

A Journey with Christmas Tidings – Christmas Float at SHC

The Parish Clergy team had decided to move in the different areas of the Parish spreading the tidings of Christmas and ushering in the spirit of Christmas. This event was a little different from the others. Yes, on the 16th of December, those who were allotted responsibilities assembled at 3:00 pm in the Church Premises. After cleaning of the truck, the decorations of the truck started in earnest and by 6:30pm, before the Sunday evening mass celebrated by Fr. Evan Gomes got over and we had the float ready complete with a live crib (members of Legion of Mary), a Choir and the Parish Priest Fr. Baptist Pais atop the float. We had a powerful sound system in attendance and the whole truck was lit with floodlights including the surrounding area. And the person leading the float was none other than our Santa on his bike.





A huge crowd had gathered in the Church Premises to see off the Float. We started on time. As we wove our way to the first halt, we were obviously the attention grabbers. The DJ played Christmas carols. Pedestrians stopped in their path, people in houses opened their windows to see from where the melodious music was flowing.



A huge crowd had gathered, people started waving hysterically as Fr. Baptist proclaimed the message of Christmas- *To the people gathered here of different caste, creed and religion, we bring you the joy and peace of Christmas. May the Infant Jesus bless you and your families abundantly. We also wish you in A Happy and prosperous New Year 2013.* And then the choir sang carols. All the people joined in singing; it was a sight to behold with people singing and some youth dancing. As we moved out, people followed the truck on its journey to the next halt. We were welcomed by a

huge crowd gathered with red shirts/t-shirts and red caps. Fr. Baptist proclaimed his message of Christmas. The choir sang carols including a hindi carol and people swayed their arms to the music, people started dancing.



And so the float moved on from one halt-point to the other. Bringing cheer to the people, making evening walkers stop in their paths, shopkeepers stopped attending to their customers and waited to look at the float and hear the message, people in flats

came out in their balconies to witness the float with Christmas tidings and to top it all, a procession of another religion stopped in their path to allow us to move on and waved and wished us as we went.





The last halt was in the Church premises, scheduled at 9:40 pm. As a hallmark of the planning and the on-ground control, the float made an entry at sharp 9:40pm!! All credit to Parish people who first of all did a thorough home-work and then controlled the movement of the truck and the time at the halt points in such a manner that we reached our final destination on time. The Police personnel were also praise to the manner in which we moved through the crowded and narrow streets of our Parish without causing much of inconvenience to the local populace. At the last halt, we had a photo session and Fr. Innocent proposed a vote of thanks. The journey ended with people going home with smiles on the faces and good tidings of Christmas in their hearts. A journey to be remembered for a long time to come!

-Rev. Fr. John Singarayar SVD