

Bangalore CRI Juniors Meet (08/01/2017)

The New Year 2017 dawned with mixed feelings in the minds of many of us.

To trigger the innate enthusiasm of the young religious CRI Bangalore organized a one-day programme for the juniors on the theme, "**Called to be young and dynamic consecrated professionals in the church**". 368 juniors- Religious & Seminarians from different congregations actively participated in the programme.



The day began with the Eucharistic Celebration presided over by Monsignor Jayanathan. During his homily he explained,



- The significance of the day's feast of Epiphany
- Church's expectation from today's young religious
- Professional Response - POCKETS

i) The significance of the feast of

Epiphany:

Epipháneia in Greek means manifestation or apparition of a super natural or divine reality. A festival in Christianity celebrating the visit of the Wise Men to the infant Jesus. *Epiphany* means "a showing forth" —

in this case a showing forth of Jesus to the Gentiles. It tells about a "fourth" wise man, a priest of the Magi named Artaban, one of the Medes from Persia. Like the other Magi, he sees signs in the heavens proclaiming that a King had been born among the Jews. Like them, he sets out to see the newborn ruler, carrying treasures to give as gifts to the child - a sapphire, a ruby, and a "pearl of great price". However, he stops along the way to help a dying man, which makes him late to meet with the caravan of the other three wise men. Because he missed the caravan, and he can't cross the desert with only a horse, he is forced to sell one of his treasures in order to buy the camels and supplies necessary for the trip. He then commences his journey but arrives in Bethlehem too late to see the child, whose parents have fled to Egypt. He saves the life of a child at the price of another of his treasures.

He then travels to Egypt and to many other countries, searching for Jesus for many years and performing acts of charity along the way. After 33 years, Artaban is still a pilgrim, and a seeker after light. Artaban arrives in Jerusalem just in time for the crucifixion of Jesus. He spends his last treasure, the pearl, to ransom a young woman from being sold into slavery. He is then struck in the head by a falling roof tile and is about to die, having failed in his quest to find Jesus, but having done much good through charitable works. A voice tells him "Verily I say unto thee, inasmuch as thou hast done it unto one of the least of these my

brethren, thou hast done it unto me (Matthew 25:40)". He dies in a calm radiance of wonder and joy. His treasures were accepted, and the other *Wise Man* found his King.

Through the gifts of three wise men the threefold mission of Jesus was revealed to the world.

Gold is a symbol of divinity and is mentioned throughout the Bible. Pagan idols were often made from gold and the Ark of the Covenant was overlaid with gold (Exodus 25:10-17). The gift of gold to the Christ child was symbolic of His divinity - God in flesh.

Frankincense is a white resin or gum. It is obtained from a tree by making incisions in the bark and allowing the gum to flow out. It is highly fragrant when burned and was therefore used in worship, where it was burned as a pleasant offering to God (Exodus 30:34). Frankincense is a symbol of holiness and righteousness. The gift of frankincense to the Christ child was symbolic of His willingness to become a sacrifice, wholly giving Himself up, analogous to a burnt offering.

Myrrh was also a product of Arabia, and was obtained from a tree in the same manner as frankincense. It was a spice and was used in embalming. It was also sometimes mingled with wine to form an article of drink. Such a drink was given to our Savior when He was about to be crucified, as a stupefying potion (Mark 15:23). Matthew 27:34 refer to it as "gall." Myrrh symbolizes bitterness, suffering, and affliction. The baby Jesus would grow to suffer greatly as a man and would pay the ultimate price when He gave His life on the cross for all who would believe in Him.

ii) Church's Expectation from today's young religious:

As the star led the Magi to the manger, the young religious in today's world are expected to be the stars to lead the one's who lost their way to the Divine through their professional response.

iii) How to be Professionals?

Monsignor Jayanathan continued to explain through acronyms **POCKETS** to better ourselves in our day today life.

P – Plan ahead any thing we do

O – Organize our work and ourselves systematically

C – Coordinate with our fellow workers and draw synergy from them

K – Kindle energy and enthusiasm in all those who are around us

E – Enrich our knowledge & update it time and again

T – Transform the society by our presence

S – To serve the Society is our aim and goal

This beautiful message through the Holy Eucharist sustained the participants to march ahead to face the challenges of this year.

Followed by this Dr. J Alexander, IAS (Retired), Former Chief Secretary and Cabinet Minister, Karnataka State addressed the gathering. In his speech he said till 1947, Government was behind you after 1947 Government is ahead of you. As religious you are, who are involved in Social Reformation your approach should be as professionals. Every one should know about the documents of your buildings and land.

- 1) Renew the documents of your land & buildings time to time.
- 2) Develop the knowledge about the Non – Agricultural Sources, Panchayat, and Municipality. Rectify the related issues through Akrama – Sakrama.
- 3) In the schools develop the knowledge of RTE
- 4) Minority schools are not exempted from following the rules of RTE
- 5) Minority Institutions should obtain the Minority Certificate from State Level and National Level, which is compulsory.
- 6) Provident Fund should be given to those who work in our institutions.
- 7) All those who get salary less than ` 20,000 should be covered by ESIC (Employee State Insurance Corporation)
- 8) Try and follow the labour Department regulations in your institutions.
- 9) Encountering with the Government Officials in a courteous manner is highly recommended as it generalizes the religious sector.

Followed by this, Dr Sameera Fernandes the Director, Marketing & CSR of Ecosol Global gave a motivational speech and made every one to think who I am, where I am going, what is my future ... What for I am called awakened the participants to identify one's uniqueness and originality to wake up the world.

Dr Reena the medical practitioner for 32 years explained from the bible her deep rootedness in the Lord and challenged the young religious to know about their rootedness in Christ.

Finally Mr. Sibi Chacko, from the management sector, expressed his observation about the functionality of the Religious Group from the time of his arrival and the expectation of the world from these religious as professionals. His speech stirred the hearts of every individual present there and made us to reschedule our life.

After the delicious meals the debate on whether structure of religious life or the authority (Superiors) set the motion or against the motion for the young religious to become professionals brought hot discussion in the forum. Finally Rev Fr Edward Thomas SDB the BCRI President brought to the conclusion that it depends on the individual conviction and commitment, which add beauty to religious life.

The day came to an end with the high tea.