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Provincial Circular

12/04/2022

Easter: A Promise, Possibility for Renewal and Transformation

The resurrection of Jesus is at the heart of the Christian message. The darkness of human evil was confronted in the crucifixion of Jesus on Good Friday and conquered on Easter day. It stems from the tradition Jesus celebrated as he joined his disciples for the passover feast. It is the sacrifice and death necessary for new life!

This Easter greets us with the message of promise, possibility for renewal and powerful transformation amid profoundly unsettling pace of change in society, country and in the world. Easter really is the culmination and the fulfillment of God's promise. It gives us a promise that Jesus have overcome sin, darkness and conflict. God's promise emerges from the tomb faintly and quietly but realized in personal encounters with Jesus. Easter is not just an historical action but as the



promise of his presence with us today-even in the worst of circumstances.

At the heart of Easter message is the call to a new future, framed with hope and possibility in the midst of entrenched hopelessness. It is a vision of the future with God. When we feel despondent, broken, and defeated, God still breaks out with new life and possibility so that Jesus can break into where we are and how we are today. The awe and beauty of that moment of resurrection generates new possibilities, new delights, and new forms of life for people everywhere.



The resurrection of Jesus created a transformed community. It transformed the disciples into dynamic spokespersons who shared the gospel message to others that **BECAUSE HE LIVES WE SHALL LIVE FOREVER** also. Christ's transformation is our transformation. In this age of great challenge and even greater possibility, Easter's timeless message calls for personal and structural transformation.

Easter is not simply a remembrance of something that happened in the past. The Easter story resonates with life and

hope and how the promise of God is being realized. As we celebrate it, we remind ourselves that the resurrection is to be an everyday experience. May we be filled afresh with the treasures of God to serve the broken world. Let's be formed and transformed to be transformers and to live together as human community.

Happy Easter

**Fr. Sanjay Kujur SVD
For Provincial Council**

Synod On Synodality

Synod on Synodality -Communion, Participation and mission, is a very courageous initiative of Pope Francis. A few questions may arise in our mind as to why Holy Father announced this synod? what is his motivation? What is his inspiration? Answer to these questions sets the context of this synod.

Change is a continuous process. Change is inevitable and change is the only thing which is unchanged. If we do not participate in the change, we will be outdated. If we do not adapt ourselves to changes, we become irrelevant. The church also wants us to participate in the changing process, because church exist for the world, in the world. When the world is changing so fast the church also wants to be dynamic, youthful, active and relevant.

That is why Pope John the XXIII announced the historic Vatican II. Guided by the spirit, Holy Father opened the window of the church so that fresh air may enter in and let the filthy air leave the church; and thus make the church once again relevant. Radical changes were proposed and documents were created, but these documents have not yet become a reality today.

Pope Francis is a practical leader. He looks at the present situation of the world and the church. He is fully aware of what is happening in the church, the turmoil we experience in the church, all the abuses and scandals. Therefore, he invites the entire church to participate and contribute each one's share to make this synod a spiritual experience. To make each member of the church aware of his/her life as a participation in the mission of the church.



Pope Francis is looking into the proposals of Vatican II creatively, critically, dynamically and radically. He says, we (the Church) need to change the customs, habits and life style, even the language and the way it is functioning in the world today. He wants everything pastorally-mission oriented. Therefore, we need to have ongoing personal and structural process of conversion; a change of mentality, transformation of our perspectives, and our attitudes. Pope not only opening the window but opening the door to announce the need to revive the church.

The very word Synod consisting of Sun + odos means to walk with or to journey together. Pope Francis tells us by walking together, reflecting on our journey together, we learn from our experiences to live in communion, to have active participation and fulfill His mission. There is a paradigm shift, this synod is based on the common priesthood of all the people. Therefore, Pope invites every baptized person conscious of his/her vocation as Christians to live in communion with God by listening to the spirit; With God we need to listen to the cry of the people. So, listening to God, intimacy with God, communion with God leads us to be in communion with the people of God. So, it is an invitation to listen to God, the spirit especially to the cry of the poor and marginalized who are at the periphery. It is also a call for discernment, what the Spirit wants from us. Thus, the synod is inviting us to look at the entire people of God, as a participative church involved in the mission of the church, deeper communion with God and with one another. And therefore, he has convoked the Synod on Synodality 2023.

I request all the communities as well as in the districts and units to discuss on the questions given below and submit a report to the Provincial's office by the end of June 21022.

Questions to deliberate and Discuss at the unit/district level

1. As a religious what comes to your mind when you hear the word '**Church**'? Why do you feel that way?
2. Do you feel being **listened** to by the Church Leaders? Do they have time? Do they have patience and humility?
3. How is this '**journeying together**' happening in the church? Are you comfortable? What needs to be changed?
4. How does the church promote **participation in the decision-making** within the hierarchical structures of the church?



5. How does **liturgical celebrations** inspire and guide you?
6. How would you like to have them to nurture your spiritual life?
7. How are you able to participate in the **Mission of the Church**? What hinders you from being active in the church?
8. What enables or hinders you from **speaking up** courageously, candidly and responsibly in the church?
9. What are the **scandals** that are shocking you in the Catholic church life but you cannot speak because you have no freedom to speak?
10. What are your **frustrations and pains**? What wounds are to be healed?
11. What is the **Spirit telling you** to make the church what it should be: Your suggestions.

Khrist Premalaya Regional Theologate, Astha, handed over

After 14 years of service to the Madhya Pradesh – Chhattisgarh regional Bishop's conferences, the SVD Central Indian Province handed over the administration of the Khrist Premalaya Regional Theologate, Astha in a solemn thanksgiving Holy Eucharist concelebrated by the Archbishop Sebastian Durairaj svd, Bishop Sebastian Vadakkell of Ujjain Diocese and Fr. Joemon James Alackal SVD INC Provincial on April 9, 2022. Others present were: Diocesan Administrators of Jhabua and Khandwa, SVD INC Council members, about 35 Priests from SVD INC province and the Archdiocese of Bhopal together with KPRT Brothers and a few religious Sisters.



At the request of the Archbishop of Bhopal and following the recommendation of the last Provincial Chapter, the Provincial Council decided to handover the administration of KPRT to the Regional Bishop's Conferences. Fr. Joemon James svd, in his address thanked the Bishop Conferences for the confidence they had placed on the Society and the support and encouragements the staff experienced from the bishops. He also highlighted the contributions the Society did for the infrastructural development of the seminary besides the academic, pastoral and spiritual formation given to the Diocesan seminarians. Bishop Sebastian Vadakkal, on behalf of the CBMP expressed appreciation and thanked the confreres of the SVD for their committed services to the institution and presented a memento of appreciation to the Provincial Superior. Archbishop Durairaj in his address, hailed the wonderful and dedicated services the SVD society rendered even though the province lacked qualified personnel to run the institution but provided excellent formation by taking the support of the confreres from other Provinces. All the outgoing staff were given a token of appreciation by the CBMP. The appointment letter of the newly nominated Rector, Fr. Francis Scaria, was read out by Archbishop and then Fr. Thomas Peringalloor svd, the Rector handed over the Key of the chapel symbolically to the new Rector. All departed after a sumptuous lunch.

Fr. Sebastian Mangalathil SVD returns to INE



After rendering 8 years of very committed service in Catholic Ashram Palda, Fr. Sebastian Mangalathil svd has been transferred back to INE Province. Fr. Sebastian was a formator par excellence. His simplicity of life, spiritual depth, dedication to his job and hard work are some of his outstanding qualities. He began his service in Catholic Ashram Palda as the Dean of Studies and then became Vice Rector and prefect of Students. Even though he was sent from INE Province for two terms, he continued to serve at our request for two more years. We thank and appreciate Fr. Sebastian for all that he rendered as an excellent formator, pastor and missionary religious. We wish him God's abundant blessings, healthy life and fulfilling ministries ahead!



One Month Trinitarian Spirituality Retreat Concludes in Khurda

The novices at Khurda had the privilege of having a 'One Month Arnold Janssen Trinitarian Spirituality Retreat.' They all had been waiting for this event because of its calming and transforming effects, and how it helps an individual to discern his calling for a religious life. In brief this particular retreat was an eye-opener for a few, transformation to some and a moment of discernment for others. The entire retreat was divided into four phases and each phase had different themes for personal growth. It all began by taking off our shoes before entering into the holy sanctuary of God. This was symbolically guided by Sr. Florintina SSpS based on the passage of the 'Burning Bush'. She requested the novices to dig into their life and to take off those sandals that disrupt their relationship with God. The first phase of our retreat was based on the 'Origin and Foundation of the Trinitarian Spirituality.' It has helped them to realize their deep rootedness in the Holy Triune God. Sr. Florintina beautifully journeyed with them by her symbolic way of prayer and reflections.

The Second phase was entirely based on 'Following Christ in his Public Ministry.' The retreat facilitator Fr. Godwin Viegas SVD prayerfully allowed the novices to delve deeper and deeper into the human person of Jesus, as to how he was prone to temptations and dangers just like any other human person yet did not succumb to them. He also guided them during the meditations and his spiritual animation was found to be helpful to many.



The third phase was based on 'Following the Lord on the Way of the Cross'. The retreat preacher Fr. Emmanuel Varghese SVD historically took the novices back to the time of Jesus. He helped them to understand the Cost of Following Christ. He took keen interest in their Spiritual growth; he met each one of them personally several times by helping them to clear the dark clouds that block their view. We commemorated the Lord's Last Supper in the form of 'Sedar Meal' which was appreciated by all the novices. We also reflected upon the Way of the Cross and the 'Death Meditation.'

The fourth week was centered on the theme 'Sent by the Risen Lord and Empowered by the Holy Spirit'. The preachers, Fr Gregory Arockiam SVD and Sr. Vimla Jacob SSps helped the novices to understand our mission as being an 'Easter people.' They stressed on the Risen Lord, The Holy Spirit, Trinitarian Spirituality, Inter-Cultural Living etc. Both helped them in understanding our core identity as an SVD.

Throughout the retreat the novices picked up new forms of prayer such as the Biblio – Drama, Imaginative Contemplation, Nature Meditation, Pilgrim Dance, Dance of Blessing, Death Meditation etc. All 22 Novices experienced the guidance of the Holy Spirit and discerned their vocation! “All the retreat facilitators encouraged us in our journey of faith”! The Novices concluded the one-month Retreat in Catholic Ashram, Khurda on March 31, 2022.

Fr. Emmanuel Varghese SVD
Novice Master



TRANSFERS 2022

1.	Bro. Kishore Tigga	Principal: St. Arnold's Gujarati Medium, Godhra
2.	Fr. Jose Vasuniya	Principal, Mahatma Gandhi school, Khurda
3.	Fr. George Thottian	Provincial Secretary and Archives' in-charge, Indore
4.	Fr. Amit Tete	Procurator: Catholic Ashram, Khurda
5.	Fr. Mathew C. J	Procurator: Vidyodaya, Indore
6.	Fr. John David	Dean of studies : Catholic Ashram, Palda
7.	Fr. Sahaya Raj	Mission in-charge: Kotada, Udaipur
8.	Fr. Shinoj	Director: Janvikas, Indore
9.	Fr. Roy Thomas	In-charge of differently abled center: Indore, Resident in Janvikas
10.	Fr. Jose Joseph	Program co-ordinator: Snehalaya, Indore
11.	Fr. Cyril Cutinho	Assistant Director : Divya Vani, Bhopal
12.	Fr. Kishore Soreng	Parish Priest: Deoli, Khandwa
13.	Fr. Sanjay Kujur	Superior, St. Arnold's Seva Sadan and <i>Co-ordinator- SVD lay partners, Indore</i>
14.	Fr. Rajesh Jamra	Director: Ecumenism and inter – religious Dialogue and Assistant Director & Parish Priest, Pradeepti, Khandwa
15.	Fr. Dileep Bhuria	Prefect : St. Thomas Seminary, Mhow
16.	Fr. Kulandai Raja	Assistant Parish Priest, Catholic Church Jhalod
17.	Fr. Manoj Topno	Procurator: Snehalaya, Indore
18.	Fr. Jobin George	Assistant parish Priest: Madri, Udaipur
19.	Fr. Deepak Wilson	Assistant Parish Priest, Hostel incharge : Catholic Church, Muvalia
20.	Fr. George Payattikat	Spiritual Director: Catholic Ashram, Palda
21.	Fr. Rayan	Director: Divya Vani and Parish Priest, St. Antony's Church, Dwarakanagar, Bhopal

22.	Fr. James Simon	Director: SAMMAN and Assistant Parish Priest, St. Antony's Church, Dwarakanagar , Bhopal
23.	Fr. Alwyn Misquith	Assistant Director: SAMMAN and Assistant Parish Priest, St. Antony's Church, Dwarakanagar, Bhopal
24.	Fr. Prasad Kuzhively	Assigned to St. Joseph's home, Palda & Co-ordinator of Environmental Concerns in the Province
25.	Fr. Sleeve Raj	BDS Studies: Resident in St. Patricks Dental Clinic
26.	Cajetan D'mello	Superior and Procurator , Khrist Jyoti Kendra, Meghnagar
27.	Fr. Thomas Peringaloor	Sabbatical
28.	Fr. Sebastian Mangalathil	Transferred to INE

EIPs AND BROTHER IN TEMPORARY VOWS

29.	Bro. Vijay Yenamala	Nirmala Niketan, Jhadol
30.	Fr. A. Titto France	Catholic Church, Jhalod
31.	Fr. D. Bala Joseph Reddy	Catholic Church, Muvalia
32.	Fr. Pratap Minz	Kotada Mission, Udaipur
33.	Fr. Kola Prabhakar	Catholic Church, Halol till Oct. 2022

Thanks to the outgoing EIPs and welcome three new EIPs

After having had wonderful experiences as EIPs, Frt. Kerketta Amit, Frt. Varaheil Jesbin Thomas, Frt. Venad Mino, Frt. Markey Birender, Frt. M Justin Arokia Raj are proceeding for their final phase of formation. We thank them for their dedicated and great services in their respective missions and institution. We wish them God's continued blessings in their theological studies and thus preparing themselves to be efficient SVD missionary religious Priests.

We wholeheartedly welcome Frt. A. Titto France, Frt. D. Bala Joseph Reddy and Frt. Pratap Minz to the province. We wish them bountiful and wonderful experiences in their respective stations.



Thanks to Outgoing EIPs



Welcome to New EIPs



My Programme

April 19 to 27, 2022 :	With Fr. Superior General
April 25:	Provincial Assembly and blessing of St. Joseph's home Palda
April 26:	Provincial Council meeting with Fr. General
April 28:	Provincial Council Meeting
May 10:	Silver Jubilee of Divine Word Seminary. Chennai
May 12:	Diamond Jubilee of St. Charles Apostolic Seminary, Trichy
May 13- June 6:	Home Holidays


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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