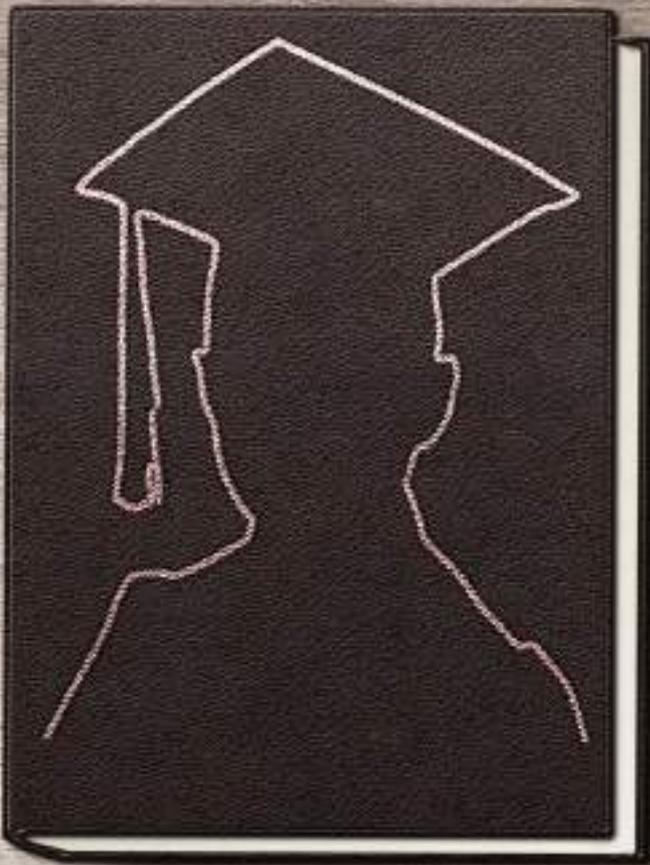




alumNews

Newsletter for Salesian College Alumni Siliguri and Sonada



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Dear
Friends,

Let me share with you a poem I wrote recently, on the occasion of a welcome and a farewell. Probably it has something for each of us. Especially because poems like paintings, and may be even, music and dance, give way for multiple angles of perception giving rise to varied interpretations. The heoreticians of knowledge will go on to tell us, that in each piece of art, or attempts at art, like my poem, the reader of the work, has as much or more to contribute. The words mean so different even in the same language for two speakers of the language. There is something that we come with, to the world we occupy, that is unique to us. In the sharing in this issue by Tony and Chacko Sebastian, and even in the report of Chetna, one could see this diversity of perception, over a period of time, regarding what one holds dear and how these undergo changes.

Day or Night

Have you wondered
Whether
It is Day or Night
For You
On This or The Other
Hemisphere
Have You ever Thought
of the Play
Of light and shadow
at twilight
When Darkness betrays and
You are
At the threshold of Light or
Is it Darkness?
When light is obstructed

by You
Shadow is cast upon
the Earth
When the Day is run out
Quiet descends
Does darkness truly
pervade?
Is it not light always
Somewhere?
Why do you grope
Then
Unsure, Doubtful, Questioning
The Light
You Are

May our lives in these times, continue to make meaning, give light, pervade the sense of hope even amidst darkening clouds.

Fr. George Thadathil sdb
Principal, Salesian College Sonada and Siliguri
9 November 2020

A THANK YOU NOTE...



Tony Thomas
Alumnous of Salesian College,
Siliguri campus

Hi!

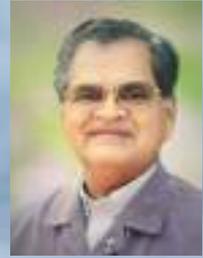
I am glad to have yet another opportunity to share my thoughts with all of you through the medium of this alumni newsletter. Firstly, I hope and pray that whoever is reading this article is healthy and in the best of their spirits. Before heading forward let's just pause for a while and pray for the people affected by the Novel Corona virus and that this virus may be eradicated at the earliest. Stay healthy and let's fight it hard! About this article, I have been juggling with this thought for a while in my heart and decided to share it with all of you. The 8th of March every year is celebrated as Women's Day across the globe. As an ode to the women in our lives, we exchange women's day messages and share our love with them. But is it fair to just celebrate and appreciate them for a single day? Is their importance in our lives just limited to this one particular day? We come across stories of gruesome crimes against women, but what do we actually do about it? Whom do we blame? What have we done from our end to make sure that the women in our lives are safe and happy? Are our homes the best place for them? Yes, we need to start making changes at the grass root level to witness a bigger change in the society. Can we as individuals do our bit to bring that change? Can we be the positive change makers in the society at large rather than being individuals who do not care what's happening around. Today each one of us are answerable if there is any threat to any women around us. Because ONE step that we commit for good will be transformed to many and every girl will achieve what they wish for. As I step back to my college days, I could thread a beautiful story. How my parents wanted to send me away from home. How my mother became my biggest support as I moved cities. Each day just talking to her for those three years made me realise how beautiful the bond of a mother and son is. How in my college days each girl in my friend circle was just so special. From sharing the good times to seeing the bad times together. Some bonds are forever! The list doesn't end here. In the college premises how could I ever forget Flora didi Meeting her was my daily responsibility and sharing how my day went by only helped me more. Well her motivating words and smile made my surrounding cheerful always. And even after staying far from home I always received special care and love from Mamta aunty, who used to cook and feed me like mother. And the list is on even I had some amazing juniors who turned up like a younger sister or friend and became a celebration for lifetime. I know, I am right when I say I should celebrate them every day in my life. We all need to celebrate the women we have in our lives. Because they are the ones who have built us. Brought us till here. Made us a better human being. This is a thought that I have been living with each day since passing out from the gates of Salesin College Siliguri. When I look back, every woman I have met has contributed in building me and making me a better human being. Why don't you just look back and thank all those who have helped you be what you are today. Your mom, your sisters, your friends, your companion, whoever it may be, they deserve a thank you and deserve to feel special (no not in your digital post with trending captions, but in real).

Because EACH WOMAN DESERVES TO BE CELEBRATED EVERYDAY.

Love

Tony Thomas

From the South Pacific.....



Fr Sebastian Chacko
Pastor Co-Cathedral of St Joseph.
American Samoa



*With the newly elected Catechists
of the Parish*

I am happy to write another article from the South Pacific. I studied in Salesian College Sonada between 1967-79. While preparing for our Higher Secondary Exams, in 1965-66 in Bandel Church, we had two Rapid Readers besides Shakespeare for English. One was called The Kontiki Expedition(1948) and the other was called a Pattern of Islands. The Kontiki Expedition was written by the Norwegian. Thor Heyerdhal who proposed that the people of the South Pacific came from Peru in South America in balsa wood rafts.

A Pattern of Islands was a memoir first published by Sir Arthur Gimple in 1952. It was a lively report about his experiences in the Gilbert(Kiribati) and Ellice(Tuvalu) islands. Because of the knowledge of these books, I had no hesitation in volunteering to work in the Samoan Islands as a Missionary and Teacher.

There are three main groups of Islands in the Pacific. 1) The Melanesian G Guam, Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, Kosrae, Saipan, Nauru, Kiribati, Marjuro. All these Groups have both inhabited and uninhabited minor islands.



With the Parish youth

The Samoan Islands are Savaii, Upolu, Manono and Apolima, These are now called SAMOA, Tutuila, Aunuu, Manu'a are called AMERICAN

SAMOA. I am at the moment stationed in American Samoa. The Diocese has 18 Parishes. Almost all Parishes have two or more outer village churches and these are looked after by Deacons and Catechists, whereas the Priest acts as Pastor(PP) for them. In my Parish we have all Organizations like in India. Please find three photos of the Youth, new Catechists and. the Parish Council. The Samoans are a very loving and kind people> They are proud of their Culture and live by a great sense of Family and Village allegiances. They respect one another and obey the decisions of their family elders(Chiefs) an the Village Chiefs.



Parish Council

Gift of Smile 2020



CHETNA JAIN
Secretary
Salesian College Siliguri
Alumni Association

Gandhiji used to say the best gift is to make someone smile and the best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others. Inspired by such great thoughts, the Salesian C underprivileged children as the kids are the real sources of joy and they are the real heroes of tomorrow. It was an effort to spread happiness among the underprivileged children.

The event was organised on 18 October, 2020 at Hawarah South Point, Rajganj. Specially able children are residing here. Most of them are orphans but some are having parents who are too poor to look after them. The members of the Alumni Association of Salesian College Si welcomed by one of the volunteer of the orphanage. Due to Covid –19 pandemic, the members were not allowed to enter the orphanage and meet the children, so they greeted the children from a distance.



As per the need of the orphanage, the items donated to the children included footwear, carom boards, cricket bats, footballs, tennis balls and stationeries. These items were handed over to the volunteers of the orphanage. The members also got some pictures clicked with the volunteers. The alumni members received warm hospitality from the volunteers with some refreshments and chocolates.

The children and the volunteers of the orphanage were very happy and thankful to the association for helping them and fulfilling their needs.

On behalf of the Alumni Association, I congratulate each and every one present there. On behalf of the entire association I take the opportunity to appreciate and thank all the donors of the day whether in cash or kind without which it was not possible to do anything, it was a very good response.



CALLING

ALL SALESIAN COLLEGE ALUMNI (Sonada/Siliguri)
Time for recognition
and inspiration.

*Let
your light shine before
men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father
in heaven. Mt. 5:16*

We hope to bring out a special issue of Alumni news recognising the achievers of 2020 in any field.

What has been your outstanding contribution to society in 2019-2020. Has it been acknowledged / recognized?

Send us a very brief write up (100 words) along with a proof of the event like certificate, photograph or news or video clip. Don't be embarrassed or feel shy. Let your light shine and inspire others too.

Send by : 10 December 2020

email: cmpaul53@gmail.com / priyamritac@gmail.com

From the campus



Salesian College Commerce Association organised an event "International GIRGIT 2020" on 31 October, 2020. It was an online competition to speak on the topic allotted and suddenly against in a single stance

OneVoice - Voice for those who are for others" is an interview series of all the positivity spreaders, society builders, and to those unseen heroes for whom we are living in harmony and peace. To the smile givers amongst the people kept in dark.. A shout out to all of you!

Stay tuned!



On 10, November, 2020 a friendly meeting was organised with Fr. George Thadathil, Principal of Salesian College. Members Shreya Saraogi and Punit Garodia and Sayak Moitra were present to discuss about the growth and upcoming events of Salesian College Alumni Association.. Problems and suggestions were conferred regarding contribution of alumni members toward the society.

From Alumni desk.
Sayak Moitra
(Treasurer

Salesian College Alumni Association Office Bearers

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