

INTERLINK

TEACHERS' TEAMS - INDIA

FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION

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EDITORIAL



As we enter the season of Lent, it is a time for introspection and spiritual growth. Lent offers us an opportunity to reflect on our lives, our values, and our relationship with the divine, and our

relationship with man. It is a time to pause, to pray, and to contemplate the deeper meaning of our existence.

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In a world filled with distractions and business, Lent invites us to slow down and focus on what truly matters. It is a time to examine our hearts and minds, to acknowledge our shortcomings, and to seek forgiveness and reconciliation. Through acts of repentance, fasting, and almsgiving, we can cultivate a spirit of humility, compassion, and generosity. Pope Francis' message on the same is a must read and to reflect on.

Lent also reminds us of the journey of Jesus Christ, his sacrifice, and his ultimate triumph over sin and death. It is a season of hope and anticipation, as we prepare to celebrate the joy of Easter and the promise of new life.

Let us embrace this sacred time with open hearts and minds. Let us use it as an opportunity to draw closer to the divine and to deepen our commitment to love, justice, and peace. May this Lenten season be a time of spiritual renewal and transformation for all.

Wishing everyone a very Blessed time of Lent, and may this Easter fill your home and life with hope and happiness.



Jacinta Pereira
National Coordinator

ST. JOSEPH - THE JUST

On March 19, Universal Church celebrates the Feast of St. Joseph, the Husband of Mary. Since the 10th century, this date has been observed as the principal feast day of St. Joseph in Western Christianity and commemorates the life of Joseph. The husband of Mary and earthly father of Jesus, Joseph is often referred to as the father in the shadows. In fact, none of Joseph's words are written in the gospels and little was recorded about his life.

The Bible pays Joseph the highest compliment: he was a "just" man. By saying Joseph was "just," the Bible means that he was completely open to all that God wanted to do for him. He became holy by opening himself totally to God.

It is no contradiction of Joseph's manly holiness that he decided to divorce Mary when she was found to be with child. The important words of the Bible are that he planned to do this "quietly" because he was "a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame" (Matthew 1:19).

The just man was simply, joyfully, wholeheartedly obedient to God—in marrying Mary, in naming Jesus, in shepherding the precious pair to Egypt, in bringing them to Nazareth, in the undetermined number of years of quiet faith and courage.

FACTS ABOUT ST. JOSEPH

1. In 1955, an additional feast day was declared by Pope Pius XII and is celebrated on May 1 as the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker. This date is also International Workers' Day and believed to reflect Joseph as the patron saint of workers.

2. Symbols associated with Joseph include the carpenter's square and lily. The carpenter's square not only symbolises Joseph's trade but also the concept of truth. The lily represents purity and Joseph's celibate marriage to the Virgin Mary.



3. Joseph is the patron saint of the Universal Church, families, fathers, expectant mothers, travellers, immigrants, house sellers and buyers, craftsmen, engineers and working people, among others. Joseph is also considered to be the patron saint of the New World, China, Canada, Korea, Mexico, Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Peru, Vietnam and several cities and dioceses.

4. An image of a sleeping St. Joseph, a weary traveller fleeing with his family to Egypt – is a replica of one Pope Francis keeps in his room. The pope places notes of special intercession on pieces of paper under the statue. Just as God communicated to Saint Joseph in his dreams over 2,000 years ago, this devotion allows us to ask him to sleep on our petitions, to dream of them, and to offer them up to Christ. In turn, we pray for discernment in following God's will as Saint Joseph did. God entrusted the paramount role of earthly guardian of the Holy Family of Nazareth to Saint Joseph, and his dreams allowed him to discern God's will and act accordingly.



“In his relationship to Jesus, Joseph was the earthly shadow of the heavenly Father. He watched over him and protected him, never leaving him to go his own way. We can think of Moses’ words to Israel: ‘In the wilderness ... you saw how the Lord your God carried you, just as one carries a child, all the way that you travelled’ (Deuteronomy 1:31). In a similar way, Joseph acted as a father for his whole life.”

8. The scriptures mention nothing of Joseph’s age and previous life. However, one early tradition believes he was an older man and a widower with children from a previous marriage.

Popular devotions to Saint Joseph are:

- 30 Day Holy Cloak of St. Joseph Novena
- 33 Day Consecration to St. Joseph
- Litany of St. Joseph
- Chaplet of St. Joseph

5. On the 150th anniversary of the declaration of St. Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church, Pope Francis proclaimed a Year of St. Joseph beginning Dec. 8, 2020 through Dec. 8, 2021.

6. Although we know Joseph as a working carpenter, he is descended from royal lineage, the line of David.

7. Joseph is portrayed in works of art with grey hair and a beard, an older figure next to Mary and Jesus, and often in the background. In the pope’s Apostolic Letter entitled *Patris Corde*, he wrote,

Mary Fernandes
Ponda Teachers’ Team

Prayer for Priests



Mary Mother of Jesus throw your mantle of purity over our priests. Protect them, guide them and keep them in your heart. Be a mother to them especially in times of discouragement and loneliness. Love them and keep them belonging to Jesus. Like Jesus, they too are your sons, so keep their hearts pure and chaste. Mary, mother of Jesus, be their mother, loving them and bringing them joy.

-Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

REPORT OF THE 11TH ASIAN TEACHERS' TEAMS MEET HELD AT INFANTA, PHILIPPINES FROM MARCH 1ST - 8TH, 2024

The Asian Seminar held in Infanta, Philippines, from March 1st to 8th, 2024, served as a significant platform for educators from various Asian countries to convene, exchange ideas, and strategize for the advancement of educational initiatives in the region. It also aimed to strengthen the bond among Asian Teachers Teams. The seminar witnessed the participation of Teacher Teams from India, Bangladesh, and the Philippines, fostering collaboration and solidarity among educators.

The Indian Teachers' Team arrived in Infanta, Philippines, on March 1st, followed by the Bangladesh Teachers' Team, who arrived on March 2nd. The seminar commenced with a spiritual touch as the participants attended an 8 o'clock mass on March 3rd, followed by a visit to the prayer garden, where they had an opportunity to meet and fellowship with Filipino teachers.

Day 1 - March 4th:

Formal proceedings began with a warm welcome and introduction by the Asian Coordinator, Ms. Rosalinda. In the inaugural session, Ms. Linda delved into the rich history of the Asian Tt movement, tracing its origins back to 1966 when Late Helen Provet along with some French teachers introduced the concept in India, subsequently spreading to 11 Asian countries. The session highlighted challenges faced, including funding issues, with previous support from CCFD which discontinued in 2020. After lunch we shifted to Algad ni Maria Novitiate house, Quezon, for the remaining sessions.

The 2nd session was with the Deputy Mayor of Infanta Lord Agnel Rolando. He delivered an inspiring speech emphasizing basic foundational values, childlike innocence, and happiness in life. Further he added how we need to imbibe childlike characteristics.

At around 5.00 p.m, a moment of silence was observed in remembrance of Rev. Fr. Herve Morissette, with a prayer led by Fr. Walter, reflecting the strong sense of community and respect among the participants. Next, Mr. Sumon Lenard Rosario, the National Coordinator of Bangladesh, presented their annual report. Bro. Placid stated that the Bishop wants all the teachers teaching in missionary and non missionary schools to work under one roof and added that there are 16 teams in Bangladesh.

Day 2 - March 5th:

The day commenced with a Holy Eucharistic celebration led by Fr. Sydney Dias. The first session, conducted by ex- Asian Coordinator Ms. Natty Dsouza, focused on the theme "See, Judge, and Act," emphasizing the importance of approaching problems with optimism and determination. Next Mr. John Paul Flores, the Asian Treasurer, shared his transformative life experiences with the Teachers teams inspiring the participants. Later, a visit to a local school provided first hand insights into educational practices.

In the afternoon session, Mr. Carlos, the Ex-Asian Coordinator, shared his rich experiences within the Teachers teams, underscoring the significance of collaborative efforts in advancing educational goals. The day concluded with a dinner hosted by Mr. Carlos, fostering solidarity and networking among the participants.

Day 3- March 6th : The day began with a refreshing change as participants embarked on a visit to Tonda beach to view the sunrise. At 8.00 a mass was offered by Rev. Fr. Walter D'Sa, filling the day with a spiritual dimension. At 10:00 a.m., participants reconvened for a session led by Rosalinda, the Asian Coordinator. During this session, Rosalinda facilitated a discussion on the questionnaire pertaining to the impact of changing family cultures on the student learning environment in her home country.

Participants engaged in a thought-provoking dialogue, sharing insights and perspectives on this issue.

At 11:40 a.m., Jacinta Periera, the National Coordinator of India, took the stage. She captivated the audience with a visually stimulating presentation featuring a video titled "Incredible India." Following which Jacinta facilitated a discussion on the same questionnaire, focusing on its relevance to the Indian context. The session provided valuable cross-cultural perspectives on the evolving dynamics of family culture and its implications for education. This was followed by Fr. Sidney who spoke about the challenges faced by the churches across India.

In the afternoon, at 3:30 p.m A pivotal meeting took place, bringing together Rosalinda, the Asian Coordinator, along with the National Coordinators of India and Bangladesh. The primary agenda of this meeting was to elect the new Asian Executive Team.

Later in the evening the names of the new Asian team were disclosed. They are as follows : Asian Coordinator : Ms. Jacinta Pereira, Asst. Asian Coordinator : Mr. Diganta Rodrigues, Secretary : Ms. Mary Fernandes, Treasurer : Mr. John Paul. Members on the Advisory Board are as follows: Ms. Roselinda, Ms. Maria Natividade D'souza, Ms. Pamela Gracias, Mr. Carlos Crisostomo and Fr. Ariel N. Loterte.

Day4 - March 7th :

The day commenced with another enriching Eucharistic Celebration led by Fr. Walter D'Sa, setting a tone of spirituality and unity among the participants. Following the mass, the seminar delved into practical aspects of Teachers' Teams work with a session led by Natty providing comprehensive guidance on Teachers' Teams Extension work, offering strategies and practices for expanding the reach and impact of Teachers' Teams within their respective communities. The session was interactive, allowing participants to share their experiences and insights, thereby enriching the learning process.

Later in the morning, at 11:30 a.m Ms.Rosalinda, along with the newly elected committee members, convened to formulate an action plan for the upcoming four years. This strategic planning session aimed to outline specific objectives, initiatives and timelines to guide the collective efforts of the Asian Teachers Teams. The discussions were focused and productive, reflecting the commitment of the participants to drive a meaningful change.

Day 5 - March 8th:

Early in the morning, participants bid farewell to Infanta and embarked on a half-day sightseeing tour in Manila. The sightseeing excursion provided an opportunity for participants to explore the cultural and historical landmarks of Manila, further enriching their experience of the Philippines.

Day 6 - March 9th:

In the afternoon, India bid farewell to Manila and as they departed, they carried with them the knowledge, insights, and connections created during the Asian Seminar. The conclusion of the seminar marked not only the end of a transformative event but also the beginning of a renewed commitment to collaboration, innovation and excellence in education across Asia.

Rose Ravi
R.A. Bangalore

“
During lent let us find concrete ways to overcome our indifference.
-Pope Francis
”



Welcome, Introduction and the history of Asian Meets by Rosalinda (Asian Coordinator)



Visit to the Prayer garden with the Filipino Teachers' Team members



India and Bangladeshi Teachers Team members



A session with Deputy Mayor of Infanta Lord Agnel Rolando



Group photo with Filipino Trainee teachers



Group photo with the students of Picab Elementary School



Group photo with Principal and teachers of Picab Elementary School



Ms. Jacinta Pereira presenting on Teachers team movement in India

FR. HERVE MORISSETTE - THE LEGEND

In loving memory of Fr. Herve Morissette, a cherished priest whose enduring legacy continues to inspire and uplift all who had the privilege of knowing him.

We fondly remember Fr. Morissette was not just a spiritual guide but also as a beacon of strength and inspiration for our entire team of educators. His profound wisdom, unwavering faith, and boundless compassion touched the lives of countless individuals, leaving an indelible mark on our hearts and minds.

Fr. Morissette exemplified the true essence of selflessness, dedicating his life to serving others with humility and grace. His gentle mannerism and reassuring presence provided solace during times of uncertainty, and his words of encouragement ignited a sense of purpose within each of us. As a mentor to our teaching community, he instilled in us the importance of compassion, patience, and the relentless pursuit of knowledge.



Beyond his role as a spiritual leader, Fr. Morissette was a steadfast supporter of education, recognizing its transformative power in shaping young minds and building a brighter future. He fervently believed in the inherent goodness of every individual and encouraged us to nurture the unique talents and abilities of our students, empowering them to reach their fullest potential.

Though Fr. Morissette may no longer walk among us, his spirit lives on in the countless lives he touched and the profound impact he made on our community.

As we honour his memory today, let us carry forward his legacy of love, kindness, and unwavering dedication to serving others. May his guiding light continue to illuminate our paths and inspire us to be the best versions of ourselves, both in the classroom and beyond.

As we reflect on his remarkable life, let us pay tribute to Fr. Morissette by sharing the sentiments of gratitude and admiration expressed by the teachers whose lives were forever enriched by his presence.

- Fr. Morissette was hailed as the beacon of light to the teachers' community.... Fr. Walter D'sa
- One of the striking characteristics of Fr. Morissette is his real concern for the poor and the less fortunate....Fr. Roque D'costa
- Holiness is a gift of the Holy Spirit, received with humility, and put to the practice of others." This has been Fr. Morissette's favourite dictum, and it has been my guiding light throughout my life..... Leonie Manicame.
- The passion with which you work on any project, be it big or small, is another quality that inspired me.... Jacinta Pereira.
- Through your guidance,we experienced how to interact with other groups of teachers, and work with diverse groups with varied skills, interest, talents, needs and culture.....Rosalinda S. Francia.
- Fr. Morissette was a priest of devotion, a profound visionary who weighed his words before he uttered them and lived a life,in tune with his vocation, a disciple of Christ,an exemplary human being, humble and simple.... Maria Natividade D'Souza.
- Fr. Morissette is a leader par excellence, a visionary for the Teachers Team. Through him the very presence of Jesus Christ is mediated to all Teachers team members....Mary Fernandes
- The books written by Fr. Morissette is a source of spiritual food..... Pamela Gracias.

Rev. Fr. Sydney Dias
National Chaplain

HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEAR REV. FR. HERVE MORISSETTE.

“Carve your name on hearts not on marbles or on Stones or on trees.” Charles Spurgeon.

Yes it is very much true in your life, father.....

Indeed we were confounded by the Almighty to get to know you.

Your life was an inspiration for all of us. You were all in all. As St Paul says, ‘I have become all things to all people.’ (1 Cor 9:22)

You were patient, loving, caring, generous, intellectual, amicable and admirable. Our words fall short to speak of your highness. Your thinking is high but you were down to earth in dealing with things. Your meticulous planning and execution were

commendable where nothing goes out of your way. Everything would fall in line. You gave your whole being into any activity. Hats off to your dedication ,your talents and above all your simplicity.

You were a God given (gift) person to all of us to challenge us (teachers) to be like that. As teachers we are all supposed to be.. but we feel that we need to learn many more things from you. We come to know all that by looking at your very life.

As we quoted, "you have truly chiselled yourself in our hearts which no eraser can erase." We wholeheartedly extol God for you and for the gifts He showered upon you. So that you may continue to inspire us.

We were praying for you. So that the good Lord may be honoured with your loving and selfless service. Thank you very much for everything.

Here we remain your beloved teachers.

VISAKHAPATNAM
ANDHRA PRADESH

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE OF REV.FR. HERVE MORISSETTE

It is a little more than a year since our beloved Fr.Herve Morissette left for his heavenly abode.

“Happy birthday in Heaven dear Fr. Herve Morissette. Your light still shines brightly in our hearts, guiding us with your teachings and love. On this special day, we celebrate the gift of your life and the profound impact you had on all who knew you. Though you may be gone, your spirit remains eternally present among us. We miss you dearly, but take comfort in knowing that you are watching over us from above. Cheers to the beautiful memories we shared and the lasting legacy you’ve left behind.”

Jacinta Pereira
National Coordinator





"Maria Natividade D'souza was felicitated for her outstanding contributions to the teachers' team, showcasing her dedication and commitment to our collective goals. Her exemplary efforts have been instrumental in fostering collaboration and driving positive outcomes within the team."

Congratulation

The new Asian Teachers' Teams Executive Committee



Ms. Jacinta Pereira
Coordinator



Mr. Diganta Rodrigues
Assistant Coordinator



Ms. Mary Fernandes
Secretary



Mr. John Paul
Treasurer

"Congratulations to the newly elected executive committee! We look forward to your guidance and vision in steering our organisation towards continued success. God bless."



TEACHERS' TEAMS OF INDIA

LAY APOSTOLIC MOVEMENT
Officially Recognized by the C.B.C.I.

NATIONAL SEMINAR OF 2024

Dear members of the Teachers' Teams of India,

The Central Team takes great pleasure in inviting you for the 50th National Seminar (Golden Jubilee) to be held in Munnar, Kerala, from the 14th of May to the 18th May 2024. Given below are the details of the same.

Ms. Jacinta Pereira
National Co-ordinator
#26 , 7th Cross,
anakanagar,
Bangalore - 560032

Ms. N.A. Usha Rani
National Secretary
34-15-17 , Cyril Street,
Gnanapuram ,
Visakhapatnam
A.P-5630004

Theme	Social Consciousness and the Education System		
Date	14 May to 18 May 2024		
Venue	Pastoral Center, Vijayapuram, Munnar		
Resource Person	To be confirmed		
Seminar Fees	Rs.2000/-		
Allotment of Participants:			
Karnataka : 2+4	Kerala : 2+4	Goa : 6+6	Puducherry : 1+3
Jharkhand : 1+3	Andhra : 4+4	Tamilnadu KK:2+4 Kariakal: 2+3	Office bearers : 4 Chaplains: 4

Ms. Delmira Fernandes
National Treasurer
12/2 ,Moilavaddo,
Pilerne, Bardez ,
Goa-403114

Rev. Fr. Sydney Dias,
CSC
National Chaplain
St. Sebastian Church,
Loliem ,Canacona,
Goa - 403728

- Only the first set of delegates are eligible for TA (second class by bus or train, by the shortest route, on producing travel tickets.) If the second set of delegates exceeds the limit , additional participants will have to pay the full fees, i.e. Rs.1000/- per person, per day : total Rs 4,000/-(Food and Accommodation for 4 days)
- The former office bearers and the seniors are welcome for the seminar . They are expected to pay their own expenses for travel and the seminar fees (2000/-).
- All the participants are expected to reach the venue by the 14th evening and leave only after the 18th evening. Attend all the sessions without fail.
- Those who intend to spend a few days in Munnar, after the seminar will have to make their own arrangements with the Director of the house.
- The team leaders have to send the report of their team activities to their regional animator and to the National Secretary before the 1st of May 2024.
- The regional animators are requested to send the list of participants from their respective regions and the date and time of arrival, as well as the regional reports of team activities for the year 2023-24 to the National Secretary before the 1st of May 2024.
- RAs are required to encourage new and working teachers to attend the seminar

With cordial greetings,

The Central Team members

Jacinta Pereira: National Coordinator
Usha Rani National Secretary
Delmira Fernandes National Treasurer
Fr. Sydney Dias csc National Chaplain

N.B. This invitation is addressed only to those who were involved in team life during the current year or who are ready to join a team during the coming year.