



# PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR-INH

*"In Your light we see light, light leading to life"*

- INH Vision



INH/PC/110

February - 2015

## CALLED TO PROMOTE LIFE

The Baptism of the Lord was the defining moment in His life that opened the road not for the crown but for the cross. He knew it and accepted the challenge, the call and the will of the Father willingly. Leadership defines the goal of the community and the provincial Chapter is a decisive moment for all of us as we gather together to focus our attention towards the goal that we set not looking at the crown but accepting the challenges in this modern world where we are lured by the things of this world. Defining moments come to us when they are least expected, and we cannot prepare for them. We must experience them 'as is' and learn from the consequences.



God has blessed us with His bountiful gifts to lead our Province towards a definite goal. What is important is that we discover ourselves, our gifts, our talents, our self-worth and give totally to God and people in leading a committed life. Jesus honoured those who discerned His worth. We see this in the Gospel passage in Lk 10/42. He was incredibly self-confident. He knew that His own words were life. Jesus even reacted favourably to a woman who washed His feet. (Lk 7/44-46) There are so many who come into our life, who make sense in our life; so, it is worth reflecting favourably the contribution they make in our life. It is a time to set our priorities right with a clear vision as we reflect (ad intra) to respond generously to the needs of the society (ad extra) because everyone has received something generously from God which is capable of responding.

Provincial Chapter is a time to listen. Listen to the inner voice within us that will prompt us to work for the growth of the Province. It is a time to listen to the experienced and the wise and grow in our personal commitment. It is a time to discern the Spirit of the Lord to open our eyes and ears to the situation outside. We need to discern ourselves so that we will be able to promote life among our brothers and sisters in the world. We are called to Promote life.

### First Assembly

Date

February 05 – 06, 2015

### Second Assembly

Date

February 09 – 10, 2015

### Provincial Chapter

Date : February 11, 2015

Venue : Arnold Bhavan, Hyderabad

SOCIETY OF THE DIVINE WORD

INDIA - HYDERABAD (INH)

Provincial Superior

### ARNOLD BHAVAN

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Hyderabad - 500 007. T.S., India.

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# St. Joseph Freinademetz the Model of SVD Spirituality

St. Josef freinademetz, SVD - Man of Prayer, Staunch Missionary, Ardent Lover of people.

**Man of Prayer:** "Prayer is our strength, our sword, our consolation and the key to paradise."

"True virtue is made possible by prayer and joy."

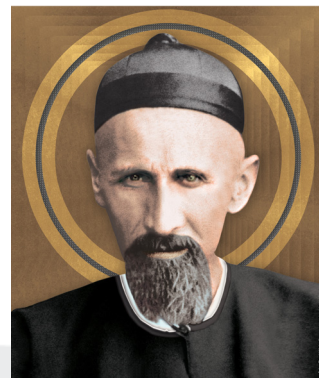
"There is one path all have to take to become saints. I mean meditation on the bitter suffering of our Lord Jesus."

**Staunch Missionary:** "I would like to be Chinese in heaven."

"I do not regard being a missionary as a sacrifice offered to God but as a grace that God gives to me."

"To be a missionary is the finest task in the world."

**Ardent Lover of people:** "The only language understood by people everywhere is the language of love."



His affection and the love, as St. Paul says in his letter to Corinthians, "was always ready to make allowances, to trust, to hope and to endure whatever comes."

He loved not only the Chinese people, but as companion, as superior he also loved and cared for his confreres with special care and concern. Much more he set a good example as prayerful person to all.

Josef was a deep rooted man of prayer that was established in his own Catholic home. As a missionary in China, he used to pray the breviary all the time kneeling, mainly very erect without any support. At home in his childhood days the whole family knelt down every day on the hard boards of the living room, praying the rosary before the house altar.

According to Thomas Cardinal Tien, SVD, who served him as an altar boy: "Mostly he knelt in the sanctuary of the church out of reverence; and for us it was an extraordinary experience to see him at prayer. The image of that kneeling priest impressed in my memory. You got the impression that nothing could disturb him. **He was a great man of prayer.** His piety was open and aroused fervor." Bishop Augustin Henninghaus, SVD (Josef's 1st biographer) states straight out that **"Prayer" was his "life element and life's joy."** It was the **"source from which he lived."** Even when he had to work until late at night, he still took time for prayer and spiritual reading. In summer, Josef often began his working day at 3 AM, with prayer and meditation.

Josef himself said, "There is one path all have to take if they wish to become saints. I mean meditation on the bitter suffering of our Lord Jesus."

St. Arnold founded the third congregation only to pray and be the power house for the missionaries. We need to spend time in prayer to have healthy mind and body and witnessing relationships among ourselves and with the people around.

HAPPY FEAST TO ALL OF YOU.

AJS Co-ordinator

## A REPORT OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF SVD FORMATION BOARD, INDIA SEPTEMBER 16-17, 2014

The annual meeting of the SVD Formation Board, India was held at SVD Regional House, Guwahati (ING) on September 16-17, 2014. Thirty six members, including four Provincials and the Regional of the SVD India Sub Zone, Fr. Stanislaus Lazar, the General Mission Secretary, Fr. Tomy Perumprail, the Superior Delegate for India, and Sr. Prabha George SSps, Provincial of INN, representing the SSps Formation Board, India, participated in the deliberations. The meeting began with the concelebrated Eucharist, presided over by Fr. Paul Vattathara, Provincial INM and the President of the Governing Body of the India Sub-Zone. In his homily Fr. Paul emphasized the need to strengthen our union with Christ, analogous to that of the vine and the branches.

The first session of the day began with lighting of the lamp and enthronement of the Bible. Most Rev John Moolachira, the Archbishop of Guwahati in his Keynote address pointed out that the renewal in the Church depends on the renewal of its priests and religious. Effectiveness of religious formation will depend on how friendly the formator is to his formees and how he accompanies the formees in the spirit of dialogue and freedom.

The India Sub-Zone Formation Secretary presented his Annual Report highlighting the activities and functioning of the Secretariat. He also briefed on the recently concluded SVD ASPAC Formation Assembly in Cebu, Philippines. He urged the formators to create a conducive, formative / purposive climate in our formation houses that will enhance formandi's interiorization, integration and reinforce a sense of inclusiveness.

The Board took then for its discussion, a well worked out Agenda which included, besides the regular exercises, some of the vital issues related to formation. The two-day meeting was well appreciated for its meticulous planning, systematic execution, active participation and friendly atmosphere. Finally the members expressed their deep sense of gratitude to the hosts and the organizers of the meeting.

At the conclusion of the meeting of the Advisory Council, the Chairperson of the SVD Formation Board, India Fr. Xavier T, convened a meeting of the SVD Governing Board for Formation on September 17, 2014 to consider the proposals and issues that emerged from the meeting of the advisory Council. All the members of the Governing Board for Formation, namely, the Provincial Superiors of INC, INE, INH, INM, the Regional Superior of ING and the India Sub-Zone Formation Secretary were present for the meeting. After prayer, reflection and exchange of views, the Board arrived at the following reminders, recommendations and resolutions:

#### **Reminders:**

1. Concerted efforts should be made to foster formative / purposive climate in all our formation houses. It is in such environment of trust and dialogue the formee's inner freedom and creativity are enhanced, his interiorization, integration and sense of inclusiveness ensured.

Comments from the Generalate: It is commendable that continued attention be given to creating an "environment of trust and dialogue" in the formation programmes. This echoes a concern in the 2013 report for a more "dialogic atmosphere" in formation. Perhaps this topic should also be given attention in the ongoing formation of the formators, i.e. as part of the proposed workshop to be held by the end of 2015.

2. Spiritual guidance and counseling are indispensable aspects of our religious missionary formation. Although it is an internal forum, the Rector / Moderator of the seminarians should see to it that this programme is introduced appropriately, its importance explained and its practice monitored regularly so as to enable the seminarians' integral growth. In consonance with C.403.1 of our Constitutions, the Rector of the formation house will make provisions for the seminarians to seek regular spiritual guidance and counseling.

3. Declining missionary spirit among our formees and confreres is a concern for all of us. In order to infuse greater missionary spirit in the formees, periodic missionary and pastoral exposures as prescribed in the SVD Formation Manuel, India and accompanied by the staff members be ensured. Daily manual work, games and physical exercises be made mandatory for our formees at all stages of formation

4. Formative communities are reminded that those members entitled for monthly allowance (pocket money) be accountable for it. Like any other confrere, those in temporary vows should divulge their other sources of income/ earnings and submit them to the community, whether from parents / relatives or other sources. The local staff will facilitate this process (ref: Cons. 207, 210.1, 212, 212.4).

#### **Recommendations:**

1. The Formation Board, India expresses its concern over the declining interest in the reading habits among our scholastics. In this regard the formators need to take a lead and be inspirational. Each formative community will chalk out ways and means to instill reading habits in the fratres. The formative communities at the theologate level shall increase the fratres' book allowance to Rs 2000.00 with effect from June 2015.

2. As part of ongoing formation for formators, the Sub-Zonal Formation Secretary will organize seminar / workshop on 'Intercultural Competence' by the end of 2015. Programme to Familiarize the formators with the SVD Formation Manuel, India shall also form part of the seminar.

3. In order to promote more vocations to our Society, vocation promoters and formators shall visit families of candidates and encourage family apostolate and prayer. The Sub-Zone Formation Secretary shall organize a seminar for the vocation promoters of the Sub-zone in the year 2014-15.

4. Our formees shall be given sufficient input on use and abuse of social media. The local staff shall carry this out in collaboration with the Province and the India Sub-Zone Communication Coordinators.

**Comments from the Generalate:** It is good that the use of social media is being addressed, as this is a growing concern throughout the Society. Although the Formation Manuel makes mention of the need to give input on the proper use of social media and the internet, if any detailed guidelines or policies evolve, it may be helpful to share them with the General Council for the benefit of the wider Society.

5. Genuine late vocations are blessings to our Society. However, sufficient background study be made and documented before they are admitted to our seminaries.

6. No effort shall be spared to make our formative staff at our common houses of formation truly intercultural in nature. The SVD Formation Board, India highly recommends that the staff of our minor seminaries in the Sub-Zone may also be intercultural. The Governing Board of the Sub-Zone shall make earnest efforts to ensure this character of all our formative staff.

7. To create greater ecological awareness among our formees and promote activities to sustain our environment, eco-clubs in our formation houses shall be established and encouraged.

#### **Resolutions:**

1. Taking into consideration, the options of the fratres of EIP and the recommendations of the concerned house/ district councils, the Governing Body of the India Sub-Zone shall assign the place of theological studies for our fratres, be it Divine Word Seminary, Pune or Divya Jyothi, Sason.



2. Our formees at all stages of formation should be adequately instructed on the implications of sexual misconduct / abuse. In our formation programme there shall be zero tolerance for sexual misconduct of any sort. Candidates with such background shall be persuaded to discontinue. Formees having tendency for liquor and substance abuse also be checked and appropriate action taken.

3. From the next SVD Formation Board, India annual meeting (September-2015), the resolutions and recommendations of the SVD Formation Board, India – 2014 shall be reviewed. The Rectors / Heads of various formation houses shall present a brief yearly report to the India Sub-Zone Formation Secretary by the end of March every year beginning from 2015. The Secretary in turn will prepare a consolidated report and present it during the next SVD Formation Board, India meeting. The Rectors / Heads of formation houses shall present to the Board a short report on the implementations of the resolutions and recommendations of the previous year.

4. The next annual meeting of the SVD Formation Board, India will be held on September 16- 17, 2015 at Shanti Bhavan, Jharsuguda, Odisha (INE).

The Governing Body meeting came to an end with a proposal of vote of thanks and a thanksgiving prayer.

**Fr. Xavier T SVD**  
Chairman, SVD Formation Board, India

**Fr. Pushpa Anbu SVD**  
India Sub-Zone Formation Secretary

## **Report of the Governing Body Meeting, SVD India Sub Zone**

### **SEPTEMBER 19, 2014**

The Governing Body of the SVD India Sub Zone met at the Regional's Office, SVD House, Guwahati on 19 September, 2014 at 8.30 p.m. The Governing Body deliberated on the agenda and discussions held earlier during the day at the Inter Provincial Planning Forum. The meeting was chaired by the Chairperson of the Governing Body Fr. Paul Vattathara. Having taken into consideration the observations and advise of the Forum deliberations, the Governing Body arrived at the following conclusions regarding the issues considered by the Inter Provincial Forum.

#### **1. Relocation of Anthropos Institute to India**

The Governing Body carefully weighed the opinions and observations made by the members at the Forum meeting regarding the proposal for relocation of Anthropos Institute to India. Governing Body expressed its deep concern over the matter. Considering the enormity of the responsibility of adequately relocating this Institute of such a high repute and standing the Governing Body felt, with the personnel and other resources we have, we will not be able to do justice to the requirements & expectations. Though very attractive, we are not in a position to consider this proposal favourably for practical reasons. However, with the expertise we have we are open to explore the possibility of collaboration with Anthropos Institute, on a phased transfer of the publication of Anthropos Journal and 'Anthropology & Mission' Bulletin to India over the next couple of years. Governing Body is also open to the possibility of one or more confreres joining the study team to work out the possibility of relocating the Institute. Should any other Province or the Generalate take responsibility for Anthropos, the Governing Body is open to extend all possible assistance by way of personnel and other expertise.'

#### **2. The Word Among Us**

'The Word Among Us' has been in circulation for a number of years now. It has become popular with the people with its content and spiritual nourishment. It certainly needs to be fostered and promoted as an SVD icon in India. Governing Body expressed that with the infrastructure we have in the Provinces/Region and with our system of functioning, it is not possible to take up the responsibility of distribution of the magazine manually. Mailing it from the press as done presently seems to be the best option for its distribution. The Province/Region Biblical Coordinators could be the part of the promotion team and could facilitate its subscription drive within their respective Province/Region. Governing Body recommends that the National Biblical coordinator could be a member of the Governing Body of the magazine.

#### **3. Sexual Abuse of Minors**

Considering the seriousness and urgency of the matter, the Governing Body recommends that:

A. The India Sub Zone shall have a common policy on 'sexual abuse of minors' with space for accommodating local sensibilities within the Province/Region.

B. The India Sub Zone shall have one committee on 'sexual offences prevention committee' at the sub zonal level. It is advisory in nature. Provinces/Region can have recourse to this panel and seek assistance from them.

C. Each Province/Region shall have a redressal committee on sexual offences at the local level.

The Governing Body constituted the following committee to study the existing policies on 'sexual abuse of minors' in each Province/Region and evolve a common policy for the sub zone. The members are: Baptist D' Souza, Joseph Pais, Stanislaus Vedanayagam and Thomas Malipurathu. The Governing Body requested the Provincial Superior of INM to consult the members of the 'sexual offences prevention committee' formed by INM Province on their availability to advise other Provinces/Region as when the need arises. He is authorized to do the needful in

constituting this committee for the Sub Zone.

#### **4. Uniform allowance & pocket money for Confreres on overseas travel**

The Governing Body reiterated the earlier decision of granting the following amounts to confreres on authorized overseas travel for Nemi renewal program, Zonal meeting etc.

**A.** Travel allowance for all overseas travels - \$/Euro 300 **B.** Pocket money for Nemi Program – Euro 100 per month

#### **5. Increment in pocket money in the sub zone**

The Governing Body decided on an increase of Rs.500.00 per month in the pocket money for confreres in the Sub Zone. The revised amount will be Rs. 2000.00 per month for all confreres in the Sub Zone with effect from April 2015.

#### **6. Specialized studies**

A. The Governing Body reaffirmed the existing practice in the sub zone of 'need based' specialized studies.

B. The Governing Body requests the Formation Secretary to do the needful to train a confrere for Liturgy

#### **7. Specialized medical treatment in India**

The GB is of the opinion that possibilities of availing specialized medical treatment in India for confreres from other Provinces could be explored. The responsibility of locating and advising suitable centers for treatment will be the responsibility of the Superior Delegate.

#### **8. Setting aside certain % of Province's income for JPIC ministry**

The Governing Body is of the opinion that promotion of JPIC activities within our Province/Region is one of our major concerns. Each Provincial/Regional administration shall make available the required finances for its activities within their competence.

#### **9. Vivat International India Office at New Delhi**

The GB reviewed its decision of September 2013, to set up Vivat International India Office at Sadbhavana house at New Delhi. The Governing Body was informed of certain difficulties in executing this decision like difficulties in identifying and releasing of suitable personnel for this. The Governing Body decided to take up the matter with the Governing Body of Vivat India for an early solution.

#### **10. National Think Tank**

The Governing Body is of the opinion that Vivat India could look into this matter, as the activities of the proposed Think Tank come under the scope of its efforts at advocacy & networking.

#### **11. Proposed Seminars by AJS & Biblical Coordinators**

The Sub Zonal AJS & Biblical coordinators have proposed to conduct a colloquium on 'missionary spirituality' and seminar on 'biblical foundation of religious life' respectively. The Governing Body is of the opinion that the concerned coordinators should space these two seminars in the coming 3 years.

**Fr. Paul Vattathara SVD**

Chairman, SVD Governing Body, India

**Fr. Baptist D'Souza SVD**

India Sub-Zone Mission Secretary

### **AJS Co-ordinators' Meet**

**SVD HOUSE, Bandra, 27th November, 2014**

The AJS Province co-ordinators meet of SVD India Subzone was convened at the SVD House, Bandra on November 27th 2014 to report, discuss and plan for the coming year. The reflections and recommendations of the meeting to promote SVD Spirituality in our Provinces as follows.

#### **Suggestions.**

1. The team members stressed the need of involving Laity as well as more collaboration with the SSPS sisters at the Province level, as there is better coordination and collaboration at the Generalate and national level.
2. The provincial team of AJS could be combined with SSPS Sisters, and a lay collaborator. It was said that the SSPS sisters could be involved in Retreats, recollections and spiritual directions etc.
3. Promotion of the SVD prayers, prayer for missionary congregations Novenas in our parishes and institutions need to be introduced and encouraged.
4. Retreat focussed on Arnold Janssen spirituality could be conducted once in 3 years.
5. Mentioning the names of our Saints during the mass, visible signs of our Saints, such as statues, pictures, medals need to be promoted further in our parishes and institutions.
7. Promote Arnold Janssen spirituality through Lay associates and SVD Friends, in line with the guide lines of 17th general chapter and involve them in mission activities. Groups such as "Disciples of Divine Word", SVD fraternity and so on can be models for this venture. They are associates, extended family and missionaries of Divine Word Society.

#### **AJS Team:**

**Bro. Francis Sammanasu - Co-ordinator**

**Fr. Bala Prasad**

**Sr. Phulkaria SSPS**

**Mr. Michael Peria**

**Br. Francis SVD**

## AT ONE STROKE ASHA JYOTHI BAGS TWO AWARDS.....!

As you are well aware, Asha Jyothi has been steadily progressing well in the field of HIV/AIDS eradication from its inception in the year 2006, receiving awards and making record breaking achievements and at the district level every year. This year for the first time like a bolt from the blue, the 'Minority department' has identified and certified 'ASHA JYOTHI' as the best, "SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANIZATION" among the institutions run by the minorities and awarded a certificate of citation and a memento by the Government, Minority Department.

Once again ASHA JYOTHI has been recognized for its dedicated services and bags the victorious award for this year 2014 from the District Collector, Shri. Rahul Bojja, IAS, as the best service provider in the field of HIV/AIDS amongst the NGOs working in Medak District, on the 'WORLD AIDS DAY' of 1st December, 2014. Indeed it is a remarkable double achievement and greater glory to the entire society of the Divine Word Missionaries of the INH province! Congrats!!

### 16th Anniversary of Jeevodaya Social Centre

Jeevodaya Social Centre, Pregnapur celebrated its 16th Anniversary on 21st Dec. 2014, Sunday, amidst the Eminent guests Rev. Fr. Antony Joseph, INH Provincial Superior, The Medak M.P., Shri K. Prabhakar Reddy, Gajwel Municipal Chairman G. Bhasker, Gajwel Municipal Vice chairman, District Disable's Sangham Vice-President Shri Sridhar, local doctors Dr. Mallaiah and Dr. Kumara Swamy, and Fr. Alwin, the Asha Jyothi Director.

The Provincial Superior in his message said that the differently abled should take the services of Jeevodaya and obtain the benefits from the Government Welfare Schemes to the maximum and thus solve their problems. He acknowledged and appreciated the Jeevodaya staff, the coordinators and the director for the good works being done in Medak district particularly Rehabilitation of the Disabled, Empowerment of the downtrodden women, youth and the farmers and the preparation of Herbal Medicines. The JSC Director in his annual report, acknowledged the contribution by SVD Society, particularly the INH Provincial Superior and his team, CHAI (Catholic Health Association of India) and JSC staff for their sincere services to humanity.

There were 97 differently abled members present for the event along with their parents from all over the district. All of them were presented with a gift hamper comprising of a blanket, a Bed sheet, a towel and Jeevolivera tonic. Finally the programme ended with a fellowship meal to all.



### Hearty Welcome to Dn. Antonysamy

Rev. Fr. Superior General has appointed Dn. K. Antonysamy SVD to our Province. On behalf of all the confreres, I welcome him whole heartedly and wish him a fruitful ministry in INH.

### Fr. George Mepurath to USW

Rev. Fr. Superior General has transferred Fr. George Mepurath from INH to USW Province. We thank him wholeheartedly for all his services in INH Province and wish him God's abundant blessings in his ministry in USW Province.

### SVD ASPAC Zonal Coordinator: Fr. Sebastian Maria Michael (INM)

#### The Executive Committee

Fr. Eduardo Rocha, (PHS) - Chairman  
Fr. Henryk Adler (AUS)  
Fr. Joseph Dawan Jaga (IDJ)  
Fr. Jong II Benedict Kim (KOR)  
Fr. Paul Vattathara (INM)

#### SVD ASPAC Zonal Area Coordinators

**Formation:** Fr. Saniel, Wilfredo (PHC)  
**Brothers Affairs:** Br. Bernd Ruffing (AUS)  
**Bible:** Fr. Tarsius Signo (SIN)  
**Mission:** Fr. Hendrikus Meko (IDJ)  
**Communication:** Fr. Kasmir Nema (TLS)  
**JPIC:** Fr. Roy Thomas (INC)  
**Mission, Education & Research:** Fr. Philip Gibbs (PNG)  
**University Affairs:** Fr. James Vyathappan (SIN)

#### Birthdays

#### My Programme

February: 05 & 06 – Province Assembly – I  
February: 09 & 10 – Province Assembly – II  
February: 11 – Provincial Chapter  
February: 14 – Ordination of Dn. Jayanna Kottam SVD, Nandyal, Kurnool.  
February: 25 to March 04: INC Provincial Chapter and Inter Provincial Meet, Indore.

February		March	
Ravi kumar Reddy	- 04	A. Siluvai	- 07
Cyril Doss	- 09	Jeyaseelan	- 13
Casmir D' Souza	- 11	Soosai	- 15
Pushpa Raj	- 14	Kingston	- 29
S. Devadoss	- 21	Anand Nagothu	- 29
Joseph Anthu	- 23	Victor Jeyaraj	- 30
Thomas K'kattayil	- 26	Joy Joseph	- 30

The Next Provincial Council Meetings will be held on February 12 & March 12, 2015 at Arnold Bhavan.

*"May the heart of Jesus live in the hearts of all !"*

*Fr. Antony Joseph SVD*  
Provincial Superior - INH