



The Season of Advent is both a gift and a call from our Holy Mother Church. Every year the season of Advent helps us to “Re-encounter God, who stoops down to be one of us.” Christianity is the only Religion where we find a God who comes in search of human beings to their place of living. After four weeks of intense preparations, we enter into the mood of Christmas. It is a festival of life. It is a celebration of God’s love for humanity. Christmas is the eternal story of God made man, the story of the infinity in the divinity in the birth of a babe and the unraveling of a divine mystery. The greatest gift of Christmas is Christ Himself.



The Bible calls Him, “THE UNSPEAKABLE GIFT” and “IMMANUEL”- God with us. The greatest gift we can give to the people whom we love is our presence, time, positive energy and inner peace. The spirit of Christmas is all about finding Jesus and being in communion with God and one another. Therefore it is more important to give than receive, to be more generous in our relationships rather than to withdraw, to serve than to be served.

Today we live amidst a rapidly changing world. Scientific and technological progress has empowered every sphere of human life. Each of us in one way or the other is influenced and carried away by the currents of commercialism. Unfortunately, all that glitters may seem to be gold to some of us. Each time when we celebrate Christmas, it should unveil the truth of the great mystery of God’s love for humanity.

How do we celebrate the birth of Jesus? It is an important question that we need to ask ourselves. If we really desire Jesus to be born in us, then His Incarnation will make us to be like him in our life and mission. As we celebrate this significant event of the Church, What is our responsibility in the broken world of today? Is Christmas, a feast of hope to the despair, justice to the oppressed, bread to the hungry, shelter to the wanderer, unity to the dispersed and trust to the faithless?

No one can deny that celebration is intrinsically related to life and gives life. Therefore “**Christmas is a celebration of life.**” God is not above, beyond or before us but He is with us and one among us. We have to recognize His presence as the shepherds recognized Him. He is in the poor and the suffering, which we tend to ignore. He is in our neighbor, whom we don’t care to notice. The spirit of Christmas invites us once again to reach out to the poor, the lonely, the rejected and the downtrodden. It calls us to be like Jesus to one another.

Christmas is our principle feast because on this day we celebrate the birth of the Divine Saviour, after whom our Society is named. Therefore as Salvatorians, it is our prime duty to make known the Divine Saviour to all people. The message of Christmas is very clear that God who shared his life with us is inviting each of us to share our life with one another.

Let us find time during this Christmas season to be together so that we can look into the faces of those with whom we live and express our peace, joy and love thus become active heralds of the coming of God’s kingdom

I together with Vicariate Superior and Council Members wish you all  
**A HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A JOYFUL NEW YEAR 2015**

**Fr. S. A. Vimal Raj SDS**  
**Vicariate Treasurer**

**VISITATION REPORT 2014**

**“Live by faith and act by faith! It will make you happy and content and will enable the Society to do great things”** Fr. Francis Jordan.

Pope Francis opened the Year of Consecrated Life on Nov 30, 2014 in Rome. At the opening of the Year for Consecrated Life, Pope Francis issued a challenge to consecrated men and women, inviting them to lives of courage, communion and to the joy. Therefore it is indeed a joy to make the visitation to the communities during this time to build together a community life which is joyful and meaningful.

The Vicariate Council visited all the Salvatorian communities in India and Sri Lanka from Nov 18<sup>th</sup> - Dec 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014. We were cordially welcomed in every community. As it had been arranged, we met and had talks with Fathers, Brothers, Novices, Candidates and Aspirants, Salvatorian sisters, and those who are associated with our missions. Generally, we could observe positive signs of growth and improvement in all the aspects namely: Vocation promotion, Formation, Apostolate, Finance, Community and Spiritual life. However we feel that we can better foster and progress in building up fraternal community and exemplary religious life which will strengthen the community spirit among the members for further growth and maturity to live out our Salvatorian call.

**Vocation promotion**

Vocation to the Society is a blessing. It is appreciable that most the members are promoting vocations from their local regions. It is recommended that as far as possible students should be recruited after class-XII, following the vocation promotion policies. However, we can also recruit students, who have completed class- X. The vocation promoters of different states have to visit and building up a cordial relationship with the parents of the students before recruiting them to the Society.

**Formation**

It is said that **“Formation is the cradle of religious life.”** We are generally happy with the formation given to the students and the way it is taken care by each formators according to their capacities and especially through their life witness. It is a sign of positive growth in personal and community level. Some expressed the difficulty that formation is a challenging apostolate. It is indeed a difficult task. However, we are called to build up solid and quality formation on the basis of the formation guidelines, which emphasizes on Human, Spiritual, Intellectual, Psychological, Pastoral and Salvatorian formation. Emphasis has to be specially given to build a sense of belonging and community spirit within the formation houses. The formator must be present in the house, must be punctually present for community activities and must have personal conferences on a regular basis with each formandi. English as the common language has to be strictly maintained in the communities, which will contribute towards a better community life and universality of our Society. Appreciation and timely corrections need to be given accordingly in every stage of formation.

Ongoing formation is an important part of maturation process, especially in our spiritual life and relationship with God. Formation does not end with final vows, ordination or after five years of ordination: formation is a lifelong process, and every member needs to pay attention to it.

**Community life**

It is noticed that generally members respect and care for each another in the communities. Members contribute toward the smooth functioning of the community life by properly carrying out their responsibilities. Nevertheless, communities can be more vibrant, when we foster mutual trust, dialogue, understanding and communication. It was noticed that there is a lack of proper communication among the members. Every member has to give due attention to it and this aspect has to be taken care off.

### **Finance**

Finance is the part and parcel of the every community activity. We noticed that all the communities are doing their best to have a proper accounting system according to the laws of the government and the Society. We strongly feel that we need to utilize our local income for the development of the missions. For the better accountability, transparency and smooth functioning of the financial administration, reliable bookkeeping system based on established accounting principles has to be maintained and the financial report is to be sent to the concerned person on regular basis, i.e., monthly. It is also of paramount importance to implement the projects as accurately as possible therefore each project has to be properly planned and executed. Administrators are requested to upgrade the knowledge of financial administration to discharge their responsibility effectively and fruitfully.

### **Pastoral Ministry**

Generally all are actively taking part in the pastoral ministry, which is assigned to them. Members expressed that we can carry out the apostolates more effectively and build up healthy community living if we work in mutual understanding and cooperation. Some members also expressed the need to establish and open new missions in other parts of the country.

### **New Developments**

#### **Bangalore**

- Land conversion of a portion of the agricultural land is being carried out.
- Madhur land sale agreement is signed by both the parties

#### **Ranchi**

- The remaining works of the residential building is completed. The building has now more space and better facilities for the community.
- A temporary structure for the church is upgraded with tin roof, new altar and other facilities

#### **Shillong**

- The construction of the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Study House is completed.
- The renovation of the first floor of the Study House is underway.
- The possibility of opening a vocation training centre at the old house is in the process.
- We are in the final stage of entrusting the WISE, Shillong to conduct a baseline survey at Umroi land to study and finalize the possibility of opening a new mission.
- Cl. Jitender Tirkey left the society due to health reason.

#### **Nagaon**

- Few more class rooms are added to the School and it will be ready for the use by the coming academic year.

#### **Dhing**

- The construction of a new wing of the school building with few class rooms and a multipurpose hall is progressing.
- DPMT Sisters have accepted our invitation to open a community in the campus and extend their service to the school

#### **Tokobari**

- Salvatorian sisters are offered land for the construction of formation house.
- A Portion of the land is given to The Archdiocese of Guwahati. They are in the process of opening a major seminary (Philosophy).

#### **Laitkynsew**

- Construction of the English medium school cum community center is nearly completed, which will be blessed on February 1, 2015.
- Renovation of the church, modification of the altar and the sanctuary is completed and the re-dedication of the newly renovated church will take place on February 1, 2015.

- Few more rooms are added to the presbytery to accommodate more guests and visitors.

### **Chullikkara**

- The proposal to shift the Spiritual Orientation from Warangal Philosophy House is approved. The preparation to construct a new building for the seminary is going on.

### **Chilaw**

- Construction of the house is at the final stage

### **Jaffna**

- The required minor renovation for the house and furniture is completed and the house is now in a better shape.

### **Recommendations**

1. Vocation Promotion has to be given proper care and importance. Vocation promoters should visit and observe the family background of each student before recruiting them to the Society. It is also their responsibility to make sure that the students have proper documents and meet all the requirements laid down by the formation program.
2. Formants have to be regularly accompanied in all areas of their life such as: Human, Spiritual, Intellectual, Psychological, Pastoral and Salvatorian aspects of formation. The formators have to make all efforts to impart holistic and integrated formation to the students. The uniqueness of every member need to be respected.
3. Communities need to foster mutual respect, trust, dialogue and communication with one another irrespective of the diverse ministries and others differences.
4. Pastoral ministry, spiritual life and the community timetable should not be neglected or compromised in the pretext of work, ministry or laziness.
5. For better accountability and transparency, proper bookkeeping system has to be maintained and the financial reports have to be sent to the Unit treasurer on regular basis without any failure.
6. The members who expressed their desire to pursue higher studies have to plan the particular study, duration, place and fiancé and write a petition to the Vicariate leadership by December every year.

### **Conclusion**

We wholeheartedly thank all the members for their cordial welcome and hospitality during the visitation. We gratefully acknowledge the availability, sharing, mutual dialogue and openness. We also thank all the members for the cooperation, support and prayers towards the growth of the Indian Mission Vicariate.

As we are in the season of Christmas and ready to welcome another new year in our life, May the Child Jesus help us to be deeply rooted in our personal communion with God and live our religious commitment more joyfully in the years to come. We invoke upon all the members the choicest blessings of Child Jesus. May this present year end on a happy note and make way for a fresh, bright and prosperous New Year – 2015

*Magna Humilitas* – Great Humility  
*Oratio Continua* – Ceaseless Prayer  
*Magna Activitas* – Great Activity  
(Fr. Jordan)

**A Happy Christmas and a Bright New Year 2015!!!**