

## VACATION BIBLE JOY at SHC, Andheri (East), Mumbai

Every Diwali vacation, the Bible Cell of Sacred Heart Church, Andheri (East), Mumbai organises VACATION BIBLE JOY. It was fantabulous week from 21<sup>st</sup> Nov – 28<sup>th</sup> Nov 2012 for children from Standard 3<sup>rd</sup> up to Standard 9<sup>th</sup>. It is a great joy for these children to attend the Vacation Bible Joy programme.



Each year the programme has a different theme. This year's theme was the **'Eucharist'**. Each day the children were taught different aspects of the Eucharist, which included **1.** Why Eucharist and prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, **2.** Eucharist – a thanksgiving celebration, **3.** The presence of Christ in the Eucharist and intimacy with the Lord, **4.** Passover meal as a memorial, **5.** Eucharist a challenge to radical self-giving and obedience – fruit of genuine listening, **6.** Eucharist – communion with God and others and a mission, **7.** True and false devotion and preparing for participation in the Eucharist.



Each day began with a time of praising, thanking and worshipping the Lord with action songs. Sessions were held separately for the junior and senior grade children. Activity based Sessions were conducted by our Bible cell members along with some Sunday School Catechist. But all this wouldn't have been possible without all those who gladly volunteered to help. Prizes were given to children for correct answers which increased their enthusiasm. Children were given a short break for refreshments each day. Our kids showed their unique talents in activities like making a 3D Eucharistic celebration altar on card paper, making visiting cards with scripture verses on it, tambourines with paper plates, etc. The best activities were awarded. On the concluding day the Eucharist was celebrated for the children by our own Spiritual Director, Fr. John Singarayar SVD, wherein he explained different parts of the Eucharist which the children could practically relate with the sessions taken before. Also, a dance by some of the children on 'Jesus You are my Superhero' and a game of Bible Housie amused the children on the final day. Nothing gave more joy than the distribution of certificates by our Parish Priest Fr. Baptist Pais along with Fr. Innocent Fernandes, and Fr. John Singarayar. Each child received a gift of various scripture stickers which they could stick practically anywhere. Children enjoyed each day of the programme. The Vacation Bible Joy was a wonderful time of celebrating Jesus with enjoyment and bliss.

**-Fr. John Singarayar SVD**