

## GRADUATION DAY 10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2019

The Archdiocesan Liturgy Committee conducted the Graduation Day for the Advanced and Basic Liturgy Ministry Course for 2018-19 on 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2019. The Basic Liturgy Ministry Course (BLM) had 48 representatives from Andheri (12), Bandra (6), Bhayandar (1), Borivli (15), Central Suburbs (1), Kurla (2), Navi Mumbai(2), North Mumbai(6), South Mumbai (2) and Vasai (1) respectively. The 16 Advanced Liturgy Ministry Course (ALM) representatives were from Andheri (1), Bandra (2), Bhayandar (1), Borivli (1), Central Suburbs (2), Kurla (2), Navi Mumbai (2), North Mumbai (4) and Raigad (1). The course was an enriching learning experience which had 13 resource persons conducted the sessions over 9 months for the BLM and 12 resource persons conducted the sessions for the ALM. The classes were conducted by Priests & lay preachers who were very well versed in Liturgy. The day began with a prayer & ended with the Holy Eucharist. I learnt that Liturgy is service to the Church & its people. A service that is sacred & spiritual. The dimensions of Liturgical Spirituality were very well explained. I learnt how important the Holy Mass is & the meaning & depth of every part of the Mass was explained. The Eucharist as transformation & proclamation taught me how we must live a Christ filled life & reach out to the needy & the poor. There must be a change in us after every Mass & we should take Christ, who we experience in the Mass to the people who have lost hope & are troubled. In the topic Liturgical Attitudes 'Berrakah' is the highest form of praise to God and having the right attitude towards each other. We have to give praise to God in good times & bad. We learnt to prepare prayer services, holy hours & the Sunday Liturgy. Salvation History was explained to us so that as Lectors/cantors we have a deep understanding of the Bible to help us in our proclamation. In Sacred Music we learnt that to sing well is to sing with a heart that is on fire for God. Sacred Music should be Liturgical, prayerful, solemn & engaging. The vital importance of Sacraments in Christian living taught us that sacraments are the life lines for Christians & they are necessarily an encounter with Christ. Sacramental celebrations are earthly echoes of the heavenly Court. Lastly the importance of Prayer through the Liturgy of the Hours was taught to us and its importance in our daily life and ministry was explained. The document Constitution

on Sacred Liturgy was given to each participant as reading course material for the whole duration of the course. In the session on Popular Piety we also learnt how devotions pious practices play an important role in our lives and in the parish. In 2 Thes 5:16 to 18—*“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you”*.

The Graduation day was very sacred & joyful moment for each one of us. I am thankful to the whole Archdiocesan Liturgical Commission for organizing the Course for us. The Key note address by Fr. Wilfred D’souza on “*Evangelii Gaudium*” was very beautiful and inspirational. The points which touched me most are: Reach out to one & other in compassion; Solidarity with the poor & promotion of peace. I certain hope and pray many more will take up the challenge to learn more about liturgy, so that at each Eucharist they may encounter Christ in a deeper manner.