

Retreat cum Training for Catechism Teachers of INS Schools

A six day Retreat cum Training for Catechism Teachers of INS schools was held from 8th -14th February 2024 at Divine Retreat Centre Khetri, Assam. Fr. Saji Stephen SDB, in charge of Education to Faith in the province, coordinated the whole programme. There were 27 teachers and two brothers from different schools of the province who took part in it.

The first three days (8-10) the participants had the retreat which was animated by fathers from Khetri retreat centre itself. It was a very prayerful and spiritual animation of the teachers. The retreat touched upon the spiritual growth of the school children and deepening and strengthening of one's own faith. Animation through PowerPoint and video clippings helped the participants to grasp the concepts and themes better and it also helped them to interiorise for a better life. The retreat in fact helped them all to realise the status of their spiritual life and it prepared them to make good confessions which nourished their spiritual life. The spiritual retreat was very much appreciated by all and they wish to have more of these animation programmes for all catholic teachers in all our schools.

The last three days (11-14) saw an intensive training programme for teachers on Catechism teaching in our schools for catholic students. A team of four persons (two from Bangalore, One from Mumbai and One from Trivandrum) were the resource persons for the training programme of the Catechism teachers. The interesting fact about the training is that all the four resource persons were of Protestant background from the Bible Society of India who are all well versed and expertise in this field.

The training programme dealt with topics like Deepening Faith, Methods of Teaching Catechism, Class Room Dynamics, Personal Experience Sharing, Group Work, Content preparation and so on. It was presented in a very crystal clear manner and the participants enjoyed the different sessions. The resource persons with all their expertise and rich experience of teaching Bible related subjects had helped the participants to equip themselves to take up the task of imparting proper catechism to all our Catholic students in our schools.

This entire programme was aimed at equipping our Catholic teachers to give a better faith formation to our catholic students by giving proper training in teaching Catechism as one of the important subjects like any other subjects in the school. The concept of Retreat cum Training for Catechism teachers was a new initiative of Fr. Saji Stephen who wanted to bring about a change in the traditional way of teaching Catechism. Besides all these, it also makes all our principals to appoint teachers in our schools to teach only catechism and pay them a decent and good salary so as to boost the morale of the Catechism teachers and students. The whole programme was appreciated and liked by all the participants and thanked Fr. Saji Stephen for his interest in this regard. The Retreat cum Training of Catechism teachers of our schools ended on 14th February 2024.

Fr. Babu Stephen SDB