

## Visit to Bistum Trier in Germany

Fr. George Jacob SAC the Executive Secretary for the Commission for Small Christian Communities and Mr. Johnson Emmanuel member of the National Service Team, India visited Trier diocese in Germany between 29<sup>th</sup> April to 17<sup>th</sup> May 2022. It was to animate and encourage the growth of the BECs/SCCs in the diocese of Trier. It was a wonderful experience. First one week we stayed in Gerolstein, a parish of Trier diocese and visited many centres of social services. We also had interactions and animation programmes with the parish Pastoral Team. It was interesting to see the parish pastoral team doing the Gospel sharing with great interest. The interested women of the parish also came forward to learn other methods of Gospel sharing. The parish pastoral team along with Fr. Pius Kraemer are doing lots of involvement with the socio cultural groups to have an inclusive form of activities. They do care for the needy, the refugees and people with disabilities. The care and concern they show to others and one another is really impressive and it is one of the qualities seen in the early Christian communities.



One main aspect to be noticed is that the people in this parish are not active as they are individualistic. They are on the point of losing faith in the church. There should be real harmony and collaboration between the laity and Clergy. Some priest are interested in uniting the people and others are not. The future of the church here depends on the promotion of BECs. It is evident that the Sunday Mass are not attended by many people in the parish.



The second part of our visit was in Heimbach-Weis-Gladbach parish. We had a wonderful experience of visiting and meeting many people who are interested in the Church activities and growth of BECs. But it looks like they are not much encouraged from the side of the Clergy and others. Some Lay faithful are very activate and want to build the Church but lack of support and encouragement they are not able to do proper work. We had also animation programmes on BECs with the parish Pastoral Team and taught them the different methods of Gospel sharing. They need constant support, training and encouragement, and motivation. People in the parish do not come voluntarily to church and they are to be motivated and I believe it is through only SCCs/BECs we can bring changes in this parish and diocese.



We want to thank and appreciate the Bistum Trier Pastoral Team which took the initiative and pain to organize this programme and invited us to share our experience of BECs in India. This continued collaboration will help us in future to work together and build the church in Germany and India.



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