



PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR INDIA MUMBAI PROVINCE (INM)



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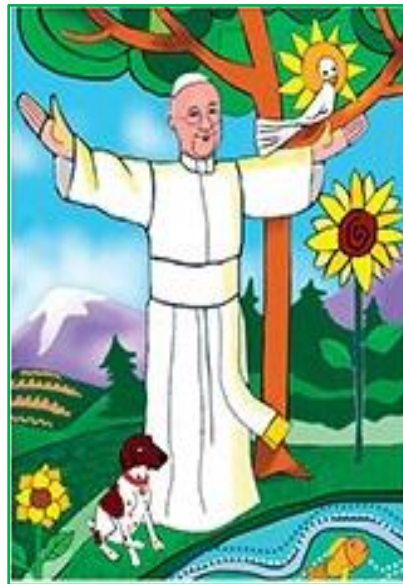
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September 2021

A REFLECTION ON LAUDATO SI GOALS VIS-A-VIS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS OF THE UN

Pope Francis's encyclical, 'Laudato Si' ("Praised Be to You") with a subtitle "on care for our common home", has been one of the most widely anticipated papal documents in recent memory. 'Laudato Si' criticizes those who fail to care for that with which they have been entrusted and the consequences that can flow from that failure. A 184 page encyclical originally published on 18 June 2015, 'Laudato Si' has been a challenging document for us the Divine Word Missionaries. The tone of Pope's phrasing the document has been described as 'cautious and undogmatic' and calls for sustained discussion and dialogue. Further he adds, "There are certain environmental issues where it is not easy to achieve a broad consensus. Here I would state once more that the Church does not presume to settle scientific questions or to replace politics. But I am and open debate so that particular prejudice the common good."

The concern for ecological care is There had been numerous debates protect the mother earth from all The news items of recent and forest fire outbreak in the US localised rains, cyclones leading few instances that flashed on our screens; the bottom line is that irrespective of caste, creed, duty to perfect and protect our Laudato Si goals call for our cry of the poor; ecological economics; adoption of simple lifestyles; ecological spirituality; and emphasis on community involvement and participatory action.



concerned to encourage an honest interests or ideologies will not

not just a thing out of the blue. - local, national, international, to time high calamities and disasters. devastating floods in Europe, bush and Australia, heavy to heavy to flash floods in India, may be a newspapers, social media and TV each and every individual religion, gender, nationality has a depleting environment. The seven response to the cry of the Earth; the

There are seventeen UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) vis-a-vis seven Laudato Si goals. The SDGs or Global Goals are a collection of seventeen interlinked global goals designed to be a "blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all". The SDGs were set up in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly and are intended to be achieved by the year 2030. They are - no poverty, zero hunger, good health and wellbeing, quality education, gender equality, clean water and sanitation, affordable and clean energy, decent work and economic growth, industry-innovation & infrastructure, reduced inequalities, sustainable cities & communities, responsible consumption and production, climate action, life below water, life on land, peace and justice & strong institutions, partnership for the goals.



The above goals were introduced in the same year and their implementation at different spheres or platforms has taken place through voluntary, faith based agencies or political, national and international agencies. But the crux of the matter is that these goals awaken our consciousness-capital to address the most important issues like listening to the cry of the earth, cry of the poor, ecological education, economics and spirituality, community, group or individuals engaging in ecological conservation. The clarion call to us the Divine Word Missionaries is to implement a few collective, planned and organised doable activities in our campuses. Only a spiritual soul can reflect and understand the significance of these goals and act upon them. We as the spiritual leaders are called upon to go on the other side along with our flock, animating and facilitating them in the effort to accomplish the Laudato Si goals. Are we willing to accept the challenge of being the partners in fulfilling these goals? We need to work together; together we can make a difference and take care of our common home.

- **INM Leadership Team**

BLESSING OF MISSION OFFICE MISSION POSSIBLE - WITH HIS HELP AND YOURS



SVD - India Mumbai Province now has a Mission office at the Institute of Indian Culture, Andheri. This Mission office was blessed on 8th September 2021 by Fr. Richard Mathias SVD, the Provincial Superior of the India Mumbai Province. Many SVD confreres, SSpS Sisters and Lay Mission Partners joined the celebration as it coincided with the Birthday of our Mother Mary and the Foundation Day of the Society of the Divine Word. On the same day a new website was launched for the Mission office: www.svdmissioninm.com. The theme of the Mission office is 'MISSION POSSIBLE - with His help and yours'. The Mission office is entrusted with the mission of Mission Awareness, Animation of confreres, Lay Mission Partnership, Vocation promotion and World Mission Fund. Come and be partners in His

Mission. His Mission is Our Mission. Fr. Jolly M. SVD is the full-time Mission Secretary of the SVD India Mumbai Province.

ST. PETER'S APOSTOLIC SCHOOL, KIREM



St. Peter's Apostolic School, Kirem has begun its voyage for the year 2021-22. Along with Frs. Maxim, Praveen and Salvadore, Fr. Walter Michael Mendonca has joined the staff as vice rector. The journey of four students who are pursuing their PUC studies is re-energized by the entry of 10 new comers who have joined this voyage of our community. The community is strengthened through the presence of Fr. Patrick D'Souza from ING region who is pursuing his B.Ed.

studies in Alvas College of Education, Moodabidre. On July 18th we bid farewell to Fr. Felix Lobo, who was a staff member for a few months. On July 30th we wished all the best to Bro. Eric Anton, who began his travel to go to Palda to do SIS course. The II PUC students began their online classes on July 17th 2021 and the I PUC students on 1st September. Since the results of SSLC students were delayed, we

began officially our academic year on 4th September 2021. Now the PUC students have begun their offline classes.



On September 9th we celebrated the birthday of our vice rector, Fr. Walter Mendonca. The presence of our confreres from Arnold Nivas, Divine Call Centre and St. Ann Church, Nala doubled our joy. Through the prayer service, we thanked God for the 75 years of life. On 10th September 2021 we celebrated Monti Feast. We, as Arnoldian family of the campus came together, Fr. Salvadore Serrao, the senior member of our community prayed for God's blessings on our community. Then the new corn mixed in milk was distributed to each member present. The meal was served in traditional style on the banana leaf. At the end of the meal together as one community we thanked God by singing Laudate Dominos.

FRESH FROM BVMT LCF



God's love can never be measured and understood by human capacity. Even at these hard times, where everything is falling apart, humans tend to lose hope and life is difficult, God called 18 of us to cherish our fraternal love and care for each other by coming together as one SVD family of the Bandra-Vasai-Mangaon-Tala (BVMT) LCF. This year the BVMT LCF's meeting was held on 30th September and 01 October 2021 and the venue was Sarva Vikas Deep Mangaon. It was a well-organized two days' program under the guidance of Fr. Cosmos Ekka, LCF leader and Fr. Nickson Gabru the assistant LCF leader. As it was our first time coming together after a long time, it helped us to show our love and care for each other as well as look back to the past and plan for the future.

On 30th October at 7.20 am, 13 of us began our journey from Dadar station to march towards Mangaon by train. We reached Mangaon by 10.30 and the arrangements were made for us to reach Sarva Vikas Deep. After refreshing ourselves, we had Holy Eucharist which was presided over by our Provincial Fr. Richard Mathias. It was also the feast of St. Jerome. Fr. Richard through his homily enlightened us on the life and mission of St. Jerome through various quotes of the saint.



Soon after Holy Eucharist we had a sumptuous lunch prepared by Canossa Sisters. In the afternoon, we went to visit Raigad fort as a part of our picnic. Going to Raigad fort was a wonderful experience because most of us were seeing the fort for the first time. More than two hours, we trekked around seeing the historical fort and enjoying the scenic beauty. In the evening we had our grand dinner at Janseva Society, Tala offered by Fr. Mahipal and Fr. Sandesh. It was an enjoyable day which helped us to refresh ourselves.



The second day of the LCF meeting was full of celebrations because Fr. Richard Quadros celebrated his birthday. We had cake cutting in the community followed by breakfast. At 9.00 am we began our sharing about our community life and activities as well as prepared an action plan for the year for the BVMT LCF. At the beginning, Fr. Cosmos thanked all the outgoing members of the LCF and Fr. Nickson welcomed all the new members by handing over a flower.

It was a meaningful and fruitful sharing through which we were able to speak out our strengths and concerns for the betterment of the LCF and the SVD Society at large.

At 11.30 am we began birthday Mass which was presided over by Fr. Richard Quadros the birthday celebrant. In his homily Fr. Richard Quadros focused on the gift of life and said that whatever good we want to do we should do it here and now. He also portrayed the life of St. Theresa of Child Jesus since it was the feast of St. Theresa of Child Jesus. Later, we had a fellowship meal together with neighbouring communities namely Vedruna Sisters, Holy Spirit Sisters and Canossian Sisters. We had a memorable time together as a LCF. Our sincere appreciation to the LCF leaders, and Mangaon and Tala confreres, who took so much trouble to organize and make the event memorable and our stay comfortable.

FIRST ANNIVERSARY – DDW, PUNE



The first anniversary of the DDW-Pune Lay Partner group was celebrated on 3rd October 2021, at Divine Word Seminary, Pune and Fr. Jesuraj Rayappan, Rector, and Fr. Gregory Arockiam, Spiritual Director, celebrated the Eucharist.

After the Mass, Mrs. Leena Xavier, President, presented the annual report to the group. Disciples of the Divine Word (DDW), Pune had its inaugural meeting attended by 6 SVD-Fathers and 15 Lay Partners at Divine Word Seminary, Pune. The meeting was chaired by Fr. Gregory Arockiam and Mrs. Leena Xavier had enlightened the members present about the role of the DDW members in SVD missions across India. Subsequently, the group met on 15th November 2020 for the second meeting, 17th January 2021 for the third meeting, and 7th March 2021 for the fourth meeting at Divine Word seminary. On this day, Fr. Richard Mathias, INM Provincial and the council members attended the meeting and explained the role of the Lay Partners in the SVD family. Elections were held and the following members were elected as office bearers – Mrs. Leena Xavier, President; Mr. Anil Almeida, Vice President; Mr. Godfrey Fernandes, Secretary; Mrs. Claire Sequeira, Secretary; Mr. Richard Raj, Treasurer.

Due to the pandemic situation from May 2021 the group continued to meet in a virtual mode using Google Meet. With the cooperation of the members, the group was able to take decisions and coordinate the different initiatives and projects.

Spirituality: A prayer meeting was conducted by the members in a virtual mode on 22 August 2021, God's Word was shared by the Spiritual Director Fr. Gregory Arockiam.



Mission Support: Three DDW Pune members have sponsored three SVD Seminarians for their formation at Divine Word Seminary, Pune for four years. Some members and benefactors have contributed an amount of Rs.47,800/- towards cassocks for the novices in Khurda.

Outreach programs:

Christmas Party for the Children of Sarva Seva Sangh: On 20th December 2020, the group organized Christmas party at Sarva Seva Sangh. Due to pandemic restrictions only 12 children participated in a fun-filled event of games and dance. Snacks and lunch were provided to them, along with Christmas gifts which brought joy on their faces.

Feed the Hungry: The project was launched on 13th March 2021 in the presence of SVD fathers. The members were enthusiastic to cook and provide vegetable pulav and boiled eggs and sponsor pickle and

bananas which were packed and distributed to the hungry on the streets of Pune. We continue to distribute food packets to the hungry twice a month.



During the peak of the pandemic and due to COVID restrictions dry ration kits were distributed to the poor and needy. This was possible due to the generosity of the members who contributed Rs.44,000/- and rations. The group also volunteered to pack the rations before they were distributed by the fathers at Sarva Seva Sangh.

DDW Pune members have participated in the ASPAC webinars held in December 2020 and June 2021. The learnings from these webinars are on the spirituality of St. Arnold Janssen; the formation of Lay Partners' group; the role of lay partners and challenges; and the contribution by lay partners especially during the pandemic was shared by the members who attended these sessions.

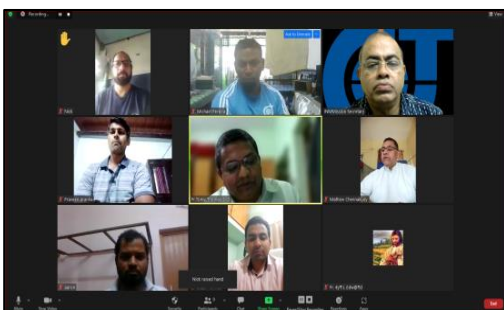
Our future goal is to reach out to the Raigad missions - Sarva Vikas Deep, Mangaon and Janseva Society, Tala and also other SVD missions.

We thank the Spiritual Director, Fr. Gregory Arockiam; Fr. Jesuraj, Rector, Divine Word Seminary; Fr. Mathew Korattiyil, Director, Sarva Seva Sangh and all the Fathers of the Divine Word Seminary, Ishvani Kendra and Sarva Seva Sangh.

A special thank you to Fr. Mathew Korattiyil for letting us use the premises of Sarva Seva Sangh to pack food and for his availability along with Fr. Felix and Fr. Cyril Edward to help us pack and distribute food packets to the hungry. Last but not the least, thanks to all the dedicated members without whom we would have not achieved the all these goals in the last 12 months.

As we look ahead to the next year, we plan to deepen our commitment as SVD Lay Mission Partners by conducting retreats, recollections and Bible study. We are in the process of drafting our statutes and will be seeking approval from the INM Provincial Council. Finally, we will seek greater collaboration and networking with other lay-partner groups in India and overseas.

INM VOCATION PROMOTERS' MEETING



The INM Vocation Promoters' Meeting began at 10 am on September 30, 2021. Fr. Jolly Mudakkampurathu, the INM Mission Secretary, chaired and opened the session with Quarter Hour Prayer. Fr. Tomy Perumprayil, vice-provincial, gave the welcome message. Fr. Tomy said that provincial administration acknowledges the willingness of the confreres to shoulder this important mission. Scandals in the church, fewer children in the families and the Pandemic have caused major challenges in

vocation promotion ministry but they have not slackened the efforts in the ministry. In John 21:5 Jesus directs a question to his disciples: Haven't you got any fish?" They said "No." We too have similar experiences in the ministry. One may say I tried my best but I did not get anyone. Then Jesus said: Throw your boat on the right side of the boat and you will find some. As they did so, they were unable to hold the net because of the large number of fish. If we listen to the Lord in all our difficulties, the Lord will bless us. Further in the life of Peter, we get the message that it is not our special talents that will help us in our vocation ministry. Peter was an uneducated fisherman but he recruited 3000 people on a single day. This was possible because he listened to the Lord. Let us listen to the Spirit because we are not

doing this work for our own glory. It is a divine mandate and ministry entrusted to us. With the support of the prayers of other province members and the backing of all, we will get a proper catch. That is our confidence.

Fr. Jolly then requested the vocation promoters to share their experiences and challenges faced in the ministry especially in the context of the pandemic. All were of the opinion that vocation promotion is not an easy mission at present. In the background of schools and churches remaining closed, it is a huge challenge to contact students and recruit vocations. Concerns were also expressed about sending out seminarians from our major seminaries and the need to share the reasons for their dismissal with the minor seminaries so that there is no scope for unnecessary speculations and hindrances in vocation promotion. There was also consensus to make a brochure in English for the province. At the end Fr. Jolly thanked all individually before concluding the meeting with a prayer for vocations composed by Pope Francis.

STEADFAST AT SIXTY



The diamond Jubilee of the priestly ordination of Fr. Joseph Madathany was celebrated on 3rd October 2021. The Holy Mass was celebrated to mark the occasion at Atma Darshan Chapel. Many SVDs, SSpS, Canossian Sisters, family members of Fr. Joseph, friends, well-wishers and co-workers joined for the Mass and the celebration.

After the Mass all gathered in the IIC Hall for felicitation and a twelve minutes documentary on the life and works of Fr. Madathany was screened. This was followed by jubilee cake cutting and a sumptuous jubilee dinner. It was certainly a time to count the blessings and to be grateful to the Almighty for his graces and blessings on Fr. Madathany for the past 60 years. It was a time to

recall the faithfulness of God and see the guiding hand of God in our lives to renew ourselves to live our commitment to the fullest.

FORMATION BOARD MEETING

Our formation project is a large enterprise consisting of 20 communities, 604 formandi and 72 formators (the number of communities does not include the three formation houses for the diocesan seminarians which we administer and the number of formandi does not include the students in those entities). The Formation Board meeting is an annual exercise to take stock of the activities on the formation front. It provides an opportunity for the formators and the Provincial/Regional Superiors to sit together and to collectively reflect on the issues and concerns that formators face in their important task of forming the upcoming generations of our congregation's members.

The annual General Body meeting of the Sub-zonal Formation Board took place via Zoom on 16 - 17 September 2021. Except for a couple of confreres who were absent due to some personal inconveniences, all the expected participants took active part in the meeting spread over two days. Taking into consideration the limitations imposed by the virtual nature of the gathering, some of the regular features such as the half-day ongoing formation session and the lengthy reporting were dispensed with. There were a fairly large number of items on the agenda and on nearly every point there was much discussion and debate. Although the usually strong "we-feeling" factor that accompanies the face-to-face version of the gathering was largely missing, the participants felt happy that they had a chance to share their opinions and concerns and felt reaffirmed in their call to be formators.

INTER-PROVINCIAL FORUM (IPF) MEETING

The annual meeting of the SVD India Sub-Zone Inter-Provincial Forum (IPF) was held through online flat-form on September 18, 2021. The meeting started with a meaningful opening prayer led by Fr. Victor Rodrigues, Vice Provincial, INE. Then Fr. Maxim Rodrigues, the chairperson of India Sub-Zone welcomed all the participants. In his inaugural address he reminded that it is the 90th year of SVD presence in India and our mission is growing geographically as we have already branched out to Bangladesh. He emphasized the importance of the gathering saying that IPF meeting has an animating value and appreciated Fr. Luvis Ronald Pereira for his effort in bringing us together.

Then Fr. Ronald presented a brief report of IPF with review of last year's recommendations. The successive three sessions were chaired by Fr. Joemon James, Provincial Superior, INC, Fr. Maxim Rodrigues, Regional superior of ING and Fr. Ignatius Santhuraja, the Provincial Superior of INH. Many important concerns and issues pertaining to the common mission such as maintaining inter-culturality as our identity, Global Prayer – Rosary, Workshops on NGO and Finance Management and Migration, Constituting a designing team to create and maintain websites, rejuvenating MER, Old age contribution on transfer of a confrere to another province and preparedness to face the challenges of the pandemic were deliberated at length. The proceedings of the IPF consultation meeting came to an end with a short evaluation. All the members were appreciative for the active participation of all the members. Fr. Anand Nagothu, Vice Provincial of INH proposed the vote of thanks and Fr. Luvis Ronald Pereira, mission secretary of India sub-zone appreciating everyone's active participation concluded the meeting.

SYNOD FOR A SYNODAL CHURCH



Synods have been an ordinary part of the life of the Church since the early centuries, with local Churches and dioceses convoking synods to discuss theological and pastoral issues relevant to the times.

Pope Francis has set in motion a two-year long 'Synodal Journey' for the Universal Church, which will unfold itself in three phases of consultations, at the diocesan, the continental and the universal levels, culminating in the XVI

Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, in October 2023, in Rome. The theme of the 2023 Synod is For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission. The Holy Father has expressed his hope that this ecclesial endeavour will be a shared journey of listening, of reflection and of discernment, first at the diocesan level, then at the continental and lastly at the universal level.

The synod on synodality aims to ensure more 'diversity' within the internal life of the Church and that the views of the 'marginalized' are properly represented within the synodal dialogue, the purpose of which is to allow the Church to better listen to and articulate the 'sensus fidelium' or the consensus of the faithful, which the Church teaches as an authentic guarantor of the faith expressed by the Church. The synodal documents recognize various groups at risk of being marginalized, including the women, refugees, migrants, the poor, the elderly, people with disabilities, and encourages local Church leaders to ensure their full and active participation in the synodal process, together with Catholics who rarely or never practice their faith. Since the synodal journey is of crucial importance for the good of both the Universal and the Local Church, let us actively collaborate by praying regularly for the success of this momentous ecclesial event.

GLOBAL PRAYER – ROSARY

SVD Lay Partners and Mission Secretaries of our Provinces/Region have planned a Global Prayer – Rosary for the month of October. This initiative is the result of a suggestion made by a SVD Lay Partner to organize Global Rosary for all the SVD Lay Partners but due to logistical issues it was decided to organize it at the sub-zonal levels. In India sub-zone Global Rosary will be held via Zoom platform on all the 5 Saturdays of October (2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th October) from 6.30 pm onwards with one Province/Region taking the lead to plan and conduct the rosary as per the already prepared module by the core team.

MISSION SUNDAY (ISHVANI DAY) WEBINAR

Ishvani Kendra has organized a Webinar on the occasion of Mission Sunday, celebrated as, ISHVANI DAY, on the theme, ‘Synodality in the Life and Mission of the Church’, on 24th October 2021 (Mission Sunday) from 6.00 pm to 7.45 pm.

Rev. Fr. Paulus Budi Kleden SVD, our Superior General, will be the Chief Guest and speaker of the day. You are cordially invited to join the webinar. Please share the link with your contacts.

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84810676291?pwd=YnpxRlk1K2Y1cTdSOUhMakJ3dFRKUT09>

Meeting ID: 848 1067 6291

Passcode: ISHVANI

YouTube Link: <https://www.youtube.com/c/IshvaniKendra>

MY PROGRAMMES

11-13 October	Visit to Raia and Marcela communities
21 October	Silver Jubilee celebration of Fr. Salate, SVD Shishyalaya, Vasai
23 October	Jubilee celebration, Soverdia House, Andheri
24 October	Mission Sunday/Ishvani Day celebration

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

13 - 15 November 2021

SVD Provincial House, Bandra

In the Divine Word

Richard Mathias SVD
INM Provincial Superior

‘Rooted in the love of the Father and led by the Holy Spirit into the Mission of Christ’

- INM Vision Statement