

INTERLINK

TEACHERS' TEAMS - INDIA

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EDITORIAL

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." - Jeremiah 29:11

On 14th May as the teachers from different regions of India arrived for the National Seminar, the atmosphere at the Pastoral Centre, Munnar- the venue of the Seminar was filled with camaraderie as members greeted each other. The seminar was well attended with 8 new members. Though we greatly missed our National Chaplain, who was unable to attend due to his other responsibilities. Fr. Anthony Arackal, Fr. Rajan, Fr. Joseph and Fr. Deva dass was a great source of help for us. While conducting his session on the theme 'Social consciousness and the education system', Dr Geo Jos Fernandez engaged us in active participation through discussions, games, chart making, etc. thus making the sessions enjoyable. During recollection, Fr. Joseph E.P. reminded us that understanding who we are as educators and as individuals is crucial.

It is with deep gratitude and a profound sense of responsibility that I assume the role of National Coordinator for our esteemed organisation. My team consists of Mrs. Rajeshri Fernandes from Goa as the National Secretary, Mr. Uday Kiran from Visakhapatnam as the National Treasurer and our spiritual guide and mentor, Fr Sydney Dias CSC as the National Chaplain.

On behalf of my team members, I would like to assure you that we will work to the best of our ability to strengthen the Teachers' Teams in India.



For this, we count on the blessings of our Regional Chaplains and the support and cooperation of all the members of the Teachers' Teams.

I thank the outgoing members of the National Team- Mrs. Jacinta Pereira, Ex National Coordinator who has been entrusted with the responsibility as Asian Coordinator and Ms. Nammi Usha Rani, Ex National Secretary. Thank you for your commitment and dedicated service towards the Teachers' Teams.

This year, each region has committed to addressing a specific social issue, from saving energy to unemployment. As we embark on this new chapter, I urge each one of you to embrace our shared mission with passion and dedication. Let us continue to support each other and strive for excellence in all that we do. May God bless us all as we endeavour to transform the young lives in our care.

Delmira Fernandes
National Coordinator

IN GRATITUDE....

“Give thanks to the Lord! Make his doings known among the peoples.” -Psalm 105:1

Warm greetings to all !!

As I reflect on the recent 50th Teachers’ Teams seminar, my heart is filled with immense gratitude and joy.

The seminar was a tremendous success and this achievement is a testament to the dedication, faith and hard work of every individual involved.

First and foremost I give thanks to God for his guidance, provision, and blessings throughout the planning and execution of this seminar. His presence was truly felt in every session, discussion and interaction.

I am still basking in the appreciation and reaction of the people who were a part of all that we did. Fr. Rajan, who offered Mass for us on the 14th evening was so inspired by the enthusiasm of the teachers! The recollection of the 15th was an amazing spiritual experience which got us to reflect on who we are. Thank you Fr. Joseph EP. Your willingness to share your experiences, and faith has profoundly impacted all of us, inspiring us to continue our mission of educating with Christian values.

The challenge of not having our own Teachers’ Teams Chaplains was taken over by God who provided for all our needs. Thanks to Fr. Francis of the centre who helped us. We had Fr. Deva dass of Bangalore, who was so providentially present in Munnar to fill in. He offered Mass on the 15th morning and celebrated Mass for our Golden Jubilee on the 17th. It indeed was such a meaningful and joyful celebration. His homily on what the ‘Golden Jubilee’ meant in the Bible was so informative.

16th saw the arrival of the resource person Dr. Geo Jos Fernandez, accompanied by Fr. Anthony Arackal, the Teachers’ Teams Chaplain of Kerala. The one day session on Social Consciousness and the Education System was an eye opener for the teachers and food for thought.

We indeed got a lot to take back to our schools and classrooms. His insightful presentations and workshop was the cornerstone of this seminar.

The day concluded with a beautiful Eucharistic celebration by Fr. Anthony, in which our new office bearers took oath. We were happy and thankful that we had one Teachers’ Teams Chaplain on this special occasion.

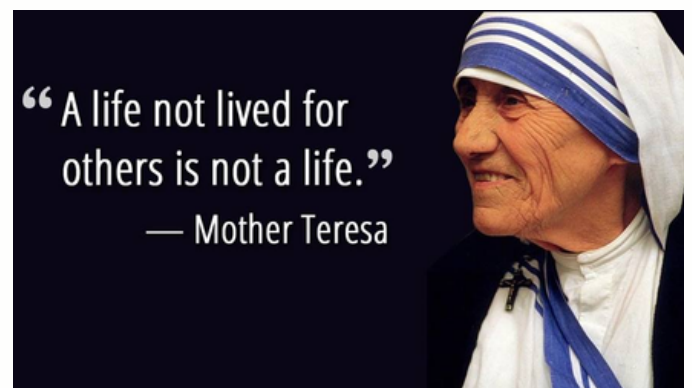
Congratulations to the new office bearers!

All the participants, the new and old, your enthusiasm, engagement and openness made this seminar a vibrant and enriching experience. We hope that you left the seminar with renewed energy and inspiration for your teaching ministry.

Reaching the 50th seminar is a significant milestone. Let us celebrate this achievement while continuing to strive for excellence in our teaching and spiritual growth. Let us remain steadfast in our commitment to providing quality education grounded in Christian principles.

Thank you everyone! Wishing all the teachers a wonderful and fruitful new academic year!

Jacinta Pereira
Asian Coordinator



Sao Joao

It's June, the beginning of yet another Academic year: New plans, new ideas, hopes and desires to do better than last year. Newness! Yes! But is that something that we expect only from our students? Or have I also planned something new, something different? The danger is real, danger to lie back since for the students, I'll be new and so I don't have to do anything different from last year. A lot of us fail to update and upgrade since we already 'know' our subject matter. For us, we could take Saint John the Baptist as an inspiration.



John the Baptist or Sao Joao as we call him in Goa is a perfect example of updating. He was the first to recognize Christ and introduced Him to his disciples (Jn. 1:29), he baptised Christ (Mt. 3:13) but then Jesus didn't measure up to his expectations and he had doubts whether He was the one or he had to wait for another (Mt. 11:3).

And then he had to update his knowledge of Messiah, change perspective and let the new information fit in. For us Goans, Sao Joao has a festive ring to it. It's associated with merriment and revelry. People put flower tiaras on their heads and roam about; some jump in wells, others sing and dance; a variety of fruits is on the menu.

Well, you may call it commercialization. But amidst this superficial celebration lies the spirit of Sao Joao. John the Baptist lived in the wilderness, thus the flower tiaras and the fruits, invite us to be close to nature. The leap into wells signifies the leap of joy of John the Baptist in the womb of Elizabeth which invites us to be joyful and hopeful.

John the Baptist (Sao Joao) is our guide this June. sign of updating, hope and joy. God bless us as we begin this new academic year. Viva Sao Joao!!!

Rev. Fr. Sydney Dias
National Chaplain

Message from Rev. Fr. Walter de Sa

Dear Teachers' Team members,
At the outset let me wish you all a joyful and innovative New Academic Year 2024 - 2025.

The topic you discussed at the 50th National Seminar, namely, Social Consciousness and Education System, will be fresh in your minds. It will provide you with many insights that will motivate you to do better than what you did in the year gone by.

Let us, therefore, begin the new Academic Year with God's blessings, keeping in mind the goal of Teachers' Teams MOVEMENT. I heartily congratulate the Office - Bearers at the national level: National Coordinator- Mrs. Delmira Fernandes, National Secretary- Mrs. Rajeshri Fernandes and National Treasurer- Mr. Uday Kiran. I bless them with my prayers and support. In this academic year let us try to achieve more and more with God's power and whole-hearted cooperation with one another. God bless us all.

Rev. Fr. Walter de Sa
Goa Region

REPORT OF THE 50TH NATIONAL SEMINAR HELD AT PASTORAL CENTRE, VIJAYAPURAM, MUNNAR, KERALA. (14TH MAY - 18TH MAY 2024)

14th May 2024

The seminar commenced with 39 participants in attendance. At 6:30 p.m. we had the Eucharistic celebration led by Rev. Fr. Rajan. Following the service, our National Coordinator, Mrs. Jacinta Pereira, gave an outline of the next day's programme and explained the do's and don'ts to be kept in mind for the seminar. After dinner the National coordinator had a meeting with the regional animators.

15th May 2024

The day began with the Eucharistic celebration conducted by Rev. Fr. Devadass D. and the liturgy was organised by Andhra and Bangalore Teams. After breakfast the members of the Teachers' Teams introduced themselves. 8 new members were added up from different regions. At 9:30 a.m. we had a recollection led by Rev. Fr. Joseph E.P. He focused on the identity and spirituality of Catholic teachers. He emphasised that we are not just ordinary teachers but Catholic educators with a unique mission. As Catholic teachers, it is essential to reflect deeply on our identity. Each person is unique, possessing a distinct DNA. As believers, we inherit the greatness of our Heavenly Father .

Fr. Joseph urged us to accept our uniqueness and not compare ourselves with others. He further explained that knowing who we are involves understanding our spiritual lineage. He encouraged teachers to harness their spirituality to enhance their commitment and energy in teaching. After lunch break Miss Pamela Gracias (ex- Asian Secretary) provided valuable insights into the Teachers' Teams, discussing its vision and mission. The new and old teachers both benefited from her session This was followed by Regional team reports presented by representatives from Andhra Pradesh, Bangalore, Karaikal, Kottar, North Goa, and South Goa, sharing their progress and achievements.

After dinner, Andhra region conducted an entertainment session with some games, adding fun and engaging elements to the evening. The day concluded with Rosary prayer.

16th May 2024

The day began with the Rosary, fostering a sense of spiritual unity among the participants.

'Social Consciousness and the education system' was the theme for this year's seminar and the resource person was Dr. Geo Jos Fernandez. The National Treasurer, Ms. Delmira Fernandes introduced him and provided a brief note on his accomplishments and contributions to the field of education.

Dr. Geo Jos Fernandez delivered an insightful session on social consciousness, focusing on its importance in the education system. He defined social consciousness as the awareness of social issues, inequalities, and injustices, along with a sense of responsibility to address them.

He posed several questions to prompt reflection:

- "How do we inspire students to engage in environmental conversations?"
- "How do we engage parents in the educational experience of their wards?"
- "How do we track the development of students' character over time?"

He discussed the role of educational institutions in addressing social issues and the challenges and opportunities in teaching social awareness. He also stressed the need for empowering teachers as agents of social change and provided strategies for fostering social awareness and cultivating social consciousness in students.

Participants were divided into groups for discussions on various social issues like - disposal of garbage, environmental conservation, drug addiction, water scarcity, child labour and unemployment.

The sessions were interactive and informative, incorporating action songs and games to enhance engagement. A group photograph was taken along with Dr. Geo Jos Fernandez.

In the evening Eucharistic Celebration was led by Rev. Fr. Anthony Arakkal. The liturgy was prepared by the Goa Region. After the mass, the oath-taking ceremony for the new national office bearers was conducted and Fr. Anthony blessed the newly elected members.

- National Coordinator: Ms. Delmira Fernandes
- National Secretary: Ms. Rajishri Fernandes
- National Treasurer: Mr. S. Uday Kiran

The day was highly productive, with participants gaining a deeper understanding of social consciousness and its critical role in the education system.

17th May 2024

The 17th of May marked the grand Jubilee celebration, a significant highlight of the seminar. The day began with a solemn procession, followed by the Eucharistic celebration led by Rev. Fr. Deva dass D. After the Eucharistic celebration, Fr. Deva dass D. lit the ceremonial lamp and participated in the cake cutting ceremony. Mr. Uday Kiran (the newly elected national treasurer) was given the honour of opening the champagne bottle, adding to the festive atmosphere of the event. He was joined by the Asian and National office bearers in this joyous event.

Fr. Deva dass D. felicitated Asian Coordinator, Ms. Jacinta Pereira and Asian Secretary Ms. Mary Fernandes with a shawl. The senior members Ms. Leema Nathan, Ms. Salema Gaudrolupe, Mr. Vincent George and Mr. Allu Raju presented mementos and gifts to the felicitaries.

Soon after the celebration, a tour around the hill station town of Munnar was arranged for all the participants of the seminar offering a chance for relaxation and camaraderie among the Teachers' Team members.

The day was marked by joyful celebrations and heartfelt recognitions, creating lasting memories for all participants.

18th May 2024

The day began with all the dedicated members of the Teachers' Team attending a solemn Mass at the beautiful and historic St. Carmel Basilica, uniting in spiritual reflection and prayer.

Mary Fernandes delivered a PowerPoint presentation on the 50-year history of the seminars. She began with an introduction, highlighting the arrival of the Teachers' Team (Tt) in India and the inception of the first seminar. Her presentation paid tribute to the prominent individuals who have been instrumental in organising these seminars annually, showcasing their dedication and contributions to the growth and success of the Teachers' Team movement.

The budget session was presented by Mrs. Delmira. She provided a detailed overview of the financial status and projections for the coming year. Corpus funds were collected.

Participants shared their feedback on the seminar, reflecting on their experiences and learnings. Each region presented their action plans for the next academic year, highlighting key initiatives and goals. The National Coordinator requested each region to select a social issue discussed during the seminar to focus on for the year 2024-2025. The selected projects were as follows:

- North Goa: Saving Energy
- South Goa: Disposal of Garbage
- Andhra: Water Scarcity
- Bangalore: Child Labour
- Karaikal: Drug Addiction
- Kottar: Drug Addiction
- Kerala: Unemployment

Extension work was also emphasised, with a call for regions to bring in new in-service teachers to join the movement.

Members were also encouraged to contribute articles on education, social issues, and activities conducted in their regions for the Teachers' Team news bulletin, "Interlink." along with photographs to provide a comprehensive view of the initiative.

Vote of thanks was proposed by the National Secretary, Ms Usha Rani, expressing gratitude to all participants, organisers, and contributors.

With this, the curtains came down on the 50th National Seminar, marking the end of a successful and enriching event with a renewed commitment to social consciousness and the outlined projects for the coming year.

Usha Rani
Former National Secretary



A New Beginning...

The start of the school year is a time of excitement and anticipation for students, teachers and parents alike. It marks the beginning of a new academic year where students have the opportunity to learn and grow and teachers have to impart knowledge and make an impact on the life of students. For most of us the first week of June is a hectic month soon after the summer vacation. For us as teachers, the start of the school year is a time to reflect on the past year and plan for the year ahead. It's a time to inspire and motivate our students to help them achieve their full potential. The Recollection session at the National seminar, conducted by Fr Joseph was mind boggling. Fr Joseph told us to ask ourselves the following questions.

Who are we? What is life? What is your spirituality? etc. He finally made a remarkable sentence: "Values of Christ must be passed on to your students with the light of Christ."

We had Dr. Geo Jos Fernandez as a resource person dealing with the theme "Social Consciousness and education system." His day-long session was exciting and stimulating. During this session Dr Geo stressed on an action plan. Accordingly, each region took up a social cause and planned out how to solve the issue. Teachers came up with some good plans. I now hope that each Region will set goals on how to solve these issues.

I missed the presence of Fr Herve Morissette very much.

As the National Secretary, I humbly request your cooperation, support and blessings to take TT forward as Fr Morissette wanted it to be. May God bless each one of you with good health. Remember students and teachers need to feel connected and empowered. I wish you all the best for this New Academic Year.

Rajishri Fernandes
National Secretary



Recollection conducted by Rev. Fr. Joseph



Dr. Geo Jos Fernandez in action.



Rev. Fr. Anthony Arakkal showering his blessings on the newly elected National leaders.



Teachers participating in the activities given by Dr. Fernandez



Lighting of the lamp for the Jubilee celebration by Rev. Fr. Deva Dass



Felicitation of Jacinta Pereira and Mary Fernandes as Asian Coordinator and Asian Secretary



Golden Jubilee of the National seminar being celebrated



Exploring the natural beauty of Munnar town

Congratulations

The new National Teachers' Teams committee



Delmira Fernandes
National Coordinator
North Goa



Rajishri Fernandes
National Secretary
South Goa



S. Uday Kiran
National Treasurer
Visakhapatnam

Delmira Fernandes served as the Regional Animator of North Goa from 2017 to 2019. Following this role, she became the National Treasurer, a position she held from 2019 to 2024. In addition to her contributions to the organization, she teaches at Rosary High School in Bambolim, Goa.

Rajishri Fernandes has been a dedicated member of the organization since joining in 2012. She served as the Regional Animator of South Goa from 2016 to 2021. She teaches in MIBK High School, Khandepar, Goa.

S. Uday Kiran joined the organization in 2015. He is very regular and committed to the movement. He is currently a teacher at a Senior Secondary School.



We must restore hope to young people, help the old, be open to the future, spread love. Be poor among the poor. We need to include the excluded and preach peace.

— Pope Francis —

AZ QUOTES



REVIEWS OF THE ANNUAL NATIONAL SEMINAR MAY 2024

It gave me great joy to participate in the Teachers' Team seminar and to be amongst such esteemed colleagues. I am grateful for the warm welcome extended by fellow teachers and for the enriching interactions, especially during our sessions and Munnar tour.

I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to the program organisers, Ms. Jacintha Pereira, Ms Usha Rani and Ms. Demira Fernandes for their tireless efforts in ensuring the success of the program. Being part of the Golden Jubilee celebrations was an honour, and I drew inspiration from my Late mother Dr.B. Shouramma from Visakhapatnam who was a part of this movement.

Dr. Geo Joe Fernandez's session on social consciousness was enlightening. His group exercises that followed facilitated active participation from all teachers, enriching our learning experience. The city tour of Munnar on 17th was indeed memorable.

I am looking forward for Seminars also based on sociology and child psychology as we have a close connection with children and society. Insights from these fields would further enhance our understanding and effectiveness as educators.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Teachers' Team movement and offer prayers for its continued progress under the stewardship of the new office bearers. On behalf of our team, I pledge my commitment to promoting Christ's faith in the schools where I am serving. May God bless us all abundantly.

Dr. P.Pushpa Rani.
Visakhapatnam Teachers' team

Our trip to Munnar Kerala for the National Teachers' Team Seminar was very lively, interactive and engaging. The basic purpose of going to Munnar was to enrich myself with some good talks. In some sessions, we had to ponder on who we are, and find out our positive qualities & uniqueness.

We got enlightened on the aims & objectives of Teachers' teams which was a requirement, since many did not know the basics of Teachers' Team.

The session on "Social consciousness & the education system" was excellent, thought-provoking, innovative and a sort of brainstorming session. The videos, illustrations, and discussions by different groups added variety & resulted in the total involvement of all the participants. It was worth emulating the innovative, novel methods adopted in our sessions.

Our golden jubilee celebration was fabulous and a great success. We enjoyed the Munnar tour. Overall it was a thrilling experience. All the teachers enthusiastically participated in all the sessions & I'm sure all will try their best to implement these novel methods in their respective schools.

Flavia Colaco
Ponda Teachers' team

It gives me immense pleasure to pen down my experience and feelings about the 50th National Seminar. This was my 1st National Seminar. In fact, I was eagerly waiting to attend this seminar. I had a very good experience. I could interact with the Teachers' Team members from different places. They were all very friendly. The Recollection by Fr. Joseph, on the first day, was very good.

Dr. Geo Jos Fernandez's talk on "Social Consciousness and Education System" was very interesting. We were divided into 6 groups and asked to write on the social issues faced in India and what solutions we could give. There was good team work. I enjoyed every bit of the seminar.

Tr. Pamela was a source of inspiration to all of us with her lively action songs. Though I was new, I did not feel left out. Overall it was a good experience.

Bambina Furtado
South Goa Teachers' team

Recently I Joined Teachers' teams of India. It was a good experience and apart from teaching in school this was something new. We got to learn many things about social awareness, how to bring up children in society and educate them and how to teach moral values. This was a valuable resource to teachers. We had a very good routine and mind refreshing sessions.

This seminar was a good start and encouraging for our new academic year as we teachers got to meet many other teachers from all over India. We became good acquaintances. The Teachers' team should be uplifted by bringing more and more members into the fold. I thank the Teachers' team of Bangalore and others who made me part of this group.

Stella Mary
Bangalore Teachers' team

First of all my greetings to all of you. Thank you for giving me this opportunity. All the events held in this were very good and useful. I promise to give my full involvement as much as possible. Thank you for a great opportunity.

Antony Maria Sagayaraj
Karaikal Teachers' Team



Group photo of the Teachers' Teams of India, along with Rev. Fr. Anthony Arakkal and Dr. Geo Jos Fernandez at Pastoral Centre, Munnar, Kerala.