

SOCIETY OF THE DIVINE WORD - SVD Central Indian Province INC



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St. Arnold Janssen and
St. Joseph Freinademetz

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Provincial Circular

15/08/2021



I wish you a happy feast of the Assumption and 75th Independence day

Dear Confreres,

Today we celebrate the feast of Assumption and the 75th Independence Day of our country. The vision of our freedom fighters to see country freed from the colonial rule of Britishers was realized on this day 74 years ago. The very mission of Jesus was to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim **release to the captives** and recovery of sight to the blind, **to let oppressed go free.** (Lk. 4/18) The question remains, are we truly free? The answer lies with our Mother Mary who not only gave to the world God's own Son, the Good News, the true liberator of the humanity but also paced with Him throughout His life and gave witness to Him. Her assumption to heaven was the ultimate reward God gave her, freeing her from these worldly limitations. The Feast of Assumption is a beacon of hope for everyone of us. Like Mary we are challenged to bring the Good News of Jesus to our people we serve by pacing with Him in our daily life.

It is nearly two years we have been gravely hit by COVID-19 pandemic. Amidst

the scare of this pandemic, we experience polarization and divisions on many grounds, injustice, increase of corruption, silencing of dissenting and critical voices (the custodial death of Fr. Stan swamy SJ stands as the latest example). Most of the media are surrendered or are subjugated. In this context, as Divine Word Missionaries, we have a greater challenge of bringing hope and cheer to the people at the peripheries by being rooted in His word and remaining always committed to His mission. At times our misplaced priorities and lack of discipline keep us enslaved from being true disciples of Christ, thus deprived of true freedom.

Asking right questions to one's own self and others would trigger us to face the realities with sensitivity and commitment. The Assumption of Our Lady gives us courage to struggle with confidence for a better society! Let us pray along with Tagore 'Into that heaven of freedom my Father, let my country awake'!



2021-2022 Year Plan

August 15	Independence day and Feast of Assumption
August 19	School Personnel meeting at Godhra
August 28	AJS Meeting
August 31	Planning commission meeting
September 7	Recollection
September 8	Nativity of Mother Mary and Society
September 16-20	India sub zone formation and IPF meeting
September 23	India Subzone Governing Board meeting in Jharsuguda
October 3 - 8	Province Retreat
October 9	Jubilee
October 14-16	MER seminar
October 31	First profession in Khurda
Oct. 31 - Nov.5	Bible retreat
November 19-20	Province young confreres' meeting (1-10 yrs)
November 27	Parish Priest's meeting
December 6-8	Ongoing formation for the batches 1-5 years of ordination/ final profession
December 9-11	Ongoing formation for the batches 6-10 years of ordination / final profession
December 25	Christmas
January 14th	Recollection
January 15th	Feast of St. Arnold Janssen
Jan. 17-19 & 21-23	Live in Seminar
February 26, 2022	Formator's meeting
Feb 22-28	AJS Meeting
February 28 to March 1	On going formation from 1985 to 1994 at Indore
March 2	Ash Wednesday

Blessing of Boy's Hostel at Madri

A much-awaited hostel for Boys at Madri was inaugurated by Fr. John Wakhla SVD, Vice Provincial and blessed by Most Rev. Bp. Dev Prasad Ganava SVD on July 1, 2021 in the presence of the Confreres



of Udaipur District and a few religious sisters. This hostel can house 100 boys from the villages studying in the mission school. It was a long-felt desire of the mission at Madri, to build a boy's hostel as the boys were staying for a number of years in two school class rooms. We praise God for the steady progress this remote mission has achieved over 32 years of its existence. We appreciate Fr. Pashkal Tirkey SVD and Fr. Manoj SVD for the marvelous works they are doing in Madri Mission.

Blessing of the extension of School at Ognā

Giving priority to the ministry of education, which is the base for all change and progress, the first floor of the school at Ognā was blessed by Bp. Dev Prasad Ganawa SVD and was inaugurated by Fr. John Wakhla on July 2, 2021. With this new extension, the



school can be up-graded up to 10th standard with all the facilities. Assunta Bhavan School, Ognā is a great blessing for children from number of villages in the Tahsil to be educated by being in the hostels for boys and girls. We appreciate Frs. Abianus Tigga SVD, Jesbir Kullu SVD, and Bros. Ashwin Kiro SVD and John Menezes svd for steering this mission into new heights.

Beware of the third wave of COVID

Even though most of the states of our country succeeded in controlling the spread of Covid - 19 the new Delta Variant is a threat to all of us. Let us take all the precautions and animate our people to be better prepared. Let us pray that we may be spared from the predicted third wave!



Retreat in the Province

October 3 to 8, 2021

Biblical Retreat

by India Sub-Zone team

October 31– November 5

Province Jubilee celebration

October 9, 2021

The Jubilarians of last year will also be included in the celebration.

19th General Chapter 2024: Theme and Concerns

In preparation for the 19th General Chapter which will take place in the summer of 2024 Fr.

Superior General through a letter dated 18 June, 2021 has invited all the confreres to actively participate in the process right from the beginning and hence requested to do the following two things.

1. Present two major concerns that the province feels the General Chapter should address taking into consideration the last General Chapter deliberations and the present pandemic situation that is affecting the world and shaping our life and mission. These concerns should be of a universal character so that they are relevant to the entire society and to our religious missionary mandate in the contemporary world.
2. Based on the two concerns we are also requested to propose a theme for the General Chapter
3. Hence in the Provincial Council meeting held on August 2, 2021 we decided to request each district/ unit to hold a meeting and deliberate on the said matters and send us the two major concerns and a theme to our office by 15 September, 2021

Furthermore, we are informed that the sesquicentennial (150 years) celebration of the foundation of the Society of the Divine Word is in 2025. Thus, the forthcoming General Chapter assumes a greater significance in the history of the society

ADIVASI DIVAS CELEBRATED AT MUVALIA

The International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples is celebrated on August 9th every year worldwide.



Adivasi is the collective term for tribes of the Indian subcontinent. According to the 2011 census, they make up 8.6% of India's population or 104 million people. The central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh has a large number of ethnic tribes, accounting for 20% of the population or 15 million people.

To honour the tribes and recognise the specific challenges they face, Adivasi Divas (Day of the Adivasi) is a regional public holiday on August 9th, as that is the date of the UN's International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples. In Catholic Church Muvalia we celebrated the Adivasi Divas with much enthusiasm and zeal because all the children and the workers are basically Bhil Adivasis whom we have been serving for last 30 years. They continue to be socially and economically oppressed; and backward.

Here in Catholic Church Muvalia it was a day of celebration. In the morning we had a solemn Mass celebrated by Fr. Jacob VC svd, the Parish Priest. Our students participated in the Eucharist in their traditional attire. In the homily, the celebrant highlighted how Jesus had come into this world to uplift the marginal people of the society. It was followed by a small gathering in which the importance of the day and the reason for the celebration was introduced to our children. The performance of the traditional dance in the local costumes by our students, was just fabulous! It was also a time to celebrate the growth of tribal art and culture!

The day was filled with lots of activities and games conducted by Brothers with fun that enhanced the confidence of the children which will allow them to fly high from the ashes like a phoenix bird. All of them were engaged in one or other activities with gusto. The ebullience of the children filled the atmosphere with merriment. On that day all the staff and the students along with SVD community; and the sisters had a grand lunch with a motto: "eating together is a shelter in a stormy weather". In the evening, a film was screened having the theme that tribal upliftment is possible only education. All the events of the day created a deep impression on all of us!



Provincial Visitations

Hand book for superiors D20, page 160 1.0 states “Provincial visitations are an important means of exercising religious leadership, of promoting the religious missionary life and activity of the members, the respective communities and thereby the province as well, and of involving the membership more deeply in achieving the goals of the province”. 1.1 “The Provincial Visitation must be held at least once in three years”

In accordance with the guidelines, the Provincial Council in its meeting on 2 August 2021 has decided to make the visitation of the province by the council members from September 1, 2021 to

Fr. Joemon James :	Jhabua District, KMK unit and all the student confreres outside the Province
Fr. John Wakhla :	Panchmahal District, PJV Unit
Fr. Paul Raj :	Bhopal District, SVD Vidya Bhavan Unit and AJP Unit
Fr. Michael Cherian :	Udaipur District and Khandwa District
Fr. Sanjay Kujur :	Indore District and SSSM Unit

Academic Year begins in Palda, Mhow and Vidyodaya formation houses



Catholic Ashram Palda

On August 15, 2021 with 72 brothers from 16 states



St. Thomas Seminary, Mhow

On August 14, 2021 with 33 brothers from 6 Dioceses



Vidyodaya, Indore

On July 3, 2021 with 23 Seminarians





CONFERRERS OF INDIA CENTRAL PROVINCE (INC 2021)



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Communication & Dialogue 05
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Spirituality & counselling 03
Biblical Apostolate 02

DISTRICTS

1. Bhopal
2. Indore
3. Jabua
4. Khandsa
5. Panchmahals
6. Udaipur

UNITS

1. Indore Unit I
2. Indore Unit II
3. Indore Unit III
4. Indore Unit IV


Fr. Joemon James SVD

INC Provincial Superior

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

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