

SANYASA SANGAMA 2024
Theme: Transformation in Consecrated Life
February 11, 2024 | Jyothi Nivas College Autonomous, Koramangala, Bangalore

The Bangalore Unit of the Conference of Religious India (CRI) organized its annual gathering, *Sanyasa Sangama*, on February 11, 2024, at Jyothi Nivas College Autonomous, Koramangala, Bangalore. Centered on the theme “**Transformation in Consecrated Life**”, the event brought together more than 700 priests, religious sisters, and brothers from across the Archdiocese, creating a vibrant atmosphere of prayer, reflection, and fraternity.

The program began with the solemn celebration of the Holy Eucharist, presided over by Rev. Fr. Xavier E. Manavath, CMF, Episcopal Vicar for the Religious in the Archdiocese of Bangalore. He was joined by Rev. Fr. Varghese Vithayathil, CMI, Chancellor of Christ University, as concelebrant, along with several other priests. The Eucharistic celebration set a prayerful tone for the day, inviting all present to renew their commitment to Christ and His mission.

The keynote address was delivered by Rev. Fr. Benny G. Koottanal, MSFS, who reflected deeply on the transformative power of consecration. He emphasized that authentic transformation begins when we allow ourselves to be touched and molded by God’s grace. Quoting St. Paul, he reminded the religious that they are called to be true disciples of Christ joyful, humble, and approachable. He stressed that consecrated persons must radiate the presence of Christ through their simplicity, compassion, and dedication to service.

Msgr. S. Jayanathan, Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Bangalore, addressed the gathering on behalf of the Archbishop. He highlighted the values of humility, belongingness, and teamwork as essential pillars of consecrated life. He encouraged the religious to cultivate a clear vision, foster collective thinking, and embrace shared responsibility in their ministries. He reminded them that all their efforts should ultimately glorify God rather than seek personal recognition.

Rev. Sr. Maria Nirmalini, AC, President of the National Conference of Religious India (CRI), joined the program via Zoom and shared her inspiring message. She called upon the religious to cherish and take seriously the precious gift of consecration. Emphasizing the importance of prayer and joyful witness, she urged them to live their vocation with renewed enthusiasm and faithfulness.

Fr. Arun Luis, SJ, Director of Social Services at Ashirwad Jesuit Centre, delivered a thought-provoking session on “Election Consciousness.” He encouraged the religious to play a proactive role in promoting responsible citizenship. He urged them to facilitate voter registration drives and ensure that members of their institutions and communities are registered and participate responsibly in the democratic process.

A special highlight of the program was the screening of the film “*Face of the Faceless*,” portraying the life and martyrdom of Sr. Rani Maria. The movie deeply moved the participants and served as a powerful reminder of how consecrated life, when lived authentically, becomes a transformative force in society.

The *Sanyasa Sangama 2024* concluded on a note of renewed commitment and spiritual enrichment. The gathering provided a meaningful platform for consecrated persons to reflect on their vocation, strengthen their unity, and recommit themselves to being instruments of transformation in the Church and society.

Submitted by

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