

February 19, 2014



EDUCATION - All Religion Prayer and get-Together is an annual event for the Daughters of St. Paul, Bandra, Mumbai. This year more than 500 educationists, youth, students, parents and eminent personalities were present for the occasion.

The event is organised regularly in collaboration with the Daughters of St. Paul, Bombay Urban Industrial League for Development (BUILD) Bandra, as well as Bandra Hindu Association.

This year's theme was "Youth for Change". This year the programme was held at Duruelo Convent High School, Bandra, commenced with the lighting of the lamp by representatives from various religions. This was followed by a beautiful prayer dance to invoke God's blessings by the students of Dr Bhanuben Nanavati Pharma School, Vile Parle. Sr. Silviya DSP welcomed the audience with a Bharathanatyam.

Sr. Dr. Pauline Chakkalakal explained that the goal of having this All-Religion Prayer and Get-Together was to celebrate unity in diversity. She said that it served as a platform to foster sisterhood and brotherhood between people from different religions, languages, cultures and all walks of life. To display this, during the short prayer service, verses from the Bhagavad Gita, the Holy Bible and the Holy Quran were read and reflected upon. The readers were belonging to the category of youth and represented the different religions.

Since this year's theme was "Youth for Change", a few of the guests were asked to share their wisdom with the youth. Without exception all stressed on the influence youth have on the society and how they can be the channels of change. The Chief Guest Dr. A.C. Vanjani in his message said, that the youth should be advocators of positivity, harmony, justice and peace. When we look around in today's world we find hatred, jealousy and all sorts of evils which makes us feel disturbed. God's purpose of making human beings was that they may worship him, love him and love one another. If we pick up any Holy Scriptures they speak of love not hatred. So we must love and respect all irrespective of religions. He too exhorted us to practice meditation daily and spend some time with God. His talk was inspiring as he quoted from different religions like: Christianity, Seikism, Hinduism and Islamism etc.

For her continuous hard work to promote unity and harmony among the various religions, Sr. Dr. Pauline Chakkalakal was honoured by Mrs Saba Patel. It was indeed a pleasant surprise as well as a marvelous way of appreciating Sr. Dr. Pauline's hard work.

The students from Anjuman-I-Islam GHS and Jr. College, Bandra Hindu Association, Smt. M.M.K. College of Commerce and Economics and Nirmala Niketan College of Social Works, put up skits and musical performances that showcased the theme of the programme.

The programme concluded with the National Pledge being recited and the singing of National Anthem.

This initiative is the brain-child of Sr. Dr. Pauline Chakkalakal, DSP which was started in 1992 soon after the riots, completed 21 years on the 23rd of January this year.

Sr. Vimala dsp

Source: Conference of Religious India Bulletin, February 12, 2014