

CEO SPEAK



Mark Clive
 General Secretary & CEO

After a hectic and fruitful Christmas activities, we entered the New Year with hope of a greater stability. And the latest order by the Delhi Government has raised hopes of some normalcy as far as our Education Department is concerned. The Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said that the Delhi Government was shortly allowing reopening of schools for students of classes 10 and 12. It gives us hope that all other educational institutions, including our own Education Department too will soon reopen.

Irrespective of the status of the educational institutions, our directors and staff have been working tirelessly for new admissions. And they have managed to enroll a fairly good number of students. In mid-January alone they enrolled 64 students for various courses. I am sure soon we will hit the required target and get going in full flow. In any case online classes are on in full swing. Our Directors and Faculty have been successfully organizing counselling sessions at various top schools in the city.

Our new building of YMCA Public School at Nizamuddin is also waiting for physical presence of the young students.

Even as Tourist Hostel is still waiting for international tourists as flights are still not operating on a regular basis, the Saatal Camp Site in Uttarakhand is running to almost full capacity with domestic visitors.

Watching young players sweating it out daily at our Volleyball Academy is so heartening. Some of the top players in Delhi train at our Academy and over the years the Academy has produced several noted players. Fitness Centre and tennis court are also buzzing with activity.

On 26th January we will be celebrating 70th Republic Day. On behalf of New Delhi YMCA, I greet you all for the same.

God bless us all

Mark

INSPIRING MESSAGE BY BISHOP MONDAL



An inspiring message by Rt Rev Bishop Subodh Mondal marked the Prayer Fellowship on January 9. Nothing could have been a better start to the year than the encouraging words from Bishop. Talking about the stress and pain that people suffered due to pandemic in the year gone by, Bishop Mondal asked people to have faith in God Almighty. "What is impossible for me is possible in God," he said. God has said, Bishop Mondal stressed, "Do not fear for I have there to redeem you," as you enter the New Year.

Talking about the disappointment and pain we face in our daily life, Bishop Mondal said "these are like immovable mountains and they will be there this year also. "But in the midst of all this we remember God and nothing is impossible if we trust Him, he said.

Before Bishop's Mondal's message Praise and Worship by Milton family was soothing. ■

RAY OF HOPE FOR NDY EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Delhi Government's latest order has sparked a ray of hope. Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia has allowed reopening of schools for students of classes 10 and 12. In all probability all other institutions will also be reopened soon. It will help New Delhi YMCA start physical classes in various courses. Like the students of classes 10 and 12, students in professional courses also need to appear for exams and obtain diplomas for entering in the job market.

Even as physical classes are not on, Directors and Faculty at New Delhi YMCA are running regular online classes. Even new admissions are in full swing. And they have managed to enroll a fairly good number of students. In mid-January alone they enrolled 64 students for various courses. NDY is



also conducting counselling sessions at various top schools in the city. The results of the new initiative are very encouraging. On the play field also NDY is getting back to normalcy. Every evening top volleyball players in the Capital come to NDY for their daily training sessions. Same is the case with other sport. ■

2020 brought massive disruption to the YMCA Movement and to millions of young people. But while some of our programmes and facilities may have closed for a period in 2020, the YMCA itself is never closed. Our collective thanks are due to the host of staff and volunteers, many of them young people, who stood and delivered. We responded with resilience, with recovery and with reimagination --with flexibility, pivoting and adapting where we had to. And with total solidarity: all over the world - at

WE ARE MORE THAN GYM AND SWIM: CARLOS SANVEE

the local, national, regional and global levels - YMCAs supported each other to keep jobs open, rents paid, and services running. And one of the results of 2020 was a reinforced realisation of who we are. We are more than a social welfare institution; we are more than 'gym and swim'. We are a social justice movement, at the heart of building resilience in young people and their communities,

and tackling injustice and inequality. We are needed as much as ever. And in the face of so many global challenges, I strongly believe that we are actually stronger for what happened to us in 2020, a year in which real YMCA steel was forged on the anvil of real suffering. We have the opportunity to become the 21st Century organisation which is the world's partner of choice in empow-

ering young people. Dear friends, 2021 will be another hugely important year. And the world can come through the Covid-19 economic crisis, if it puts young people at the centre of its planning. YMCA will continue to equip young people for the world of work. Young people have to be at the centre of the world's great post-Covid 'reset'. To YMCA and to all, I wish us all strength, all resilience, all purpose in 2021. ■

Carlos Sanvee,
 World YMCA Secretary General

VATICAN ISSUES GUIDELINES FOR ASH WEDNESDAY



The Vatican on January 12 gave guidance about how priests can distribute ashes on Ash Wednesday amid the coronavirus pandemic. The Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments published a note directing priests to say the formula for distributing the ashes once to everyone present, rather than to each person. The priest "addresses all those pres-

ent and only once says the formula as it appears in the Roman Missal, applying it to all in general: 'Repent, and believe in the Gospel,' or 'Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return,'" the note said. It continued: "The priest then cleanses his hands, puts on a face mask and distributes the ashes to those who come to him or, if appropriate, he goes to those who

are standing in their places. The priest takes the ashes and sprinkles them on the head of each one without saying anything." The note was signed by the congregation's prefect, Cardinal Robert Sarah, and its secretary, Archbishop Arthur Roche. Ash Wednesday falls on February 17 this year. In 2020, the divine worship congregation put out various instructions for

POPE OPENS DOORS TO WOMEN AT THE ALTER

Pope Francis has said that from now on the ministries of Lector and Acolyte are to be open to women, in a stable and institutionalized form through a specific mandate. There is nothing new about women proclaiming the Word of God during liturgical celebrations or carrying out a service at the altar as altar servers or as Eucharistic ministers. In many communities throughout the world these practices are already authorized by local bishops. However, up to this point, this has occurred without a true and proper institutional mandate, as an exception to what Pope St Paul VI had established when, in 1972, even while abolishing the so-called "minor orders", he decided to maintain that access to these ministries be granted only to men because they were considered to be preparatory to the eventual admission to holy orders. Now, in the wake of the discernment which has emerged from the last Synods of Bishops, Pope Francis wanted to formalize and institutionalize the presence of women at the altar. With the Motu proprio Spiritus Domini, which modifies the first paragraph of Canon 230 of the Code of Canon Law, Pope Francis, therefore, establishes that women can have access to these ministries and that they be recognized through a liturgical act formally instituting them as such. ■

priests on administering the sacraments and offering Mass during the coronavirus pandemic, including for the celebration of Easter, which occurred when many countries were in lockdown and public liturgies were not permitted. ■

'Be the change you want to see', said World YMCA President PATRICIA PELTON QUOTES MAHATMA GANDHI

"Whether we know you as 'the Covid cohort' or 'the YMCA175 cohort', just go out there and better yourselves, your communities, your world", she said. Investing in the young leaders of the movement, the YMCA Change Agent programme is a global leadership

PRESIDENT PATRICIA PELTON QUOTES MAHATMA GANDHI

development curriculum created to empower young volunteers and staff from YMCAs across the world, to be change makers in their own communities. Consisting of online and face-to-face training, local mentoring, and local project development, Change Agents gain skills designed to help transform their YMCA and community, as well as building connections to an international network of other young leaders. Since 2014, three cohorts, totalling 750 Change Agents, have

graduated and now lead change in 67 countries around the world. ■

IN MEMORIAM

We condole the passing away of some members of our extended New Delhi YMCA family. RIP the departed soul. May God grant peace to the grieving families and relatives. ■

B R MURAR: New Delhi YMCA mourns the passing away of senior member B R Murar. Please pray for the departed soul. RIP