

# 3<sup>RD</sup> SEMINAR ON CAREERS IN PUBLIC SERVICE

The 3<sup>rd</sup> BCS seminar on Career opportunities in civil services was conducted by the Bombay catholic Sabha (BCS) at St Anthony's School hall, Vakola on Sunday, November 19. The seminar was the 3<sup>rd</sup> of its kind, and was attended by over 325 youngsters along with some parents; the BCS had earlier conducted this seminar in Borivli and Mulund. The seminar began at 10.30 am with a short prayer by Adrian Rosario, BCS Executive Committee member. Lawrence Fernandes, the BCS vice president and convenor of the Civil services project, welcomed the participants. He emphasized that the need of the hour is that Christian community makes its presence felt in the political and government arena. He said that the sabha would guide and support the interested students with the necessary inputs to have many of them in the corridors of power in a few years from now. The Chief Guest, Mr S Jaykumar, Additional Commissioner of police, Central Region, Mumbai congratulated the students for their keen interest in taking up a career in Civil services. He shared his experiences and guided the youth on how to prepare for the Civil Services Entrance Exam. He said that to be successful, it is important to have disciplined hard work. He emphasized that it was necessary to take the values of Christ into the secular areas of administration and governance. Mr Merwin Alexander, Joint Secretary, Dept of Atomic Energy, shared his experience in various government departments that he has worked in, and impressed upon the students that choosing a career in the public services is a wise choice, because it is the only career in which job security is assured, the take-home pay is attractive, the respect one gets is self-fulfilling, and the post-retirement benefits are also substantial, Mr Brendon Brako, retired Asst Commissioner of police, shared his expression in serving the police. Having got to know the "Why" for these careers, it was the turn of Mr Ryan Pinto to tell the students about the "how" of these careers. He gave a thorough run-through of the exams conducted and the syllabus. He encouraged daily reading of the newspapers and the need to improve general knowledge, besides brushing up on the subjects they had already learnt in school and college. An interesting interactive session followed, in which students asked many questions and clarified their doubts.

A follow-up session is being planned shortly for those who are interested in pursuing these careers. The vote of thanks was proposed by Dr Hermie Drago, the central Surburbs Deanery councilor, and the entire programme was ably compered by mr Anthony dias, the jt secretary of BCS.