

Celebrate the Golden Jubilee Year through 'Voices in Harmony'

(Higher Secondary Students)

-Tr. Shirley Furtado e D'Costa

The Diocesan Catechetical Centre conducted one of their ongoing Golden Jubilee celebrations program **"Voices in Harmony"** on 25th July 2018 at the Pastoral Institute, Old Goa.

The competition was opened for the Higher Secondary Schools, each school could send a team of twelve participants. They had to present two hymns out which one had to be an original composition. Nine Higher Secondary Schools participated in the competition. The program began at 9am with a fun filled "Ice Breaking Session" led by Sr. Pelina; this was followed by short prayer of thanksgiving and action songs. The participating youth were now at ease and there was air of fellowship as refreshments were served.

The Chief Guest of the program was Rev.Fr. John Albano, Assistant to the parish priest and Choir Master of St. Joseph Church, Shiroda. The Judges were: Sr. Aruna Jose Ph.d, in Moral theology and professor at Mater Dei and Mr. Aldrich Fernandes, Choir master at Our Lady of Rosary Church, Fatorda. The comperes of the program were: Alisha Da Cunha, Host and Teacher at Nirmala Institute of Education and Eudociana Fernandes, Catechist. Deacon Aaron Magalhaes enthralled the audience singing two hymns while playing the keyboards himself

The first and the second part of the program consisted in singing of the common hymns and original compositions on the themes of Faith/Faith formation/Catechesis (Doton) respectively. The following was the order of participating teams and the names of the Hymns sung:

1. Carmel Higher Secondary School: I will follow Him and Bhavart
2. Santa Cruz Higher Secondary School: Hallelujah to the Lamb and I proclaim
3. Don Bosco Higher Secondary School: As the deer and Bhavart Porgottumia
4. St. Thomas Higher Secondary School: You raise me up and Hallelujah
5. St. Andrew's Higher Secondary School: Tuje upkar dhonia and Jesus the king of kings
6. Rosary Higher secondary School: Alleluia and Deva Mhojea
7. Presentation Convent Higher Secondary School: You raise me up/Bless the Lord (medley) and Bhavart ekchar rochta.
8. Fr. Agnel Higher Secondary School: Jezu bhaxen and Speak Lord your words.
9. Loyola Higher Secondary School: Pav Maie and My only prayer.

The Chief Guest Rev. Fr. John Albano in his address to the gathering appreciated the efforts put in by the students and said that he was elated to find that the participants were connected with the Lord and he urged the youngsters to use this talent of theirs for the glory of God. He quoted Psalm 98:4 "Shout for Joy to the Lord all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music"

While citing an example of how we can express our deepest feelings, emotions and sentiments when singing hymns to the Lord; he fondly remembered Fr. Vasco do Rego and his timeless composition “Jivitantlem Vadoll”.

Before concluding his talk he appreciated the painstaking efforts of the organisers of the competition. He congratulated Rev. Fr. Romeu Godinho and the participants alike. He concluded his talk singing a hymn with Mr. Aldrich on the keyboards.

This was followed by sumptuous meal after which all gathered for third session of the program which was a quiz and declaration of prizes.

For the quiz session the Quiz Master was our very own Fr. Romeu Godinho who at the start carefully ran through the rules of the quiz. Each participating pair of students had to listen to an audio track being played and then answer two questions based on the song. The Quiz session was met with a good response from the students.

The winners of the Voices in Harmony were as follows:

1st place-Loyola Higher Secondary School, Margao

2nd place- Rosary Higher Secondary, Navelim

3rd place- St. Andrew’s Higher Secondary, Vasco

Fr. Savio J. Pinto proposed the vote of thanks; at the outset he thanked the Lord, thereafter he thanked the Chief guests, the judges, the comperes, heads of schools, teachers in charge who trained the participants and the CCRTV team that covered the entire program. He also thanked the Director of the Pastoral house Rev. Fr. Simianv Fernandes and all those who worked behind the scenes.