

PILAR NIKETAN SOCIETY

ACTIVITY REPORT 2023-2024



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INTRODUCTION:

The 2023-2024 formative year began on July 1st, marked by the induction of a new team of formators. The house consisted of six dedicated staff members and sixteen students. From the outset, the incoming chairman, in collaboration with team members and partners, undertook a comprehensive planning process. This involved aligning the annual activity schedule with the society's overarching vision and objectives.

I. SOCIAL MINISTRIES: Throughout the year, students and staff actively engaged in social and pastoral ministries, contributing meaningfully to various outreach programs. Their efforts were focused on several institutions, each serving vulnerable groups in society. The outreach locations included:

- **Home for the Handicapped and Elderly:** Another initiative managed by the SMMI Sisters.
- **Yuva Jyoti:** A boys' home run by Dominican Fathers.

- **Shanti Bhavan:** A home for the elderly and handicapped run by the Sisters of Charity.

The students and staff conducted a range of impactful activities at these centers:

1. **Motivational Talks:** Inspiring inmates with messages of hope and resilience.
2. **Interactive Sessions:** Facilitating open discussions to foster engagement and understanding.
3. **Counseling Services:** Providing emotional support



tailored to individual needs.

4. **Recreational Activities:**

Organizing games, arts, and other leisure activities to uplift spirits.

These regular interactions not only enriched the lives of those served but also helped students and staff develop



empathy, leadership skills, and a deeper understanding of community service. By integrating pastoral care into their outreach efforts, they demonstrated a commitment to holistic development—addressing emotional, social, and spiritual needs while fostering a sense of belonging among all participants.



II. PASTORAL MINISTRIES:

The staff and students played a vital role in assisting with pastoral activities at St. Francis De Sales Cathedral throughout the year. Their contributions extended beyond routine support, emphasizing value-based teachings and fostering spiritual growth within the community.



1. **Pastoral Services:** The team actively participated in conducting religious services, ensuring smooth organization and meaningful engagement for attendees. Their involvement reflected servant leadership and a commitment to the church's mission.
2. **Value-Based Teachings:** Regular sessions were held to impart teachings rooted in Christian values, focusing on themes such as mutual respect, servant leadership, and

community-building. These teachings aimed to inspire individuals to live ethically and spiritually enriched lives.

3. **Community Outreach:** The staff and students worked collaboratively to organize religious and social activities that extended beyond the cathedral's walls. These initiatives fostered unity, strengthened interpersonal relationships, and created opportunities for spiritual reflection.
4. **Interactive Engagement:** Through motivational talks, counseling sessions, and interactive discussions, they encouraged deeper connections within the community while addressing personal and collective challenges.

Their consistent involvement not only enhanced the pastoral mission of St. Francis De Sales Cathedral but also exemplified the core values of service, stewardship, and discipleship. By integrating these principles into their activities, they contributed to building a vibrant, value-driven Christian community.

III. FORMATIVE ACTIVITES:



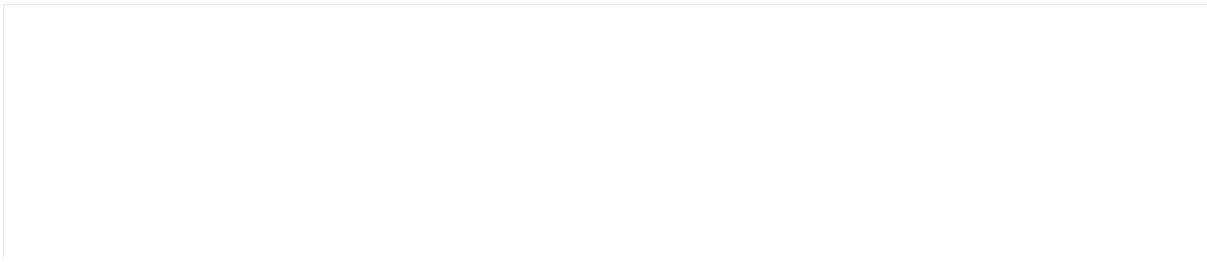
The in-house students engaged in a structured program designed to cultivate well-rounded skills for their future ministry. To sharpen intellectual and communication skills, students actively participated in debates, elocution competitions, and critical-thinking workshops, which encouraged articulate expression and confidence. Complementing these efforts, regular classes on social realities provided insights into contemporary issues, while personality development sessions emphasized leadership, emotional intelligence, and ethical decision-making.

The house adopted a holistic approach to education, integrating technical skills with character-building initiatives. Mentors consistently challenged students to excel through goal-oriented projects, peer-reviewed tasks, and reflective practices, ensuring their growth as empathetic, skilled, and socially conscious individuals. This multifaceted preparation aimed to equip them not just for ministry, but for lifelong service rooted in competence, compassion, and community engagement.

Key Highlights:

- **Intellectual Growth:** Debates and elocution honed critical thinking and public speaking.
- **Social Awareness:** Classes addressed inequality, sustainability, and grassroots challenges.
- **Personality Excellence:** Workshops focused on resilience, teamwork, and self-awareness.
- **Future-Ready Approach:** A balance of tradition and innovation to meet evolving ministerial demands.





This comprehensive framework ensured students emerged as adaptable, principled leaders ready to navigate both spiritual and societal complexities.

IV. ACADEMIC TRAINING AND HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT

The students pursued their undergraduate studies at **Hislop College**—where they not only excelled academically but also immersed themselves fully in the vibrant campus life. Their active participation in a

wide array of academic, cultural, and social activities at these premier colleges enriched their educational experience and fostered a well-rounded personality.

Active Engagement in Institutional Life

- **Academic Excellence:** The students committed themselves to rigorous coursework, striving for scholastic achievement while developing critical thinking and analytical skills essential for their future vocations.



- **Cultural and Social**



Activities: They enthusiastically engaged in seminars, workshops, cultural festivals, and community service initiatives, which broadened their horizons and nurtured leadership qualities. **Sports and Extracurricular Involvement:** Recognizing the importance of physical fitness and teamwork, students were encouraged to participate in various sports and extracurricular activities. These pursuits served as vital stimuli for personal growth, resilience,

and social interaction.

Comprehensive Growth Approach

This balanced approach to education—combining academic rigor with active involvement in extracurricular and sports activities—ensured that students developed intellectually, physically, and socially. Such holistic training prepared them not only for academic success but also for effective leadership and meaningful contributions in their future ministries and communities.

V. MISSION EXPOSURE PROGRAM



As an integral part of their formation, the first-year students participated in a **Mission Exposure Program** aimed at providing immersive field experience and fostering a deeper understanding of social realities.

- **First Group – Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh:** Accompanied by Fr. Francis, the students traveled to Bhopal, where they engaged closely with local communities. They visited families, schools, and community centers, gaining firsthand insight into the social and economic challenges faced by the people. The group initiated and participated in

small-scale projects designed to address immediate community needs: tutored children to support their education, and actively observed the living conditions and social dynamics of the area. Through meaningful interactions, the students developed empathy, cultural sensitivity, and practical skills essential for effective ministry.



- **Second Group – Tumsar:** Led by Fr. Joshua, the second group journeyed to Tumsar, where they similarly immersed themselves in community life. They connected with local residents, undertook community service projects, and provided educational assistance to children. Their exposure to the unique cultural and social environment of Tumsar broadened their perspectives and deepened their commitment to social service.



Key Highlights and Outcomes

- **Community Immersion:** Students built authentic relationships with the people they served, fostering trust and mutual respect.
- **Hands-On Projects:** By engaging in small community initiatives, students applied their learning in practical contexts, addressing real needs.
- **Social Awareness:** Observing and interacting with diverse populations heightened their understanding of issues such as poverty, education disparities, and social justice.
- **Personal and Spiritual Growth:** The experience nurtured compassion, adaptability, leadership, and a sense of mission, preparing students for future pastoral and social responsibilities.

This Mission Exposure Program effectively bridged academic learning with real-world experience, equipping students

with the empathy, skills, and insights necessary for impactful ministry and community engagement.



VI. CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS



During the Christmas season, our center warmly welcomed numerous visitors, embracing the spirit of joy and giving. We extended our festive cheer beyond the center by organizing special celebrations dedicated to sharing happiness with the poor and needy. Thoughtfully prepared **refreshments** and **gift hampers** were distributed as tokens of love and care.

Our Christmas outreach took place at the following locations:



- **27th December:** Untkhana — Home for the Aged and Handicapped
 - **29th December:** Yuva Jyoti — Home for Street Children
 - **30th December:** Shanti Bhavan — Home for the Aged

Festive Activities and Engagement

The students and staff actively participated in making these celebrations memorable and meaningful. Their involvement



included:

- **Fun-filled Games:** Engaging the inmates in lively and joyful games that fostered camaraderie and laughter.
- **Social Awareness Skits:** Performing thought-provoking skits that highlighted important social messages, encouraging reflection and empathy.
- **Inspirational Messages:** Sharing uplifting and motivational talks that resonated with the spirit of Christmas, inspiring hope and faith.
- **Singing:** Leading joyful carols and songs that brought warmth and festive cheer to everyone present.

To conclude the celebrations, snacks and gift packets were thoughtfully distributed to all the inmates, ensuring that the joy of Christmas was felt deeply by every individual. This heartfelt outreach not only brightened the festive season for the beneficiaries but also enriched the students and staff with a profound sense of community, compassion, and service.



Conclusion

The formative academic year concluded formally on 25th April with a heartfelt farewell to the six third-year students. Having successfully completed their studies and formation at Nagpur, these students are now progressing to the next stage of their preparation, equipped with knowledge, experience, and a deepened commitment to their future ministry.

The Pilar Niketan Society expresses its profound gratitude to all the donors and well-wishers whose generous support has been instrumental in sustaining and advancing our activities throughout the year. Their kindness and encouragement have empowered us to nurture the growth and development of our students and community initiatives.

We pray that God's abundant blessings continue to shower upon all our benefactors, guiding and inspiring them in their own journeys. With their continued partnership, we look forward to another fruitful year of formation, service, and transformation.