



### Meeting Him at the Shore- A beach-side fellowship camp

Vasai, September 5, 2016

On day 3, the closing day, the group of 30 packed their bags and were ready to get back to their respective busy city lives. None, though, one could tell, returned home from the shore the same. Each with experiences, a renewed faith journey of having Met Him.

This was a young group, they came from different parts of Mumbai. To lead the group were 3 spiritual mentors - Fr. Cyril – the Jesuit Br. Hemant – the staunch preacher and Vim - the theologian

None were sure what this camp would look and feel like. The day began at the beach. To recite the Lord's Prayer in the early mornings, holding hands, facing the calm tides and blue clouds and letting the feet feel the sand – led to a surreal start. Sessions explored a variety of topics, from understanding the Synoptic Gospels to discovering the meaning of traditions, religion and life, relationship with God, to writing our own personal Psalms.

The sessions were open and interactive leading to some eye-opening facts. The sharing of experiences was beautiful, there was a feeling of connectedness and a knowing that all of this

wasn't commonplace and had an overarching deeper meaning.

Each day had its share of bright spots – the highlight were testimonies by the leaders and the rich experience in *the Upper Room*, a setting intricately and meaningfully created by the 30 campers, like the disciples at their last supper they broke bread together, experiencing the Holy Mass in its true grandeur.

The 3-day outing with Br. Hemant, Fr. Cyril and Wim at the beach was an expedition, an act of switching on a torch that pointed not at the world but inward, towards one's faith journey. With each passing day, this little light gradually shone bright. Lighting up the dark lanes, answering questions that go unanswered, challenging the 'faith' status quo, seeking the truth, understanding traditions, exploring the radiance of the Holy Bible and ultimately conquering the quest and meeting Him.

Every camper was left with an experience, each had a unique testimonial, a beautiful story to tell, and the one common thread that bind the campers together, was the Direction of the lighthouse they were led to - the One Direction – That one path - The one Place they all had learnt and knew in the last 3 days.