



PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR

INDIA MUMBAI PROVINCE (INM)



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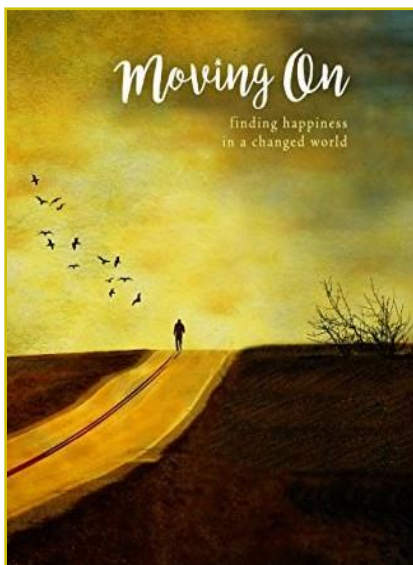
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June 2022

LET'S MOVE ON

The wheel has been the greatest invention in the history of humankind. It signifies action or movement. Marquis De Sade says, “The primary and most beautiful of nature’s qualities is motion.” Movement in the right direction with good intent can usher in growth and success.



Once a teacher, who had a bicycle, a motorcycle and a car told his students. “I have these three vehicles. But I can’t use all of them at the same time even though I possess them all. I have to make decisions and decide which one to use and when. I use the bicycle when my destination is nearby and when I need to exercise. The motorcycle is used for little longer distances especially when I know I will not get proper parking for the four-wheeler. The car is reserved for longer distances and when comfort is a priority. I also use it when I go for special occasions as a status symbol.

Purposeful movement plays a significant role in our life and mission. The moment the movement ceases, stagnancy and decay sets in and ultimately results in death. Life begins with movement and ends when there is that last full stop - death.

Movement in itself is not enough but right movement in the right direction leads us to the right goal. Steve Maraboli in his book, ‘Steve 101’, says, “Too much action with too little intent makes for wasteful exertion of energy and the confusion between movement and progress.” Everyone has expectations of productivity, happiness and success. But they do not come free of cost. Each one has to work for success and make the right movement at the right time with right judgment. “Consciousness is only possible through change; change is only possible through movement.” says Aldous Huxley in his handbook, ‘The Art of Seeing’.

Therefore, two things are rightly needed – Openness and Motivation for this movement and change to be productive and effective. One needs to be open minded for future endeavours, challenges and change. “Your hand opens and closes and opens and closes. If it were always a closed fist or always stretched open, you would be paralyzed. Your deepest presence is felt in every small contraction and expansion, the two as beautifully balanced and coordinated as bird wings.” said the renowned poet Rumi. Talking of motivation, Jeanne de Salzman says, “Behind the visible movement there is another movement, one which cannot be seen, which is very strong, on which the outer movement depends. If this inner movement were not strong, the outer one would not have any action.”

The month of June is a time of movement – movement towards new beginnings, renewals, progress, change, new responsibilities, new endeavours and may be even new challenges in our life and mission. A little glimpse on the above reflection would help us to begin our new academic year on the right note and to see things in right perspective and face all the challenges with strong resolve, so that at the end, we can reap the harvest of our well-directed movement – success and satisfaction.

Carol Welch says, “Movement is a medicine for creating change in a person’s physical, emotional, and mental states”. Let us therefore, at the very outset, open the cabinet of medicine and consume the pill of movement in right proportion to stimulate us to move on towards success and fulfilment. Let’s not allow anything to get in the way of our development and success. For us the sky is the limit especially with God who wants to do more than we can ever imagine. May this new academic year be a year of new normals, higher heights and deeper depths. Let us refuse to be average and mediocre. Let us move on with purpose and passion with the Divine Word into the New World to soar to the new heights of excellence in all dimensions of our life and mission.

- INM Leadership Team

STOP CHILD BEGGARY - STOP CHILD LABOUR



According to a study done by ‘Save the Children’ India has over 1.26 crore child labourers. On the occasion of National Anti-Child Labour Day, Sarva Seva Sangh, Pune organised a two-day public awareness drive on child labour and child beggary on 29th and 30th of April 2022. The awareness was conducted at four places in Pune city. On 29th morning the awareness drive began at Shivaji Nagar (Wakdewadi) state bus stand and in the evening at the city bus stop near Pune station. On 30th April the awareness in the morning was at Swargate state bus stand and at the city bus stop and in the evening the awareness was conducted at the crowded Pune Railway station. The team of social workers and

field workers of Sarva Seva Sangh displayed banners and posters and held placards containing slogans in English, Hindi and Marathi. Slogans such as stop child beggary, stop child labour, uproot child labour from the society, child labour is a business, stop giving money to begging children etc. were displayed. Handbills with information on child labour and child beggary in English and Marathi were also distributed to the people for more information. Thousands of people were made aware of the menace of child labour and child beggary through this drive. Many people appreciated the awareness drive.

SVD LAY PARTNERS’ ANIMATION SEMINAR



Lay leaders from 10 SVD parishes across the Northeast states of India – Assam, Tripura, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh attended the SVD Lay Partners Animation Seminar at the SVD House, Guwahati, Assam on 24th and 25th March 2022. Around 40 lay leaders along with their Parish Priests participated in this two-day seminar organized by ING Region. Regional Superior, Fr. Maxim Rodrigues, and Mission Secretary, Fr. Clement Quadras

were actively involved in the seminar along with other SVD fathers. I am deeply grateful for inviting me to this seminar and allowing me to share my experience as SVD lay partner.

On the 25th March, the Solemnity of the Annunciation and the titular feast of the Society, Archbishop John Moolachira, Archbishop of Guwahati, presided over the Eucharist and encouraged us to be the faithful followers of the Word. Later, Frs. Cyprian Pinto, Valentine Dung Dung, Jose K, Ivan D'Silva, and others spoke on the first SVD presence in the Northeast and their early experiences and challenges in the missions. Fr. Francis Fernandes gave the group insight on our Founder and the Founding Generation.

I was overwhelmed by the active participation of the lay leaders during the seminar. There was eagerness in the participants to know one another and their involvement in the missions. The two-day sessions were filled with group discussions and sharing, acting out bible passages, group activities, etc. Frs. Francis and Clement animated the participants, leading them in singing and teaching them gospel action songs. I liked many, but the best one was... *David ne Goliath ko ghuma ghuma ke maara!* It left me in splits!

One of the things I learned at this seminar was that my active involvement with the participants was more important than my professional Power Point presentation. They were simple straightforward people. I quickly became one of them. Many of the lay leaders were inspired to share their personal experiences with the SVD fathers, especially those who were among the first to begin the challenging missions in Lumshnong, Seppa, Roing, Kamranga, and many more.



ING is interwoven with mighty rivers and mysterious mountains. Diverse ethno-cultural groups inhabit the Region. My visit to the missions made me realize that our pioneer missionaries have laid a strong foundation on which the activities in ING stand today. Through an empowerment process of education, dialogue and networking with Government/NGOs, the SVDs are trying to educate the tribal children. They are first-generation learners. The schools not only provide knowledge but build bridges across tribes, creating platforms to live in harmony. Furthermore, the indigenous peoples are playing a crucial role in evangelizing the region.

- Susan Noronha

SUMMER CAMP AT ALKA



The 4th summer camp 'ALKA 2022' began on 2nd May at 9 am with a short prayer service organized by the Staff of ALKA and declared open by Fr. Ramesh D'Souza, the famous singer of Vasai Diocese and the assistant parish priest of Papdy church. 191 children took part in this summer camp. Among these 55 children took part in learning musical instruments namely Keyboard and Guitar. This summer camp consisted of Music, Dance, Acting, Public Speaking, Drawing, Painting, Personality Development, Yoga, Meditation, Health workshop and all types of entertaining activities. The main focus of the summer camp was to build up the character of children along with music and dance. During this camp, we organized a few talks on personality development, public speaking and character building by Fr.

John, Fr. Nickson, Fr. Salate, Mr. Daniel and Teacher Candice. We also organized a health workshop for the children. We called our famous doctors namely Sr. Mary Chettiyar, Sr. Saroj and Sr. Slokshana from Cardinal Gracious Hospital and St. Anne's Cancer Institute who gave some health tips to the children. We also had a magic show by the famous magician Mr. Umesh from Delight party entertainment group from Nallasopara and a short film by Sir. Daniel. Drawing workshop was conducted by Miss. Reshmita and Fr. Nickson.

Character building action songs by our SVD Brothers and Tr. Candice is very much appreciative. We had a lot fun games conducted by Mr. Santhosh, Teachers Deepa, Candice and Aloma and our SVD Brothers.



We had different types of dances namely classical, western and folk taught by Sir Vinod, the famous dancer and choreographer of Vasai and along with him Sir Atul, Sir Vignesh and Mrs. Tracy Alphonso. The main focus of the evening summer music camp – was to teach the children how to read music. We have Fr. Salate and Sir Daniel who are all specialized in keyboard and Sir Joseph who is specialized in Guitar. They all worked hard to train them. We had a very grand Cultural Evening at the culmination of the Summer Camp held on 22nd May. The teachers along with their students presented several dances and songs which had created a festive atmosphere. There were a lot of parents, grandparents and the relatives of the students gathered till the end of the programme. Rev. Fr. Robin Dias, the parish priest of

St. Francis Xavier church, Giriz and Fr. S. M. Michael SVD, the director of Institute of Indian Culture, Andheri were the guests of the day. Both of them addressed our Students and emphasized the importance of practice, i.e., riyaz in all forms of art, be it singing or dancing. Kudos to all the participants, teachers and the staff.

52 WEEKS' UNINTERRUPTED FEED THE HUNGRY PROJECT

It was at the height of the second Covid wave with its accompanying lockdown (May 2021) that the Feed the Hungry core group decided to re-start the project. From that day onwards (Saturday, May 15), whether it was rain or shine; 25th Dec. or 1st Jan (both were Saturdays); any ordinary Saturday or Holy Saturday, it has been an uninterrupted drive of reaching out with more and more. It was those initial days



in May 2021 that provided the impetus. As the members ventured out they realized that the people, who were not coming forward to take the food, now wanted it. Auto drivers and ordinary people walking by used to join the line to take the food. The times were bad. The second lockdown was taking its toll especially on daily wage-earners. Seeing this hunger on the streets, the members were motivated all the more, to go big with food distribution.

Now 2 vehicles go out with food every Saturday, one to the Western part of the suburbs around the Cooper hospital and Juhu beach area. The other vehicle goes to the Eastern side around the Goregaon Aarey colony area. Each food packet consists of veg-pulao, boiled egg, pickle, banana, and a bottle of water and an added packet of biscuits for

children. Approximately 1000 food packets are distributed every Saturday. Some of the food is supplied by the members. Four families, who have meagre sources of income, have been identified by the core group. These families take orders on behalf of those who might want to donate food. Thus, these families too are helped in the process. It's encouraging to note that money has been flowing in for this project. Many of those who come to Atma Darshan make it a point to donate some amount to this project. The DDW members and their contacts are a strong support to this venture by way of raising funds and creating awareness of reaching out to the needy.

Pray-Reach Out-Connect is the guiding motto of the Feed the Hungry project. The motivation runs deep in the members as seen in their commitment to keep everything aside on Saturdays, and congregate at Atma Darshan to bring in the food; to pack it; to fill the water bottles; to load it on the 2 vehicles and then go out to distribute it. The rhythm seen among the younger and not-so-younger members is fascinating.

If it's the younger members who go out distributing food, then it's the seniors who come on early to pack the food and keep everything ready for the distribution. Before the food-loaded vehicles move out, a few minutes are spent praying for the members and for those who'll be receiving the food. The point of distribution is not merely about giving food, but also about relationships. In the limited time-frame the members also interact with the people getting to know them and their situation. Pray-Reach Out-Connect: yes, it's a time of joy and pride for all the members as the challenge to do all this, successfully completes a year of uninterrupted Saturdays.

DIVINE WORD RETREAT MINISTRY, PUNE



Divine Word Retreat Ministry of the SVD Pune LCF conducted its third monthly retreat for the laity on May 28, 2022, at the Zeitler Hall of Ishvani Kendra. It was attended by about 100 persons from Pune city. The preacher for the day was Fr. Sahaya Cyril Doss SVD from INH. It was a spirit-filled experience for the gathered faithful. The praise and worship was led by Fr. Francline Machado along with members of Jesus Youth. Fr. Cyril Edward led the Eucharistic and healing adoration. Fr. Mathew Kavukatt celebrated the Eucharist. Other members of the Pune LCF helped in confession and counselling. The participants were served a tasty vegetarian meal prepared by DWS. The fratres from DWS and members of the Disciples of the Divine Word, Pune also helped in various ways.

The DWR Ministry in Pune made its beginning at Ishvani Kendra on April 02, 2022. The inaugural Eucharist was celebrated by Bishop Thomas Dabre of Poona, who lauded our initiative for the spiritual welfare of the laity. This Lenten retreat was attended by 90 persons. The second retreat was an Easter retreat on April 23, which was attended by 65 persons. Now after three retreats, we see clear indications that the laity of Pune have accepted this ministry. There is word of mouth publicity by the participants and many of them told us that they have been waiting for such retreats in Pune and they look forward to seeing a retreat centre coming up in Pune.

The efforts towards the Word-based retreat ministry in Pune was begun by the LCF right after the INM Provincial Chapter in February 2021, which recommended the start of this pastoral initiative in Pune. The start was delayed due to the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Bishop of Poona gave his written permission for the ministry in December 2021. Then the spread of the Omicron variant of the virus delayed the start by another couple of months. And finally, April 02 was chosen as the inaugural date as per the availability of the local Ordinary. Presently the retreat team consists of Frs. Francline Machado, Gregory Arockiam, Michael Vettumanickal, Wilson Wilfred, Cyril Edward and Mathew Kavukatt. This one-day English retreat for the laity is held on the fourth Saturday of every month. It uses the existing facilities of both Ishvani Kendra and Divine Word Seminary to organise the retreats.

NEW OFFICE-BEARERS OF DDW – MUMBAI



Members of the Disciples of the Divine Word (DDW) Mumbai elected new office-bearers for 2022-2025 at the meeting on Sunday, 1st May 2022 at Atma Darshan. Fr. Gregory Pinto, Spiritual Director of the DDW, conducted the elections through ballots. Installation of the new team was done during the Eucharistic celebration by INM Mission Secretary, Fr. Jolly Mudakkampurath. Congratulations to the new team of office-bearers of DDW: Jayesh George (Vice President), Anupama Subodhanan (Secretary), Fr. Gregory Pinto SVD (Spiritual Director), Andrew D'Souza (Treasurer), and Susan Noronha (President, re-elected).

DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATION AND NEW ACADEMIC YEAR



St. John's Mission seminary, Changanacherry celebrated its Diamond Jubilee on 2 June 2022 with a solemn Eucharist celebrated by Rt. Rev. Chacko Thottumarickal SVD, Bishop of Indore, along with the Provincials - Fr. Richard Mathias (INM), Fr. Jomon Alackal (INC), Vice-provincial Fr. Tomy Perumprayil and Fr. Mathew Chennakudy. Rector, Fr. Jose Panackappillil introduced the celebrants and later welcomed Most Rev. Mar Joseph Perumthottam, Archbishop of

Changanacherry during the public meeting, who inaugurated the function and delivered the keynote address. Archbishop appreciated the missionary work of the SVDs in India and all over the world, and alerted everyone against the evil forces destroying the unity of the Church. Fr. Babu Kakkaniyil was the MC of the public meeting while Fr. Jomet Koleth looked after the material set up of the jubilee celebration. As the new academic year 2022 - 2023 has commenced, 12 freshers to the first year and two late vocations, 14 of them overall have joined the seminary this year. Seven including the two late vocations will go to Palda for the SIS course.



ANNUAL RETREAT AND RENEWAL OF VOWS



According to the Gospel of Luke, during the first encounter of Peter with Jesus at the lake of Genesaret Jesus asks Peter to put out into the deep water and let down the net for a catch. In spite of his tiredness and disappointment over the unfruitful labour over the last night, at the command of Jesus, he lets down the net into the deep and to the surprise of everyone except Jesus, they get so many fish to the risk of their nets breaking (Lk.5:1-6). Annual retreat is one such encounter of

putting one's nets into the deep. We had begun our journey with the Lord, with great fervour and enthusiasm but as the time passed by we are withered away (Mt.13:6) and choked (Mt.13:7). We lost our first love (Rev. 2:4) and commitment. This is quite common and human, and therefore, we need time to time servicing. Annual retreats are occasions where we try to re-discover ourselves, our original passion and love. Every retreat is an invitation from the Lord to let down our nets into the depth of our being and to rediscover our original beauty.

The annual retreat in Divine Word Seminary was a grace and blessing to all of us. We were indeed blessed to have Fr. Cyril Doss SVD, Director of Divine Word Centre, Muthangi, to animate our retreat. A spirit filled person as he is, he was able to break the Word of God and feed us with it in a digestible form. In the atmosphere of silence, reflection and prayer, we experienced the Holy Spirit guiding and moving our hearts towards God. Retreat set the platform for a meaningful ceremony of vows renewal that took place on 3 June 2022. Nourished by the Word and guided by the Spirit we vowed to live the Evangelical Counsels of Poverty, Chastity and Obedience to love the Lord with an undivided heart and to serve Him in the poor and the needy with an indomitable spirit. May the heart of Jesus live in our hearts and in the hearts of all.

BESTOWAL OF MISSION CROSS



The morning of 12th of June 2022 shined out with bright rays from the sun while few dark clouds on the distant horizon were plotting to bring some showers. The Catholic Church, in every parish around the world, was rejoicing in the celebration of the mystery of the Holy Trinity, while the Divine Word Seminary was well prepared with clean surroundings, a flowery decorated altar, melodious choir rehearsing their hymns, one could experience a tremendous vibration

of celebration. She was happy to embrace her children whom she cared for during the years 2018 - 2021 for one final time, as she would send them as missionaries to the world. The Provincial of INM province, Rev. Fr. Richard Mathias presided over the Eucharist which solemnly began with an entrance procession at 11:15 AM from the Reading room to the Chapel. The SVD Lay Mission Partners also partook in the Eucharist with great joy. One of the papal documents advises us that, “The pilgrim Church is missionary by her very nature, since it is from the mission of the Son and the Mission of the Holy Spirit that she draws her origin, in accordance with the decree of God the Father.” – Ad Gentes (2) and how grace-filled experience it was for all of us to look at our newly-ordained priests being bestowed with mission cross! Fr. Aaron, and Fr. Stanislaus Lazar, Generalate Mission Secretary, along with Fr. Provincial were the main celebrants of the Eucharist and Fr. Philip Raja proposed the vote of thanks. Fr. Stan in his homily stressed that mission is not a burden but a joy to be lived and shared with others and hence the missionaries are sent out to be the witnesses of Gospel joy. The Eucharist was soon followed by a sumptuous meal which was blessed by Fr. Stanislaus. The day entered into the dark of the evening with a friendly cricket match between the newly-ordained priests and the DWS community.

TRANSFER OF FR. JOY PANAMTHANAM



The General Council in its meeting held on 3rd May 2022 has transferred Fr. Joy Panamthanam from Zambia Mission to INM Province. We are happy that Fr. Joy having rendered his valuable service as a Formator and teacher is returning to the province with rich pastoral and missionary experiences. We extend a warm welcome to Fr. Joy to INM and pray that he may continue to enrich our mission and province through his presence and ministry. Fr. Joy is expected to arrive in the province for his home holidays and then for the ministry in the beginning of July.

PREPARATION OF ACTION PLAN

Recommendation No. 4 (INM Chapter 2009) states that in the beginning of the academic year each community prepares an Action Plan with an inbuilt mechanism for its execution, which is reviewed periodically, documented and reported to the Provincial Superior. Hence, I request the Superiors to call for a meeting and re-visit the Vision and Mission and prepare the Action Plan for your community/institute. As you prepare the Annual Action Plan kindly remember to pay due importance to all the four characteristic dimensions of our mission: Biblical Apostolate, Communication, Mission Animation and JPIC.

YEAR PLAN 2022 - 2023 (TENTATIVE)	
DATE	EVENTS
26 June	Platinum Jubilee Celebration, St. Theresa’s Church, Bandra
28-29 June	Provincial Council Meeting, SVD Provincial House, Bandra
8-11 July	OB-5 Gathering, St. Francis Xavier’s Ashram, Goa

8-10 August	Provincial Council Meeting, Sarva Vikas Deep, Mangaon
12-13, 16-17 August	Formation Live-in Seminar in Snehalaya, Indore
16-17 September	Formation Board Meeting, Shanti Bhavan, Jharsuguda
19-20 September	Inter-Provincial Forum Meeting, Shanti Bhavan, Jharsuguda
21 September	Vivat India Board Meeting, Shanti Bhavan, Jharsuguda
21-22 September	Provincial Council Meeting, Shanti Bhavan, Jharsuguda
10 October	Last date for submitting March distribution budget proposals
23 October	World Mission Sunday
24 October - 21 November	General Visitation
10 Nov. - 31 January 2023	Provincial Leadership Team Elections
21 November	Meeting of Council with Visitor General, SVD Provincial House, Bandra
22-23 November	Provincial Council Meeting, SVD Provincial House, Bandra
24 November	Meeting of Visitor Generals and PRM Superiors at Soverdia House, Andheri
27 Nov. - 2 December	Province Retreat – Atma Darshan, Andheri Preacher: Fr. Alvito Fernandes OCD
2 December	Province Jubilee Celebrations
25 December	Christmas
1 January	New Year
2-3 January	Final Vows and Diaconate, Divine Word Seminary, Pune
5 January	Ordination Dn. Cranston Vaz, Goa
7-12 January	Provincial Council Meeting, Kerala

15 January	Feast St. Arnold Janssen / SVD Day / Sunday of the Word of God
22-27 January	Province Retreat, Divine Call Centre, Mulki Preacher: Fr. Alvito Fernandes OCD
29 January	Feast of St. Joseph Freinademetz
2 February	Day of the Consecrated Persons
22 February	Ash Wednesday
25 February	India-Subzone Governing Body Meeting, SVD Vidya Bhavan, Bhopal
4-5 March	Council Meeting, Divine Word Seminary, Pune
10 March	Last date for submitting September distribution budget proposals
12 March	SVD Mission Sunday
2 April	Installation of New Provincial Leadership Team
3 April	Joint Meeting of Councils, SVD Provincial House, Bandra
6 April	Maundy Thursday
7 April	Good Friday
8 April	Holy Saturday / Easter Vigil
9 April	Easter

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

28-29 JUNE 2022

SVD PROVINCIAL HOUSE, BANDRA

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**