



SPIRIT AGLOW

NEWSLETTER OF THE CHENNAI SERVICE COMMUNION
(FORMERLY MADRAS SERVICE TEAM)
For Private circulation only



Inside

- Page 1....Editorial and
Message of Chairman
Page 2 ...Pentecost Rally
Page 3... Youth Corner &
Planning Meet
Page 4 Prayer Group in
Focus & To understand the
Holy Eucharist
Page 5...Retreats, Just for
Smiles & Prayer meeting
Details
Page 6...Spirit filled &
Upcoming Programmes



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AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2019



Editorial

'Do not quench the Holy Spirit' says 1Thes 5:19. The Madras Service Team, or as recently christened the **Chennai Service of Communion**, ably lead by its chairman Br. Wilson Irudayaraj, far from extinguishing the fire of the Holy Spirit, has acted as bellows to keep the flames alive by its continuous activities. The very first programme of the new Service of Communion, 'The Pentecost Rally' saw not only the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, but also the outpouring of the people into the Sacred Heart Auditorium of the Church Park convent school. There after there was no looking back. 'Life in the Spirit Seminar' was conducted for the Perambur parishioners, retreats were carried out in three schools, and a programme called 'Understanding the Eucharist' animated by Rev. Fr. Bosco Anthony Ryan was organised.

A good boost to the Chennai Service Communion came in the form of the spiritual director. His Grace George Anthonysamy, the Arch Bishop of Madras-Mylapore, appointed Rev. Fr. M.Arulraj, former Vicar General as the Spiritual Director of the CSC for a period of five years from 3rd of August 2019. Fr. Arulraj is a real God send, as he is very much dedicated to his work and he is loved and respected by all.

Praise be to God!

EDITOR

A Message from our Chairman



Dear Friends in Christ

It gives me immense pleasure to reach out to you through Spirit Aglow. I take this opportunity to thank you for attending the Seminar on Eucharist animated by Fr. Bosco and for the National Intercession Day organised by CSC, Chennai.

St. Paul would say in Phil 4:4 "Rejoice and again I say Rejoice" and in 1Thes 5:16 he would say "Rejoice evermore." Time and again Jesus was asking us not to worry about tomorrow, and cast our burdens on him- The reason we have to rejoice and give thanks in all circumstances is to keep the Holy Spirit in us always rekindled. St. Padre Pio says "Don't allow any sadness to dwell in your soul, for sadness prevents the Holy Spirit from acting freely."

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As people who are Part of the CSC, we have to spread the joy to the world battered and bruised with hatred, selfishness and Sin. Let's keep our fire alive by taking time for Personal Prayers, Sacraments, reading the word of God and fellowship (attending prayer meetings regularly and participating in CSC programmes). For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline (1 Timothy 1:7).

As our Diocese is celebrating the 'Eucharistic Congress' let's contribute to our parishes by our involving in the related activities spreading the Joy of the spirit wherever we go.

Greetings from all the members of Chennai Service of Communion.

Wilson Irudayaraj



The Pentecost Rally 2019

There was a great look of festivity at Church Park Convent on the 9th of July 2019. The programme was to start at 9.30 am. But the convent ground was filling up with cars and bikes at 9am itself and people were rushing into the Sacred Heart Auditorium fearing that they might not find a place to sit. The youth were already on the stage with their orchestra singing familiar Charismatic hymns. The usual cries of 'Hello, Hello, mike testing' or the pulling or pushing of instruments on the stage was absent. This was the scenario at the start of the day at the 'Pentecost Rally-2019.'

After the Rosary by the 'Madras Intercessory Network', an enthralling 'Praise and Worship' was led by the YU4C (Youth United for Christ) which set the trend for the Pentecost Rally. Next was an introductory talk by the main resource person, Rev. Fr. Jose Vettiyankal, director of Logos Retreat Centre, Bangalore. During his talk Fr. Jose assured that everyone present would receive the gifts of Intercession, Healing and Deliverance, provided they devoted themselves to, the reading of Scriptures, Participation in the Sacraments, Personal prayers, and Charities. The morning session concluded with the Holy Mass concelebrated by Fr. Jose and Fr. K.P. Paul. The sumptuous lunch that followed was sponsored by Mr Henry Jesudass, CEO of Exodus Marine Co Pvt Ltd

The afternoon session began with a skit by the youth after which Br. Benjamin Gonzaga, a former NST member was asked to speak on 'CHARIS' introduced by His Holiness Pope Francis. Br Benjamin explained that the expansion of CHARIS is Catholic Charismatic International Service. He said that all groups practising Charismatic Spirituality would come under one umbrella without giving up their individual identity

After Br Benjamin's talk, there were personal testimonies from those who had attended the retreats from Logos as well as from our Chairman Br Wilson and Br Selvarajan a member of CSC. The Adoration that followed was preceded by an action song. During the Adoration many persons were healed of various sicknesses. Some of them gave testimonies of the same. Next Br Benjamin and Ms Margaret Rosair were asked to come to the stage, to pray along with Fr. Jose and Fr. KP Paul for the infilling of the Holy Spirit. This was followed by the Final Blessing. There after a birthday cake was cut as 'Pentecost Day' is considered as the birthday of the Church.

Finally before the Vote of Thanks by Ms Marcia Ellens, the CSC members were introduced and the SPIRIT AGLOW was inaugurated as the editor handed over a copy of the same to Rev. Fr. Jose Vettiyankal. Br Romeo Lobo ably compered the whole show.



*Sow the seeds of kindness, in someone's heart each day.
And in the Garden of your life Sun will come to stay*

YU4C Youth Corner- Retreats



Retreats at St Aloysius & St Michaels

The team conducted two retreats in the last two months (July and August 2019). The first was at St Aloysius which was conducted for 3 consecutive weeks (On Saturdays alone). Here the team used its own resources. Individuals from the team took up different responsibilities, such as giving talks, Testimonies and leading worship. The management of the school had given us the opportunity to interact with the non-Christian Students as well, where Yu4c was able to spread good values and speak a little about how Jesus helped us in our personal life. We received a number of feedbacks from the students on how our interaction with them had helped them to look at life differently, and how they had enjoyed our action songs, dances and activities. Classes handled were from 7th to 12th over 3 days. The resource persons were, Mr Peter, Mr Eric, Ms. Simmone, Ms. Shania, Mr. Jhonsa, Ms. Roscir, Mr Griffin, Ms Venita, Mr. Edmond, Mr Michael, Ms Diana, Ms Akanksha, and Mr Dominic.

The second was at St Michael's Academy on August 17th 2019, here the team handled the students of 9th 10th 11th and 12th. It was a one day retreat organized by the management of the school. We were divided into different teams and the speakers were both from Yu4c and CSC members as well. It was good experience for the team as well. The resource persons were, Mr Peter, Ms Shania, Ms Roscir, Mr Edmon, Mr Michael, Ms Dianna, Ms Akanksha, Dr Dominic, Ms Marcia, Mr Wilson, and Mr Charles.

DOMINIC EXCOMPARE



The Planning Meet -2019



The cool green atmosphere of Satya Nilayam welcomed the members of Chennai Service of Communion as they entered into its premises for the Planning Meet on the 13th of July 2019 around 6.30 pm. The members greeted one another with smiles and laughter. Around 7pm Br. Selvarajan conducted a Praise and Worship in which everyone participated. Around 8pm they were asked to proceed for dinner.

After dinner the members were taken to an excellent A.C. Conference Hall, with LED projector and screen, mikes, speakers and so on. After the introductory talk by the Chairman Br. Wilson, the members were asked to introduce themselves, mentioning the details of their families, their profession, and their experience with the Lord and their charisms. Everybody shared freely without any inhibition. As the sharing was not complete even though it was well past 10pm, it was decided to continue the same on the following day.

On the following day after Mass and breakfast, the next session started around 10.30am. After the sharing of those who had not shared the previous day, there was a session of 'Looking Back'. It was a time to review the past

performances, enlisting the successes, challenges and drawbacks. This was followed by a session of 'Looking Forward' when the future plans and the ways of executing them were planned, keeping in mind the Golden Jubilee of the Renewal in India in the year 2022, when CSC would be holding at least one Convention. For this it was planned to conduct Life in the Spirit Seminar in all Parishes by that date and start Prayer Groups both in English and in Tamil in all Parishes. As a first step each of the members were allotted the Parish he or she belonged to as well as five other parishes to be chosen by them to initiate LSS and formation of Prayer Groups. The other programmes for the year were to be decided along with the Prayer Group Leaders on another date. The Planning Meet concluded with the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament after which tea was served.



*Relaxing
after a
hard day
of
planning?*

*Prayer Group in focus -
Adyar Prayer Group
Re-Born by Sherene D'Costa*



The Charismatic Prayer Group of St. Louis Church, Adyar was not functioning for some years. This great concern was voiced by Br. Benjamin, who was a member of the Nation Service Team and Dr. Dominic who was then Chairman of the MST. This intention was kept in Prayer, and believe me. God moved in a Mighty way as Philip, was lifted & placed in the Caravan to expound the Scriptures to the Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8:26-39), God literally moved Bro. Wilson from Velachery to Adyar. The two of us, approached our Parish Priest Rev. Fr. P. A. Jacob. He listened, nodded, and without a hitch after placing the matter before the Parish Council, granted permission. The Day, Time, Venue, all fell in place and moved smoothly, as smooth as silk. That's how great and wonderful our God is. The impossible, He makes possible.

Madras Service Team. on several occasions brought up the request to initiate efforts to revive the Prayer Group. We tried testing the waters with a few of the stalwarts of the Prayer Group, but responses were tepid. We were thrilled and that's putting it mildly, when the first meeting was conducted on Tuesday the 16th July 2019, and 'The Holy Spirit Prayer Group' of Adyar was re-born. Rev. Fr. P. A. Jacob inaugurated it in the Chapel and shared a few thoughts and offered his support. Dominic of Y4C conducted the Praise & worship.

Bro. Benjamin Gonzaga, spoke on, 'Holiness'. Every one present was convinced that each of us is called to Holiness and that our lives are hidden with Christ in God as stated in Col. 3:3 'For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.' Since then, there's no looking back. With God's Grace and the support of other Prayer Group leaders, and Praise and Worship teams, we have had awesome Worship and talks. We gratefully acknowledge their backing.



To Understand the Holy

Eucharist



On the 15th August 2019 (Independence Day), a four hour programme was held at Little Mount Prayer Hall. It was titled 'To Understand the Eucharist.' The resource person was Rev. Fr. Anthony Ryan Bosco, a well-known speaker. The programme started around 4pm with an anointed Praise and Worship by Ms. Candice Dominic. Rev. Fr. Bosco took over from 4.30 pm.

Despite the fact that many would have liked to relax at home on a holiday, the turnout for the programme was beyond expectation. It numbered around 80 persons.

Rev. Fr. Bosco during his talk, very lucidly explained the importance of the Holy Eucharist. He said that among all the Christian denominations, the Catholics were really privileged as they could receive the Body and Blood of Jesus even daily if they wished. He stated that in John 6:53, Jesus clearly says "truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you" meaning that it is absolutely necessary to receive the Holy Eucharist for our spiritual life. He further added that we should never go for the Eucharistic celebrations without proper preparation. He said that we should repent and confess even our small sins; as such sin will not look small to God who is holy.

Fr Anthony Ryan Bosco also spoke about the Healing Power of the Eucharist, which completely transforms our lives. The Church, he said exist only for the Mission and that all Christians should be involved in this Mission. The final words in the Eucharistic Celebrations, 'Go forth' is an indication of this. The programme ended with a fellowship dinner.

Retreat in St Columbans Presentation Convent

Two Retreats were conducted by the Madras Service Team at St. Columbans Presentation Convent, one on the 13th July 2019 for standards 9th & 10th and another for standards 6th, 7th & 8th on 27th July 2019. Both were Secular Retreats.

The first Retreat was animated by Br. Benjamin who gave the talks on Moral Values to the children. Br. Leslie Martin gave the talk on God's Love and Mrs. Philo Benjamin conducted the Inner Healing Service. A Workshop based on the Morals was conducted for the children by the team. The Praise & Worship was led by Sr. Marcia who was assisted by Ms. Preethi and Ms. Ashraya. The retreat was for half a day. Around 300 students participated in the first Retreat.

The second retreat was a Secular Retreat for the children between 6th standard to 8th standard. Around 400 students attended this retreat. While Br. Leslie gave the talk on God's Love, Col. James taught the children on Moral Values. Ms. Angelina conducted a very meaningful Workshop on Morals with care for the environment. Children were also given 'Seed Pencils' to develop their love for Nature. The children enjoyed the Workshop. A very meaningful Inner Healing Session was conducted by Br. Roy Anand. The Music Ministry which incorporated a lot of Action Songs was animated by Ms. Preethi, Ms. Ashraya and Ms. Angelina. The children were deeply touched by this session and many were found shedding tears. The retreat really touched the students and enabled them to get closer to God and also

imbibed in them the heart to forgive each other and to spread genuine love.

The Retreat was the first step for taking students to a closer relationship with the Almighty God. The Retreat was well appreciated by the Management and Staff of St. Columbans School.

Leslie Martin



Retreat at St. Columbans School



Retreat at St. Columbans School

Just for smiles

Once, Br. John who was one of our prayer group leaders was asked to give a funeral speech, on the demise of one of our prayer group members. Bro. John was well known for his metaphorical statements. After speaking for several minutes, he said "My Brothers and Sisters, what you see in the Coffin Box is not our brother Jacob. It is only the shell; the NUT has left for heaven."



<i>Details of Prayer Meetings</i>		Pm
St. Lukes, Anna Nagar Ph. 9841182481	Tuesdays at Parish Hall	7.15 to 8.15
St. Francis Xavier Madavaram Ph. 9841011422	Fridays at Parish Hall	7.00 to 9.00
Risen Christ, Peruvallur Ph. 7401322464	Thursday at Parish Hall	6.30 to 7.30
Our Lady of Lourdes, Perambur Ph. 7550150900	Tuesdays at Parish Hall	5.00 to 6.00
St. Andrews, Choolai, Ph. 9940092365	Wednesdays at St. Andrews Class Room	7.00 to 8.00
Our Lady of Health, Little Mount. Ph. 9444319615	Fridays at Benjamin's Prayer Hall & 2 nd Tuesdays in Church	6.45 to 8.00 7.15 to 8.30
Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Velachery, Ph. 9382172229	Saturdays at Parish Hall	4.45 to 6.00
St. Teresa's Church, Nungambakkam, Ph. 9176840971	Wednesdays at Class Rooms	7.30 to 8.30
St. Louis Church, Adyar, Ph. 9884256779	Tuesdays at Adoration Chapel	6.45 to 7.45
Divine Mercy Church, Anna Nagar, Ph. 9176112953	Mondays at Parish Hall	7.15 to 8.15
St. Patrick's Church, Thomas Mount Ph 04422314455	Thursdays in Church	7.45 to 8.45



(Life in spirit seminar held at Our Lady of Good Health chapel, Perambur during the novena days- 2019)

"I ASK EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU TO ORGANIZE LIFE IN SPIRIT SEMINARS IN YOUR PARISHES, SEMINARIES, SCHOOLS, AND NEIGHBOURHOODS AND TO THOSE LIVING ON THE STREETS, THE SUFFERING AND THE MARGINALIZED". – POPE FRANCIS

With the Intention of the Holy Father in mind, the Life in the Spirit Seminar was carried out during the Novena to our Lady of Good Health at her Chapel in Mangalapuram, Perambur, Chennai 12. This chapel has been dedicated to our Lady of Vailankanni (Good Health) and the Novena starts with a grand Flag Hoisting on the 29th August every year and concludes with the Feast of Mother Mary's Birthday on 8th September. The Novena is recited every day from 30th August to the 7th of September. This Chapel has been following this Religious Practice for the past 47 years. This year it was planned to conduct the 'Life in the Spirit Seminar' during the Novena days. **"The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the Power of the Most High will overshadow you- Luke 1:35"** is the Key Verse that led the devotees of our Lady to attend the Life in the Spirit Seminar and to be Baptised in the Holy Spirit. This LSS was attended by around 40 people every day. Renowned speakers were arranged so that the message goes to many people in the area. A special prayer was recited by the people every day for the success of LSS.

LSS was conducted every day after the Rosary, Litany and Novena Prayers in the Regional Language (Tamil). The topics of LSS that was covered included 'God's Love,' 'Sin & Salvation,' 'Repentance & Forgiveness,'

'Lordship of Jesus Christ,' 'Inner Healing & Holy Spirit' and 'A New Life in Christ Jesus' along with 'The Baptism in the Holy Spirit (BHS).' Senior members of the CCR of Chennai including Br. Benjamin Gonzaga, Br. Wilson Irudayaraj and Br. Roy Anand gave inspiring and thought provoking talks during this LSS. This enabled the people in the local area to respond to the Good News of Jesus Christ and to experience the power of Jesus through the Holy Spirit. This LSS brought people closer to Jesus through the Intercession of our Blessed Mother. This programme enabled many people in the area to experience the Real Joy of Salvation. .

Leslie Martin



Br. Benji addressing the gathering



Br. Roy Anand speaking to the people

Br. Leslie Martin did a great job of honouring our Mother of Velankanni and at the same time imparting LSS talks to the local people in their own tongue

Kindly pray for the success of the following event of the National Service of Communion



This is the Youth convention which takes place from 26th October 2019 to 29th October 2019 at New Delhi.



Couples Retreat



At Goa on from 27th to 29th October 2019



The Planning Meet (Along with the Prayer Group Leaders) of the CSC will be on the 17th November 2019 (Sunday) at Little Mount. Kindly pray that the CSC may be filed with the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Visit www.ccrchennai.in for updates on CSC