



NEWSLETTER

INDIAN MISSION VICARIATE

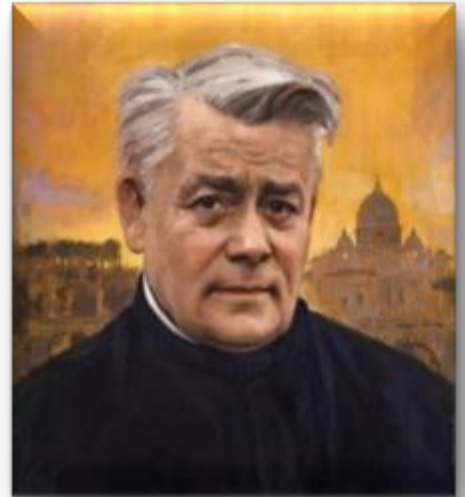
Vicariate Newsletter

#V/02/08.09.2022

INTRODUCTION

We have a vocation which we cannot live up to without much prayer. First of all, our own sanctification demands it. If even in the world one stands in need of prayer, how much more do we stand in need of it, who have such a sublime vocation. We need prayer especially in order that we may have sufficient light, in order that we, subject to obedience though we are, may not mistake darkness for light. Many a one thinks that he has already arrived at the goal and knows not that he is standing at the brink of an abyss into which he may plunge headlong. You have many enemies, who are plotting your fall. How will you ward off all these attacks if you do not turn to Him who knows the enemies and is able to bring them to naught? We are the salt of the earth, the light of the world. Therefore, we stand in need of prayer in order to carry out our apostolate, lest we become tinkling cymbals (1 Cor. 13:1). Of what avail will it be if we are not men of prayer? What will we accomplish? Nothing!!”

(Exhortations and Admonitions of Blessed Francis Mary of the Cross Jordan).



VOCATION COMMISSION

Prior to promoting the candidates into the Society, the Vocation Commission under the able directorship of Fr. Lalit Kerketta, organized an online meeting on 12th May 2022. Present for the meeting were the 10 regional vocation promoters. In his introductory address, Fr. Lalit Kerketta, the Director of the Commission underlined the importance of the vocation promotion as a mission of prime importance of the IVM. There was an interactive meet wherein the regional vocation promoters shared their anxieties, challenges, concerns and expectations with the members of the Commission. The meeting concluded with half an hour presentation by Fr. Lessmon Nongtdu, the Director of Formation on the Criterion of the Selection of Candidates and Psychological fitness.



FORMATION

Aspirants (2022-2023)

The Aspirants for the year 2022-2023 have arrived are 32 (in Bangalore they are 21 and in Tokobari 11). They are being initiated into religious and community life and they will officially be accepted on 08 Sep. 2022. We wish and pray for them that they may learn and do well to be good Salvatorians and religious.



Bagalore: 21



Tokabari: 11

Candidature (Spiritual Orientation)

There are six candidates for this formation program for the AY 2022-23 at St. Joseph Minor Seminary in Chullikkara. The official entry into this stage of formation was held on 21st August 2022. The community was indeed privileged to have Rev. Fr. Krzysztof Gasperowicz, the General Secretary for Formation who received the students into candidature in the gracious presence of Fr. Sunil Thomas, the General Consultor and Fr. Alex, the IMV Superior. Three candidates arrived from the community of Tokobari and the other three of them, due to covid 19, arrived from home as they completed their PUC from home itself.



VISIT OF FR. KRZYSZTOF GASPEROWICZ SDS

Fr. Krzysztof Gasperowicz SDS, The General Secretary for Formation made a fruitful visit to the Indian Mission Vicariate from **01st to 25th August 2022**. His primary intention was to visit the formation houses and have an interactive session with the students and formators. He was accompanied by Fr. Alex, the Vicariate Superior in order to enhance and make his visit an enriching and memorable one. He enjoyed the warm welcome and hospitality of every community and its members. Nonetheless, we extend our heartfelt appreciation and gratitude for his goodwill and enthusiasm to visit the communities and especially the formation communities in

which he has inspired the formators and formadees with his insights and knowledge on the formations to be future missionaries and efficient Salvatorians.

FR. KRZYSZTOF GASPEROWICZ SDS, speaks his heart out

Dear Brothers

I've been asked to write a few words of my experience of Indian Mission Vicariate. Especially on the impression concerning the formation: initial and ongoing. At the beginning I would like to thank all our brothers with whom I had opportunity to meet: some of you I had already met before however most of you I met the first time. A big thanks for the leaders of the Indian Missionary Vicariate for organizing my trip. Especially I am really grateful to Fr. Alex who helped me along my journey from North to South of India. What comes to my mind at once are two things: a big valuable Salvatorian tradition in the young unit.

A big Salvatorian tradition which I can breathe in the region of Assam and Meghalaya thanks



to our first missionaries sent by our founder Blessed Francis Jordan. It was inspiring to talk to some people who keep the memory of Fr. Otto Hopfenmüller, F. Thaddaeus or Sr. Brigitta. There were our missionary pioneers who worked in unity with our Funder who discerned the signs of that time in the Church. In this regard I think that this tradition and the spirit with which they came to India leaving their security and comfort space working in unity of the Society we all have to constantly tickle in our formation. In unity with our General we have to discern what Holy Spirit talks to us.

In the young unit I observed the eagerness and a lot of new ideas for the future apostolates. There is constant look for a better. It comes to my mind the words of our Founder: “*At the major glory of God and the salvation of souls*”. This spirit is needed to begin new initiatives and apostolates, however we have to discern properly that we do not loose from our eyes our constitutive religious dimensions: spiritual (also the charismatic), community and apostolates.

Adding something more specifically to the context of the initial formation, I would like to stress the seriousness and responsibility of formators. These elements I could observe in all our formators houses. In spite of lack the professional preparation (this element could be improved) our formators were all the time close to formandi ready to assist and to help. However, being the young unit, I will suggest to especially put into consideration three elements: **human formation** (I intend: the presence of the psychological evaluation, psychological workshops, cancelling and more approach of formators as brothers), **spiritual and charismatic dimension** (I intend: to make our formandi to understand the “grammar” of spiritual life, talk more about the life and experience of our Founder in order to make Him as a model to follow Jesus. In this regard the new program of Ratio will be a very good help) and the international dimension (I intend: to participate more in the international formation, to talk and to form people not for IMV

but for the spirit of the Society.

I know that you participate in the international novitiate and I am aware how is difficult for novices to get visa and on the same time to pass exam. Perhaps we can change prospective and to have further longer study in the international level of our brothers.

To sum up I would like to express my gratitude of any good word, suggestions, talk and conversation which I had with some of you. I am convinced that the Indian Mission Vicariate can offer a lot for our Society especially in regard to big tradition and young spirit. Many thanks and see you next time.

BLESSING OF THE RENOVATED NOVICIATE



This is a brief report on the renovation of the Novitiate house in India. On the 16th of June 2016 the last batch of the novices made their profession here in India. With the decision of the General Chapter to create a common novitiate formation for South East Asia candidates at Manila, the novitiate house was left unused for more than six years. In the course of time nature starts to deplete and erodes the building. With the advance of covid 19, restriction in travelling was imposed around the world and this hampered our students from reaching Manila for the novitiate. Hence exemption was granted by the Generalate for the Indian Mission to have the novitiate for two years, that's' from June 2021- to July

2023. To restart the novitiate formation, there was a need to renovate and refurnish the house again. The work of renovation started on the first week of July 2022 and completed on the last week of August.

The renovation work consists of furnishing the chapel, rooms, toilets, refectory, kitchen, painting, plumbing, electrification, the surrounding of the house, and the major work was the construction of the new septic tank, as the old one is unusable. It was blessed and reopened by the International Director of Formation Rev. Fr. Krzysztof Gasperowicz SDS On the 24th of August 2022 in the presence of Fr. Alex SDS the Vicariate Superior, Fr. BK. Chinniah SDS the Vicariate Treasurer and the community.

The IMV extends a heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to the community and for everyone for the assistance and valuable support.

ENTRY INTO NOVITIATE (2022-2023)

After the completion of their philosophical studies from Warrangal, four brothers namely, **Rahul Surin, Justin Toppo, Kebius Nongkynrih and Thambi Yadla** entered into Novitiate in the hands of Fr. Chinnaiyah Bellamkonda SDS on 20th July 2022 in Bangalore. We wish God's abundant blessing upon the novice master Fr. Peter K Nengnong and the four novices, so that the year of Novitiate may be for them an opportunity of meeting Christ who has called them to the Salvatorian way of life according to the charism of our Founder Blessed Francis Jordan.



FORMATION COLLABORATION



On 9th June 2022, Fr. Vinoy Joseph SDS travelled to Manila to assist in the International Novitiate Program as a Novice Master. The entry of the novices to the Novitiate took place on 16th June 2022. Fr. Vinoy Joseph has with him eight novices from four different countries. We wish God's blessing upon his new ministry as he leads the novices to grow in the spirit and charism of our Founder Blessed Francis Jordan.

FIRST AND PERPETUAL PROFESSION

On 16th June 2022, the Birthday of Blessed Francis Jordan, the novices at Bangalore namely, **Abhay Ekka, Naveen Teja Bellamkonda, Tlogi Khongjoh, Firstkyson Lyngdoh, Richard Banjop Pde, Iophiyos Khongsya and Thomas Hau Min Thang Zou** made their First Profession in the Society of the Divine Saviour. The Vicariate Superior, Fr. Alex Aseervatham, received their vows and joyfully accepted them in the Society. Present for the celebration were their parents, siblings, friends and the neighbouring communities. Hearty Congratulations to all our Dear Brothers and wishing God's abundant blessing upon them as they step up



to the next stage of formation.



In addition, the 16th June 2022 was also a significant day for Cl. Niju Josey SDS. It was on this day that he made his **Final Commitment** to the Lord who called him to the Salvatorian way of life. The solemn celebration took place in the chapel of the Fr. Otto Hopfenmüller Formation House at Shillong. Fr. Lessmon Nongtdu SDS, the Indian Mission Vicariate Secretary, who was delegated by the Superior General received his vows. In his homily, Fr. Lessmon Nongtdu SDS highlighted about the sacredness of Religious Life as an invitation to follow Christ more closely. Present for the celebration were his family members, his classmates from Oriens

Theological College, professors, Salvatorian confreres, priests and nuns from neighbouring communities and friends. May God's guiding spirit always accompany the newly perpetually professed and indicate him the way to go to become a real apostle of the Saviour.

DIACONATE ORDINATION

On 22nd June 2022, together with his classmates at Oriens Theological College, Shillong, **Cl. Niju Josey** was ordained to the Sacred Order of Deacon by His Excellency Most Rev. John Thomas Kattrukudiyil, Bishop of Itanagar Diocese. We convey our prayerful support to our **Dear Dn. Niju Josey** that he might keep always the spirit of diaconia in his heart and daily life.



CANONICAL VISITATION



Canonical visit is an important event of the Indian Mission Vicariate. The IMV Superior and his Council, however, made a canonical visit to the communities in North-east India from **29th May-12 June 2022**. Based on the convenient availability of the confreres, the canonical visit was carried forward, during which, the IMV council could meet every individual of the communities and listened to their suggestions, opinions and concerns. In addition, the IMV council also paid a visit to the Belseri Mission at Tezpur and was privileged to have met the

Bishop of Tezpur Diocese, His Grace Most Rev. Michael Akasius Toppo. The bishop expressed his tremendous joy in welcoming the Salvatorians in his Diocese. During the interac-

tion, the bishop was found to be very positive about the presence of the Salvatorians and he looks forward that our mission is established soon.

CELEBRATION: THANKSGIVING YEAR OF BLESSED JORDAN

To mark the closing ceremony of the Year of Thanksgiving in honour of Blessed Francis Jordan, the celebration within the Indian Mission Vicariate was held in two different levels i.e., community and common level. While thanking God for the gift of Blessed Francis Jordan to the Society and the Church, most of the communities, as planned, organized in a community level a meaningful and fruitful celebration on the **21st July 2022** which was the actual closing day.



The celebration in common was organized into two places, namely: Northeast at Shillong Cathedral and South at Villooni Convent. Accordingly, on **24th July 2022**, the closing day celebration in honour of Blessed Francis Jordan was held at the Cathedral of Mary Help of Christians, Shillong. The solemn Eucharistic Celebration was presided over by His Grace Most Rev. Victor Lyngdoh D.D, the Archbishop of Shillong Archdiocese. In his homily, His Grace acknowledged in gratitude to God

through Blessed Francis Jordan for sending missionaries to Northeast India in the year 1890. His Grace, moreover, highlighted the significant contributions of the Salvatorian missionaries to the khasi people in particular through the instrumentality of Fr. Otto Hopfenmuller which now resulting in the tremendous growth of the catholic faith.

The closing ceremony (South India) of the Year of Blessed Francis Jordan was held in Villooni at the Regional community of the Salvatorians Sisters. This celebration was solemnised by Rev. Fr. Sunil Thomas SDS, and many Salvatorian confreres and sisters along with faithful.



Congratulations to the commission members for arranging such a meaningful and witnessing celebrations!

ANNUAL RETREAT

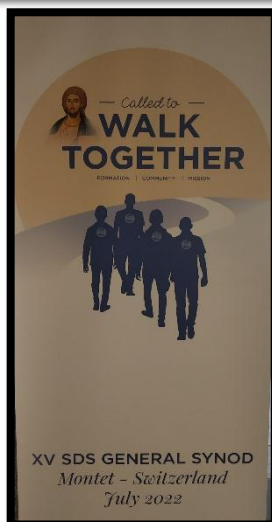
“A retreat is a personal encounter with God through a balance of communal prayer, Inspirational talks, silence and solitude, natural beauty and sacramental grace. This sacred time brings renewal for your body, mind and spirit”.

This year 2022, the annual retreat is arranged into two places, viz.: Northeast at Bethel and Bangalore at Nava Spoorthi Kendra. The retreat at Bethel was held from **25th-29th July 2022**. A big thanks to Fr. Johny Eapen SDB, a biblical scholar and a prominent preacher who intensely shared the word of God with the participants who really felt nourished and enriched by God’ powerful words.



Similarly, the retreat in Bangalore at Nava Spoorthi was held from **02ⁿ -06th August 2022**. The place for the retreat is run by the Redemptorist Fathers. Fr. David CSsr, a redemptorist himself was the preacher. The participants finally expressed their joy as this retreat was truly a unique and enriching experience, during which, they could become more aware of God present in their lives.

SYNOD OF THE SOCIETY OF THE DIVINE SAVIOUR



Dear Salvatorians fraternity,
Greetings of love and prayers in the name of Blessed Francis Jordan!
I am happy indeed, that God gave me a privilege to part take in XV General Synod of the Society of the Divine Saviour on the theme of 'Called to Walk together for Formation, Community and Mission.' I personally esteem this theme which I proudly say that the hub and pivotal of our Founders life, vision, spirituality and mission was on this theme. Therefore, this theme was very well brought out in the Synod with a lot of insights,



intelligence, vision and mission to be planned and executed by every Salvatorian and to become new preachers and missionaries to the new world of realities.

Nevertheless, it is a wakeup call to all of us that the Formation - towards mission, Community - in mission and Mission - in Apostolate would enthuse everyone to put into practice by our belongingness and commitment to the Society and its mission. I hope and pray that all continue to imbibe the love of our Blessed Founder for the Society and do everything possible to teach Christ the Saviour and save souls, as BL Francis Jordan says, '**Love the Society because it is your mother.**'

WARM WELCOME

‘A warm and sincere welcome gives a sense of caring and makes people feel appreciated, as well as making them feel more comfortable and at home’.

On 01st August 2022, Fr. Sunil Thomas SDS, the General Consultor from the IMV was warmly welcomed by the Bangalore community. Undoubtedly, Fr. Sunil Thomas was indeed thrilled to witness that the community has gained the strength with the presence of the young, vibrant and energetic aspirants hailing from different states of the country.



UPDATE ON MEMBERS

- ❖ **Fr. Sebastian Cheeramvelil SDS** is appointed as the member of Bangalore community from 06th August 2022 onwards. He will soon start his doctoral studies in Dharmaram Vidya Kshetram.
- ❖ **Fr. James Thapa SDS** is appointed as the Principal of Christ Jyothi School SEBA, Nagoan. His appointment is effective from 01st October 2022.
- ❖ **Fr. Benny Valiyaveetil SDS** is appointed as the Interim Principal of Christ Jyothi School SEBA, Nagoan. His appointment ends on 30th September 2022.
- ❖ **Dn. Niju Josey SDS** is doing his diaconate ministry at St. Antony's Church, Thayyil, Kannur Dist-670003.

GENTLE REMINDERS ON IMPORTANT AND OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

IMV Team and their responsibilities with new platform for communications:

1. Fr. Alex Aseervatham SDS: Vicariate Superior

- ◆ The Vicariate Superior with his council executes all important matters pertaining to IMV members, missions and obligees (IMV Statutes #712).
- ◆ Email ID: superiorimv@gmail.com

- ◆ WhatsApp Number: 7675907979

2. Fr. Benny Valiyaveettil SDS: Vicar Superior - Education & Pastoral Councilor

- ◆ The Councilor for all information's and communications that pertain to Education & Pastoral ministry of IMV. In this regard members are requested to contact and correspond with Fr. Benny Valiyaveettil SDS.
- ◆ Email ID: vimvpastoraleducational@gmail.com
- ◆ WhatsApp Number: 9188799704

3. Fr. Chinnaiah Bellamkonda SDS: Consultor & Vicariate Treasurer

- ◆ The Councilor for all informations and communications that pertain to Finance and Projects (Constructions & Sofia-India etc...). In this regard members are requested to contact and correspond Fr. BK. Chinnaiah SDS.
- ◆ Email ID: imvtreasurer@gmail.com
- ◆ WhatsApp Number: 9957507050

4. Fr. Lessmon Nongtdu SDS: Consultor and Secretary

- ◆ The Councilor for all informations and communications that pertain to Initial and On-Going formations. In this regard members are requested to contact and correspond Fr. Lessmon Nongtdu SDS
- ◆ Email ID: vimvsecretary@gmail.com
- ◆ WhatsApp Number: 8787598490

Exhortations of the IMV Superior:

- ✓ On the **First Monday** of every **month**- let's dedicate our prayers for our family members especially the deceased parents and siblings.
- ✓ On the **First Thursday** of every **month** – let's dedicate our prayers for our vocations, formations, communities and missions.
- ✓ On the **First Friday** of every **month** – let's dedicate our prayers for our deceased confreres.

NB: Any official communications to be informed to the SDS fraternity, are kindly asked to contact concerned persons.

IMV Social Media:

- **WhatsApp group: Fr. Lessmon Nongtdu and Fr. Alex Aseervatham** are administrators for



IMV WhatsApp group. Hence, all the informations and communications will be managed by them. Nonetheless, when/if there are informations to be communicated, members are advised to contact well in advance.

- **YouTube:** IMV has launched the '*YouTube Channel*'.



Name: **Blessed Francis Jordan, India**

Fr. Kitbok Umlong SDS is the direct person to update any informations.

- Those who need to have personal **Social Media**, are requested to get written permission from the IMV Superior.
- Those members who are willing to publish writings on matters of religion, moral and the society, need to get the written permission of IMV Superior, according to the Vicariate statutes and the common laws of the Church (Can. 734 c).

- Those members who get the privilege to teach in the Christian and religious institutions apart from assigned ministry in the IMV, need to obtain written permission from the IMV Superior.

CONGRATULATIONS TO FR. VARA PRASADA RAO SDS



Rev. Fr. Gujjala Vyakula Vara Prasada Rao SDS has successfully defended his dissertation entitled “*Engaging in Interreligious Dialogue in a Religious Pluralistic World: Journeying Towards an Inclusive Kingdom of God*” for the degree of Doctorate in Sacred Theology (Specialization in Missiology) from the UST (University of Santo Tomas), Manila, Philippines in the month of June, 2022 despite challenging situations.

The IMV congratulates and extends its best wishes to Fr. Dr. Vara Prasad SDS.

A VERY HAPPY FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF BLESSED MOTHER



The IMV wishes you all a very Happy Feast of the Nativity of our Blessed Mother and pray that may God bless everyone through the intercession of the mother of the Saviour.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- *For the New Missions*
- *For Our Benefactors*
- *For our Deceased Brethren*

