



## PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR – INH

*“In your light we see light, light leading to life”*



- INH Vision

INH/PC/119

Oct. – Nov., 2016

### MERCYFUL MISSION MANDATE

The mission mandate of Jesus Christ was to make known the merciful face of God as he was the face of God. The Word of God all through the Bible speaks aloud and forcibly the mercy of God. We see this in the deliverance of Israelites from the slavery, in the parable of the merciful Father etc.

We bear witness to the mercy of God or the reign of God through our prophetic dialogue, marked by our four fold characteristic dimensions (Ad-Extra) of our missionary response. Our missionary commitment is a journey in our witness to the mercy of God which is accompanied by Our Lady of Mercy.



October is the month of Rosary specially dedicated to Mother Mary. We meditate and reflect on the mysteries of Christ. Mary is the sign and symbol of God's mercy, rooted in faith and steadfast in the providence of God. Her life, a path of love and mercy, a true embodiment of the living mercy of God, is a model in our mission journey.

As we are almost at the end of the year of mercy let our mission mandate, our programs be aimed at transforming the brokenness of human beings into a wholeness with hope and brimming with life. Jesus' mercy is a transformative power, it transforms the person who experiences that mercy, as we see it in the paralytic who was healed (Lk. 5/21), in the life of Zacchaeus (Lk. 19:1-10), the woman caught in adultery (Jn. 8:1-11) and in many more such examples in the Bible. May Jesus who is full of compassion, love and mercy be the Way in our missionary journey.

The recently concluded missionary meeting of our province was an indication to show how we journey together sharing in our missionary challenges. Our Province hosted the SVD India Sub-zone Formation Board meeting, Inter Provincial Planning Forum where the concerns of the mission, JPIC, AJS, Communication, Biblical apostolate were shared in a brotherly atmosphere. I thank all the confreres who participated and helped us for successful conduct of all the meetings.

SOCIETY OF THE DIVINE WORD  
INDIA – HYDERABAD (INH)  
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## PARISH ACTIVITIES

### PARISH FEAST, MIG



The parish of St. Alphonsa's Church, MIG, celebrated the annual feast with fervor and gaiety on July 31, 2016. Rev. Fr. Antony Joseph, the Provincial superior, was the main celebrant of the solemn Eucharistic celebration which began at 10.30 am. Fr. Sahayaraj, the district superior and many other priests concelebrated with him. Fr. Provincial highlighted the importance of giving thanks to God for all the good things that He had done in the individual families. He also spoke on the life of St. Alphonsa's journey of faith, stressing the importance of building strong families rooted in faith. Thirteen of the parish children

received the First Holy Communion. After the mass there was a parish community meal. Fr. Satish Kumar, the parish priest, said that the feast brought togetherness in the parish community. We thank Frs. Satish Kumar and G. Prakash for their dedicated service.

### MADHA NAGAR CHURCH FEAST

Madha Nagar Parish, Chennai, church feast 2016 was celebrated with great solemnity on 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> of August 2016. On the first day, 12 priests from St. Thomas mount vicariate and Somascan fathers heard the confessions of the parishioners as part of the year Divine Mercy celebrations, followed by Flag Hoisting and Mass. On the second day, the SVD community at the Hill top, St. Thomas Mount and the DMI sisters at Joseph's college, Kovur and the SVD Provincial superior were the special guests. The feast day mass was followed by car procession and a sumptuous sponsored meal for 1500 participants. On the third day, Rev. Fr. Antony Joseph, the SVD INH provincial superior was the main celebrant. 25 parish children received their First Holy Communion. The feast was an occasion of great joy, unity, love, care and concern for all of us. We thank Fr. S. Wenceslaus for organising very meaningful feast day celebration.

### OUR LADY OF GOOD HEALTH CHURCH- KOTTAPATTU

The Annual feast of Our Lady of Good Health Church at Kottapattu began on August 29, 2016 by Most Rev. Anthony Samy, the Bishop of Kumbakonam, hoisting the flag of Our Lady of Good Health, followed by the Holy Eucharist. In his homily he stressed upon the role of 'Mother Mary – Model of God's Mercy'. On this day, the people of different religions gathered together to witness the ascending of the flag and to experience the descending of the blessings of our Lady. During the nine days of Novena, the Holy Eucharist was celebrated by different priests sharing meaningful reflections on Mother Mary in light of the Jubilee year of Mercy. On 4<sup>th</sup> September, Most Rev. Antony Devotta, the Bishop of Trichy, celebrated the solemn High Mass and invited all of us to follow Mother Mary to be truly human like her.



On 8<sup>th</sup> September, Rev. Fr. Antony Joseph SVD, our Provincial Superior presided over the concelebrated Holy Eucharist. Fr. Jesu Nesan SJ in his homily shared how Mary becomes the Mother of Mercy and invited all of us to be instruments of God's Mercy in our words and deeds. The presence of a good number of SVD confreres, seminarians, sisters, lay faithful and pilgrims also added colours to the feast. We wish God's blessing on Frs. Jesu and Karunakar for organising the feast meaningfully.

## FEAST OF AROCKIA ANNAI, VADIMANAGAR



The Shrine feast began on 29<sup>th</sup> August by hoisting the flag of Arockia Annai. The flag hoisting ceremony was solemnized by the Most Rev. Amalraj D.D., Bishop of Ooty and the celebration continued with nine days of Novena. Most Rev. Anthonysamy D.D., the Bishop of Kumbakonam, offered the holy mass for the pilgrims on 3<sup>rd</sup> September and the Archbishop of Madurai, Most Rev. Antony Pappusamy, offered the novena mass on 4<sup>th</sup> September. Likewise every day there were different priests and Vicar Generals to solemnize the celebration. The 8<sup>th</sup> of September was a blessing and graced filled day for many and

specially for the parishioners and to the pilgrims because of three feasts, namely, the birthday of our Blessed Mother Mary, birthday of the Society of the Divine Word and the birthday of the Miraculous Holy Spring (Yesuvin Arumarunthu). Fr. Antony Joseph, the provincial Superior, led the solemn Eucharistic Celebration concelebrated by the local SVD confreres. After the evening mass, offered by Rev. Fr. Msgr. J. Jeyaraj, there was a Car procession at 7.00 pm and the feast days' celebrations ended with the lowering of our Lady's flag and the thanksgiving mass offered by Fr. Y. Arockiadoss the parish priest of Vadipatti. During the days of celebration thousands of people experienced the powerful intercession of Arockia Annai, Vadimanagar. We like to appreciate all the confreres for their selfless service in the shrine.

## THE ANNUAL FEAST IN SINGAMPUNARY

The annual feast of the parish, Feast of our Lady of Velankanni, at Singampunary was celebrated in all solemnity from 7<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> September. Fr. A Jesu SVD parish priest of Arokia Annai Shrine, Kottapattu presided the solemn festival mass with 10 priests, which was attended by a large number of faithful from our parish, substations and nearby parishes. The procession along the main streets of the town was very impressive because of the prayers, devotional songs and the discipline with which the whole procession moved on. Our other Christian brothers too joined us and made the celebration grand and remarkable. We congratulate Frs. A. Joseph and Anandaraj for their commitment to the mission.



## AROGYA MATHA FEAST AT ZAHEERABAD



The annual feast of Arogya Matha Church, Zaheerabad, was celebrated on September 8, 2016. The solemn Holy Eucharist was presided over by Fr. N. Anand SVD, the administrator of Divine Word Center, Muthangi and he preached an inspiring homily to the people explaining the role of Mother Mary in our salvation, her simplicity and how she could be a model for our life journey. All the parishioners actively participated in the feast day celebration. This occasion was graced by our confreres from the Sangareddy district. The celebration concluded with a fellowship meal. We thank Fr. Maxim and Bro. Rajesh for the solemn celebration of the annual parish feast.

## INAUGURATION OF PARISHUDDHA LOURDU MATHA PRARDHANA GOPURAM

Newly built Parishuddha Lourdu Matha Prardhana Gopuram at Mallaram village of Edulla Bayyaram parish was blessed by Most. Rev. Maipan Paul D. D., the Bishop of Khammam and inaugurated by Rev. Fr. Antony Joseph, the Provincial Superior on September 24, 2016. It is very beautifully built on the side of the main road for the people passing by to pay the homage to our Lord Jesus and pray to our Mother Mary for her intercession and thus giving witness to our Christian faith. It was indeed a meaningful Celebration with blessing of the Grotto followed by a grand procession to the village Chapel where the festal Holy Eucharist was celebrated by the Bishop.



He preached on importance of spiritual growth and exhorted catholics to become living witnesses to the world. Good number of Priests, Religious, and faithful were present on the occasion. I congratulate Fr. Madavaram J. Suresh for his commitment to bear witness to our Christian faith.

## JPIC ACTIVITIES OF THE PROVINCE

The Province JPIC meeting was convened on 25<sup>th</sup> August, 2016 for all the confreres involved in several social ministries in the province. Fr. Provincial Superior welcomed the confreres present and appreciated the committed involvement and the dedicated services that we render to the deserving poor and the downtrodden community in our missions. The JPIC coordinator Fr. Alwin Mascarenhas presented the JPIC Annual Report for the year 2015-16. His concluding remark was, “Even though we, in the INH province, are challenged in whatever social apostolic activity we may be engaged in, our apostolic mission makes visible our solidarity with those who are suppressed, deprived and excluded. This pursuit of justice, peace, and integrity of creation permeates all aspects of our lives and in so doing, all our choices and our activities are marked by the Gospel values.” Then the other confreres who are involved in many other social ministries in the province, shared their experiences and their future development plans for the missions.

Rev. Fr. J. Felix SVD, the Executive Secretary of VIVAT International India, organised a meeting for SVD confreres of INH and SSPS sisters of INS involved in JPIC activities on September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016 at Arnold Bhavan. Fr. P. S. Amalraj SJ was main speaker who stressed in his address the emerging need for our urgent response to the Refugees. There was also discussion on convention no. 189 – ILO on decent work for the domestic workers.

### Free Medical & Consultation Camp held



DWSSS organized a free medical and consultation camp in collaboration with St. Antony Leprosy Centre, Jogipet on 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2016 from 9.00 am to 3.00 pm in Upparigudam village in Pulkal Mandal of Medak district with prior notification. This village is a remote rural area surrounded by several hamlets. More than 250 people, babies with their mothers, grown-up children and several senior citizens benefitted out of this free medical and consultation camp held on that day. Around 60 elderly people got their eyes tested and free spectacles were distributed to them. The uniqueness of this camp lies in its comprehensive approach

where health promotion and prevention are given equal importance while curative care was administered.

## EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

### Activities of SANSKRUTI

#### Participation in the International Ecumenical Conference of Mission Studies by G. Lazar. SVD.

Fr. G. Lazar, the director of SANSKRUTI participated in the 14<sup>th</sup> assembly of the International Association for Mission Studies (IAMS) held in Seoul, South Korea on August 11-17, 2016. The theme of the conference was: *Conversions and Transformations: Missiological Approaches to Religious Change*” He presented a paper on: *Mission in the Context of Religious Pluralism: A new Theology of Inter-religious Dialogue Today*”. This paper was well-appreciated and is selected for publication in the *Journal of Mission Studies*. Over 250 professors and research scholars from various Christian denominations participated in this mission oriented academic debate.

Prior to the above international ecumenical conference on mission in Seoul, Fr. G. Lazar also participated in a meeting of SVD Missiologists. A fair dozen of Divine Word Missionaries around the world came together in Seoul for a two-day consultation and sharing. The topic was to share about each of the participant’s working projects of the last few years. In a second step, the group worked out a research agenda for the next few years focussing on missionary discipleship and its relationship to the different local and global contexts of mission. As always, this turned out to be a stimulating and encouraging meeting of SVDs and one Korean SSpS sister.

#### Workshop on Accounting

There will be two days workshop on FCRA rules, TDS and Tally ERP 9 for all the Treasurers and Procurators of our Province on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, November, 2016. It is compulsory for Treasurers and Procurators and others are welcome to join.

- Hearty welcome to Dn. Thumma Thomas Reddy who is appointed to our province.



- Dn. Thumma Thomas Reddy and Dn. S.S Peter Kumar are assigned to Our Lady of Mercy Church, Sangareddy and Sts. Peter & Paul Church, Janagaon respectively for their diaconate ministry. We wish them God’s blessing.

#### Animation Programme by Fr. Ittoop SVD

As it was informed in the missionary meeting, I would like to inform you the dates for animation programme:

- Nov. 15-16 Hyderabad district
- 17-18 Sangareddy district
- 19 Arnold Bhavan unit

- 20-21 Raigir district
- 23-24 Guntur district
- 26 Chennai unit
- 27-28 Trichy unit
- 29-30 Tamilnadu district

**My Programme:**

- 01 October : Parish Feast, Shencottah
- 09 to 14 October : Retreat, Velankanni
- 03 to 04 November : Provincial Council Meeting, Arnold Bhavan
- 11 to 12 November : Workshop for the Treasurers/Procurators of INH at Arnold Bhavan

**Happy Birth Day to you**



**Fr. Antony Joseph SVD**

Provincial Superior – INH