

## Biblical Gymkhana Mobilizes Students from the Notre Dame Schools Canoas, Brazil



The Notre Dame Schools Pastoral Ministry held the 3rd annual online Biblical Gymkhana (team competition) in September 2025, promoting collaboration and making biblical study fun and engaging for 5<sup>th</sup>-grade students.

Throughout September, 11 teams, involving a total of 328 students, enthusiastically prepared for this engaging competition. Each team designed its visual identity, chose a color, a Bible verse, and a team cheer. The students also promoted the event in their schools and collected food items to donate to local institutions, helping people in need.

During the actual Gymkhana on September 22, students connected online with competitors to recite poems inspired by the Congregation's jubilee, read Bible verses to complete activities, and participated in other creative challenges. More than competing, participants were encouraged to embody evangelical values and foster cooperation. Each student received a small biblical souvenir to mark the occasion.

The students collected over 2,300 kg of food, which was distributed to several institutions. Representatives of the beneficiary organizations shared testimonies about their work with people experiencing homelessness, the elderly, children with special needs or cancer, adolescents, and families facing vulnerable circumstances.

On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, the teams met online again to reflect on the impact of their solidarity action. Through this experience, the Word of God became concrete acts of love and service, responding to Jesus' words: ***“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”*** (Matthew 25:40b)