

# **Dharma Jyoti Vidya Peeth**

## **Faridabad**

### **Annual Report 2019-2020**

We are undergoing an unprecedented context of uncertainty, confusion and fear on multiple fronts. Threat of the pandemic Covid 19 made the world as whole under immobile. Freedom of travel, freedom of fellowship, entry to market and all other normal circumstances were forced to be out of reach for common people. On the political front Indian populace were divided on the basis of religion and certain sections of people were targeted out-casted religiously. Corporates masterminded the exploitation of the farmers and the common people through the political patronage threatening the existence of free farming in the new feature. However, in the midst of all these unfavourable situations, rays of hope also emerge. New forms of communication helped to overcome the limitations imposed upon by the lock down. Challenging voices of the revolting farmers on the streets of the capital display the political will of resistance against exploitation and imposition of unjust laws. It was in the midst of these the annual report and accounts for the year 2019-2020 of the Dharma Jyoti Vidya Peeth though ready on time was delayed to be presented.

By the Grace of God, Dharma Jyoti Vidya Peeth constituted as a memorial of Late Alexander Mar Thoma Metropolitan and an expression of the Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church's commitment to mission and ministry of the Church has completed 20 years of dedicated service. It serves as a platform for committed Christian youth for theological, ministerial and developmental studies.

#### **New Academic Year**

Students reached the campus on 28 June 2019. On Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> June the students, faculty and their family attended the Holy Qurbana Service at All Saints mar Thoma Church, Faridabad. Principal Rev. Dr. Sunni E. Mathew led the Holy Qurbana Service. We thank the vicar Rev. Robin Raj, the executive committee and the members of the parish for their hospitality and kind support.

On 01 July 2019 the community joined together at the lawn for the Principal's tea at 3.30 P.M. It was followed by opening worship service at 5 P.M. at the Seminary Chapel. Academic year 2019-2020 commenced on 02 July 2019 with the Holy Qurbana Service celebrated at the Seminary Chapel. Governing Board Chairman Rt. Rev. Dr. Gregorios Mar Stephanos Episcopa led the Holy Qurbana Service and inaugurated the academic year through an inspiring speech.

#### **Retreat**

Faculty retreat was conducted on 02 July 2020 after the Holy Qurbana Service and the inaugural service. On 03 July 2020, the first semester community retreat was conducted at the chapel. Both the retreats were led by Rev. Dr. Joseph Daniel, Professor of the History of Christianity at the Mar Thoma Syrian Theological Seminary, Kottayam and FFRC,

Kottayam. The second semester community retreat was conducted on 21 October 2019 and the retreat was led by Rev. Jolly Thomas. Retreats motivated the community to contemplate as well as to self-examine and re-dedicate for the glory of God. We express our sincere thanks to the leaders for their dedicated service and leadership.

### **Faculty Members**

1. Rev. Dr. Sunni E. Mathew (Principal, History of Christianity)
2. Rev. Dr. Baiju Markose ( Religions)
3. Rev. Shibu Kurian (Warden, New Testament)
4. Rev. Joseph John (Registrar, Theology)
5. Rev. Manu Varghese (Bursar, Old Testament)
6. Rev. Merrin Mathew (Theology)
7. Ms. Sobha M. (Christian Ethics)
8. Rev. M. P. Solomon (Christian Ministry)
9. Rev. A. B. Binu (History of Christianity)
10. Rev. Eappen Varghese (History of Christianity)

Rev. Sajeev Thomas (Communications) served as a guest lecturer. Rev. Dr. Baiju Markose, Rev. Shibu Kurian and Rev. Merin Mathew joined this year as faculty members. Rev. Manu Varghese was appointed as the new Bursar.

### **Governing Board**

A Governing Board under the Chairmanship of Rt. Rev. Gregorios Mar Stephanos Episcopa gave leadership in the overall development of Dharma Jyoti Vidya Peeth. The Governing Board met only one time during the year and took necessary decisions. Even though a second meeting was scheduled it could not be materialized owing to the Covid 19 pandemic situation. The Governing Board comprises of:

1. Most Rev. Dr. Joseph Mar Thoma Metropolitan (Patron)
2. Rt. Rev. Gregorios Mar Stephanos Episcopa (Bishop of Delhi Diocese - Chairperson)
3. Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius Episcopa (Co-Chairperson - Bishop of the Mumbai Diocese)
4. Rev. Dr. Sunni E. Mathew (Principal)
5. Rev. Binu J. Varghese (Bursar)
6. Rev. M. P. Solomon (Diocesan Secretary (Ex-officio Member)
7. Mr. P. T. Mathai (Diocesan Treasurer (Ex-officio Member)
8. Rev. Thomas Kurian (Member elected by Delhi Diocesan Assembly)
9. Mr. P. C. Abraham (Member elected by Delhi Diocesan Assembly)
10. Mr. Thomas Idiculla (Member nominated from the Delhi Diocese by the Chairman)
11. Rev. Joseph John (Faculty Representative)
12. Rev. Jai Varghese (Delhi Diocese Sabha Council Member)
13. Mr. N. Sunny (Delhi Diocese Sabha Council Member)
14. Mrs. Binu Mary Babu (Delhi Diocese Sabha Council Member)
15. Dr. John Mathew (Member of Outside Kerala Diocese nominated by the Chairperson)
16. Rev. Dr. Prakash K. George (Representative of the sister theological institutions of the Mar Thoma Church nominated by the Chairperson)

17. Two members to be elected from Mumbai Diocesan Assembly.

### **Student Community**

This year we had 53 students representing Mar Thoma, Jacobite, Chaldean, Gosner Lutheran, Independent church affiliations as regular students for BD courses (BD IV – 10, BD III – 17, BD II – 12, BD I- 14). They include two lady students and 22 sponsored candidates selected by the Mar Thoma Syrian Church. They stay in the campus and undergo missional and ministerial training.

### **Courses offered by the Seminary**

We offered four year BD regular courses and Bachelor of Christian Studies Course. Unfortunately we could offer DCPC course this year. Even though under the umbrella of Nav Jyoti Post Graduate Research Centre an M. Th. Program was initiated, it remained inoperative for the last few years. We did not have qualified teachers in the branch approved by the Senate in that program.

### **Practical Work**

As part of the academic requirement, students were sent for practical work to different parishes and mission fields to get ministerial experience. Students are also attached with NGOs and institutions which take care of social and medical empowering responsibilities among the physically challenged and marginalized communities. These exposures help the students to understand the realities of this time. They are also sent to various mission fields. That provides them with exposure to various mission field realities and to develop relevant mission methodologies through engaging theoretical understanding with practical experiences. Staff Chaplain Rev. Merin Mathew co-ordinated the practical work.

### **Christmas Carol Service**

This year's Christmas carol service was conducted on 2019 December 08. Seminary Choir led the Carol by singing melodious songs. Majority of the Songs were written and composed by our students. Faculty and their families and the kids in the campus also presented carol songs. The students also staged a skit to make the occasion meaningful. Governing Board Chairman Rt. Rev. Gregorios Mar Stephanos presided over the Carol Service and gave a challenging Christmas message. Fr. Jomy, Rev. Sisters and teachers of Infant Jesus School, Rev. Sisters of Motuga Convent also were present. Vicars and members of the parishes in the Delhi Centre came and graced the occasion. There were around 500 people. Dinner was served for the whole community.

### **August 15 & January 26**

Special services were arranged to celebrate national days Independence Day and Republic Day. It was a time to affirm our commitment and allegiance to the nation. It was also a time set apart to pray for the country. On both the days national flag was hoisted by the Principal. The Principal also gave the message. On Independence Day a friendly Volley Ball match was also conducted for the community. Special Worships were arranged on various festival occasions like Onam, Deepavali also.

## **Annual Sports and Games**

The annual Sports and Games were conducted with much enthusiasm. Community was divided into four groups. Competitions were tight but were healthy and with sportsmanship. Annual Sports was held at the Infant Jesus Higher Secondary School, Sanjoepuram ground. It helped us to accept win with humility and failure with grace. We thank the Manager, Principal and other authorities of Infant Jesus School for allowing us to conduct the sports there and also for the co-operation and guidance given for conducting the competition events.

## **Lay Training Program**

Dharma Jyoti has arranged lay training program in collaboration with the Delhi Centre Edavaka Mission. Classes were arranged at the Mar Thoma Centre, 26 Bhai Vir Singh Marg, New Delhi. Seminary faculty members took classes on various subjects. Two of our faculty members Rev. Eappen Varghese and Rev. Joseph John served as the co-ordinator.

## **Community Tour**

This year a community tour was arranged on November 11-12, 2020. 80 community members participated in the tour. The community visited Dehradun and Missouri. It was time of refreshing, bonding together in fellowship and exposure to different situations. We place on record our sincere thanks to Rev. Dr. Simon Samuel, the Principal of Doon Theological College for their hospitality and care. We also thank Mr. Sam and family for their help. Rev. Manu Varghese and Rev. Merin Mathew served as co-ordinators.

## **Jubilee 14 Chair**

Under the Jubilee 14 Chair a national consultation was conducted on the topic *Translating Message: Relevance, Challenges and Possibilities* on January 13-14, 2020 at the Seminary Chapel. Rev. Dr. K. Vijayan, Rev. Dr. Baiju Markose, and Mr. Samuel George presented papers. Delegates representing different seminaries from various parts of India participated in the seminar.

## **Easow Mar Thimetheos Memorial Lecture**

Easow Mar Thimetheos Memorial Lecture was delivered by Rev. Eappen Mathew. It was time to remember the mission commitment of the late Easow Thirumeni as well as a time to reflect upon the mission call and commitment. We express our sincere thanks to Rev. Eappen Mathew for the inspiring sessions.

## **Eco-theological Forum**

This year's work of the eco-theological forum was inaugurated by Dr. Peter Vedanayakmony of the Lutheran School of Theology, Chicago. On November 16, 2019 the forum arranged picture drawing competition for the students of the schools around the Seminary locality. Around 350 students representing different schools participated in the competition. It was a blessed time to have a liaison with the people of the community around. The forum also initiated debates on various topics of social and religious significance. They provided students and the Seminary Community opportunity to reflect and respond to various issues of the time.

## **Sadhu Kochukunju Upadesi Memorial Lenten Recital**

This year's Lenten recital was conducted on March 08, 2020 at the Jerusalem Mar Thoma Church, Safderjung. Governing Board Chairman and Diocesan Bishop of Delhi Mar Thoma Diocese Rt. Rev. Dr. Gregorios Mar Stephanos Episcopa presided over the function. Seven Church Choirs from the Delhi Centre along with Dharma Jyoti Seminary Choir sang songs of composed by Kochukunju Upadeshi. Rev. Eappen Varghese led the meditation. We express our sincere thanks to the Vicar Rev. Joe Mathew, executive committee and the members of the Jerusalem Church for the hospitality and support extended to make this function a success.

## **Mission Tour**

As a part of mission tour for the final year students, they participated the Maramon Convention. They also visited various mission fields in Tamilnadu. Principal and Rev. Shibu Kurian accompanied them. This was a time for the students to get to know the mission realities and mission engagements at the grass root level.

## **Good Results**

Last academic year results were published. 17 students appeared for final year exams. Of them three students secured first class and the rest got second class. Five of the outgoing students were selected for ordination and were ordained.

## **Light to Life Program among the Sapera Community**

Mr. Sajan Roby served as the projector Manager. Mr. Rajesh served as the co-ordinator. 5 teachers from the village help the project. Rev. Manu Varghese is the staff advisor and Project Director. Principal serves as the Project Head. We have 140 students associated to this project. Students of Dharma Jyoti helps the project though their presence and leadership. They teach songs, moral stories and other methods. They used to go there in rota basis.

Independence Day and Republic Day were celebrated at the Tuition centre by hoisting the national flag and taking oath. Sapera Light to Life Christmas Carol service was conducted at DJVP courtyard on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2019 from 4.30 onwards. Children of the Sapera Project presented different programs and the Seminary Choir presented Carol Songs. Principal gave a short Christmas message. All the major national events were celebrated. Dinner was served for the students and those who accompanied them to the Carol service.

## **Worship and Holy Qurbana**

Worship is central to Dhrama Jyoti life. Each day starts with personal meditation followed by public worship in the chapel in English. In the evening also personal meditation and public worship are conducted in an organized manner, Evening service is conducted in Hindi. At 10.30 P.M. vespers are offered. On Wednesday morning, we celebrate the Holy Qurbana. Faculty achens and other invited ministers give leadership. On Sundays, Holy Qurbana services are conducted as per the availability of achens, otherwise ordinary services are conducted under the leadership of students. Usually students give the sermons during the Sunday worship services. During the great lent, Lenten worship order in English is use for

evening service. Students also conduct special worship services on various occasion of national and community festival times.

### **Annual Day and Convocation**

Annual Day and Convocation was scheduled to be held on the Sunday, March 15, 2020. Rev. Dr. David Joy (Principal, KUTS, Kannammoola) was the guest speaker. Even though he arrived in time for the convocation address, owing to the Covid 19 scenario, the convocation ceremony had to be called off. However, achen addressed the community and the outgoing student at the morning worship service at the Chapel. Parents and relatives of the outgoing students also participated in the service.

### **Lock Down Actions**

We were able to send the students to their homes just before the lock down was enforced. However, Principal along with five faculty members and their family remained within the campus.

### **Library**

Library is a vital part of the seminary. It remains open from 9 AM to 5 PM. Reading room is open from 8.30 PM to 10.15 PM. Mrs. Sijo Mathew serves as the Library Assistant. Student librarians render support for the smooth functioning of the library.

### **Office and Ground Staff**

Mr. Shibu A. Thomas serves as the accountant cum clerk. Our thanks to him for his help in the effective functioning of Dharma Jyoti. Also express thanks to the Diocesan Office staff Mr. Lijo for his support and help.

Chottu and Naresh helped in the Kitchen, Mr. Shyam, Mr. Siya Ram, Mohan and Sumant help in the campus and in the farm and Pramod help as driver.

### **Cultivation and Harvesting**

This campus is a green campus. We cultivate the land with wheat, Basmati rice, Tapiocca, mutter and pulses. Students and faculty participate in the harvesting. This attachment with nature helps the community to see the worth of and commitment to the Creation of God. It also gives a practical side to understand creation theology and eco-theology.

### **Finance**

Second Sunday of November was approved as the Dharma Jyoti Sunday. However, it could not be carried out in Mumbai Diocese. Since this was not observed for a few years, the response from parishes also was lukewarm. Faculty members visited different parishes during summer vacation and mobilized funds. A financial mobilization was done in St. Peter's Mar Thoma Church, Patpatgunj. We record our sincere thanks to the vicar, committee members and members of the St. Peter's Mar Thoma Church for their whole hearted support.

### **Visitors**

Governing Board chairman Rt. Rev. Gregorios Mar Stephanos visited a number of times

and gave necessary advises. Former students Rev. Shubin Sisumani, Rev. Robin G.K. also visited the campus and spend time with the community. Rev. Ajin Abraham George, Rev. Anish Mathew, Rev. Mathew Ninan,

A group of international students from the Lutheran School of Theology and McCormick School of Theology Chicago visited the campus. A special lecture on the history of the Mar Thoma Syrian Church was arranged for them. The session was led by the Principal. Dr. Peter Vedanayagamony was the staff advisor who accompanied the students. A special word of gratitude to him is expressed.

### **Conclusion**

We give thanks to the Almighty for His blessings upon this institution. From a humble beginning before 19 years, by the grace of God and the overwhelming support of the people we progressed so far. We are grateful to the Metropolitan Most Rev. Dr. Joseph Mar Thoma and all our Bishops for their timely support and guidance. We express our sincere thanks to the Chairman of the Governing Board, Rt. Rev. Gregorios Mar Stephanos, for the timely advices and support and the imparted vision to the functioning of the institution. We also place on record our sincere thanks to Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius Episcopa, Co-chairman for the guidance and support extended to the Seminary. The growth and development we witnessed during the last year is because of the continued support of the Metropolitan, Bishops, Vicar Generals, Governing Board Members, Advisory Board members, Vicars and the parishes. We are grateful to the Sabha Secretary, the Sabha Trustees, Sabha Council members, Diocesan Secretary, NIZA Secretary, Diocesan Treasurer, Diocesan Council, NIZA Council, assembly members, and all the Vicars and parishes of the Mumbai and Delhi Diocese for all their support. We express our thanks to the internal auditor Mr. Cherian George, statutory auditor M/s. S. Madanani and Associates for their proper auditing of accounts and timely advices.

We humble ourselves before the God Almighty for all his blessings upon Dharma Jyoti. Let the Almighty lead us into all truths and guide us forward. It is our prayer and wish that God may use Dharma Jyoti for His glory and for the furtherance of His Kingdom.

Rev. Dr. Sunni E. Mathew

Principal