



PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR INDIA MUMBAI PROVINCE (INM)



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FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY

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CHRISTMAS: COMMUNION, PARTICIPATION AND MISSION

Come December and there is smile on everyone's face. The reasons can be numerous. It's the end of another year. It is the festive season – shops are lit up with Christmas symbols, carols are being played and everyone is ready for stars, decorations and prepared. The Christmas Santa are seen in every glamour to the season and special is round the know it is Jesus who is season.



the occasion. The cribs, sweets are being trees and the images of nook and corner adding we know something corner. Above all, we the reason for the

After the four weeks of the themes of hope, love,

intense preparations on joy and peace, we will

yet once again celebrate the mystery of incarnation - God becoming human; divine in search of humans. We celebrate the sacrifice of God, His giant step for the love of us all - God leaving heaven to be born in a stable. "In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him." (1 John 4:9). So in Incarnation, we celebrate God's plan to journey together with his creation in order to have communion with us and to accomplish his divine mission of making us participants in his abundant life.

We have just begun the Synodal journey initiated by Pope Francis, which will take place in three phases of consultation - diocesan, continental and universal level which will culminate in October 2023 in Rome. The theme: For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission urges us to reflect and revisit the whole church ever since the Vatican II Council. In this context we can bring to our mind the three Biblical images of the church:

- The people of God,
- The body of Christ,
- The temple of the Holy Spirit.

We can also look at it from the point of view of Incarnation where God through Jesus Christ chose to commune with humanity by choosing to be born as a human person in its utter poverty and simplicity.

We further note that Jesus Christ participated and lived his whole life in all its humanness, reaching out to the poor and needy, there by fulfilling the mission entrusted to Him by His Heavenly Father by finally dying on the cross as a criminal.

The synodal theme places before us a strong challenge of communion, participation and mission in both the dimensions of our religious life – Ad Intra and Ad extra. Based on the theme and what we celebrate on Christmas day we are urged to re-visit our personal life as consecrated persons.

What role do I play to build my religious community?

How do I participate in the community life to enhance it?

What is my contribution to achieve the mission entrusted to my community?

These questions should help us to move deeper into the call given by Pope Francis to the whole Church and to us to live out our commitment to communion, participation and mission.

May this December be a Holy One for us and bring in the requisite transformation in the areas of our life and mission May this month may not be another December which merely focuses on externals packed with goodies of fun and festivity but may it be a deep and meaningful journey into our deeper selves where we communion with God to participate in the mission of the Incarnate Word and his Church.

May we truly have an intimate experience of ‘God with us’ during this Christmas, so that when we wish one another on Christmas day we may genuinely share the positive vibes of our experience communion with Christ and thus pass on the baton of spreading the good news to the world.

- INM Leadership Team

ANNUAL RETREAT AND JUBILEE CELEBRATION

As it is rightly said, ‘Un-reflected life is not worth-living.’ Annual retreat is a grace filled time to stop and take a stock of our life in the company of the Lord so that empowered and invigorated by the power of the Lord we can ‘start afresh’ and march on in our missionary life. The first INM Province Annual Retreat was held at Atma Darshan, Andheri, It began on 18th November after supper with an introductory session and concluded on 23rd November evening with the Jubilee Eucharistic Celebration. The retreat was preached by Fr. Bineesh Thomas OP, Director of Satyagiri Retreat Centre, Igatpuri. 51 confreres participated in this retreat. Indeed it was a graceful and a fruitful retreat. All the talks, reflection and personal sharing were based on the Word of God. The reflective silence, transforming prayer - Morning Prayer and Guided Meditation, insightful talks, Holy Mass, Divine Mercy Chaplet, Rosary and Eucharistic Adoration made our retreat more personal and meaningful. The preacher shared his personal experiences and focused on basic aspects of Priestly Religious life - Vocation, Vows, Holy Eucharist, Self-identity in Christ and Sacrament of Reconciliation.



We had a very significant and meaningful INM 10 Sacerdotal Jubilee and 9 Vows Jubilee Eucharist celebrations at 6 p.m. at Atma Darshan Chapel. The Main Celebrant was Fr. Richard Mathias, Provincial Superior and homily was preached by Fr. Abraham Olickal. All Jubilarians present for the day were felicitated soon after the mass which was followed by agape meal. INM confreres, SSpS Sisters and DDW members were present for the celebration. It was well organized by the province under the

guidance of Fr. Tomy Thomas and ably supported by Fr. David, Provincial Secretary and Fr. Donald D’Souza, Provincial Treasurer.

CHILDREN'S DAY CELEBRATION AT UCDC



After the Covid-19 Pandemic this was the first event for the children of migrants, organized by the UCDC in collaboration with DDW (Disciples of the Divine Word) and the Sacred Heart Church, Andheri. The migrant students from Bandra area gathered at St. Theresa's High School, Bandra in the morning for their registration. All the students proceeded by bus to Andheri East after a short prayer with great enthusiasm and excitement, anticipating a 'great day' ahead.

The students were welcomed warmly by the SVD Fathers of Sacred Heart Church. Fr. Cosmos introduced the parish priest, Fr. Innocent Fernandes who in turn welcomed all and wished the best for a 'wonderful time' and a 'memorable day' in Andheri.



Two parish youths from the Sacred Heart Church, Stalin Mathias and Franklin, conducted the 'Ice-breaking' games. Stalin took a session later on 'Social-Media'. Being an interactive session, this interesting and informative session made a great impact on the students. Ms. Lorna from the DDW appreciated the students and the resource persons for conducting such a wonderful session. Fr. Innocent Fernandes blessed the children and said the 'grace before the meals'; and

all the participants enjoyed the sumptuous meal. In the afternoon, Mr. Jayesh George conducted games on how information is passed from one person to another. He demonstrated how the messages get distorted as they are passed from one to another. In short, he illustrated well, how to communicate well using simple language that the other can understand.

UCDC is grateful to Ms. Susan Noronha, President of the DDW, and all the others for supporting the event financially, for providing delicious food and for attending to the logistics of the entire day. We appreciate all the members for their valuable presence all through the day's events. UCDC appreciates our confreres of the Sacred Heart Church for making available the Community Hall and for arranging the resource persons for the day.

WORLD DAY OF THE POOR MUMBAI SVD LAY MISSION PARTNERS



November 14th marked the 5th World Day for the Poor, to commemorate this day the SVD Lay Mission Partners visited SHANTIGHAR at Andheri East, a shelter home for women and children in crisis and at cross roads. This home is managed by the Sisters of the Holy Spirit. The members of the SVD Lay Mission



Partner Group organized a morning of fun and games followed by a fellowship meal with the inmates.

The inmates interacted freely and enthusiastically participated in the games that were organized. A very fruitful day and everyone cherished the joy and smiles they brought to all in spite of their uncertain and tragic situation. Through the generosity of the

members, provisions and grocery supplies were gifted and presented to the inmates. The SVD Lay Mission Partners' Group thanks Fr. Jolly for this initiative and looks forward to make the motto "HIS MISSION IS OUR MISSION" an extremely blessed experience in all our future projects.

e-SHRAM CARD: TRAINING PROGRAMME

UCDC in collaboration with Migrants Desk organized a sizeable (selected) member on Card is an Unorganized through which they are Security benefits and Welfare Government of India. e-the Ministry of Labour and reason and purpose of the safeguard the interests of workers in general and more especially the unorganized sector who constitute the poor, deprived and disadvantages sections of the society. The resource person for the day was Ms. Mishal Dabre from the 'Centre for Social Action'.



the Mumbai (Archdiocesan) training program for a e-SHRAM Card. e-SHRAM Workers Identity Card empowered to avail Social Schemes from the SHRAM is an initiative of Employment. The main programme is to protect and

The dignitaries present were Ms. Maria Gomes from the Mumbai Migrant Desk, Fr. Paul Vattathara SVD, Director of Urban Community Development Centre, Fr. Jerome D'Souza, Director of *Maitri Sangatan*, Sr. Elizabeth and Sr. Pushpa from Chembur, and Mr. Valentie and Ms. Sushma from *Pahunch* organization. We had a total of 180 participants comprising mainly of five Women SHGs. The program began with a welcome song by the ladies of Jagruti and Ekta SHGs. The resource persons and the dignitaries were welcomed with the bouquet of flowers. The resource person explained clearly the concept and the objectives of e-SHRAM card and related schemes in a very simple language. The participants were given time for asking questions for clearing their doubts. The migrants of Chotanagpur also celebrated the festival of *Nava Khani*, meaning, the taste of the new crops (Harvest Feast). Towards the end of the training the children from *Bandh*, the migrants of Bandra Station Zone and Mount Mary Zone put up beautiful tribal cultural dances. UCDC acknowledges with gratitude and appreciates Fr. Glasten Gonsalves from Mumbai Archdiocese for arranging the resource person for this training programme. We are grateful to St. Theresa's School Management (SVD Fathers) for providing the venue for the event.

ST. ARNOLD'S DEGREE COLLEGE HAPPENINGS



The first semester of BMS, BAF and B.Sc. (IT) batches started with a lot of zeal on 21st September, 2021. The students were welcomed to the College by conducting an Orientation Program where Fr. Raja Reddy gave a motivational speech on "Intrinsic and Extrinsic Motivation" followed by Fresher's party.

Semester III result was declared and SY B.Com secured 89.2% and SY B.Sc 100%.

15th August, Independence Day was celebrated by paying homage to the Nation by flag hosting and organising a Drawing and Rangoli competition on the theme "Humanity".

Teachers Day was celebrated by the students with a presentation of a musical skit depicting the life after HSC exams and the fun during the Online Education.

In order to sensitize the students on Disaster preparedness, the Experts from the Disaster Management Department, Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai conducted 3 days training programme titled “My Family My Responsibility” for the students. The training on segregation of wet and dry waste was also provided. As a part of NSS, various activities were taken up. The students were helped to get COVID vaccine in the MCGM Hospital at Dhobi Talao. Students worked hard for the Blood Donation Camp at Andheri station. One remarkable achievement our students did was to convince 83 individuals (Highest number) for Blood Donation. “Fit India, Freedom Run 2.0” conducted in College for 11 days.

To enhance presentation skills, “Banking Model Exhibition” was organised as a Forum Activity. A PPT competition on “Various Religions in India” was organized to mark the Constitution Day. As a step towards self-employment a Student Symposium was organized in collaboration with Cluster Colleges and FES India. Students presented Sustainable Business Models on social issues relating to Education, Women Rights, Skill Development, Health, Sanitation and Environment. To sensitize the youth on various issues of gender the following Programmes were conducted:

“Women and the Environment: The discussion came out with conclusion as solution - as there is relationship between policy making, patriarchy and climate change.

- “Social Entrepreneurship among Youth – A Step towards Sustainable Development”: Students presentations of sustainable Business Models were very much appreciated. The panelist came up with options to promote the youth towards Sustainable Self Employment with Social Development.
- “Economic Independence and Gender Equality”: The Panelist shared their thought on Gender Independence and Agency in Creative Thinking, Women and Pandemic: Insights from Vulnerable Communities and Promoting Gender Equality and Creating a Safe Working Environment.

The series were streamed Live on Zoom and You Tube. It was attended by more than 230 participants from all over India.

DIWALI CAMP AT UCDC



UCDC organized the Diwali Camp for the children of migrants with the objectives of bringing the migrant children together to help them grow in their inter-personal relationships and social skills; to learn/understand and integrate the values of leadership; to instill in them long-cherished values of teamwork, respect for one another and personal responsibility; and to develop self-confidence and self-respect.

The Camp began with a word of welcome and a short prayer by Fr. Cosmos SVD. The whole group of 108 students were divided into five groups, who chose their leaders, and names for their respective groups. Ms. Sarita and Ms. Seema organized a Yoga Program for all of them They also conducted a Rangoli Making competition. Ms. Seema Bhasin and Mr. Pratik, a Choreographer, were the judges for the competition. Ms. Seema Bhasin was overwhelmed by the beautiful Rangolis and generously appreciated all the students. She also mentioned that it is the right time to develop their

inherent skills and showcase their talents. Ms. Theresa Varghese welcomed Mr. Pratik, who initiated some very good and easy dance steps to the students. He also observed that there are many students who are quite talented and gifted to learn and perform this art in public. After enjoying the sumptuous lunch served by the 'Krishna Caterers', Later Ms. Goretti spoke at length on 'Relationships'. She encouraged them and motivated them towards mature relationships befitting their age. Everything came to a close in the evening thanking everyone, who contributed directly or indirectly to the successful conduct of the event. UCDC is immensely grateful to St. Theresa's High School Management for providing the venue and all the facilities for the successful conduct of this beautiful event for the migrant children.

FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY - FR. SEBASTIAN POTTANANI



16th November 2021 was a memorable day for SVD Prarthana Niketan, Kaduthuruthy. It was the First Death Anniversary of Fr. Sebastian Pottanani who gave a vision and direction to SVD Prarthana Niketan for the renewal of families through Retreats and Counselling. His noble mission and fruitful service for transforming the families were commemorated during the Solemn Holy Eucharist celebrated at 11.00 am. Rev. Fr. Justin Madathilparambil, Vicar General of Vijayapuram Diocese was the main celebrant. The occasion was graced by the presence of SVD confreres and priests from neighbouring parishes, relatives of Fr. Sebastian, old and new team members of SVD Prarthana Niketan and the neighbours and well-wishers. At the outset of the Holy Eucharist, Fr. Titus Thattamattathil, the present director of SVD Prarthana Niketan, briefly recalled the significant moments of the ministry of Fr. Pottanani which started in 1978 and continued till 2008. Through 30 years of his zealous mission dedicated to the renewal of families countless couples have benefitted as they were healed of their wounds in their relationship with each other and their lives were transformed.

The motto of Fr. Pottanani's retreat and follow up programmes was: 'It is I, not my partner who has to be changed.' Rev. Fr. Justin, the main celebrant gave an inspiring homily, exhorting priests/committed lay persons to become like Jesus, giving comfort, peace and healing to the wounded persons in the families, following the footprints of Fr. Pottanani. He encouraged the couples to be catalysts of change and renew the families and society. Fr. Thomas Nelluveli, classmate of Fr. Pottanani and a veteran missionary in Botswana gave a short narration about Fr. Pottanani's life and mission, after which he dedicated the Retreat Hall to the memory of Fr. Pottanani. A small music video depicting the life and mission of Fr. Pottanani was also screened. Thereafter, Fr. Jacob Mulavarickal, the programme coordinator proposed the vote of thanks and the celebration came to an end with a sumptuous lunch served to everyone.

IN MEMORY OF FR. PETER VERHAELLEN



In memory of late Fr. Peter Verhaelen several activities were arranged during the centenary year of his birth such as seminars for parishioners, parents, youth on topics like anger management, kitchen farming, compost making, vermiculture, mushroom cultivation, pure virgin oil, studies, parents-teenagers' communication etc. In the months of August and November medical camps for orthopaedics, diabetes and eye check-up were organized for the parishioners of Raia where Fr.

Peter worked for more than a quarter of a century. This brought back the fond memories of the commitment of Fr. Peter for the people and society at large.

CONSULTATION ON SYNOD ON SYNODALITY

We are aware of the two-year long ‘Synodal Journey’ which Pope Francis has initiated and which will unfold 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 with the theme ‘*For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission.*’ The Holy Father has expressed his wish that this two-year long ecclesial endeavour should be a shared journey of listening, of reflection and of discernment, at all the three levels. It is our earnest wish that all of us actively get involved in the synodal process.

In this regard, in the Provincial Council meeting held from 13-15 November 2021 at SVD Provincial House, Bandra we decided to request all the LCF Coordinators to discuss the themes of the Synod in the LCF meetings with the help of materials available in the Preparatory Document and the Vademecum and send a summary report to our office by 30th January 2022 so that we can send a collated report to the Synod Desk of the CCBI who in turn will make it available for discussion when the National Consultation of the CCBI takes place.

PROVINCE ANNUAL RETREAT

As communicated through the July-August 2021 Circular (INM/PC/166/2021) the second Province Annual Retreat will be held at Divine Call Centre, Mulki from 25-30 January 2022. The retreat will begin on 25th evening and hence all the participants are expected to reach the place well in time. As the retreat will end by lunch on 30 January you can plan your departure accordingly. The retreat will be preached by the Team of Sub-zonal Biblical Coordinators. All those could not make it for the first retreat and desirous of joining this retreat kindly register with our office immediately.

PROVINCE WORKSHOP

ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT, CYBER-CRIME AND CSR FUNDRAISING

Our recent Chapter recommended that we organize workshops on Disaster Management and Responsible use of Social media, Cyber safety and crimes. Accordingly, we have planned a combined workshop for the benefit of our confreres. Kindly note the dates and related information and register with our office at the earliest.

Persons Responsible	Frs. Richard Quadros & Evan Gomes
14 March 2022	Arrival (by Evening)
15 March 2022	Cyber Crime & Responsible use of Media
16 March 2022	CSR Fundraising & Writing Socio – educational project Proposals
17 March 2022	Disaster Management & Preparedness
Venue	Atma Darshan, Andheri

MY PROGRAMMES

08 - 15 December	Visit to Mangalore Communities
16 December	Birth Centennial Celebration of Fr. Peter Verhalen, Raia, Goa
19 December	DDW Christmas Celebration, Atma Darshan, Andheri
05 January	SVD Ordinations, Divine Call Centre, Mulki
06 - 10 January	Visit to Kerala Communities and Council Meeting
12 January	Ordination of Dn. Melroy Mascarenhas, Sacred Heart Church, Andheri
15 - 16 January	Final Vows and Diaconate, Divine Word Seminary, Pune
22 January	Ordination of Dn. Lucas Parkhe, St. Mary's Church, Wahegaon, Aurangabad

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

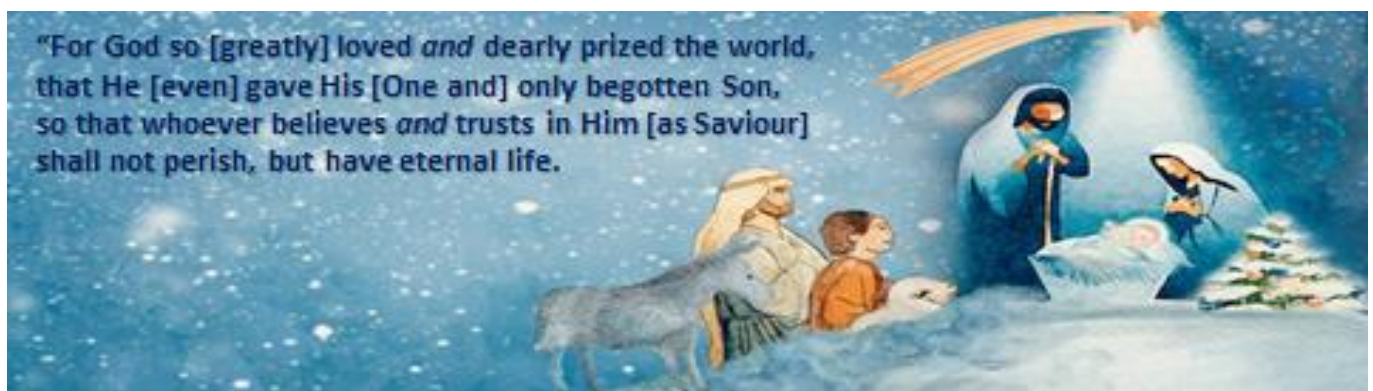
07 - 10 January 2022

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