



SPRINGLIGHT

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International webinar on human rights at SJEC

By Swetha Rajashekar



On the occasion of International Human Rights Day, St Joseph's Evening college (Autonomous) organised an international webinar on the theme 'Relevance of Human Rights in the Modern World' on December 10, 2020 through Zoom platform and streamed live through Youtube.

The webinar was jointly organised by AICUF, NSS, Women's Forum and Harmony Association.

Prominent Human Rights Activists, Prof. Theodore Orlin, retd - Prof of Human Rights, UTICA College, New York and Prof. David Matas - International Human Rights

Lawyer, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada were the panel of speakers.

While Ms Dorothy Deepa, Assistant Professor began the event with a word of prayer, Ms Vidya, Assistant Professor introduced and welcomed each of the speakers. Associate Professor, Dr Paul Newman, the moderator of the event, emphasised on 'Universal Declaration of Human Rights' (UDHR) – a document of United Nation, mentioning that it is a gift to humanity which affirms that each one of us are entitled to certain rights and thus setting the tone for the event.

Mahatma Gandhi Peace

Award winner, Prof. David Matas stated that what we need to address is not whether human rights are relevant today, but rather what we can do to make them more relevant today than they are now. Prof. Matas mentioned 20 quick suggestions of what we need to concentrate to make human rights relevant to each one of us. Some of the suggestions included, "Do not be silent, give human rights priority, make the worst first, speak for those who cannot speak for themselves, among others.

Prof Theodore Orlin, a recipient of prestigious awards and honors for his

contribution and work in the field of human rights, alluded that we are living in very difficult times where human rights has been discredited and has critical problem amongst the whole world, a tread where the UDRH is being threatened. Prof Orlin emphasised that a good deal of our population is unaware of human rights and contended that the deepest problem we have is that most part of other populaces have rejected the very notion found within the 30 articles of UDHR. Prof. Orlin insisted that we have an obligation to make human rights a part of our society by reengaging the

very principles of UDHR. Making UDHR a part of our teaching, part of our way of life, and not just making a promise but a reality that requires the efforts taken amongst ourselves. Including it in education and alike to ensure that from the earliest time from elementary school right to the university, the human rights message is reiterated, understood and made a commitment that we will use every effort to make it a realization.

The webinar concluded with Q&A session followed by a word of thanks by Dr Balaji.

Bembala celebrates World AIDS Day



On December 1, 2020, on the occasion of World AIDS Day, the SJEC Bembala outreach team conducted a series of activities. The activities included visit different AIDS support homes, a webinar and a virtual and on campus signature campaigns.

The Bembala team visited

Accept and Snehadhan that houses AIDS affected patients. The Bembala team members spent some quality time with the inmates and distributed chocolates. A webinar on the theme, World AIDS Day: Global solidarity & shared responsibility was conducted for SJEC staff and students. The

resource person was Mrs Sonali Singh, Director, Helping Hand.

A signature campaign was also organised in the quadrangle of SJEC. The management and staff took part in the campaign. An online signature campaign was also organised.

SJEC receives token of appreciation



St Joseph's Evening College (Autonomous) received a token of appreciation from the Organisation of Rare Diseases in India, Ministry of Health and family welfare, Government of India on November 30. The organisation felicitated the College for its outreach activities through Bembala Outreach Centre.

AICUF conducts hunger feed

By Steven

AICUF Association team of St Joseph's Evening College (Autonomous) organised Hunger Feed for the poor and disadvantaged people on November 15, 2020.

40 packets of food were prepared and distributed by AICUFers for the poor, physically disabled and senior citizens who live on the streets of the city.

By Albert Joseph Smith



Fr. Edward Meeks in his homily on October 19, 2020 at Christ the King Parish Towson reflected that American society is gazing at an abyss. We live in a nation that is deeply divided and at odds with itself. We together should stand up against the evils that has taken over and tell them enough is enough. There are powerful people in government and mainstream media who are working aggressively to silence Americans through legislations, intimidation, media, lies and censorship. The non-negotiable values- like sanctity of life, marriage, perseverance of religious liberty, immigra-

tion, environment, coronavirus, racism, democracy, values and decency are in peril. Hence, there is only one candidate who can see us through these troubled times and it is Catholic Joe Biden.

As I pondered over this homily, what I gathered was that Fr. Edward was referring to the strong Catholic faith of Joe Biden which perhaps could be pivotal in uniting a polarised America. As we know Joe Biden is the second Catholic president of America to be elected, the first being John F Kennedy. Let us try to decipher the faith of Joe Biden, and its essence for a United America.

Biden calls his faith as a "gift" which his parents had inculcated very stringently. Therefore, whenever he desired to seek for inspiration or comfort, he would turn to the values of his faith. His speeches are knit either with

references to God, Biblical language or the pope.

To Biden, Jesus Christ is a human embodiment of what God wants us to do viz., to treat people with dignity. Biden is a great admirer of Pope Francis, whom he says is an embodiment of Catholic social doctrine. The idea that everyone is entitled to his or her dignity, where the poor is to be given special preference and each one having an obligation to reach out and be inclusive.

Biden launched his candidacy by referring to his campaign as a battle for the soul of the nation. On the Election Day, he prayed at his Catholic parish near Delaware and addressed his supporters, urging them to be patient, and to "keep the faith". He focuses on faith, rather than religious doctrine; he prays with the voters, rather than evangelise. He trusts that he is called to

serve, and not to be served; a calling to bring justice, healing and hope.

Biden trusts the issues and future of America could be resolved through faith. In faith, America could have a better future, less suffering and more justice, fair immigration policy and withering away of the sins of slavery and racism. For him, the American neighbours who enter the country are not refugees or immigrants but created in the image and likeness of God.

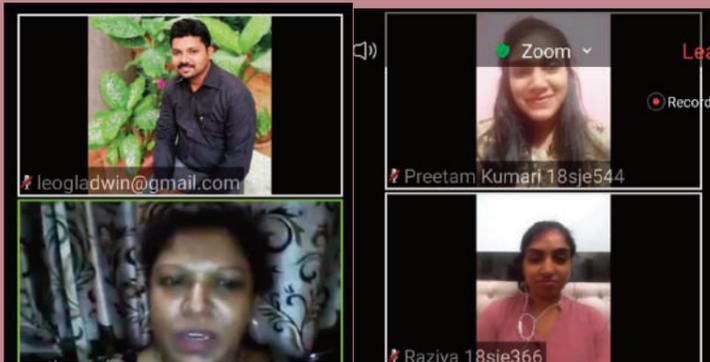
Yet, Biden had to contend with critics who pointed that his support for abortion rights and same-sex marriage are against the teachings of the Catholic Church. Conversely, he carries a rosary in his pocket and attends Mass every Sunday, and empathises with people's misery and suffering.

Obama says Biden is as good a man, god can ever create. He is love without pre-

tence, service without self-regard and aspires to live life to the full. With his charm, candour, unabashed optimism, deep and abiding patriotism, strength, grace and faith, he will be able to see us through the crisis the American nation is gripping.

In hindsight, Biden's Catholic faith is the key towards uniting America and overcoming its ruptures. Moreover, as a designate president, he has reassured, he will do everything in his power to fight poverty and build a future that moves closer to the highest ideals that all are equal in the eyes of god. As Biden, reaffirms and reverberates, keep and spread the faith. When you do so, you carry your own burden; and soon you will realize the creeping symptoms of privilege disappearing.

Placement Cell organises online training



By Leo Gladwin

The placement cell of St Joseph's Evening College organised a two-day online training programme on employability skills for final year students on December 3 and December 4, 2020. The programme was organised in association with Global Talent Track (GTT) and Barclays.

The event began with a short prayer and followed by welcome address by Mr Leo Gladwin. Dr Priya, Vice Principal remarked the importance of such programme and conveyed her wishes to all the facilitators and learners. Mr Arun Prasad, Trainer GTT, greeted everyone and thanked everyone for attending the

programme. More than 200 students joined the session.

The resource person for the training programme was Ms Mythili, a soft skills trainer and NLP facilitator, GTT. On day one, Ms Mythili spoke about resume building, body language, interview skills and online image. She discussed confidence and myths during the time of interview.

On day two, Ms Mythili shed light on self-awareness, interview FAQs, positive attitude, values, group discussion, motivation, teamwork and grooming. Abdul, III BA delivered the vote of thanks.

I year BA students attend orientation programme

By Abin Mathew



On December 9, 2020, the department of humanities organised the orientation programme for I year BA students of all streams. The session began with a prayer song by Shehela from I BA HEP. Ms Maryanne Pais, Assistant Professor, Dept of Psychology welcomed the gathering.

The principal, Dr. Albert Joseph Smith addressed the gathering. Dr Smith enlightened the students about the

motto, vision and gave an overview to the college. Mr Prashanth Kumar, coordinator of Humanities presented an overview on SJEC family and the Jesuits. He also spoke about the founding father of the Jesuits, St Ignatius of Loyola. Mr Prashanth spoke about SJEC Campus Life, activities of student council, and various college level and department level associations.

Dr. Rekha Ahuja, HoD,

Dept of Psychology discussed the vision and mission of the departments. Dr Rekha also introduced the concept of mentoring at SJEC. This was followed by self introduction by the faculty members. Mr Aman, an alumnus shared his educational journey at SJEC and his experience of securing a high rank in the JNU entrance exam. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Mr Dav Fod

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