

MESSAGE

Dear friends,

Greetings of peace and joy from Fides India Society,
Bangalore!



Since the 1st of June, 2022, I have taken charge as the new Executive Director of the FIDES India Society. After completing my doctorate in Dogmatic Theology from the Faculty of Theology of Burgos, Spain in August 2021, I was appointed to the teaching faculty of Tejas Vidya Peetha, the Mission Oriented Contextual Theologate, in Bangalore. While serving as a professor at Tejas, came to me the new responsibility of being the Executive Director of FIDES India Society, Kengeri, Bangalore. Although I am quite new to this venture, I am happy to take up this responsibility to promote goodness and well-being in society, especially for the children who are marginalized and poor and due to no fault of their own are denied their basic rights of education and quality living in the society.

Like any other organization, the covid pandemic has badly hit the projects and prospectus of Fides India Society. Even in the midst of troubled times, Fides India society continued to commit to its social cause and was able to provide assistance and a helping hand in the form of clothes, food and other necessary materials to many households in different parts of the rural areas of Bangalore, where Fides India is actively engaged in, thanks to the vision and meticulous planning of its former directors. Now, slowly but steadily the social activities of Fides India is picking up its rhythm and balance through the great and selfless efforts of many volunteers and social workers. We thank them for their tireless efforts in making society more equalitarian and human.

As we are coming close to the end of 2022, I would like to place on record all the selfless, generous and sacrificing contributions made by our benefactors, collaborators and friends for the various projects of Fides India Society. You are our pillar of support and it is only through you we were able to realize the activities that we have under the FIDES India Society. Each Christmas season brings us a message of giving. God has given his Son to humanity so that all can have life and life in abundance. In order to bring life and well-being to the many underprivileged sections of society, the call is now on us. Let us strive to bring life and quality to the people who are neglected in society. Once again, I acknowledge and thank you all sincerely, for bringing a beacon of hope to many unfortunate people of our society, especially to the most neglected, children and women. May God bless you and may the peace and joy of this Christmas season reign in your homes and hearts.

Dr. Thomas Thekkekarote, MSFS
Executive Director

Heartfelt Thanks to Fr. Riju, the Outgoing Executive Director of FIDES India Society and Director of NEST Children's Village

From its very inception, Fr. Riju has been closely associated with all the projects of the Fides India Society, first as a theologian in Tejas Vidya Peetha And later on as administrator and program coordinator of Fides India Society. For the last two years he has been rendering his service as the Executive director of Fides India Society and Director of NEST Children's Village. With his commitment, hard work and tireless and selfless service Fides India has grown and achieved incredible and steady progress. It's my privilege to place on record and thank Fr. Riju for all the services and blessings he has brought in for the Fides India family and NEST Children's Village and the



entire campus. We wish him all the best and God's abundant blessings upon him and all his future endeavors. On the 1st of June, 2022, Fr. Riju was given a farewell by the NEST Children. They organized various programs to bid adieu to Fr. Riju. Fr. Thomas Mekkattu, the administrator of the Fides India Society and NEST Children's Village gave a beautiful speech and thanked Fr. Riju for the yeoman services rendered to the Fides India Society and to the NEST Family.



Hearty Welcome to Fr. Thomas, the New Executive Director of FIDES India Society

Fr. Thomas Thekkekarote, the New Executive Director was joyfully welcomed by the Fides India family on 25th May, 2022. Fr. Thomas holds a doctorate in Systematic Theology from the Facultad de Teologia, Burgos, Spain.



NEST Children's Village

NEST (Nurturing and educating for social Transformation), one of the unique projects of FIDES India Society, is an effort to promote the well-being of marginalized children, especially orphans and children from broken families, in all dimensions: Physical, Intellectual, Social and Spiritual. The idea is to nurture them and bring the best out of them through quality education that otherwise would not be available to them. NEST is a village meant for children, providing a HOME i.e., a nurturing environment where they are helped to grow and bloom to their full potential. At present NEST home caters to the needs of 39 children in the campus besides 23 students who are either doing pre-university, university or other higher learning in and around Bangalore. They are given the best care possible for their

Integral growth both in the NEST campus and in the place of their respective study. After the impact of Covid which had badly hit our project and its prospectus, we have once again started in-campus schooling for our students. The NEST Children are happy to return to school with lots of enthusiasm and happiness. Five of our 10th class students have come out with flying colors and they have joined the pre-university program at different universities in Bangalore. We continue to support them through college fees, hostel fees and all their personal expenses and the NEST home always remains open to them for family living. NEST Family also is proud of its children who have already started working. We are glad that 12 of our children have started working and have started to settle in life. For them too, NEST always remains a family where they can step in at any time and be welcomed with an open heart filled with love.

Visit of Catechism Students from St. Thomas Syro - Malabar Church, Dharmaram, Bangalore



Catechism students from St Thomas Church Syro - Malabar came to the NEST Family for a half a day program on 26th May, 2022. They interacted with our children and entertained them through various games and activities.

Outing to the Our Lady of Sorrow's Church, Hebbagodi

NEST Children had an outing to the parish of Our Lady of Sorrow in Hebbagodi, Bangalore on the 5th of June, 2022. After spending some quality time in the morning with Fr. Riju, the parish priest, and in the parish, the children also had an opportunity to visit the SFS campus in Hebbagodi. We specially thank Fr. Riju, the parish priest and Fr. Robin, the assistant parish priest for organizing the day.

Visit of Spanish Team

The team from the University of Burgos visited Fides India society to learn and collaborate with its various projects. Under the leadership of Rodrigo Mena, this year the team consisted of four members, namely, Esther del Amo Hervas, Paula Tirado Martinez - Acitores and Maria Cacabelos Garcia. They are fondly known by the NEST Children as the 'Spanish Team'. They stayed in the NEST home from July 5, 2022 to August 5, 2022 in order to participate in the various activities organized by the Fides India Society. They conducted lots of activities for the children, including various games, teaching songs, dances and especially accompanying the children all the time. On July 25th on the feast of Santiago, the patron saint of Spain, a Spanish Day was



organized in which the children were able to participate in many activities and were able to taste Spanish food. A basic Spanish course for the children of SFS Public School was organized by the Spanish Team. We thank Fr. Jesus Mari, the director of pastoral



Universitario of Burgos and the team of friends from Burgos for organizing the Spanish Team's visit of this year and their continued collaboration with the FIDES India Society.

Visit of Fr. Shibu, Former Executive Director of FIDES India Society

On the 17th of July NEST Children's Village had the joy of receiving one of its founder directors Fr. Shibu Jacob. It is his vision, along with Rev. Dr. Mathew Kozhuppakkalam that shaped and formed the FIDES India Society in its initial stages. He celebrated the Holy Mass for the children and gave a beautiful homily on the importance of growing in discipline and commitment as future citizens of the country. We immensely thank him for his visit and all that he is doing for the growth and development of the FIDES India Society.



Picnic to Bennarghetta National Park

A Picnic to Bennarghetta National Park was organized for the NEST Children on the 17th of July, 2022. It was a very joyful day for the NEST Children as they enjoyed a wild life Safari and a visit to the Zoo.



Visit to Self - help groups in the Villages

On the 23rd of July, along with the Spanish group, a visit was organized to assess the progress and functioning of the Self-help groups and other village programmes under the Fides India Society. It's heartening to know



that in spite of the Covid pandemic, the Self-help groups are thriving well and many underprivileged rural women are able to benefit from it. We thank Mr. Annaichar, the social worker for his selfless and generous services rendered to the FIDES India Society.

that in spite of the Covid pandemic, the Self-help groups are thriving well and many underprivileged rural women are able to benefit from it. We thank Mr. Annaichar, the social worker for his selfless and generous services rendered to the FIDES India Society.

Visit of Mathruvedi to NEST Children's Village

On 23rd of July, Mathruvedi (the organization of mothers) from the parish of Our Lady of Sorrow's Church, Hebbagodi, Bangalore, visited the NEST Children's Village under the guidance of Fr. Riju, the parish priest and Fr. Robin, the assistant parish priest. They cooked and brought a delicious meal for the NEST Children and spent the afternoon interacting and spending time with the NEST Family.



Raksha Bandhan Celebrations at Tejas Vidya Peetha

Raksha Bandhan Celebrations were held at the Tejas Vidya Peetha on the 10th of August, 2022. The NEST Children also participated along with the Tejas brothers for the Raksha Bandhan program. It was a time for the children to interact And spend some time with the fathers and brothers of Tejas Vidya Peetha to foster a spirit of brotherhood and oneness.



Birthday of Fr. Thomas Mekkatt

24th of August was a memorable day for the NEST family as it celebrated the birthday of Fr. Thomas Mekkatt, the administrator of the NEST Children's Village. Children put up a beautiful program on this day, and felicitated and thanked him for his selfless services to the NEST Children's Village and to the campus.



Christ University collaboration with the FIDES India Society

Volunteers from Christ University collaborate with the FIDES India Society in different ways. They regularly come to the NEST Children's Village for tuitions and also help the



FIDES India Society through various methods, especially animating and giving orientation classes in the villages and government schools. On 3rd September, NEST Children were taken to the Christ University Campus

in Kengeri for various activities. Children enjoyed the day and the hospitality of the Christ Campus.

Celebration of the Birthday of Fr. Arokiasamy

On the 7th of September, the birthday of Fr. Arokiasamy, was celebrated with great enthusiasm in the NEST Campus. The NEST Children put up a beautiful program and thanked Fr. Arokiasamy for all the selfless services that he is doing in the school and in the campus.



Onam Celebrations

Onam, the harvest festival of Kerala was celebrated in the NEST Campus on the 10th of September. A sumptuous vegetarian meal with 16



different curries was served and it was an occasion to foster brotherhood and oneness among different cultures.

Deepavali

The festival of lights, Deepavali was celebrated on the 24th of October in NEST Children's village. Children enjoyed celebrating the festival of lights with crackers and by lighting up the whole campus.



General Health Checkup

A general health checkup was done for the NEST Children on the 13th of November by Dr. Biji P. Balan. Generally, the NEST Children enjoy good health and a few suggestions and tips were given by the Doctor to take care of the health of the children.

Children's Day

Children's Day was celebrated in the NEST Family with a few games and a cultural program organized by the sisters under the leadership of Sr. Carmela. Fr. Thomas Thekkekarote gave a message on the importance of the Children's Day celebration.



News and events at St. Francis De Sales Public School, Kumbalgodu

Like any other educational institution, St Francis De Sales Public School also was affected by the Covid 19 and its after-effects. However, this academic year, the school started in full swing and has picked up its rhythm and vitality. Having started as a small, informal school in 2005, catering to an initial group of 6 students of NEST Children's Village, a home for orphan and semi-orphan children, the school now has close to over 440 students from classes pre-KG to 10. This year the school was blessed with an amazing result, where the first batch of CBSE board exam students came out in flying colors and made the school proud. We are grateful to all, especially the principal and all the teaching and non-teaching staff for their dedicated services to our beloved institution. We assure you that the St Francis De Sales Public School will continue to focus on the sound moral, intellectual and physical growth of its children with utmost dedication and commitment to contribute worthy citizens who will shape the future of our country. As it is rightly said, "the destiny of our nation is shaped in our classrooms".



HEAD OFFICE

FIDES India Society

Vinayalaya, PB. No. 5557

18th Cross, Malleswaram West P.O.,

Bangalore- 560055, Karnataka, India

E- Mail: thekkekarottuthomas@gmail.com

fidesindia03@gmail.com

Web: www.fidesindia.org

Ph: 080- 28437244, 28437211

Mob:+91 9972292821

ADMIN OFFICE

FIDES India Society

Mailikallu Cross, Dodda Alada

Mara Main Road, Kumbalgodu P.O,

Kengeri, Bangalore - 560060, Karnataka, India

Printed & Published by: Rev. Fr. Thomas Thekkekarote, MSFS, Executive Director, FIDES India Society,

Edited by: Rev. Fr. Arokiaswamy, MSFS

Design: Br. Asher Mathew Kochuparambil MSFS, Printing: Arvind Printers Rajajinagar, Bangalore