



# UNIVERSAL SOLIDARITY MOVEMENT

"My humanity is bound up in yours, for we can only be human together."

- Desmond Tutu

It is with immense pride and honour, that I, Dhruv Mishra, President of the Universal Solidarity Movement (USM) Association, present this report for our Annual College Magazine. The profound words of Desmond Tutu beautifully encapsulate the core values of USM: a deep belief in our interconnectedness and the collective strength we draw from unity. Since its founding on July 16, 1993, by the late Rev Father Varghese Alengaden, USM has been committed to nurturing the spirit of togetherness, service, and education at St. Joseph's College. USM has always aimed to foster a culture of inclusion, respect, and service, which aligns with the values that our college holds dear.

This year, we organised a series of meaningful events centred on the theme of Universal Solidarity, promoting creativity, awareness, and collaboration

among our students.

## Special Morning Assembly – August 29, 2024

On August 29, 2024, we conducted a Special Morning Assembly dedicated to discussing the meaning and significance of Universal Solidarity. This assembly provided an opportunity to reflect on the importance of unity, understanding, and collective responsibility in our daily lives. During the assembly, we also prayed the special prayer of Universal Solidarity and shared insights on the five paths of USM. The session fostered a deeper connection with the values we aim to embody and reinforced the importance of solidarity in both personal and collective growth.

## Creative Writing Competition – August 13, 2024

The first event organised by the USM this year was the Creative Writing Competition held on August 13, 2024. This competition allowed students to express their personal interpretations of Universal Solidarity. The theme was announced on the spot, and the participants demonstrated exceptional writing skills,







providing thought-provoking insights on unity and togetherness. The passion and creativity with which our peers expressed themselves on the theme, were truly inspiring.

### **Extempore Competition – August 17, 2024**

On August 17, 2024, we hosted the Extempore Competition, where participants were given only 30 seconds to prepare impromptu speeches on topics revealed just moments before. The ability of participants to deliver articulate and insightful speeches under such pressure was impressive. Special thanks to Mrs. Divya Raj and Mr. A. Simon for their expert judgment and encouragement throughout the event.

### **Trash to Treasure – September 7, 2024**

On September 7, 2024, we organised the Trash to Treasure competition, aimed at promoting sustainability through the 3Rs – Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. Students showcased remarkable innovation, transforming discarded materials into functional and meaningful creations. This event highlighted how small, conscious actions can contribute significantly to preserving our environment and emphasised the importance of sustainability.

These events were made possible through the outstanding leadership and dedication of our Chairpersons, Mrs. Ancy Thomas and Mrs. Manjula D'Cruz. Their visionary leadership and unwavering support were instrumental in the success of each initiative. I am truly privileged to have worked under their mentorship, which not only inspired me but also strengthened the foundation of our entire association.

A heartfelt thank you to our Principal, Rev. Father Walter D'Silva, whose continuous support has been essential to the success of all USM events. I would also like to express my gratitude to my teachers — Mrs. Shruti Rajauriya, Ms. A.J. D'Cruz, Dr. Raghvendra Dwivedi, and all the teachers, from the Junior Block to being the senior-most students of our beloved alma mater, whose invaluable guidance over the years has shaped my journey. Their dedication has been a

cornerstone of my growth, both academically and personally.

The USM Association provided me with a platform not only for a positive transformation in my personality but also for creating memories that I will cherish forever. This opportunity has allowed me to grow as an individual, learn valuable leadership skills, and make lasting connections with peers and mentors alike.

I am equally grateful to the members of USM for their hard work and dedication. Special thanks to Peter Bhaiyya, whose role in managing arrangements for each event was crucial. I would also like to recognize Shresth Kesarwani (General Secretary), Sarthak Shukla (Treasurer), Kanishq Singh (Vice President), and Aditya Srivastav (Organizing Secretary) for their tireless contributions and unwavering commitment.

As a team, we have truly embodied the spirit of Universal Solidarity, proving that together, we can achieve great things. Each event not only showcased the talents of our peers but also reinforced the importance of creativity, environmental consciousness, and public speaking in shaping a more unified community.

Serving as President of USM this year has been an enriching and fulfilling experience, and I am incredibly proud of everything we have accomplished as a collective.

In closing, I am reminded of the power of unity and the profound impact of working together for a common cause. As Desmond Tutu so wisely stated, “My humanity is bound up in yours, for we can only be human together.” Let us continue to live by these words, striving to make a positive difference in our school and in the world beyond. Together, we can make the world a better place through the power of solidarity. As we look toward the future, let us continue to nurture the values of Universal Solidarity, ensuring that we grow together, learn from one another, and contribute positively to the world around us.

**Dhruv Mishra**

**President, Universal Solidarity Movement (USM)**