



PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR

INDIA MUMBAI PROVINCE (INM)



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CELEBRATE LIFE



Every year we celebrate the Solemnity of All Saints on 1st November. This feast gives us a great sense of fellowship, for the saints are our brothers and sisters. On the Solemnity of All Saints, we celebrate the joy of all those who have gone before us to inherit the kingdom of the Father. These are men and women from all walks of life and from all over the world, people just like us but people who remained faithful to God trusting in his promises. Some of them led lives of extraordinary sanctity and a few of these, the church recognizes as canonized saints and places them before us as special examples to be imitated. Pope Francis delivering his message during the Angelus on the Solemnity of All Saints in 2013 said, “The Saints are not supermen, nor were they born perfect. They are like us, like each one of us. They are people who, before reaching the glory of heaven, lived normal lives with joys and sorrows, struggles and hopes. What changed their lives? When they recognized God’s love,

they followed it with all their heart without reserve or hypocrisy. They spent their lives serving others; they endured suffering and adversity without hatred and responded to evil with good, spreading joy and peace. ... Saints are men and women who have joy in their hearts and they spread it to others. Never hate but serve others... pray and live in joy. This is the way of holiness!”

In the battle for the kingdom of God we have the saints at the forefront showing us the way to perfection and holiness. We respect and remember the saints for their unceasing commitment to the Lord. They are the perfect models for imitation. We venerate them because of their sanctity and the divine excellence.

All of us are called to sainthood, but how many of us strive for it? The greatest miracles are the unspectacular ones. Similarly, the greatest saints probably are the anonymous ones. St. Augustine says, the first, second and third thing in Religion is humility. We thank God this day for all the saints especially for the anonymous ones, the unsung heroes of all times.

The month of November is traditionally a time in which the catholic community remembers those who have died. It is related to the fact that the end of November is the end of the Liturgical year with a New Year starting on the first Sunday of Advent. The feast of all souls celebrated on 2nd November is an invitation to be ever prepared to meet our Divine Master. The celebration is like a ramp on the road of life. It makes us slow down if not stop, check the direction of our travel, take stock of the distance covered and the destination that lies ahead. We need to realise that we are only travellers here and have to leave for the next destination. So we need to give up our ego, all pride and follow God in all humility.

We are living in extraordinary times. We live yet we don't live as we ought to. We merely exist and pass the days. This is what Norman Cousins meant when he said, "The tragedy of life is not death, but what we let die inside of us while we live." Naturally, it is difficult for us to understand what living life to its full means, yet some have exemplified by the way they lived and more importantly the way they died. Saints and many of those who have gone before us have set before us living and contagious examples of living and celebrating life. So, let us celebrate the event called LIFE. Let us all earnestly try to help our brothers and sisters to celebrate their lives through our ministry.

- INM Leadership Team

INM BIBLICAL APOSTOLATE SEMINAR ON THE BOOK OF PROPHET ISAIAH

“The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.” (Isa 40:8)



A weekend Biblical Seminar on the Book of Prophet Isaiah was organized and conducted in Atma Darshan by our INM Biblical Apostolate Coordinator, Fr. Valerian Pius Fernandes SVD, as part of the ongoing seminars. These seminars on the various books of the Bible were initiated under the leadership and vision of Fr. Nazareth Sequeira in 2014, who was then the INM Biblical Coordinator, and were conducted with the help of Fr. Valerian, Fr. Naveen Rebello, Fr. Jose Kollemkunnel, Fr. Donald

D'Souza and others. Over the past 7-8 years, these seminars have been conducted at regular intervals and so far the entire New Testament and the Wisdom Books have been successfully studied.

A committed group of about 30 participants has been attending these seminars in the past and now more and more people from various parishes of Mumbai Archdiocese are joining this group. Those who attended these seminars in the past, as well as this seminar on the Book of Isaiah, were very much satisfied with the content and presentation. They are open to learning more and more about the prophetic literature, as this gives them an opportunity to understand the background in which the prophets exercised their prophetic ministry and also appreciate what they have written in their books. Many questions, though, remain unanswered. But a lot of things are clarified during the seminar. It happens to be more an interactive seminar, with the participants asking questions and sharing also their own insights. They also began to appreciate how much of the Old Testament writings are quoted in the New Testament, especially Isaiah, and what they meant for Jesus and the early Church.

The participants come from different parishes of the Archdiocese of Mumbai, like, Dombivli, Kalwa, Thane, Mulund, on the Eastern side, while many come from Mira Road, Orlem, Malad, Amboli, Marol, Sahar, Four Bungalows, and other parishes, besides our own Sacred Heart Parish in Andheri and St. Theresa's Parish, Bandra. Due to the prolonged pandemic and lockdown many could not join the seminar this time. However, there is a genuine request from many and many are hungry for the Word of God. God willing, more people will join the next seminar on the Book of Jeremiah in February 2022. In a word, the Word of God is alive and active, and it will be so.

NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY ST. TERESA OF CALCUTTA CHURCH, MYSORE

In St. Teresa of Calcutta Church, Mysore the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary was celebrated on 8th September in a grand manner after a year of lockdown due to COVID pandemic. The



large number after a long break due to Covid lockdown. God to be praised for making all happen as planned.

FAMILY FEAST 2021-22 LCF - ANDHERI



The confreres of LCF Andheri, celebrated the Family Feast 2021-22 on 30th October 2021. The event began at 5pm at Soverdia House in Gyan Asham Campus singing a hymn to the Holy Trinity. Around 45 confreres participated in it. Having begun with thanking God for His blessings, Fr. Jolly honoured our founder St. Arnold Janssen with a garland and gave a meaningful message inviting all the confreres to celebrate the feast of the SVD family meaningfully. He also declared the

Family Feast 2020-21 open. Two teams – St. Arnold and St. Joseph consisting of confreres of all age groups, were constituted. Fr. Ciril D’Souza, L.C.F. Coordinator, along with Fr. Moncy Xavier, Secretary, Fr. Raja Ratna Reddy and Fr. Magimai Sundar conducted a few simple and interesting games for all the confreres present. Maximum participation and a true spirit of celebration as Arnoldus family were witnessed all through. Games concluded at 6:30 pm with the ‘Bombing the City’ game. Fr. Joseph Madathany and Fr. Sylvester Rego awarded the prizes to the winners. St. Joseph team won the First Prize while St. Arnold team was the Runner up. The celebration culminated in a fellowship meal at 7.30 pm. Indeed! It was a meaningful celebration which facilitated greater bonding among the confreres with a family spirit.

JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS



23rd October was a special day for Soverdia Community. The Community celebrated the Golden Jubilee of Priesthood of Fathers Sylvester Rego, Abraham Olickal and Scaria Kuthirakattel and the Diamond Jubilee of Religious vows of Fr. Berly Pallan. On this occasion Provincial, Fr. Richard Mathias, a Silver jubilarian himself, in his introduction for the Jubilee Mass spoke of our religious commitment to the Lord and fidelity with which the Jubilarians lived this life of commitment. He was

happy to state that many of the seeds sown by the jubilarians have sprouted and borne much fruit and he expressed the hope that some seeds will sprout in opportune time.

The main celebrant Fr. Sylvester Rego representing the jubilarians said the Jubilee Mass is an expression of gratitude and praise to the Almighty for 50 years of priestly life successfully completed and 60 years of Religious vows faithfully lived. After the Holy Mass, during the felicitation, Fr. Richard Quadros by using three beautiful imageries – imagery of a flowing river, burning fire and blowing breeze beautifully illustrated the life and works of the jubilarians.

After the words of felicitation by Fr. Richard Quadros, Fr. Abraham Olickal in his return speech thanked the Almighty for all the blessings received, Fr. Provincial for his personal presence and words of appreciation, Soverdia community for its generosity, Fathers and Sisters who participated in the Jubilee Mass for their prayerful accompaniment, Fr. Chinnappan and Team for the melodious choir, Fr. Ronald D'Silva for the photography and videography and Mr. Karuna and team for the floral and other decorations. In short, it was a day to come back to the Lord with grateful hearts and report to Him the wonders He has worked in and through the jubilarians and ask for His continued accompaniment to live faithful and dedicated priestly religious life.

ARABIAN SEA PICNIC



The SVD confreres from Andheri and Bandra LCF went on an Arabian Sea picnic. Thirty confreres joined this outing. The breakfast and lunch with fish were provided by the relatives of Fr. Mastan. Confreres played cricket on the sand and a few enjoyed swimming in the sea as well. All were taken up by the hospitality and the love shown by the relatives of Fr. Masthan and the fisher folk. We also marveled at their deep faith in the providence of God. All credit goes to Fr. Mastan SVD who planned out meticulously and organized everything so well that all the confreres enjoyed to the full. At the conclusion of the outing everyone thanked Fr. Mastan and his family for such a wonderful day out and prayed for God's abundant blessings on them.

NEW LAY PARTNERS' GROUP



The second SVD Lay Mission Partners' group in Mumbai began on October 15, 2021 with a Holy Mass and lunch at the Institute of Indian Culture. The group comprises of parishioners from St. Theresa's Church, Bandra, Sacred Heart Church, Santacruz, St. Andrew's Church, Bandra, Immaculate Conception Church, Borivali, Good Shepherd Church, Four Bungalows and Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Orlem. All the members of the community joined the Holy Mass. Fr. Donald D'Souza SVD was the main celebrant. He having worked in foreign mission and known the functioning of the Lay Mission Partners' groups there encouraged the members of the new group to dedicate themselves to the mission of the Lord by being partners with us and invited them to be enriched by our heritage and spirituality.

'HUNGER ON WHEELS WITH HOPES HIGH LIKE SKY'

Fr. Infant Vinodh Kumar has won the First Place for his photo titled 'Hunger on Wheels with Hopes High like Sky', in the 'Click' - a National Level Photography competition held as part of UN Day Celebrations organized by Model United Nations Society and Department of International Studies, Christ College, Bangalore on 23 October 2021. We congratulate to Fr. Infant for this excellence award. Below you can see the photo which won the prize along with the description.



The picture depicts the vivid and harsh reality of this generation. This elderly man's potentials are impaired due to his impediments. The image also illustrates people, vendors and an auto rickshaw

driver busy in the rat race packed with good and cluttered interests. Someone hiring the elderly man is out of imagination but I see a ray of hope in the small boy, the only person to look at the elderly man with compassion. That compassion is humanities' 'scope amplifier'. One person's passion for compassion can alleviate hunger or elevate the status of humans. Am I passionate to help?

PARISH FEAST CELEBRATION ST. TERESA OF CALCUTTA CHURCH, MYSORE



We the SVDs from Mysore feel extremely blessed to celebrate the feast of St. Teresa of Calcutta Church, Mysore after two years of pandemic. The response from the people was overwhelming. We had three days of Triduum celebrated by Fr.

Bernard Rodrigues SVD, Fr. Sunil Menezes SVD and Fr. Felix Lobo SVD. The feast mass was celebrated by Fr. James Dominic, Financial Administrator of Mysore Diocese. SVD Fathers from Vidya Niketan and St. Arnold's Central School attended the same. We also inaugurated the Synod 2021-23 on that auspicious day along with the newly set-up digital sound mixer and the sound system of our parish. The feast was attended by over 450 people. It was a great day to come together as a family and thank God for his graces granted to all the parishioners through the intercession of St. Teresa of Calcutta.

MIGRANT MINISTRY IN GOA



Fr. Michael Pereira since his appointment in June 2021 as the Migrant Ministry In-charge for Goa has been actively consulting various confreres involved in migrant ministry within the Society and the persons in the Archdiocese of Goa and making concerted effort to come in contact with the migrants. Recently he had an opportunity to hold a meeting with migrant youth and a few of their parents at Pirne. After initial dialogue he was able to form a

youth group. We could consider it as the first step towards initiating the ministry with the migrants in Goa. He was very happy to get a positive response from the migrants and now he hopes to work in collaboration with them and provide them with necessary support to make their life comfortable in a land away from their home land.

APOSTOLIC NUNCIO'S VISIT TO DWS



We at Divine Word Seminary had surprising news when we came to know on October 30, 2021 that on the following day the Papal Nuncio to India and Nepal, His Excellency Most Rev. Leopoldo Girelli, intends to visit us. The Nuncio had come to Pune to participate in the Sacerdotal Golden Jubilee of Most Rev. Thomas Dabre, Bishop of Pune and after the celebration he wanted to visit the three major seminaries in the campus, i.e. Papal Seminary, De

Ntobili College and Divine Word Seminary to interact with the staff and students. The Nuncio arrived at 5.05 pm accompanied by Most Rev. Thomas Dabre and Rev. Fr. Malcom Sequeira. After welcoming the dignitaries in front of the parlour we took group photos. Then he was escorted to the main chapel where we sang the Veni Creator Spiritus, after which the Nuncio blessed the community. Fr. Rector in his brief welcome speech spoke about the humble beginnings of DWS, the alma mater for about 800 missionaries

serving the universal church in all the continents. The Nuncio in his speech emphasized the need to cultivate a spirituality that will accompany us and sustain us. He encouraged us as Divine Word Missionaries to be rooted in the Word. He also shared some of his experiences in India. Since it was getting late the Nuncio left for the airport leaving behind a pleasant memory of witnessing the first ever visit of the Papal Nuncio to DWS.

TRANSFER: FR. PUTHUPARAMPIL

Having perceived the necessity of providing Fr. Joseph Puthuparampil with conducive atmosphere for a comforting retired life and proper care for his person and ascertained his willingness to move to Soverdia House with the consent of the council, we have transferred him to our retirement home in Andheri. He will move to Soverdia community on 13 November 2021. We appreciate his willingness to move to Soverdia House and thank the Superior, Fr. Mathew Nirappel and the community for their understanding of his situation and assisting him so far. We believe he will be well cared for and well attended to at Soverdia House under the care of Fr. Scaria and the community.

FR. MATHEW NIRAPPEL TO STAY AT ST. JOHN'S

As you are aware, Fr. Mathew Nirappel is slated for a kidney transplant in a few weeks' time. We are grateful to his brothers who have come forward to donate the kidney. The doctors at Lisie Hospital, Ernakulam are carrying out the necessary tests on Fr. Mathew and his brothers to ascertain the matching and prepare them for the transplant. Fr. Mathew needs a conducive environment to stay and recover before and after this vital surgical procedure. When we consulted the confreres at St. John's Mission Seminary, Changanacherry, all of them expressed their openness to welcome Fr. Mathew and assist him in all the ways possible. We are grateful to them for their willingness to assist and support Fr. Mathew in his time of great medical need. Kindly continue to accompany Fr. Mathew with your valuable prayers.

FR. ANTONY PUTHUMANA'S SERVICE

Recognizing the need to provide Fr. Mathew Nirappel with the quality time and a conducive environment to attend to his person and prepare himself for the vital surgical procedure, and at the same time, the need to proactively support the ministry of de-addiction which has been a blessing to many families, we have requested Fr. Antony Puthumana to move to SVD Vachana Jyothi and assist the confreres at the centre in carrying out the ministry effectively. We thank him for his remarkable openness to move to Pilathara at this time of the academic year and render his service. He will move to the SVD Vachana Jyothi community on a convenient date in November 2021.

CONFRERES' PHOTO CHART AND INM MAP

On our request, Fr. Ronald D'Silva has worked hard to re-arrange and update the INM Confreres' Chart as well as the INM Province Map. We thank him for generously utilizing his expertise and time to help the province to carry out these important tasks. In order to reduce our troubles he has printed these charts in calendar format and they will be dispatched to all our communities to be displayed at prominent place. If you do not receive them in a few days kindly contact Fr. David, Provincial Secretary.

CELEBRATION OF SVD MISSION DAY

The INM Provincial Council in its meeting held on 5-6 September 2021 at Vidya Niketan, Mysore, being aware of our responsibility to follow up on the 18th General Chapter recommendations, decided to celebrate SVD Mission Sunday in all of our communities and institutions on second Sunday of Lent every year besides the World Mission Sunday. INM Mission Secretary, Fr. Jolly will follow up on this matter and coordinate with all the Parish Priests/Superiors/Heads of Institutions and facilitate a

meaningful celebration. All the funds collected on SVD Mission Sunday will become part of the World Mission Fund.

SVD MISSIONARY AND SPIRITUAL CONFRATERNITY

Fr. Jolly, INM Mission Secretary has come up with a noble idea for generating funds for the World Mission and has proposed to issue a 'SVD Missionary and Spiritual Confraternity Certificate' to the donors. The certificate will be issued to any donor who wishes to support our Society's missionary work in different parts of the world. The donor will be enlisted as a member of the confraternity and will be a beneficiary of the fruits of our prayers, sacrifices and the Holy Masses offered by the Divine Word Missionaries all over the world and participate in the Missionary and Charitable works of the Society of the Divine Word. All the confreres, our communities and institutions are the requested to help in generating funds for the World Mission by issuing these certificates.

GENERAL VISITATION 2022

Through a letter dated 29 October 2021(INM/Od 212325) Fr. Paulus Budi Kleden, Superior General, has officially announced the General Visitation of INM Province and the corresponding Visitor. The General Visitation of the INM Province will take place from 01 - 21 November 2022, and the General Visitor will be Fr. Jose Antunes da Silva. Meanwhile Fr. Jose has also contacted us and expressed his willingness to come down to India a week in advance to give sufficient time for the visitation and we have accepted his proposal and welcomed him to INM in the last week of October 2022. Let us prepare for this approaching Visitation by invoking the help of the Holy Spirit on us and the Visitor.

MY PROGRAMMES

10 - 11 November	INE Provincial Chapter, Shanti Bhavan, Jharsuguda
13 - 15 November	Council Meeting, SVD Provincial House, Bandra
18 - 23 November	Province Retreat, Atma Darshan, Andheri
23 November	Province Jubilee Celebrations, Atma Darshan, Andheri
27 - 29 November	Visit to Bailhongal and Belgaum
03 - 05 December	INH Provincial Chapter, Arnold Bhavan, Habsiguda

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

07 - 10 January 2022

Kerala

In the Divine Word



**Richard Mathias SVD
Provincial Superior – INM**

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

- INM Vision Statement