

## CHRISTMAS: GOD’S GREATEST LOVE STORY.

There have been a number of love stories written all around the world ever since the world came into existence especially with the arrival of human beings. It will continue to bring forth more love stories in future too. But the one story, an eternal love story, which began with the creation of the world, took a new look, added a new chapter and brought forth a very dear and personal manifestation of God’s Love at the first Christmas. Every year as we gear up to celebrate this love story of God in our lives, we cheer up to enhance our own life (Love) stories.

We have heard the saying, **Letting Go.... Letting God**. The principal characters in the love story of God when it took a definitive and decisive turn around at the Incarnation were **Mary and Joseph**. At the annunciation and at the subsequent dream to Joseph, both were ready to let go of their personal agenda and let God take a complete possession of their lives. In other words we can call this letting go and letting God as **surrender** and **acceptance**. This surrender and acceptance were expressed by Mary in the immortal words, “*Behold the handmaid of the Lord. Let it be done to me according to thy Word*”. Joseph exhibited his surrender and acceptance in ‘*taking Mary as his wife*’. Jesus throughout his life exhibited this. Even while he was sweating blood in Gethsemane, he exhibited this attitude of surrender and acceptance by saying, “**It is not my will but your will be done**”. Christmas calls us to let go ...and let God.

In a school there was a play enacted during the pre-Christmas celebrations. Little Steve was assigned the role of an inn keeper’s son. All that he needs to say when Joseph and expectant Mother Mary approach the entrance please go ...’*there is room for you here*’. During the practices and rehearsals, he uttered these words clearly and authoritatively (without the actual costumes and look). When the play commenced on the actual day, as this scene was to be enacted, Joseph and Mary arrived and knocked at the door and sought rooms. Little Steve opened the door, looked at Mary with a baby bump and became silent. The prompter from behind called out Steve, tell, Please go... there is no room here... Little Steve after a prolonged silence said, **yes there are no rooms here. But you can have mine**”. Everyone in the stage and in the theatre was stunned at the words. The director of the play understood and began to clap. Soon everyone joined him and the clap lasted for many minutes. Expectant Mother Mary experienced a loving kick in her belly.

*Do I have a room for baby Jesus in my heart, in my home, in my community, in my parish, in my school, in my institution and in my ministry? Can I totally let go of myself and let God to take complete possession of me and my life?*

**I wish you all a very happy and Christmas and bright new year 2021**

**From the Leadership Team**

SOCIETY OF THE DIVINE WORD  
INDIA – HYDERABAD (INH)  
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### **Annual Parish Feast of Our Lady of Rosary Church, Miyapur**

The Annual titular feast of Our Lady of Rosary Parish was celebrated with due solemnity on 31st October, 2020. The feast day celebrations enabled the parishioners to enhance their understanding of the Rosary. With careful planning and meticulous execution in this pandemic situation the feast was organised and celebrated. Main feast day celebrated on 31st October 2020, was the culmination of the month of Rosary which began reciting the 5000 rosaries till the date of feast.

The main celebrant of the feast day was Rev. Fr Ignatius Santhuraja SVD, the Provincial Superior of India -Hyderabad Province along with the local District superior Fr. Devadass, many other neighbouring priests and sisters. His message during the festive mass focused on the importance of the Holy rosary and the significance of feast. He reminded us about the song of “Roses for Mama”. He asked us to reflect where are we in the story? The story of young boy offering roses to dead mom was heart touching. He also explained about the meaning of Rosary saying Rosary means Garland of roses and patroness of our parish. As she is caring for our parish and guiding do we take her blessing for granted or do we spend sufficient time with her? If you say I have devotion to mother Mary and you don't respect your mother, sister or wife then it does not have any meaning.

Rosary is a biblical prayer and we are recalling a mystery of salvation when we recite the entire rosaries. He invited us to be the fragrance of Christ through our living while dedicating ourselves to the mother. The sermon in Telugu by Fr. Ravi, the Rector of Narasaraopet SVD Minor Seminary was focused on the meaning of a Rosary and victory when we pray the rosary. In his Telugu homily he recalled the historical events where people have experienced the power of the rosary and appreciated the task of reciting the 5000 rosaries. He said this mile stone is an inspiration to other parishes also. After the festive mass there was a small felicitation to the chief guest of the day, Rev. Fr. Santhuraja SVD the newly elected provincial and all other fathers with a shawl. After the mass, Parishioners of our lady of Rosary Church had arranged some refreshments to the parishioners as well to signify the Christian fellowship. The solemn celebrations with exhaustive decorations ended with the blessing of the Holy Eucharist and the fellowship meal to the invited priests and sisters.



### **Feast day celebration at Medarametla**

On 8<sup>th</sup> of December Nithya Sahaya Matha Church at Medarametla, was overwhelmed with joy to celebrate the annual feast of the Parish. The feast day celebrations had begun with the flag hoisting on 5<sup>th</sup> of December and followed by three days of retreat and prayer service by Fr. Maria Das, the Parish priest of Negarikallu, diocese of Guntur. Indeed he enlightened and inspired the faithful with his meaningful



homilies. On the final day of the feast Fr. Bali Reddy SVD, the Parish priest of Rudrasamudram and the Mission secretary of INH Province offered the Holy Eucharist and preached the Word of God. Fr. Arokia Dass SVD conducted a meaningful car procession with rosary and praise and worship. The celebration culminated with a fellowship meal. Congratulations to Fr. Arockiadoss and Rajasekhar.



### **Pastoral visit by the Archbishop to Zaheerabad**

In spite of his advancing age and associated weakness, the Archbishop of Hyderabad, Most Rev. Thumma Bala arrived at Zaheerabad on Sunday, the 13th of December. The Parish Community had assembled at the gate at 11 in the morning to render a rousing reception to His Grace. The Holy Mass by the Archbishop began at 11.30. In the introduction, he appreciated the efforts that are being undertaken to rekindle the extinguishing flame of faith in the Parish. The Holy Mass was followed by His Grace, interacting with the people in the Church itself. He assured them of his assistance to get employments in the twin cities, using his influence over there. On the occasion of the sacerdotal Golden Jubilee of His Grace, the Parish felicitated him with a shawl, wishing him good health and long life along with peace and happiness in abundance as the emeritus Archbishop.

Delicious meals to the taste of the honoured Guest was prepared and served by the Parishioners themselves. After the sumptuous lunch that he consumed to the minimum, he placed his seal and signature over two dozen Parish Files. With delight, he accepted the Honorarium, presented by the Parish, stating that it would be utilised for the education of poor students. As he got into the car, on his return journey to Hyderabad, the beaming Archbishop profusely thanked and congratulated the PP and the People.





## St. Francis Xavier's Church, Madhanagar, Chennai: Annual Feast and other developments

St. Francis Xavier's Church was in full attire on 6<sup>th</sup> December for the 19<sup>th</sup> Parish Feast of its patron St. Francis Xavier. The feast began with flag hoisting on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020. This year the feast was not just a celebration of another year. It had its significance because there was a triple reason to add the joy of the people: the inauguration of the newly purchased cemetery, blessing of the newly renovated **Eucharistic adoration Chapel** and the **First Holy Communion**.

Fr. Valan SVD took charge of Madhanagar Parish on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2018. At the outset he had to face three challenges and among them purchasing land for cemetery was on high priority. Parishners of Madhanagar faced the tragic problem of carrying their dead from place to place with recommendation letter of the Parish Priest to find a suitable cemetery in other parishes. They have to spend up to Rs.30000/-. Those who cannot afford to pay this amount are forced to carry the body to their native villages.

The Parish Priest visited all the families in the parish and personally obtained their views. He also called for a Parish General Body Meeting, discussed the matter and took necessary steps to purchase a new land and to sell the land bought earlier for the cemetery as it was in dispute. After crossing many hurdles 251/2 cents in Tharapakkam main road was purchased, registered and obtained the approval from the government of Tamil Nadu with his strenuous efforts and hard work.

When the cemetery and the inscription of the cemetery was inaugurated by Rev. Fr. I. Santhu Raja SVD, INH Provincial Superior of the Society of the Divine Word everyone recalled how the Parish Priest achieved this dream project by seeking help from many people, Divine Word Centre Seminary and INH Provincialate. Many parishioners borrowed money from bank and also pledged their jewels for this noble cause. A positive attitude led to positive outcome. It was indeed a milestone in the history of the Parish after 19 years.

Adoration Chapel was renovated so beautifully with a prayerful atmosphere. Six children received First Holy Communion during the Festal Eucharist. The Provincial was so impressed, appreciated and complimented Fr. Valan SVD for his achievements and the parishioners for their generous contribution and collaboration. Yes, great things happen when God mixes with humans

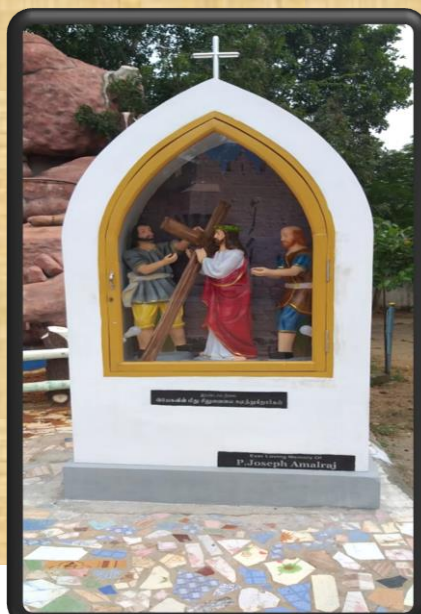
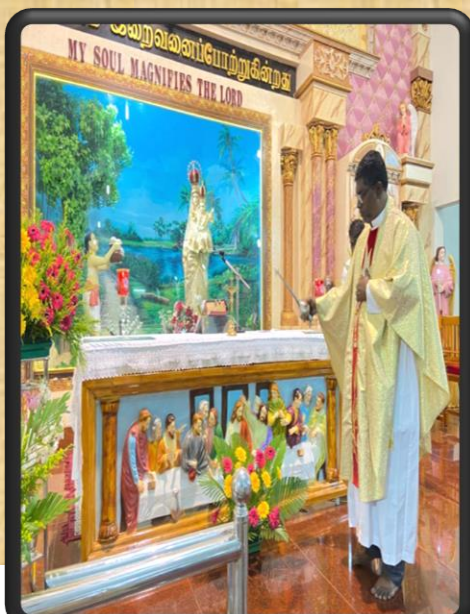






### Stations of the Cross blessed and inaugurated

29<sup>th</sup> November 2020 was a memorable day for the parishioners of Our Lady of Good Health Church, Kottapattu. We witnessed trifold blessing and inauguration. On this great day, Rev. Fr. Santhuraja svd, the Provincial Superior of INH Province in the presence of all the confreres from Trichy unit blessed and inaugurated the newly constructed Stations of the Cross, renovated St. Mary's Ministry Home and the picture of Lord's Supper at the main altar of the Parish Church. All the Stations of the Cross were sponsored by the parishioners; and they invite us to surrender ourselves and participate in the paschal mystery of Christ. They remain as true source of inspiration and witness to the faithful in the Church premises. Congratulations to Fr. A. Jesu for this creative work.





### **Bible Diaries released in three languages**

Bible diaries in English and Tamil were released on 13<sup>th</sup> December at Vadipatti. This is the third year in succession this initiative has seen the light. Fr. Wilson SVD, the Province as well as the India-subzone Biblical Coordinator has meticulously planned and brought out with latest features and technology. Congratulations to him and to his team of writers and helpers.

Fr. Madhavaram Suresh SVD has brought out the same in Telugu and was released on 11<sup>th</sup> December. Congratulations to him and to his team of writers.

I wish that our parishes in Telangana, Andhra and Tamilnadu patronize them and popularize them.



### **Family Feast at St. Charles' Seminary, Trichy**

True to our SVD tradition, the family feast for the academic year 2020-21 was celebrated at St. Charles' Seminary, Trichy from October 31 to November 4. The motto of the family feast was "rise to raise". In spite of the Covid-19 crisis, St. Charles' managed to get 15 new students. The community was divided into two groups. Fr. Eugene SVD, the chairman of the organizing committee organized many sports, games and indoor competitions. On the last day the support staff also joined the family feast celebrations and participated in the competitions. The family feast ended on November 4, the feast day of St. Charles, the patron saint of the seminary, with a concluding mass where the benefactors were specially thanked for their generosity which made the feast possible. The highlight of the family feast was the presence of the Trichy Unit and Tamil Nadu district confreres on the last day. Even though there was doubt over the feasibility and necessity of celebrating the family feast this year, it proved to be a wonderful opportunity to break the monotony of the continuous lockdown, to enable the new students to get integrated into the community and to help the students get to know each other and to increase the family spirit. Congratulations to the seminarians and to the staff for their family spirit.





### Youth Seminar at Manalmedu

Fr. M. Joseph Michael SVD, our new youth director for Tamil Nadu organized a youth seminar at Manalmedu on November 29. The theme of the seminar was “youthfulness is a gift to become a leader of tomorrow.” There were 47 participants. The resource person of the seminar was Fr. Sagayaraj SVD. The seminary included input sessions on skill development and leadership. It also included group discussions. The seminar ended with concelebrated Holy Mass. In a time of pandemic this seminar was a helpful activity for the youth of Manalmedu.





## Arnold Janssen Youth (AJY) Meet

Fr. Anil Kumar SVD, the Youth Coordinator of Telangana state has been meeting the youth of our SVD parishes in Hyderabad. As a result he organized a seminar for youth on the topic “Communication skills for a better future”. In order to make this event successful, the youth coordinator had a Zoom meeting with all the parish youth leaders. Along with the seminar they had also semi-Christmas celebrations and Arnold Janssen youth meet.

The day began with various activities like giving awareness about communication skills and thereby asked the youth to mingle with other parish youth to cherish and build up good relationships with each other. We had various games and action songs to make them feel at home. The youth actively participated in each and every activity. Rev. Fr. Santhuraja SVD, Provincial Superior of India Hyderabad Province inaugurated the event by lighting the lamp along with other priests. Later Rev. Fr. Santhuraja SVD celebrated the Holy Eucharist and gave a beautiful message for the youth to reflect on their abilities and strengths. Provincial's message really boosted the youth to make their life better. Different groups took up responsibilities to organize the event. After the Eucharistic celebration, the provincial superior cut the cake along with other priests as a sign of Christmas celebrations. Later on, we had meals and began semi-Christmas celebrations. Each parish came up with either of the activities like group singing, Carol singing, solo dance, group dance, Christmas message, and a skit based on the central theme of Christmas. All the youth exhibited their music, singing, dancing, and acting skills. There was a competitive spirit in them to give their best. SVD fathers, 14 of them, were present and encouraged the youth coordinator and all the youth. Fr. Santhuraja, Provincial Superior and Fr. Casmir, Parish Priest of St. John's Church, Fr. Anand, vice provincial, Fr. Faustin, Fr. Jojappa, Fr. Pious, Fr. Ambrose, Fr. Sathish, Fr. Eugene, Fr. Pushparaj, Bro. Varghese, Fr. Gopu Vinod, Fr. Samir Barwa and Fr. Anil Kumar were present to witness the event. This gathering was organized in St. John's church, Ramachandrapuram. The Parish priest, Fr. Casmir D'Souza, was very much encouraging the youth and made all the arrangements in the parish. After the cultural activities, the youth had a good dance with Santa, singing Christmas Carols. At the end the youth coordinator met the entire youth to discuss the annual programs like AJY Annual Retreat, AJY Sports Meet, and AJY Cultural Fest and so on. The youth Coordinator gave the vote of thanks to the Provincial Superior and all the parish priests for encouraging them to participate in the event. He also thanked the youth and their parents for participating and showing a lot of enthusiasm.





## COVID-19 RELIEF WORK IN TAMIL NADU

Covid-19 is causing great pain and sorrow to thousands of people all over the world. It is also true in Tamil Nadu. Many have lost their lives and livelihoods. Taking note of this serious situation, Arnold Social Service Society (ASSS), Malayadivarm, Trichy in collaboration with our confreres in Tamil Nadu, took the initiative of reaching out to the most affected people in our mission areas. With the help received from the Generalate, we organized relief work. In collaboration with the confreres, we visited our mission stations such as Vadipatti, Kotapattu, Malayadivaram, Manalmedu, and Madhanagar and extended our helping hand. The relief work included works such as distribution of groceries, educational help such as payment of school and college fees as well as educational help to buy the notebooks, books and stationary items. The relief work also involved awareness program regarding the importance of using masks and sanitizers. The above relief works will also be conducted in the remaining mission stations in the coming days. Thanks to our benefactors and well-wishers. Congratulations to Fr. Joseph Michael for the initiative and execution.







### **Various JPIC Activities in the Province:**

1. 01-11-2020 – Free Medical health camp conducted at Ravindranagar Colony in Hyderabad for the benefit of the flood victims. Medicines, Tonics and Spectacles were freely distributed to the beneficiaries.
2. 05-11-2020 – Free Medical health camp conducted at Indiranagar colony in Hyderabad for the benefit of the flood victims. Medicines and Tonics were freely distributed to the beneficiaries.
3. 07-11-2020 – Artificial limbs were freely made available to 19 physically challenged persons of Sangareddy District by Jeevodaya Social Centre.
4. 10-11-2020 – Rice, Nutrition packets, Blankets and Clothes were freely distributed to the non-teaching staff of our schools at Ramachandrapuram and Patancheru.
5. 12-11-2020 – Free Medical health camp conducted at Amberpet in Hyderabad for the benefit of the flood victims. Medicines and Tonics were freely distributed to the beneficiaries.
6. 18-11-2020 – Rice, Nutrition packets, Blankets and Clothes were freely distributed to the non-teaching staff of our schools at Raigir, Kadavendi and Toopran.
7. 19-11-2020 – Rice, Nutrition packets, Blankets and Clothes were freely distributed to 45 families of the flood victims of Hyderabad.
8. 20-11-2020 – Rice, Nutrition packets, Blankets and Clothes were freely distributed to the non-teaching staff of our schools at Sangareddy, Sadasivpet and Zaheerabad.
9. 26-11-2020 – Nutrition packets, Tonics, Blankets and Clothes were freely distributed to 25 HIV patients and 45 HIV infected and affected children of Siddipet District by DWSSS.
10. 27-11-2020 – Free Medical health camp conducted by DWSSS at Pregnapur in Siddipet District for the benefit of HIV and TB patients. Medicines and Tonics were freely distributed to the beneficiaries.
11. 03-12-2020 – Jeevodaya Social Centre freely distributed Nutrition, Tonics and Clothes to 45 physically challenged persons.
12. 05-12-2020 – Rice, Nutrition packets, Blankets and Clothes were freely distributed to the non-teaching staff of our schools at Addanki, Medarametla and Sankavarapadu.
13. 11-12-2020 - Sensitization and awareness programs on protection of Girl children were being conducted by DWSSS in three different villages of Siddipet District. Nutrition packets and Blankets were also distributed to 74 poor girl children in those villages.
14. 13-12-2020 – Rice, Nutrition packets, Blankets and Clothes were freely distributed to 38 families of the migrants in Mallapur area of Hyderabad.
15. 17-11-2020 – Rice, Nutrition packets, Blankets and Clothes were freely distributed to 65 families of the flood victims of Hyderabad.







## Migration ministry.

Migration ministry is one of the important priorities of our Society therefore we have already ventured into the lives of poor migrants staying in different parts of the city Hyderabad. We help them to feel secure and at home, because they have come from very far places, leaving their homes, family members, near and dear ones having big dreams in their eyes. We visit their families every Saturday and Sunday and very specially when they are in need. Most of the families are settled in different places of Hyderabad City. Some are situated nearby and some are far. During the time of Corona there was lock down, and because of this there was no work, no earnings, no money and no food. These poor migrants were the most affected during the time of lock down. There are more than 400 migrant families in the City of Hyderabad. Most of them are working in small private companies which pay them very low salary. Many women are working in schools, cleaning the surrounding and taking care of the children and some women go to different houses for cooking and washing clothes. And the sad part is that the money they get is not enough to meet the expenses of the house and the expenses of the education of their children. During the time of Lock Down we provided groceries, stationary items and nutrition packets. By which they could manage the maintenance of the house during those days of lock down.

Now Lock Down is removed, people started their normal life. But the effect of lock down still remains. Now Price of the things have gone up, school fees have also gone up, but these people's income or the salary is the same. Still, they are facing the heat of lock down due to Corona in their day-to-day lives. We once again distributed rice, nutrition packets, blankets, and clothes freely to these families of migrants, around 20 families, in Mallapur area of Hyderabad.





## SVD Webinar for the Subzone

*"If every human being possesses an inalienable dignity, if all people are my brothers and sisters, and if the world truly belongs to everyone, then it matters little whether my neighbour was born in my country or elsewhere." Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti*

**'Fratelli Tutti: On Fraternity and Social Friendship'**, the recent Encyclical of Pope Francis is a blessing and a challenge to the world today; the Encyclical treats the universal dimension of doctrine of fraternal love and encourages us to dream as a single family and as fellow travelers sharing the same flesh. Considering the importance and relevance of the Encyclical, Fr. A. Wilson Sagayaraj SVD, the subzone biblical coordinator along with all the Indian province and regional coordinators conceived and organized a webinar with the consent and approval of Rev. Fr. Ignatius Santhuraja SVD, the INH Provincial Superior and subzone chairman for biblical apostolate. The theme of the webinar was, **'Fratelli Tutti: Calling the World to a New Humanity.'** Most Rev. Dr. Singaroyan, the Bishop Emeritus of Salem Diocese was the resource person. **Rev. Fr. Ignatius, Santhuraja** was the chief guest, in his address Rev. Fr. Ignatius, Santhuraja encouraged the participants to actively participate, imbibe the vision envisaged in the Encyclical and translate them into daily living. The resource person explained profoundly the need, the relevance, the context, the motive, the demands and the boundary shattering proposals of the Encyclical towards forming a new Humanity. Most Rev. Dr. Singaroyan, exhorted us SVDs and all the participants with seven challenging proposals inferring from the Encyclical; **1. Are we ready to have an open heart? 2. Are we ready to have an open house? 3. Are we ready to have an open nation? 4. Are we ready to have open churches? 5. Are we ready to have open religious communities? 6. Are you ready to have open religious congregations? 7. Are we ready to have an open institution?** Thus, the webinar served as a platform to understand, discuss and reflect our way of life amidst the changing socio-religious, political and economic scenario of our world. **Fr. Dr. Savari Rayan SVD**, who moderated the webinar, beautifully summarized the views and ideas expressed by the Bishop. The webinar was well conceived, professionally planned and efficiently carried out. There were over 500 participants; we had an overwhelming response from our confreres all over the country and abroad. Fraters and brothers from our different formation houses and other congregations participated enthusiastically. Religious sisters and priests from many congregations participated in groups. The webinar was well received and appreciated by all, the webinar was truly a virtual gathering all brothers and sisters – *Fratelli Tutti*. We are grateful to Rev. Fr. Ignatius, Santhuraja SVD, for his approval and encouragement. The webinar was live streamed via YouTube simultaneously besides the zoom room meeting. Hearty Congratulations to **Fr. Wilson Sagayaraj** the subzone biblical coordinator and to the other province coordinators.





## Availability of Social Fund

Our Generalate has allotted a little amount to help needy and poor in the form of social funds. I appeal to confreres and heads of institutions to forward applications with your recommendations to the most deserving people. The money will be directly transferred to the beneficiaries. So kindly furnish the applicant's bank account details too, along with the applications. Send your applications to Provincial's office by January end. Thank you

## My programmes

**Dec.21: Visit to Addanki**

**Dec.22: Visit to Medarametla**

**Dec.23: St. Charles' Seminary, Trichy**

**Dec.25: Vadipatti**

**Dec.26to 29 Ordinations in Tamilnadu**

**Jan.3: Installation ceremony of the new Archbishop in Hyderabad**

**Jan.4: Ordination of Deacon Vatti Pramodh Kumar, Bandlaguda, Hyderabad**

**Jan.15: Founder's Feast Day Celebrations, Arnold Bhavan.**

**Feb. 10: Provincial Council Meeting, Arnold Bhavan**

**Feb. 12: Silver Jubilee Celebrations of Fr. S. Jayaraj, Narasaraopet.**

**Feb. 13 to 17 Travel to Indore-Bhopal- INC Provincial Chapter, SVD Governing body Meetings**





# **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

## **JANUARY**

1- Rajasekhar S.  
14- M. Antony  
15- G. Lazar  
15- Y. Arockiadoss  
16- A. Antonysamy  
18- A. Arockiasamy

## **FEBRUARY**

4- Ravi Kumar Reddy  
7- Joseph Michael  
9- Cyril Doss  
10- Rajesh kumar Reddy  
11- Vijay Amalraj  
11- Casmir D' Souza  
14- Pushpa Raj  
15- C. Irudayaraj  
17- Satish Kumar  
21- S. Devadass  
23- Joseph Anthu  
26- Thomas Kavumkattayil  
28- Jude Thomas



**Fr. I. Santhuraja**  
**Provincial Superior – INH**