

## Youth of the Holy Family in Colombo took the lead to celebrate the Patronal Feast of Good Father with the Family.


The Covid -19 pandemic has been keeping apart the members of the Noailles Family, without any opportunities of meeting up physically. Children, youth, adults, priests and even the sisters; all were yearning for an opportunity to gather but to make it a reality was a distant dream. Schools are closed for more than a year obstructing the children and the youth of the Holy Family to have their sessions. The government regulations prevail any kind of gathering. Those who had the facility continued their journey online.

Amidst this background, the national committee of the Holy Family Youth, comprised of 7 members came forward to give the Family a chance of reuniting on the Patronal Feast Day of our Good Father. There was not much time, only about 2 weeks to organize the day. They took up the challenge. The members were geographically scattered in many parts of the country, some of them are employed, working till late evening. Yet, in keeping with Founders words:

*“There is nothing to check your cause.....Go forward”*

The youth were ready to brave all challenges. Several zoom meetings were held at late nights discussing and planning. Each one undertook different responsibilities. Their desire was the wider participation of all the vocations. Working from distance, availability of time of each member were the challenges, but each member worked hard to fulfill her part.

The programme was designed to have a 3-day preparatory time sharing a thought of Good Father through social media to reach all vocations.





Feast of the Patron Saint of the Founder of Holy Family Congregation

*Thought*

“ Do not be annoyed (frustrated) with yourself if you do not succeed in your first attempts to reach your goal. Perfection is not the work of a day ”

- Rev. Father Pierre Bienvenu Noailles -




Feast of the Patron Saint of the Founder of Holy Family Congregation

*Thought*

" If Jesus, Mary and Joseph were in my place , what would they say ? How would they act ? "

- Rev. Father Pierre Bienvenu Noailles -







## Feast of the Patron Saint of the Founder of Holy Family Congregation

### *Thought*

"Without being anxious about our future, adapt yourselves according to the life example of our Divine Master- Jesus."

- Rev. Father Pierre Bienvenu Noailles -



To honour a person who loved nature and to incorporate mother nature also to celebrate this event, the team launched a 'Tree Planting Campaign' to commemorate Good Father's feast. All the members embraced the invitation whole heartedly. There was a tremendous enthusiasm from children to adults. Those who didn't have a space to plant on the ground were eager to plant at least a flower pot.







On 29<sup>th</sup> June at 6.30 p.m. the celebrations commenced with the leader of the youth group welcoming all members who were present. It was a wider gathering, not only from Colombo but also, from Rome, Pakistan, Uganda and Phillipines.

All joined to wish Good Father a “Happy Feast” by lighting a lamp in their own place while digital lamps were lit to from the word ‘Good Father’ with a hymn played to honour him.

Next was the time to reflect on some thoughts of the Founder.

A brief video clip was displayed about special life events of Peter Bienvenu Noallies for the interest of new members. The dialogue enacted between young Bienvenu and his mother depicting his conversion was very appealing to the youth.

The hymn “If Jesus Mary and Joseph was here.....What would they say? how would they act?” composed and sung by a group of Apostolic sisters, which were the words of the founder;

*“ Go often to the House of Nazareth.....”*

was an invitation to remind ourselves to keep Holy Family of Nazareth as our model in every situation of our lives.

Then, three Holy Family youth shared their experience on the theme, **“How Good Father’s life example gave a purpose to their youthful lives”**.

This was followed by another round of brief sharing from a member of each vocation, on ‘who is good Father to me’. All the sharings with different perspectives enkindled courage and hope in the hearts of the participants.

Sr.Jesmin, the Unit leader of Colombo, in her speech reminded us about the two great apostles Peter and Paul whose feasts too fall on the same day. Especially St. Peter, the patron saint of Peter Bienvenu Noilles. St. Peter was the head of the official Church while St. Paul was the church among people, in the periphery. She further said that our Founder was a mixture of both: a simple and a complex person. Thus, today we his children are called to extend and strengthen the Faith in our present context, not as individuals, but as a Family, which is a great strength for us to carry out our Mission.

The presentation of planting trees, at the end of the programme was a very enriching experience.

On the whole, it was a very joyful family celebration, thanks to the hard work of the Holy Family youth.

