



PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR

INDIA MUMBAI PROVINCE (INM)



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FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY

April - May 2023

TOGETHER WE CAN

After a few centuries of increasing centralization, there is now a movement towards greater participation, consultation and sharing of responsibility which reflects a tendency within the Church as a whole and among Religious Congregations. Thus, the movement is away from authoritarianism to responsible authority. Today objectives are changing, the concept of authority appears in a new light, community and superior-subjects relationship are being modified, idea about participation, responsibility, co-operation etc. are undergoing frequent changes. Everything is in a process of change. Change is too rapid. Today, we need to have the ability to translate ideas and discoveries into action. This is required if we and our institutions are to survive. We consider our Society as a corporate body of shared responsibility and inter-dependence called by God to achieve our apostolic goals. It is everyone's responsibility to see that our apostolic goals are realized and whatever we do as superiors, individuals and communities contribute to our ultimate purpose. The installation of our new Provincial Team was on 3rd April. The first daunting task in front of the Team was the transfers. This time INM has a long list of transfers. Now, slowly it will be time for the send-offs and welcomes. As you know, send-offs and welcomes have been occasions of togetherness and communion. I wish everyone joy, fulfilment and success in all your apostolic endeavors- new and old.



As I look back, I bring to my mind many reactions to the transfers that I received through emails, and personal conversations. I also think of some rumours and exaggerations that were left to float around by fun lovers. But my inner response is one of gratitude to God for the tremendous goodness and sincerity that I find in many of our members and at the same time an eagerness to understand and walk with those who are struggling sincerely to find meaning in the changes. Some of the responses to transfers have made me ponder as to how much we as a Province and individuals have integrated into our personal and community lives, the charism of unconditional service and total availability – the hallmark of our Society. Community is like a large Mosaic. Each little piece seems so insignificant. One piece is bright red another cold blue or dull green, another warm purple, another sharp yellow, another shining gold. Some look precious, others ordinary; some look valuable, others worthless; some look gaudy, others delicate. We can do little with them as individual stones except compare them and judge their beauty and value.

However, when all these little stones are brought together in one big mosaic, portraying the face of Christ, who would ever question the importance of every one of them? If one of them, even the least spectacular one is missing, the face of Jesus is incomplete. Together, in the one mosaic, each little stone is indispensable and makes a unique contribution to the Glory of God. That is community, a fellowship of little people who together make God visible in the world. Yes, together is the way! Together we can achieve incredible things.

- INM Leadership Team

COMMENCEMENT OF NEW TRIENNIUM



The INM Leadership Team took charge during the solemn Eucharistic celebration on April 3, 2023 at Atma Darshan Chapel, Andheri in the presence of our confreres, sisters and Lay Partners especially Disciples of the Divine Word (DDW). It was a grace-filled occasion for the Leadership Team as well as for the Province to re-dedicate ourselves to God, the Society and the Mission. We would like to thank the General Leadership Team for the trust placed on us, and appointing us, to be at the service of the Province and the Mission. Through the grace of Almighty God and

the cooperation of all, we believe we will be able to lead the province according to the vision-mission of the province and the charism of our Society especially in the spirit and directives of the 18th General Chapter summarized in its motto: Love of Christ impels us: rooted in the Word and committed to God's mission.

As we begin our mission of leadership for the triennium 2023-26, we request each one of you to bless us so that we may joyfully and effectively carry out the mission entrusted to us by God. We are aware that it is a demanding responsibility but we are strengthened by the Lord who is with us to guide us according to his promise and the guidance and encouragement of Superiors will accompany us and the goodwill and co-operation of every confrere and lay partners can be relied upon as always.

GRATITUDE TO FRs. RICHARD MATHIAS, S. M. MICHAEL AND NICOLAU D'COSTA



We thank and acknowledge Frs. Richard Mathias, S.M. Michael and Nicolau D'Costa for their committed service as Provincial Superior, Admonitor and Councillor. Their tireless service has been an essential part of our successes in the history of our INM province. We thank them for their leadership and dedication. We wish them God's blessings and all the best in their future endeavours. Their service will not be forgotten and their legacy will live on

for many years to come.

TRANSFERS AND APPOINTMENTS

We thank God for the religious and missionary spirit which is exhibited in the openness and generosity of the confreres to give yourselves to the mission and the needs of the Province. We thank all the confreres for being so gracious in accepting even painful and difficult transfers. We gratefully acknowledge the dedicated service of each one of you and thank you for the mission accomplished with great love at your present ministry. As we begin our life in the re-constituted communities from June we want to accompany each one of you through our prayers and encouragement. We pray that your life dedicated to Christ and his Church in the Society of the Divine Word for the sake of God's Kingdom bear abundant fruit. May the Lord bless you and be gracious to you; may you feel what God feels and yearn for what God yearns for. May what breaks God's heart break yours and may His perfect and complete love flow through you to everyone you meet. May you not only speak of Jesus and live for Jesus, but be Jesus everywhere you go.

TRANSFERS/APPOINTMENTS (2023-24)

Maintaining our good old tradition, those of us who are on transfer, kindly prepare and plan to assume your responsibilities latest by June 15, 2023. We shall communicate to you in person, if there are any changes in the present plan, at an appropriate time. As you take-over/hand-over kindly follow meticulously the protocol in place for the good of the institute and the ministry.

TRANSFERS/APPOINTMENTS (2023-24)

INSTITUTION/PLACE	DESIGNATION	APPOINTMENT
Holy Family Church, Marcela	Parish Priest	Joaquim Fernandes
St. Francis Xavier's Ashram, Raia	Rector	Innocent Fernandes
	Treasurer, Project In Charge, Asst. Prefect	Richard Mathias
	Prefect, Coordinator – Migrant Ministry	Michael Pereira
	Vocation Promoter, Asst. Coordinator – Migrant Ministry	Cranston Vas
	Farm In Charge	Caetano Mascarenhas
SVD House, Kirem	Rector, Prefect,	George Crasta
Divine Call Centre, Mulki	Treasurer	Maxim Pinto
	Media In Charge	Ronald D'Silva
	Staff Member	Jacob Mulavurikal

	Staff Member	Mark Mathias
Vidya Niketan, Mysuru	Moderator, Vice – Rector	Alwyn Pinto
	Spiritual Director	George Mudakkampuram
St. Arnold’s Central School, Mysuru	Superior, Manager,	Edward Ferrao
	Principal	Jossie Fernandes
	K G In – charge, Teacher	Sunil Santosh
St. Theresa of Calcutta Church, Mysuru	Asst. Parish Priest	Leo Alex
St. Ann’s Church, Nala	Parish Priest	Bernard Rodrigues
SVD Mission Bailhongal	Treasurer, Asst. Mission Moderator	Ezekiel Rakesh
SVD House, SACS, Aduvassery	Superior – SVD House, Manager Treasurer – SACS	Paul Vattathara
	Principal – SACS, Treasurer – SVD House	Joyson Kurian
St. John’s Seminary, Changanacherry	Rector, Prefect	Mathew Chennakudy
	Vocation Promoter ,Asst. Prefect,	Moncy Xavier
	Treasurer	Joy Panamthanam
Prarthana Niketan, Kaduthuruthy	Program Coordinator	Jose George
	Treasurer	Jose Panackkpillilil
SVD Vachana Jyothi, Pilathara	Treasurer	Michael Vettumanickal
	Staff Member	Chacko Parekatt
Atma Darshan, Andheri	Asst. Superior, Asst. Director	Salvador Carvalho
	Treasurer & Divine Word Retreat Ministry, Andheri	Salvador Carvalho
	Counsellor	George Mepurath
Gyan Ashram, Andheri	Superior, Director	Salate Nathan
	HOD: Music and Dance Academy	Salate Nathan
	Treasurer, Asst. HOD Music and Dance Academy & Musical Proclamation Ministry	Chinnappan

	Director, Treasurer – SSS & Coordinator – INM Retreat Ministry, Mumbai	Joe Prabhu
	Asst. Superior, Asst. Director – Gyan Ashram & SSS	Joseph M T
Institute of Indian Culture, Andheri	Superior, Director	Scaria Pannackal
	Treasurer, Asst. Superior & Asst. Director	John Singarayar
Sacred Heart Church, Andheri	Parish Priest	John Mascarenhas
	Co – Pastor	Edwin Vas
	Co – Pastor	Callisto Gomes
	Co – Pastor	Christi Selvaraj
Soverdia House, Andheri	Superior & Superior Delegate	Felix Lobo
	Asst. Superior & Treasurer	Ginto Puthenpurackal
	Retired/ Ministry of Prayer	Richard Gomes
	Retired/ Ministry of Prayer	Jacob Kavunkal
	In Residence (Sabbatical)	Valerian Fernandes
St. Arnold's High School, Junior College & Degree College Andheri	Manager – School /Rector – College	Scaria Pannackal
	Principal, St. Arnold's School	Laiju Varkey
St. Theresa's School, Bandra	Treasurer, Teacher	Shinoy Mathew
SVD Provincial House, Bandra	Rector	James Uravil
	Staff Member	Aloysius D'Souza
UCDC	Superior, Director	Lawrence Correa
	Asst. Superior, Asst. Director	Jolly Mudakkampurathu
	Treasurer, Coordinator – Maitri Sanghatan	Cosmos Ekka
	Asst. Coordinator – Maitri Sanghatan	Jerome D'Souza
SVD Mangaon Mission	Asst. Superior, Asst. Priest In Charge	Thomas Sequeira
Janseva Society, Tala	Superior, Director	Nickson Louis Gabru

SVD Shishyalaya & ALKA, Vasai	Rector, HOD Music Academy – ALKA	Ciril D’Souza
	Vice – Rector, Vocation Promotor, Treasurer, SVD Shishyalaya & ALKA	Ivan D’Silva
	Spiritual Director	Joy Thomas
Divine Word Seminary, Pune	Treasurer, Vice – Rector, Moderator	Johney Vattamala
	Moderator	Naveen Rebello
St. Arnold’s Central School, Pune	Principal	Sunil Menezes
Ishvani Kendra, Pune	HOD Communication, Asst. Superior, Asst. Director	Anil T Paul
	Treasurer	Vincent
SSS, Pune	Asst. Director, Treasurer	Mahipal Toppo
DDW, Bandra	Spiritual Director	Jolly Mudakkampurathu
Higher Studies	Counselling Studies	Jomet Joseph
	BEd	Cyril Edward

Exposure Immersion Programme (EIP)	Sarva Vikas Deep, Mangaon	Fr. Rohit Ekka
	Sarva Seva Sangh, Pune	Fr. Gnaneshwar Kamera

INM OFFICES

Biblical Coordinator	Mathew Kavukatt
Mission Secretary	Jolly Mudkkampurath
Communication Coordinator	Evan Gomes
JPIC Coordinator	Babu Kakkaniyil
AJS Coordinators	Gregory Arockiam Michael Vettumanickal Titus Thattamattathil
EIP Coordinator	Salvador Carvalho
Co. Brother Formation	Vincent A.
Pastoral Course Coordinator	Jesuraj Rayappan
Animator for Young Confreres	Anthony Menezes

SVD Mission Support	Jolly Mudkkampurath	Director
	Johneyy Vattamala	Asst. Director
SVD Friends – Mumbai	Scaria Pannackal	
Education Coordinator	Nicolau D'Costa	

UCDC CELEBRATES WOMEN'S DAY



Every year UCDC organizes Women's Day. This year, during the leaders' planning meeting, the women challenged men to organize and execute the entire event. The men took it as a challenge and decided to celebrate Women's Day on 5th March 2023. The program had two main goals; Firstly, to give the women a sense of a dignified life, and secondly, to train leaders of self-help groups (SHGs) and Mahila Mandal to fight against domestic violence in their area. The

main theme of the day was “Every woman wants to live in a violence-free family”. The event had three parts; Holy Mass, a session on domestic violence, and a cultural program. The Mass began with an introduction focusing on the positive role women play in families, society, and the nation. During the Mass, men were in charge of the Liturgy and choir. In addition, they chose hymns and ‘prayers of the faithful’ appropriate for the theme. The second part

was the session on domestic violence. Adv. Shradha Patil, LLB, LLM presented a session using a simple PowerPoint Presentation on domestic violence. It was more of an interactive session. She covered the points; concepts, types, and causes of domestic violence. She emphasized the types of violence; physical violence, sexual, emotional, and economic abuse. She also explained in detail the legislation relating to domestic violence. The participants were given time for discussions. The entire gathering understood the importance of community intervention. Mr. Anup thanked the resource person. Later, the participants were served tea and snacks. The third part was a cultural program organized by men. They welcomed the women by singing a creative welcome song and showering them with flowers. They also performed a skit based on the theme and also had a cultural dance. On behalf of the women, Mrs. Bimla thanked all the men for putting up a beautiful program. Fr. Cosmos thanked and appreciated everyone for actively participating in a large number and ended the event with a small prayer.

NEW BASKETBALL COURT AT VIDYA NIKETAN



The dream of Vidya Niketan to re-construct the new basketball courts has materialized this month. In the world of the millennium generation where great importance is being placed on online playing of games, a standard sports facility would

attract them to the real taste of enjoying a real sweating out game of basketball. The new basketball court of the house has brought a new spirit and enthusiasm to the seminarian in playing the game on a new turf. Though it has taken almost four months to complete the work of the court commencing from November, the long wait has been worth it as it has produced a quality court of a great standard. The approval of the project by the provincial administration with the collaboration of SACS Mysore has made the project a reality in our seminary. This project has elevated the scenic beauty and glamour of the compound. To begin the construction of the court some trees have to be cut and removed. This work has been done by the seminarians under the guidance of the superiors. The total and committed cooperation and prayers of many people have been a great assistance to our seminary formation and we glorify God for such great gifts to us.

DDW LENTEN RECOLLECTION

INM Mission Secretary, Fr. Jolly organized Lenten Recollection to the SVD lay partners (Disciples of the



Divine Word – DDW) of Andheri and Bandra at Atma Darshan on Sunday, 26th March 2023. Around thirty-five members participated. To recharge our spiritual life, Fr. Gregory Pinto led us into an awareness of the attributes of saints within us, which we need to grow and nurture, and the shadows that we need to discard. Fr Jolly celebrated the Eucharist and gave us deeper insight into the mission that begins with dialogue and ends with outreach. We thank God for the time spent in adoration that helped us to become aware of the newness in life. Overall, it was

a rewarding time spent with the members of the DDW Andheri and Bandra, as we had lunch together we got to know one another.

FEED THE HUNGRY PROJECT: PRAY-REACH OUT-CONNECT



On Saturday, 11th February 2023, the Feed the Hungry Project was celebrated in Atma Darshan. It is a joint project of Disciples of the Divine Word (DDW) Mumbai and Atma Darshan. The program began at 4.15 p.m. with a quote - “Whenever you are in a position to help someone, just do it and be glad, because GOD is answering someone's prayers through you. So, don't think that anybody is using you but remember that you're useful.” Fr. Gregory Pinto, Spiritual Director –



DDW Mumbai welcomed all present. The guests were Fr. Richard Mathias – INM Provincial Superior, Fr. Jolly Mission Secretary, SVD confreres, DDW members, benefactors, families who help to provide cooked food for the project, collaborators, friends, and well-wishers. Feed the Hungry Project is not just reaching out to the needy, but to experience from those who connect us to the heart of God. Over 1200 food packets are distributed to the poor and needy people every Saturday. Each food packet contains vegetable pulao, boiled egg,

pickle, banana, a bottle of water, and an added packet of biscuits and sweets for children. In addition, some medicines, toiletries, blankets, bedsheets, and clothes are distributed to the homeless. This was



explained using a PowerPoint presentation. Three people shared their personal experiences as part of the project. One of them involved in cooking the food said that this platform has greatly helped him and his family, who were without resources after the pandemic. He was grateful. Addressing the gathering, Fr. Richard Mathias appreciated the members' efforts in this project. Since he participated in the Feed the Hungry project, including distribution, he was speaking from personal experience. He also mentioned that this is the first of its kind in INM Province. After a short vote of thanks, the guests were ushered to the dining hall for a 'meet and greet' tea time together.

DIVINE WORD RETREAT MINISTRY ANDHERI, MUMBAI

INM Retreat Ministry Team conducted the Special Lenten Retreats in the Atma Darshan Chapel, as we



were conducting for the past three-four years. This year, since we were not affected by the Covid 19 or the lockdown, we had a better response from the people. The 3 days retreat in Tamil was organized from the 2nd of April till the 4th and it saw a huge number of people participating devoutly in the entire retreat. We had almost 400 people who attended this retreat. The retreat in English was conducted from Thursday, 09 March till Saturday 11 March. Though the number of

participants was small, there was a deeply felt spiritual bonding among the faithful who came to attend this retreat. Many of them who came were from different parishes in Mumbai and Thane region. There would have been a bigger number of faithful coming to attend these retreats if we had accommodation available. Due to the lack of accommodation on the campus, many people from faraway places could not manage to travel up and down every day. However, those who came to attend were very enthusiastic and most of them returned home happily at the end of the retreat. Many wanted to come simply because they could celebrate the Holy Eucharist, the sacrament of Confession, and so on.



For the first time, after the two attempts in the previous years had to be canceled due to lockdowns, we also managed to organize the Konkani Lenten Special Retreat this year. A team from Karwar/Goa came to conduct the retreat. There were about 110 people on the first day and about 200 people on the second day. This was only a two days retreat on the 17th and 18th of March. All the people, among whom a good number were from our Sacred Heart Parish, were really glad

that they could have a retreat in Konkani, which they have been longing to have for the past three years. Similar to the Tamil Retreat, we had also a large number of faithful who attended the retreat in Hindi on the 23rd, 24th, and 25th of March. We started the Hindi retreat in March 2022, and for this Lenten retreat, many people came from various parishes in Mumbai. The team, which came to preach the retreat, did a very good job indeed and more than 250 people attended and benefitted from this retreat as well.

The follow-up One Day Tamil Retreat on Saturday 01 April, saw a big number of people as well as the One Day English Retreat on the same day. God willing, the Retreat Ministry with its emphasis on the

proclamation of the Word of God will continue unabated, for “the word of God is not chained.” (2 Tim 2:9). The Team wishes to especially thank Fr. Rony Dsilva, superior of Gyan Ashram, for his wholehearted support and encouragement and all the SVD houses in the campus. A special word of thanks also is due to Fr. Jomon James for his initiative and help with the English Retreat this time. The Team would also like to acknowledge the services of all the other SVD priests on the Campus who regularly help out with the confessions, celebration of the Eucharist, and so on, and all the faithful who came to support us generously. God bless you all.

A WORKSHOP FOR SVD LAY-PARTNERS OF INDIA SUB-ZONE, ISHOPANTHI ASHRAM, PURI



The first ever India Sub-Zone level SVD Lay-Partners workshop was organized by Fr. Luvis Ronald Pereira SVD, the mission secretary for SVD India Subzone in collaboration with Fr. Dixon Lawrence D’Souza SVD, the AJS Coordinator of India-East Province (INE) on March 02-06, 2023. Taking into consideration the forthcoming 19th General Chapter, this workshop revolved around the theme “SVD Lay-Partners: Towards Faithful and Creative Discipleship”. The workshop was graced through the inventiveness and support of Fr. Stanislaus Thanuzraj Lazar SVD, the General Mission Secretary, and Fr. Victor Rodrigues SVD, the Provincial Superior of India-East

Province (INE). The presence of Fr. Maria Gregory Arockiam SVD, the spiritual director of Disciples of the Divine Word (DDW)-Pune, and of the mission secretaries of India-East Province, India-Hyderabad Province, India-Mumbai Province namely Fr. Luvis Ronald Pereira SVD, Fr. Bali Reddy SVD, and Fr. Jolly Mudakkamphurathu SVD respectively, gave a great boost to the workshop. A total of 25 participants from 9 SVD lay-partner groups took part in this workshop. The workshop began with the Eucharistic celebrations on all days followed by sessions.



The sessions helped the participants to understand ‘Lay-partners and SVD Mission in the light of the 19th General Chapter towards becoming faithful and creative disciples’, the understanding of ‘formation of the lay-partners, the formation guide, and the statutes, the significance of ‘Fund Raising as Mission for Mission’ and presented the various platforms available today to raise funds for noble causes, introducing the participants to the Congregations

founded by St. Arnold and their missionary charism, Society of the Divine Word with its foundational charism, the Trinitarian Mission spirituality, the four characteristic dimensions through which it bubbles, and its rootedness in 84 countries. Sr. Florentina Xess SSpS, the provincial secretary and AJS coordinator of SSpS India-East province, presented the mission dynamics of the Congregation of the Missionary Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit (SSpS). Sr. Bindhu Mathew SSpS, a member of the SSpS India-East province leadership team, showcased the life, mission, and activities of the Missionary Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit of Perpetual Adoration (SSpSAP). Following this Fr. Gregory Arockiam SVD emphasized ‘Arnoldus and Lay-Partner’s Spirituality’. All the lay-partner groups came prepared with a ten-minute presentation on the genesis, growth, and activities of their respective lay-partner groups. The third day of the workshop was a day set aside for witnessing the SVD mission among the victims of

leprosy and to savor the auspiciousness of Puri which is the Eastern gate of Hinduism. The first ever India Sub-Zone level SVD Lay-Partners workshop with the theme “SVD Lay-Partners: Towards Faithful and Creative Discipleship” was a grand success.

SVD MISSION SUNDAY – ST THERESA’S BANDRA, MARCH 18-19, 2023



SVD Mission Sunday was celebrated in St Theresa’s parish, Bandra, on March 18-19, 2023. Fr Richard Mattias, SVD Provincial, INM concelebrated the 7 pm Holy Eucharist on Saturday and Fr Jolly M, INM Mission Secretary, preached at all English Masses through the weekend. This year’s SVD Mission Sunday’s theme is ‘Mission in a wounded world’ and the proceeds of the Mission are to support a ‘Village Chapel Project’ in Manipur, India Guwahati Region (ING). The painting of the Indian art form painted by Fr. Petrus Baraik SVD was launched, pictures blessed, the art explained and a two-minute visual on the SVD Mission in Manipur was presented. St Theresa’s Bandra is an SVD parish and a beneficiary of the missionary activity of the Society of the Divine Word (SVD) congregation. Should not those who receive much, share in the mission of raising funds for another in need of the basics, a ‘Chapel’? Come contribute your mite was the appeal of the Lay Mission Partners - DDW Bandra, who assisted in the Mission Sunday fundraising drive for the ‘Village Chapel in Manipur.’ The proceeds of your Mission Sunday collection last year, supported the Exposure Immersion Program (EIP) of a few seminarians. The missionary experience is part of their theology studies. May you be blessed in your giving!

FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF DIVINE WORD RETREAT MINISTRY, PUNE



Divine Word Retreat Ministry, Pune celebrated its first anniversary with a One-Day Retreat on March 25, 2023. The solemnity of the feast of Annunciation was a fitting occasion for the event. There was much enthusiasm for the retreat as 180 lay faithful flocked to Divine Word Seminary that morning. The Seminary chapel could not contain all of them. The volunteers from Jesus Youth and Shanwadi parish youth, who took care of the music ministry added much spiritual fervor. Frs. Francline Machado, Cyril Edward, and Mathew Kavukatt proclaimed the WORD and led the services. The confreres from the LCF helped out with confessions, and counseling and joined the concelebrated Holy Eucharist presided over by Rev. Fr. Malcolm Sequeira, the Vicar General of Poona diocese. He gratefully acknowledged the valuable contribution that our ministry is making in the diocese as it does not have a laity retreat center. The DWS staff and brothers took care of all the arrangements including the tasty meal that was served to the participants. The Pune DDW (Disciples of the Divine Word) also collaborated with us for the registration and for serving the food.



The DWRM Pune was inaugurated by Bishop (Emeritus) Thomas Dabre of Poona on April 02, 2022. In all 12 One-Day retreats were conducted on the fourth Saturday of every month (except in January 2023, when the diocese had organized a Bible Convention on that day). A total number of 1305 participated in the retreats. On average more than 100 persons for every retreat. From, 2023 March 17-19 we also held a residential retreat at Ishvani

Kendra, that was attended by 32 laypersons. Most of our retreatants experienced a deepening of faith, much consolation, healing, and an answer to their prayers. We also realize that there is a pressing need to proclaim the WORD in Marathi. The Retreat Team presently consists of Frs. Gregory Arockiam, Michael Vettumanickal, Francline Machado, Salvador Carvalho, Wilson Wilfred, Cyril Edward, and Mathew Kavukatt as the Coordinator. The DWS fratres and DDW also collaborate with us. We see the guiding hand of the Lord, who has enabled us to sustain this ministry into the second year. The participation of the Laity in taking forward the ministry is also encouraging. Some persons also came forward to sponsor the lunch occasionally.

A LENTEN SPIRITUAL OUTING



On a weekend in March at Kune Mission, Khandala was a Lenten spiritual outing for the Disciples of the Divine Word (DDW), Andheri. Along with Fr. Tony Menezes, eighteen members took part in this memorable spiritual journey. All the sessions were well spaced out - from the healing prayer service at night, the Stations of the Cross, the inspirational talk by Fr. Tony, and the Holy Eucharist. The early morning outing to the Rosary Garden at St. Mary's Villa, circled by the 14 Stations of the Cross, helped us to reconsider our purpose in life. The view up the hill was breathtakingly beautiful, the

glory of God so clearly shifted from our mundane everyday life. Fr. Tony gave us a deeper insight into me...you...and others, about finding our inner selves, a new approach to our memories. The session helped heal the scars and wounds and how to overcome old attachments and uncomfortable memories, leading to the renewal of inner peace and healing. This was one of our best experiences, both spiritually and in bonding as a family. God bless all of us who attended and those who couldn't make it.

SARVA DHARMA SADBHAVANA GATHERING AT BAILHONGAL



February 26, 2023, the parishioners of St. Francis Xavier's Church, along with other Religion heads organized Sarva Dharma Sadbhavana at Bailhongal. During this gathering Rev. Fr. Richard D'Almeida SVD was felicitated and honoured for his excellent services in the field of Social Work. This was organized by North Karnataka 'Mahila Janapada Kalavida

Samsthe, Navalagunda and Karnataka Bala Vikasa Academy Dharwad'. There was a large gathering organized at Carmel Nivas Auditorium Bailhongal. Many renowned other religious gurus were present who all spoke about bringing unity to the society. The multi-religion gurus present were Shri Neelakantha Mahaswamy, Muru Saviara Matha, Bailhongal, Shri Hazarat Maulana Shaukat Badi, Madarasa Anwarula Uluma, Bailwada Cross, Bailhongal, Rev. Fr. Francis Fernandes SJ, Vidya Nikethan study centre Dharwad and secretary for Inter Religious Dialogue, for Belagam Diocese, Shri Hazarat Tanvir sAba Mujhawar, Bhavaikya Sandesha, Kadarawalli, Kittur, Rev. Fr. Michael Souza, St. Joseph's School Principal Dharwad, Om Shanthi Brahma Kumari from Vishwa Shanti Bhawan, Inchal Road Bailhongal, Rev. Fr. Richard D'Almeida, SVD, St. Francis Xavier Church, Mission Moderator, Rev. Fr. Leo Alex, Rev. Sr. Flavina AC, and the Community Bailhongal, Dr. Isabella Xavier, Dharwad, Mrs. Celina Hanchinmani the Secretary of St. Francis Xavier Church, Bailhongal, Mr. Nasir Bagawana, Mr. Imam Saba Olleppanavar (One who did the honouring on behalf of his Janapada Kalavida Sangha and Karnataka Bala Vikasa Accademy, Dharwad), the Parishioners of Bailhongal and Self Help Groups Women from various villages were present.

On this earth, there may be many religions but need to realize we are all human beings. In society, there may be different religions, languages, castes, creeds, colours, and traditions but we have only one body. Therefore we need to live as one humanitarian society to give beauty to our society. Like the rainbow spreads beauty with its multiple colours, similarly, we need to add beauty to society. In the sea, there may be plenty of waves but the sea is the same. There may many rivers but their destiny is the sea. There may be many mountains but the creator same. There is one sun, one moon, one sky, one earth, and finally one God, but then why there are differentiations? Our journey of life is destined by God, therefore we need to live as brothers and sisters in society. All the gurus gave marvellous messages mentioning how we need to build a harmonious society. For the past few years, Sarva Vidya Deepa a social work unit run by SVD Fathers has climbed up in reaching many ways. The developmental activities and fostering the women and children are the height of the view. In recognizing this North Karnataka 'Mahila Janapada Kalavida Samsthe, Navalagunda and Karnataka Bala Vikasa Academy Dharwad honoured Rev. Fr. Richard D'Almeida, SVD with Best Social Work Ratna Prashati (Uttama Samaja Seva Ratna Prashasti) in Bailhongal. There were a few cultural events presented by Carmel Vidya Vikasa Kendra (Special Children). The Nada Geete was played in audio form to show solidarity with our culture and society. It was well appreciated by the gathering and the guests. Rev. Fr. Richard was also felicitated by two SHG Groups from Inchal village, for the services rendered through various ways and means. Carmel Nivas Sisters and Parishioners of St. Francis Xavier Church, Bailhongal along with Fr. Richard D'Almeida, SVD sang the Unity song.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY AT SARVA VIDYA DEEPA, BAILHONGAL



We the Sarva Vidya Deepa, Bailhongal a Social Work Unit celebrated International Women's Day on March 12, 2023, at Vidya Mandir School auditorium, Nesargi. Fr. Richard D'Almeida SVD, the Director of Sarva Vidya Deepa, Fr. Leo Alex SVD, Assist. Director, along with Sarva Vidya Deepa Social Work Animators Mr Fakirappa and Mr Joseph Talawar involved in organizing this great event. There were around 550 neighbouring village women, mostly belonging to our Self-Help Group present. As the people started coming in we arranged for them breakfast followed by registration. It was an awe feeling by looking at

the beautiful large gathering. We began the programme at noon with the Prayer Song, followed by Welcome Dance by Maria Bhavan Boarding Children, Madanbhavi. Soon after that there was lighting up the light to guide our day's activities. After that, the Preamble of the Indian Constitution was read out loudly with great respect extending the hands towards the preamble which was presented on the screen.



Rev. Fr. Richard D'Almeida Director of Sarva Vidya Deepa, welcomed everybody with his smiling joyous speech. Carmel Special Children presented the dance on Farmer sowing the seeds. Soon after that the Annual report of Sarva Vidya Deepa was presented by Fr. Richard the Director and Fr. Leo Alex the Assistance Director. Guest of Honour Rev. Sr. Helen Moras

addressed the gathering with her mind-blowing speech. She highlighted how women need to take lead. Isabella the day's resource person highlighted taking care of girl children and women. Women are the strength of society. She also quoted from Basavanna Vachanagalu, Bible, Khuran etc. She stressed how women need to shroud enough in choosing the challenge and participating in building a gender-equal society. She highlighted how we as a human society need to stand tall in bringing equality. The growth of the Sarva Vidya Deepa Social Work Unit was appreciated by her. She also awarded Rs. 5,000/- cheque to Neelkanteshwar Deepa Group SHG Deshnur for their outstanding growth. She also promised help and services for women and children in the field of legal aid. There was an outstanding performance by the Maria Bhavan Boarding children on how we need to take care of nature. It was an awareness programme with dance cum acting. It was motivational towards not using plastic, not cutting the trees, and not wasting water. Fr. Menino Gonsalves presented the Presidential address to the gathering. He quoted many things giving the message that we need to be true humans. Sarva Vidya Deepa felicitated and honoured Mrs Neelavva Hanumantappa Buruli for her services as a domestic helper to SVD. Lydia Gama compared the programme, Mr Fakeerappa proposed the vote of thanks and Mr Joseph Talwar did the backstage work. The programme ended with a group photo and wishing each woman and their worth in society. After the programme, a sumptuous meal was prepared for all those gathered. It concluded at 03.30 p.m. and all dispersed home with happy and smiley notes. The programme was planned meticulously and well organized.

FRT. MATHEW TIRKEY SPEAKS.....



“Experience is the teacher of all things.”-Julius Ceaser. I am delighted to pen down my experience at Sarva Seva Sangh, Pune. I had the privilege of having a first-hand experience of the mission of Christ through one year of the exposure immersion program. This one year played a vital role in my holistic development. It was a life-transforming and learning experience, as I lived in close association with the poor and the less privileged children in society. I also could become part of their life struggle. This strengthened my social consciousness and widened my understanding of the reality of life. In the process, I realized that there is double joy in serving others without expecting anything in return. The EIP helped me to experience the precious call for the mission to serve the unwanted. I also came to know more about the culture and traditions of the people of Maharashtra. I believe that all the pleasant experiences of the EIP will always resonate at the back of my mind and continue to help me to respond to God's call even more faithfully and with much zeal and enthusiasm as I go ahead with my theological studies. I would like to extend my

sincere thanks to Fr. Mathew and Fr. Cyril for their continuous support. I also thank the Province and the society for giving me this opportunity to experience the depth of the mission that I am called to do.

FRT. SURAJ MINZ SPEAKS.....



The exposure immersion program (EIP) has helped me to be an outgoing person because it has enabled me to explore and learn new things from different people and different places. Being at SVD, Mangaon I convincingly say it has given me exposure where I experience and understand the realities. This time the EIP has made me understand the culture, language, rituals, and practices of the tribals in Riagad district. I have understood their socio-economic situation and the issues that they face in their lives. Most of them are down to earth. They need real support. This institution has helped me to understand different schemes, roles, and their usefulness in empowering the poor and tribals. Among all these activities and plans I find meaning in my vocation because they insist I be firm in my vocation. The realities of the people, teach me to be true to myself. During my EIP I have learned to be an organizer, leader, and sociable person. I'm happy to continue this way of life. I'm grateful to our Society for all its support and concern. I love to go ahead in this field of social service as a mission because, in this one year of the EIP, I have identified a spark of passion for this kind of mission; for which I have got a pre-taste here at the SVD Mangaon. I have spent one of the best formation stages here during the EIP. Learning so many things every day has been enriching. I have learned to plan out my activities which help me to work smoothly. I take this opportunity to thank my superior Fr. Richard and the staff members for their able guidance, love, and concern toward me.

COMPLETION OF THE EIP IN INM

Frts. Suraj Minj and Mathew Tirkey will complete their EIP by the end of this month and leave for their home holidays. We thank them for rendering their services in our missions. We believe that they had a wonderful 'exposure –immersion' experience of the mission during their stay in the province. We wish them all the best in their next stage of formation.

WELCOME TO THE EIP CONFRETES TO INM

We are happy to announce that scholastics Rohit Ekka and Gnaneshwar Kamera are assigned to INM Province for their EIP. We welcome them to our province and wish them all the very best in their 'Exposure-Immersion Programme at Sarva Seva Sangh, Pune and Sarva Vikas Deep, Mangaon.

WELCOME TO FR. CHRISTI SELVARAJ



The General Council in its meeting held on 28th March 2023 has permitted Fr. Christi Selvaraj (BOT) to stay in INM Province for three years. We extend a warm welcome to Fr. Christi to INM and pray that he may continue to enrich our mission and province through his presence and ministry. Fr. Christi is expected to arrive in the province in the beginning of June.

ST. THERESA'S PARISHIONERS VISIT SVD MISSION AT MANGAON



The parishioners of St. Theresa's Church, Bandra visited Mangaon, our mission station. Fr. Richard Quadrose had organised everything so well and made time to take us around. We visited 3 villages, Mangaon, Tala, and Bhuvan. The briefing session in the morning helped us understand their efforts, hard work, and challenges. A sumptuous nonveg meal was prepared for us at Mangaon. For evening tea we travelled to Tala village where our ex- Theresian pastor, Fr. Mahipal welcomed us and we shared beautiful memories of the past. We proceeded to the farms and were delighted to see fresh fruits and vegetables grown in the farms. Plucking the vegetables straight from the plant was quite an experience for us. For dinner, we were at Bhuvan Pada, a tribal village that consists of 89 families. They organized a cultural program and prepared delicious food for us. The warmth and love of all the people along with the chilly weather made the evening even more exciting. We thank Fr. Henry who ensured we had a comfortable journey and stay at Mangaon and also Fr. Felix for accompanying us.

MY PROGRAMMES

21 April 2023	Silver Jubilee Celebration of Fr. Jossie Fernandes SVD, Sacred Heart Church, Andheri East
26 April-5 May 2023	Attending to Aduvassery Responsibilities, Annual Auditing
7 May 2023	Prayer Conference-Soverdia House
14 May 2023	Swanthanam (Patients'Fellowship) Gathering- Aduvassery
17 May-25 May 2023	Annual Home Vacation

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

27 May 2023

SVD Provincial House, Bandra

In the Divine Word

**Tomy Thomas 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