### **5.** Best State Role Model Person with Disability

1	Name, Address, Phone Number, E-mail ID	SOLY K P SAGAR BHAVAN, MISSION QUARTERS ROAD, THRISSUR – 680001 KERALA. 9946883126 dharsanaclub@gmail.com
2	Nature and Degree of Disability (Attach Disability Certificate)	Completely Blind Person
3	Indicate percentage of disability and since when	100 % Since 2013
4	Age & Date of birth	51 21/03/1973
5	Educational qualifications	Bachelor of Arts St: Aloysius College, Jabalpur, Rani Durgavati University, Jabalpur, India (2000-2003) Bachelor of Philisophy Darsana Philosofhate, Wardha, Maharashtra, India (1998-2000) Bachelor of Theology Samanvaya, Bhopal, Dharmaram Vidya Kshetram, Bangalore, India (2002-2006) Masters in Sociology Dr.Harisingh Gour University, Sagar, M.P, India (2008-2010) Masters in Formative Psychology Christ Deemed to be University, Bengaluru, India (2010-2012)

6 Brief details/particulars of the achievements made which may be considered original and exemplar for persons with disabilities

# Comprehensive Write-up on the Work Done by the Nominee: Fr. Soly K P CMI

Fr. Soly K P CMI, a man of extraordinary faith resilience, has transcended and limitations imposed by his blindness since 2013 to become a beacon of hope and inspiration for countless individuals. His life and work are a testament to the indomitable human spirit, driven by a profound commitment to the upliftment of the differently-abled community. As the founder and President of Dharsana Service Society (DSS), Fr. Soly has tirelessly worked to dismantle barriers, foster inclusivity, and create opportunities for those who society often overlooks.

Fr. Soly's journey is nothing short of miraculous. Born with sight, he progressively lost his vision, yet he never lost sight of his mission. His academic achievements are remarkable. holding degrees in arts. philosophy, theology, sociology, and formative psychology from some of the most prestigious institutions. These qualifications, however, are but a small reflection of his vast intellectual and spiritual capacities, which he has channeled into serving others. Under his visionary leadership, Dharsana Service Society has flourished into a dynamic organization dedicated to the holistic development of differently-abled individuals. One of his most notable accomplishments is the establishment of the Dharsana Club in 2017, which has since grown into a thriving community with nearly 800 members. The club is not merely an organization; it is a lifeline for its members, offering a variety of training programs in sports, games, and cultural activities. Through these initiatives, Fr. Soly has provided a platform for the differently-abled to not only participate but to excel, proving to the world that disability is not a barrier to achievement.

The success of the Dharsana Swimming Team is a shining example of Fr. Soly's impact. Comprising 33 visually challenged individuals. this team has achieved significant recognition on national and international stages. Their victories are not just personal triumphs but are symbolic of the broader possibilities for the differentlyabled when given the right support and encouragement. The story of Sini K Sebastian, who won multiple medals at the 8th World Dwarf Games in Germany, epitomizes the success stories that have emerged under Fr. Soly's mentorship.

But Fr. Soly's contributions extend far beyond the swimming pool. He has also founded and nurtured teams for blind football, wheelchair basketball, and cricket. These teams have not only competed at the highest levels but have also brought home numerous accolades, further demonstrating the untapped potential of differently-abled individuals. The Dharsana Tournament, another brainchild of Fr. Solv, has quickly become a prestigious event, producing champions who have gone on to compete on the international stage. His founding of the Sports Association for the Differently Abled of Thrissur (SADAT) is yet another testament to his commitment to ensuring that sports become a vehicle for empowerment and recognition for the differently-abled.

Fr. Soly's vision is not confined to sports alone. His holistic approach to includes empowerment initiatives education, healthcare, social welfare, and digital advocacy. Through DSS, he has spearheaded programs like the Para Athletic Meet and the annual wheelchair distributions, which have provided essential resources and opportunities for differentlyabled individuals. His "Blood for Life" campaign is another noble effort, encouraging blood donation drives that have saved countless lives.

Perhaps one of Fr. Soly's most impactful initiatives is the construction of homes for differently-abled families. To date, 14 houses have been built, with more in the pipeline, offering safe and secure living conditions to those who need it most. This initiative not only improves the material conditions of these families but also instills in them a renewed sense of dignity and hope.

The digital age has not left Fr. Soly behind. Recognizing the power of media to shape perceptions and foster understanding, he launched the Dharsana YouTube Channel, which has garnered thousands of subscribers. This channel serves as platform to showcase the talents and stories of differently-abled individuals, thereby raising awareness and fostering a more inclusive **Programs** like society. "Margadharsikal" and "Kanavu" further amplify the voices of the differently-abled, ensuring that their stories reach a wider audience.

Fr. Soly's commitment to the differently-abled community is matched by his dedication to spiritual and emotional well-being. His work in counselling and spiritual animation, particularly in prisons and through institutions like the Navjeeavan Project and Amala Institute of Medical Science, highlights his holistic approach to service. He understands that true empowerment comes not just from physical or material support but from nurturing the soul and spirit.

Regular programs like "Snehasangamam," solidarity groups, skill training sessions, and

financial support for education and medical treatment are all part of Fr. Soly's multifaceted approach to upliftment. His efforts have created a supportive and nurturing environment where differently-abled individuals can thrive, both personally and professionally. The various competitions and celebrations organized by DSS not only provide entertainment but also foster a sense of community and belonging among participants.

#### **Area/Field/Sector/Domain of Work Done**

Fr. Soly K P CMI's contributions span multiple domains, each reinforcing the other in a holistic approach to empowerment and upliftment:

- 1. Disability Empowerment: Fr. Soly's life's work revolves around the empowerment of differently-abled individuals. Through DSS, he has implemented comprehensive programs that enhance skills, provide vocational training, and create opportunities for social integration. His efforts have transformed the lives of many, giving them the tools to lead independent and fulfilling lives.
- 2. Sports and Physical Education: Fr. Soly's groundbreaking work in sports platforms has provided for differently-abled individuals to showcase their talents. His establishment of various sports teams and organizations, including the Swimming Dharsana Team SADAT, has not only led to numerous victories but also fostered a sense of pride and accomplishment among participants.
- 3. Education and Skill Development:
  Recognizing the critical role of
  education, Fr. Soly has emphasized
  skill development as a pathway to

- empowerment. DSS offers regular training sessions, financial support for education, and vocational training programs, all aimed at enhancing the employability and self-reliance of differently-abled individuals.
- 4. Healthcare and Rehabilitation: Fr. Soly's work in healthcare is extensive, encompassing counseling, spiritual animation, and practical support through DSS's annual wheelchair distributions and medical aid programs. His initiatives in this area address both the physical and emotional needs of the differently-abled, ensuring their well-being on all fronts.
- 5. Digital Advocacy and Social Awareness: Through digital platforms like the Dharsana YouTube Channel, Fr. Soly has successfully raised awareness about the challenges and achievements of differently-abled individuals. His digital advocacy has played a crucial role in fostering a more inclusive society, where the differently-abled are recognized and celebrated.
- 6. Social Welfare and Community Building: Fr. Soly's efforts in social welfare extend beyond immediate material support. By building houses for differently-abled families, organizing blood donation camps, and creating solidarity groups, he has fostered a sense of community and support that is vital for the well-being of the differently-abled.

## Impact/Outcome/Contribution of the Work Done

The impact of Fr. Soly K P CMI's work is profound and far-reaching, touching countless lives and transforming the

landscape of disability empowerment:

- 1. Empowerment and Inclusion:
  Through his tireless efforts, Fr. Soly has empowered differently-abled individuals by enhancing their skills, providing vocational training, and creating opportunities for social integration. The confidence and independence gained by participants in DSS's programs are a testament to the success of his initiatives.
- 2. Success in Sports: The achievements of DSS's sports teams under Fr. Soly's leadership have brought immense pride to the differently-abled community. These successes not only highlight the potential of differently-abled athletes but also challenge societal perceptions of disability.
- 3. Educational and Vocational Advancement: Fr. Soly's emphasis on education and skill development has opened doors for differently-abled individuals, improving their socioeconomic status and enabling them to lead independent lives. The financial and educational support provided by DSS has been a lifeline for many.
- 4. Improved Quality of Life: The construction of houses, distribution of wheelchairs, and provision of medical support have significantly improved the living conditions of differently-abled individuals and their families. These initiatives have provided not only material support but also a renewed sense of dignity and hope.
- 5. Increased Awareness and Acceptance: Fr. Soly's digital advocacy efforts have played a crucial role in raising awareness about the challenges and achievements of

- differently-abled individuals. The Dharsana YouTube Channel, in particular, has helped foster a more inclusive and accepting society.
- 6. Holistic Support and Well-being: Fr. Soly's work in healthcare, counseling, and spiritual animation has provided comprehensive support to the differently-abled community. His holistic approach addresses not just the physical but also the emotional and spiritual needs of individuals, ensuring their overall well-being.

DSS is giving training in various Sports & Games and cultural activities.

"DHARSANA CLUB" – Fr. Soly K P is the founder Director of Dharsana Club, initially started in the year 2017 for the upliftment of blind. But later on, Dharsana opened its doors for all type of people with special need and now the family has around 800 members.

He is the mentor and guiding the differently abled people to achieve greater heights in the field of sports & games and cultural activities.

Sini K Sebastian from Dharsana Swimming Team recently participated in the 8<sup>th</sup> World Dwarf Games held in Cologne city of Germany where she bagged 2 Gold medals in swimming and Gold medal in Discuss throw and Javelin throw and also won Silver medal in Shotput.

"DHARSANA SWIMMING TEAM" – Thirty three visually challenged persons are given swimming training under strict security and safety by professional coaches in swimming pools. This is the first of its kind swimming training venture in the state. Initially the training was limited to blinds, but later on training is giving to all differently abled persons and now Dharsana's swimmers are participating in State, National and

International competitions. Last year 12 members of Dharsana Swimming Team participated in National Para Swimming Competition held in Gwalior MP and four of them won medals 7 medals for Kerala.

He is the founder and the Director of Dharsana Club, a social work wing for differently abled.

Worked with Navjeeavan Project as Counsellor for alcoholic and drug addicts.

Worked in Amala Institute of Medical Science as Spiritual Animator and Psychologist.

"DHARSANA BLIND FOOTBALL TEAM" – DSS under leadership of Fr. Soly k.p Is also giving football training to blinds. Many players from Dharsana Blind Football team already representing the Kerala team and they were the runners up in 2022 National Blind Football Championship and finished as 2<sup>nd</sup> runners up in 2023 National Blind Football Championship.

"WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL TEAM" - He renders his services to orthopedically challenged basketball players by giving professional coaching and formed Dharsana Wheelchair Basketball Team. Special sports wheelchair is provided to each player for this sporting event.

"CRICKET TEAM" — Visually challenged cricket players are given coaching under leadership of Fr. Soly k.p by eminent coaches every year. DSS now have 3 different teams for the differently abled people. Three days state level cricket tournament for blind is been organised every year.

**"CHESS TOURNAMENT"** – Fr. Soly k.p organises Chess tournament for differently abled every year which is now the prestigious Chess Tournament in the state from where national level and international level players are being selected.

**"SADAT"** – Fr. Soly K P also formed SPORTS ASSOCIATION FOR THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED OF THRISSUR (SADAT) in April 2022, a society to encourage and develop the Paralympic sports in Thrissur District to assist and affiliate clubs and organisations similarly interested.

"PARA ATHLETIC MEET" – Every year Para Athletic Meet has been organized for the differently abled people with the support of Christ College, Irinjalakuda and athletes from all parts of Kerala are participating the event. Winners of these competitions are then selected to represent Kerala State in National Para Athletics Meet.

**"WHEEL CHAIRS" DISTRIBUTION** – DSS under his leadership provides wheel chairs for financially backward persons with disabilities every year.

**"BLOOD FOR LIFE"** – A unique program where differently abled persons with special need donate blood during blood donation camps.

"HOUSING AID" – Already built 14 houses for the deserving families and giving financial support to build another house for a well-deserved differently abled person this year.

**"DHARSANA YOUTUBE CHANEL"** – A YouTube Channel with thousands of subscribers where special abilities of people with special needs are visualised and demonstrated.

"MARGADHARSIKAL" – An online visual treat through Dharsana YouTube Channel where people with visual challenges and physical challenges are interviewed by Dharsana Club Members (Visually/physically challenged). Here the struggles and challenges faced by people with disabilities are opened up in public.

**"KANAVU"** – An online platform for people with disabilities to perform their talents

which is been recorded and shown to public through Dharsana YouTube Channel weekly.

"SNEHAMUKULANGAL (Love Buds)" — Short video streaming through Dharsana YouTube Channel weekly, introducing families of persons with intellectual disabilities like Autism, Mental Retardation, Cerebral Palsy, and Multiple disabilities to the public.

Counselling and Spiritual animation in prisons (Viyyur Central Jail, Sub Jail and District Jail)

Active participation and support in social media for social causes.

He conducts spiritual retreats for people bringing them much needed solace in their hectic life.

"SNEHASANGAMAM" - DSS organises a weekly online get-together of people with special needs. Awareness classes on health and legal rights as well as motivational talks are held as part of the program.

#### "DHARSANA DWARF FOOTBALL"-

Dss is also giving football training to dwarfs. Dwarf football was formed in january 2024.At present 9 people are being trained.

#### "DHARSANA DWARF BADMINTON" -

Dwarf badminton was formed in april 2024. At present 9 people are being trained.

#### " DHARSANA SHINKARI MELAM "-

A team of visually impaired shinkarimelam performers has been formed and they are being given proper training. This enables them to earn a livelihood and they are better recognized in the society.

#### "DHARSANA ORCHESTRA TROUPE"-

Besides developing the musical talents of visually impaired persons with limited physical mobility, being part of an orchestra team provides an opportunity for them to earn at least a part of their livelihood.

#### "ARM WRESTLING"

2023 onwards ,Training and competitions are conducted for the differently abled in

Arm wrestling.

#### "DHARSANA TABLE TENNIS GROUP"-

Table tennis facilities have been constructed to suit the differently abled and competitions are being held

### "OTHER PROGRAMMES OF DSS" UNDER LEADERSHIP OF FR. SOLY K.P-

- **1)** Financial support for self -employment and income generation activities.
- **2)** Financial support for education and medical treatment of the children of differently abled persons.
- **3)** Skill/vocational training for differently abled persons.
- **4)** seminars, workshops and orientation sessions for the members of dharsana club for knowledge enhancement.
- **5)** fellowship gatherings,both offline and online, of persons with disabilities.
- **6)** Organizing tug-of-war competition for hearing impaired persons.
- 7) Training for competitive examinations.
- **8)** organizing celebrations: Onam, Christmas with carol singing, white cane day, differently abled person' day etc...
- 9) solidarity group of widows.
- **10)** Solidarity group of persons in wheelchair
- **11)** Solidarity group of childless couples.

**12)** Distributed caliper for required 40 persons. **13)**Organized through youtube various competitions such as; Motivational talk Poem recitation **Book review** Craft competition etc.. Solidarity group of dwarf persons **Abstract** Fr. Soly K P CMI, a blind priest and visionary leader, has dedicated his life to the differently-abled empowerment of Through individuals. Dharsana Service Society, he has pioneered transformative programs in sports, education, healthcare, and social welfare, impacting thousands and fostering a more inclusive society. His work radiates love, compassion, and inclusivity, profoundly touching countless lives and inspiring a brighter, more inclusive future for all. **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 organizing events and in celebrations for the differently-abled community has created a sense of belonging and unity. 7 Whetherany

NIL

state/National/International

award received and if so, the

	details thereof	
8		

(proforma to be furnished along with detailed documentation on the achievements and contributions)

\*Remarks

(Please give remarks regarding the eligibility)

Signature of the LSGI Head