



The Provincial Circular...
Society of the Divine Word
India East Province (INE)

Shanti Bhavan, Cox Colony, Jharsuguda, Odisha -768 203

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Ci-22-02

February 2022

Precious is the life given for His Mission

Dear Confreres,

On 29th January, we celebrated the Feast Day of our Saint Joseph Freinademetz. A missionary, a model, and an inspiration for all of us. I share with you the reflections I have had draw from the life of this saint.

“Go into all the world and proclaim the Good news to whole the creation” (Mk16:15). This was the parting command of Jesus to the Eleven disciples. Confirmed by Faith and empowered by the Holy Spirit, the disciples dispersed to the whole world to proclaim the Good News. Down the centuries, many missionaries from different Congregations continued the same. Our founder father, St. Arnold Janssen, intending to take the Word of God outside of Europe, specially where it was not preached, founded a missionary Congregation, the Society of the Divine Word, so that his followers can go to the distant countries to proclaim the Gospel. Joseph Freinademetz was one of the first ones to join him. He was ordained a Priest in the year 1875, and while working in his own diocese, developed a burning desire to work outside Europe, he joined the Society of the Divine Word, in the year 1879. After they received the mission cross, his companion, John Baptist von Anzer and he were sent to Hong Kong, where they remained for two years and later, moved to Shantung, southern province of China. As it is said: Freinademetz once left his country, never returned home, he spent his whole life in China Mission. He loved China, its people to the extent that he became Chinese in all the ways possible. In his own words **“even after death, I want to remain a Chinese in Heaven”**.

He died when he was still working. Thus, today, he is an icon for all us.

It reminds me of our SVD pioneers, the foreign missionaries who came to India and work in various parts of the country. I marvel to recall their enormous courage, unshakable faith, a deep conviction, and their missionary commitment. They learnt the local language well within no time, got in-culturated with the local situations. They had the passion for mission and a great enthusiasm to the spread the Gospel and its humane values to the people here. They lived a very simple and unassuming life. After long years of their dedicated service in India, many of them returned to their homeland, rest of them died and were buried here in India itself. Their graves testify till this day. All these missionaries have set a model for us. We humbly salute and are indebted to them, for their great missionary contribution to our Indian Provinces and the Region.

The success behind their missionary life was their deep spirituality, in one hand Bible and in the other hand Rosary and a cross around their neck, these were their weapons to witness Christ to the world. It simply meant, they were empowered by the Word of God, interceded to our Mother Mary and were driven by the Passion of Christ. They did wonders in the mission. They were the most effective and fruitful missionaries in their time. They built up the Christian communities in the most difficult and adverse situations. Today, what we have in the mission is their legacy.

Point for reflection, we all come from the same founding generations, but where have we gone wrong? As it is seen, missionary spirit seems to have slowed down in some of us, because, there is a decreasing focus, a decreasing passion for the mission, and a mixed commitment towards our ministries. I personally feel in many ways that we have failed to live up to our missionary commitment. We have ended up with self-complacency and a developed comfort-culture. Today, people see us, more as- a good educationist, a good manager, excellent organizer, and a good social worker, but fail to see us as persons with God experience, closer to the people, and committed to the cause. Pope Francis in one of his homilies on the Mission Sunday said: **“Church by its very nature is missionary, because every baptized person is a missionary, in baptism all of us are called to be a missionary disciple.”** We, as a religious, all the

more have a greater responsibility towards the Church and the entire humanity. We need to realize that God has called us, consecrated us, and sent us forth to bring the good news to the world. Let us then draw inspiration from our Founder Father- St. Arnold Janssen, and our first missionary to China- St. Joseph Freinademetz, and from the founding missionaries of our Province, to be/become a faithful and committed missionary in the true sense and continue His Mission.

Dear confreres, though I have mentioned above our few drawbacks, but as a whole we are all trying and are continuing to do the wonderful work of Christ across the world. Let us every day continue to pray through their intercession, that through our ministries “May the darkness of sin and night of unbelief vanish before the light of the Word and the spirit of Grace. And may the Heart of Jesus live in the hearts of all people”.

Superior General’s Visit to our Province

Rev. Fr. Paulus Budi Kleden, SVD, the Superior General of our congregation has announced his plan to visit our Province (email dated December 28, 2021). The Provincial Council expressed he is most welcome and Fr. Budi has confirmed it (email dated February 04, 2022). As per the schedule, Fr. Budi will be with us in our Province from April 27, 2022- May 06, 2022. I, on behalf of the members of the Province once again welcome Fr. Budi and extend cordial greetings to him and implore God’s blessing on his journey.

I request you all to adjust your home holidays accordingly, so that we can meet him and have memorable moments with him. More information about the visit will be given in the forth-coming editions.

SVD Projects Screening/Presentation Meeting

The Province level SVD Projects screening/presentation will be held on March 12, 2022, from 9:00am onwards. All the Project holders/treasurers are requested to get ready with your projects. After having the discussions at district level, you are to present them to the Provincial Team on the above mentioned date.

Partial/Complete reports (soft copy) of S19 Projects that are pending and S20 Projects are to be sent to the treasurer’s office before or by March 10, 2022.

PROVINCE LEVEL RECOLLECTIONS

Province Level Recollections will be on 11 (**Friday**) and 13 (**Sunday**) **March, 2022 at Shanti Bhavan, from 8:30 am to 4 pm.** All the confreres are kindly requested to take part in any one of these days and be enriched spiritually. On both the days, we begin the recollection with Morning Prayer at 6:30 am.

APPOINTMENTS AND TRANSFERS

Fr. Ashok Minz : Assistant Priest, Catholic Church, Sundargarh
Fr. Joseph Praveen Madanu : Odia Language Studies, Catholic Church, Madhupur
for two months

HEARTY WELCOME TO OUR PROVINCE



Rev. Fr. Paulus Budi Kleden, the Superior General and his leadership team, through his letter (dated January 21, 2022) has assigned **Dn. Rajesh Nandeti** from Divya Jyoti SVD Seminary, Sason, to our India-East(INE) Province. On behalf of all the *confreres*, I extend a warm and hearty welcome to the newly appointed *confrere*- Dn. Rajesh to our Province. We appreciate him for willingly accepting to work in INE Province. We wish him God's abundant blessings in his studies.

Funds for the Mission

This year we have started a new venture to raise local funds from our own places for the Mission Work in our Province as recommended by the Provincial Chapter. Envelops were distributed and were made available as the part of the Founder's Day celebration collections in our SVD run parishes and the institutes. Kindly submit the envelops that were distributed to raise funds for our INE Missions to the treasurer's office by March 31, 2022.

Province Planning Committee

The Provincial Council has appointed the following *confreres* as part of the Province Planning Committee:

Fr. Francis Pereira
Fr. Ignatius Soreng
Fr. Innocent Kerketta
Fr. Joseph Cherian
Fr. Joseph Daniel
Fr. Marianayagam
Fr. Tomi George

We thank these *confreres* for accepting to be part of the committee and wish them God's blessings in their endeavours. The committee will come to effect once they attend the meeting called by the Provincial Superior in the near future.

ADMISSION TO ST. ARNOLD'S CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

JHARTARANG, ROURKELA

Classes V & VI (both Boys & Girls) for the Academic Session 2022-2023.

St. Arnold's School, Jhartarang, is a CBSE School catering to quality education to more than 2700 students including more than 900 tribal and dalit students. In view of extending its facility to some more students, from tribal/dalit background, who are brilliant but poor, and do not get an opportunity to study in a quality educational institution, St. Arnold's Centre of Excellence is ready to accommodate promising students from poor families, who will study in St. Arnold's School. Already 159 students are studying up to Class 12, and they are doing extremely well and the experiment is successful. In March 2021, 18 of our hostel students wrote class-10 Board Examinations and all of them passed with first class marks, and some of them secured above 90%. In March 2022, the first batch of Class 12 will write board examinations, and they are working hard for a good result.

Admission Procedure:

The academic year (classes) will begin on 21st of March 2022. Students for classes 5 & 6 (academic session 2021-22) will be selected through an **entrance test conducted at Jhartarang (Rourkela-4), Gaibira (Subdega) & Bishop's House (Ainthapali), Sambalpur, in all places at 10.00 a.m. February 27, 2022.**

Our Criteria for selection: **1.) Tribal or Dalit; 2.) Good at studies and ready for hard work; 3.) Studying in Oriya Medium Schools; 4.) Parents are poor.** Admit them without hesitation; we will bring them up to English Medium (CBSE) standard.

Requirements:

Hostel Fee : Rs.1200.00 per month for Boarding, Lodging and daily Tuition classes
School Fee : Minimum, according to the capability of the parents. If very poor, it can even be made free. They will have to buy school books, the School Dress, and other school requirements (at subsidised price).
Food : Two meals, Breakfast & Tiffin

Fathers/Brothers/Sisters kindly look for eligible candidates and encourage them to apply. Let us help these boys & girls and bring up our communities.

Contact persons and numbers:

1. Fr. Thomas K.C. 7008688071
2. Fr. Joseph Kujur 9437390327.
3. Fr. Francis Jos 8117825768
4. Sr. Cecilia Tirkey HM 8895940119

Email: starnoldrkl@gmail.com, web: www.starnoldschool.in (You can download the admission form from the website.)

Fr. Francis Jos, SVD
Principal

Fr. Thomas K.C, SVD
Manager

BIRTHDAYS OF OUR CONFRERES

| February 2022 | | | |
|------------------------|------------|-------------------------|------------|
| Thomas Korattiyil | 02.02.1953 | Joseph. K. J. | 14.02.1953 |
| Victor Rodrigues | 08.02.1970 | Muktlal Ekka* | 15.02.1964 |
| Ashley Fernandes | 08.02.1978 | M. Ajeesh P. Sahai (Dn) | 16.02.1992 |
| Sebastian Mattappallil | 09.02.1954 | Francis Kiro | 20.02.1978 |
| Remejius Soreng | 11.02.1985 | Thomas Ekka | 22.02.1933 |
| Oscar Lakra | 12.02.1941 | Medard Tirkey | 23.02.1967 |
| Maurice Lakra | 12.02.1946 | Paul Kandulna | 24.02.1956 |
| March 2022 | | | |
| Joseph Antony | 04.03.1953 | Peter Toppo | 20.03.1963 |
| Peter Thannickakuzhy | 06.03.1950 | Cladius Soreng | 21.03.1971 |
| Sunil Kujur (Frt) | 06.03.1992 | Frederick Santhumayor | 22.03.1952 |
| Thomas Nettikatt | 10.03.1934 | Julius Lakra | 27.03.1931 |
| Elejius Minj* | 10.03.1970 | Joseph Pais | 28.03.1965 |
| Joseph Amalan | 12.03.1954 | Sanjib Dungdung | 28.03.1984 |
| Shilanand Kamath | 13.03.1936 | Albinus Kiro | 30.03.1985 |
| Francis Pereira | 13.03.1956 | | |

MY PROGRAMME

February

- 17-18 : Visitation - Phalsa Parish
18 : Evening, Meeting at Utkal Jyoti, Jharsuguda
19-21 : Priestly Ordination of Dn. Varjil Jojo, SVD, and Thanksgiving mass, Pankodihi
25-27 : Duburi Parish, SSpS - Jubilee Celebrations

March

- 7-8 : Visitation - Saunamara Parish
9-10 : Visitation - Kiralaga Parish
11 : Province Recollection- I, Shanti Bhavan, Jharsuguda
12 : SVD Projects Screening Meeting, Shanti Bhavan
13 : Province Recollection- II, Shanti Bhavan, Jharsuguda
14-15 : Visitation - NOHSS, Babudihi
21-22 : Visitation - Sundargarh Parish

Yours in the Divine Word

PKullu

**Fr. Petrus Kullu, SVD
Provincial Superior, INE**

“Those who know they are loved and given grace from God, have all the more reason to be joyful. Joy and thankfulness belong especially to a religious person who serves God.”

-St. Arnold Janssen