



PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR – INH

“In your light we see light, light leading to life”- INH Vision



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Nov.-Dec., 2020

All Saints Day, All Soul's Day- Feasts to remind us our own holiness

The Christian celebration of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day stems from a belief that there is a powerful spiritual bond between those in heaven and the living. Saints are persons who lived a life of holiness and virtue, following Christ's call to be “perfect as the heavenly Father is perfect” (Mt.5, 48). The Church constantly reminds all believers of this unique call of God to holiness.

The word ‘saint’ is derived from the Latin word, sanctus, which means, ‘one who is holy’. The word ‘saint’ is applied to those who have been canonized by the Church and presented to the universal Church as persons worthy of honour on account of their heroic life of virtue, holiness or witness through martyrdom. In the New Testament the word ‘saint’ is used in a broader sense to include all Christ's faithful (Acts 9:13). Through union with God, the baptised share in the holiness of God.

Sanctity cuts across not only time and place but also geographical boundaries and social class. The galaxy of saints, whom the Church presents to us for veneration and imitation, range from the first century to the twentieth century. We can be sure that God will continue to raise outstanding models of holiness and faith in our own times and for the times to come. But are we able to remember all the saints in our liturgy and worship as only a few are mentioned in the sacred missal. Since there are only 365 days in a year, not every person in heaven can have his own liturgical commemoration, but they all should be recognized for the way they cooperated with God's grace. Thus All Saints Day was created to commemorate every last individual in heaven, even those whose salvation is known to God alone.

On All Souls Day, we not only remember the dead, but we apply our efforts, through prayer, almsgiving, and the Mass, to their release from Purgatory. There are two plenary indulgences attached to All Souls Day, one for visiting a church and another for visiting a cemetery. (The plenary indulgence for visiting a cemetery can also be obtained every day from November 1-8, and, as a partial indulgence, on any day of the year.) While the actions are performed by the living, the merits of the indulgences are applicable only to the souls in Purgatory. Since a plenary indulgence removes all of the temporal punishment for sin, which is the reason why souls are in Purgatory in the first place, applying a plenary indulgence to one of the Holy Souls in Purgatory means that the Holy Soul is released from Purgatory and enters Heaven.

We are on the eve of celebrating both these days. Let us remember our call to become holy and blameless. Let us remember the confreres who have left us in the recent past. Let us also remember the loved ones who left us in the recent months. Let us go deep into ourselves and see the saintly elements that are there in us and develop them more and more. Let us pay more attention to the wonderful qualities confreres have and appreciate them. Let the saints in us be more seen and let our lives speak more loudly.

INH Leadership team

SOCIETY OF THE DIVINE WORD
INDIA – HYDERABAD (INH)
Provincial Superior

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Feast day celebrations at Vadipatti

Annual celebrations of triple feasts, at our lady of Vailankanni Shrine at Vadipatti was celebrated in a very meaningful way. Due to the pandemic restrictions, permission was granted only for 50 people to be present for any celebration. It was indeed difficult to contain the crowd of pilgrims and devotees especially on the feast day. Fathers at our Shrine had made all the necessary arrangements following the safety procedures. They also made possible for the devotees to view the mass and participate in it by telecasting it through Youtube and Cable TV. Many devotees, though would have loved to come and be part of the celebrations, took part from their homes virtually. The feast day celebrations began with the flag hoisting on 29th of August and concluded with the triple feast day celebrations on 8th September. Fr. Provincial Superior was the main celebrant on the feast day holy Eucharist. Congratulations to Fathers at our Shrine for braving the situation and making the celebrations possible for pilgrims and devotees.

Feast day celebrations at Kottapattu

The annual Feast day celebrations commenced on 29th August with the flag hoisting. Initially it was done virtually. As the government lifted some curbs of pandemic, the parish was able to celebrate the remaining novena days with limited number. The feast day mass was presided over by Fr. Lawrence Bose, the Rector of St. Charles Seminary. Congratulations to Fr. A. Jesu for taking trouble to plan and organize the feast celebrations.

Feast day celebrations at Singampunari

A three day celebrations was carried out meaningfully in Singampunary to celebrate the annual feast of the parish. Fr. Provincial Superior hoisted the flag and commenced the festive celebrations on 6th of September. The celebrations were concluded on 8th with a solemn mass. Congratulations to Fr. Arul Paulraj for organizing the feast day celebrations.

Elections in Tamilnadu and Celebration of Golden Jubilee

Due to the travel restrictions in Tamilnadu till the end of August, confreres could not come together. On 10th of september, they gathered together at Vadipatti and elected the district superior and councillors. **Fr. Arulandu Arockiasamy** was elected as the District Superior. Frs. Wilson Sagayaraj and Arul Paulraj were elected as the Councillors. As all the members were present, they also celebrated the **Golden Jubilee of the First Vows of the Fr. Joseph Anthu**. During the Eucharistic celebrations, Fr. Anthu shared his fifty years of journey in the SVD with lots of reflections and anecdotes. Congratualtions to the new District Superior and the councillors, as well as to the golden jubilarian.

Sangareddy Compound Wall Constructions

Construction of the compound wall has commenced at Sangareddy. Earlier the land was under litigation. We have won the case and so decided to erect the compound wall at the earliest. The work is in progress.

Health update

All the confreres who were affected by Covid 19 have recovered. Fr.Selvam, underwent a surgery on 27th to remove a stone in the kidney. He is back in patancheru for rest and recuperation.

Fr. David is completely healed from cancer. Yesterday he completed the sixth cycle of Chemotherapy. Though after three cycles of chemo and radiation he was healed, the doctors advised him to go for three more cycles of Chemo, to prevent the reoccurrence of cancer cells in future. He has completed the course. We shall thank God for his special blessings on Fr. David. I thank all the confreres who prayed for him and who were helpful to him and accompanied him on different days for treatment.

Tie –up with SLG Hospitals

We have reached an understanding with the SLG Hospitals for our confreres for both outpatient and inpatient facilities. The hospital is well equipped with latest facilities and efficient doctors. They are very reasonable in their charges too. Confreres who need medical care can inform us and approach the hospitals with the SVD id cards. SVD id cards were issued to the confreres in the past. Those who do not have one, can approach Fr. Anil, the communication coordinator to make one for you.

Ramachandrapuram - present situation

Our own SVD mission at RC Puram was not spared by the recent floods in Hyderabad. The compound wall has collapsed with the massive current of the floods. The flood water entered the Church, school and the residence damaging the statues, books and stationery, computers, furniture, electronic items, vehicles and other essential goods. The initial estimate of loss is more than Rs.60 lakhs. The cleaning up is going on. We have to buy all the essential things in the school and in the church. We also need to build a strong compound wall.



New FCRA amendment Act

Everyone in the Province must get familiar with the provisions of the new FCRA amendment act. One important aspect is the reduction in the amount spent on the administrative expenses. Kindly note the following and follow it strictly.

- ❖ As per existing provisions of FCRA, all registered Associations can use 50% of their Foreign Contributions towards meeting administrative expenses. **This limit is reduced to 20%.**
- ❖ The limit of 20% of Administrative Expenses should apply on Foreign contribution utilization w.e.f 29/09/2020. During FY 2020-21 the organisation can spend up to 50% on administrative expenses till September 28, 2020 and from 29/09/2020 to 31/03/2021 the limit of 20% on administrative expenses shall apply.
The following expenses come under administrative expenses:

Salaries and Wages

Travelling and Conveyance

Electricity Charges

Repairs and Maintenance (including vehicle)

Printing and Stationery

Telephone Charges

Rent

Professional Charges

Therefore, I request all those who receive foreign contribution either for priest maintenance or for the institutions, to make sure that administrative expenses are kept below 20% of the money you receive.

JPIC Activities

JPIC RESPONSE TO HYDERABAD FLOODS

Record rain and heavy flooding brought life to a halt in Hyderabad on 14th October, 2020, killing at least 79 people and causing waterlogging in various parts of the city. The city recorded a total of 320 mm rain, leading to one of the worst floods causing many of the residential areas in the city under water and driving thousands from their homes. This massive flood has devastating effects causing extensive damage in some of the areas of the city.

Heavy rains have wreaked havoc in the city of Hyderabad paralyzing the entire city. Thousands of people have been displaced from their houses. So many houses have been destroyed in the floods and thousands of people have become homeless, lost their belongings and are living in the temporary relief camps in the city. Lots of belongings including vehicles are washed away in the flood waters. Several trees and electricity poles were uprooted due to the deluge.

Horrifying videos on the social media showed Hyderabad completely submerged in water. The water current in some places was so strong it piled cars on top of each other and swept away several people. The JPIC Coordinator of the Province along with few other confreres were very much engaged in rescue and relief operations in Hyderabad that suffered the brunt of the damage after receiving record breaking rainfall. They were involved in helping the people out of their flooded homes to their relatives or to the relief camps arranged by the Government. They were also helping them to shift their belongings to different places where the flood waters would not reach. They also distributed milk, bread, biscuits and drinking water to the affected people. Our Provincial house was kept open to the flood victims and provided them with food. So far, we have only done the emergency rescue and relief work. We have reached out to the affected families in our own capacity by distributing food items and drinking water. However, in our second round of flood relief, we have plans to reach out to the affected families with ration, clothing and medicines. The people have lost everything and they need these basic things when they return to their houses.



JEEVODAYA REACHING OUT TO MENTALLY CHALLENGED CHILDREN

Jeevodaya Social Centre at Pregnapur is working mainly towards the welfare of physically challenged children in Sangareddy, Medak and Siddipet Districts of Telangana. In these Three Districts they are also some 57 Mentally challenged Children, who are living in very pitiable condition, having no proper food for eating. Their parents are poor and struggling because they have no work due to COVID-19 situation. Their living condition has become all the more miserable during this Corona crisis. Jeevodaya Social Centre decided to reach out to them after knowing their miserable situation.

Fr. Felix Roche visited them on 7th September, 2020 and distributed Rice, Oil, Grocery items and Clothes. They were very happy to receive these items as it was a great relief for these suffering people.



Resolutions of the IPF and the response from the Generlate.

REPORT OF THE GOVERNING BODY SVD INDIA SUB-ZONE, ZOOM MEETING SEPTEMBER 20, 2020

Governing Body of the SVD India Sub-Zone held its online zoom meeting on 20th September 2020 at 09.00 a.m. The meeting was chaired by Fr. Maxim Rodrigues, the Chairperson of the Governing Body, India Sub-Zone. All the members were present, and the meeting began with a short prayer by Fr. Richard Mathias seeking accompaniment of the Lord and guidance of the Holy Spirit on the deliberations and decisions.

1. Inter-Provincial Forum (IPF) Evaluation was presented to the GB. Since this year we could not conduct IPF meeting, the GB decided to present this IPF Evaluation report to the IPF next year. The GB recommends creation of a format for reporting by the various coordinators and secretaries during the IPF meeting. This format consists of 1. Time for reporting 7 – 8 minutes. 2. Implementation report (of the suggestions, recommendations, and action plan) and 3. A summary report of activities. All the area coordinators and secretaries will submit an elaborate report of their activities to the GB.
2. To enhance the involvement of lay partners in our life and mission, the GB recommends that one each lay partner from each Province and Region could participate in the IPF meeting.
3. The GB appreciated the efforts taken by India Sub-Zone in organizing the mission Sunday/month as per the directives of the Catholic Church and SVD day/week as their convenient time. The GB recommends that all our SVD parishes / institutions / schools celebrate 2nd Sunday of January (closest Sunday to 15th January - Founder's feast) as SVD Sunday in India Sub-Zone and the offerings/donations collected on that day be used for the various mission promotion & animation activities in the respective Provinces or Region.
4. The COVID-19 pandemic has created a lot of uncertainties and challenges for our mission. The GB appreciates the initiatives taken by each Province and Region through their JPIC wing to reach out to the needy people by providing dry ration, cooked food, travel arrangements, masks, sanitization items, etc. The GB recommends that in each Province/Region JPIC takes the lead in collaborating and networking with Government Agencies, NGOs, Congregations and Dioceses in facilitating help to those who are in need.
5. Keeping in mind the recommendation of the 18th General Chapter regarding the mission secretary's work, the GB recommends that each Province and Region while appointing the mission secretary's job to be primary to other responsibilities.
6. The GB highly recommends every Province and Region to conduct annual laity faith formation program in view of encouraging and promoting lay partnership in the respective Province and Region every year.

- 7.** The GB recommends that in each Province and Region forms a training team of SVD confreres and lay people for the animation of confreres and formation of lay partners in their respective Provinces and Region.
- 8.** The GB had recommended conducting a Biblical Retreat in all the Provinces and Region in India during this year of the Word of God. Due to COVID-19 we could not conduct this retreat this year. The GB reiterates the previous recommendation (GB 2019 No. 8) and requests the Biblical Coordinators to organize the same retreat in all the Provinces and Region during the year 2021.
- 9.** In India an SVD Daily Divine Word, Bible Diary is printed and distributed to all the provinces and region in three languages (English, Tamil and Telugu) by INH Province and INC Province could look into the possibility of publishing it in Hindi language in the coming year. Further the GB recommends that the Bible Diary could be used for the regular Bible sharing in the communities instead of printing a separate 'Bible Thought Booklet'.
- 10.** The GB recommends that the Communication Coordinator of India Sub-Zone along with the Province Coordinators could update and maintain 'svdindia.org' website.
- 11.** To maintain data confidentiality and avoid unnecessary expenses, the GB recommends the training of personnel to create and maintain websites and mobile applications in each province and region. The GB expects greater collaboration among the personnel trained in communication in India Sub-Zone to actualize this project.
- 12.** The GB recommends that a national SVD digital archive be created, and the Communication Coordinator of India Sub-Zone could work in collaboration with the Province/Regional Coordinators to achieve this task.
- 13.** To promote and to give visibility to our mission activities in India Sub-Zone, the GB recommends to start an SVD e-news magazine with the title "Word India" and publish three issues in a year. The Sub-zone Communication Coordinator in collaboration with SVD confreres trained in journalism be entrusted with the task. Promotion and circulation of this e-magazine would be done by all the Provinces and Region.
- 14.** The GB reiterates its commitment to the migration ministry. In the context of COVID-19 pandemic, lots of efforts are being made to help the returning migrants. The GB requests all the Provinces/Region to revisit the Bangalore Action Plan on migration and look into the new possibilities of reaching out to them in collaboration with SSpS and networking with likeminded NGOs.
- 15.** The GB suggests that in the National Convention of SVD Brothers, a session on POCSO Act (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) could be organized to create awareness among the Brothers.
- 16.** Going through the statistical reports presented by the national coordinator of Brotherhood regarding the switching over of Brother candidates to clerical status, the GB observed that there needs to be a deeper study on this matter. A two-member committee consisting of Bro. Kalaimani Paulraj (Coordinator) and Fr. Roy Chirapurath (Member) have been appointed to study the matter in consultation with all the Provinces/Regional coordinators of Brotherhood and to propose measures to enhance the Motivation Brotherhood Candidates. They will make this study in consultation with brother coordinators of all the Provinces and Region and submit the report to the GB by January 2021.
- 17.** The GB recommends that the whole batch of brother candidates after completing Palda course could be sent to one formation house for their graduation studies instead of sending them to different houses. This would enhance better formation and guidance for the brother candidates.
- 18.** The GB recommends that each Province/Region identifies confreres for studies in Chartered Accountancy and / or studies of similar nature depending on the need of the Province/Region.

19. Keeping in mind the importance of better financial administration the GB recommends the Provinces/Region in India Sub-Zone to organize training programs on finance management and FCRA (Foreign Contribution Regulation Act).

20. The GB observed that, in the context of dwindling financial resources due to the COVID -19 pandemic and in the light of the letter of Fr. General (P07/2020, 15 September 2020) the India Sub zone will make concerted efforts to minimize the expenses (especially capital and extra ordinary).

Fr. Maxim Rodrigues, the chairperson of the GB, thanked everyone for the fruitful deliberations and recommendations. The meeting was concluded with a prayer by Fr. Santhuraja Ignatius, the Provincial Superior of INH, at 12.30 p.m.

Rodrigues Maxim, SVD
Chairperson, India Sub-Zone

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20 October 2020
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EMAIL ONLY

In re: Minutes of Interprovincial Forum – Indian Sub Zone.

Dear Fr. Maxim,

The General Council in its meeting this morning discussed your letter of 10th October 2020, in which you sent the Minutes of the Interprovincial Forum of the Indian Sub Zone.

We thank you for your letter and for sending the minutes. We have noted and approved the recommendations of the Governing Body (GB) and applaud you all for the steps being taken to enhance the office of the Mission Secretaries, Formation and Animation of Lay Associates, Digital Communications, Brother Formation and Simplicity of life. We would like to remind the GB that the job of the mission secretaries is not “Primary to other responsibilities” (5) but a fulltime responsibility devoted to the three-fold tasks as enshrined in the our Constitutions (c.117.2) and reiterated by the 18th General Chapter Resolution 1.2.7.

In addition to the above, we express our concern over the frequent changes in the Brother Formation Program. We ask that you wait for the report of the two-member committee set up to make a deeper study on the matter as mentioned in point – 16 of your letter, before effecting any further changes (such as – 17 of your letter: “the whole batch of brother candidates after completing Palda Course could be sent to one Formation House for their Graduation studies instead of sending them to different houses.”). Kindly keep us updated on this important issue.

May the love of Christ impel you to be rooted in the word and Committed to his Mission!
Fraternally in the Divine Word,

Paulus Budi Kleden, SVD
Superior General

Jose Nicolas Espinosa, SVD
Secretary General

→ The Month's Mind Mass for Fr. Joseph Alphonse will be celebrated at St. Charles Seminary on 3rd November at 11 AM. All those who are able to travel to Trichy can participate in the service. All others shall remember him in our prayers and mass on that day in our own places.

→ **Nov. 6: Provincial Council Meeting**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

November

01 - A. Jesuraj
02 - Joseph A. (Jr)
07 - Arulandu Arockiasamy
11 - Paulus Topno
12 - M. Xavier
30 - A. Selvam

December

17- Wilson Sagayaraj
18- Blaise A.
20- Kulandaisamy
22- Ambrose Beck
22- Amalanathan C.
23- Bala Prasad
24- Anil Kumar
30- Lawrence D'souza



Fr. I. Santhuraja

Provincial Superior – INH