

## ADIEU TO CHAIRMAN, REV. FR. SHAJI MATHEWS

“We cannot say goodbye to those whom we love and respect, for the memories they have made will last a lifetime and will never know a goodbye.”

On 26<sup>th</sup> of September 2020, The Thomasians of classes III-V organized a virtual assembly to bid farewell to beloved Chairman of the school, Rev. Fr. Shaji Mathews. Through sharing memories to presentations; Thank You cards to wishes, the students expressed their gratitude and heart aching feelings. And they even promised to uphold the values and virtues imparted by father forever.

And on 29<sup>th</sup> of September 2020, the St. Thomas family, Loni gathered to bid adieu to the most beloved Chairman, Rev. Fr. Shaji Mathews who had lit up the school with his vibrant presence and constant enthusiasm. The staff had gathered with heavy hearts, but with smiles on their faces; with the knowledge that the end of his voyage with St. Thomas School, Loni marked the beginning of a glorious new chapter in his life with more social and spiritual responsibilities ahead.

The event commenced with prayer, invoking the Lord Almighty to shower his blessings on all present and especially to the Chairman for his future endeavours. This was followed by the official welcome of the Chairman with a bouquet and a musical tribute expressing the depth of love and reverence to the benevolent man of God. Expressing the innermost feelings, Teaching and non-teaching staff gave voice to their thoughts by reliving memories of good times spent with Rev. Fr. Shaji Mathews. The choir presented self-composed musical rendition to bid adieu to father. In his subsequent address, Rev. Fr. Shaji Mathews shared his special bond with the school and his vision. He urged all to adhere to the motto of the school “For God and Country” and to be both human and humane in one’s deeds. The Principal and staff of the school also presented gifts as a token of love and gratitude to father.

Principal, Ma’am Shali Nair reminisced her learned journey with father during the foundation days of the school. She also lauded father for his energetic spirit and contribution for the spiritual growth of children. She appreciated and promised that his key role in the divine programmes like “Share If You Care and Feed the Hungry” will never be forgotten. Deeply nostalgic already, she couldn’t help expressing her pain over missing the blessed warmth of father as an ideal figure and facilitator for all.

The event culminated on a positive note of ‘hope’ to meet again and work together in the coming years.