



No. INC/C-09/ 2021

Provincial Circular

02/11/2021

November, a month to remember the departed souls

On November 1, we celebrate ALL SAINT'S Day. the feast of ALL SAINTS remind us all those saints known and also unknown, who have attained the beatific vision in Heaven. On November 2, we celebrate all soul's day. We show our love and homage, decorate their graves, put flowers light candles, and offer mass. There are several ways people express their love for the departed depending on the culture. The COVID -19 pandemic has taken away number of our dear ones from our congregation's and families to their eternal aboard. Even though they are physically absent, their contributions fondly remind us of their spiritual presence. we believe, God in His unconditional love calls every one to Himself. The month of November is set apart for intense prayer for the diseased and to show our love and affection for all the gifts they have shared with us. May this month be a reminder to all of us, that one day we also will be called to eternal aboard leaving all that we have acquired. So, 'Live every day as if we are going to die on the next day'!



For a Synodal Church: Communion, participation and mission

The path entitled “for a Synodal church: communion, participation and mission: was solemnly opened by Pope Francis on the 9 of October 2021 in Rome and on 17th of October in each particular diocese. The fundamental stage will be the celebration of the XVI ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, in October 2023 which will be followed by implementation phase that will again involve the particular churches.

With this convocation, Pope Francis has invited the entire church to reflect on the theme that is decisive for its life and mission: “it is precisely this path of **synodality which God expects of the church of the third millennium.**” This journey, which follows in the wake of the church's renewal proposed in the second Vatican Council, is both a gift and a task: by journeying together and reflecting together on the journey that has been made, the church will be able to learn through Her experience which can help Her to live in communion, to achieve participation, to open Herself to mission. Our journeying together, is in fact, what most effectively enacts and manifests the nature of the church as the pilgrim and missionary people of God.

The objectives of the Synod

1. Recalling how the Spirit has guided the Church's journey through history and, today, calls us to be, together, witnesses of God's Love.
2. Living a participative and inclusive ecclesial process that offers everyone – especially those who for various reasons find themselves on the margins – the opportunity to express themselves and to be heard in order to contribute to the edification of the people of God.
3. Recognizing and appreciating the wealth and the variety of the gifts and the charisms that the Spirit liberally bestows for the good of the community and the benefit of the entire human family.
4. Exploring participatory ways of exercising responsibility in the proclamation of the Gospel and in the effort to build a more beautiful and habitable world.
5. Examining how responsibility and power are lived in the Church as well as the structures by which they are managed, bringing to light and trying to convert prejudices and distorted practices that are not rooted in the Gospel.
6. Accrediting the Christian community as a credible subject and reliable partner in paths of social dialogue, healing reconciliation, inclusion and participation, the reconstruction of democracy, the promotion of fraternity and social friendship.
7. Regenerating relationship among members of Christian Communities as well as between communities and other social groups such as communities of believers of other denominations and religions, civil society organizations, popular movements etc
8. Fostering the appreciation and appropriation of the fruits of recent synodal experiences on the universal, regional, national, and local level.



A synodal church is a church which listens, which realizes that listening is more than simply hearing. It is a mutual listening in which everyone has something to learn. The faithful people, the college of bishops, the Bishop of Rome, all listening to each other, and all listening to Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth in order to know what He says to the Churches.

The President CCBI, Abp. Filipe Neri Ferrao has urged all the religious to be part of this process of reflection as a process of involving the entire church in India. He writes “ I request all the religious congregations to kindly discuss the themes of Synodality in your meetings at the level of the Province with the help of the materials that is available in the Preparatory document and Vademecum, which is accessible at the website of the Vatican Secretariat of the Synod : WWW.synod.va” .

We are requested to prepare a five-page summary of our consultation and send to the Synod desk of the CCBI by 31, March 2022. Hence I request all the confreres to go through the document and have discussion on the theme in one of your District/Unit gatherings.

Laudato Si Action Plan

18th Chapter document statement no.44 stays 'Care for the environment is not only part of our mission, it is also part of our heritage. St. Arnold Janssen believed that nature is the temple of God into which God placed us, so that it would proclaim to us God's existence. As transforming missionary disciples, stewardship of creation, is our responsibility in expressing God's love. This can be manifested in diverse ways – care for creation, sustainable development, eco –justice and so forth.'

Superior General has exhorted us 'implementing this statement, we join the whole church in initiating Laudato Si action plan for the next seven years. Listen to cry of the earth and listen to the cry of the poor is imperative to us in our mission”. 'We achieve the laudato Si goals through four pillars namely prayer, Education, Action and Advocacy'. The time has come to put into practice our statements. Thus we are invited to commit ourselves to the following goals:

1. Response to the cry of the creation
2. Response to the cry of the poor
3. Ecological Economics
4. Adoption of the ecological life styles
5. Ecological Education
6. Ecological Spirituality
7. Community engagement and participatory action

Each year we are to pick up one goal and try to implement it personally and in communally. For more information, kindly refer to the Generalate's letter and the SVD Laudto Si-Action Plan Tool attached at the end.



AJS Animation team meeting

The SVD-SSpS St. Arnold Janssen Spirituality animation team of Central Indian Province was held on August 28, 2021 at St. Arnold's Seva Sadan, Indore to reflect and look back on what has been done and to look forward on how we can animate the confreres and sisters on the spirituality of our founding



generation. 7 SVD Confreres and 4 SSpS sisters participated in the meeting under the leadership of Fr. Emmanuel Varghese, the Province AJS coordinator. During the meeting the Provincial Superior Fr. Joemon stressed on making St. Arnold Janssen our brand and promote His spirituality in all our institutions and daily life. The members after having reviewed the recommendations of the previous meeting shared their experiences in their effort to impart the Arnold Janssen Spirituality. They recommended to name the family feasts in our institutions as 'St. Arnold's Family Feast', to circulate small quotes/sayings of our founding generation in SVD –SSpS WhatsApp groups, organize quiz competitions, word puzzles and creative competitions on the Spirituality of the founding generation. The members also discussed on the possibility of celebrating St. Arnold's Sunday with various activities. They also decided to have self-animated seminar for the AJS team members. May St. Arnold intercede and inspire us to actualize the proposed concrete plans.



SSpS -INC New Leadership Team

We congratulate Sr. Manju Lakra for being reappointed as the Provincial Leader of SSpS central Indian Province for the Triennium 2021-2024. The council members are Sr. Mary Stella,

Sr. Lizzy Thomas, Sr. Philo George and Sr. Lovina Rodrigues. We wish God's blessings on the new team. The new team officially took charge on 31st October.



SVD lay mission partners meeting in Indore and Meghnagar

The Province effort to initiate lay partner groups has found success with two groups being initiated to the spirituality, vision and mission of the Society. St. Arnold's lay partner group is being trained under the spiritual leadership of Fr. Charles Pinto coordinated by Fr. Johny D'Souza. It is a group of 15 members who are very active and eager to share the spirituality and mission of the society.



They meet once a month for spiritual animation. Another two groups of lay partners is being formed comprising of ex-SVDs in Meghnagar and Badi Dhamni. These groups are in their infancy stage having occasional meetings. Fr. Andrew Lobu and Fr. Alfred Fernandes are enthusiastic coordinators. We wish them all the best.

Interprovincial forum meeting

India Sub-zone, Interprovincial forum (IPF) annual meeting was held through online platform on September 18, 2021. The meeting started with a meaningful opening prayer led by Fr. Victor Rodrigues svd, Vice Provincial, INE. The Chairperson of India Sub-Zone, Fr. Maxim Rodrigues in his address reminded that it is the 90th year of SVD presence in India and our mission is growing geographically as we have already branched out to Bangladesh. He emphasized the importance of the gathering saying that IPF meeting has an animating value and appreciated the national mission secretary for beautifully organizing this online gathering.

The forum listened to the brief report of the IPF and reviewed the recommendations of last year. The successive three sessions were chaired by Fr. Joemon James svd, Provincial Superior, INC, Fr. Maxim Rodrigues, Regional Superior, ING and Fr. Ignatius Santhuraj, Provincial Superior, INH. Some important issues pertaining to the entire sub zone were discussed during the meeting. The main points of in the agenda were: our inter cultural life, organizing of common workshops and seminars especially for JPIC and MER, maintenance of common website, old age contribution when a confrere is transferred to another province, preparations required to face the third wave of Covid-19, After the discussions a short evaluation of the IPF was done. Fr. Anand Nagothu svd, Province Provincial, INH proposed the vote of thanks and Fr. Luvis Ronald Pereira, the national mission secretary appreciated everyone's active participation and concluded the meeting.



SVD –SSpS celebrated foundation day in Khandwa

The SVD-SSpS of Khandwa District celebrated the foundation day of our society at Pradeepti on 10th September 2021. Fr. Emmanuel Varghese, the Novice Master and the AJS Province coordinator animated the gathering on the Spirituality of St. Arnold Janssen. Rev. Bp. Durairaj SVD officiated the Holy Eucharist and exhorted all the members of St. Arnold's family to be spirit filled persons, rooted in the Word. The gathering ended with the fellowship meal.



Formation Board meeting

The annual General Body online meeting of the India Sub-zonal formation Board was held on 16 -17 September 2021. Most of the formators (72 in all) from 20 SVD formation houses participated in the zoom meeting. Formation board meeting is an annual exercise to take stock of the activities on the formation front. It provides an opportunity for the formators and the Provincial/ regional superiors to sit together and to collectively reflect on the issues and concerns that formatters face in their important task of forming the upcoming generation of our congregation's members. The meeting witnessed active participation by all the members present and very constructive suggestions and opinions were expressed on the 52 agenda points. We appreciate the sub-zonal formation secretary and the sub-zonal mission secretary for their efforts in getting the meeting organized with maxim participation. Of-course, the pandemic prevented to have the pleasure of meeting confreres personally by holding physical meeting.



SVD INDIA Governing Board Meeting

The Governing board of India Sub-Zone comprising of all the Provincial Superiors and Regional Superior along with the National Mission Secretary/Formation Secretary gathered for the Sub-zone governing board meeting at Shati Bhavan, Jharsuguda on September 23, 2021. The board had a day long discussion on the recommendations drawn from the formation board and interprovincial forum meetings. Besides these, the board also discussed and made corrections on the draft document of India Sub-zone common policies as suggested by the Generalate and deliberated on the preparedness to face the 3rd wave of the Pandemic.

Kudos to Fr. Godwin Veigas and Fr. Antony Puthussery

Fr Viegas, Michael Godwin was awarded Ph.D. on 9th September, 2021, for his thesis, titled **“The Concept of Mokṣa in Indian Thought with special reference to the idea of *Sarvamukti* according to S. Radhakrishnan,”** at the Jesuit-run, Satya Nilayam Research Institute, Chennai, India. *Sarvamukti* is a collective process of a self-reflective humanity leading the world to its final destiny or fulfillment.



Radhakrishnan calls it 'corporate salvation' or 'cosmic redemption', where in, not only a few individuals but the whole humanity will be transformed, and a world created anew.

Antony Puthussery SVD successfully defended his thesis, **Questioning Design Process: A Heideggerian Enquiry** on 13th September 2021 and was awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy by University of Madras. The research is an ontological investigation into the design process through Heideggerian phenomenological analysis. It shows the possibilities of how Heideggerian insights could open new pathways to address many design challenges we face today. We congratulate both our Doctors.



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Chapter of INE and INH

We pray for the Provincial Chapters of India East on November 11 and 12, 2021 and India Hyderabad on December 3, 2021. May the capitulars be guided by the Holy Spirit to have a wonderful Chapter.

Province Retreats

Retreat is a time meant for reflection, rejuvenation and relaxation. The first retreat of the Province was held from 3- 8, October 2021 at St. Arnold's Seva Sadan, Indore. Fr. Jose Pannadan SJ from Gujarat Province animated the retreat with his practical and inspiring talks. A record of 76 confreres participated in this retreat. All expressed satisfaction over the reflections and serene atmosphere of the place. The second retreat is being preached by the National Biblical coordinators of SVD india Sub-zone on Biblical themes. About thirty confreres are attending the retreat. Once again I remind the confreres who have not joined for the Province retreat to make your annual retreat in a place of your choice before the end this academic year.



10th death anniversary celebration of Fr. Tom Lynch and Blessing of the community hall

On October 7, 2021 the feast of our Lady of the Rosary, a memorial Mass was celebrated on the tenth death anniversary of late Fr. Thomas Lynch at Dhyani Ashram, Kankaria.



Rev. Bishop Chacko celebrated the Holy

Mass, along with Fr. Joemon James, the Provincial superior and over a dozen priests.

Nearly a hundred Religious and laity participated in the memorial service. It was held in the serene and beautiful ambience of the Grotto of Mother Mary near the well.

Fr. George Payattikatt welcomed the Bishop and the Provincial and all the others and highlighted the significance of the event, paying rich tributes to Fr. Tom. Lynch. Fr. Joemon, the Provincial spoke on the inspiring life and example of late Fr. Tom Lynch and the significance of prayer and the contemplative dimension of Christian spirituality against the background of the founding the Ashram. Bishop Chacko, in his homily, mentioned some of his personal experiences with Fr. Lynch. He appreciated the spiritual influence of Fr. Lynch had on a significant number of people. Fr. Lynch himself was a devotee of Bl. Mother Mary, and so it's wonderful to have the memorial Mass at the Grotto, he said. Fr. Lynch was a great lover of God and lover of people. His prayer and mysticism flowed into social action. Highlighting this, Fr. Prashant Lukose said that the Ashram will also continue to have this social concern, while keeping the primary emphasis on prayer and contemplation. The newly constructed multi-purpose hall at the entrance of the Ashram named - Fr. Thomas Lynch Memorial Hall - was also blessed on this occasion. This hall will be used for social ministries. At the end, all present for the ceremony paid floral tributes to Fr. T. Lynch at the end of the Eucharistic celebration.

Report by Fr. P. Prashant Lukose SVD



Province Jubilee celebration

The Diamond Jubilee of the priestly ordination of Fr. Thomas Thalachira SVD, Golden Jubilee of the priestly ordination of Fr. Chacko Mullapally and Xavier Kuttanchalil, Golden jubilee of the first vows of Bro. Benjamin Kerketta, Silver Jubilee of Fr. Clement Khess, Fr. A Savari Rayan, Fr. Abianus Tigga, Fr. Ajit Kumar Toppo, Fr. Jose Joseph, Fr. Sleevaiah Bandanadam, Fr. Swaminathan Soosai, Fr. Joemon James and the silver jubilee of the vows of Bro. Petrus Kujur was celebrated on October 9, 2021 in a well-organized liturgy and felicitation program in the presence of very many religious, priests and lay partners. It was a day to thank God for the many blessings showered on these Jubilarians. The presence of Abp. Leo Cornelio and Archbishop elect Durairaj added grace to the occasion. Due to the pandemic, we could not celebrate the jubilee of 2020 batch and hence this year, confreres belonging to the two batches together thanked God for their services in various capacities over the years.



First Profession of Novices in Khurda

After the completion of the required days of the canonical Novitiate, 28 Novices made their first vows on 15th October, 2021 in the Presence of the Provincial Superior, Fr. Joemon James SVD. Rev. Bp. Chacko



Thottumarickal SVD, officiated the Holy Eucharist and inspired the Novices with his thought provoking homily. Consideration the Pandemic situation, the ceremony was held in the Novitiate Chapel inviting only a few confreres, neighboring religious sisters and a few representatives of the parish. Though smaller a gathering, the liturgy was meticulously planned and solemnly executed. Even though 41 entered into the Novitiate only 28 discerned their vocation to commit themselves to Jesus. We congratulate the Novice Master, Fr. Emmanuel Varghese and his team for their accompaniment and helping them to discern their vocation.

New batch of Novices begins their Novitiate

The COVID -19 pandemic and the consequent lockdowns caused disturbance to the normal schedule of our formation program. Due to the delay in completing graduation, the



Novitiate could start only on Oct. 20, 2021 instead of mid-June. A new batch of 23 Novices were received to the Novitiate by Fr. John Wakhla SVD, the Vice Provincial Superior in a Holy Eucharist. We wish Fr. Emmanuel Varghese, the Novice Master and Fr. Godwin Veigas, Assistant Novice Master, Fr. George Thottiyann, the treasurer, and the extended team of confreres in the Parish and School and pray so that they may have God's blessings during the Novitiate days.



SVD Vidhya Bhavan, Bhopal

With the arrival of 27 newly professed fraters, SVD Vidya Bhavan Bhopal community has become complete. Even though the classes for the second year philosophers began in June, the full-fledged community began on October 20, 2021 with the Holy Eucharist celebrated by Most Rev. Abp. Leo Cornelio SVD. There are 15 second year philosophers. Besides these fraters, there are two brothers belonging to Jabalpur diocese, one in each batch doing their philosophy.

Ground-breaking ceremony of new Skill Training Center at Janvikas

It was a magnificent day for the Janvikas family, as the ground-breaking ceremony of the new Skill Training Center was held on October 11th 2021, in Palda.



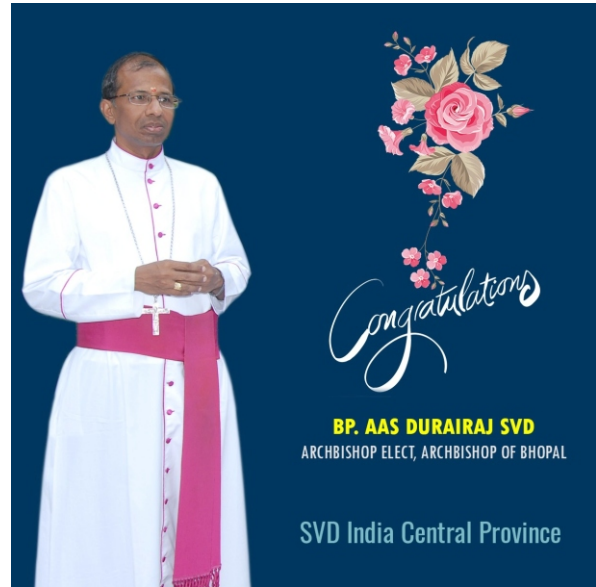
This auspicious occasion of ground-breaking ceremony was presided over by Fr. Joemon James, our provincial in the presence of conferrers, sisters, Janvikas staffs, students and well-wishers.

Janvikas Society has been involved in providing skill training to women and youth from slums of Indore and neighboring places since 2017. The three months' training sessions are held in the present building with constraints of space and facilities for over 130 students in a batch. It was the felt need that a separate building be constructed for the smooth functioning of the training program and to accommodate more students who would benefit from the skill training program.



Appointment of Bp. Durai as the Archbishop of Bhopal

We congratulate Bp. Sebastian Durairaj SVD the Bishop of Khadwa and being elevated as the Archbishop of Bhopal by His Holiness Pope Francis with the appointment letter dated Oct. 4, 2021. Bp. Durairaj will be installed as the Archbishop on November 27, 2021 at the Assumption Church, Asha Niketan Campus, Bhopal. We pray for a blissful and healthy life in Bhopal and wish him God's abundant blessings.



Blessing of Snehalaya

The much awaited building for Psycho-Spiritual and Dialogue Center at Snehalaya is in its completion and will be blessed on Nov. 14, 2021 at 10.30 by Rev. Bp. Chacko Thottumarickal svd. The vision set for the center is “Enhancing **life in its fullness leading to harmonious relationship with the Divine, Human and Nature**”. The specious and well-furnished building is now ready to host retreats, meetings, seminars and workshops for small and bigger groups. The fabulous surrounding with natural beauty and open space create a serene atmosphere for all those who enter the center. Let us make the best use, encourage and promote our center with the likeminded groups who share our vision to benefit from the richness of this institution. The new building has 42 self-contained rooms, two Halls (big and small), Big and Small Chapels, large and small Dining halls, a dormitory and all other facilities. The old infra structures are also renovated. We congratulate Fr. Michael Cherian and community, Fr. Dominic Veigas, Mr. Johny Scaria, the Architect and Engineer and Mr. Nitin, the contractor and his team for the executing this project.



Janvikas Completes 13th Batch of Skill Training Program

The skill development training program run by Janvikas Society (supported by Don Bosco Tech Society) is completing its 13th batch successfully. It is a three month's course in which the following trainings are provided namely, Assistant Beauty Therapist, Industrial Sewing Machine Operator, Office Assistant and Assistant Electrician. There are 130 students enrolled in the batch. The batch started on 16 August 2021 and the activities began with inauguration ceremony on 27 August 2021 in which Fr. Jomon James SVD, Provincial Superior, Fr. Charles Amritraj SVD, Fr. Roy Thomas SVD, Janvikas staff and students were present. The important activities included inauguration ceremony, parents meet, guest lectures, exposure visits, third party assessment, placement, tracking and many other extracurricular activities. The batch will be officially closed on 11 November 2021.

Apart from regular training program the centre conducts classes on spoken English, personality development, hard skill & soft skill, self-esteem, self-defense and moral values which help them improve public speaking, healthy friendship, maturity, decision making and build life based on values. Students are grateful to Janvikas for helping them to stand on their feet by providing them skill training and job opportunities.



Ongoing formation programs for young confreres

A gathering of Young confreres of INC Province (1-10 years), will be held on Nov. 19-20 in Sadbhavana, Delhi. Fr. Sanjay Kujur, the coordinator of young confreres will organize the gathering. All the young confreres of 1-10 years, kindly organize your program to be present for the gathering.

India Sub-zonal level young confreres **online seminar** will be held in two batches. 1. **December 6-8, 2021 for 1-5 years** of ordination/ vows. 2. **December 9-10, 2021 for the batches of 6-10 years** of ordination/vows. Since it is an online seminar, I request all the young confreres to the province to participate without exception. Acclaimed resource person will be animating the seminar. National mission secretary is responsible for organizing these seminars.

My Programme

November 2 - Holy Eucharist at Palda Cemetery

November 8 - Visit to Ambodochur

November 14 - Blessing and Inauguration of the new Building at Snehalaya

November 15- Provincial Council Meeting

November 18-19 - Young confreres gathering, Delhi

November 22-24 - MER Seminar, St. Arnold's SevaSadan, Indore

November 27-28 - Installation of Abp. Durai, Bhopal, visit to Jabalpur

December 2-5 - INH Chapter, Hyderabad



Fr. Joemon Jmes SVD

INC Provincial Superior



We Pray: St. Arnold Janssen and St. Joseph Freinademetz, help us in our apostolic endeavors.

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DTP: Fr. Amit Tete SVD, Printed at Sat Prachar Press, Indore

