

PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR - INE



Society of the Divine Word - India East Province

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Ci-21-10

Patron: St. Pius X

November 2021

REMINISCENCE OF THE ASSEMBLIES AND THE CHAPTER

Extract of the Key note address for both the Assemblies and the Chapter

The much-awaited Assemblies and the Chapter with its prior long process and preparations did take place and ended successfully on November 11, 2021. A prayer of gratitude to God ought to well up in our hearts for making these events possible to take place in spite of the COVID restrictions.

Dear *Confreres* as we verily know, Assembly and Chapter are very important events of the province, it is a moment of Grace and blessing for the entire Province. Members experience the powerful presence of each other and a feeling of togetherness. It brings unity and fosters a bond of fraternity among the members; it gives a sense of orientation and direction to the members in their missionary lives. It promotes a sense of commitment and dedication towards our mission and ministries. This is also a moment for the members to introspect on their personal lives, community life, missionary life, commitment, and an opportune time to renew them if necessary. It is an occasion to re-motivate and rejuvenate the members' drooping spirits. It is a time to look forward with the greater hope and achievement, and to find new possibilities to venture into new areas of mission.

Reflection on the theme.

For the 18th General Chapter, we had a beautiful theme: "The Love of Christ Impel us, rooted in the Word, Committed to His Mission". It was a driving force for our religious life and the Mission. But Pandemic in a way put a hold and slowed down our Missionary Zeal and enthusiasm to some extent. This needs to be addressed to re-vitalize the drooping spirit in us. I am convinced, the Assembly and the Chapter are the most appropriate moments and a powerful means for us to do that. We have come out with a fitting theme for our meditation and reflections "**I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly**". Jesus spoke this to His disciples and to His followers, at the most difficult moment of his time. The entire Palestine was under Roman Empire, resulting in heavy taxation on the people, exploitation, difference between the rich and the poor,

discrimination in the religion itself, women and children were not counted in the Society, there was a kind of total unrest in the country. In such a situation, Christ announces that he has come to restore life and to promote life, to bring to the people their lost glory and to restore joy, peace, and justice in the Society. In His Mission agenda, he announced: "He is anointed to bring good news to the poor, to release the captives, sight to the blind, freedom to the oppressed, and to proclaim the year of Lord's favor". Through His ministry- the blind received sight, dead raised to life, sick were healed, and poor were favored. By His teaching and preaching, he brought change and transformation in the lives of the people. By His death and resurrection, he brought Eternal life to his followers. As we claim ourselves that His Life is our Life and His mission is our mission, our primary task is to promote fullness of life. We are agents of Christ, therefore, it calls for an appropriate response to the present situations. So, it needs a strategic plan for our Mission and ministries for the greater glory of God and for His People.

A Glimpse of the INE Province.

The origin, history, special mission and ministries of INE are unique. The mission began in the year 1948, with the arrival of five zealous missionaries in the most fertile Gangpur Mission as it was called at that time. From the five mission stations handed over to us, today, we have 24 Parishes, 12 Schools, 3 Formation houses, 10 hostels for the boys, 3 Girls hostels, two vocational training centers, two leprosy centers, 2 Retreat centers, an Apostolate school, and a Cultural center. We had only five zealous missionaries, now we have **134** confreres, **4** Bishops, **119** Priests, **11** professed Brothers, **12** Theologians, **EIPs-5**, and **67** students in the minor seminary in the Province who are actively being engaged in various ministries.

In the beginning, our working areas was only in the Chota- Nagpur tribals' tribal belt, but as the years went by, we developed this mission from the tribal Mission to Dalit Mission, Ho-Mission and Santhal mission till West- Bengal and now we are well spread over the three states namely Odisha, Jharkhand, and West Bengal, working in the Dioceses of Rourkela, Sambalpur, Cuttack-Bhubaneswar, Gumla, Semdega and Arch Diocese of Kolkata. As we began the Mission, initially, we had only few priorities for the province, mainly Faith Formation, Evangelization, Education, health care and Family welfare, today, our priorities have multiplied into many. According to the previous Chapter, we have the following priorities for the province: **1.** Faith formation/Parish pastoral ministry. **2.** Primary evangelization/re-evangelization, **3.** Education, research and digital media. **4.** JPIC concerns, **5.** Poverty alleviation, **6.** Land- alienation, **7.** Putting the last first. **8.** Youth and Family. **9.** Promotion of SVD lay partners, **10.** Financial self-reliance. It calls for a review and a renewal of our commitment

Call for a Renewal of life and Ministry.

Dear confreres, looking at the growth and progress of the province in the last 74 years, there is absolutely no doubt regarding our progress. We have all the reasons to feel

proud and happy. But all credit goes to our pioneer missionaries of the past. We salute them for their untiring efforts, hard work, and commitment to build up the province. Now the Province is in our hands. The growth, progress, and the prosperity of the province depends solely on us.

Hence the call of these very recent held Assemblies and the Chapter is with the sole purpose to urge the *confreres*, to get involved personally keeping in mind the present need of the time- to keep the Church and the Province Vibrant. We draw strength for our life and for mission from Jesus. In order to renew our life and the mission, we ought now to focus on two ways: *Ad-Intra* and *Ad-Extra*. As we know *Ad-intra* is basically for our self-introspection and self-growth, area for our own individual awareness and personal growth and *Ad-extra* is evaluating our work and ministries. From the district local Chapters lots of suggestions and recommendation have come for our growth and progress, which means we are aware of the areas where we have failed and we want improve upon them.

Obstacle to our Missionary Endeavors.

1. Personnel Problem:- Our Mission fields and Ministries are so vast compare to the personnel resources that we have in the province, above and over, more and more *confreres* are getting aged. On the other side, every year, we are just receiving one or two new *confreres* for the province. Thus, running and maintenance of the province is becoming difficult year after year.

2. FCRA renewal and restrictions - Recent FCRA restrictions have caused problems for the smooth running of our missionary activities. Due to the new FCRA law- one NGO cannot fund or give donations to the other NGO. The FCRA renewal of the Society has brought lot of difficulties and uncertainties on our financial matters.

3. Financial problems: - For the running and maintenance of the province, we are heavily depending on Generalate's subsidy. Our local resources are very much limited. There is some sort of uncertainty with regards to the Government's New Education Policy, FCRA Restrictions. We do not have many resources to raise the local funds for the province. It is high time that we look for various other possibilities to raise funds for the Province and for our Society.

4. Land problems – Proper utilization of the land is an urgent need for us today. We do not have a separate personnel to look after the unused land and the related issues. In few places the land is purchased long ago and is remaining vacant thereby leading to various problems. We are not sure what policies will come regarding the land matters in the near future. It is a matter of great concern, it calls for a greater attention.

5. Health care: -Health care is another area of concern, because there are many *confreres* who are going to retire soon. Janssen Bhavan does not have sufficient rooms to

accommodate them. Our project which was written for the extension block of the Janssen Bhavan was not approved by the Generalate due to the lack of funds. Modified project was sent to Generalate the second time and are waiting for a positive reply. The second worry is to meet the medical expenses of the sick *confreres*, which is on the rise every year. We do not have separate fund for it. So far we have been receiving re-imbusement from the Generalate but for how long.... is a great worry.

6. Lack of sufficient missionary spirit and commitment in us:

I, personally feel, that we are gradually losing our missionary spirit and commitment and are just satisfied with the minimum. No passion for work and ministry, our zeal and enthusiasm seems to be slowing down, our focus seems to be diverted. Easy going and comfort culture seems to be creeping into our lives. My fear is that all these things are going to affect our mission and ministries.

My special thanks to all the *confreres* who have participated and made these events memorable. Sincere thanks to the Superior General and his team for their prayers and support. A word of appreciation to all our benefactors, friends, near and dear ones, our co-helpers for their constant help. My gratitude to Sr. Vilma Noronha SSpS, SSps-INE Provincial Superior and the members of her house for their helping hand in getting the hall and the altar ready for our Eucharistic Celebrations.





The First Assembly Participants



Arnold Lay Missionary Association Representatives



The Second Assembly Participants



Members of the Chapter with our Two bishops, Provincials from INH & INM, Generalate Secretary of Studies, SSpS representative, ALMA representatives

Our Departed Relatives

- † Mr. Luis Nettikatt, aged 85, younger brother of Fr. Thomas Nettikatt, died on November 14, 2021
- † Mrs. Magalin Joseph Mary, aged 74, aunty of Fr. Justin Jauaraj, died on November 14, 2021

Birthdays of our Confreres

November			
Silvaraj Duddu	03.11.1985	Sushil Soreng*	19.11.1933
Christu Raja Sekar	06.11.1969	Nicholas Barla	24.11.1961
Dinesh Xalao	07.11.1983	Rajesh Rosan Ekka	24.11.1984
Augustine E.V.	15.11.1945	Zephyrinus Soreng	26.11.1983
Rajesh Nandeti (Frt)	17.11.1992		
December			
Ignacius Soreng	06.12.1989	Joseph Daniel	13.12.1958
Bipin Kishore Surin*	11.12.1969	R.A. Thomas	21.12.1950
Abraham Vakkaparambil	13.12.1954	Saroj Kumar Hess	28.12.1986

Scheduled Programmes

RETREAT IN INM PROVINCE

Province/Region	Date	Venue	Preached by
INM	Jan 25-30, 2022	Divine Call Centre, Mulki	Sub-zone Biblical Coordinators

Province Christmas cum the Jubilee Celebrations

The Christmas cum Jubilee Celebrations are on December 27, 2021.

Jubilarians: Final Vows/ Ordination Batches

50 years(1971)-

Fr. Oscar Lakra

25 years(1996)-

Fr. Tej Kumar Lugun

Fr. Albinus Ekka

Fr. Sunil Damor

Bro. Elejius Minj

Fr. Sunder Tandi

Treasure's Column

All the *confreres* who have taken advance and asked to do bank transfers are requested to submit the bills and vouchers before December 31, 2021. You are highly appreciated if you submit them at the earliest.

News from the Generalate

This short note is to inform you that the Superior General, with the consent of his Council, has decided to extend the registration for the English Tertiate Course scheduled for May to August 2022.

DATE 2 May to 18 August 2022	SVD TERTIATE RENEWAL COURSE IN ENGLISH Venue: Begins in Steyl and ends in Nemi (includes Oies)	FOR WHOM Confreres: 40 to 65 years of age, a minimum of 10 years after Perpetual Vows (Const. 519.1) **As an exception for this course, the General Council extended the age limit to 72 years (on the condition of good health).	APPLICATION DEADLINE 31 October 2021
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As shown above, the General Council set the deadline for 31 October 2022, and the **new deadline is 30 NOVEMBER 2021.**

Fr. Budi and his Council hope that this extension will allow you to find and encourage confreres in your PRM to participate in the said course.

I ask for God's blessings for your life and mission.

Fraternally in the Divine Word,

Nico Espinosa, SVD
Secretary General
Divine Word Missionaries
Via Dei Verbiti 1
00154 Roma – ITALIA

My Programme

November 21: Council Meeting at Ishopanti Ashram, Puri
November 27: Knee Surgery and recuperation in Bhubaneswar

PKullu

Fr. Petrus Kullu, SVD
Provincial Superior, INE

God desires to dwell in the human heart in order to make it pure, happy, and holy so as to pour into it the fullness of his divine treasures.

-St. Arnold Janssen