



Dear confreres, novices and candidates of the Indian Mission Vicariate!

I am very happy to address a few words to you, especially on this day, February 2, which is celebrated as the day of Consecrated Life in the Catholic Church worldwide. We, Salvatorians, are first and foremost, committed in the Society of the Divine Saviour, belonging to a community, called to serve the people who are in need in an apostolic way. I wish that we may continue to grow as Salvatorians, especially in our expansion of missions, e.g. the Indian Mission Vicariate in our commitment, service and witness.



The past months have been very important for our growing Vicariate. First of all we had the closing of the Missionary Year of our entire Salvatorian Family and the Silver Jubilee of Society's presence in India. Very beautiful and meaningful celebrations were organized all over the world and most importantly "a consciousness of our Salvatorian Call and Mission" is deepened in each one of us.

Secondly, our Vicariate was blessed with the ordination of five new priests: four in India and one in Sri Lanka. I am sure that elsewhere in the newsletter you will find some information about this joyful event of the Vicariate. Congratulations to our members who have opted for being ordained ministers in God's Church. I also thank you for your availability and willingness to go wherever you will be sent by the Vicariate to serve as best as you can. May God bless you and the apostolates in which you will be involved in future!

Thirdly, the Vicariate was strongly represented on January 1, 2016 at Chilaw in Sri Lanka, when the local Bishop, His Lordship Warnakulasurya Wadumestrige Devasritha Valence Mendis and our General Superior Fr. Milton Zonta, in the presence of the General Mission Secretary, Fr. Agustín Van Baelen, the Vicariate Superior, Fr. Sunil Thomas, blessed and inaugurated the Father Francis Jordan formation house. Many people, religious and lay, came to share in this historical event of our Indian Mission Vicariate. It gives me a great hope and joy to see how developments are taking place in both communities: Chilaw and Jaffna and I feel that it is the right moment to say thank you to our Salvatorian confreres, especially to Fr. Prabu Jesus Michael Rajah, the local coordinator, who has left no stone unturned to complete this humble and very beautiful formation house with the financial help of the Society and generous benefactors. I invite all of you to keep in your prayers our candidates who will undergo formation in this new formation house. At present we have 30 candidates in different stages of formation in Sri Lanka. A few months ago Fr. Vinothan Francis Mudiappu Culas was ordained. Two candidates will go for Philosophical studies to the East Asian Mission Vicariate, together with Fr. Jesurajan Lambert Julio (Fr. Theeban), who will be helping in the formation house at Talon, Philippines. Three other candidates will go to Carmelaram, India, to learn English. There are many developments taking place in the Vicariate for which we are grateful and these are the direct results of deep commitment and collaboration of our confreres at international level. The more we are open to collaborate, the better results we will receive. Let us think globally and act locally!

Fourthly, soon after the inauguration of the Fr. Francis Jordan Formation House at Chilaw, we started the very well prepared Chapter of the Indian Mission Vicariate in Kandy. It was the second Vicariate Chapter. We were 10 confreres: 7 from India, 1 from Sri Lanka and 2 from the Generalate, Rome. Two dimensions characterized the Chapter: maturity and fraternity. The chapter showed us clearly that we are on the right path. The past two years were evaluated and new projects for the future were proposed to the Generalate for approval as well as adaptations of the Statutes and the Formation Program. In this frame, the General Superior, after consulting the professed members of the Vicariate and with the deliberative vote of his Council, has reappointed Fr. Sunil Thomas Kashamkattil as the Superior of the Vicariate for the next term of office, from February 2, 2016 until February 1, 2019. His Council members will be Fr. A. Alexis (Vicar), Fr. James Thapa (Consultor) and Fr. Vinoy Thottakkara (Consultor and Secretary). Fr. S. Amal Vimal Raj was reappointed as the Vicariate Treasurer. We are very grateful that these confreres have agreed to take up this important task of service in the Vicariate and we wish them God's blessing in their ministry of leadership.

I would also like to describe in brief some projects which are taking place in full swing in the Indian Mission Vicariate: the construction of the formation house in Chullikara, the start of the new mission in Nongba, the study regarding the opening of a new mission in Tamil Nadu, constructions in Dhing and Nagaon, etc. I suppose they will be well illustrated elsewhere in the Newsletter. However, I would like to bring, especially, the two new developments to your kind attention. In dialogue with the Superior of the Vicariate, the Generalate, the Belgian Province and of course the directly involved confrere, our newly ordained Fr. Kumar Irudayasamy, who has made himself available to work for the Mission anywhere in the Society; therefore, the Indian Mission Vicariate will send Fr. Kumar to Surinam, South America, to help in our Salvatorian Mission over there. We are still in the stage of preparation and necessary arrangement, and if there is more information, you will be intimated. The Generalate has also asked Fr. Varapasada Rao Gujjala Vyakula to serve the next three years in New Manila, Philippines, as the Rector of Scholastics. He will also be doing his doctorate during this time. Until now Fr. Vinoy Thottakkara has been rendering his valuable services in that place and we are very grateful for that. We are very happy with Fr. Kumar, Fr. Theeban, Fr. Varapasada Rao and the entire Indian Mission Vicariate for their missionary zeal and spirit, availability and service.

Dear confreres, once again I wish you a great celebration of the Day of Consecrated Life, which concludes a whole year, which was dedicated to us, religious men and women, committed to follow and to announce the Goodness and Kindness of God, revealed in a unique and definite way in Jesus the Saviour!

May the God of Mercy bless us all!

Fr. Agustín Van Baelen, SDS
General Mission Secretary

Second Indian Mission Vicariate Chapter

The second Indian Mission Vicariate Chapter (IMV) was held in Kandy – Sri Lanka from 3 – 7 January 2016. Very Rev. Fr. Milton Zonta SDS, the Superior General and Rev. Fr. Agustin Van Baelen SDS, the General Mission Secretary were present in the Chapter. The ex-officio members were Frs. Sunil Thomas, A. Alexis, James Thapa and S. A. Vimal Raj; while Frs. Varaprasada Rao, Johnson V. Kumar, Prabu J. Michael Rajah and Lalit Kerketta were the elected members of the Chapter from among the perpetually professed members. Cl. A. Soosai Raj was also elected from among the temporary professed members but he could not participate due to unavoidable reason.



The theme of the Chapter was “Together for Mission”. With a spirit of dialogue and sharing, and in an ambient discussion giving more thrust on implementation of vision and mission of the Society in the Church, the Chapter has deliberated and taken the foremost decisions, ordinances, and recommendations for the growth of the IMV reflecting and touching all the aspects of religious life, especially: vocation promotion, initial and continuing formation, spiritual and community living, priorities and long range plan for the development of the Vicariate 2016-2019, pastoral thrust through apostolate and expansion.

Hope and pray that in the coming years the IMV may witness more and more steady and vibrant growth!

Priestly Ordination in IMV

Congratulations to our dear confreres who were recently ordained as priests:

- Dn. Vinothan Francis Mudiappu Culas in Mannar, Sri Lanka by Most Rev. Noel Emmanuel, Bishop of Trincomalee on October 31, 2015.
- Dn. Arockiasamy Kanikia in Peria Averipalli, Tamil Nadu by Most Rev. Lawrence Pius on December 29, 2015.
- Dn. Kumar Irudayasamy in Kummangulam, Tamil Nadu by Most Rev. Jabamalai Susaimanickam, Bishop of Sivagangai on January 9, 2016.
- Dn. Ashok Reddy in Guntur by Most Rev. Gali Bali, Bishop of Gunturon January 14, 2016.
- Dn. Lessmon Nongtudu will be ordained in Khliehriat, Meghalaya by Most Rev. Thomas Menampampil SDB, Apostolic Administrator of Jowai on February 7, 2016.

May God bless them with His choicest blessings and make them effective ministers in His vineyard!

Finance Commission Meeting

The Finance Commission meeting was organized on October 12-13, 2015 at Carmelaram, Bangalore. The Commission meeting discussed and highlighted several issues concerning the budget evaluation with its trail balance, implementation of projects and the approved budget as precisely as possible, settling the financial issues with FCRA and renewal of the Society as early as possible, implementation and utility of Jordan Trust charity and regular internal auditing etc.

Formation Commission Meeting

The Formation Commission meeting was held at Carmelaram, Bangalore on December 13-14, 2015. On the first day there was a workshop on vocation promotion and formation animated by Rev. Fr. Jose D. Malliekal SDB from Warangal, Telangana. The Formation Commission meeting began the following day wherein a discussion and review was there on the formation program at length. The meeting also suggested several proposals to be added in the existing formation program policies. It also highlighted that vocation promotion to be taken with utmost care and vigor to promote vocations to the Society, and the initial and continuing formation to be taken with seriousness and enthusiasm.

New Finance Commission Members

The Superior General has appointed the following members as the finance commission of the Indian Mission Vicariate for a three-year term beginning on February 2, 2016.

President: Fr. Joseph Kannampambil

Members: Fr. Chinnaiah Bellamkonda
Fr. Lait Kerketta
Fr. Noble George
Fr. Selvanathan Soosai

Visit of Director of Formation

A very warm welcome was extended to Rev Fr. Heribert Kerschgens SDS, the Director of Formation for the Society, who visited the formation houses of IMV from 16-31 January 2016. During his stay in different formation houses he met all the formators and students in formation, and had a personal talk and dialogue with them all. His visit was really appreciable, which has reflected the very concern of having and strengthening promotion and formation in accordance with the spirit of the Society.



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CJS Dhing

The extension of the new classroom building is completed and started to use the classrooms from this academic year 2016.

New Building at CJS-SEBA

The foundation stone for a new classroom building at CJS-SEBA, Nagaon was blessed by Fr. Sunil Thomas SDS, the Vicariate Superior on January 30, 2016. Many Salvatorian Fathers, brothers, sisters, teachers and students witnessed this event. We wish the Nagaon community all the best!

Inauguration and Blessing of Fr. Jordan Formation House

The first Salvatorian Formation House named “**Fr. Jordan Formation House**” in Chilaw, Sri Lanka was blessed by Most Rev. Valence Mendis, Bishop of Chilaw and inaugurated by Very Rev. Fr. Milton Zonta SDS, Superior General, on January 1, 2016 in the presence of Rev. Fr. Agustin Van Baelen SDS, Mission Secretary, Rev. Fr. Sunil Thomas SDS, Vicariate Superior and the community. Some Salvatorian Fathers from India and Fathers, Brothers and Sisters both from Salvatorian and other religious congregations from the neighboring communities were present. This historical event was graced and witnessed by some dignitaries and sizable number of faithful.



Higher Studies

Fr. Stephen Louis will do doctorate in Philosophy at Gregorian University in Rome. He will begin his studies in the month of July 2016. We wish him all the best!

Congratulations to dear confreres for having completed their studies successfully:

- Fr. Joseph Kannamparambil - MA in Public Administration
- Fr. Noble George - MA in Sociology
- Fr. Vinoy Joseph - Courses on Guidance and Counseling
- Fr. James Thapa - B. Ed.
- Fr. A. Alexis - B. Ed.

Prayer Requests

- Beatification of our Venerable Founder.
- Vocations to the Society
- Deceased members
- Benefactors

Special Note

The Superiors/Local coordinators are requested to make the copies of the newsletter available in the community space. Suggestions are most welcome to make our newsletter more effective and fruitful.