



MONTFORT YUVA MILANA 2019

Guru Mandir, Mysore: "You who are young, be happy while you are young, and let your heart give you joy in the days of your youth" Ecclesiastes 11:9. "Yuva Milana" (Get together of the Young) 2019, an eagerly anticipated program by both fathers and brothers was held this year too in Guru Mandir, our Postulancy house in Mysore. The Ceremony was inaugurated with the lighting the lamp by Rev. Fr Joseph Joseph, Provincial of SMM India along with Frs Selva Kumar (Vicar Provincial), Reny Joseph (Councilor), David Joseph (Rector of Gurumandir) Amalraj and Deepak (Incharges of Yuva Milana) on 18th October 2019. This year the theme of the program was "Building Fraternal Communion Without Borders". We were altogether 110 of us equally divided into four different groups with our young fathers as mentors of the respective groups. The title of each group was inspired by our Founder St. Montfort namely 'Montfort Soldiers', 'Montfort Conquerors', 'Montfort Contenders' and 'Montfort Radicals'.

Fr Joseph J, during the inaugural address, mentioned the significance of young people quoting the Post Synodal Apostolic Exhortation, "Christus Vivit" and addressed the seminarians as young people who should be in a hurry and be hungry to learn new things and have the courage to be fearless and take risks to develop one's skill with passion. He motivated the young seminarians to be happy

for their mistakes because 'being wrong is the opportunity to learn the truth'. He also encouraged the seminarians to have the courage to be the best.

The program had a lot of scope for the young seminarians to dynamically partake in all activities like Sports, Presentation of the life themes of St. Montfort, Cultural Program, Quiz and promoted teamwork, fraternity and Integrity. On 19th evening everyone including the laity actively took part in praying the Rosary with the candle procession, promoting the spirituality of St. Montfort after which we had the solemn mass celebrating the second anniversary of the renowned Grotto, Our Lady of Favors.

On the final day that is on 20th morning, we had the Institution of the Acolyte of our Bros. Lucas Dang, Anthony Allan and Santhosh Prabhu. Rev. Bp Rozario Menezes (Bishop of Lae) preceded the celebration and a preached a meaningful homily on the Importance of Mission in the Vocation that's gifted to each one of us. The day concluded with a grand cultural evening awarding every group with gifts and we had a concluding ceremony thanking the provincial and the team for the initiation, valuing the organizers especially Frs Amalraj and Deepak who worked hard to organize, gather funds, prepare video presentations, distribute T-Shirts and gifts. We acknowledged the special role of the animators and mentors who took great effort for the smooth running of the program. We also jotted down a few observations and suggestions to make Yuva Milana even better with quality and purpose in the coming years.

Altogether Yuva Milana 2019 was a time to remember, laugh and celebrate and share our old stories and make new memories. It was a reunion that strengthened the bond of the Montfortian family and reminded us of the gift of belonging. To conclude with the quote of Alice Waters, "This is the power of gathering: it inspires us, delightfully, to be more hopeful, more joyful, more thoughtful: in a word, more alive"

Fr Nashwin smm