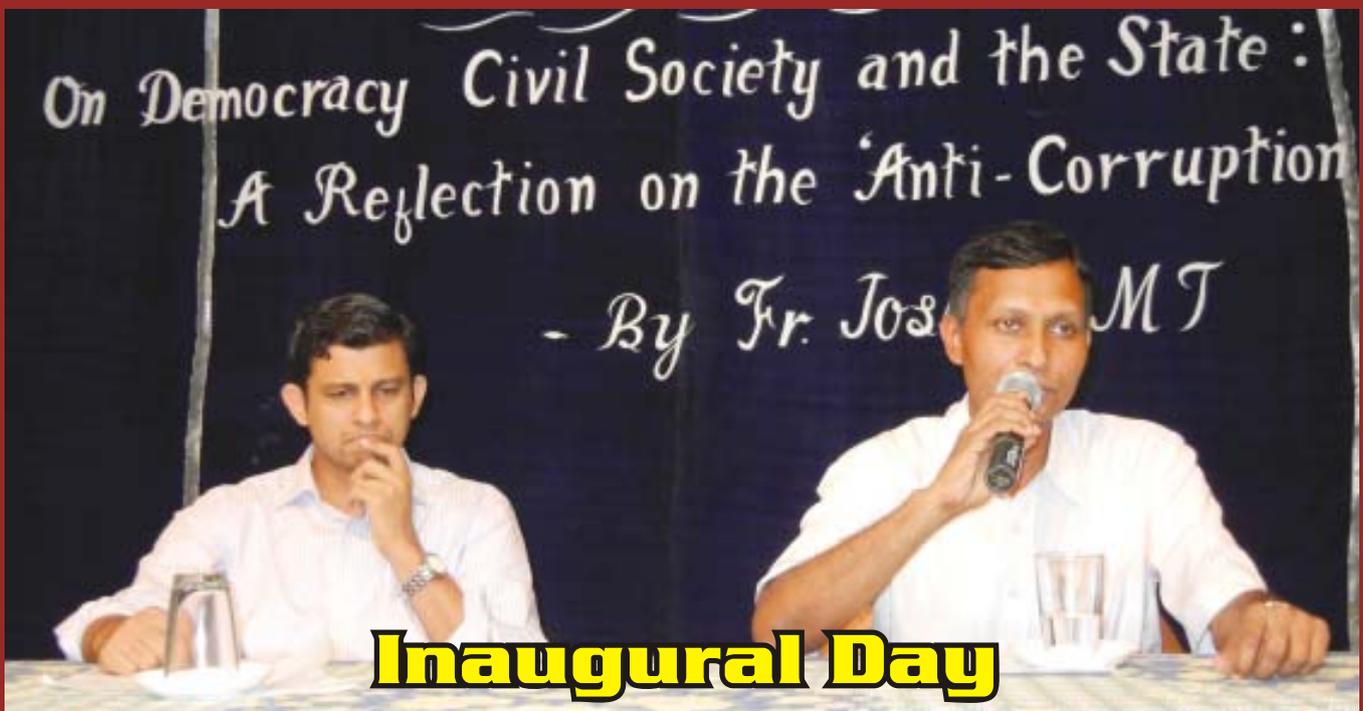
many things which a common man probably did not have. That is why they were leaders, teachers and reformers etc. But what about the situation in our tomorrows?

Let me make a few reflective comments. First, the above letter does not spit venom and anger. It reflects a genuine concern; the appalling fall in the quality of priests. The letter raises certain questions that none who loves priests and the priesthood can ignore. The quality and calibre of young men, in the secular world, according to this letter, seem to be far more superior to that of those undergoing the formation program for priesthood. The letter further states that the young men of the world take to

spirituality far more easily and genuinely than those that are meant to be spiritual leaders and experts.

Why this qualitative difference between the young people of the world and the young people meant for the church? I think the difference so much does not lie in the one or many talents they possess but what they do with those one or many talents. For young people of the world what they do, whether their studies or their jobs, are tied up with their bread and butter, tied up with making or breaking of their life. So whatever they do they bring to it enormous commitment, passion and enthusiasm. They are determined to make a success of what they do. Can we say the same thing of our young people desiring to be priests?

Thomas Chacko SVD



Khrist Premalaya Seminary inaugurated the new academic year, 2011-2012 on the 3rd of July which was also the feast of St. Thomas. Most Rev. Durairaj SVD, the Bishop of Khandwa Diocese, during his inaugural address drew a wonderful parallel between a questioning philosopher and the doubting St. Thomas in the Bible. He said a philosopher's vocation is to raise challenging questions though a satisfactory and complete explanation may not always be possible.

The Mass and the Lexio Brevis were attended by a good number of priests and religious from the neighboring communities. Dr. Joseph M.T. SVD, the speaker of the day delivered a scholarly lecture on the theme: Democracy, civil society and the state: A reflection on the anti-corruption crusade. In his fascinating and engaging lecture he explained how 'civil society' as a movement developed and the various nuances of this concept, specially the close connection between democracy and civil society. While giving a perspective to the recent 'crusade against corruption' unleashed by Anna Hazare and his associates and the machinations of yoga guru Baba Ramdev, he discussed the interplay and terms of engagement among various civil society 'agents' and 'representatives'.

Rajesh Roshan, Muzaffarpur Diocese

Seminary Day Celebration

KPRP celebrated its seminary day on 30th October 2010. This programme was attended by its alumni, friends, neighbors, priests and religious of Bhopal diocese.

The celebration began with the cultural programme at 6.00 pm in KPRP auditorium. Fr. Rector after welcoming all presented the report of the academic year that gave over all view of the seminary activities. Bishop Paschal Topno, the chief guest, in his message encouraged the seminarians to inculcate missionary zeal in their life. He also reminded them of their greater responsibility as leaders of society.



A scene from *The Importance of Being Earnest*

The English three act play *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde performed by brothers was the main attraction of the day. The play was centered on characters who maintain double personalities to escape burdensome obligations in the society. Besides that we had a variety of cultural programmes classical and cultural dances, musical performance by the choir to name a few. Brothers delivered a truly outstanding performance and gave everyone a wonderful experience. The occasion was also an opportunity to felicitate the SVD jubilarians Fr. Thomas Aquinas and Bro. Benjamin Kerketta. The programme was concluded with a dinner.

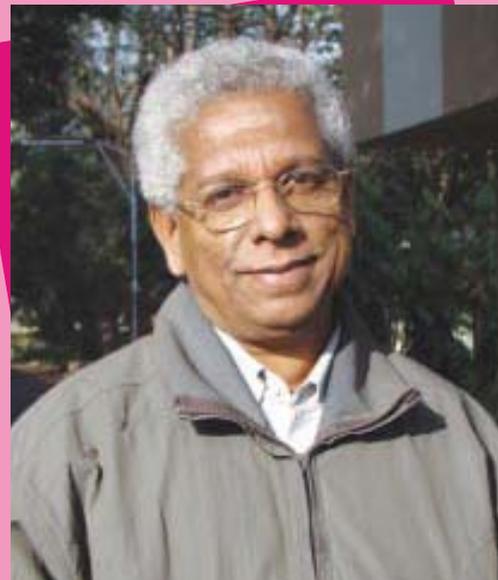
Ebin Jose, Sagar Diocese

Christmas Celebration at Chief Minister's Residence

The KPRP choir was much thrilled when they received the chief minister, Shivraj Singh Chouhan's invitation to celebrate Christmas at his residence on 26th December. The choir was chosen to sing carols in a Christmas gathering organized at his official residence. The gathering was first of its kind in the recent history of the state. The programme was well attended by eminent leaders of the state, Religious leaders and representatives of Christian communities. The chief minister in his speech emphasized the need to work toward the building up of a Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam. He was quite eloquent in quoting the bible when he wanted to make a point.

The Arch Bishop Leo Cornelio, in his message, highlighted on the importance of working together for the prosperity of the state by leaving behind all the cultural and religious differences. The choir under the mastership of Fr. Shelmon was in fine tune and the Santa clause was in good fettle that brought the smiles from the viewers every now and then.

Pradeep, Jabalpur Diocese



**KPRP welcomes
Fr. Mathew Chemarapally, the
new Procurator and Vice Rector**

**ANNUAL VISITATION
AT K.P.R.P**

As K.P.R.P concluded the academic year of 2010-11, a day was set apart for the Bishops' official visitation of K.P.R.P. The members of executive council, Most Rev. Leo Cornelio SVD, Archbishop of Bhopal, Most Rev, Gerald Almeida, Bishop of Jabalpur, and Most Rev. Arokia Durai Raj SVD, Bishop of Khandwa were welcomed on 17th March.

A suitable time table for the day was prepared by Fr. Rector after consultation with the Bishops. They met the brothers in their respective class rooms. The Brothers articulated their experiences, difficulties, and also gave some valuable suggestions for improvements for the next academic year. Everyone had an opportunity to interact with the Bishops personally.

Rev. Dr. Leo Cornelio SVD, the President, presided over a meeting with the staff of K.P.R.P to get their views and opinions. At the end of the day, all the Bishops met the community with the staff members as one K.P.R.P. family. The staff members were lauded by the Bishops for their valuable contribution and commitment in forming diocesan brothers in North India. The official visitation of the Bishops ended with the Holy Eucharist followed by a community meal. It was a day of celebration at K.P.R.P.



Bishops of MP Region at KPRP

Sijeon, Ahmedabad Diocese



The congregation at KPRP

**A THRONE FOR HIS
MAJESTY**

KPRP became the venue for a large number of the faithful to celebrate the feast of Christ the King. As was the custom, the procession began at 10.00 am from the Assumption Parish Church on 20th November 2011. The congregation was composed of the children who led the procession, followed by the King in the Monstrance covered by an imperial canopy, and carried devoutly by the priests in turn; the adult faithful followed.

The procession was led by young girls strewing flowers along the way. As the songs of praise rose, the congregation

entered the KPRP campus. After a hymn of welcome, a few more suitable songs were sung in praise of the King, A Gospel passage was then read, followed by the blessing of the congregation. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the faithful wished each other and then hailed Christ: *Khrist Raja Ki Jai*. They then dispersed in a joyous spirit. The parish priest, Fr. Abraham P.P, thanked the KPRP Brothers for their assistance and congratulated them on their skill in decorating and managing the function.

Jone Ginnesh, Indore Diocese.



KRISPO 2011

Our Family Feast at KPRP was celebrated under the title KRISPO 2011 from Oct 17 to 20. The regular academic life of KPRP was at a standstill for the week. Students were divided into family groups well in advance, with a motto: 'Yes! We Can', giving themselves names and designing their "family" T-shirts.

It's been a terrific festival with packed programs every day. Games, competitions, good food and entertainment ensured that everyone was

tired by nightfall. A fresher said: 'It was a good opportunity to get to know each other, to build a good sense of belonging between us.' Every one could make a contribution since there was a vast array of games activities, athletic fun and challenges and a series of stage events. KRISPO was not just about games and fun but we could experience some of the young talents blooming on the stage and on the field. Fr. Mathew who is new to the community said, 'considering the limited time for preparation, events like music, dance and other art performances were of great quality.'

KRISPO 2011 was a celebration of our wonderfully diverse family: 63 members from 9 states and a neighboring country Nepal. 'It is a celebration of the gift of community and not just a sports week,' rightly said Fr. Rector, in his message. A big thanks to the organizers and participants who helped make the Festival such a memorable one for 2011.

Ajay Prakash, Indore Diocese



Learning the Art of Giving

We were taught that charity was a personal and private activity; "let not your right hands know what your left hand is doing" to be more biblical. But a new style of philanthropy is now emerging and is more common among NGOs. They say it is good to make your good actions known because it encourages others to follow in your footsteps.

The stress is not on the whole world knowing about your good deed, but about 'engaged giving'.

Perhaps the best model for this is the Christmas gathering organized by Indira Iyengar and her sister Sushila Goshal in collaboration with Khrist

Premalaya seminary on 18th December 2010, at the police stadium, Bhopal.

The fête under the banner of *Friends of Mother Teresa*, was aimed at giving less fortunate children a memorable Christmas day. The KPRP brothers were in charge; one of them played Santa Claus for the children, they sang carols to cheer the less fortunate children and the song 'Jingle bells' and the Christmas gifts were much appreciated by the children. A few prominent leaders of the city, including Archbishop Leo Cornelio SVD and Archbishop Pascal Topno SJ (Emeritus) were present on the occasion.

Naresh Chebathina, Bhopal Archdiocese.



KPRP Staff

The Student Council organized 'Teacher's Day Celebration' on September 8th as a mark of tribute to the contribution made by teachers to the KPRP. The celebration began with the holy Mass in the morning. The dedication and commitment of the staff and the visiting professors towards the enhancement of the students' life was remembered during the mass.

All were invited to the hall for a cultural evening. The president of the Student Council, Bro Naresh was called, to present gifts to the Staff and all were

welcomed with a garland and a bouquet. A few indoor games were conducted for the staff as a part of the entertainment but the best part of it was the skit.

Fr. Thomas Chacko, in a short message during the program said, 'It is the students who make good teachers and the greatest satisfaction of a teacher is to see his student excelling , perhaps even better than the teacher himself'

Nikhil Varghese, Chanda Diocese

Bhopal's biggest football tournament kicked off

Bhopal's biggest football tournament- EUGENE MEMORIAL 2011 was kicked off on August 14. This year as many as 16 teams from all across the city have participated in this tournament, organized by Khrist Premalaya Philosophate.

On an average day, eight matches were being held across the two football grounds. "If you just look at the scale of the tournament, it has hardly any parallel in the city," said Fr. Albinus SVD, the secretary of the organizing committee.

Initiated in 1997 in honor of the late Arch bishop Eugene D'Souza of Bhopal, the tournament was conceived as an effective platform for engaging catholic youths of Bhopal city. St. Theresa's of Badjhiri lifted the trophy defeating Matha Maria for 1-0 in a thrilling final. The Eugene Memorial Cup was inaugurated by Mr. Wilfred Lakra IAS, who



was the Chief Guest. On the final day Fr. Mathew VC, the Vicar General of the diocese gave away the trophies.

Danesh Korche, Jabalpur Diocese

Mission Together

World Mission Sunday is celebrated in every parish in every diocese around the world. KPRP has set aside not just one day to this yearly event but two full months. World Mission Sunday is a wonderful occasion to globally reflect on the Universal Church.

We have a committee to organize mission awareness programs. As is customary, various fundraising activities were conducted such as, a mission film, sporting events like table tennis, basket ball, rugby, etc. and a mission fair auction. The inclusion of a marathon race was a new event this year.



**Mission Auction
in Progress**

Fr. Rector said, “moving beyond the mission collection aspect, World Mission program can be a wonderful opportunity for mission education, mission awareness and the experience of being part of the World Church.” Missionaries were invited for an informal gathering where they shared informative insights of their work, challenges, and needs. This year we were honored by the visit of two SVD missionaries Most. Rev. Bishop Raphael Cheenath SVD, of the Archdiocese of Cuttack-Bhubaneswar and Fr. Davis from Togo

At the end of the day what matters is, as a student said, the feeling that we are part of a worldwide family helping one another.

Jijo Joseph, Jabua Diocese



In the land of Stupas

Each of us woke up thrilled and enthusiastic on 28th August for it was the awaited day of a picnic to Sanchi.

We could see the hills rising from the plains as our train was approaching the Sanchi station, 46 kms north east of Bhopal. It is a rounded hill topped with some of India's oldest Buddhist structures. We went around the stupas and the remnants of old monasteries and temples in small groups. Some of us were busy capturing the scenes in photographs.

Beautifully proportioned, the Great Stupa was the, main sight on the hill. It is said

that the great stupa was built by the Mauryan emperor Ashoka after the Kalinga war as an act of repentance.

A few smart fellows among us volunteered to explain the scenes carved onto the pillars. They looked like tales from Jatakas, episodes from Bhudhas various lives. The scenic view we saw from the hill top was splendid. The lunch was so sumptuous and satisfying that nobody ventured out trekking thereafter.

We bid farewell to Sanchi feeling enriched by the experience and tired from the hectic activity. It was an uplifting educative experience with enough lighthearted camaraderie to create a joy-filled spirit as we made our way back home to Bhopal.

Sahaya Santhosh, Bhopal Diocese

Interfaith Exposure

After attending a course on Sikhism it was my personal desire to visit a Gurudwara since I had not ever visited one. I was so happy when our teacher Prof. Charanjit Kaur arranged a visit for us.

We reached the Gurudwara on a Sunday morning and Charanjit Kaur was waiting for us at the entrance. As we entered we all covered our heads with scarves and removed our footwear as a sign of respect. The atmosphere inside was genuinely spiritual. The priests inside the shrine kept up a continuous chant in Gurumukhi from the Sikh holy book. We went to the place where the Holy Book Granth Sahab had been kept

covered with silk and embroidered pieces of cloth and knelt on the floor then bowed and touched our foreheads right to the floor. Dr. Charanjit introduced us to the devotees gathered.

She then guided us to the different active services in the Gurudwara complex, from homeopathic clinic to the place where langar was served. Langar, is a practice where by people from all walks of life regardless of caste or creed sit side by side to share a complementary meal prepared by hard working volunteers in the communal kitchen of the Gurudwara. We enjoyed garam garam puri .

Throughout our visit while strolling inside Charanjit kept up a commentary enlightening us on the fundamentals of Sikhism. It was an excellent interfaith exposure and an occasion to 'see through' the faith of others, and enable us to reexamine our own assumptions about others.

Antony John, Passioniaist



Prof. Charanjit with her students



Incredible Things Happen

Bro. Ashirvadam was knocked down by a scooter while crossing the road on foot, on his way to college on Nov18th morning. According to an eyewitness, a student of BSSS College, probably hurrying to the college, in his scooty slammed into Ashir from behind.

The crash left him with a serious head injury causing multiple hemorrhages in his brain. He had to go undergo an emergency operation to remove the blood clots. Though, remained in a very critical condition for the first few days, in the National Hospital he is slowly recovering now at home. The driver of the scooty reportedly had only minor injuries. Doctors who operated Ashir are amazed at his fast recovery. "Brain injuries can result in life-long disability but in Ashir's case it's nothing short of a miracle," said the Doctor. Ashir who initially responded with single-word or gestures to many questions till a few days back, has began to speak clearly.

His continued speedy recovery gives us the hope that he is going to get back to his active life soon. Though said easily, Ashir has a long way to go. He has occasional struggle to find the right words during a conversation, and perhaps a little lapse of short term memory.

Ashirvadam is a third year philosophy student and belongs to the diocese of Bhopal. He is one of the best electricians of our community. KPRP community thank the doctors and the nurses of the National hospital for their excellent medical care they gave and also our thanks to all those who supported him through their prayers.

Antony Puthussery SVD

TRIBUTE TO SARDAR PRITAM SINGH In Memoriam



Sardar Pritam Singh, the noted leader of the Sikh community of Madhya Pradesh died on September 21, 2011 at the age of 78. Over the past fourteen years, he had devoted himself to teaching Sikhism at KPRP. Born in Punjab he began his career as a specialist of Track Technology and also served as professor in the institute Track Technology, Pune. He retired as Senior Divisional Engineer of Indian Railways after delivering meritorious services for 36 long years.

Pritham Singh, known for his excellent oratory and organizational skills has served as the secretary and chairman of many reputed organizations. To the staff and the students of KPRP he was a fatherly person, who closely associated with the formation

of young men. Those close to him knew very well that he took up the teaching job at KPRP not to occupy himself in his retired life but he was certainly a vibrant evangelizer of Sikhism. He was known for his gentleness and humility but did not yield where religious principles were concerned. He showed phenomenal zeal and strength for religious activities sometimes even to the neglect his health.

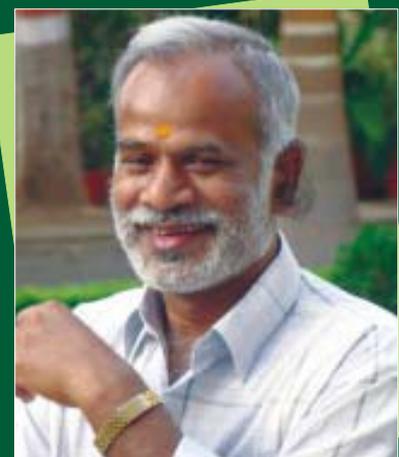
Over the decades, Pritam Singh inspired hundreds of students who have passed through the portals of KPRP. He will remain a model for all of us in the way he lived his life and will be long remembered and sorely missed.

Prof. Charanjit Kaur, Visiting Professor

Adieu Confreres



KPRP gave farewell to Fr. Marcel Tanan and Fr. Thomas Aquinas at the end of the last academic year. The students council organized a simple but an impressive farewell function at Rachanalaya honoring the outgoing staff members. Fr. Marcel Tanan was best remembered for his long service as the procurator and vice rector of the institute. Fr. Aquinas was the spiritual director of the house for last one year.



The new appointment of Fr. Marcel is at SVD novitiate, Khurda as the procurator, while Fr. Aquinas has taken charge as the Manager at St. Arnold School, Meghnagar. Fr. Mathew Chemarapally has joined the Staff this year as the new procurator and vice rector. While welcoming the new man in charge, KPRP is grateful to the outgoing staff members.

Arokia Doss, Gwalior Diocese

'Daddy' We Miss You

No one can that easily forget Fr. Joseph Veluthedath. Plain speaking, and doing so rather brusquely, characterized many of his interactions with people. He was also a whole person, who enjoyed life, his colleagues, friends and students to the utmost. He lived life enthusiastically and travelled extensively, both in his work and for pleasure. As someone said he believed in 'enjoying the minor vices' and had a zest for life. Once to a doctor who prescribed a stringent diet for him he said 'the church had forbidden half of the pleasures and you're forbidding the rest.'

Joe paid no obeisance to any intellectual fashions. He was always clear in his deliberations and came down heavily on philosophical jargons. Unlike many others he did not author any major book. While his scholarship was impeccable, it is as a formator that he stands out. His students speak of him with affection, and some trepidation, for Joe did not tolerate fools easily. It was only when you got to know him that you discovered that rather brusque exterior hid a soft, sensitive, empathetic core. Students fondly called him "daddy"

While commemorating the 18th death anniversary of Fr. Joe on last Sept 26, KPRP paid tribute to its founding father. We all miss his laughter, his wit, his angry retorts, his philosophy and his passionate advocacy of a liberal Church. The legacy that he has left to this institution is inspiring, and one hopes that it will be nurtured and will grow. The following is an obituary that appeared in SVD Newsletter eighteen years back.

"I am fit as a fiddle" and "I am now strictly following the diet" further "I have given up smoking totally, of course under the strict instruction of the Sister in charge of the Natural Therapy Centre" said Fr. Joseph Veluthedath to Fr. Clarence Srambical when he met him a month ago at Ashta before his death.

He could not have imagined that the end would come so soon in the midst of theodicy course at Vidya Niketan Mysore. He suddenly collapsed and was rushed to the hospital, where it was first diagnosed as acute breathlessness and a low heart count. A few hours later, he was dead, fortified by the last sacrament and comforted by the prayers of his students and confreres.

Born at Mannar, Kerala in a god fearing Veluthedath family, Joe after completing his preliminary studies joined the SVD at Cahtolic Ashram Palda in June 1953. He had a brilliant



1933-1993

academic career and was the first SVD to get a L.Ph and LD.

Ordained in September 1963, Joe was the first Indian SVD to be appointed for an overseas mission, Tagaytay City, Philippines. He taught Philosophy to the students of Divine Word Seminary there. He was much appreciated for his clear and logical thinking and brilliant exposure of topics handled by him. Even today his students remember him as one of the best professors they ever had.

India beckoned him back to Palda to take over the post of Professor and Director of studies. During this time, he also served for a year as the Vicar General of Indore Diocese. In 1969, he proceeded to Rome for further studies. He specialized in 'Medieval Bhakti movement in North India particularly the philosophy of God according to Tulsidas.'

Mid-way during his studies, Joe was called to be a professor at Khrist Premealaya, Bhopal. He served in various capacities at the seminary until his last. During this time he also served as provincial admonitor and Councillor.

Speaking during the golden jubilee celebrations of the SVD in India, Joe advocated re-orientation of our formation in future. The men of God are taken to be Avatara a manifestation of God. They are supposed to be Jeevanmukta. That means they have experienced their salvation... we believe that we are a people who have participated in the resurrection

of Christ, salvation and kingdom of God which is here and now... Therefore, I plead for a very specialized people in the future who would be given necessary training... as pioneer missionaries who can go to the uncharted areas of the Church activity and then we would be in the forefront of creating new methods and new orientation.'

Joe was amiable and companionable. The confreres loved his company as Joe could speak authoritatively almost on any subject and could share a joke and laugh heartily at himself as well. He believed in 'enjoying the minor vices' and had a zest for life. Surely the Lord loves his company too.

His passing away has cast a pall of gloom on those who knew and loved him. The void created by his departure will not be easily filled up. In one of the

most solemn funerals ever, Fr. Jose Veluthedath was laid to rest at Palda on Sunday, 26th September 1993, the funeral Mass was concelebrated by His Grace Rt. Rev. Dr. Eugene D'Souza of Bhopal, Bishop George Ananthil of Indore, Bishop Abraham Viruthakulangara of Khandwa, Fr. Chales Pinto, The Provincial of INC and a large number of priest and confreres of the three SVD Provinces. A great many sisters, religious, lay-people, friends and relatives and hundreds of students attended the funeral rites.

While flower bedecked coffin was lowered into the grave amid the intoning of the prayers of the last rites, many wept openly- a tribute to the deceased's popularity and lovable nature.

Antony Puthussery SVD

Convocation

The KPRP Conferral Ceremony was held at the main chapel of the seminary on 9th February 2011. 32 Philosophers, including seven day scholars received their graduation certificates during the Eucharistic celebration, presided over by Most Rev. Leo Cornelio, the Archbishop of Bhopal. The ceremony marked the end of the three years training program in Philosophy and Priestly formation, and graduation from Barkatullah University. Special awards were also given to the outstanding performers in Philosophy.

The day came to an end with a colorful cultural programme in the evening to honor the graduating seniors. The programme included sharing of memorable experiences and a creative ramp walk by the outgoing brothers. The address of the Rector, Fr. Thomas Chacko added flavour to the entire event.

Jose MD, Sagar Diocese



**KPRP Brothers
in a Procession**