



# PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR

## INDIA MUMBAI PROVINCE (INM)



**SVD PROVINCIAL HOUSE, 510/ 32<sup>ND</sup> ROAD, BANDRA WEST, MUMBAI - 400 050**  
**Mobile: 9619149662/8451031910**  
**Email: inmsvd@gmail.com, Web: www.svdinm.com**

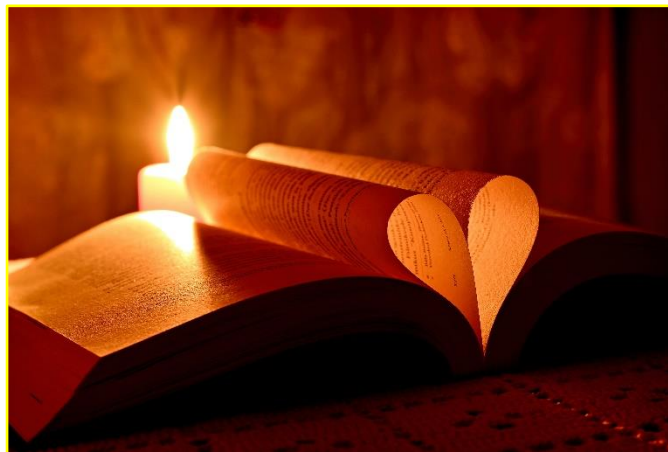
INM/PC/190/2023

FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY

November – December 2023

### AWAKE, RENEW AND BE A LIGHT

On the occasion of Diwali, we gather together to celebrate the festival of lights, a time of joy, unity and renewal. Diwali holds a special place in our hearts as it transcends geographical and cultural boundaries spreading the message of Light, Love and Hope. Diwali teaches us the importance of inner illumination, the light of knowledge and the triumph of virtue in our lives. This festival reminds us that despite our differences we are bound by the common threads of collective strength can challenge we face. May the light of Diwali brighten our lives and peace, prosperity and the world of darkness is an act of service and compassion. It means extending a hand to those in need, sharing knowledge and offering support. It is about being a beacon of hope, kindness and positivity amidst the turmoil. When we become that light, we inspire others to do the same, creating a ripple effect of goodness and change. To awaken, renew and be a light is not merely a call to action. It's a way of life. It is a reminder that even in the darkest of times the human spirit can prevail. As individuals, we have the power to awaken our consciousness, renew our determination and be the light that guides others. It is in this collective effort that we can illuminate the world, dispel darkness and create a brighter future for all.



of Light, Love and Hope. Diwali teaches us the importance of inner illumination, the light of knowledge and the triumph of virtue in our lives. This festival reminds us that despite our differences we are bound by the common threads of collective strength can challenge we face. May the light of Diwali brighten our lives and peace, prosperity and the world of darkness is an act of service and compassion. It means extending a hand to those in need, sharing knowledge and offering support. It is about being a beacon of hope, kindness and positivity amidst the turmoil. When we become that light, we inspire others to do the same, creating a ripple effect of goodness and change. To awaken, renew and be a light is not merely a call to action. It's a way of life. It is a reminder that even in the darkest of times the human spirit can prevail. As individuals, we have the power to awaken our consciousness, renew our determination and be the light that guides others. It is in this collective effort that we can illuminate the world, dispel darkness and create a brighter future for all.

In a world often overshadowed by challenges and uncertainties, the call to awaken, renew and be light is a reminder of the resilience and potential within each of us. It signifies our capacity to transcend adversity, to breathe life into our passion and to illuminate the path for others. To awaken is to open our eyes to the realities around us. It means being attuned to the issues and concerns that affect our world. It is about acknowledging the suffering and injustices that exist and understanding that ignorance is no longer an excuse. By embracing awareness, we pave the way for change and progress. Renewal is the process of revitalizing our inner selves. It is a commitment to self-improvement, learning and growth. In a world that can often be draining, renewal offers us the chance to regain our strength and purpose. It encourages us to persevere, adapt and evolve even in the face of adversity. Our Annual Retreat scheduled from 19th Nov can bring in this awakening and renewal in the members. Let us then awake, renew and be a light in this world where there can be situations of darkness.

In a world often overshadowed by challenges and uncertainties, the call to awaken, renew and be light is a reminder of the resilience and potential within each of us. It signifies our capacity to transcend adversity, to breathe life into our passion and to illuminate the path for others. To awaken is to open our eyes to the realities around us. It means being attuned to the issues and concerns that affect our world. It is about acknowledging the suffering and injustices that exist and understanding that ignorance is no longer an excuse. By embracing awareness, we pave the way for change and progress. Renewal is the process of revitalizing our inner selves. It is a commitment to self-improvement, learning and growth. In a world that can often be draining, renewal offers us the chance to regain our strength and purpose. It encourages us to persevere, adapt and evolve even in the face of adversity. Our Annual Retreat scheduled from 19th Nov can bring in this awakening and renewal in the members. Let us then awake, renew and be a light in this world where there can be situations of darkness.

- INM Leadership Team

## UCDC CELEBRATES HARVEST AND KARAM FESTIVALS

Urban Community Development Centre (UCDC) is working towards unity, dignity and progress of the Migrants from Chotanagpur. UCDC together with the Archdiocesan Migrants Commission (AMC) celebrated the Harvest and Karam Festival on the 8th of October 2023 at St Theresa's School Ground, Bandra. There were around Four Thousand migrants from Chotanagpur, who participated actively. The event had two parts: First, the Harvest Festival and the second, the Karam Festival (Cultural Festival). The first part consisted of Thanksgiving Mass for the first harvest. Fr. Praful Bara from Ranchi Archdiocese was the main celebrant.

In his Homily, Fr. Praful explained how our ancestors thanked the Divine for all the blessings they had received in their lives and today we need to be grateful to God for all the blessings. The concelebrants were Fr. Lawrence Correa SVD, the Director of UCDC, Fr. Henry D'Souza SVD, the Parish Priest of St. Theresa Parish, Fr. Glasten Gonsalves, Archdiocesan Migrants Commission, Fr. Donald D'Souza SVD, Fr. Amit Kujur SJ, Fr. Sunil Tirkey Norbertine, Fr. Lenoy Tharakan SJ and Fr. Cosmos Ekka SVD.

The Mass began with an entrance dance by faithful from four zones, namely, Bandra Station Zone, Mount Mary-Lalmati Zone, Bandh Zone and St. Theresa Bandra Zone. The Bible procession Dance was performed by men for the first time in the history of St. Theresa. The offertory dance was performed by small children, which was appreciated by most of the faithful. The second part was the Karam Feast Celebration. Karam Feast is mainly celebrated by the Tribals, who are animists. One of the Tribals was a pujari to worship Karam Branch. The purpose of Celebrating Karam Feast which is a Cultural Feast was to include people of other faiths during the celebration. The main objectives of celebrating the Cultural Festival, first of all, is to bring unity among the Tribal/Adivasis of Chotanagpur, and secondly, to promote and protect their Arts, Cultures and Languages. The stage program began with a prayer dance performed by the youth of Bandra.



Fr. Glasten, on behalf of the Archdiocesan Migrants Commission (AMC), called all the Priests, Sisters and other dignitaries on the stage and felicitated them all. He mentioned that we have been working in the Mumbai Archdiocese in 19 units in different parts. Fr. Lawrence Correa the Director of UCDC, wished a happy feast to all and also told people that we are with them in times of their difficulties. Dr. Bipin Jojo in his address gave more importance to the Tribal Identity Crisis. It is through education we can get rid of poverty and inhuman treatment at workplaces. The women's Self-help Groups had put up 8 stalls of eateries and a stall for the sale of sarees. The Tribals/ Adivasis are not into business. They were thrilled with the experience. Most of the groups got sizable profits with the sale. The Sisters, Doctors and nurses from Holy Family Hospital had put up a First Aid station. The Hindi Community is very grateful to them.

Fr. Cosmos thanked everyone. The people of Bandra Station zone performed a beautiful Karam Dance on the stage. The event ended with a common dance by all. Festival is one of the best means to bring the Tribal Migrants together. For the Tribal of Chotanagpur, this was an excellent opportunity to come together and share their experiences. We are confident that the Migrants will get a platform to reach out to any Units of the Archdiocesan Migrant Commission at the time of their distress.

## THE FOUNDATION STONE BLESSING CEREMONY AT TALA

On the auspicious day of October 19, 2023, an unforgettable event unfolded in Tala, as the Foundation Stone Blessing Ceremony took place, marking a significant step forward for a new and inspiring project. This remarkable occasion, which brought together people from all walks of life, was a culmination of dreams, hard work, and the blessings of a close-knit community. The ceremony was graced by the presence of Rev. Fr. Tomy Thomas, the Provincial Superior of the INM Province. His participation in this event added a profound layer of significance. As a symbol of spiritual guidance and divine intervention, Fr. Tomy Thomas bestowed his blessings upon the endeavour. His leadership serves as an unwavering source of inspiration for all involved, ensuring that the project is imbued with purpose and meaning. The essence of this event extended beyond the clergy, reaching out to the local tribal community, staff members, Sisters, and Brothers, all of whom joined hands in a harmonious display of unity. This inclusive and communal spirit showcases that success is often a product of collective effort and cooperation. It is a testament to the power of diversity and collaboration, where individuals from various backgrounds and beliefs come together to build a better future.



The Foundation Stone Blessing Ceremony is a living example of how dreams can be transformed into reality when a community unites with a shared purpose. The laying of the foundation stone symbolizes the inception of a new journey filled with hope, faith, and determination. This event serves as a poignant reminder that with the unwavering support of a community and the blessings of the divine, any dream can become a reality. In this corner of the world, on that memorable day, people witnessed the remarkable fusion of human endeavour and divine grace. The Foundation Stone Blessing Ceremony at Tala will forever be etched in the annals of this community's history, as a testament to the incredible potential that unfolds when people come together to create something greater than themselves. It is a beacon of hope, a celebration of unity, and a manifestation of the human spirit's ability to transform dreams into a tangible and awe-inspiring reality.



The Foundation Stone Blessing Ceremony is a living example of how dreams can be transformed into reality when a community unites with a shared purpose. The laying of the foundation stone symbolizes the inception of a new journey filled with hope, faith, and determination. This event serves as a poignant reminder that with the unwavering support of a community and the blessings of the divine, any dream can become a reality. In this corner of the world, on that memorable day, people witnessed the remarkable fusion of human endeavour and divine grace. The Foundation Stone Blessing Ceremony at Tala will forever be etched in the annals of this community's history, as a testament to the incredible potential that unfolds when people come together to create something greater than themselves. It is a beacon of hope, a celebration of unity, and a manifestation of the human spirit's ability to transform dreams into a tangible and awe-inspiring reality.

The Foundation Stone Blessing Ceremony is a living example of how dreams can be transformed into reality when a community unites with a shared purpose. The laying of the foundation stone symbolizes the inception of a new journey filled with hope, faith, and determination. This event serves as a poignant reminder that with the unwavering support of a community and the blessings of the divine, any dream can become a reality. In this corner of the world, on that memorable day, people witnessed the remarkable fusion of human endeavour and divine grace. The Foundation Stone Blessing Ceremony at Tala will forever be etched in the annals of this community's history, as a testament to the incredible potential that unfolds when people come together to create something greater than themselves. It is a beacon of hope, a celebration of unity, and a manifestation of the human spirit's ability to transform dreams into a tangible and awe-inspiring reality.

## DISCIPLES OF THE DIVINE WORD, PUNE - RECOLLECTION DAY



Disciples of the Divine Word, Pune completes its third anniversary on 4th October 2023. DDW Pune members will celebrate this occasion on 8th

October 2023, and on that day our members will be making their commitment for the first time. In preparation for this day, we had a recollection on 20th August 2023 at Divine Word Seminary, Pune preached by Fr Jolly Mudakkampurathu, Mission Secretary of INM Province. He read a reading from Exodus chapter 3, verses 1-22 and beautifully explained the role of a missionary by comparing it with the calling of Moses. He mentioned how all the objections and doubts raised by Moses were cleared by God by giving him assurances, signs and even helpers through Aaron. He highlighted that whenever we are chosen to do God's work, we are never alone and that God is always with us. There was a good interaction among our members during the recollection. After the recollection we had a short meeting followed by Holy Eucharist concelebrated by Fr. Naveen Rebello, Fr. Gregory Arockiam and Fr. Jolly. Fr. Naveen in his homily gave us the message that all of us have our prejudices based on colour, language, race, religion, status etc. But we are God's children and we have to rise above our prejudices and ego in our lives. He highlighted the faith of a Canaanite woman in the gospel of that day. After the Holy Eucharist, we felicitated Fr. Jolly and Fr. Naveen and thanked them for enriching us with the spirituality of St. Arnold Janssen through their teachings. We also thanked Fr. Gregory Arockiam, our Spiritual Director for his constant guidance and support.

## **DISCIPLES OF THE DIVINE WORD, PUNE – 3<sup>RD</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS**

On 8th October 2023, The Disciples of the Divine Word (DDW), Pune celebrated their third anniversary. We began the day with a Director, Fr. Gregory meeting. We then Divine Word Seminary for Tomy Provincial Superior, the Eucharist with seven homily highlighted the fruits and asked the for the glory of God. Our during the entire Eucharistic celebrations. After communion thirteen DDW members took their commitment in the presence of our Provincial Superior - Fr. Tomy, the SVD priests, seminarians, benefactors and our well-wishers. After the Eucharistic celebrations, the members gathered in the refectory where the seminarians congratulated the members who took the commitment with a rose. Mrs. Leena Xavier - President of DDW, Pune read the annual report, and a PowerPoint presentation by our secretary, Mr. Godfrey Fernandes which was appreciated by all. A sumptuous lunch was served to all gathered on the occasion. Our members left with cherished memories.



spiritual talk by our Spiritual Arockiam followed by a short assembled in the chapel of the the Eucharistic celebration. Fr. INM province concelebrated SVD Fathers. Fr. Tomy in his importance of bearing good members to use their talents seminarians sang melodiously

## **WORKSHOP ON GIRL CHILD DAY**



To commemorate International Girl Child Day, Sarva Seva Sangh, Andheri organised a cumulative workshop on "Girl Child Day and Good Touch Bad Touch'. The Day was celebrated to emphasise the importance of the Girl Child to society and why it is paramount to safeguard the Girl Child in a society that is witnessing increasing instances of harassment and violence. Posters depicting the Girl

Child Day were displayed by the girls of Pre-School, Play School and Special School. A short video on 'Good Touch Bad Touch' from YouTube was shown to all the parents present. After the video, teachers spoke at length on 'Good Touch Bad Touch'; explaining to the parents how they need to make the children 'aware of what is Good Touch and Bad Touch' and to detect the kind of people they need to stay away from. Children gave a demo of 'Good Touch Bad Touch'. The Chief Guest Smt. Swapna Santosh Shinde, from the Marol MIDC police station, spoke a few words regarding 'Good Touch and Bad Touch'. She also spoke about her experience of dealing with children who are abused or molested. It was an eye-opener for the teachers and parents.

### TALENT SHOW 2023

Sarva Seva Sangh, Andheri organised a Talent Show on October 23, 2023, for children of the Pee-School, Play School and parents were taught of the children going up on stage talents. The Staff are the future gems who leaders, actors, musicians, how we need to recognise nurture them. All the showcasing their talents.



Special School. The importance of the and showcasing their emphasised that these will turn out to be poets and so on and talents in them and children participated Children sang and

danced to the most viral songs 'Badal Bijli, Mausam ke pani' and 'Majya Papa ni Ganapati anley'. Children also performed on Bollywood songs. A total of 42 children took part in the program. Fr. Vianney, guest of honour spoke a few words thanking the parents for the efforts they put in by preparing their children for the event. He said that the all-round development of the child is very important and he thanked everyone.

### DIVINE WORD RETREAT MINISTRY, ANDHERI

Divine Word Retreat Ministry at Andheri was initiated in June 2019 by organising regular monthly



retreats in two languages that is in English & Tamil. In March 2022, we added regular retreats in Hindi. As we found the possibility of having regular retreats in Konkani, we began Konkani retreats in March 2023. On 6th October 2023, we organised a day retreat in Malayalam for the first time. Around 65 people attended and were enriched by the one-day retreat. Fr. Ginto SVD celebrated the Holy Eucharist and Fr. George Meppurath SVD Preached the

Word of God. There will be monthly retreats



in 5 languages (English, Malayalam, Tamil, Konkani, and Hindi) from January 2024. There are about 1200 to 1400 people who attend the regular monthly retreats. We believe that the number will still increase in the future. We also arrange special retreats as and when it is possible. Most of these retreats are conducted at Atma Darshan Chapel. We sincerely thank the staff of Atma Darshan for providing the space and all necessary facilities. We especially thank

all the communities on the campus, Gyan Ashram, Institute of Indian Culture, Soverdia House, St.

Arnold's School, and Sacred Heart Church and all the conferrers who have taken a keen interest in these retreats and continue to contribute to different ways by giving talks, hearing confessions, celebrating the Holy Eucharist, giving their space for conducting the retreats and accommodating the retreatants, especially during residential retreats. Thank you one and all for all your prayers and support.

## NURTURING VOCATIONS AT SVD SEMINARY RAIJA

The Society of the Divine Word (SVD) Seminary in Raia, Goa, organized a vocation camp from October 29th to October 31st. This together 47 young boys a weekend filled with fellowship, and activities their vocational callings. participants were activities that not only connections but also



of dedicating their lives to a higher purpose. The event kicked off with fervent prayers and a warm welcome, setting the tone for what was to be a spiritually enriching experience. The participants had the opportunity to learn about the SVD Society and its mission. They were introduced to the stories of vocation calling, where current seminarians shared their journeys, highlighting the joys and challenges of their choices.

One of the highlights of the Vocation Camp was the "get-together" sessions where the young participants had the chance to interact with the seminarians and ask questions about the life they lead. This candid exchange provided daily life, spiritual come with pursuing a just about introspection range of engaging and Participants engaged in fostering companionship its warmth and flickering and contemplative



attendees to reflect on their spiritual journeys. For those who sought adventure, hiking over the mountain was a thrilling experience. The breathtaking views from the mountaintop served as a reminder of the awe-inspiring beauty of the world and the importance of preserving it, a value deeply cherished by the SVD Society. The Holy Eucharist, adoration and the rosary were central to the spiritual aspect of the camp. These sessions provided participants with a chance to deepen their connection with the divine and understand the significance of prayer in a vocation. The camp provided a nurturing environment that allowed these adolescents to discern their callings and take a step towards embracing a life of service. As one participant aptly put it,

The Staff at SVD Seminary Raia gave their wholehearted support in the planning and execution of plans. The staff also made time and accompanied the students during the camp. In conclusion, the Vocation Camp at SVD Seminary Raia was a resounding success, serving as a beacon of hope for those considering a life of service.

# SACRED HEART PARISH CELEBRATES SVD MISSION MONTH

## SHARING EXPERIENCES AND STORIES



Lay participation in the mission of the Church is a calling rooted in baptism. October 2023, SVD Mission Month, provided an opportunity to highlight the global impact of the mission and to encourage support and involvement from the Sacred Heart Church Parish community. For five weekends, DDW members (SVD lay partners) and SVD missionaries shared their experiences and stories with the parishioners of Sacred Heart Church in Andheri, Mumbai. DDW members ran a cafeteria, with the proceeds going to the Tala Mission and the Feed the Hungry project. The support by the Parish

Priest, Fr. John Mascarenhas SVD, his team, and the parishioners during SVD Mission Month is truly admirable.

## COLLABORATION



During the first weekend of October, Fr. Gregory Pinto SVD and Fr. Antony Menezes SVD celebrated the Eucharist and talked about the mission of the DDW group. They particularly focused on the Feed the Hungry project and urged parishioners to support it. Every Saturday, the DDW in collaboration with Atma Darshan, distributes around 1,500 packets of cooked food to poor/homeless persons on Mumbai's roads. Along with freshly prepared meals, they supply a bottle of water, toiletries, medicines, clothes, and other necessities.

## AWARENESS

The second weekend was dedicated to raising awareness about the proposed St. Arnold's Degree College building on the SVD campus. Fr. Raja Reddy SVD and Fr. Jolly Mudakkampurathu SVD addressed the parishioners and encouraged them to get involved in supporting the college building project.

## MISSION

The third and fourth weekends were dedicated to promoting Tala Mission. Janseva Society, Tala works in Kathkari Tribe hamlets and Dhangar villages. They operate in education for children, women empowerment, youth enrichment, and livelihood programs, making use of government subsidies. Parishioners of Sacred Heart Church have actively helped Tala Mission for over ten years. Fr. Nickson Gabru SVD, and Fr. Lucas Parkhe SVD, as well as three social workers from the Tala mission, enlightened the parishioners on their work in the tribal areas.

## YOUTH

The last weekend exclusively focused on the youth and aimed to encourage their active participation in the Parish activities. The involvement of the laity is a fundamental aspect of the Catholic Church's mission and outreach. It acknowledges the unique gifts, talents, and vocations of each individual and how they can contribute towards advancing the mission and purpose of the Church in the world.

## UCDC DIWALI CAMP



Maitrisangatan/Urban Community Development Centre (UCDC) organized the Diwali camp on the 11th of November 2023. The event began at 08:30 am and ended at 04:30 pm. The registration committee of students registered the names of all the

students while a few students set up the complete sound system. The camp's main goals were to foster friendships and social skills, instil the principles of responsibility and teamwork in participants, help them discover new hobbies, and boost their self-confidence. The students were divided into 6 groups. Each group was asked to choose a name for the group and a leader. All group members were given different coloured ribbons and they were asked to tie it to their hands. The event began with a marchpast in the St. Theresa School quadrangle. Ms. Sarita Yadav from UCDC staff conducted yoga for the students. Fr. David SVD, Fr. Felix SVD, Sr. Rufina Xavier, Sr. Carmelina Vales and Br. Jay Solanki were the resource persons. They conducted a variety of indoor and outdoor games. The event was also coloured with action songs and dances. Fr. Lawrence the Director of UCDC personally came to the quadrangle and encouraged the students. The Disciples of the Divine Word (DDW Andheri) sponsored meals and snacks for all the children and also gave them gifts. Andrew D'Souza, Joyce Coelho, Hilary Aguiar, Henrietta Monserrate, and Maria Mascarenhas personally came and supported the event. UCDC is grateful to all the resource persons, and DDW members Andheri for their support and encouragement and School management team for providing the space. The Diwali camp was a great success, and the children departed the quadrangle of St. Theresa's School beaming with joy.

## INM ASSEMBLIES & CHAPTER

The Working Paper for the Provincial Chapter 2024 is being prepared by the Preparatory Committee. I would like to thank in advance Fr. Victor Sagayam, Convener, Fr. Johny Vattamala and Fr. Naveen Rebello for preparing this important document for our benefit. This Working Paper serves as the agenda for the Local Chapters and so will be discussed and a report will be sent to us. The issues and items on the agenda of the Provincial Assembly and Chapter will be culled out from these reports. As soon as the working paper is ready it will be sent to you with the necessary institutions for the local level deliberations. All the LCF may plan a slot for your local chapter in the coming days.

Your active and reflective participation in this discernment process will make the Provincial Assembly and Chapter a truly participatory and effective exercise. It is my fervent hope that we will have very constructive and engaging deliberations during the Local Chapters, the Provincial Assemblies and the Chapter.

I request you to take time to reflect and pray over the theme and the issues mentioned in the Working Paper. A disposition of prayer and reflection will make the Local Chapters, Provincial Assemblies and the Chapter a true experience of celebration of our life and mission.

May our saints, St. Arnold Janssen and St. Joseph Freinademetz help us through their intercessions





### MY PROGRAMMES

20 November 2023	INE Province Platinum Jubilee Celebrations, Jharsuguda
24 November 2023	INM Confreres' Jubilee Celebrations, Atma Darshan, Andheri
25 November 2023	Atma Darshan Jubilee Celebrations, Andheri
15 December 2023	Annual Day - St. Arnold's High School & Junior College, Andheri
17 December 2023	Christmas Celebration – DDW, Andheri
24 December 2023	Christmas Vigil Mass – Sacred Heart Church, Andheri
28 December 2023	Ordination of Dn. Danny Philip SVD, Kerala
29 December 2023	Ordination of Dn. Melbin George SVD, Kerala
02 January 2024	Final Vows – Divine Word Seminary, Pune
03 January 2024	Diaconate Ordination – Divine Word Seminary, Pune

### NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

26 – 27 November 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**