



PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR INDIA MUMBAI PROVINCE (INM)



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YOUR LIGHT MUST SHINE

The month of July can be a breath-taking month of adventure for us as the weather changes from the blazing hot summer to a pleasing cool monsoon. The magical spells of showers of July facilitate the emergence of lush green landscapes with the sweet smelling wet earth and flowing milky streams surrounded by fresh fragrant flora which refresh the mind, body and soul of the beholders. Definitely, the scenic spectacular of July has the dynamism to summon the human spirit to embark on a celebration of life that fosters cheerful gifting of one's own self, one's own very essence in the service of others.

To illustrate the above stated self-forgetting and self-giving lifestyle; I would like to go recourse to a captivating Greek word, 'Meraki'. Meraki stands for the essence of oneself that one puts into one's way



of living. It describes leaving a part of one's self in one's work and activities. It is putting one's self – one's mind, body and soul into one's living and doing. It is about doing things with passion. In other words, it is putting one's soul, love and creativity into everything one does.

I love the word 'Meraki' because over the years as a pastor, formator and leader, I have endeavoured to uphold the principle of 'doing my best' by giving my hundred percent to whatever I do. I believe it is this attitude of doing everything with passion, doing things with one's soul, creativity and love that ushers in contentment, fosters growth and nurtures faithfulness in one's life resulting in a commitment to serve others and the wounded world as a faithful and creative disciple.

Therefore, as we move on with our life and mission in this academic year and initiate the process of preparation for the 19th General Chapter, we will do well to reflect on, what it means to be a meraki person, what it means to desire to live a life of abundance and a more impactful life. In Greece, someone who loves life, lives it to the full, does everything with enthusiasm and passion, is often, referred to as a 'Meraklis'. Every single thing we do, day in and day out, if it is done with 'meraki' it can work miracles in our life and in the lives of others and whole of God's creation, and how I wish, that all of us - persons called and sent by God on a mission, were 'meraklis' – persons of passion, optimism and creativity in a wounded world of today.

Most of us live and organize our life on the accustomed models of fear rather than risk, limitations rather than strengths, convention rather than innovation, convenience rather than conviction and competition

rather than celebration. But imagine the possibilities, if we could live and function by our strengths, convictions and innovative spirit. Imagine the possibilities, if we could embark on a quest to find our passions and fuel our interests and ignite our hope to dream big and be joyful, faithful and successful. Imagine the possibilities, if our communities were places that persistently generated the inspiring artists, musicians, singers, poets, writers, preachers, pastors, activists with ample opportunities for innovation within the scope of our missionary charism. Imagine the possibilities, if we could give the beginners the opportunities to explore their passions and interests using a mission driven yet a personalized learning approach that honoured choice and autonomy. Imagine the possibilities, if innovative programmes and interests based on initiatives were the norm in our communities and the Society. And imagine the possibilities, if we could wholeheartedly support all our dialogue partners in mission in finding and living their own spirit of meraki. The possibilities would be immense and the end result would be incredible! We would be much happier, others much more productive and the wounded world much more wholesome – a better place for you and for me.



Our 19th General Chapter theme: “Your Light Must Shine Before Others (Mt. 5: 16) – Faithful and Creative Disciples in a Wounded World” urges us to recognize that we are the light of the world, and sent by the Light, we are to be the light to the world by standing for the truth, building communities, instilling hope, offering warmth of relationship and healing the wounds of hatred, violence, division and injustice with a spirit of meraki. Let’s

therefore, be meraklis, and in this way, we can make the first and the greatest commandment of our Lord real for ourselves and impactful for others, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ (Mt. 22: 37-39).

- INM Leadership Team

CELEBRATING 75 GLORIOUS YEARS ST. THERESA’S CHURCH, BANDRA



June 26, 2022 was a memorable day in the history of St. Theresa’s Parish, when the parishioners and the clergy team came together to celebrate 75 glorious years of the parish. Most Rev. Leo Cornelio SVD, Emeritus Archbishop of Bhopal presided over the solemn thanksgiving Eucharist at 10.00 a.m, where Fr. Richard Mathias, our Provincial Superior and a number of other priests concelebrated the Mass. The Hindi community led the celebrants to the altar with an entrance dance. To mark this important milestone in the parish, the VISION team, namely the parish bulletin editorial team, brought out a commemorative book highlighting the history and development of the parish from its inception in 1946 to the present time. Rt. Rev. John Rodrigues, the Auxiliary Bishop of the archdiocese of Mumbai released the book. The presence of three former Parish Priests,

namely Frs. Salvador Serrao, Berly Pallan and Jolly Kuriakose added joy to the celebration. After the liturgical celebration, while the priests and the religious joined the parish community for a fellowship meal, the parishioners entertained themselves via fun-day games in the school quadrangle. In the evening, over 375 parishioners gathered in the school hall for a fun-filled evening and fellowship meal. The Hindi community too joined the get-together in large numbers. After a gap of almost three years, the parishioners used this occasion to come together and have fun and fellowship.



St. Theresa's parish, which took birth in a small woodhouse chapel with Fr. Theophilus Gomes, a diocesan, as its first Parish Priest gradually grew and expanded from the time it was handed over to the SVDs in 1948. Today, this parish is vibrant with various cells and associations, proudly ministering to over 800 families under the present clergy team Frs. Henry D'Souza, Antony Puthumana, Nicolau D'Costa and Felix

Arul. Having adopted the Mangaon mission, St. Theresa's parish reaches out to the basic needs of the poor people in this mission.

FROM SCRAP PICKER TO SCHOOL TOPPER

A SUCCESS STORY OF SSS, PUNE

At mid-day, under scorching heat, a 6-year-old boy and his elder brother were forced to painstakingly collect scrapped bottles from railway tracks at Pune railway station as the only means of earning some money for food and for taking care of his younger siblings. Dinesh Shinde (Name Changed) was forced to do this work as long as he lived with his parents. Being forced to work, he never got the chance to get any education as all his time withered away in collecting and selling discarded water bottles. At such a tender age, he had already experienced many hardships. In 2009, the social workers of Sarva Seva Sangh, Pune, first came in contact with Dinesh when he was only 4 years old and they tried to reach out to his parents and educate them on the importance of formal education and how that could change their life. After continuous motivation, counselling and persuasion, his mother reluctantly agreed; but her deep concern was of losing the earnings he brought by picking up scrap from the railway tracks and from inside the trains along with his elder brother, who travelled every day from their little hut at Ghorpadi to Pune station to start their routine of scrap collection.

In the year 2012, when Dinesh was enrolled in standard one, initially, though a year and a half older than his classmates, he was the last in his class, with no formal education like others. Besides no education, the set pattern of his new environment in Sarva Seva Sangh was entirely opposed to his free way of life at the railway station; hence, it was an ordeal for him to adjust to it. Further, after a year he was enrolled in the school, both his parents died leaving two younger siblings, apart from his elder brother who too was a minor at that time. Gradually he turned out to be an all-rounder, who excelled in sports, art and craft, and with a beautiful handwriting which was admired by all his teachers. He also became very disciplined, respectful, responsible and punctual. He too developed a lot of interest in reading books and newspapers and worked hard on improving English language skill.

Once he overcame the initial hurdles, there was no looking back. With regular schooling and with his efforts and never ending determination, he topped in his school with a distinction in class ten. It is an added joy to him that his younger sister too passed class ten with him securing 70 per cent marks. This year, four children from street situations including Dinesh passed class ten with high grade who were under the care of Sarva Seva Sangh, a charitable Trust in Pune, an initiative of the Society of the Divine Word, India Mumbai Province. And this is the second year in a row, boys from street situations, cared by Sarva Seva Sangh, have become school toppers in class ten.

ISHVANI KENDRA ORGANIZES OMO

At the beginning of the new academic year, Ishvani Kendra opened its door to 37 young and energetic missionaries preparing to go to overseas missions. They came from ten different states of India and belonged to eleven religious congregations. There were nine SVD priests, two Montfort brothers and 26

religious sisters. These 37 missionaries are already assigned to 27 different countries in all the six continents and will go to their missions as soon as possible. The enthusiastic missionaries were oriented with inputs on cultural and psychological transition; intercultural communication; Indian faith traditions; safeguarding the vulnerable and preventing sexual abuses; challenges of mission life; new religious



movements; Church teachings especially on the direction of the Church with Pope Francis; and Biblical missionary discipleship. Sharing of experiences and insights by missionaries serving in other countries was also an important aspect of the course. This year ten missionary sisters and priests of Indian origin from seven different countries joined the participants live on ZOOM to share their experiences and challenges. Three other SVDs on holidays in India also came

in person to share and to inspire the aspiring ones. On a different level, Sr. Edita Maria Ulman SSpS, a student in Bangalore from Ukraine was also on hand to share her experiences of India and the agony faced by the people of war-torn Ukraine. Each participant also made a research presentation on their mission destination. Our efforts were to orient the participants to send their hearts first to their new mission, people, and lands even before they get ready with their luggage. The Overseas Mission Orientation (OMO) course is Ishvani Kendra's unique contribution to the Church in India to prepare its missionaries getting ready to serve in missions abroad. We are indeed happy and privileged to be of service in the humble efforts of the Indian Church to be part of the worldwide mission entrusted to us by Jesus to "make disciples of all nations" (Matt 28:19).

You are welcome to watch some precious moments from the OMO 2022 on Ishvani Kendra YouTube channel by visiting the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=idH7qUD5ya8>.

INAUGURATION OF SILVER JUBILEE YEAR ST. ARNOLD'S SCHOOL, ANDHERI



St. Arnold's High School & Junior College is going to celebrate its Silver Jubilee this year (1998-2023). The Staff, Students and the management has geared up to celebrate this year with great enthusiasm and zeal. The Core Committee of Silver Jubilee celebrations has planned various programs during the year. 1st July, 2022, was a memorable day for St. Arnold's High School & Junior College as it inaugurated the Silver Jubilee celebrations with the theme "Unity in Diversity". The school flag with the motto "In the Service of the Word" was officially unfurled by Rev. Fr. Joseph Madathany SVD who began St. Arnold's School in Gyan Ashram in 1998, and later on, Rev. Fr. Jerome D'Souza became the Manager & First Principal of the school in 1999. St. Arnold's school was established with a vision

"A school with a difference". Rev. Fr. Richard Mathias SVD the Provincial Superior inaugurated the Theme of the Jubilee Year and The Emblem of Silver Jubilee celebration was inaugurated by Rev. Fr. Sylvester Rego SVD the Pioneer in the construction of St. Arnold's school building. Rev. Fr. Provincial in his speech highlighted the works of the pioneers of the school and expressed his gratitude to all of them. The Principal of the school enumerated the works and contributions of all the former Provincials, Principals and confreres who have given their might towards the development and growth of St. Arnold's High School & Junior College. We are looking forward to celebrate the finale of the Silver Jubilee of St. Arnold's High School & Junior College on 14th & 15th January, 2023.

DDW MEETS GENERALATE MISSION SECRETARY



On 10th June 2022, Disciples of the Divine Word (DDW) and St. Theresa's SVD lay group along with Fr. Jolly Mudakkampurath, INM Mission Secretary met Fr. Stanislaus Lazar, Generalate Mission Secretary at Atma Darshan. Among other discussions, Fr. Stan spoke on the SVD lay groups worldwide. He provided examples of how different countries interpret the context of forming lay partner groups. The SVD charism and mission are centered on the Divine Word. He

was appreciative of all the efforts the lay groups had undertaken during COVID all over the world. He made a special mention of Susan for her role as the Chief Editor of the International SVD Lay Partners Newsletter and her efforts to coordinate with different lay groups around the world. Fr. Stan also talked about the upcoming General Chapter theme "Your Light Must Shine before Others" (Mt. 5:16) - 'Faithful and Creative Disciples in a Wounded World'. A guide for communal reflection is designed by the Generalate that will be shared with SVD lay partner groups. The questions requiring group participation and feedback will be forwarded to the Generalate and to the Provincial. Fr. Jolly thanked both the groups and emphasized that more interactions together would be helpful in the formation of new groups. The meeting ended with tea and snacks. Fr. Stan participated in our Feed the Hungry initiative the following Saturday as well.

STATISTICS OF THE FORMATION HOUSES

S. No	Seminary	First Year	Second Year	Third Year	Total
01	SVD Shishyalaya, Vasai	09	00	01	10
02	SVD House, Kirem	06	04	05	15
03	St. John's Mission Seminary, Changanacherry	09	05	05	19
04	St. Francis Xavier's Ashram, Raia	12 (VIII & IX STD)	03 (XII STD)	00	15
05	Vidya Niketan, Mysuru	26	28	21	75
06	Divine Word Seminary, Pune	12	09	12	33
	Divine Word Seminary, Pune Co-pilgrims (Non SVDs)	05	00	01	06

We thank God for the many new vocations he has given us during this new academic year. We appreciate the hard work and efforts of our Vocation Promoters and their team members and all the formators for accompanying and forming the students as per the vision and mission of the Society in these trying and challenging times.

SCHOOLS, JUNIOR & DEGREE COLLEGE STATISTICS

Institutions	Pre-primary	Primary I-VIII	Secondary IX-X	Higher Secondary XI-XII	Total	Christian Students
St. Arnold's Central School, Aduvassery	153	570	61	00	784	392
St. Arnold's High School & Junior College, Andheri	578	2218	536	588	3920	175
St. Theresa's High School, Bandra	336	1428	400	-	2164	62
St. Arnold's Central School, Mysore	206	1071	184	00	1461	119
St. Arnold's Central School, Pune	497	1359	323	320	2499	414
St. Arnold's Degree College, Andheri	Total					45
	610					

Through our education ministry we play an important role in moulding the future of so many students entrusted to our care by their wards and understanding the sacred responsibility of forming the young minds and preparing them to face the challenges of the modern times our confreres and collaborators involved in the ministry render admirable service to the students, their families and the society. We thank them for their committed service and painstaking efforts in imparting value based education.

APPOINTMENTS

Fr. Joe Prabhu: In the Provincial Council meeting held on 28th June 2022 we deliberated on the appointment of a new Director for Sarva Seva Sangh, Mumbai in the backdrop of the sudden demise of the incumbent Director, Fr. Jose Arayathel and have appointed Fr. Joe Prabhu as the new Director. He has assumed the responsibility on 1 July 2022. We thank him for his generosity and willingness to shoulder this additional responsibility.

Fr. Joy Panamthanam: Fr. Joy has arrived in the province on 8 July 2022, and currently, he is in Kerala on home leave and attending to his health requirements. In consultation with him and the concerned confreres, we have assigned him to St. John's Mission Seminary, Changanacherry for the remainder of the academic year to provide him with ample time to acclimatize with the changed realities of life and mission in the country. He will be joining the community in the first week of September 2022. We thank St. John's community for their openness to welcome Fr. Joy and wish him enriching time in the seminary.

PROVINCE RETREATS

This year we have organized two retreats: 27 Nov. to 02 Dec. 2022 at Atma Darshan, and 22-27 January 2023 at Divine Call Centre, Mulki. As both the retreats will begin in the evening, and hence the participants are requested to reach the respective places well in advance on 27 November and 22 January. The retreats will end with lunch on the final day and you can plan your return accordingly. Both the retreats will be preached by Fr. Alvito Fernandes OCD. Every confrere is expected to make the annual retreat, and hence, kindly plan and register with our office well in advance.

At the conclusion of the first retreat, on 02 December, we shall have the province jubilee celebration in the evening. All those who are attending the first retreat are requested to participate in the jubilee celebration and plan your departure on the following morning, 3 December 2022. All the jubilarians and the confreres are cordially invited to participate in the Eucharistic celebration and the fellowship meal.

RETREATS IN OTHER PROVINCES/REGION

INC

02 - 07 and 10 - 15 October 2022 at St. Arnold's Seva Sadan, Indore and St. Joseph's Home, Palda
Preacher: Fr. Cyril Doss SVD

INE

02 - 07 and 09 - 14 October 2022 at Shanti Bhavan, Jharsuguda

ING

10 - 15 October 2022 (on the theme of Laudato Si) at SVD House, Guwahati
Preacher: Fr. Robert Athickal SJ

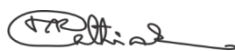
INH

02 - 07 October 2022 at Arnold Bhavan, Habsiguda, Hyderabad
Preacher: Fr. Antony Menezes SVD

MY PROGRAMMES

04 - 05 August	Meeting the Fratres and Meeting of Provincials/Regional, DWS, Pune
08 - 10 August	Provincial Council Meeting, Sarva Vikas Deep, Mangaon
11 August	Disaster Management Think Tank Meeting, Atma Darshan, Andheri

In the Divine Word



Richard Mathias SVD
INM Provincial Superior

'Rooted in the love of the Father and led by the Holy Spirit into the Mission of Christ'

- INM Vision Statement