



# PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR- INH

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



- INH Vision

INH/PC/95

October, 2012

## *Faith as Mission*

From 11th October 2012, we begin the Year of Faith in the Church. During this year, the Church invites all of us to reflect on the multifaceted dimensions of our faith. The models for faith abound in the Bible. Although the whole of the Bible is an inspiring account of faith, we find a very useful description of faith in the letter to the Hebrews: To have faith is to be sure of the things we hope for, to be certain of the things we cannot see (Heb 11:1). Faith is something that empowers humans to raise above their limitedness with the belief in the power of God. However, what happens in reality is that every attempt of human beings to raise above their limitedness is not grounded in the power of God, but very often, on their own strengths and their unbridled ego. Hence, the failure of human beings and the chaotic situations they are thrown into in their lives is, in a way, failure in their faith and misconception of their faith.



Today one of the greatest concerns of the Church is the dwindling number of the faithful participating in the liturgical celebrations, even in the traditionally catholic countries. In our country too, the declining interest of the youth in the liturgical activities is a great cause of concern. At the same time, we find people going on pilgrimage, visiting religious places, participating in the popular devotional practices. Also, a careful look at the world today would intimate us that people's thirst for spirituality has not gone down. We find the mushrooming of religious movements even in our country. In such a context, the prominent challenge before us religious is to bring up the faithful in faith. Therefore, expressing our faith today poses us two dimensional challenges: one is to reflect on our own faith personally, and another is to help our faithful to grow in their faith. Therefore, this year of faith means a lot to all of us, religious.

How do we express our faith as Divine Word Missionaries? In this regard, what is more important is that we check if all our missionary endeavours, whichever form it may take, communicate God's love to the people. It is by fruits, the goodness of the tree is determined. Similarly, in the transformation, our missionary efforts effect, our faith blossoms and is expressed. Faith cannot be just limited to our words. It should be authenticated by our deeds. If we can do this, we can bring up the people also in faith.

The communities we build should be witnessing communities. It is not just we encourage our faithful to attend the liturgical activities regularly. We should make efforts to translate the effect of our liturgical activities in the concrete life situations of the people. We should renew our people in faith. This faith should be an affective faith which transforms their life, as it did with the early Christians. We should not just be satisfied in quoting Mother Theresa in our homilies but we should be involved in inspiring many more Mother Therasas.

Therefore, the way we express our faith itself is a mission today. Faith is not static but dynamic. As Divine Word Missionaries, instilling a proper faith in the people should be our immediate concern, as we are involved in primary evangelizations and frontier missions.



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## THE NEW GENERAL TEAM INSTALLED

The XVII General Chapter of the Society of the Divine Word, which was held from June 17 to July 15, 2012 at Nemi, elected the new Superior General and the General Council for the term 2012-2018. The New Superior General Very Rev. Fr. Heinz Kuluke SVD and the General Councilors were officially installed on September 29, 2012. We congratulate and wish them God's choicest blessings and the guidance of the Holy Spirit in all their deliberations and endeavours.



## ANNUAL FEAST

### AROCKIA ANNAI SHRINE – VADIPATTI

Arockia Annai Shrine, Vadipatti celebrated its annual feast from August 29 to September 08, 2012. Thousands of people from far and wide participated in the annual feast celebrations with deep faith and sincere devotion. Most Rev. Dr. Peter Fernando, the Archbishop of Madurai blessed and hoisted the flag of Our Lady of Good Health on August 29, 2012 and preached an inspiring homily. The novena days were indeed, days of blessing and spiritual renewal. On September 08, 2012, the shrine witnessed the peak celebration of the triple feasts namely



birth day of our Blessed Mother, Foundation day of our Society and the birth day of the miraculous Holy Spring (*Esuvini Arumarunthu*). The concelebrated solemn festive Eucharist was presided over by Rev. Fr. A. Jesu SVD, Provincial Superior – INH, he in his homily highlighted the role of Mary as a catechist and a devoted disciple of Jesus. Multitude of peoples participated in the car procession followed by the festive mass. The testimonies of healings and miracles are a conspicuous witness of the powerful presence of the Lord and the maternal intercession of Blessed Mary at our Shrine.



## **OUR LADY OF GOOD HEALTH CHURCH - KOTTAPATTU**

Rev. Fr. Prabu, the V.F. of Ponmalai vicariate inaugurated the annual feast of Our Lady of Good Health, Kottapattu by hoisting the sacred flag of Our Lady on August 29, 2012 preceeded by a solemn Holy Mass. Priests from different dioceses and congregations presided over the nine days of Novena Masses. Each day of the novena was marked with a special theme to reflect on qualities of Mother Mary. Fr. A. Jesu SVD, the Provincial Superior – INH was the principal celebrant of the Holy Eucharistic celebration on September 07, 2012. The culmination of the feast was on September 08, 2012. Rev. Fr. L. Amalraj, the former vicar general of Sivagangai diocese presided over the feast day solemn Holy Eucharist. A colourfully illuminated car procession was taken through the main streets of the parish followed by the festive mass amidst fervent prayers. The car procession was a source of spiritual nourishment as everyone Hindus, Muslims and Christians participated with devotion and piety. During the days of the feast, people experienced the presence of Mother Mary more closely and many witnessed miracles. This spiritual experience has increased people's devotion to Mary.

## **OUR LADY OF VELANKANNI - SINGAMPUNARI**

Annai Velankanni Church, Singampunari celebrated its annual feast on September 09, 2012 with splendor and devotion. The con-celebrated solemn festive Mass was presided over by Rev. Fr. A. Jesu SVD, the Provincial Superior – INH. He preached an inspiring homily and exhorted the people to follow the way of Mother Mary to reach her Son, Jesus our Lord and Saviour. A good number of priests, religious, parishioners and devotees from other religions as well participated in the colourful car procession of Annai Velankanni Matha through the streets of Singampunari amid fervent prayers. The feast day celebrations were concluded with a festive meal (Anna Dhanam) for all the faithful.

## **AROGYA MATHA CHURCH, ZAHEERABAD**

The faithful of Arogyamatha Church, Zaheerabad celebrated the birthday of our Blessed Mother Mary in a grand manner on September 09, 2012. All the parishioners took active participation in celebrating the feast. It was a moment of joy to receive the blessings and graces from Mother Mary. The solemn concelebrated thanksgiving Eucharist was presided over by Fr. Sathish Kumar SVD, and Fr. Ravi Kumar Reddy SVD preached an inspiring homily inviting the people to have a unfathomable devotion to Mother Mary. The celebrations were concluded with fellowship meal that strengthened the bond of unity and interpersonal relationship among the parishioners.

*I appreciate and thank all the confreres responsible for making all the annual feasts successful and grace-filled.*

## **St. Arnold Montessori Teacher Training Centre – Singampunari**



The characteristic dimension of our mission is creatively responding to the needs of the people, without compromising the mission of the Church and vision of our Society. In this regard, our Confrere Fr. Y. Arockiadass at Singampunari mission has responded creatively to the need of the poor people in the vicinity of Singampunari by starting Montessori Teacher Training Centre. There is a good response from the people and the subjects taught are in par with the curriculum of the university. The training centre has brought in rays of hope among the many socially and economically poor people. *I appreciate and acknowledge the dedicated service of Fr. Y. Arockiadass.*

### A New Grotto of our Founder at Arnold Bhavan, Hyderabad



An elegant and beautiful grotto of our Founder St. Arnold Janssen is built at Arnold Bhavan, Hyderabad. The new grotto was blessed by Rev. Fr. A. Jesu SVD, the Provincial Superior – INH on August 15, 2012 in the presence of our confreres. The grotto has provided a new face-lift to our provincial house and we appreciate the hard work of Fr. Nagoth Anand Raju, the Rector of Arnold Bhavan in realizing this new grotto.

### Ground Breaking Ceremony at Malayadivaram, Trichy



September 08, 2012, the foundation day of our Society marked a new beginning in the history of SVD Social Service Centre at Malayadivaram, Trichy. The ground breaking ceremony for the construction of an SVD residence was officiated by Rev. Fr. A. Jesu SVD, the Provincial Superior – INH in the presence of our confreres of Trichy unit and people from the close by vicinity. We wish Fr. Paulraj SVD, the Director, Social Service, Tamilnadu, every success in his ministry and pray that this humble beginning becomes a foundation to reach out to the many deserving people through our specialized apostolates.

### An Audio CD – Un thiru yazhli

*Un thiru yazhli* – a Tamil audio CD was released by His Grace Most Rev. Peter Fernando, the Arch Bishop of Madurai at Vadipatti on August 29, 2012 and was further introduced and promoted by Rev. Fr. A. Jesu SVD, the Provincial Superior – INH on September 08, 2012. The audio CD is produced by Fr. Y. Jamesraj SVD, Editor, Arul Mozhli as part of Arul Mozhli audio CD series. We congratulate Fr. Y. Jamesraj for his initiatives.



### **St. Thomas Church, Sadasivpet back to INH**

At the request of the Arch Bishop of Hyderabad, with due consideration and discussion with the confreres, we have taken back St. Thomas Parish, Sadasivpet to look after it pastorally. The stipulations stated in the recently renewed and signed contract with the Arch Diocese of Hyderabad stands good for Sadasivpet parish as well.

### **EIP – Mid-term Evaluation**

The mid-term evaluation of the Exposure and Immersion Programme for the Frates serving in INH Province was held in the District of Guntur from September 24 to 28. The evaluation began with a half-day recollection preached by Fr. Bala Prasad, the Rector of the Seminary in Narasaraopet. The team traveled together to all our stations and schools as part of their programme. The aim of the evaluation is to take stock of their life and ministry in their respective places so as to recommit themselves with full dedication. The programme was organized by Fr. G. Lazar the mission secretary and EIP in-charge – INH and was facilitated by Fr. T. Xavier, the Formation Secretary of India. We wish to thank all the confreres of the Guntur District who edified our young missionaries with their vision and hard work.

### **Congrats**

Fr. S. Arockiadoss has completed his B.Ed studies in flying colours. We congratulate and wish him Gods blessings.

### **Chapter Follow up – Meeting of District Superiors and Unit Leaders**

The General Chapter is a time of grace and new direction for every Congregation. It takes stock of the signs of the times and reflects on the journey forward to the new directions and relevance of our spirituality and commitment. In this regard, the Congregational Directions approved by the XVII General Chapter contains action plans for implementation for our Province. Therefore, having received the suggestions and the priorities from all the districts and units based on the Congregational Directions, the Provincial Administration will have a meeting with the district superiors and the unit leaders on November 10, 2012 at 09.00 a.m. in Arnold Bhavan, Hyderabad, to duly consider and further discuss the proposals and convert them into actions.

### **Mission Animation cum Renewal Programme**

As announced during our Provincial Chapter, February 2012, Fr. G. Lazar SVD, the mission secretary of our Province with the consent of the Provincial Administration is organizing a mission-animation cum renewal programme for the confreres taken final vows from 1993. The programme will be held in Arnold Bhavan, Habsiguda from January 17 to 19, 2013. This programme is envisaged with the intention to introspect the dimension of ad intra of our mission spirituality and recommit ourselves with the spirit and the call of the XVII General Chapter. Every confrere professed final vows from 1993 is invited and expected to participate and benefit by this programme.

### **Fr. Thomas Akkara at Muthangi**

Fr. Thomas Akkara is serving at Divine Word Centre, Muthangi as confessor and councilor from the beginning of September, 2012. We wish him all the best for his ministry at Muthangi as he helps people to come closer to God.

### **Hearty Welcome**

Rev. Fr. Superior General has transferred **Fr. A. Siluvai SVD** from BRA (Brazil Amazon Region) to INH Province. We welcome Fr. A. Siluvai and wish him a fruitful ministry in INH.

**Fr. Cryil Doss SVD** having completed the period of exclaustation, has returned back to our community. We welcome him back to our Province and wish him a rewarding ministry in INH.

### **Thank You**

Fr. Franz Pilz SVD, the mission procurator, St. Gabriel, Austria and Ms. Theresa Sacher visited the different mission stations and institutions of our Province from September 29 to October 05, 2012. We thank them whole heartedly for the visit and encouragement. *I extend my gratitude to all the confreres for the warm welcome and hospitality.*

### **Fr. Dominic Illickal to INM**

Rev. Fr. Superior General has transferred Fr. Dominic Illickal from INH to INM Province. We thank him wholeheartedly for all the services in INH Province and wish him Gods abundant blessings in his ministry in INM Province.

### Reminder

As members of the Society of the Divine Word, our constitution directs us not to operate any personal bank accounts without the written permission from the Provincial Superior. Therefore, if any confrere operating a personal bank account without the permission is requested to immediately close the account and submit the details to the Provincial Superior.

### District Councilor

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 Fr. S. Valan as the second councilor for the district of Tamilnadu.

### Diaconate Ministry

A warm welcome to our deacons to have a fruitful and cherishing diaconate ministry in INH Province. With the consent of the Council, I am glad to assign them to the following Parishes:

Dn. Kata karunakar - Sts. Peter & Paul Church,  
Janagaon

Dn. Jojappa - St. Thomas Church, Sadasivpet

### Birthdays

#### October

08 – Thuruthimattom  
10 – Rajesh  
13 – Stanislaus S. M.  
15 – Antony Joseph  
19 – Florence Minz  
24 – George Mepurath

#### November

02- A. Joseph (Jr.)  
12- M. Xavier  
30 – A. Selvam

### MY PROGRAMME

October 02 – 03	-	Jyothi Niketan, Narasaraopet
Oct. 06	-	Divine Word Centre, Chennai
Oct. 07	-	St. Charles' Seminary, Trichy
Oct. 08	-	SVD Centre, Oothu
Oct. 09	-	T. N. District meeting, Vadipatty
Oct. 11	-	Madha Nagar, Chennai
Oct. 21 – 26	-	Province Retreat, Vadipatty
Oct. 28 – 31	-	National CRI Assembly, Hyderabad
November 08 – 10	-	Provincial Council Meeting, Arnold Bhavan

*“May the heart of Jesus live in the hearts of all !”*

*Jesus 17*

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