

Date: January 15, 2020

Annual Report of CTC 2019

St. Albert's National Catechists Training Centre



Shakir FSC

51 G.B Khushpur, Thesil Samundari, District Faisalabad

January to December 2019



St. Albert's National Catechists' Training Centre

Chak No: 51 G.B. Khushpur, Distt. Samundri, Faisalabad

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Introduction:

A short background of the National Catechists' Training Centre

In 1951 Bishop Chialeo, then the Bishop of Multan decided to commence a one-year training program to train Catechists for the diocese of Multan. He began the program in Khushpur, Diocese of Faisalabad (Lyallpur at that time). This one-year program started on the May 17th, 1952 under the guidance of Rev. Fr. Philip (parish priest). Fr. Philip was the 1st in charge of the under-training Catechist.

Since then, 958 young men have gone through the training programme. Some of them attended the one-year course, some two, and most of them attended the three years program. The present program is designed for three years which begins on the 1st week of September and ends on the 1st week of June and goes on for three years simultaneously. At present there are 50 students who are under training, from six dioceses of Pakistan. Namely there are 20 first year's students, 15 second year's students and 15 third year students.



Students' statistics as a whole group:

Dioceses	No. of students
Archdiocese of Lahore	25
Multan	4
Faisalabad	10
Rawalpindi	7
Karachi	3
Hyderabad	1
Total Students	50

During the three years course followed at the CTC, the trainees acquire a good knowledge of the Holy Scripture, Liturgy, History of the Catholic Church and the social teachings of the church. Besides the regular classes, seminars and workshops are also conducted on various topics that are relevant to their field work and catechism. The highly proficient professors are invited from outside for the seminars and talks. The seminars are also social and religious in nature.

The academically system at CTC:

The CTC follows the semester system. The 1st semester starts in September each year and ends on the 1st week of June the following year.

1. September to December
2. January to June

The CTC remains close from June to the last week of August for summer vacation. All the educational institutions in Pakistan are closed due to un-bearable and excessive heat. The temperature goes very high and most of the times it becomes too difficult to bear even.

CTC is situated in the largest Catholic village of Pakistan named as Khushpur. At present we feel that there are a number of disadvantages such as the access to the village is difficult. Communication system, electricity, gas, sewerage and drinking water systems are far from satisfactory. But the Christian atmosphere helps the students and the staff to overlook all these issues. This is a great blessing in Khushpur. The beautiful thing is that *"The work of the Lord goes on"*.

The following subjects are taught to the candidates in three years of staying at CTC.

Subjects:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Bible (New Testament) | 2. Bible (Old Testament) |
| 3. Liturgy | 4. Church History |
| 5. Catechetics | 6. Theology |
| 7. English | 8. Lives of saints |
| 9. General Knowledge | 10. Geography |
| 11. Psychology | 12. Urdu |

Our weekly schedule throughout the year.

Weekly Schedule (January to Decmber, 2019)

Day	Morning	Evening
Monday	Classes	Bible Service & game
Tuesday	Classes	Music class & Mass
Wednesday	Teaching catechism Practice in the schools Observation Reporting Bible service Conference/Seminar	Music class Charismatic prayer / Faith sharing / Adoration
Thursday	Classes	Music class & Streets visit
Friday	Classes	Singing Practice & Games
Saturday	Library General remarks Literary meetings Public speaking	General cleaning Holy Mass

Staff members:

Currently we have 10 teachers all together serving in the CTC out of which 6 are permanent and 4 teachers are serving as a visiting staff member at CTC. All of them are talented, educated and blessed with the gift of serving through teaching and catechizing. We have some visiting staff as well who are helping us to continue to serve the local Church. Aside from lay people we are also blessed with some priests who assist us in CTC. There are some priest and young Brothers from the local parish as well as from the other parishes who come very often/regular bases to teach to the under-training catechists. We are still looking for more teachers who can help us in CTC. We are hoping for the best to come.



Br. Zafar Daud



Br. Suneel Shakir



Mr. Eric Sylvester



Ms. Bimla Eric



Mr. Ayyaz Nayyar



Mr. Yaqoob Saeed



Fr. Shahzad Niyamut



Ms. Farzana Asif

Regular Staff	Visiting Staff
1.Br. Zafar Daud (Director)	Br. Saddique Gill
2.Br. Suneel Shakir	Fr. Shahzad Niyamut
3 Mr. Eric Sylvester	Ms. Farzana
4.Mr. Ayaz Nayyar	
5. Mr. Yaqoob Sayyed	
6.Mrs Bimla Eric	

Annual Exposure program for the Catechists 12th to 18th March

Every year the under training Catechists go to the different parishes of the Faisalabad Diocese to experience some pastoral work. This year, after the consultation with the Bishop of Faisalabad and the Diocese in-charge, we also sent our students to various parishes from 12th – 18th March 2018, during the Lenten season. This immersion/ exposure is specially designed to prepare them for their field work in future. This also helps them to experience what they will experience later in life such as dealing with new people, how to be polite in terms of public relationship, connections and communications, how to face and handle the challenges in appointed areas etc... Usually they are sent for one week. They are always sent in pairs because both the individual can tackle the problem and come up with the solution easily instead of dealing with it individually.

On their return they report their enriching experience and emersion which they gain during their exposure. Some of them share their very powerful and enriching experience whereas some share how challenging was for them to stay with families who were not much welcoming to them and how did they manage throughout the week. How could this experience help them to nourish their practical life later on when they go to their actual field work.

We always encourage and pay gratitude to the families which accommodate our students and the parish priests and the senior catechist who help our students to do their exposure in order to learn. Thanks to all the people who made this exposure possible for our students.

Agapay.

CTC is the Centre in which the students are taught and encouraged to practice almost each and every ritual which the early Church and Christians were adopting and following. Having that we the staff of CTC organized the ritual of Agapay on 17th April 2019. This is the ritual which the early Christians were following in the early church when they would get together on one place. They would pray and share the meal. There were many reasons behind organizing this ritual such as: -



- 1) In the memory of the first Christians
- 2) For the sake of learning
- 3) Practice of Sharing
- 4) Unity

A special program was organized and the value of Agapay was highlighted in the life of the early Christian communities. After the program we all shared a meal as the early Christian communities did.

Picnic Day

The under-training Catechists spend much of their time studying and doing other co curriculum activities. Aside from this busy life they all also get many more opportunities to enjoy their life while residing here in the CTC.

This year class third year got the chance to go out for a mini picnic to a nearby swimming pool. All of us used the local transport and went to enjoy the summer. Everybody was very much excited and cherishing the moments and accompaniment of each other. We left in the early afternoon and reached there in an hour. We dressed up and jumped in the pool. It was a very hot day indeed but the coldness of the water made our day extraordinary and much pleasant. We spent almost the whole afternoon there and came back in the evening. On the way back we had some light snacks and drinks. Everybody seemed much tired after swimming but after all everybody enjoyed that day.



Third Year Research Paper Presentation:

During the three years course here at CTC the final year students are always given a task to write Thesis on different topics (the topics are recommended by the staff and then given to the students). This thesis work is contained on a lot of research, interviews, books reading (particular amount) new ideas and off course personal opinions. This year Twelve students presented their thesis presentation from 2nd-3rd May. 3rd years students, who were graduated with their diploma this year, presented their research paper in April. Different Brothers, religious, professors and teachers were invited for their research paper presentation. Names and admission numbers and the topics are given below.

S. No	Roll No	Names	Topics	Panel Members
1	922	Imran Gulzar	Concept of Feasts in Holy Bible	Br. Zafar, Br. Suneel, Mr. Eric, Mr. Ayaz and Ms. Bimla Eric
2	923	Asif Ghulam	The affects of Charismatic prayer in Pakistan	Br. Zafar, Br. Suneel, Mr. Eric, Mr. Ayaz and Ms. Bimla Eric

3	924	Danish Kaleem	The services and contribution of Christians in medical field.	Br. Zafar, Br. Suneel, Mr. Eric, Mr. Ayaz and Ms. Bimla Eric
4	925	Raheal Joseph	Life and services of Bishop Roufin Anthony	Br. Zafar, Br. Suneel, Mr. Eric, Mr. Ayaz and Ms. Bimla Eric
5	926	Raheal waris	Various signs in Christianity	Br. Zafar, Br. Suneel, Mr. Eric, Mr. Ayaz and Ms. Bimla Eric
6	927	Khurram Ashraf	Various ways of Evangelization in Pakistan	Br. Zafar, Br. Suneel, Mr. Eric, Mr. Ayaz and Ms. Bimla Eric
7	928	Asad Arif	Explanation of Litany of Mother Marry	Br. Zafar, Br. Suneel, Mr. Eric, Mr. Ayaz and Ms. Bimla Eric
8	929	Nadeem Masih	Effects of environmental pollution in Pakistan	Br. Zafar, Br. Suneel, Mr. Eric, Mr. Ayaz and Ms. Bimla Eric
9	930	Bukhtawar	Pilgrim of Mother Marry at Marriamabad Village	Br. Zafar, Br. Suneel, Mr. Eric, Mr. Ayaz and Ms. Bimla Eric
10	931	Kabir	Fourteenth Station of the cross	Br. Zafar, Br. Suneel, Mr. Eric, Mr. Ayaz and Ms. Bimla Eric
11	932	Naveed Masih	Prayers for the departed souls	Br. Zafar, Br. Suneel, Mr. Eric, Mr. Ayaz and Ms. Bimla Eric
12	933	Khurram Shoukat	Women in the Gospel of Matthew	Br. Zafar, Br. Suneel, Mr. Eric, Mr. Ayaz and Ms. Bimla Eric

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3rd Year Students presented their Thesis



The Presenters

The Sessions Based on The Spirituality of the Marriage Life (24 -26 May)

The curriculum of CTC comprises of many subjects, Topics, Conferences, seminars etc.... The main purpose of all these programs is to make the students able to grasp and accumulate a good amount of knowledge so that he may be able to face and deal with each and every reality/truth of life. Considering this intention, the Catechists (both male and female) are trained to learn about the spirituality of Marriage life.

Upon the request of the National Family Life Commission; Bishop Indrias Rehmat (Bishop of Faisalabad Diocese) agreed to impart Training Program based on the Spirituality of marriage and natural Family Planning (billings Ovulation Method) on regular basis in his Diocese and particularly in the National Catechist Training Center.

It was decided that the national family life commission will send a team to the CTC once in each semester. This program goes on for three years and towards the end of the third year, the third-year students are awarded with (BOM) diploma. The purpose of this initiative is to produce the teachers of Spirituality of Marriage and Natural Family Planning (Billings ovulation Method) at grass-roots level, so this training will become the part of their pastoral activities for the larger benefit of the Community.



Diploma Day:

30th May, 2019 was the most awaited day for the 3rd year students. It is the Diploma day. The Holy Mass was by His Excellency Bishop Joseph Arshad the Bishop of Faisalabad Diocese along with many other priests who joined from other parishes to mark the event. The clergy, Sisters, Brothers, Catechists, the relatives of the 3rd year students and people from the village participated in the ceremony. Twelve male students and four ladies (wives of the trainee catechists) students were graduated and were awarded with Diploma Certificates along with Holy Bible and a Crucifix by the Main Celebrant His Excellency Bishop Joseph Arshad the Bishop of Faisalabad Diocese. The celebration continued till afternoon and ended by the festive lunch at the ground of LaSalle High School Khushpur.

This event marks the successful completion of each individual after attending the three years course while residing in the CTC. During these three years as mentioned earlier that the candidate

must follow all the instruction mentioned in the Rule book and imposed by the authorities; the trainee must follow and give a satisfactory result in each exam. After following the whole criteria and characteristics of the institution, the institute goes through the whole progress and performance of the trainee and with consultations of the other staff members and after taking the oral and written exams, the trainee is awarded with Diploma. Every year many of the trainee get the diplomas and later go back to their respective Dioceses and Parishes, they help their Bishops and Parish priests in different villages, cities and downtrodden areas.



Recruitment of the new Candidates:

Every year the staff of the Catechists Training goes out for the recruitment of the new Candidates in the Training Centre. This Year we went the Arch Diocese of Lahore to interview the new Candidates from the whole Diocese. A big number had gathered there to sit for an interview. There were more than 35 candidates.

We reached there in the morning hours and started the interview around 11:00 am. We gave them a written questionnaire in which they had to solve various categorially topics. They were asked to do some basic English, Urdu, Maths etc... After the written exams we personally met each individual asked their consent, will and the reasons of joining this training.

Aside from going to other diocese we also organized a "Come and See" program for the other candidates from the other Diocese unlike Multan, Faisalabad, Rawalpindi to come to Khushpur for an interview. We interviewed many candidates here as well. It was a good idea to bring them together so that they may know the place (residence) and program beforehand but there was also a problem that not all the participants could travel all the way from different diocese for this program.

There were many objectives to go and call the Candidates here in Khushpur for an interview such as: -

- 1) So that we may see all the candidates in a person
- 2) So that we may have a personal dialogue with the Commission in charge
- 3) Discus the reports and progress of the previous students
- 4) And finally, if there is any need to bring changes

There were more than 35 candidates from the Lahore Diocese who appeared for an interview and 10 of them are selected. 30 candidates were appeared from Faisalabad, Multan, Rawalpindi Dioceses and 5 of them are selected.

After much discussion with the other staff members of the staff of CTC; the Director of the CTC sent the recommendation and the names of the chosen candidates to the respective Diocese. Out of a big number only 23 students were selected because only a small number could be accommodated in the residence.

New semester with new comers:

New academic year in CTC starts in September. This year (as mentioned earlier) 23 candidates we chose from the seven Diocese of Pakistan (the list is attached) They are from the following dioceses of Pakistan.

The list and number of 1st year students is as below: -

Diocese of Pakistan	Archdiocese of Lahore	Archdiocese of Karachi	Hyderabad Diocese	Multan Diocese	Faisalabad Diocese	Rawalpindi Diocese	Total Students
Number of Students	10	03	01	02	01	03	20

Everyone was happy to commence a new phase of life and was ready to achieve what they had targeted for. When everyone arrived here the first task was to clean up and maintain the place

after the long break of summer vacation. the cleaning and organizing took almost three day and after the cleaning an introductory session was held.

CTC Reopening Day: 1st of September 2019.

Almost every school and institution in Pakistan is closed or on break during the summer. CTC also remained closed during the summer and our new semester began on 1st of September 2019. All the new and old students were back on 1st of September. After the cleaning session an introductory session was delivered and all the new students were introduced to the old students and the staff members.



Teacher's Day Celebration

every year the students of CTC prepare a short variety program to pay tribute to their teachers; they also present them cards, flowers and bouquets. The Variety program is consisted speeches are presented in order to show reverence to the teacher for contributing their calibers to brighten their future. We the staff and the students of CTC commemorated all the staff who had left the institute, left for good or died. We remembered them too in our program and prayers. At the end of the program the Cake was cut and few snacks were distributed among the students. It was a happy day indeed.



Talent Show

It's the reality that each one of us is blessed with something exceptional and unique; considering to know the uniqueness and hidden talents of our 1st year group, the students of 2nd year and 3rd year organized a talent show in which everybody could see and experience the hidden talents of our new comers. It was really a prestigious occasion to acknowledge that each and every one was given a gift of either singing, dancing, acting or playing different musical instruments and many others gifts. Every one of them played a very vigorous role in organizing this talent show. They presented what they were blessed with but there were numerous capabilities which they really need to discover in themselves and we hope that they will be able to discover while they stay here.



Annual Volleyball match

This is one of the most awaited day for the Catechists when they come down to the ground to play a friendly yet blue on blue. The teams are divided into two under the guidance of one of the staff members. This year the teams were led by Mr. Ayyaz Nayyar (Staff member) and Br. Suneel Shakir (Staff member). The match commenced in the after with so many spectators. Everyone wanted to get the credit of **Champion of the year** award. It was indeed a great source of encouragement, fun and sharing of brotherhood with each other.



The match was organized in St. Benildus Literacy Centre Khushpur. Both sides were trying their level best to acquire the maximum points to get the trophy. The audience was cheering and encouraging the members of their teams. The match seemed extremely tough; in fact, nobody could imagine even that who would be the champion team of the year 2019.

It's true that one has to lose the race; so, after so much of struggle and giving their level best the team of Br. Suneel Shakir won the trophy and the championship. They were awarded as the Champion of the year. After the match the team had great fun and celebrated their victory.



Biblical Dramas Presentation

The under-training catechists do a lot of activities during their training. Drama presentation is one of the activities which is presented in front of the whole Village people. Every year the catechists prepare different biblical dramas according to their liturgical groups (group as mentioned earlier). Usually three dramas are prepared and presented every year, but this year we presented only one drama on a bigger level. This time we chose the drama written by Fr. Pervaiz Emmanuel. The name and theme of the Drama was: ***Arrival of Christmas Papa.***

It's a custom of the CTC to present Biblical Dramas every year. Following the tradition, the students and the staff of CTC used the utmost calibers to prepare and present the drama based upon the well-known Character of Christmas; The arrival of Christmas Papa. The reason of presenting this drama was to introduce the good works of St. Nichols towards the poor people of that time. This drama left an enormous impact upon the people. The way the drama was presented every individual got the message of mercy, help and sharing specially on this very special and auspicious



occasion of welcoming Christ in among us. A big number from the village had gathered there to see this drama. There were children, youth and many elderly people as well. All the students participated to make this drama more presentable and successful. This is considered as the mega event for both the under training Catechists and for the people of the village where everyone participates and almost the whole village comes to witness the event.



Celebration of St. Albert's Day

St. Albert is the patron saint of the Catechists. The church recognizes St. Albert as the teacher of Catechism. CTC is the Centre of producing the Catechists for the whole church in Pakistan; that why this Centre accepts St. Albert as its Patron Saint. In fact the Centre is named after this Saint.

On 15th of November a big celebration is organized to commemorate the feast of St. Albert the great. On this day a special Mass is offered in the local parish where all the Catechists including their families and children participate.

After the mass celebration a special program is organized in which the services of St. Albert which he rendered in the Catholic Church are highlighted. His whole life story and works are revised through a drama presentation, singing and speeches. This celebration goes on for the whole day comprising various segments such as singing, drama presentation, speeches, snacks, lunch/dinner and sports meet.

To mark this big event all the students and the staff gets together for the meal. After the sports meet is organized for all the people associated with CTC, no matter they are ladies, children or the elderly people. Everyone takes part in the celebration. The big day comes to an end at the evening when there is already dark enough.



As it is mentioned that the Brothers and the staff members organize different activities in the Catechist Training Centre, among them is Speech competition on various topics. The students are given a task and sometimes topic to prepare speeches on either the same topic or sometimes different topic but related to the current situation. They are given almost two weeks to prepare their speeches. The final day of delivering the speech is every second and fourth Saturday of the month. First and third Saturdays of the month are booked for some other literary meetings such as singing competitions, drama presentations etc... They also get help from the staff if the given activity is bit difficult to understand or it's hard to get the material for that particular topic. The staff is always at their beck and call and vivacious to help them in all their needs.

Beginning of the Advent Season/Advent Friend

As the Advent season is the season of Hope, Love, Joy and Peace and welcoming the new born baby Jesus among us; having all these thoughts in minds the Catechists lit the first candle of Hope in the Catechists Training Centre. Rev. Br. Zafar Daud lit the first candle in the presence of all the staff members and the students. Br. Director also gave a very short but thought-provoking reflection in the beginning of the season. A day of recollection was also conducted in the Centre. It is just to prepare their minds and bodies to say YES to Jesus and Welcome the new born baby in their hearts. The Catechists and their wives took part in the recollection day.

After the brief introduction and recollection, the Catechists were briefed about the advent friend. All the students, staff, minor staff and the cooks were called to collect the piece of paper in which his/her advent friend's name was written. Everyone was briefed about the process and procedure of Advent friend. The students were encouraged not to reveal their advent friends and they were also encouraged to pray for their secret friend throughout the advent season. On the final day of the Christmas program of CTC; the names can be revealed to everyone.



Christmas Celebration

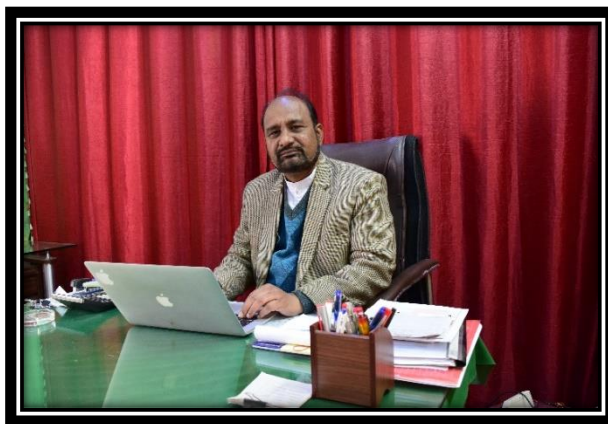
The month of December is one of the coldest months in Pakistan when the temperature goes too low and the freezing and chilly nights are experienced. In this excessive cold the celebrations of Christmas make everyone much excited and warm. It's very apparent that whenever the month of December turns up, the new life starts to bloom in the heart of every Christian. The decoration, buying gifts, shopping etc... are always in the air. Everybody seems busy preparing Himself Herself their hearts, their homes and their working places for the Christmas. Christmas is always a time of immense Joy and great celebrations, having the feeling of joys and celebration; a small Christmas program was organized in Catechists Training Centre on 19th of December. The students had prepared Christmas Drama, Songs, Dance, Carols in different languages etc... They also spent a good amount of time preparing the Stars, Cribs, and Christmas trees. They also shared the gifts among themselves whoever their advent friend was.

During the program, the Catechists, the staff and the cooks were also given Christmas gifts on behalf of the Director of Catechists Training Centre. The Christmas message from the Director was thought provoking and inspiring for everyone. He shared how can we welcome the new born king in our hearts. We should not keep this huge celebration to the limitation but also share with all those who are unable to enjoy the Reason for the season. *Jesus is the reason for the season.* He wished them good luck for the upcoming year. It was the evening of joys and full of fun and celebrations. Everyone enjoyed the meal after the program.



Vote of Thanks

As we have come towards the end of 2019, I believe it was a year of success and much achievements. We made enormous changes in the fields of teaching and recruited educated and proficient resource persons and staff members for the students of CTC. We are still trying our level best to recruit more staff so that we may produce a better future (Catechists) for/of the whole church in Pakistan.



Towards the end of a successful year, I, Br. Zafar Daud the Director of CTC would like to extend my sincere thanks and gratitude for your generous support and contribution to run this mission of catechizing the young and adults to help the Church. I firmly accept as true that, without your sympathetic and plentiful support it would be very difficult for us to achieve such a big task of catechizing and preparing the youth to catechize others. It is indeed a big contribution and love of yours which you render to helps us to push on this God's work of producing young men and women to serve in the vineyard of the Lord and to serve in the local church.

As we are celebrating the "*Year of Youth*"; Dear Benefactors and friends this year has been a great blessing for all of us as we have included some new activities in our syllabus so that our youth and students may learn many new things. It will also help them when they finish their training and go back to their respective places, parishes or allocated Elaqs.

Dear Benefactors, your kind support helps us to hire a visiting staff from outside as well. There are more than 5 teachers who give classes twice a week and (some on regular bases as well) to the students. All of the members are well experienced and learned persons; among them are priests and lay religious also. I must also acknowledge their contribution in uplifting the standard of CTC. The Catechists Training Centre is always working so hard to fulfill the demands and needs of time. Our prayers and industrious works are always there for the embodiment of all the required needs.

Now we humbly request you dear Benefactors to continue to help us in this special mission. We highly appreciate your generous support both financially and morally. We assure you that we all remember you in our personal and community prayers. May you all be blessed by the abundance grace of God. God Bless you.

Yours Truly

Br. Zafar Daud FSC

Director

Catechists Training Centre Khushpur, Pakistan