

Report

Senior religious gathering

on 9th October 2016 at St. Vincent's Provincialate-Bangalore.

Organised by BCRI

Date- 09-10-2016

Venue- St. Vincent's Provincialate- Cooke Town

Time-09-30 AM to 04 PM

Participants- Senior religious 60 and above.

Number of Participants-74

Bangalore CRI had organized one day program for the senior religious at Vincent's Provincial House. The program commenced with registration and tea around 9.30 am. Sisters arrived before the time which showed their punctuality, dedication and commitment. There was a joy and cheerful smile on their faces as they arrived.

Rev. Fr. Edward SDB, the president of Bangalore CRI welcomed the gathering and along with his staff introduced the topic of the debate that was "Religious life needs a drastic change" - the team was divided in to four groups- for the motion and against the motion and the debate was carried on in the afternoon.

Rev. Fr. Jonny welcomed the resource person Fr. Sahaya John Director of NBCLC. He gave talk on the topic aging gracefully that was really enlightening, thought provoking, inspiring and reflective. He explained about the adjustment problem of relationship with the new generation and mission as well as, the adjustment problem of the retired religious by quoting the words of Pope Francis "that being old is no time for rest but a change for a new mission in the world." He also emphasized that old sisters are not retired from their jobs but have changed their mission that means they can be more creative and witnessing. The young generation is not interested in "once upon a time" but interested in "today and now". He also showed few clippings and concluded the talk by appreciating their attentive listening.

Along with intellectual need, spiritual need also is very essential for our sustenance. So we had the Eucharistic celebration at 11. 45 Am., Presided by Rev. Fr. Devadas D along with the co-

celebrants Fr. Jonny and Fr. Joy CM, and gave beautiful sermon on thanksgiving and sisters and aspirants of Vincent De Paul made the celebration more meaningful by their melodious singing.

Delicious lunch was served immediately after the mass by Mr. Peter and his team. Soon after the lunch cultural program was put up by the aspirants and postulants of Daughters of Charity, Daughters of Wisdom (Montfort sisters) and Immaculate Conception congregation. They awakened the soul and heart of everyone with their rhythmic performance. The senior sisters were not less than them they also sang songs in different languages and received a good round of applause. There was so much of joy and enthusiasm among them.

Fr. Jonny conducted the debate on the above mentioned topic. All the members participated in it actively. Some said strict formation helped them to be committed, dedicated and sacrifice their life for the cause. The present formation being lenient there is no sacrifice, no commitment and think of oneself than others. The debate helped the members to introspect and see where we are heading today in following Jesus and doing his mission. Because Gospel doesn't change, the values don't change and we are always reminded that we should go back to our roots and origin.

The indoor **sports** competitions were conducted for them by Sr. Saleena. There was lot of thrill and enthusiasm in the participants and all most everyone took part in the competitions. There was Running race and Javelin throw. The winners are;

Javelin throw; 1st prize Sr. Benedicta SJC,

2nd prize Br. Mathew SG,

3rd Sr. Salin JMJ.

Running Race; 1st prize Sr. Jacintha SCCG

2ND prize Sr. Lydia DC

3rd prize Sr. Saritha

The prizes were distributed for them by Br. Mathew SG. Sr. Shiny proposed vote of thanks and program was culminated with high tea at 04 PM and all bid good bye to each other and left the place. "We meet to part, we part to meet". The 74 stars and ambassadors of God were able to shine all through the day and returned home with renewed spirit and happiness.

*****End*****