



St. Ephrem's Theological College, Satna

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FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR BLESSED VIRGIN MARY



Ephrem community celebrated the feast of the nativity of our Lady on 8th September. We had 8 days of spiritual preparations and sharing of Marian reflections by Sub-deacons. Rev. Fr. Joseph Parayil was the main celebrant of the solemn Eucharistic celebration on 8th September.

NATIONAL SEMINAR AND COLLOQUIUM



On the occasion of the Centenary of the Apostolic Letter "Maximum Illud" and the declaration of "Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019" by Holy Father Pope Francis, St. Ephrem's Theological College conducted a National Seminar and Colloquium on 'Liberative Word and Missionary Praxis' on 3rd and 4th September with the collaboration of the Eparchy of Satna.



The Seminar had altogether four sessions on the first day. The inaugural session initiated with the procession of the Holy Bible, prayer and the enthronement of the Holy Bible. The inaugural meeting was set in motion with the lighting of lamp. His Excellency Mar Joseph Kodakallil, the Bishop of Satna, Chairman, Synodal Commission for ETC, presided over the inaugural meeting. Very Rev. Dr. Joseph Ottapurackal, the Rector of St. Ephrem's welcomed the gathering. His Excellency Mar Raphael Thattil, Bishop of Shamshabad, Member of Synodal Commission for ETC inspired the participants with the Keynote Address.



Soon after the inaugural session the first session of the seminar began. Rev Dr. Thomas Embrayil VC was the moderator of the session. Three papers were presented in this session. First paper on "Religious Identity of Israelites and Missionary Consciousness during the Exilic and Post-Exilic Biblical History" was presented by Rev. Dr. Cyriac Valiakunnumpurath, (PVP, Vadavathoor). Rev. Dr. Mathew Palachuvattil from Holy Trinity Major Seminary,





Jalandhar tabled the next paper on “Mission Mandate in the Synoptic Gospels,” and thereafter, Mr. Joseph Chittilapilly addressed the audience on “Experiences of a Missionary.” Each paper presentation was followed by a discussion regarding the paper which ensured the active participation of audience. Each session ended with the concluding remarks of the moderator. The second session commenced in the afternoon. Rev. Sr. Keerthi CHF, the Principal of Nirmal Matha School, Kailasapur, was the moderator. Rev. Dr. George Alukka CST, the Provincial of Khrist Jyothi Province, Punjab, presented his reflections on “Christian Mission based on John 20:21-23 with a reference to Punjab mission”. Paper on “Initial Proclamation in the Teachings of the Church with reference to North-East mission in the light of Maximum Illud” was opened by Rev. Dr. Joseph Anikuzhikattil SDB, Professor of Sacred Heart Theological College, Shillong, and Rev Dr. Paul Chungath, Syncellus of the Eparchy of Sagar enlightened the audience with “Reflections on and Reminiscences of Sharing the Gospel.” The second session was also prolonged about two hours.

It was followed by the concluding session under the guidance of a moderator, Rev. Dr. John Thoppil who shed light on the missionary endeavours in the light of Maximum Illud. His Excellency Mar Sebastian Vadakkal, Bishop of Ujjain, Member, Synodal Commission for ETC delivered the concluding message of the seminar. Rev Dr. George Kudilil, the General Convenor of the national seminar expressed the words of gratitude to all who cooperated to make the seminar a success. The day was made more colourful and attractive by the presentation of various cultural programmes. Programmes presented by members of Ephrem

Pariwar were really an exposure of the cultural heritage of India as well as of the Syro- Malabar Church. The entire seminar was well oriented under the guidance of various session facilitators such as Rev. Dr. Cyriac Puliampallil, Rev. Dr. George Mangalapilly, Rev. Dr. Devamitra Neelankavil and Rev. Dr. John Kondooparambil



There were more than 200 participants. The seminar also had a missionary-agape under the able guidance of Rev. Fr. Joseph Parayil and Rev. Fr. Mathew Peedikayil.

The colloquium as well as the workshop in connection with the National seminar was conducted on 4th September. Different biblical scholars from all over India made discussions on the various topics related to "Liberative Word and Missionary Praxis" and came up with some practical solutions to promote the missionary activities in the present context of India. The sessions were moderated by Rev Dr. George Kudilil. Mr. Joseph Chittilapilly and Rev. Dr. Cyriac Valiakunnumpurath, the facilitators made timely interventions. The following were the papers presented on the second day: "The Missionary Dimension of the Call of Israel in the OT" by Mar Prince Antony Panegandan, (Bishop of Adilabad), "A Search into the Dimensions of Mission Elements in the Book of Deuteronomy" by Rev. Dr. Manoj Parackal MST (Ruhalya Major Seminary, Ujjain), "Involvement of the Servant of God in the Liberative Mission of the People in Exile – A Rereading of the Babylonian Exile in the Current Indian Context" by Rev. Dr. Ignatius Kunnumpurath OCD (Teresianum, Rome), "Esther: An Exemplary Woman Missionary Model in the Cultural and Religious Scenario of India" by Sr. Dr. Linta Pulickathadathil SH (SH Generalate, Manganam, Kottayam), "Discipleship as a Paradigm for a Missionary in the Gospel of Mark" by Rev. Dr. Sibichan Panthanmackal MSFS (Thejus Vidyapith, Bengaluru) and "Pauline Mission Strategies in the Indian Context" by Rev. Dr. Joseph Ottapurackal, the Rector of St. Ephrem's Theological College, Satna.

SYNODAL COMMISSION VISITATION



The Synodal commission for St. Ephrem's Theological College visited the seminary on 6th September. Mar Joseph Kodakallil, Mar Sebastian Vadakkal and Mar Raphel Thattil met all the students in batches and in



person, and also met the resident staff. Students put forward their suggestions and thanked the commission for all the opportunities. Soon after the Ramsa, Mar Raphael Thattil gave a concluding message. The commission was very happy about the functioning of St. Ephrem's. The commission appreciated the contributions of the staff and the seminarians for their support and cooperation to make the seminary alive and fruitful.

TEACHERS' DAY CELEBRATIONS



On 5th September all the students of St. Ephrem's wished all resident professors the greetings of the teachers' day. All students gathered in the refectory and sung a felicitation song for the self-sacrificing and selfless effort of the Rev. Fathers for enriching the students with their knowledge and students handed over the bouquet to all the professors as the mark of love and concern.



REV. DN. KANNAMPILLY MEMORIAL QUIZ COMPETITION



Second year theologians of St. Ephrem's conducted a quiz competition from August 31 to September 7, OCTIZ Season II as part of the Nativity of Our Blessed Virgin Mary and in memory of our late Rev. Dn. Kannampilly Varghese. Every day there were two questions, one for the individual and one for the batch. Bro. Arackal Sanal (III Theology) won the award for the individual champion and third year theologians were declared as the best batch in the quiz competition and won Rev. Dn. Kannampilly memorial trophy. Rev. Fathers distributed the prizes and congratulated the winners.



ONAM CELEBRATIONS



Thiruvonam, the common festival of Kerala was celebrated in St. Ephrem's in its full rhythm. The brothers were engaged in different programmes to make the day colourful. The first year theologians made a beautiful flower carpet (pookkalam) and conducted the Onam games. The second year theologians were



gians were in charge of the preparation of the Onasadya. Third years made the necessary arrangements. The games were conducted before the lunch and Maveli and



Vamanan reached in St. Ephrem's on time. Then the delicious Sadya was served. In the afternoon the brothers went to take part in the Onam celebrations of the different communities of the Ephrem Pariwar.



EXTENSION LECTURE

An extension lecture on Mass Media and Communication was conducted on 25th September. Rev. Sr. Nisha SSps (Visiting professor, Indore) handed the session. It was an amble occasion for the brothers to understand the importance of media in the work of evangelisation and the different methods of proclaiming the Word of God through social media in the modern era.



THE FEAST OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



The whole Ephrem pariwar was blessed and fortunate to celebrate the feast of St. Vincent De Paul along with Vincentian congregation on 27th September. All the members of the Ephrem pariwar were invited for the festal gathering and dinner on 28th evening in the Vincentian study house. Dn. Cyril Kureekattil VC gave the festal message.

CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to Bro. Vinod Kunnapilly (1 year Theology, Eparchy of Adilabad) who published his 8th book, **2 BRAVE MARTYRS**, published by Athma publications, Calicut. Rev. Fr. Rector and the staff congratulated him and encouraged him to go forward with his talents.



PICS OF THE NATIONAL SEMINAR

