

## **DCC's Golden Jubilee Inaugural report**

### **God has bestowed a upon us Golden Occasion**

Ms. Janis Fernandes

07<sup>th</sup> March 1969 is considered as a red-letter day in the history of the Archdiocese of Goa; for it was on this day that the foundation of the Diocesan Catechetical Centre (DCC) had been laid to spread the message of Christ and His teachings in the Archdiocese of Goa.

*“How beautiful are the feet of those who bring the Good News” (Rom 10:15).* The DCC will celebrate its Golden Jubilee on 07<sup>th</sup> March 2019. The period between 07<sup>th</sup> March 2018 and 07<sup>th</sup> March 2019 is being celebrated as the Jubilee Year.

Diocesan Catechetical Centre was earlier known as Secretariat for Christian Doctrine. Its name was later changed by Msgr. Francisco da Piedade Rebello, Apostolic Administrator to the DIOCESAN CATECHETICAL CENTER (DCC). Its headquarters were at the Pastoral Institute, St. Pius X, Old Goa. On 08<sup>th</sup> April 1969, its first Committee included Fr. Lucio da Viega Coutinho (Director of Pastoral Institute), Fr. Blaise Lobo O.F.M. and Fr. Almir de Souza. The latter served the Centre as its Director till 1989.

A walk down the memory lane calls for gratitude and appreciation.

Jubilee is an occasion for all the members to further their missionary commitment. It also calls for evaluation and reforming at the personal and Diocesan level It is also a time to thank the Lord for the blessings that we have received during the last 50 years and to entrust all our evangelization work to the Lord to make them more fruitful and effective.

To mark the opening ceremony of the Golden Jubilee Year, a Solemn Eucharistic Celebration was held on Sunday, 03<sup>rd</sup> June 2018, at the Basilica of Bom Jesus, Old Goa at 11.30 a.m. which was presided over by Rev. Fr. Almir de Souza. We were blessed to have him celebrate the Holy Mass. Fr. Romeu Godinho, Director of the Diocesan Catechetical Centre, gave a formal address about the Golden Jubilee celebration of the Diocesan Catechetical Centre. His report was filled with gratitude to all the past directors of the Centre. The Church Choir of St. Francis Xavier's Church, Pirna helped in making the Eucharistic Celebration more meaningful with their beautiful voices in harmony.

After the Mass all the lay faithful representing their parishes and schools along with the priests present, were escorted to the Pastoral Institute, Old Goa by a very lively brass band. At the Pastoral Institute a prayer service was conducted by Ms. Fausta Gonsalves and Sr. Pelina Vaz, followed by the blessing of the renovated office of the DCC by Rev. Fr. Simiao Fernandes, Director of the Pastoral Institute, Old Goa. Later to express our joy on this day colourful balloons were released in the sky.

Every Goan Celebration always ends with a meal. All those who participated in the celebration were then led to the pastoral refectory for a sumptuous meal. With this ended the beginning of the Golden Jubilee celebrations.