

St. Joseph's College OBU

NEWS

Ja-Ela / Wattala Branch

December Issue 2010

Rev. Fr. Sylvester Ranasinghe completes twenty five years in the Lord's Vineyard

Sylvester Ranasinghe was born on 22nd September 1955. He was educated at Christ King College Pannipitiya. As an Altar Server he came under the influence of Rev. Fr. Boniface Mendis, who was the Parish Priest at Christ King Church Pannipitiya. Fr. Boniface saw that Sylvester was different to other kids, and that the young boy of fifteen had an exemplary devotion to the Blessed Sacrament. Young Sylvester joined St. Aloysius' Seminary when he was sixteen.

He entered the National Seminary Ampitiya in preparation for the priesthood. Having completed the Philosophical and Theological studies, Rt. Rev. Dr. Nicholas Marcus Fernando bestowed the Sacrament of Holy Orders to Rev. Sylvester Ranasinghe and 12 other deacons at St. Lucias Cathedral Kotahena on 27th July 1985. Having been appointed to St. Joseph's College he served in different capacities viz. Prefect of Boarders, Counsellor, Computer Instructor, Prefect of Games, Vice Rector, and subsequently as Rector in 2005. Fr. Sylvester is a simple human being, humility being his forte. He could be approached easily. Being a friendly person, he listens to others patiently. His main task was to lift the educational standards of the College. Fr. Sylvester's vision plan for St. Joseph's, aims at producing men of character, integrated personality and of deep faith in the Lord. He has launched the following projects.

Renovation and refurbishment of the College Auditorium and Buildings, Computer Study Programme, Staff Development, Choral Singing, College Campus, Emphasising Traditions and History of the College. The abiding interest and tireless efforts of Fr. Sylvester must be greatly appreciated. We pray that Rector Rev. Fr. Sylvester Ranasinghe be Blessed by the Almighty to continue to work for the Greater Glory of God.

Ad Multos Annos Vivat!

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(For private circulation only)



Rev. Fr. Rector with a few Josephian First Holy Communicants.

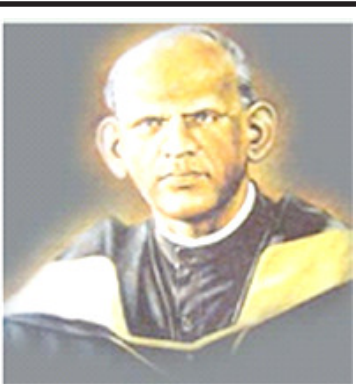


"Mystical Twilight"



The Main Fund Raiser of the SJC OBU Ja-ela Wattala "Mystical Twilight" Dinner Dance was held on 31st July, 2010 at the Ceylon Continental Hotel, Colombo. The day started with cocktails, wherein the participants were in good spirits as they entered the dance floor. "Marians" and "Misty" kept all on their toes. The singing of the college anthem almost brought down the ceiling of the Ceylon Continental. Thilan Rupasinghe was the chairman of the dance committee, while Angelo Kuruppu was the co-chairman. They were assisted by the committee, Rohan Goonetilleke, Anuja Fernando, Sunil and Damian Abeyratne, Prithiraj de Silva, Isuru Perera, Ranisha Silva, Terrence Martin, Vindya Solangaarachchi, Prasanna Kuruppu, Mahesh Fernando and Neil Piger. We wish to thank our sponsors as it was them who made this event a success. Mr. K D Lakshman Perera, Mr. Lakshman Rodrigo, Superlink Travels, Mr. Roshan Samaranyake, Singer Sri Lanka PLC and Royal Furnishers, Mr. Rohan Wijesinghe, Mega Pharmaceuticals, Mr. Hugh Alwis, P B Marketing, Mr. Neil Piger, Mr. Franklin Silva, Mr. Prithiraj de Silva, Mr. Lalindra Silva, Mr. Ranisha Silva, Mr. Thilan Rupasinghe, Ceylon Tobacco Company, Mr. Leslie Bernard Perera and a Well Wisher were the main sponsors. All participants enjoyed the evening. There were plenty of prizes and surprises.

Rev. Fr. Rector Sylvester Ranasinghe sending a message for the Dance Souvenir, had stated, "I admire the persistency of the Ja-Ela Wattala Branch of the OBU in getting their heads down to anything they put their hands and hearts to. They have



in the past made a great contribution to taking the Branch School under their wing". Mr. Rohan Goonetilleke our President stated "The event has two main purposes and that is to raise funds for college development projects and to create a platform for the old boys, their friends, parents, teachers and the priests to get to gather in harmony to enjoy the evening". Chairman of the Dance Committee Mr. Thilan Rupasinghe stated, "With the theme "Mystical Twilight" The St. Joseph's College Colombo OBU Ja-Ela/Wattala Branch wishes to get all its members and all Old Joes together to further strengthen their bonds and friendships by keeping our vision in mind to assist our Alma Mater in all possible means." We wish to congratulate the President, Chairman, co-Chairman and the Dance Committee for a job well done.

Late Rev. Fr. Peter Alcantara Pillai, OMI

Born on 19th October 1904 at Wennappuwa. His parents were Jacob and Anna Pillai from Kayts, Jaffna. Began his schooling in Tamil at his father's school. 1914 - Joined St. Benedicts College, Kotahena 1918 Passed Cambridge Junior with eight distinctions. 1920 - Passed the Cambridge Senior with distinction in all subjects. 1923 - Passed B.Sc. London, 1st Class. 1924 - Passed B.Sc. Hons., London, double first in Mathematics. 1925 - Entered Fitzwilliam Hall, Cambridge. 1927 - Obtained B.A. which later matured into M.A. Cantab. - Obtained the M.Sc. London. 1928 - Entered the OMI novitiate in Belgium. 1929 - Entered Oblate International Scholasticate and Anglicum Pontifical University in Rome. 1931 - Awarded the Ph.D. Rome 1934 - ordained a priest in Rome. 1936 - Awarded DD., Rome. - Returned to Ceylon and was appointed to the staff of St. Peter's College. - 14th October, founded the Catholic Social Guild. 1937 - January, began "Social Justice" and "Samaja Samaya", journals of the Movement for the Restoration of the Social Order. 1937 - Appointed Warden of Aquinas Hall, the University Catholic Hostel. **1940 - 8th December, appointed Fifth Rector of St. Joseph's College.** 1959 - 6th April, appointed Vicar-General for the Lay Apostolate in addition to his own duties. 1961 - August, retired from St. Joseph's College and took up residence at Aquinas. 1962 - . - 27th September, 1964 he attained eternal glory..

Tribute to Melbourne Branch

SJC OBU Ja-ela Wattala wishes to thank SJC OBU Melbourne Branch for their kind donation of Aus. Dollars 350/- equivalent to Rs. 40,066/- for the purchase of Sports Goods for SJC Enderamulla Branch. We purchased the entire requirement for the Branch School to the value of Rs. LKR 61450.00. This was possible due the efforts of Mr. Ross Moraes of Melbourne. Subsequently Ross arranged another donation of the latest practice equipment for leather ball cricket. These were handed over to our Branch School Enderamulla by our President Rohan Goonetilleke..

Brief Message from the President

It gives me immense pleasure to pen a few words to our Josephian OBU news letter. We have completed 8 exco meetings with over 80% attendance and the interest taken by the members is overwhelming.

We commenced the fiscal year in April with a well attended AGM and in July we had a very successful Dance at the Ceylon Continental Hotel, Colombo which was our main fund raiser. The committee was headed by Thilan Rupasinghe. In October we had our annual family outing to Anuradhapura which had a participation of over 55 participants which included our members and their families. The members attended the Sunday Mass at St. Joseph's Cathedral Anuradapura and visited the miraculous shrine of Our Lady at Kalaoya. The cost of the trip was borne by the committee members. It was a well planned event organized by Dilruk Leanage.



Our Christmas get-together for the entire membership will be held at Hotel Ramada Seeduwa on 10th December and arrangements are made by committee chairperson Angelo Kuruppu for a grand event.

We will have our annual cricket match with the Negombo OBU on 4th of February and we will be hosting the event this year.

We maintain a very cordial relationship with the main school and the branch school in Enderamulla and also with the main OBU and the sports club.

Executive Committee Meetings were sponsored by Milroy Silva in July, Neil Piger in August, Lakshman Rodrigo in September, Ranisha Silva in October and Hilarian Gunawardene in November. We wish to thank them and their spouses.

The correct answer for the July News Letter quiz was sent by Mr. Marlon Tissera from London. A valuable gift was delivered to his father Mr. Bede Tissera.

December Quiz

Identify at least four Old Joes from the above photograph and contact the editor, and win a valuable gift.

7 HABITS OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE PEOPLE

By: Stephen Covey



1. BE PRO ACTIVE

The habit of personal vision. As human beings we are responsible for our own lives. Highly proactive people do not blame the circumstances, conditions or conditioning for this behavior. Their behavior is a product of their own conscience, choices based on values, rather than a product of their condition based on feelings.

OPPOSITE OF PRO - ACTIVE IS RE-ACTIVE

2. BEGIN WITH THE END IN MIND HABIT OF PERSONAL LEADERSHIP

HABIT OF PERSONAL LEADERSHIP

Begin each day or task with a clear understanding of your desired direction and destination.

Each day of your life should contribute in a meaningful way to the vision you have of your life as a whole.

3. PUT FIRST THINGS FIRST

The habit of personal management.

It is what moves you in the right direction and help you achieve the purpose expressed in your mission statement.

Managed by priorities

4. THINK WIN WIN

The habit of inter personal leadership.

In relationship and business effectiveness is largely achieved through the co-operative efforts of two and more persons.

Most of us learn to base ourself with comparison and competition. We think about succeeding in someone else's failing.

That is, if I win you lose, or if you win I lose. Life is a zero, some gain. There is so much in the pie. If you get a big piece there is less for me, people of this type of scarcity mentality find it difficult to share recognition and power and to be happy for the successes of others especially those closest to them.

Win win is based on the other hand in the paradigm that there is plenty for everybody, and that one person's success is not achieved at the expense of another.

Win win sees life as a co-operative not as a competition arena.

Win win is a frame of mind and heart that constantly seeks mutual benefit in all human interactions.

5. SEEK FIRST TO UNDERSTAND THEN TO BE UNDERSTOOD HABIT OF COMMUNICATION

A wise doctor will diagonise before writing the prescription. A good engineer will understand the faces, the stresses at work before building the bridge. An effective sales person would understand the needs of the customer before offering the product.

6. SYNERGIZE

The habit of creative co-operation.

This is called the 3rd alternative.

$1 + 1 = 3$

7. SHARPEN THE SAW

The habit of self renewal means persevering and enhancing the greatest asset you have – **YOURSELF**.

it means having a balanced Systematic programme for self renewal in four areas.

PHYSICAL - SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL - MENTAL - SPIRITUAL

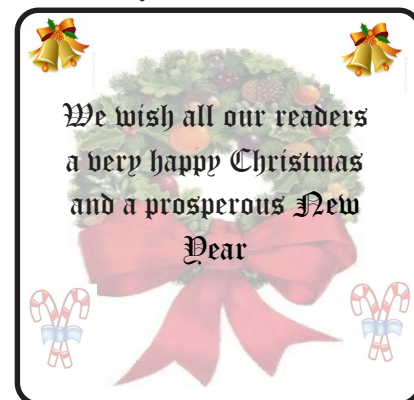
(Sent by Mr. Sunil Abeyratne)



Josephians Reign Supreme in Swimming

To keep winning the Sri Lanka School Swimming Championship for seven consecutive years will certainly take an effort to equal and a superhuman effort to break. This year St. Joseph's have achieved this feat with almost consummate ease or should we say as a matter of habit. It is the hunger to win that has made these swimmers set this unique record which any school could be justly proud of. The construction of the Pool in 1952 was the idea of the late **Rev. Fr. Peter A. Pillai**, the eminent educational visionary. Mentioning names can cause concern amongst some. To mention all would be impossible so to come to times more recent there was Marlon Delano, Sean Lee. The Captains during the last seven years of glory were Nuwan Rupasinghe, Nirmal Samarasinghe, Milinda Wickremasinghe, Shehan Liyanage, Ashan Fernando, Shehan Dias and Dinuka Ruberu. Of course who could forget the incomparable Conrad Francis. Josephian swimmers have participated at International meets and won medals yet to think of it, Swimming is a sport only fifty eight years old at St. Joseph's and its phenomenal success may possibly in time to come equal the older sports in College, cricket and football. There are four reasons for this remarkable success. The Coach, Ruwan Manawadu who has fine tuned the swimmers, pushing them to go further and faster. He was appointed to visiting lecturer at the National Institute of Sports Science. .

He is also a ASCA level 4 coach. Mrs. Malka Jayasinghe, the teacher in Charge for many years, whose indefatigable efforts have been an inspiration to the young lads, Rev. Fr. Sylvester Ranasinghe the Rector/Principal whose guidance and encouragement has contributed largely to our success and the parents of the students whose steadfast loyalty and cooperation made it all happen. As for the young lads. They have blazed a trail of glory and embellished their names into the history of swimming in schools. Indications are that the saga will continue. The juggernaut appears set to move on relentlessly.



In Lighter Vein

Two naughty boys, Saman and Tusitha, stole a bag of mangoes from a shop and decided to go to the nearest cemetery to share the loot. As they were climbing the big gate to enter the cemetery, two mangoes fell out of the bag and were left behind at the gate. A local resident named Anthony on his way from a tavern after a heavy drink passes near the cemetery gate and hears the following: "One for me, one for you. one for me, one for you." He immediately sobers up and runs as fast as he can to the local priest. "Father, Come with me to witness God and Satan sharing corpses at the cemetery".

They both run back to the cemetery gate and sit there. The voices continue. "One for me, one for you". Suddenly one voice says: "What about the two at the gate?"

The priest was the first to run for his life..... :-) :-)

If undelivered Please return to

Chricilton,
Dehiyagatha
Ja-Ela.

To. -----

