

Feast Day Mass (3 Dec. 2016): CELEBRATE CREATION IN SOLIDARITY



The DIRS and AICUF jointly organized the Mass on 3 December 2016, the college feast of St. Francis Xavier on the relevant theme: 'Celebrate Creation in Solidarity.' Before Mass at 8.45 am all participants were invited to put their handprints on chart papers as a symbol of creative solidarity in taking care of all creation. These charts were displayed at the time of the Offertory by representatives of various groups. The main celebrant, Fr. Vijay Gonsalves, enlightened us with the Ignatian vision of the sacredness of the whole universe. The congregation prayed for the following intentions: i) to reorient the course of development by considering its effect on the poor and the environment; ii) to recognize and root out corporate terrorism; and iii) to identify ourselves as cosmic citizens beyond all human boundaries. We felt motivated to take action 'with our working hands' (the title of the Offertory Action Hymn) to solve the social and environmental crisis we face today. Prayers of different faiths, including tribal wisdom, on peace and creation were meditatively read out. The participants participated enthusiastically in the meaningful action hymns and appreciated this inclusive approach to rituals.

At the end the 'Cosmic Crib' of the DIRS was presented – a creative crib that celebrates not just the birth of Jesus some 2000 years ago but awakens us to the birth of God in each one of us and also challenges us to play our role as nurturing mothers of the earth.