



# PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR- INH

*"Sharing intercultural life and mission of Jesus Christ towards integral human development"*



- INH Vision

INH/PC/94

August-September, 2012

## *Interculturality as Mission*

Today, interculturality is one of the towering gifts we can offer to the emerging Church and to the world at large, as a congregation. This aspect is embedded in its pristine form in the founding moments of our Society. Our founder St. Arnold Janssen crossed the borders – in effect, led the way of being intercultural- to found our society. Our first missionary St. Joseph Freinademetz epitomized this aspect by his very life, for all of us to emulate. Therefore, it was not a mere accident when our 17th General Chapter elaborated and identified this aspect of Interculturality as the guiding principle for the future course of our missionary efforts.



Our outgoing General, Rev. Fr. Antonio Pernia set the tone for this, during the inaugural Mass by stating, "We are an international and intercultural missionary congregation. These two essential characteristics of our identity will provide the perspective for our reflections and discussions in this General Chapter.

What does being an international or intercultural missionary congregation mean today in the context of a world that is becoming more and more multicultural? What directions do we need to take? What actions do we need to undertake?"

We are international or intercultural not just by accident or by force, but by choice and design. This is echoed in the prologue of our constitution which states, "As a community of brothers from different nations and languages, we become a living symbol of the unity and diversity of the Church." Therefore, being intercultural today requires of us some basic personal attitudes, certain community structures and a special spirituality. If interculturality is our heritage, if interculturality is our commitment, then, we are called to live this basically in the following two ways in our missions.

**Interculturality Ad Intra:** Interculturality begins at home. As the sons of Arnold, therefore, we need to be inclusive of others in a diverse community. We need to have a sense of belongingness to the community we live in and a sense of belongingness to each other in the community. This should be augmented by celebrating the Eucharist together, by having meals together and by our lifestyles which is sensitive to each members of the community in which we live in.

**Interculturality Ad Extra:** Interculturality is also a rich form of spirituality. It is one of the best ways of giving witness to the unity and diversity of the Kingdom of God, for interculturality is one of the basic features of the Kingdom envisaged by Jesus (People will come from east and west, north and south will eat in the Kingdom of God (Lk 13: 29)). Today, multiculturalism being the way of living due to globalization and information and technological revolution, how do we translate our experience of intercultural living in our missionary endeavours to be a true witness to His Kingdom?



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## THE NEW GENERAL TEAM

The XVII General Chapter of the Society of the Divine Word, which was held from June 17 to July 15, 2012 at Nemi, has elected the new Superior General and the General Council for the term 2012-2018. We congratulate and wish them God's choicest blessings and the guidance of the Holy Spirit in all their deliberations and endeavours.



**Very Rev. Fr. Heinz Kuluke SVD**  
Superior General



**Rev. Fr. Robert Kisala SVD**  
Vice Superior General



**Rev. Fr. Gregory Pinto SVD**  
General Admonitor



**Rev. Br. Guy Mazola Mido SVD**  
General Councillor



**Rev. Fr. Paul Budi Kleden SVD**  
General Councillor



**Rev. Fr. Arlindo Pereira Dias SVD**  
General Councillor



**Rev. Fr. Jose Antunes da Silva SVD**  
General Councillor



## PARTICIPANTS FROM INDIA IN THE GENERAL CHAPTER



### Our Formation Houses

#### Jyothi Niketan, Narasaraopet

June 23, 2012 marked a triple celebrations at Jyothi Niketan, Narasaraopet; the inauguration of the new academic year, farewell to the Palda going students and welcome to the new staff and the students. The celebrations commenced with the solemn Holy Eucharistic celebration presided over by Fr. Francis Thuruthimattom SVD. Fr. Balaprasad SVD, the Rector preached an inspiring homily and invited the students to focus on the mission of Jesus and move ahead in their vocation journey. Fr. Joseph Arockiadoss SVD and new students were officially welcomed on the same occasion. There are 38 students and three confreres at this seminary. The Palda going students were presented mission rosaries by Fr. Maxim as a symbol of sending them to the next stage of formation.

#### Brother Formation House, Alwal

The academic year at Brother Formation House, Alwal began with a solemn Eucharistic celebration on July 04, 2012. Fr. Casmir D' Souza SVD, the Vice-Provincial presided over the con-celebrated inaugural Holy Eucharist. He, in his homily exhorted the students to live a goal-oriented life. The confreres have planned various formation programmes to form the youngsters to enable them to lay a solid foundation for their vocation journey to religious Brotherhood in SVD. The Brother Formation House has three confreres and 13 students. Fr. Florence Minz and the new students were given an official welcome on this day.

#### Divine Word Centre, Chennai – Comes Alive Again

The annual retreat preached by Sr. Simona SSps from June 09 to 13, 2012 facilitated a meaningful

beginning of the academic year 2012-2013. The thought provoking and insightful sharing by the preacher on “call to religious missionary life and our response” has motivated the students to live a purpose driven life. The seminary while promoting 11 postulants to the novitiate is also strengthened by 20 more new seminarians and a new staff in the person of Fr. Lawrence Bose. A month long activities of yoga, classes on Tamil Language, English Grammar and Personality Development have helped the students to prepare themselves adequately for the task ahead of them. Having secured four Gold Medals and several distinctions in the last academic year, the community is looking forward to greater performance this year.

#### St. Charles' Seminary, Trichy

St. Charles' Seminary, Trichy is the gate way to SVDs in Tamilnadu. The adherence to the Call of Jesus to become a religious missionary priest is planted and nurtured here with utmost accompanied care until the formandi is promoted to the next stage of formation. Thus, this year the seminary is blessed with 32 students and two new staff Frs. A. John and Irudayaraj. The students are from eight different dioceses of Tamilnadu and we hope to instill in them an integrated growth and development. The academic year inaugural Holy Mass in honour of the Holy Spirit was presided over by Fr. Jeyakumar, the Rector on June 06, 2012. Fr. Anandraj preached a thought provoking homily inviting the students to avail all the opportunities and develop their skills and talents.

I wish abundance of God's blessing to all the confreres and students in the formation houses, may they all have a fruitful academic year 2012-2013.

### Bestowal of the Mission Cross



Receiving the mission cross is a key event in the life of every Divine Word missionary. Bro. Varghese having professed his final commitment to the Lord in the Society of the Divine Word on January 02, 2012, received his mission cross on July 04, 2012 at Brother formation house, Alwal, where he began his formation journey to religious brotherhood. Fr. Casmir D'Souza, the Vice-Provincial bestowed the mission cross to Bro. Varghese during the Holy Eucharistic celebration. I congratulate him and wish him a grace-filled missionary life ahead.

### Tribute to Fr. Joseph Puthumanna SVD

The 40th day mass was celebrated on July 25, 2012 at Arnold Bhavan, Habsiguda to pray and pay our homage to Fr. Joseph Puthumana, the senior most confrere of India-Hyderabad Province (INH), who died on June 16, 2012. Fr. Joseph Puthumana occupies an enviable slot in the history of the Indian SVDs. Fr. A. Jesu, the Provincial Superior presided over the Holy mass and preached on the contributions of Fr. Puthumana to our Society and particularly to our Province. The presence of many of our confreres and few relatives of Fr. Puthumana was an expression of our love for him and how we miss him.

### Missionary Meeting

The annual Missionary Meeting of our Province was held on August 01 at Divine Word Centre, Vadipatti for the confreres in Tamilnadu and August 10, 2012 at Arnold Bhavan, Habsiguda for the confreres in Andhra Pradesh respectively. The missionary meeting is a memorable occasion for us to come together, share our missionary activities, enrich and encourage each other while we discuss and plan for our missions. This year's missionary gathering was unique as the documents and proceedings of the XVII General Chapter were shared by Fr. A. Jesu, the Provincial Superior and Fr. S. Kulandaisamy, the delegate to the Chapter. Fr. Provincial explained the reports of the Superior General, various coordinators, treasurer and procurator generals and other



important proceedings. Fr. Kulandaisamy shared with the floor the congregational directions approved by the General Chapter. The sharing has given a clear understanding of the status and the situation of our Congregation. Later, the district superiors presented the report of the various missionary activities in their respective districts. As a whole the meetings were enriching and has enflamed our missionary zeal to continue our service in the footsteps of our founder.

### The Chapter follow up...

Fr. Provincial communicated that the congregational directions contains action plans for implementation for our Province. So, we are entrusted with the responsibility of prioritizing the congregational directions of ad extra as per the need of our province. Therefore, in the days to come each district/unit will have a meeting to choose and prioritize our actions plans of ad extra with specific time frame among those enunciated in the congregational directions. Further, the districts/units will also discuss and design ways to implement all the directions of ad intra at personal/community/province level. Having received the suggestions and the priorities from the districts/units, the Provincial Administration along with the districts superiors with due discussion and consideration will convert them into actions.

### The Feast of St. Alphonsa

St. Alphonsa's Church at BHEL, MIG celebrated the parish feast on July 29, 2012. Fr. A. Jesu SVD, the Provincial Superior was the principal celebrant of the concelebrated festive Holy Eucharist. Fr. P. Sagayaraj SVD preached a meaningful homily explaining the life and values of St. Alphonsa, the Indian Saint. Fr. A. Joseph conducted an adoration preceding the Holy Mass and helped the people to pray in one mind and heart. The four parish choirs – English, Telugu, Hindi and Malayalam helped in one voice to have a solemn liturgical celebrations. The celebration was concluded with a fellowship sumptuous meal that provided an opportunity for the people to greet one another and cultivate a family spirit.



### Specialized Apostolate Meeting

The meeting of all the social activists of our Province was held at Arnold Bahavn, Habsiguda on August 14, 2012 in the presence of Fr. Provincial. The members Fr. Felix Roche, Fr. Michael, Fr. Chalamana, Fr. Xavier, Fr. Pualraj, Fr. A. Antonysamy and Fr. Alwin shared their present activities and each one's plan / vision for their mission for the coming years. The various JPIC concerns and our responses were discussed at length. Everyone expressed the need for revitalizing the present activities and to venture into new fields whereby we can bring about a radical transformation of our attitude towards human rights of all, especially that of the marginalized and the neglected. The meeting has provided certain vision and direction for all our JPIC activities. I thank Fr. Chalamana, the Province JPIC Coordinator for taking initiative to organize a meeting of all the social activists of our Province to evaluate and to devise effective ways and means to reach the most neglected people in the society.

### Blessing of Research and Cultural Centre



Adhering to the directives of XVII General Chapter of the Society of the Divine Word, the INH province launched its venture of Research and Cultural Centre in Habsiguda. Fr. Jesu, the provincial superior inaugurated and blessed the Research and Cultural Centre in the premises of Divine Mercy Centre on July 14, 2012.

According to the vision-mission of the province, this centre will seek to promote research in the areas of anthropology, culture and religion. In its course of action the Centre shall identify the ecumenical and inter-religious dialogue partners and explore how they can best contribute to greater understanding of people of other religious traditions in the apostolates and what new initiatives could be undertaken in terms of ecumenical and inter-religious dialogue and cultural study, stated Fr. G. Lazar during the short ceremony of the occasion.

### Provincial Visitation

Keeping in mind the SVD Constitution 629.5 (An official visitation must be held at least once every three years by the Provincial Superior or by his delegate), the official visitation by the Provincial Administration will take place from September 01 - 15, 2012. I request the district superiors to make the necessary arrangements for the visitation. At the end of visitation, there will be district meeting as well.

Hyderabad	-	Fr. Casmir D'Souza
Sangareddy	-	Fr. Antony Joseph
Raigir	-	Bro. S. Francis
Guntur	-	Fr. Bali Reddy
Tamilnadu	-	Fr. A. Jesu

The Provincial Visitation is an opportunity for the Provincial Superior:

01. to minister in a pastoral way to the needs of individual religious, to deal with their fears and anxieties, with their lack of hope and sense of discouragement or frustration, to enable them to have courage and confidence in who they are and in what they are doing as Divine Word Missionaries;
02. to help heal those confreres and communities which have been wounded or disoriented as a result of changes in the church and in the world; both individuals and communities may need help if their sense of self-worth and confidence is to be restored;
03. to renew the sense of spiritual purpose of both members and communities by animating them to accept in an ongoing way the unceasing call of God to a deep union with Christ;
04. to remind the members that they are called to serve the Church through our society as committed religious by placing their gifts and talents at the disposal of the Society and the Church for the good of others;
05. to challenge both individual members and communities by raising questions that need to be raised, in light of our general chapters and of the last general visitation.
06. to look ahead creatively and cooperatively to the future of the province: its future needs, its future concerns, its future directions?

(Handbook for Superiors SVD, D20, p. 161)

### Preaching the Word of God – Through Internet

Fr. Joy Joseph SVD is writing his reflections on sunday readings and is regularly uploading it on the internet for the past several months. He has gained a commendable readership. The reflection is uploaded on every Saturday. It is accessible on Google search – “Sunday Reflections with Fr. Joy Joseph and the site address is : <http://lordsday-joymaveli.blogspot.com>

### JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

Jubilee is a time to thank God for the innumerable gifts, blessings and opportunities that one has received in life. The following confreres are celebrating their Sacredotal Silver Jubilee this year.

Fr. Manoj Kumar Lakra	-	08. 05. 1988
Fr. S. Devadass	-	13. 05. 1988

We appreciate and acknowledge their generous service and contribution to the Province. We are grateful to God for the gift of them and pray that God may continue to bless them abundantly. The province level celebration will be held on October 26, 2012 at Divine Word Centre, Vadipatti.

### Jeevodaya shifted to Pregnapur

The social service centre Jeevodaya is shifted from Sadasivpet to Asha Jyothi, Pregnapur. The Center will continue its social activities from Asha Jyothi campus and Fr. Felix Roche is the Director of the same.

### REMINDER: PROVINCE ANNUAL RETREAT

**Date** : October 21 - 26, 2012  
**Arrival** : October 21, 2012 (by evening)  
**Departure** : October 26, 2012 (after supper)  
**Preacher** : Rev. Fr. Deva Jose SDB  
**Place** : Divine Word Centre, Vadipatti

As announced earlier, I highly encourage all the members of our Province to participate in our province retreat. Kindly inform Fr. A. Wilson, the Provincial Secretary about your participation in the Retreat before September 20, 2012. Confreres who wish to go to other provinces or centers for retreat must seek prior permission from the Provincial Superior.

#### Retreat – INM

**Date** : November 4 - 9, 2012  
**Preacher** : Fr. Freddie Santhumayor SVD  
**Place** : Ishvani Kendra, Pune

#### Retreat – INC

**Date** : October 14 – 19, 2012  
**Preacher** : Most Rev. Raphael Cheenath  
**Place** : St. Arnold's Seva Sadan, Indore

#### Retreat – ING

**Date** : October 21 – 25, 2012  
**Preacher** : Fr. Freddie Santhumayor SVD  
**Place** : Guwahati

#### Retreat – INE

**Date** : October 21 – 26, 2012  
**Preacher** : Most Rev. Raphael Cheenath  
**Place** : Shanti Bhavan, Jharsuguda

### Interprovincial Planning Meeting

The annual interprovincial planning meeting will be held at Atma Darshan, Mumbai from September 16 - 21, 2012. A leadership seminar is organized for all the planning forum members and the participants of all commission meetings on September 19, 2012.

### Appointment of District Councilors

Taking into account the polls during the District Election July, 2011 and with the consent of the Provincial Council meeting held on July 24, 2012, I am happy to appoint the following confreres the districts councilors.

#### Hyderabad

Fr. Varghese Chalamana - Second Councilor

#### Sangareddy

Fr. Benny C V - First Councilor  
Fr. S. Arockiadoss - Second Councilor

#### Guntur

Maxim Fernandes - Second Councilor

#### Tamilnadu

Fr. S. Valan - Second Councilor

### Fr. Lazar in the Symposium

Congratulations to Fr. G. Lazar who participated and delivered the keynote address in the International Symposium on "Interfacing Islam and Christianity: Promises and Pastoral Challenges" held at Trichur, Kerala from August 10-11, 2012. This symposium was organized by the local ordinaries of Kerala catholic dioceses at Marymatha Major Seminary in Trichur. The keynote address was on: "What unites us is greater than What divides us: Islam-Christian Dialogue in the context of India". Many delegates from United States of America, Europe and Africa also presented papers and shared their views on the above issue.

### Welcome Back

Fr. Lawrence Bose is back to the province having successfully completed his Licentiate in Scriptures in Rome. We Congratulate and Welcome him.

### RIP

Mrs. Christian Soreng, mother of Bro. Rajesh Soreng died on June 25, 2012.

Mrs. Visvasam, aunty of Fr. S. Jayaraj died on July 27, 2012.

### Birthdays

September	October
02 - Bernard M.	08 - Francis Thuruthimattom
19 - Martin Sabbas	10 - Rajesh Soreng
19 - Maxim Fernandes	13 - Stanislaus S.M.
27 - Joe Faustin	15 - Antony Joseph
28 - Wenceslaus	19 - Florence Minz
28 - Valan	24 - George Mepurath

### MY PROGRAMME

August 17 – 19 - Visitation, Trichy  
September 04 - APBC – APCRI Meeting, Hyderabad  
Sept. 07 - Novena Mass, Kottapattu, Trichy  
Sept. 08 - Feast Mass, Vadipatty  
Sept. 09 - Feast Mass, Singampunari  
Sept. 11-13 - Visitation, Chennai  
Sept. 16 -22 - Inter-Provincial Meeting, Mumbai

The next Provincial Council meeting will be held on September 19, 2012 at Atma Darshan, Mumbai.

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

*Jan. 17*

**Fr. A. Jesu SVD**  
Provincial Superior - INH