

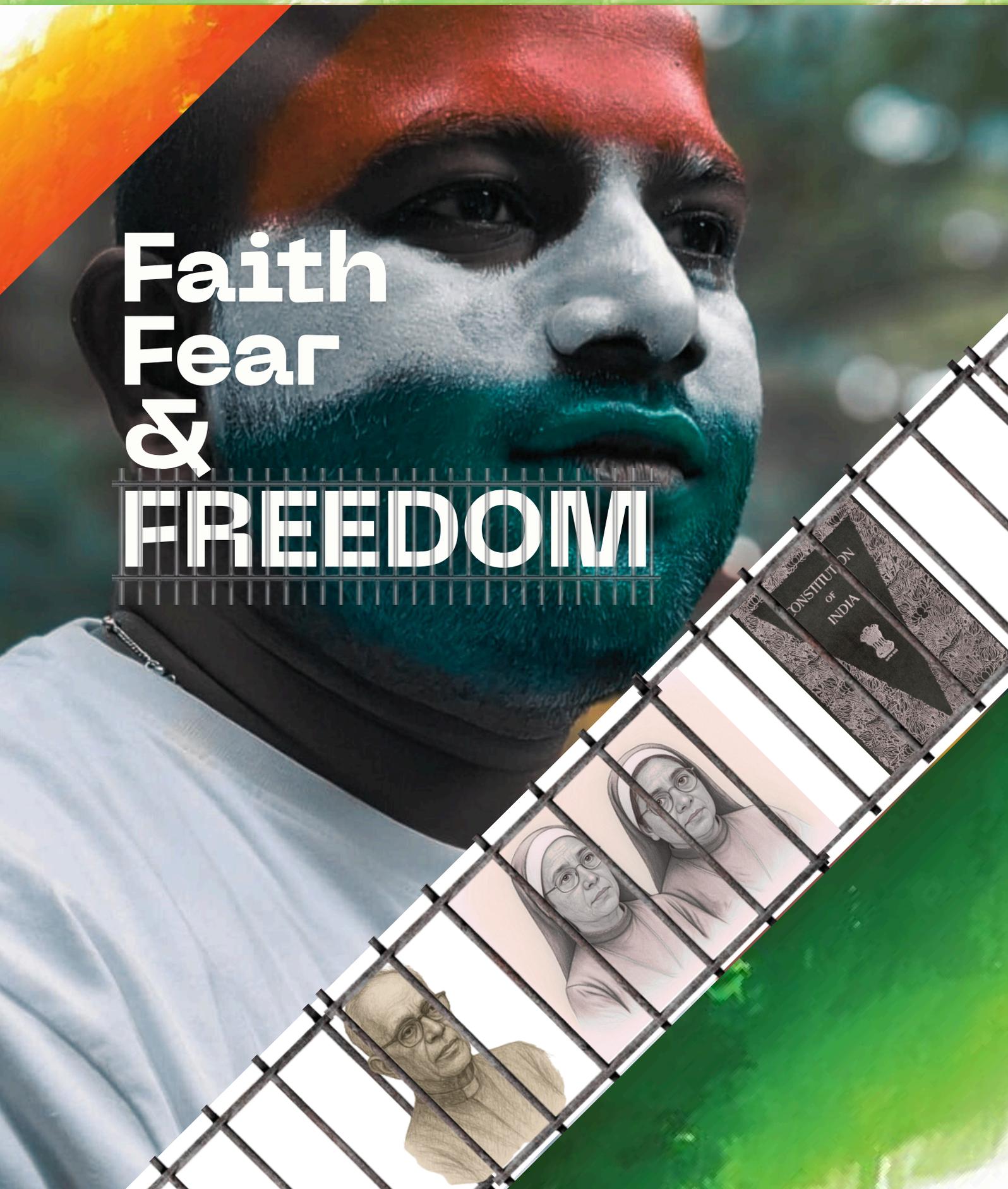
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JUL - AUG 2025

EXCHANGE

Faith
Fear
&

FREEDOM





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EDITOR'S NOTE

JUL - AUG, 2025

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Province Newsletter

Faith, Fear and Freedom

BR. ANMOL BARA, OFM

As the nation celebrates its 79th Independence Day – a moment that should remind us of justice, peace and prosperity – recent events cast a troubling shadow. The arrest of two nuns in Chhattisgarh, and a mob attack on two priests and nuns in Odisha convey a contrasting reality of the country. The cases of mob violence against priests and nuns have risen alarmingly from 127 incidents in 2014 to 835 this year.

And what has been the government's response to such violence? Too often, victims are interrogated, while offenders roam freely. Interestingly, the government appears eager to assert one religious identity while suppressing minority faiths. The events especially against Christianity and its leaders raises a disturbing question - why does the government's attitude towards minority religions fail to meet even the basic standards of justice?

Is a person's religious identity a threat? The daily average of two incidents of violence against Christians perhaps answers it with grim certainty. Perhaps it is a fear-driven animosity; fear that citizens might openly exercise constitutional rights, fear that Christians stand with the poor and the marginalized, fear that faith inspires people to uphold dignity and justice. The religious habit after all, is not a symbol of dominance but of strength for the weak, justice for the oppressed and dignity for the afflicted.



What then are we called to do? St. Paul reminds us that freedom is not merely licence to do as we please, but it is a responsibility: “through love, serve one another.” And as citizens of India, we are called to live this freedom through love and service. Challenges and persecution should not surprise us, for Jesus himself warned us that following him demands a high price. Chains, imprisonment and hostility will be part of the journey, yet they will not extinguish the faith. The faith will grow stronger whether in chains or outside them. Persecution, often strengthens belief and deepens commitment. It becomes a witness to faith in Jesus and to his works of charity.

■ **FREEDOM** IS
■ **LOVE**
■ **&**
■ **SERVICE**
■

BACK TO NAGPUR: A JOURNEY OF MEMORIES AND LESSONS

BR. ARPAN EKKA, OFM

This year, we five of the regents, Br. Anuj, Br. Vimal, Br. Deepshan, Br. Dominic, and I, (Br. Arpan) went there for our third year BA IGNOU sociology to Umred, a peaceful and homely place away from the city rush.

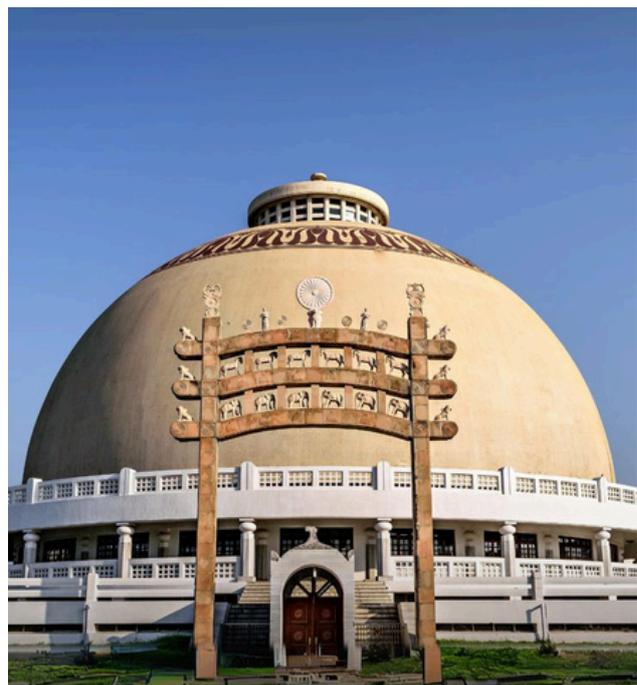
Our exam center was Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University, located on Amaravati Road. We had enough time to prepare, and the stay at Umred helped us focus well on our studies. We also joined in the daily activities of the friary. A special part of our stay was spending time with our junior brothers. We even went for evening walks on Sundays with them, and it brought us closer like a real family.

Apart from this, we also helped in the parish, especially in serving during Mass on Sundays. It was nice to meet parishioners whom we already knew and also to meet some new people.



One of the highlights of our time was when all five of us went for a short outing in Nagpur. We visited Deekshabhoomi, Maharaja Bag, and the Zero Mile Stone. It was refreshing and gave us a break from studies.

We are really thankful to all the friars at Assisi Sadan. They supported us with love and brotherhood and made our stay very comfortable. This stay was not just about writing exams. We learned how to manage things together, how to live in harmony, help each other, and grow in fraternity.



The Gift of 'Thrownness': My Experience in Nasik



BR. ASIM MING, OFM

Heidegger's idea of thrownness and facticity highlights how we find ourselves already placed in a specific context which is not of our choosing. In religious life, this thrownness takes on additional layers, shaped by our awareness and the choices we make. Bro. Antoni Wanniang and I, Bro. Asim Turkey, are privileged to have been chosen to be "thrown" into the pursuit of higher studies in M.Ph at Nashik, Maharashtra. We are happy to study in this discipline and are serious about it. We stay with the Capuchin Friars and study at Divya Daan, the college run by Salesians. Living with the Capuchins and studying with the Salesians is a new and enriching experience for us.

Personally, I had preconceived notions before I had any real experience with the Capuchins and Salesians. I understood them from an Archimedean point,



forming prior assumptions, with mixed feelings, some good and some less pleasant. But now that I experience them from an embedded standpoint, I realize we are in the same boat, though our lifestyles differ in certain ways.

Staying with the Capuchins is, for us, a kind of thrown state, a facticity in which we existentially encounter experiences that either conform to our likings and our OFM lifestyle or do not conform to either. Yet, in both conformity and nonconformity, we learn new things. Conformity requires no effort to learn, whereas nonconformity calls for our personal effort to adjust, adapt, and move on in life without being negatively affected. Despite some inconveniences, we are happy to stay with the Capuchin friars. It is the brotherly and friendly bond with the friar priests and the student friars that fills us with happiness sustaining us as we move forward.

College life is another situatedness of our life, and in fact, this is the primary purpose for which we are here. The institute invites us to reflect on our own intellectual status and pushes us to accelerate with the

current or perhaps even go beyond it. Consciously or unconsciously, this also gives us certain methods of grasping lessons simply by existentially observing others. The teaching faculty is very good, and the courses are scheduled and

arranged systematically that I personally find connections among them. Despite the variety of subjects, there is one central theme that runs deeply through them all. Besides this, we also have Sunday ministries. The brothers are sent out in pairs to different places for various ministries. All these experiences are helping us grow both

personally and spiritually. Living with the Capuchins, studying with the Salesians, and learning from people of different backgrounds have opened our eyes to new ways of thinking and living. We are grateful for the opportunities, friendships, and the lessons that continue to shape us for the life ahead.

Renewed Grace at Sujathanagar: A Parish Reborn in Faith

BR. BALA GUNDIGA, OFM

I am delighted to share the inspiring journey of Sujathanagar Mission Parish in Khammam, a community deeply rooted in faith and recently blessed with renewal.

Originally it was a substation under the Kothagudem Parish of the OCD Fathers (Carmelite Fathers Mission), this parish has a history spanning nearly 48 years. However, it officially became a parish only six years ago, marking a significant moment in the spiritual life of the faithful in this region.

A new chapter began on 15th June 2025, when we, the Franciscan friars, humbly took up the pastoral responsibility of this parish. The occasion was graced by Most Rev. Sigili Prakash, Bishop of Khammam, along with the former parish priest and other clergy.



During the Eucharistic celebration, we were warmly and solemnly welcomed by the faithful, many of whom had witnessed the parish's earliest days.

Following the official handover, I met with the bishop on 17th June to present two important pastoral requests namely, the erection of a tabernacle and naming the church after St. Anthony. With the Bishop's wholehearted support, we began work immediately. Within a week, we had completed the installation of the tabernacle, created a fitting backdrop for the sanctuary, and installed a beautiful statue of St. Anthony. The church was now ready to be a proper spiritual home for the people.

The parish community came together in joyful celebration on 3rd August 2025, a day etched in the hearts of many.

The renovated church was blessed, with Fr. Isaac Surepalli, Diocesan Procurator, presiding as the main celebrant (as the bishop was away at the time). He was joined by Fr. Battu Jayaraj, the former parish priest, and several concelebrants at the altar.

The liturgy included the blessing of the new tabernacle, the official naming of the church, and the installation of the statue of St. Anthony. Faithful from three substations joined in this sacred celebration, filling the church with a deep sense of joy, thanksgiving, and unity.

**ALL GLORY TO
GOD!**



A MEMORABLE CELEBRATION OF PATRIOTISM AT DVK

BR. DHILIP KUMAR, OFM

Celebrating the Independence Day at Dharmaram College was one of the most enriching moments of my life. The celebration commenced with a warm welcome address followed by the inaugural speech by the President of DVK, who shared inspiring thoughts on unity, love for the nation, and the guiding values of faith and spirituality. Adding to the solemnity of the occasion, the fathers and Sisters pursuing an MA in Spirituality uplifted everyone with a heartfelt patriotic song. Immediately afterward, the OFM Brothers energized the stage with a graceful and passionate patriotic dance, filling the audience with pride and admiration.

The program was further enriched by the Chief Guest, Lt. Valentina D'Mello (Retd.), who delivered a powerful message. Through her inspiring words, she reminded everyone of the sacrifices made by countless heroes and called upon the younger generation to

uphold the principles of peace, duty, and service. Another highlight was the impressive drill performance by the Gnyanodya Sisters, which showcased exceptional discipline, teamwork, and coordination qualities that reflect both spiritual formation and patriotic spirit.



As the evening drew to a close, the gathering expressed its appreciation through a Vote of Thanks, acknowledging every participant and contributor whose efforts made the event a resounding success. The celebration concluded on a lofty and emotional note with the rendition of the National Anthem, a collective proclamation of loyalty and love for our beloved nation. The day remains etched in our memories as a truly inspiring celebration one that beautifully wove together patriotism, spirituality, and a shared vision for a brighter future.

FEAST OF ST. CLARE: WITH THE POOR CLARE'S



BR. EUGIN SORENG, OFM

As August began, we the Novices found ourselves eagerly waiting for the feast of Mother St. Clare. Our novice master, Br. Charles Bernard, encouraged us to make the day a festive with others programs for our cloistered poor Clare sisters at Vellore. On the 11th morning, we boarded a mini bus together with our Master, friars, Emmanuel Christopher and Bipin Kandulna. During our journey we recited a rosary for the intentions of the sisters. Then we enjoyed the scenery of lush greenery and hills through the windows. At 10.50, we reached the Monastery, and hurriedly put on our Franciscan habits and filled the Franciscan presence together with many religious sisters, fathers and OFS members who had come to join the celebration.

As the mass began, we heard the entrance hymn but could not see its singers; soon, we realized that the Poor Clares were singing from behind the altar wall! Their voice had us feeling as if the spirit of St. Clare herself had joined the invisible choir. The celebrant, exhorted us to gaze on Christ as the perfect mirror and follow St. Clare's simplicity.

After mass, people flocked to see and wish the holy women, whose life had surely astounded them. We saw the room fill with eager faces trying to at least catch a glimpse of the sisters. Realizing that competing with the crowd would be impossible, we scheduled a later visiting time and had lunch.

After lunch, we had the privilege of being with our dear sister in that quite atmosphere, Damiano chapel! The sisters were overjoyed to see so many of us with Franciscan habits. They listened keenly as we introduced ourselves one by one. Our programs were short and simple. First, we sang a multilingual song wishing the sisters,

followed by energetic dance and a comedy skit. At the end we sang the Canticum of creatures, 'Laudato sii, o mi Signore' after which the sisters blessed us with the words of Mother St. Clare.

Soon after the program, we left for Novitiate, but the poor Clare sisters impressed us with their cheerful happy faces, though they live all their lives within the four walls.

Laudato sii, o mi Signore

HYDERABAD HAPPENINGS



BR. PRAVEEN D'SOUZA, OFM

The New academic year has begun. And there is the rush. But before that, the entire campus was given a face lift. The house was painted. The facade was beautified with the freshly fixed name of the house, bright and bold: SHALOM FRIARY. The insignia of the Order was put on the house to signify strongly that it as a friary and religious house and not just a presbytery. The house looks brand new again with new steel barricades and more plants.

The school too went through a face lift. A brightly shining picture of Jesus with children was engraved on the wall to tell the children that Jesus invites one and all for the gift of wisdom. The compound walls were painted with heroes of India, great leaders of science and faith like Mother Teresa. A lot of flower pots have been added to make it greener in this year of the Jubilee of

the Canticum of Creatures. The walls were further painted with the cosmic figures. A newly rebuilt aquarium has been set up. The whole school has been pasted with inspirational quotes and life messages for children and teachers alike.

The year also brought in more admissions for the school, including of the new initiative of Nursery school. Thanks to the dynamic and hard-working Guardian and Principal together with the Vicar of the House. The whole campus looks bright and beautiful now.

The parish is busy with its pastoral works. This year there was more fervour in celebration of the Pentecost with a night vigil; the feast of Corpus Christi was celebrated with an extended procession of the Eucharist onto the main road of Ramnagar, where we blessed the town and the people in it. People paid their reverence

all along the busy route of Ramnagar. The feast of St. Anthony was also celebrated with greater enthusiasm.

We began the Catechism year from the last week of June with a solemn mass and regular classes from July.

A Pilgrimage Walk was Organized from our Parish to St. Mary's Basilica during the year of Jubilee of Hope. Now we are going to host the National Youth Day and the Jubilee of the Youth. The parish and the youth members are eagerly looking forward.

Meanwhile, the FRAYME fever has caught up our youth and they are all getting ready to travel to Bangalore.



REPORT ON FRANCISCAN VISION GLOBAL SUMMIT, JULY 23, 2025

BR. ISAAC REYES, OFS

MC Br. Arokiam John, OFM, opened the program, saying, "May the Lord give you peace, dear Brothers and Sisters!" He warmly welcomed all participants of the FVGS—the speaker, moderator, representatives of the Franciscan family, and admirers of Saint Francis. He informed the participants that the talks would be available in five languages through their respective interpreters.

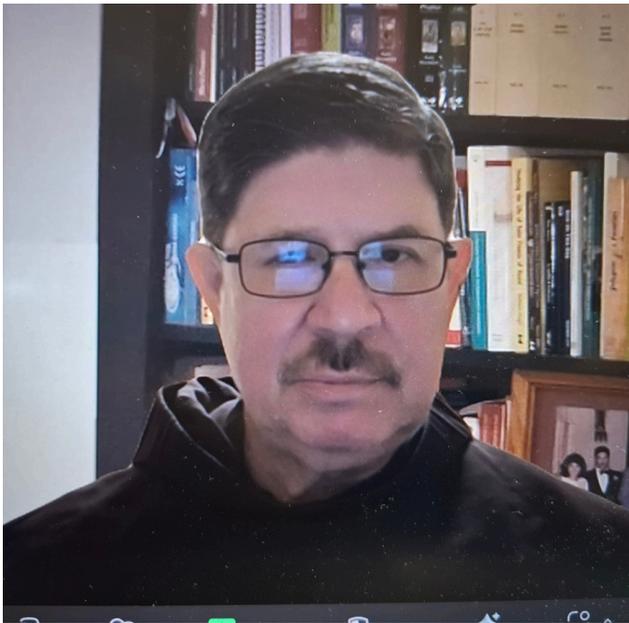
To inaugurate the 7th session of the FVGS 2025 online monthly session, the Holy Spirit was invoked by friar-students of philosophy from the Franciscan Province of Saint Anthony of Brazil. Their formation house is in the city of Olinda, Pernambuco, home to the first Franciscan convent in Brazil. This was the first group of friar-students from Brazil—and the first Portuguese-language group—to send a video of their singing for the FVGS, although a couple of them joined online.

Br. Arokiam then introduced the moderator of the 31st session of FVGS, Rev. Dr. Prof. Sr. Rita Vas, UFS, Assistant Superior General of the Ursuline



Franciscan Sisters, who hails from Dakshina Kannada district, Karnataka, India. She, in turn, introduced the speaker, Rev. Dr. Prof. Br. Gilberto Cavazos-González, OFM, who gave the talk on the theme: "Laudato si": A Spirituality of Creation in Kinship."

Canticle of Brother Sun – 800 Years of Praise and Kinship Prof. Gilberto noted that eight centuries after its composition, the Canticle of Brother Sun still resounds as a living prophecy. Saint Francis invites us to see creation as a divine family: every creature, every element—Sun, Moon, Fire, Water, Earth—is not a resource, but a brother or sister. In the midst of suffering, Francis sang with conviction and comfort. His spirituality is embodied praise—accessible, communal, and transformative. It encourages an inner conversion that reshapes not only ecological ethics but also our human and social relationships.



Saint Clare, with her maternal justice, complemented this vision. Leaving nobility for service, she cultivated hope among the humble. Together, Francis and Clare lived a spirituality that united tenderness, resistance, and commitment.

Pope Francis, in *Laudato Si'*, carries this legacy forward: the ecological crisis is a reflection of the soul's crisis. We are called to include all—the Addicted Sister, the Homeless Brother, the Political Sister, the President Brother—within the sacred circle of praise.

Praise, Prof. Gilberto stressed, does not arise from perfection but from surrender. To live as Lesser Brothers means embracing humility and becoming bridges. Even our digital tools, when guided by mercy, can join the song.

This is not a nostalgic tribute but a commission: that our lives may sing *Laudato si', mi Signore* with tenderness, courage, and intention in every daily choice. Sr. Rita Vas then led the “Question and Answer” session. Br. Arokiam John thanked both Prof. Sr. Rita Vas and Prof. Br. Gilberto Cavazos-González and invited participants to the next online FVGS event, which will be held on Saturday, August 23, 2025, from 17.30-18.45 (Indian Standard Time) or 14.00 to 15.15 CEST (Central European Summer Time).

The online event concluded with a rendition of the *Canticle of the Creatures* by the friar-students, recorded in Brazilian Portuguese. As their video played, participants joined in the spirit of Saint Francis of Assisi, lifting their voices in praise of the Lord through His Creation.

As is now customary, Br. Arokiam John thanked everyone for their contributions, making this 31st FVGS online session—and the 7th session of FVGS 2025—truly inspiring and a blessing for all. He expressed special gratitude to the translators from various continents who provided simultaneous translation into the following languages:

- Spanish – Br. Isaac Heriberto Reyes, OFS, from Canada/North America
- French – Sr. Evelyne Ouedraogo, FMM, from Burkina Faso/Africa
- Portuguese – Br. Wellington Reis Da Conceição, OFM, from Brazil/Latin America
- Italian – Br. Bipin Kishore, OFM, from India/Asia
- Tamil – Br. Arockiaraj, OFS, from India/Asia.

He apologized for the absence of Hindi translation, as Mr. John G. Kennedy could not join due to internet service problems. He also acknowledged Br. Anthony Joseph, OFM, the technical expert whose dedicated service ensures the smooth running of the Zoom meetings.

Br. Arokiam concluded with a heartfelt blessing: "Thank you all, and may the Lord give you peace!"

Spanish: Muchas gracias

French: Merci beaucoup

Portuguese: Muito obrigado / Muito obrigada

Italian: Grazie mille

Hindi: धन्यवाद (Dhanyavaad)

Tamil: நன்றி (Nandri)

“FRANCIS AND CLARE LIVED A SPIRITUALITY THAT UNITED TENDERNESS, RESISTANCE, AND COMMITMENT.”

INAUGURATION OF ACADEMIC YEAR AT ST. BONAVENTURE COLLEGE



BR. GAGAN GEORGE, OFM

Every dedicated journey begins with a bold and firm step, leading to the stage of discovering the meaning of life. We the novices after making our first profession took our first steps towards St. Bonaventure College in pursuit of our intellectual formation. We were warmly received by the Magister, Fr. Johnson M.V. We had orientation for academic life in the college, in the first week of our arrival. The academic year 2025-2026 of St. Bonaventure

College was inaugurated on 21st June 2025 under the theme “Care for Creation and Men.” The day was graced by the Bishop of the Diocese of Kannur, His Excellency Dr. Alex Vadakumthala. The Brothers welcomed other august dignitaries Br. Xavier Durairaj the Minister Provincial OFM,

Fr. George Raj Mohan IMS, resource person of the Schola Brevity, with immense happiness. We also had a few religious guests from the Augustinian and Cannosian orders, Fr. Shyam Prasad and Fr. Aji Thomas OAD. Besides this, other community friars also participated in this event.

We all gathered together to invoke God's blessings for this Academic year with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist presided by Rev. Dr. Alex Vadakumthala. The Inauguration program began with the lighting of the lamp. Then the brothers sang a melodious song composed by friar Christopher Coelho.

After the welcome address the bishop officially inaugurated the academic year and welcomed the first year's students. The bishop highlighted the need for intellectual formation by saying “Seminary is not a building to be experienced but it is a time of transformation.”

He also encouraged to ask questions in philosophical learning by giving the example of Mary, our Mother.

Later, Fr. George Raj Mohan delivered his lecture under the title “The Responsibility of Man to the Universe.” He emphasized that our actions on earth are detrimental and decisive in the future of our universe and gave a brief introduction to the quantum world.



THEOLOGY IN SHILONG

A JOYFUL JOURNEY OF LEARNING AND SERVICE



BR. JUEL SANGMA, OFM

On July 3rd, we, Br. Juwel and Br. Charles, arrived at Sacred Heart Theological College, Shillong to begin our Khasi language course. The serene atmosphere of Shillong, with its cool breeze and green hills, welcomed us warmly. This course was not merely about learning a language but also an opportunity to immerse ourselves in the beauty, culture, and history of the Khasi people.

As part of the program, we were blessed with enriching experiences outside the classroom. We visited the Don Bosco Museum, which offered deep insights into the vibrant cultures and traditions of the Northeast. Another highlight was our picnic to Cherrapunji, a land famed for its

breathtaking waterfalls, rolling hills, and lush greenery. These trips helped us appreciate the unique beauty of the land we now call home for our studies.

As our Khasi course concluded, our formation journey continued with a two-day orientation program to familiarise with the rhythms of college life. Immediately after that, we entered into a five-day retreat – a precious time of silence, prayer, and reflection, allowing us to renew our hearts and deepen our relationship with the Lord.

On August 7th, we joyfully took part in the inauguration of the new academic year 2025–2026. The ceremony brought together Salesians and members of various religious congregations, all united in the common mission of formation and service. Now, with classes in full swing, our days are filled with learning, prayer, and community life.

Living and studying at Sacred Heart Theological College is both a joy and a challenge. Being among members of different congregations, each with its own traditions and spiritual backgrounds, calls for openness and adaptability. Yet, we strive to live our Franciscan vocation with humility and simplicity, bearing quiet witness to the Gospel in our words and actions.

Another source of great joy is our Sunday ministry. Every weekend, we travel to various villages, meeting people from diverse cultures such as Khasi, Garo, Bodo, Nepali, Santali, Mizo, Meitei, and Hindi-speaking communities. Each visit is a new encounter with warm, loving, and hospitable people who deeply respect the religious life. Serving them strengthens our pastoral skills and enriches our hearts with stories, friendships, and unforgettable memories. We are happy and grateful to be here in Shillong – a time for learning, serving, and walking together.

Journey of Learning Begins at St. Bonaventure seminary

BR. KEVIN PRAKASH, OFM

We are not what we know but what we are willing to learn, says Mary Catherine Bateson. Every great mind begins with a spark of curiosity. At Duns Scotus Academy, part of the program at St. Bonaventure seminary, Assisi Vanam, we nurture that spark into a lifelong journey of learning and discovery. Rooted in the profound wisdom and intellectual clarity of Blessed John Duns Scotus, the inauguration of the Duns Scotus Academy marks a significant step toward nurturing minds that seek truth, beauty, and divine wisdom.

The inauguration was held on 19th July 2025. As every good thing begins by invoking God's name, we began our program by seeking His blessings. Sr. Sonia Peter D.P.M.T. was the chief guest of the day. Fr. Johnson M.V. the Guardian of the community, Fr. Shaji Nicholas, the Dean and other community members were also present for the event. Fr. Francis S.D.B. and the Cannosian brothers were also present for the event.

Br. Altrin, the President of the Duns Scotus Academy gave the welcome address. Sr. Sonia Peter, the chief guest of the day officially opened the Duns Scotus Academy for the year 2025-2026. In her address she gave a strong message saying, "this is the place where your talents grow." She particularly emphasized the importance of confidence and spoke about the "wings within us"—encouraging everyone to trust in their own wings.



Fr. Shaji Nicolas, the Director of Studies gave an orientation session. He spoke about the eagerness to learn that members of Duns Scotus must have. In particular, he stressed the importance of bringing a book and pen to the meetings and asking questions. We also had song and a dance performance emphasizing on the importance for care for one another and the care for creation. Br. Akhil, the Secretary of the academy delivered the vote of thanks and the inaugural meeting was officially concluded.



A Day of Freedom and Faith: Independence & Assumption

📍 PUNITHA ANTHONIAR ILLAM

*BR. PUNIT KUJUR,
POSTULANT*

Celebrations always bring us joy and happiness. Independence Day in particular, reminds us of our brave freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives for the nation. For Christians, this day is even more meaningful, as the Mother Church also celebrates the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The brothers of Punitha Anthoniar Illam began the day with the Holy Eucharistic celebration. After Mass, we gathered in front of the chapel for the flag hoisting. Four speeches were delivered in different languages: Tamil, Hindi, Khasi, and English – reminding us of the courage of our great freedom fighters and calling us to work for the growth and unity of our nation.



After breakfast, we attended the programs organized by the students of St. Anthony's Academy Tech School in our campus. They welcomed us wholeheartedly, and the little children presented a beautiful cultural program. Their dances were filled with joy and enthusiasm. The event concluded with coffee and snacks shared by all. In the afternoon, we had volleyball matches between four teams, each named after a freedom fighter. The matches were lively and enjoyable, filled with teamwork, mutual understanding, and joy.

This celebration left us feeling proud of our country and grateful for the gift of freedom. We concluded our festive day with a movie after supper, cherishing both the national and spiritual significance of August 15th.



FESTA DI SAN BONAVENTURA

BR. KHRAWBOR PAUL, OFM

Truth isn't just discovered; it is encountered in love. St. Bonaventure is well known for his meditation on the passion and wounds of Christ. A brilliant scholar and a humble servant of God, he combined deep intellectual insights with profound spiritual wisdom, earning him the title Seraphic Doctor. His writings speak of a closer relationship with God, reminding us that true wisdom is found not just in study, but in prayer and in the imitation of Christ.

We, as a community in Assisivanam, joyfully celebrated the feast of this great saint on July 15th. He is the patron of our seminary and college. In preparation for the feast, we had a three-day novena focusing on important aspects such as Creation as a Mirror of God, Pardoning in Love, Enduring in Peace, and Sister Death – Gate to Glory.

We began our celebration with a solemn Eucharistic Mass led by Fr. Joseph Stephen. The day was marked with fun and enthusiasm as



brothers played table tennis and later joined together for cooking in the kitchen. These little moments of teamwork and joy helped us enjoy the day and feel more connected to one another. We had a sumptuous meal in the afternoon, followed by the Divine Office and exciting games in the evening. The day ended with a special evening prayer, where we gave thanks for God's abundant blessings, and a delicious supper followed by lively recreation, with dancing and the joy of brotherhood. Thanks to the second-year brothers of the basic formation who organized the entire celebration.



Feast of St. Thomas the Apostle: A Day of Grace and Gratitude

BR. KISHOR JOSEPH, OFM



On 3rd July 2025, the Order of Friars Minor, India joyfully celebrated its province feast, honouring our beloved patron St. Thomas the Apostle. At St. Anthony's Friary, Bangalore, the celebration was a moment of grace, unity, and renewal of our missionary spirit.

The solemn festal Holy Mass began at 11:15 a.m. and was presided over by the Minister Provincial Fr. Xavier Durairaj. Fr. Prasanth Fernandes, in his inspiring homily invited everyone to embrace the missionary zeal of our patron saint. He reminded us that, like St. Thomas, we too are called to be courageous witnesses of the Gospel in our times, bearing Christ's message of love and hope to all. After the Eucharistic celebration, the friars gathered joyfully for a festal lunch, sharing fraternity and thanksgiving for the blessings of the Lord upon our province.

On the evening of 3rd July 2025, the province organized a program of – "A Day of Grace and Gratitude" to honour and thank our benefactors for their invaluable support and generosity. The event began at 6:30 p.m. with a warm welcome address by Fr. Rajasekhar Gopu, the project coordinator of our province, setting a joyful and appreciative tone for the evening. The program was enriched by two lively dance performances and a melodious song presented by theology brothers, which brought smiles and cheer to the gathering.

Fr. Xavier Durairaj expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the benefactors for their continued trust, love, and support towards the province's mission. Fr. Rajasekhar Gopu, the Project Coordinator shared information about various ministries of our province across different parts of India. He highlighted our mission in areas such as education, formation, pastoral care, social development and outreach programs, and thanked for the generous contributions of benefactors.



Fr. Prasanna Kumar the Bursar of the province concluded the program by extending a warm vote of thanks, appreciating the presence and support of everyone. The evening ended with a fellowship meal in the garden with our benefactors, creating an atmosphere of joy, fraternity, and thanksgiving. The Day of Grace and Gratitude was a beautiful reminder of how God bestows his grace to us and for His ministries through the kindness of our benefactors.

REPORT ON FRANCISCAN VISION GLOBAL SUMMIT, AUGUST 23, 2025

BR. ISAAC REYES, OFS

The August session of the Franciscan Vision Global Summit (FVGS) 2025 opened with warm words of fraternity from MC Br. Arokiam John, OFM, who greeted all with the traditional Franciscan salutation: “May the Lord give you peace, dear Brothers and Sisters!”. He informed participants that the proceedings were available in six languages through simultaneous interpretation and extended a heartfelt welcome to all representatives of the Franciscan family, guest speakers, and admirers of St. Francis.

To mark the inauguration of the 32nd session of the FVGS, which began in January 2023 and is now the 8th online session of 2025, the Holy Spirit was invoked in prayer by the Postulants, Novices, Professed Sisters, and Formators of the Franciscan Sisters of the Heart of Jesus (FCJ), Pakistan.

Br. Arokiam then introduced Sr. Samina Chughtai, FCJ, Provincial Superior of St. Francis Province, Pakistan/Philippines, who in turn presented the speaker, Dr. Br. Noel Muscat, OFM. He delivered a scholarly and inspiring talk on the theme:



“The impact of the Canticle of the Creatures and Audite Poverelle on Clare of Assisi and the early Franciscan Women, and their lessons for feminine spirituality today.”

Br. Noel reminded participants that this year marks the 800th anniversary of the Canticle of Brother Sun (Canticle of the Creatures), composed by St. Francis in 1225 at San Damiano, during a time of illness when he was cared for by St. Clare and her sisters. Around the same period, he also composed the short exhortation Audite Poverelle (“Listen, O Poor Little Ones”) for the Poor Ladies. The principal sources for these compositions are the Mirror of Perfection and the Assisi Compilation from the early 14th century, while the Canticle itself is preserved in Codex 338 of the Sacro Convento Library in Assisi.

He explained that the Canticle of Brother Sun reflects three distinct moments in the final years of St. Francis:

Spring 1225 at San Damiano, when he composed the first part praising God through creation;

The civil conflict between Bishop Guido II of Assisi and Podestà Bernardo de Oportulo, which inspired the section on forgiveness and peace;

The approach of death in 1226 at the Portiuncula, when Francis welcomed “Sister bodily death.”



Br. Noel highlighted that the Canticle, written in the Umbrian dialect, portrays creation as a cosmic family of brothers and sisters—sun, moon, stars, air, water, fire, and earth—each reflecting God’s goodness. Humanity, as steward rather than owner of creation, is called to live in harmony with the natural order.



He also drew connections to the present, noting that care for creation is a central concern of the Church today. St. John Paul II declared St. Francis the Patron of Ecology in 1979, and Pope Francis continues this legacy in *Laudato Si'* (2015) and *Fratelli Tutti* (2020), both deeply inspired by the Franciscan vision of creation as “our common home.”

Turning to feminine spirituality, Br. Noel emphasized that both the *Canticle of Brother Sun* and the *Audite Poverelle* celebrate life, providence, and God’s goodness in a contemplative manner that resonates with the Franciscan spirit lived by St. Clare and her sisters. These texts affirm complementarity and equality of men and women in God’s creation, while respecting their distinct roles.

After the presentation, Sr. Samina Chughtai guided the Question-and-Answer session, giving participants the opportunity to reflect and engage with the rich insights offered.

In conclusion, Br. Arokiam thanked Sr. Samina and Br. Noel for their contributions and invited all to the next FVGS online gathering, scheduled for Saturday, September 27, 2025 (17:30–18:45 IST / 13:00–14:15 CET).

The session concluded joyfully with the *Canticle of the Creatures*, sung and danced by friar-students from the Province of Madagascar and Mauritius, joined by a Franciscan Youth member. Their vibrant performance in the local language showcased the beauty of their culture and the richness of Franciscan universality.



FEAST OF OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS (PORTIUNCULA)

Celebration in Peravoor

BR. GAGAN GEORGE, OFM

Portiuncula means ‘the Little Portion’. In that little portion there was a small chapel called ‘Our Lady of the Angels’. Francis loved this chapel because it was dedicated to Mary, Queen of Angels. It was in the Portiuncula that he founded the Order of Friars Minor where friars gathered yearly for the chapter to discuss the rule and renew their dedication to the Gospel life.

To commemorate this in Assisivanam, we celebrated the Feast of Our Lady of the Angels with great joy. The brothers made a small, beautiful replica of the original chapel. The celebration began with evening prayer and the Holy Mass.

Fr. Stephen spoke about the importance of Mother Mary and how we should try to live with humility like her. The brothers sang together with love and made the celebration very touching.

In the evening, we gathered again to pray to Mother Mary and ask for her blessings. Many people came throughout the day for Confession and receive the special blessing (indulgence) of the Portiuncula. The Feast of Our Lady of the Angels is a special time to remember St. Francis and his love for Mary. It helps us grow in humility and trust in God's mercy. May Our Lady always guide and protect us.

Shramadan Day at DVK:

A DAY OF TOGETHERNESS, HARD WORK, AND JOY

BR. RALBIN JOEAL, OFM

Shramadan Day at DVK (Dharmaram Vidya Kshetram) is a fantastic tradition where brothers, sisters, fathers and all the faculties come together rolling up their sleeves to work side by side for a common good by cleaning our campus in communitarian spirit. This year's Shramadan Day was one of the most memorable and fun-filled days I have ever experienced in college, and it truly showed me the power of teamwork and gratitude.



deserved break, where we shared delicious sandwich prepared by one of the groups. After this, we continued our work in our respective groups and there was laughter all around as stories were exchanged about past Shramadan Days, and even a few funny conversations made the work light and vibrant. The sense of working together created instant bonds, breaking any barriers between brothers, sisters, and fathers.

In the afternoon, we celebrated our efforts with a sumptuous lunch by the DVK Administration. The lunch was delicious and a time of recalling all the things happened in the day. Now the sunny day changed into chilling vibes with the Kulfi ice cream. After the lunch, the organizers allowed us to watch movies in our classrooms as part of relaxation.

By the end of the day, the entire campus looked refreshed and vibrant. Shramadan Day was an opportunity to create unforgettable memories. An unforgettable memory to share the joy of hard work and togetherness with DVK family!



On 6th August, morning started our Shramasan with a gathering in front of the DVK Cafeteria, equipped with tools, and big smiles. We were divided into groups, and assigned for different works in the campus. The mid-day brought a well-

THE VISIT TO A CHARISMATIC CONVENTION



BR. SUMIT TIRKEY, OFM

On 28th June, the brothers from Novitiate attended a charismatic convention situated near Palamaner. There we met people from different parts of India gathered to listen to God's message and receive his healing. The convention was themed after "TETELESTAI" which means "It is finished." We were amazed to see the simple faith of simple people, who readily listened to the preacher's instructions. The preacher invoked the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mother Mary, whom he identified as the silent witness of Jesus' last words. We were greatly inspired to see the wonders God does to those who believed in him.

Whenever the preacher wanted to heal or drive evil spirits, he used the crucifix which showed us the power of Christ's sacrifices. The program was enriched with devotional songs and music based on scripture, which moved people to pour out their hearts and be freed of their burdens. The preacher assured people of God's love in the face of difficulties by quoting Hebrews 12:8, which speak about God disciplining his children.



We enjoyed our participation in the program and learned to pray for healing of a youth. Seeing us in our Franciscan habit, the preacher invited us to be an instrument of blessing and healing to others through our prayers. We learnt new things about the charismatic movement and it felt like being in different world when we were in praise and worship.

Justice in Solidarity

PARTICIPATING IN THE PROTEST RALLY FOR NUNS' ARREST

BR. MARIA NITHIN, OFM

Over 2,500 people gathered in a silent protest at Freedom Park at Bangalore in the afternoon on second August, demanding the release of Sr. Preeti Mary and Sr. Vandana Francis, the two Catholic nuns arrested in Chhattisgarh.

The protest was organized by the Archdiocese of Bangalore, Syro Malabar Church, Mandya diocese and supported by various Christian religious, Christian denominations and civil society groups. It was a sign of unity and dissent against what many see as a rising pattern of intimidation against religious minorities. The protesters called for accountability and reaffirmed the constitutional right to freedom of religion. Leading voices at the rally included Archbishop Peter Machado of Bangalore, Bishop Mar Sebastian Aditya Tharath of Mandya, and Rev. Isaac Mar, Ostethos of the Jacoby Orthodox Church.

The archdiocese reiterated its commitment to peaceful dialogue and legal recourse in the pursuit of justice – “With the joy and with a little fear and doubts and also sorrow in our heart, we come here today in order to express our solidarity and to protest against the unjust arrest of the two nuns.”



Archbishop urged the Karnataka government to repeal the state's controversial anti-conversion law, warning that such legislation fosters fear and could lead to similar incidents within the state. The protesters maintained a moment of silence as a symbolic act of resistance and solidarity.



"INJUSTICE
ANYWHERE IS A
THREAT TO
JUSTICE
EVERYWHERE."

--Martin Luther King Jr.

VISIT OF FR. MARIUS:

The Sign of Gratitude and Love for the Fraternity



He was the main celebrant of the day, joined by the rector Fr. Naveen George. During the homily, Fr. Marius spoke powerfully about the importance of formation in our priestly life. He shared personal reflections from his own time as a formee and encouraged the brothers to move forward with zeal, especially in reading and meditating on the Scriptures with love and devotion. He reminded the brothers to embrace and rejoice in the call to live as Franciscans.

BR. PRASANDEEP EKKA, OFM

The theology brothers in St. Anthony's Friary Bangalore celebrate a day each week dedicated to fraternity on Saturdays—a day of being together in community. This Saturday celebration allows each brother to participate more personally and meaningfully in the liturgy, expressing themselves and using their talents for the glory of God.

On July 20th 2025, the community was especially blessed by the presence of the newly ordained Fr. Marius Dhanga, who, despite his busy schedule found time to be with the brothers for the Eucharistic celebration.



We had a very enriching time with Fr. Marius and the sweet-old memories of our formation years together was something that we will miss. After the Eucharistic celebration, Fr. Naveen George, OFM, expressed words of love and gratitude to Fr. Marius Dhanga.

My God and my all: The Feast of St. Thomas

BR. PRASANT LAKRA (POSTULANT)



The brothers of Punitha Anthoniar Illam, Madurai were very happy to celebrate the feast of St. Thomas the Apostle and the Province Feast. St. Thomas, famously known as a doubting Thomas is also profoundly remembered for his faith expressed in one sentence “My God and my all.” These words speak volumes about who Jesus was for St. Thomas and vice versa. For having expressed his faith in him he totally surrendered his life to work for Jesus.



We started our day with the Holy Eucharist celebrated by Friar Irudayaraj, the guardian.



Which was followed by various games like volleyball, cricket and the football. This helped us to grow together and to share our talents, ideas, thoughts and a lot of fun. In the evening, we had a beautiful evening prayer thanking God for all the graces and the blessings we received from Him. At super Fr. Guardian distributed the prizes to the winning teams and gave a small message saying that we were full of potentiality and reminded that games are not about winning or losing but it is about finding our brotherhood.

The Feast of Sacred Heart of Jesus

📍 PUNITHA ANTHONIAR ILLAM

BR. PUNIT KUJUR, POSTULANT



It was a Sunday evening around six o'clock. We, the postulants, took a bus to a village called Magnla Puram, a sub-station of our parish, St. John De Britto. The feast was coordinated by our parishioners under the guidance of Fr. James. The celebration began with a vibrant procession through the village before Mass. Although we did not understand the language, the Mass was a memorable experience. I was particularly moved to see people's profound devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

After the final blessing, we entered the village church. Though small in structure, it was immense in its beauty and serenity, a sacred space filled with the evening's lingering prayers. After a delicious meal shared with the community, we returned to Punitha Illam in Madurai with joyful hearts. Participating in this festive celebration was a powerful experience that deepened my love for the Lord and strengthened my desire to become a true disciple of Jesus.



WELCOMING FRESH AND NEW BEGINNINGS

MY REGENCY EXPERIENCE

📍 KOLLEGAL

BR. BRUNO, OFM

Every new beginning is often disguised as a painful task, an unknown and uncertain path, but there is a miracle in every new beginning. The new beginning is always hard, but once you start flying, you will soar higher. Let us not worry too much on deciding our future, rather, do what is needed and leave the rest to the hands of the all-powerful God.

With lot of anticipation and uneasiness, I entered the regency, uncertain on what lies ahead, I had many questions that were bothering my mind – what am I going to do, what are the ministries that I would be assigned? I felt my heart in my throat when the day I received the message from the regency master. In mid-July, I started my journey to my regency place – prakashpalya. It is a mission place situated around 20 km away from Kollegal town. Indeed, it would be fair to say that this place is well deserving for the educational and pastoral ministry.

Having the opportunity to be a part of the Salesian Fathers and assisting them in their educational and hostel formation ministry, all the things that was bothering me disappeared. I was happy to be engaged in multiple activities such as teaching English Grammar to children, spoken English classes, looking after the hostel students.



During the past one month of my ministry, I experienced new things and learned with the Salesian Fathers and the children in the form of teaching English, assisting in the hostel, coaching the students in games and so on. Apart from these, I was happy being part of some of the memorable events - the Independence Day, outing to Bharachukki Falls, the blessing and inauguration of the Father's residence and the parish feast of St. Louis. These experiences has brought a lot of joy and festivity in my hearts.



The progress in and around the vicinity of prakashpalya was brought to existence because of the apostolate of the Salesian Fathers. All these initiatives were started with lot of uncertainties, but, today, it is bearing much fruit.

Fear is thinking 'what if' but faith is thinking 'even if.' These experiences have taught me to have faith in new beginnings for our help comes from the God who is always faithful to his promises, and He will not let us down.

INSTITUTION OF THE MINISTRIES OF ACOLYTE AND LECTOR

BANGALORE



BR. KAMAL EKKA, OFM

After the celebration, on behalf of all the brothers, Br. Ralbin expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Minister Provincial, the formators, the first-year theology brothers, and the entire community of St. Anthony's Friary Bangalore for their unwavering guidance, support, and fraternal presence. The celebration concluded in a spirit of fraternity and joy, as the community exchanged greetings of peace and perseverance.

“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.” (1 Peter 4:10). The ministries of Acolyte and Lector are sacred callings to serve God’s people by proclaiming His Word with faith and assisting at His altar with devotion and reverence so that Christ may be made present in both Word and Sacrament.

August 18th marked another significant milestone in the life of the theology brothers. During the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, the Minister Provincial, Br. Xavier Durairaj, OFM, instituted our brothers into the Minor Orders of Acolyte and Lector. Brothers Anmol, Bhushan, Ajay, and Parsandeeep were instituted into the Ministry of the Acolyte whereas, brothers Pratap, Allwin, Dhillip, Brian, Kamal, Ralbin, and Karthik were instituted into the Ministry of the Lector.

In his sermon, Br. Xavier Durairaj aptly highlighted that the ministries of acolyte and lector have a deep significance in our life and the mission of the Church. These are not merely functional roles but has that which identifies our life. The instituted ministries reflect a commitment and



dedication to serve God and His Church faithfully. During the Eucharistic celebration, the choir was gracefully led by the first-year theology brothers. The brothers enlivened the celebration with music and enriched the liturgy with melodious voices.



“CANTICLE AND CODE”

Reimagining Franciscan Formation in the 21st

Century

BR. JOHNSON M.V. OFM

The question that guides us today is: What should be the nature of Franciscan formation at various stages of our journey? Formation is not simply a transfer of information or a preparation for clerical functions; it is a holistic process of conversion into Christ, inspired by the Gospel and shaped by the vision of St. Francis and St. Clare. In the twenty-first century, where humanity is confronted with ecological crises and the rapid expansion of artificial intelligence, Franciscan formation must be both faithful to its spiritual heritage and responsive to the changing signs of the times.

At the stage of postulancy, formation lays its foundations in the human and spiritual dimensions of life. The postulant is invited to grow in self-knowledge, emotional maturity, and relational balance, while being gradually introduced into the rhythms of common prayer, the Eucharist, and the Liturgy of the Hours. Practical experiences such as gardening, cleaning, or simple manual work are not peripheral but essential, for they nurture humility and prepare the postulant to recognize the sacredness of ordinary tasks. Fraternal living, with its challenges and joys, becomes the first school of Franciscan life. At this stage, even digital awareness is important: postulants must learn how to balance the use of media and technology with silence, reflection, and presence in community (cf. *Ratio Formationis Franciscanae*, 2019).

The novitiate deepens this orientation, rooting the novice in the life and writings of St. Francis, St. Clare, and the early Franciscan tradition. It is a privileged time of immersion in prayer, simplicity, and contemplation. Manual labour is integrated as spiritual discipline, echoing the words of Francis who reminded the friars that



“a friar idle in body is also idle in spirit” (Admonitions, XXVII). In this stage, the values of JPIC (Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation) acquire concreteness: work in the fields, care for the environment, and solidarity with the poor become daily practices of formation. More than learning about fraternity, the novice experiences it directly – discovering what it means to be “lesser brothers” (minores) who live not by domination but by mutual service.

The period of philosophical studies introduces intellectual formation in the Franciscan spirit. Here, the friar learns to integrate faith and reason, cultivating habits of critical thinking and discernment in dialogue with culture. For the Franciscan tradition, philosophy is not abstract speculation but a path of wisdom leading to God (cf. Bonaventure, *Itinerarium Mentis in Deum*). Alongside intellectual work, ecological consciousness continues to be nurtured, reminding the student that the search for truth cannot be separated from the care of creation. At this stage, friars must also begin to engage questions surrounding artificial intelligence and digital culture, discerning how these shape human identity, relationships, and even

philosophical and theological reflection. Formation in this regard equips them to be responsible and creative ministers in a technologically mediated world.

The Philosophate of St. Bonaventure, Assisivanam, aims to inculcate what is said above, unfolds as a synthesis of intellectual rigor, pastoral sensitivity, and ecological consciousness, rooted in the values of JPIC. Academic study is inseparably linked with community life, limited pastoral outreach, and manual labour, where cooking, gardening, horticulture, and technical skills such as carpentry and masonry nurture humility, fraternity, and contemplative engagement with creation. This ethos finds tangible expression in the ecological transformation of the campus, where thousands of fruit-bearing, shade-giving, ornamental, and rare palm trees have been planted, and hundreds of saplings are cultivated and shared annually with the wider community. Supported by sustainable technologies such as solar energy, biogas, and waste management, formation here becomes more than instruction—it is a living pedagogy in which labour is prayer, ecology is spirituality, and intellectual pursuit is harmonized with prophetic witness to the Gospel.

Theology studies bring formation to a pastoral and apostolic level. Here, the friar is prepared to serve the People of God through preaching, catechesis, and pastoral ministry, always in the spirit of fraternity and minority. Theology, however, is not limited to the classroom; it is tested and enriched by concrete experiences of mission, service among the poor, and fraternal living. Ecological commitment is deepened through sustainable practices

“The ultimate goal is not merely to produce scholars or eloquent preachers, but authentic witnesses of the Gospel.”

and advocacy for creation, embodying the vision of *Laudato Si'*. At the same time, digital formation becomes a pastoral necessity. Friars must learn how to use AI and digital platforms responsibly for evangelization, while resisting the dangers of superficiality, manipulation, and disembodiment. The task is to form men who can preach the Gospel both in the pulpit and in the digital public square.

Finally, ongoing formation reminds us that Franciscan life is never finished. St. Francis himself spoke of “doing penance” as a lifelong journey of conversion. For the friar, ongoing formation means constant renewal in prayer, fraternity, study, and mission. It also demands openness to the challenges of the times: deepening ecological conversion, engaging emerging technologies with discernment, and continuing to live as prophetic signs of simplicity, humility, and peace. The *Ratio Formationis Franciscanae* underlines that lifelong formation is not an option but a constitutive element of the Franciscan vocation, enabling brothers to grow in fidelity and creativity as they age in the Order.

In conclusion, the nature of Franciscan formation at every stage - postulancy, novitiate, philosophy, theology, and beyond - needs to be holistic, integrating intellectual study, spiritual depth, ecological responsibility, practical skills, fraternal living, and responsible digital engagement. The ultimate goal is not merely to produce scholars or eloquent preachers, but authentic witnesses of the Gospel: men of simplicity and joy, rooted in the Franciscan spirit, who respond with conviction and compassion to the challenges of our age. In an era marked by artificial intelligence and ecological fragility, Franciscan formation must form brothers who embody the prophetic hope of Francis, reminding the world that to pray, to work, to live in fraternity, and to embrace creation as sacrament is to follow Christ in truth and freedom.

CELEBRATIONS: BECOMING A BROTHER TO EACH OTHER

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION OF THE MAGISTER

BR. CARLOS DIAS, OFM

Thirteenth of July was a special day for all of us at St. Anthony's. We had the birthday celebrations for our magister and brother friar Sidney. Preparations for his birthday celebrations began much earlier than the thirteenth itself. A group of brothers took care of the liturgy. The liturgy was something out of the ordinary. Taking the cue from friar Gerry, our Magister Cantus, we had vernacular singing during mass. Each language group helped the other group with the transliteration of the vernacular songs which enhanced participation and brought us together before the Lord in spite of the cultural differences.

On the eve of the festivity, friar Sidney cut the cake but he expressed his sorrow over cutting such a huge cake. Perhaps he did not want to erase his name from the surface of the cake which was nicely decorated by the baker. In the evening after supper, we had common recreation with the whole community and it was really wonderful to see young and old sharing the same brotherhood together.

The celebrations of the holy Eucharist began at 9 am, the next day. The theme of the mass was, "Becoming a brother to the other," which says something of the person of friar Sidney. I should say his whole personality is based on this theme. He gives a great reverence and regard for the other in his life. In his short homily, Fr. Scaria helped us to reflect on the various gifts and talents God has given to each one of us. He said that we have a lot of potentialities and hidden resources deep within us. These have to be brought to the fore and thus foster the growth of one another. Fr. Scaria also pointed

out how Fr. Sidney expresses this aspect in his personal life: in his concern for others, in his deep sense of hospitality and in his characteristic way of reaching out to people. At the end of the mass, Fr. Sidney had something nice to tell us. He told us that the magister's feast is not only of the magister's but also of the students and with a broad smile he wished all of us a 'happy feast.' The whole liturgy was prepared by the student-friars: Chinnappan, Showry and Joseph Raj.

The climax of the celebration was the volleyball match between the "old bones" and the "young bones"; to the former belonged the elderly friars, led by Fr. Daniel, and to the latter, the student friars. What followed was a spectacular game and the old stole the victory cup.

In the evening, party games were organized by friars Donald, Rohwein, Chinnappan and Bobby. The game, "winning Hearts" took all our attention and it was friar Kurien who bagged the maximum number of hearts, even the dried up, old hearts!

And then came the important moment. Friar Sidney rose up to thank the brethren. According to him the noblest human event is when a person remembers the different people who have been so good and so close to him. He also recalled the morning of 13th July, 1941, the day on which R. Tagore wrote: "your birthday is a festival of gifts." These words are very special to friar Sidney. They help him to reflect upon and to thank God for all the gifts he has poured on him. And thus ended the day of celebrations. But unlike the other events of life this celebration imprinted on us what it means to be a brother to another - the other - a festival of gifts!



WRITE TO



AND EXCHANGE

THE BUILD



BROTHERHOOD

NEXT ISSUE WILL
BE PUBLISHED IN
THE FIRST WEEK
OF NOVEMBER 2025

HAPPY READING!!

