



NEWS LETTER

Nr. 01 / 25.01.2014

***“Father may they be one in us as you are in me and I am in you,
so that the world may believe it was you who sent me.” (John: 17: 21).***

The deepest need of every human being is to love and to be loved, to understand and to be understood. This great need was placed by God. Love is the goal of God’s community and it is the motivating force for its growth. A genuine fraternal community is the most impressive witness the modern world can have to the credibility of the Christian message. Fraternal community is truly a living presence of Christ; it is a revelation of Christ to the world. *“Sometimes our light goes out but it is blown again into flame by an encounter with another human being. Each of us owes the deepest thanks to those who rekindle this inner light”* (Albert Schweitzer).



Our community life is and should be the consequence of the choices we have made. Community is a place of belonging, the rock where we are grounded and in which we find our identity. As a child suffers loneliness and anguish when it feels that it does not belong to anyone or anywhere, so also an individual feels loneliness when s/he realizes that s/he does not belong to anyone or anywhere.

The longer we journey on the road to inner healing and wholeness, the more the sense of belonging grows and deepens. If our community gives us a sense of belonging, it also helps us to accept our aloneness in a personal meeting with God. The danger for some of us today is to think that “I am the center and everyone is there for me”. We must die to this form of destructive egoism and be reborn in love, where we learn to receive and to give. The fundamental attitude to true community, where there is true belonging, is openness: listening to God, to each other, to the world and to other communities.

The intimate bond between the apostolic and religious dimensions of the society ought to find expression in every aspect of our life, our prayer and our work, marking us out as men for mission. Acceptance of one another in charity helps to create an atmosphere favorable to the spiritual progress of each one. This is how we are called to live in the community as brothers and friends in the Lord, united with each other, caring and bearing each other, witnessing the values of Christ.

A fallen leaf cannot climb back to the branch of the tree to its original place and give life, but a new leaf is the sign and hope of life. The year 2013 has been away from us leaving behind us the arguable story of success and failures like a fallen leaf. On the outset of the New Year 2014, blessed with the love and life of new Born Babe of Bethlehem, and the glorious movements of SDS Jubilee around, I earnestly request and pray to all the members to work with a spirit of unity and love of the Lord, following the legacy of our Venerable Founder, embracing the larger community of our neighborhood, with the poor and with those who wants to share our hope in a spirit of reconciliation and healing. I conclude, taking this occasion, to thank the outgoing vicariate council, for their dedicated service (2010-2013) on behalf of the SDS community. Let me conclude by quoting the words of Mother Teresa:

"To keep a lamp burning; we have to keep putting oil in it."

**Fr. Sunil Thomas SDS
Vicariate Superior**

Vicariate Leadership

With the deliberative vote of his council and under the terms of the Vicariate Statutes 702, Fr. Milton Zonta SDS has appointed the following to the leadership of the Indian Mission Vicariate for a three-year term of office, effective from December 8, 2013:

Vicariate Superior: Fr. Sunil Thomas
Vicar: Fr. A. Alexis
Secretary : Fr. James Thapa
Treasurer: Fr. Vimal Raj



Ordination to Priesthood

Congratulations to the following members who were ordained to the priesthood:

- On December 28, 2013 **Johnson Vinod Kumar** was ordained by **Most Rev. Araulappan Amalraj**, the bishop of Ootacamund in his home parish.
- On January 05, 2014 **Probestar Nongsiej** was ordained by **Most Rev. Victor Lyngdoh**, the bishop of Nongstoin in his home parish.
- On January 10, 2014 **Lalit Kerketta** was ordained by **Most Rev. Jojo Anand**, the bishop of Hazaribagh in his home parish.
- On January 15, 2014 **Stephen Louis** was ordained by **Most Rev. Thomas Aquinas** the bishop of Coimbatore in his home parish.



Appointments

The members are placed in the following communities with their respective responsibilities effective from February 2, 2014 until it is revoked.

1. BANGALORE

Fr. Sunil Thomas	– Vicariate Superior
Fr. James Thapa	– Vicariate Secretary, Local Coordinator, Formator
Fr. Vimal Raj	– Vicariate Treasurer, Local Administrator
Fr. Joseph K. J.	– Novice Master
Fr. Paul Raj	– Parish Priest in Chingleput Diocese
Fr. Johnson Vinod Kumar	– Pastoral Ministry in Kottar Diocese
Fr. Stephen Louis	– Pastoral Ministry in Ootacamund Diocese

2. WARANGAL

Fr. A. Alexis	– Vicar Superior, Local Coordinator, Formator
Fr. Rosario Chinnappan	– Local Administrator

3. RANCHI

Fr. Rajesh Toppo – Local Coordinator, Parish Priest
Fr. Lijo P. Joseph – Principal (Divine Saviour School)
Fr. Lalit – Assistant Parish Priest, Local Administrator

4. NAGAON, TOKOBARI, DHING

Fr. Benny V. S. – Superior, Principal – CJS - SEBA
Fr. B. Chinnaiah – Local Administrator
Fr. G. K. Prakash – Member
Fr. Philip Pukkurayil – Parish Priest, Local Administrator at Tokobari
Fr. Stephen Raj – Formator, Vice-Principal CJS-CBSE
Fr. Varaprasad Rao – Principal – CJS Dhing
Fr. U. Selvaraj – Local Administrator – CJS Dhing

5. SHILLONG – LAITKINSEW

Fr. Peter Nengnong – Superior, Formator
Fr. S. Selvanathan – Local Administrator

Fr. Noble George – Parish Priest
Fr. Probestar Nongsiej – Assistant Parish Priest, Local Administrator

6. SRI LANKA

Since Sri Lanka being a different country within the Vicariate, for the sake of effectiveness in the administrative matters, the following members are appointed as the contact person to Vicariate administration.

Fr. Prabu Jesus Michael Rajah – Coordinator
Fr. Patrick Damienraj Peries – Treasurer

CHILAW

Fr. Prabu Jesus Michael Rajah – Local Coordinator, Formator
Fr. Patrick Damienraj Peries – Local Administrator, In-Charge of St. Bernadette Church.

JAFFNA

Fr. Thomas Runggaldier – Local Coordinator
Fr. Jesurajan Lambert Juliu – Formator, Local Administrator, Vocation Promoter

Other Appointments

Director Formation: Fr. A. Alexis

Justice and Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC): Fr. James Thapa

Commissions

- The Council appointed the Formation Commission and Finance Commission. The Formation Commission oversees the vocation promotion, initial and ongoing-formation.
- The finance commission takes care of the construction, finance and projects.
- The formation commission will meet twice a year (March and July).
- The finance commission will meet twice a year (February and October).

- As per the above plan the president of the commissions will have to convoke the meeting in a convenient location, and make arrangements for the meeting including the travel plan in collaboration with Vicariate Treasurer. A tentative agenda be circulated to the concerned members or communities for anticipated discussion and decision.

Formation Commission

The following members are appointed as the members of the formation commission:

Fr. A. Alexis – President (Director of Formation)

Fr. Joseph K. J.

Fr. James Thapa

Fr. Peter Nengnong

Fr. Stephen Raj

Fr. Jesurajan Lambert Juliu

Finance Commission

The following members are appointed as the members of the finance commission:

Fr. Joseph K. J. – President

Fr. Vimal Raj

Fr. Rosario Chinnappan

Fr. B. Chinnaiah

Fr. Philip Pukkurayil

Fr. S. Selvanathan

Fr. Lalit Kerketta

Fr. U. Selvaraj

Fr. Probestar Nongsiej

Fr. Patrick Damienraj Peries

Vocation Promoters

Tamil Nadu:

Fr. Johnson Vinod Kumar

Kerala:

Fr. Joseph K. J.

Karnataka:

Fr. Vimal Raj

Andhra Pradesh:

Fr. A. Alexis

Bihar, Jharkhand & MP:

Fr. Lalit Kerketta

Orissa, West Bengal & Chhattisgarh:

Fr. Rajesh Toppo

Assam, Arunachal Pradesh & Nagaland:

Fr. James Thapa

Meghalaya, Mizoram & Manipur:

Fr. Probestar Nongsiej

Sri Lanka:

Fr. Jesurajan Lambert Juliu

Continental Meeting

The XVIII General Chapter decided to organize continental meetings for the different continents of the of the SDS units as a preparation for the General Synod. Meeting for Asia and Oceania will be held in Philippines from 20 – 27 March 2014. In view of this Generalate has asked the participation of the Vicariate Superior together with two of his councilors and Fr. Prabu from

Sri Lanka. Hence, Fr. Sunil Thomas, Fr. Alexis, Fr. James Thapa and Fr. Prabu Jesus Michael Rajah will participate in this meeting.

Mission Procurators' Meeting

Fr. Vimal Raj will participate in the mission procurators meeting from 10 – 12 March 2014 which will be held at the Mother House in Rome.

Silver Jubilee

It is a moment of great joy for us as we prepare to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of the return of the Salvatorians to India. In consultation with Generalate the Vicariate administration has decided to organize a simple celebration to mark this occasion and thank God for the graces received.

The opening of the Jubilee will be held in Bangalore as an internal celebration limited only to the Salvatorian Family on June 16, 2014.

The closing of the Jubilee will be held in Shillong as we commemorate the death anniversary of Fr. Otto in August 2015.

It is very significant for Salvatorians because of the following historical events. In the year 2014, it will be 170 years since the birth of Fr. Otto (1844). It will also be 25 years since the return of Salvatorians to India (1989). And in the year 2015, it will be 125 years ago Fr. Otto died, it will be 125 years ago the Catholic Church in Northeast India was initiated (1890), it will be 100 years ago the Salvatorians had to leave India (1915).

The detailed plan will be worked out during the next council meeting.

Council Meeting

The next council meeting will be held in Jordan Philosophy Study House, Warangal from 4 – 5 March 2014. Formators are requested to send all the reports and applications for First Profession, Renewal, Final Profession and general promotion of the students in initial formation before February 25, 2014.

News Letter

The News Letter will be published 4 times in a year. In order to provide materials for our newsletter, the Local Coordinators are requested to send by email the important events and photos of the community in the second half of March, June, September and December of every year to the Vicariate Secretary and a copy of the same to the Vicariate Superior. Constructive suggestions are most welcome to make our newsletter more effective and fruitful.

Prayers Requests

- For the completion of the beatification process of our Venerable Founder.
- Vocations to the Society
- For the Benefactors
- For the deceased members
- For the SDS Continental and Mission Procurators meeting
- For the Silver Jubilee