

NATIONAL AWARD FOR INDIVIDUAL EXCELLENCE 2024

DEPARTMENT OF EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (DIVYANGJAN).

NAME : FR.SOLY K.P

FATHER'S NAME : POULOSE K.K

ADDRESS : FR. SOLY K.P (SOLOMON)
KADAMPATTUPARAMBIL HOUSE,
SAGAR BHAVAN, MISSION QUARTERS ROAD
THRISSUR, 680001.

TYPE & PERCENTAGE OF DISABILITY : VISUALLY IMPAIRED 100%

1. Brief Write-up on the Work Done by the Nominee

Fr. Soly K P CMI, despite being completely blind since 2013, has dedicated his life to the empowerment of differently-abled individuals. As the founder and President of Dharsana Service Society (DSS), he has pioneered numerous initiatives to enhance their quality of life, focusing on capacity building and social integration. Fr. Soly's academic background is impressive, with degrees in arts, philosophy, theology, sociology, and formative psychology from prestigious institutions.

Under his leadership, Dharsana Club, established in 2017, has grown into a vibrant community with around 800 members. The club offers training in sports, games, and cultural activities, providing a platform for differently-abled individuals to showcase their talents. The Dharsana Swimming Team, comprising 23 visually challenged individuals, has achieved significant success in national and international competitions. Notably, Sini K Sebastian won multiple medals at the 8th World Dwarf Games in Germany.

Fr. Soly has also established teams for blind football, wheelchair basketball, and cricket, all of which have competed at high levels and won numerous accolades. The Dharsana Chess Tournament is now a prestigious event, producing national and international champions. Additionally, he founded the Sports Association for the Differently Abled of Thrissur (SADAT) to promote Paralympic sports.

Fr. Soly's commitment extends beyond sports. He has initiated programs like the Para Athletic Meet, annual wheelchair distributions, and the "Blood for Life" campaign. His efforts have led to the construction of 12 houses for differently-abled families, with more underway. The Dharsana YouTube Channel, with thousands of subscribers, showcases the talents and stories of people with special needs.

His work in counselling and spiritual animation in prisons, as well as his roles at the Navjeeavan Project and Amala Institute of Medical Science, further highlight his dedication to holistic support. Regular programs like "Snehasangamam," solidarity groups, skill training, financial support for education and medical treatment, and various competitions and celebrations are testament to his tireless efforts to uplift the differently-abled community.

2. Area/Field/Sector/Domain of Work Done

Fr. Soly K P CMI has made significant contributions in the domains of disability empowerment, sports, education, healthcare, social work, and digital advocacy.

1. **Disability Empowerment:** Fr. Soly has devoted his life to the empowerment of differently-abled individuals. Through Dharsana Service Society (DSS), he has implemented programs that enhance their skills, provide vocational training, and create opportunities for social integration.
2. **Sports and Physical Education:** Fr. Soly's initiatives in sports have provided differently-abled individuals with platforms to showcase their talents. The Dharsana Swimming Team, blind football team, wheelchair basketball team, and cricket team have all achieved remarkable success under his guidance. His efforts have also led to the formation of the Sports Association for the Differently Abled of Thrissur (SADAT) and the organization of prestigious chess tournaments.
3. **Education and Skill Development:** Fr. Soly emphasizes the importance of education and skill development for differently-abled individuals. DSS offers regular training sessions, financial support for education, and vocational training programs to enhance employability.
4. **Healthcare and Rehabilitation:** His work in healthcare includes counseling and spiritual animation in prisons, and roles at the Navjeeavan Project and Amala Institute of Medical Science. Additionally, DSS provides annual wheelchair distributions and medical support for the children of differently-abled persons.
5. **Digital Advocacy and Social Awareness:** The Dharsana YouTube Channel and programs like "Margadharsikal" and "Kanavu" showcase the talents and stories of people with special needs, fostering awareness and acceptance.

6. **Social Welfare and Community Building:** Fr. Soly's initiatives extend to building houses for differently-abled families, organizing blood donation camps, and creating solidarity groups for widows, persons in wheelchairs, childless couples, and dwarf individuals. Regular programs and celebrations foster a sense of community and support.

3. Impact/Outcome/Contribution of the Work Done

Fr. Soly K P CMI's work has had a profound impact on the lives of differently-abled individuals and the broader community. His initiatives through Dharsana Service Society (DSS) have transformed the landscape of disability empowerment in Kerala and beyond.

1. **Empowerment and Inclusion:** Fr. Soly's programs have empowered differently-abled individuals by enhancing their skills, providing vocational training, and creating opportunities for social integration. This has resulted in increased self-confidence and independence among participants.
2. **Success in Sports:** The achievements of the Dharsana Swimming Team, blind football team, wheelchair basketball team, and cricket team in national and international competitions have brought pride to the differently-abled community and showcased their potential to the world.
3. **Educational and Vocational Advancement:** Through financial support and skill development programs, many differently-abled individuals have gained access to education and employment opportunities, improving their socio-economic status.
4. **Improved Quality of Life:** The construction of houses, distribution of wheelchairs, and medical support provided by DSS have significantly improved the living conditions of differently-abled individuals and their families.
5. **Increased Awareness and Acceptance:** The Dharsana YouTube Channel and digital programs have raised awareness about the challenges and achievements of differently-abled individuals, fostering a more inclusive and accepting society.
6. **Holistic Support and Well-being:** Fr. Soly's work in healthcare, counselling, and spiritual animation has provided holistic support to individuals, addressing their physical, mental, and spiritual needs.

4. Abstract

Fr. Soly K P CMI, a blind priest and visionary leader, has dedicated his life to empowering differently-abled individuals. Through Dharsana Service Society, he has pioneered transformative programs in sports, education, healthcare, and social welfare, impacting thousands and fostering a more inclusive society.

5. Any Other Relevant Information

Fr. Soly K P CMI's unwavering dedication to social causes extends beyond his work with differently-abled individuals. His active participation in social media campaigns for various social causes, regular spiritual retreats, and counselling sessions have brought solace and support to many. His leadership in organizing events and celebrations for the differently-abled community has created a sense of belonging and unity. Fr. Soly's efforts have not only transformed lives but have also inspired countless others to contribute to the cause of disability empowerment, making him a true beacon of hope and compassion.