



In order to mark the importance of the Jubilee celebration, and to keep reminding all members the Societies Mission, we had hoisted the Jubilee Flag. Though it is self explanatory from the emblem of the flag, it is appropriate to present the symbols of the flag.

The human figure is symbolized as the Divine Savior who is sowing the seed which is the Word of God (Mk 4: 14). SDS tree symbolizes the members of the Society representing the Divine Saviour in the world. The World is indicated by the five lines. As He sent His disciples, the Savior also sends each one of us to announce the Good News of salvation to all people by all ways and means the love of Christ inspires.



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Editorial

Fr. Joseph Kannamparambil, SDS

“As long as there is even one person on earth who does not know God and does not love Him above all things, you dare not allow yourself a moment’s rest....Let no betrayal, no infidelity, no coldness, no abuse lessen your zeal.” (SD II/1) These words of our founder motivate every Salvatorian in his mission to proclaim Christ in season and out of season.

From the very first foundation of the Salvatorians in India in 1890 and to its re-establishment in India (1989) to the present stage, it had to face many adverse conditions. The struggles to obtain visas even for a short duration, the harassment from the immigration officials, the limited living conditions, the difficulties in communicating in a multicultural and multi-linguistic context, the obstacles faced in commuting, and finally, the hurdles in passing on the leadership to the Indian Salvatorians are just a few of them... to reach the Silver Jubilee of its re-establishment in India (1989-2014).

This is a moment of joy for all us to celebrate what the Almighty has done in the last 25 years and beyond. Let us thankfully remember all our fellow travelers on this journey with us who have moved on to other ways of serving the Lord. Our gratitude goes to the parents, benefactors, well wishers and collaborators who have made this journey possible through their constant prayers, support and all forms of assistance.

A big ‘thank you’ to all those who have contributed their precious memories, experiences, reflections, history and blessings for this souvenir.

In making known Jesus the Saviour our founder planned to organize a powerful union of laity, clergy, religious both men and women from all walks of life,

intellectuals, professionals, specialists in everything from Theology to Astro-physics with the ordinary dedicated Christians. As an obedient son the Church our venerable founder submitted to the directions of the Church even diluting his original vision to a limited scope of a religious congregation in 1881. The signs of the times impel us Salvatorians, once again to go back to this great vision of the founder that is a unique mark of his charism.

Chapter 25 of the book of Leviticus and Isaiah 61:1-2 give us a clear vision of the Biblical concept Jubilee. Jesus also elaborates on this theme in the gospel of Luke 4:18-19 and proclaims that the ‘total liberation’ implied in these texts is fulfilled in Him. As we celebrate this silver jubilee it is an invitation extended to all the members of the Society of the Divine Saviour in this Vicariate to bring in our lives, our ministries, in the charism and above all in the spirituality of our lives this dimension of a total liberation offered by Christ.

Let the words of Blessed Mother Mary of the Apostles instill this spirit in all of us: “O holy, venerable, unique Society! Apostolic, soul-zealous, great-hearted Society! Grow steady. Increase, spread everywhere! Embrace and renew the universe.”

The Souvenir tries to capture the history and making of the Salvatorian Mission in India. At the same time it is an invitation to all of us to go forward in time by making the Charism of the Founder relevant for us today and for the future.

Welcome to the unfolding of the history of Salvatorians in India!



FATHER FRANCIS MARY OF THE CROSS JORDAN
Founder of Salvatorians



BLESSED MARY OF THE APOSTLES

First Superior General of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Divine Savior



FATHER OTTO HOPFENMÜLLER
The First Mission Superior of the Indian Mission



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Fr. Sunil Thomas - Vicariate Superior
Fr. A. Alex - Vicar Superior



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Fr. Sunil Thomas SDS

Vicariate Superior



With the Incarnation, God entered human history! Eternity entered in time! By entering our human time, He has sanctified the time! As children of God, our duty is to keep the sanctity intact with our way of life, holy and acceptable to God in time. Having this at the back drop we understand the custom of Jubilees which began in Bible times and continues in the history of the Church.

A Society that has a strong sense of its history will have a better sense of identity to build on for the future. Periodically, we need to take a look back to rediscover how our Society came into being, what its early ministry was like, and how it has grown. As we celebrate the 25th Anniversary of our reestablishment in India, it's an occasion for us to tell and hear stories of the past and present.

We are really glad that we have had the great and strong roots of our Salvatorian pioneers in the North east India. Particularly Fr. Otto Hopfenmüller and his men who braved hard to instill catholic faith in the early 1890's till their departure in 1915 from India. Their spirit of sacrifice and commitment to the mission had brought a substantial number of people to the Catholic Church in the Northeast.

The year 2015 marks the important events like the 125 years of coming of Catholic Faith to the Northeast, the 125th Death Anniversary of Fr. Otto, 25 years of Salvatorian reestablishment in India. All these are precious moments to recall the great wonders the Lord had done through human instruments. We can no way adequately thank God for all the manifold blessings that he had showered in the past and who continues to bestow his bountiful graces.

Twenty five momentous years have gone by. On behalf of Indian Mission Vicariate I recall with gratitude all our dedicated Salvatorian pioneers, generous benefactors, committed members and sincere well-wishers of our society to whom I acknowledge a big thanks for all that they are to us.

I take this occasion to thank all the members of our vicariate, students in the formation and all those who are associated with us. It's a time to thank, to see where we have gained and where we have lost, and to open new avenues for the society's growth in the future.....

Yours in the Saviour,

Fr. Sunil Thomas SDS
Vicariate Superior

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25th Jubilee of the Salvatorian *Foundation in India*



Father Milton Zonta SDS
Superior General

Dear Confreres of the Indian Mission Vicariate,

It is really an honor for me to send you my most sincere and heartfelt wishes and congratulations on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of Salvatorian presence in India. Your country was the first in our Salvatorian history to which Salvatorian Missionaries were sent by our Venerable Founder, Fr. Francis Jordan. That is the reason why I convoked 2015 as a Salvatorian Missionary Year, because of its historical significance as well as its actual meaning for us nowadays! I know that all of you are working hard and we are very proud of you because you are making big efforts in the different areas where you are working as tools of Salvation. How our Rules well express: *"gathered in the name of Christ, the Savior, we are assured that He is in our midst as the continuing source of our unity, our strength, and our apostolic effectiveness"* (CO 402).

The history of Salvatorian presence in India has not been easy, but in spite of difficulties, sometimes obstacles at different levels, I admire profoundly your loyalty and perseverance regarding your commitment to God and the people He entrusted

to us through the apostolates in which we as Salvatorians try to give answers to concrete needs. God is blessing us with so many vocations and this makes us very hopeful for the future. We will be able to serve better more people; therefore we will need well educated and trained Salvatorians. Initial formation is one of the biggest apostolates in your unit and I invite all of you to dedicate as much time and energy as possible to this dimension of our greatly developing Salvatorian Unit in India. I encourage you to continue to promote growth in India by way of attraction by your witness of Salvatorian Spirituality without losing your identity as “*beloved spiritual sons*” of Fr. Francis Jordan.

Furthermore I would like to encourage you to help always to find unity, within the diversity, which characterizes your beautiful country, as well as our Salvatorian Family and in fact the whole Church, spread out all over the world. Differences in cultures, tribes, languages, should never be seen as threatening, but much more as enrichment at the personal and community level, making us members of the same Family, what we really are. I would like to compare it with a rainbow. On the one hand, it only can exist when there is sun AND rain, when there are different kinds of weather. And on the other hand, a rainbow is so beautiful precisely because it consists of DIFFERENT colors, from the beginning until the end. I really hope that we as members of the Society of the Divine Savior can help the people of India, showing to all, through the testimony of our life, that reconciliation, tolerance, diversity and fraternity, are existential values, which help to guarantee a real Christian society. Like Mother Teresa of Calcutta said: “*It is not the magnitude of our actions but the amount of love that is put into them that matters*”.

As the Superior General of the Society of the Divine Savior, I want to take advantage of this occasion to thank you and to encourage you to move ahead. You Salvatorians we have in India are most important. You are the face of our Society in your country. This is a big responsibility you carry, and I pray that wherever you go, you will proudly testify that you belong to the Society of the Divine Savior. You are followers of the Divine Savior. You are Salvatorians! “*Again, be happy that you are called to follow the Savior. Be happy that you have his name: Salvatorians.*” (Fr. Francis Jordan in December 22, 1899)

Let me finish, wishing you, my dear confreres, Novices and Candidates, that God may continue blessing you, with new and holy vocations and with the fulfillment of life which only can be given by Him: *God, the Father of Jesus, the Savior of the world!*

Fr. Milton Zonta, sds
General Superior

“Furthermore, I would like to thank particularly those who cooperated with God’s grace, who took up God’s service with complete disregard of their own will...”

Father Jordan

at the 12th anniversary of the Society 8.12.1893



In a spirit of joy and gratitude to our Triune God for the loving guidance of the Salvatorian Fathers and Brothers in India during the past 25 years, we are united with you in celebrating your Jubilee of profound thanksgiving to God, to the very first pioneers and to all the Fathers and Brothers who have dedicated their lives to the Salvatorian Mission throughout these past twenty-five years and to the people in India with whom you are sharing your life.

In the name of the entire Congregation and of each Salvatorian Sister throughout the world, we want to congratulate you, dear Fathers and Brothers in India, for your continuous growth in your desire and practice of incarnating the vision of Father Francis Jordan in our world today.

You are putting into practice, in a very concrete way, what Father Otto Hopfenmüller asked himself and his confreres during his significant presence in India in the past and to what we all are called today as Salvatorians:

*“We need to follow Christ’s law:
To preach the Gospel to the poor”.*

Father Otto Hopfenmüller

This Salvatorian missionary spirit moves all of you to be committed in serving and empowering especially children in your schools and all the people in the Salvatorian parishes. Furthermore you are promoting Interreligious Dialogue in a special way within the day-to-day life of your apostolic ministries.

On this special occasion, we deeply ask Jesus, the Savior, to bless all of us, especially the members of the Salvatorian Family in India, and make us more daring for the cause of Salvation of all and to encourage us to be mystical and prophetic witnesses in our suffering world.

We are joining you in the confidence that God who began the good work in you – of bringing salvation to the people - will go on completing it.

With best wishes,

Sr. Edith Bramberger, SDS
General Superior

Message from the former Superior General



Dear and Reverend Jubilarians,

The Indian Foundation called these days as the 'Indian Mission Vicariate' in India is the first-born missionary foundation started by our Venerable Founder and our religious Society. It was born out of great love and hope of our Founder in pains, difficulties, losses and unexpected death cases and but at the same time this foundation enjoyed God's blessings and remarkable growth. Father Jordan offered four of his first few members to go to India 126 years ago in spite of very limited personnel and financial possibilities. It was for him very sad event that his first born foundation was closed in 1915 because of political reasons and it was time when he was already aged and sick. Indian foundation was never forgotten by his successors and when the proper time came this first born foundation was re-born. We celebrate with great joy the re-birth of our first missionary foundation 25 years ago. After Indian foundation was established our Founder and his successors started many other foundations. Each of them has different history. Some of them develop very well and others experience diminishment. But the first foundation will never be forgotten and its re-birth give us hope that many others which also were closed for various reasons will be re-established and reborn in the future. We should never give up our hope but we should learn like our Founder to have unshakable trust in God's Province, which he left us as his precious heritages. As one of former superior general I share with you dear Jubilarians, our deep felt gratitude to God for His gift of Silver Jubilee and I enjoy your celebration of 25 years of re-birth. Together with you I thank our Venerable Founder for his intercession in heaven. Our re-established Missionary Indian Vicariate spread out to different parts of Indian sub-continent and accepts candidates from various parts and thus keeps our international spirit. With help of East Asian Vicariate your Missionary Vicariate has already started foundation in Sri Lanka. From the time of my leadership in Rome I remember also other plans, which you have had to develop in Asia. May our Lord bless all who contributed to the establishment and re-establishment of our first foundation in our Salvatorian history. I congratulate all the Confreres who prepared this Jubilee celebration and this memorial book for the future generations. May it be a special jubilee book, which will inspire your future generations to follow and live the spirit of the pioneers. I wish you to keep the spirit of our Founder, live His great zeal for the salvation of the souls and to live faithfully in unity with our Lord, the Savior and unity between yourselves. I wish you a blessed and joyous celebration.

Fr. Andrew Urbanski, SDS
Salvatorian Missionary in Tanzania
Former superior general
Mandera in Tanzania, 25.02.2015

Most Rev.
Dominic Jala, SDB., DD.



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A TRIBUTE

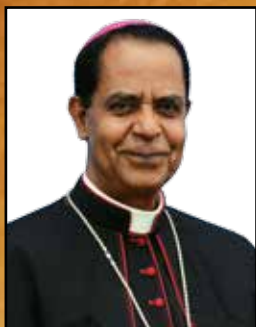
We give thanks to the Lord for the love and mercy he has shown to our land and our people in the past 125 years. In imitation of the "Fiat" of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the courageous "yes" of the Salvatorian Congregation, especially of those who were called to launch into the deep as pioneers in the new mission field, was the beginning of an important chapter in the history of the mission of the Church. The seeds that were sown at great cost and sacrifice have borne abundant fruit over the years through successive generations of other men and women who continued to labour in the vineyard of the Lord.

On this occasion of the post-centenary silver jubilee of our mission, we take inspiration from the example left us by the valiant men and women. One has to love and value the treasure of the Gospel carried in fragile earthen jars. Courage is needed in those who are called to share this treasure with others, driven by love for God, for His Gospel and for those to whom one is sent is at the heart of the mission. This is even truer when one has to cross a great cultural divide with customs, language, and religion included, constitute a strange new world. We stand in admiration of those first missionaries who had to face the challenges of missionary work, far away from their homeland, at such a distance from their superiors, having to rely on slow communication and, at times, seeming only to meet a stone wall when faced with problems in the mission. We wonder if at that time they dared to dream that their sweat and toil would eventually lay the ground for what the Church in Northeast India is today and will be in the future.

As we celebrate this special event in our Church's history, we hope and pray for similar apostolic courage, zeal, love, patience, endurance and undying hope. We work with trust that the Lord who guided the first steps of those missionaries is the one who will be with us until the end of time.

With special veneration we remember Fr. Otto Hopfenmüller whom God in His providence gave to us as the leader of the first mission and who, in God's inscrutable design was taken away after just six months. We place our thankful prayers before God for the other first missionaries who in the span of twenty five years laid the foundations for the growth of the Church in the years that followed. May this celebration enthuse the Salvatorian family, in particular, to continue the legacy they have received.


Archbishop Dominic Jala, sdb
Shillong



Most Rev. John Moolachira
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MESSAGE

I am much pleased to convey my greetings to the Salvatorian Fathers as you celebrate the Silver Jubilee of your return to India. At a time of uncertainties, anxiety and risk of life in a strange land, your earlier missionaries ventured on a journey to India to proclaim Christ. Amidst many worries of settling in the country, the Congregation worked hard to establish many institutions and enabled to create an environment for the people of India to sustain their faith in their varied life situations.

I gratefully remember the founder and other members for their pioneering efforts and for planting the Congregation on solid foundations of faith and the successive missionaries for their tireless efforts in preserving the Missionary traditions handed down to you.

I cannot adequately thank you for the plentiful support rendered to the Catholic Church in India particularly to Northeast India. You have helped the Catholic Church in Northeast to grow steadily. On this Historical landmark, we thank God for the many blessings bestowed on us through the magnanimity of many salvatorians both individually and collectively.

I wish you all God's abundant blessings as you celebrate the Silver Jubilee return of Salvatorians to India.

Yours Sincerely,


+ John Moolachira

Archbishop of Guwahati



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MOST REV. BERNARD MORAS
Archbishop of Bangalore

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23rd July, 2015

MESSAGE

I am very happy to know that the Salvatorians are celebrating the silver jubilee of their re-establishment in India along with a few other celebrations that include the 125th Death Anniversary of Rev. Fr. Otto Hopfenmuller SDS on this occasion. While we praise the Lord for all that the Lord has done through this congregation, we also look forward with hope. I extend my special words of appreciation to the Salvatorians.

I gratefully remember their founder Venerable Father Francis Mary of the Cross Jordan and other pioneers for their effort in planting the Catholic Faith in the North East of Indian in 1890. Let this missionary zeal be rekindled in the context of this jubilee year. Let this celebrations bring more vibrancy among members to the charism of the Founder.

It is a graceful coincidence that this celebrations falls in this year 2015 dedicated by Pope Francis as an year to promote consecrated life in the Church. Let the Salvatorians be blessed with many vocations to continue the mission entrusted to them by the Divine Saviour through the Founder.

The Souvenir that you are bringing out will perpetuate the memory of these unique events.

Invoking God's abundant blessings upon you all, I fraternally extend my own prayerful best wishes for the years to come.

Yours in the Lord,

+ Bernard Moras
Archbishop of Bangalore





TELESPHORE P. CARDINAL TOPPO
Archbishop of Ranchi

Archbishop's House
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Jharkhand, India

Message

It is with joy that I join you in thanking the Lord as the Salvatorians celebrate the "**Silver Jubilee of the reestablishment of the SDS presence in India**". While we praise the Lord for all that he has wrought through this Congregation, we also look towards the future. I extend my felicitations and good wishes to all Salvatorians, especially those serving the Lord in India, with my humble prayer, that this jubilee may be for everyone a celebration of the blessings received from the Lord and for renewed commitment to be the living witnesses to the Risen Lord.

This memorable event is an occasion for everyone in the Congregation to lift up his heart, in the spirit of thanksgiving and praise, to the Lord of the harvest who has given us the mandate: "Go therefore into the whole world and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit" (Mathew, 28:19).

At this moment may I take the liberty to remind you all the mission that your founder set for the Salvatorians: "to proclaim Salvation to all people, so that by the lives we live and in our apostolic activities, all may come "to know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent" (John 17:3), and have life in all its fullness."

May your lives, your work and activities help you live this goal whether you work among the poor and marginalized we support human development, family life, health, and education; or lead parishes in the light of our Salvatorian charism or promote Christian formation, encouraging spiritual growth and active participation in the life of the Church and the world. May you also proclaim the Gospel in a contemporary manner and in dialogue with every culture by means of social communication.

The Souvenir that you are bringing out will perpetuate the memory of this unique event. This moment of grace will definitely be a blessing to the whole nation and a loving tribute to the former and the present missionaries. I extend my hearty congratulations and offer my sincere prayer for the well being of all.

Invoking God's abundant blessings upon you all, I affectionately extend my own prayerful best wishes for the years to come.

Teles. P. Card. Toppo

✠Telesphore P. Cardinal Toppo
Archbishop of Ranchi.

Date: 11th February 2015

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MESSAGE



I am very glad to learn that a Jubilee Souvenir will be published on the occasion of the Triple Celebrations especially Silver Jubilee of the Re-establishment of the Salvatorians in North-East India. On this auspicious occasion, I would like to send my greetings and good wishes. Salvatorian Fathers are rendering wonderful missionary service to the people in North-East India. They have undertaken several missionary endeavours successfully in that region to the satisfaction of all to bear witness to Christ. Their zeal and enthusiasm to work for Christ is to be very much appreciated. Most willingly I join them to thank God for the fruitful 25 years of their dedication.

I wish that the silver Jubilee Celebration be an occasion to review our commitment to the Lord and to thank Him for His abundant blessings in all our efforts and apostolate.

Yours sincerely in the Lord


George Njaralakatt



Archbishop of Tellicherry

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Our Ref. No.



To
Very Rev. Sunil Thomas
Vicariate Superior, Salvatorians India
Carmelarum P.O., Sarjapur Road
Bangalore - 5600 35, KARNATAKA

Dear and Very Rev. Sunil Thomas, Vicariate Superior,

I am very pleased to note that the Salvatorians in India celebrate Silver Jubilee of the reestablishment of the presence of Society of Divine Saviour presence in India. That you have a house in my diocese is an added reason to join you in praising God.

I am thrilled to know that the Congregation of Propaganda Fide gave as prefecture apostolic to "The Society of the Divine Saviour, the former kingdom of Assam, the kingdom of Bhutan, and the kingdom of Manipur; in order that it may there spread the light of Christianity. In 1889 the Apostolic Prefecture of Assam was erected and handed over to the Society of the Divine Saviour by a Decree of the Propaganda Fide. Thus, the first 4 German Salvatorian Missionaries set foot in Assam 1890. Unfortunately, after 25 years of untiring missionary activities the German Salvatorian Missionaries had to leave the Indian mission due to the First World War which began in 1914.

Thanks be to God that in 1989 the Salvatorians re-established the Society in India, at Bangalore in Karnataka, and erected new mission centres and the Indian foundation was elevated to Indian Mission Vicariate in 2010. I am delighted to note that the current Vicariate Superior is Fr. Sunil Thomas, who served in this diocese. I wish him and all the members of SDS god's sterling Blessings for wider and deeper ministry in India.

In the year of the Consecrated life, surely it is a special gift for your congregation with the charism and spirituality of your Founder, Father Francis Mary of the Cross Jordan to proclaim to all people the salvation which has appeared in Jesus Christ, so that by the lives you live and your apostolic activities, all may come "to know the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom God sent" (John 17:3).

With Prayerful Wishes,

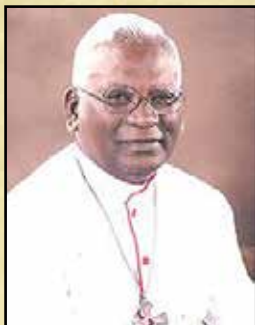
+ Udumala Bala
Bishop of Warangal Diocese, INDIA



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March 3, 2015

Bishop's Message on the occasion of Silver Jubilee of the reestablishment of the SDS presence in India.

It is with great joy I write to you this message on the occasion of the silver jubilee of the reestablishment of the Salvatorians in India our nearby land. When I write the word "Reestablishment" It is obvious that the Congregation had been already in that soil previously.

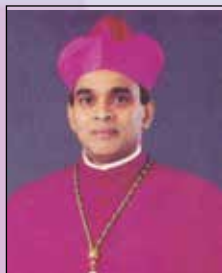
It is really interesting to learn about the first establishment of Salvatorians in India. It was the first mission of the congregation at the beginning of its foundation in 1980. It shows the Founder's greatest desire to work for God in bringing the good news to the people of Asam, north - east India where no one ever dared to go to sow the seed of Faith in God. It is a sign of great confidence in the help of God one could ever have in life. As you mark the 25th year of your presence in India, its growth, development and its tireless service to God and people are the fruits of this confidence in God which the Founder and the First Missionaries had, along with their great services. Therefore I would like to express to you all the best wishes and pray that you may become more and more like your Founder and the first missionaries in ardent service to God and the people.

It is important also to appreciate your presence in my diocese of Jaffna as a young foundation in Sri Lanka. May God bless all your endeavors to bring his love to all people.

+ Thomas Savundaranayagam

Rt. Rev. Dr. Thomas Savundaranayagam
Bishop of Jaffna





Rt. Rev. Dr. Valence Mendis
Bishop of Chilaw.


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Puttalam Road, Chilaw, Sri Lanka.
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Message of the Bishop of Chilaw

It is with immense joy that I write this message as the Salvatorians in India celebrate Silver Jubilee of the re-establishment of the Society of the Divine Savior in India. It is indeed an occasion to thank and praise God for the wonderful mission that has been accomplished specially after the re-establishment.

Their involvement and commitment in different apostolates has always been very much appreciated. With a special note of appreciation, I treasure their services in the Diocese of Chilaw, Sri Lanka. Their generous contribution and collegial support towards Chilaw parish is praise worthy. The parish community has a special role in promoting participation in the life, mission, and work of the faith community. The parish is where the Church lives. Parish is a community of faith, of action, and of hope. It is where the Gospel is proclaimed and believers are formed and sent to renew the earth as Jesus commissioned. Indeed parish is the heart of our Church where people of God meet Jesus in Word and Sacrament and come in touch with the source of the Church's life. I thank you for the pastoral support in the diocese in realizing this specific role in the parish.

As you celebrate the Silver Jubilee of the re-establishment of your presence in India, I wish God's abundant Blessings upon the Provincial and the Salvatorian community both in India and Sri Lanka. I pray that our Heavenly Father will bless you in accomplishing your purpose of the Society: to strengthen, to defend and to spread the Catholic faith.


+ D. Valence Mendis,
Bishop of Chilaw.
09th March 2015



SALVATORIAN PROVINCE SRI LANKA

Congratulatory Jubilee message from the Salvatorian Sisters in Sri Lanka

On the occasion of the celebration of the Silver Jubilee of the reestablishment of the SDS presence in India, I have great Joy of sending you this message of felicitation on behalf of the Salvatorian Sisters in Sri Lanka.

We praise and thank God that the Salvatorian Charism was able to take root in the Indian Soil during the life time of our venerated Founder, Fr. Francis Jordan and as it was also the first mission undertaken by our Founder. We join the Salvatorian Fathers in India, thanking God for enabling the Salvatorian Charism to flourish and attract generous young men in order to continue the mission of bringing salvation to the people living in the Indian sub-continent. We remember with love and affection the Salvatorian missionaries who laboured in the past in India without counting the cost to make known the Saviour to all. We believe that they were inspired by the words of our Founder, Fr. Jordan *"God's work thrives only in the shadow of the Cross"* let these words be an inspiration in all our endeavors.

We join you in prayer and worship invoking our Divine Saviour to be with you now and in the future nourishing and energizing you all with His unconditional love to reach out to the peripheral masses.

We, the Salvatorian Sisters in Sri Lanka, together with our Salvatorian Fathers and brothers and the Lay Salvatorians, rejoice with you, since the Divine Saviour through the intercession of our Founder Fr. Jordan and Blessed Mary of the Apostles has blessed you with the Salvatorian Charism to keep blooming. We will also continue to collaborate with you to keep our Salvatorian Charism alive in the Asian context.

May you be blessed by the Divine Saviour for many more years and may this celebration become a joyful one with the renewed vigour to realize the vision and mission of Fr. Jordan.

Sr. Rani Fernando
Sr. Rani Fernando, SDS
The Provincial Leader.



Dear Rev. Fr. Sunil

The celebration of Silver Jubilee is certainly an occasion of thanksgiving for the many graces God has showered on each one of you during these 25 years. It is the victory of Divine Grace and fruit of human labor. Yes, the splendor of the Divine Wisdom dispels the darkness of ignorance. It is indeed a matter of pride and it gives immense pleasure to the Divine Master to see the growth of the seed of wisdom, to a mighty tree, giving shelter to many who come under it. The Church has become stronger through the dedicated and committed service of Salvatorian missionaries in places wherever they render their service. I join you in thanking God Almighty for His marvelous intervention all these silvery years of service.

I congratulate the Salvatorian Fathers and all those associated to this mission. As you are in the jubilee year all that I wish you is to aim at transforming the society by transmitting the values of Christ in all the possible ways. May this occasion bring new vision and fresh enthusiasm to each one of you in your golden days.

Sr. Treasa Padayattil MPV
Venerini Provincial India

PRESENTATION PROVINCIAL HOUSE

Karunapuram, Peddapendial P.O, Warangal (Dist.)-506 151 TS, INDIA

Tel: +91 87 1122 3122 E-mail: stjosephprovincdepmt@gmail.com



It is a matter of joy for me to know of the Silver Jubilee of Salvatorians. You are sent in mission to announce through your lives and actions the Gospel message to make known the Savior and to work for the fullness of life and salvation. I believe your mission of making known Jesus was a great success and now you are in the jubilee year. Jubilee is a time of celebration, rejoicing and thanksgiving. 25 years is history but 25 years of dedicated and loyal service as a team in Christ's name is mission well accomplished for God's glory.

We the Sisters of Presentation of St. Joseph Province are indeed glad and feel privileged to convey our warm and heartfelt wishes of congratulations and felicitations on this time of grace. You have been placed at the service of the Church for the last 25 years, and have done exceptionally well the mission entrusted to you. We extend our appreciation to the SDS family for having completed these years of long service in the Church of India.

'How wonderful God is indeed in all His works.' It is especially providential and we are proud that we have made our maiden attempt to have our presence in Assam by getting collaboration with the Salvatorians at Dhing, Christ Jyoti School. I have had the pleasure of knowing SDS personally since few years and seen your multifarious activities closely. I could come in touch with the vibrant and committed priests and I thank God for the gift of this congregation and its members.

Under the very capable leadership of Fr. Sunil Thomas, the Vicariate Superior, SDS has made immense progress, particularly in the field of education, pastoral and social work, thus effectively planting the Kingdom of God in the area entrusted to their care. We join them in recalling all the blessings they received from God and the support and good wishes they obtained from the Church and the public at large during the past twenty five years. I pray that the years ahead bring even more blessings from the Lord on the team, the priests and those in formation. May you continue to be a source of inspiration, give light to those in darkness and guide the children of God in to the way of our Master.

It is most fitting that in this year of consecrated life that you are celebrating jubilee. On this occasion once again we join you in praising and thanking God for His marvelous works. We ask God to re-empower you to face the new challenges of your mission as we appreciate your praiseworthy and wonderful service for the welfare of the people.

With my kind personal regards, I remain...

United In Christ,

Sr. Tessy Thomas DPMT
Provincial Superior
Daughters of Presentation of Mary in the Temple
St. Joseph Province, Telangana

INDIAN MISSION VICARIATE AT A GLANCE

www.salvatorians.in

Council of the Indian Mission Vicariate:

Fr. Sunil Thomas - Vicariate Superior
Fr. A. Alexis - Vicar Superior, Director of Formation
Fr. James Thapa - Secretary, Consultor
Fr. S. A. Vimalraj - Administrator, Consultor

HOUSES

1. Rakshaka Sadan (1989)

The Society of the Divine Saviour (Salvatorians)
Carmelaram P. O. – via Sarjapura Road
Bangalore – 560 035
Karnataka, India
Ph: 08028439267/28439698

2. Nagaon (1994)

Christ Jyoti School and Sacred Heart Mission
Premnagar, Dhing Road
Nagaon – 782 002
Assam, India
Ph: 03672223288

2.1 Dhing

Christ Jyoti School
Dhing – 782 123
Assam, India
Ph: 03672260710

2.2 Tokobari

Christ Jyoti School and Sacred Heart Mission
Premnagar, Dhing Road
Nagaon – 782 002
Assam, India
Ph: 03672223288

4. Shillong (11.10.2000)

Otto Hopfenmüller Theology Study House
Mawlai – Mawroh
Shillong – 793 008
Meghalaya, India

4.1 Laitkynsew (25.01.2004)

Ss. Peter and Paul Parish
Catholic Mission – Village Laitkynsew
Cherrapunjee – 793 108
East Khasi Hills District
Meghalaya – India
Ph: 03642591976

5. Ranchi (08.12.2005)

Divine Saviour Church
Kanke Road Bhitha
Jawaharnagar P. O.
Ranchi – 834 008
Jharkhand, India.

6. Chullikara (08.12.2005)

Salvatorians
Padimaruthu P. O.
Kasaragod District
Kerala – 671 531, India.
Ph: 04672225522

7. Warangal (16.06.2007)

Jordan Philosophy Study House
Gnanapuram, Peddapendial – 506 151
Warangal – Andra Pradesh, India.
Ph: 08897132731

8. Chilaw, Sri Lanka (16.06.2010)

Salvatorian Fathers and Brothers
278/6, Perani Mawatta
Maikkulam, Colombo Road
Chilaw, Sri Lanka

9. Jaffna, Sri Lanka (20.12.2011)

Salvatorian Fathers and Brothers
Maria House
131 Bankshall Street
Jaffna, Sri Lanka

MEMBERS

Fathers	29
Deacons	06
Theologians	08
Regents	05
Novices	02
Philosophy	26
Spiritual Orientation	09
Ap. St. 3	16
Ap. St. 2	31
Ap. St. 1	34
Total	166



Fr. J. Stephen Louis

Salvatorians: The Messengers of the Saviour

25 years is indeed a milestone for us, Salvatorians here in India as we commemorate and celebrate the re-establishment of the first mission of our Society. On this occasion, it would be nice to look back into our past and retrospect into two things. One is to look through the pages of history and be proud of the great legacy left behind by our first pioneers who toiled on this soil from 1890 to 1915. Another thing is to look back at our re-establishment 25 years ago and reflect whether we as Indian Salvatorians have re-created that history left behind by our first missionaries. Or do we find that we are still warming ourselves and comfort ourselves under the shadow of their legacy?

With regard to this, one of the crises that we face in our society is the failure in not finding our own identity as Salvatorians in the Society of the Divine Saviour. Sometimes it seems we are tempted to identify our charism and spirituality with that of other congregations. For instance, very recently I had a conversation with one of our own confreres. I heard him say - and he was quite convinced - that our spirituality is nothing but Franciscan spirituality, because Fr. Jordan had taken it from St. Francis of Assisi. Well, it is true that Fr. Jordan had taken some elements which he found were best from other congregations. But does that necessarily mean that we Salvatorians do not have a specific charism and spirituality? I strongly disagree. Seeing such a member, who has been in the Society for a long time and still not having identified the uniqueness of our charism and spirituality, it is not surprising then that many members in the Society still stand confused with regard to our identity as Salvatorians.

It is to be noted here that even Fr. Jordan himself complained during his time that many Salvatorians instead of deepening and living the spirituality of the Society, sought out and were inspired by that of other religious institutes. In his *Exhortations and Admonitions* to his confreres he confronts this issue by stating: “Each institute has its own spirit; and just as soon as one deviates from it, he finds himself on the wrong road. An apple tree is not a pear tree. And a Franciscan is not a Dominican, a Jesuit is not a Trappist”¹. This brings us to the clarity that, if we, Salvatorians, want to renew our life and mission, it is absolutely necessary for us to discover, deepen and love our own spirituality. All of our renewal work will be worth little if it is not guided by a spirituality that is specifically our own. In reality, it is very difficult to be faithful to a mission and to incarnate a spirituality that is little known. Hence, in the words of Fr. Arno Boesing SDS, “A religious without a clear awareness of his/her mission and spirituality is a religious without self-identity.”

In this article, what I have tried to express, are not merely my own thoughts. Rather, I try to transmit the uniqueness of our Salvatorian charism and spirituality, which our members have discovered and conveyed throughout the ages by their writings, life and ministry.

Called to be Messengers of the Saviour

Fr. Jordan, the bearer of the Salvatorian vision, “gave us the command and mission not to rest content until all people know, love, and serve Jesus as their Saviour”². He defines this in his Spiritual Diary: “As long as there is one person on earth who does not know God and does

¹ Exhortations and Admonitions, p.94

² Article 103 of the Constitution of the Society.



not love him above all things, you dare not allow yourself a moment's rest. As long as God is not everywhere glorified, you dare not allow yourself a moment's rest." (Spiritual Diary II, 1 {Dec 20, 1894}). How did Fr. Jordan come up with this mission mandate? The mandate of Fr. Jordan is the mission mandate of Christ himself who gave his disciples the mission mandate to: "*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations.....*"³ (Mt. 28:19-20); "*Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation*" (Mk. 16:15). For us Salvatorians, this means that the last command of Jesus according to Matthew or Mark becomes the first biblical articulation that gives birth to the foundation of Jordan. The final command of the Gospel becomes the beginning mission of the Society of the Divine Saviour! Fr. Jordan takes up the words of Jesus directed to the apostles and addresses them to all Christians: priests, religious and lay! Hence the Salvatorian vision is to become "Messengers of the Saviour" by proclaiming Jesus Christ as the Saviour of the world and bringing His message to all corners of the world!

So, how do we become messengers of Christ? How do we carry out His mandate? We become messengers of the Saviour through living out and manifesting our charism and spirituality as Salvatorians in our day to day being and doing.

Through living out our Charism

In general, the charism of the Society is linked with the charism of religious life itself, coupled to the active apostolate. But what is it that is specifically Salvatorian? What are the elements of the charism of the Society? The important element of our charism is 'to announce Christ to all people by all ways and means.' Fr. Jordan frequently used the phrase *omnibus et ubique* (to all people everywhere) which was very specific to him. Some religious orders are founded for certain places or are founded specifically to work with certain groups of people. But, the Society does not have those limitations of place or group or class or race. It is for everyone everywhere. So, is not this

³ "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age". (Mt. 28:19-20)

aspect of 'Universality' specific to our charism?

Therefore, as messengers of Christ the Saviour, the Society and its members are not destined for a particular country or state but for all and everywhere. With us no nation is excluded. And it is also the spirit of the Society that persons of all nations be accepted as members. This is a very important point that our Founder makes and if we depart from it, it is very clear that we do not live up to the spirit of the Society.

Similarly, as the society is not restricted with regard to place, so neither is it restricted to certain classes of people. We are called to labour among the poor and the rich, the educated and the uneducated, Christians and Non-Christians, among civilised and uncivilised people. Therefore, no nation, no people, no class is excluded in our outlook as Salvatorians.⁴

Moreover, no ministry is excluded from our purview. Fr. Jordan did not want to limit the activity of his spiritual sons and daughters. So he opened up all ways and means, all types of apostolates, if only the Saviour is proclaimed by them. This is indeed the uniqueness of our charism that no one is excluded from the salvation wrought by Christ the Saviour. As Christ's messengers this is our call as Salvatorians.

Through living out our Spirituality

There is only one Christian Spirituality that is centred on Christ, but, because there are many different approaches to it, we can speak of different spiritualities in the Church. Salvatorian spirituality is totally rooted and centred in Jesus Christ the Saviour. He is our example, par excellence, the one who inspires our way of being and acting. It is Jesus the Saviour who integrates all the elements of human experience, guaranteeing our unity. In him and with him, we discover our Salvatorian identity. Following the example of Christ the Saviour, the primary focus of Salvatorian spirituality is the revelation of God the Saviour in the totality of our being and action. Everything and everybody ought to proclaim the love of God the Saviour, for it is this, above all that we are called to incarnate in our personal and community life.

Our apostolic action or apostolate takes its inspiration from the action of Christ the Saviour, who came to bestow eternal life in abundance upon everyone. Following the Saviour, our greatest efforts ought to reveal the Saviour in the fullness of our being through our witness and action. Hence, the goal of our Salvatorian mission is the salvation or liberation of the human person.

Our Salvatorian spirituality is profoundly manifested in the way we live out our Salvatorian charism and mission. As long as the charism and the mission underlie, nurture and characterise our spiritual life, we can speak of a Salvatorian spirituality. To the extent that the Salvatorian charism and mission penetrate our spiritual and apostolic life, we constitute a Christian community with its specific spirituality. Therefore, our spirituality is directed inwardly towards sanctification of ourselves and outwardly towards the sanctification of the world in which we live and for which we work.

So on the one hand, the more we are in Christ, knowing and loving Him, the more we are forced to go into the world and to proclaim Him. On the other hand, the more we are in the world and the more we feel his absence among people, the more we are impelled to bring that world to Christ in our being and doing.

Continual conversion and continual ongoing formation take place when we continually discover Jesus as the Christ, the Saviour of the world. Most spiritual writers insist that the revitalisation of religious life must begin in the hearts of the members rather than by changing the structures of communities or setting up renewal programs. The latter is much easier than the former!

Therefore, the contribution of the SDS to the Church of our days is to become a messenger of Christ which consists in promoting the knowledge of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, as Saviour of the world! It means to realise the prayer of the Lord "that all may know"⁵ - without exception, everywhere and by all means, 'the Saviour of the world.' From knowing Him, flows loving Him and proclaiming Him. In His name we Salvatorians, go out to the world as messengers of the Saviour and in His name we proclaim salvation! This is indeed our creed and profession ●

⁴ *Exhortations and Admonitions*, pp. 147-150



Fr. S. Amal Vimal Raj

The First Salvatorian Mission

The mission to N.E in 1889 – 1915

“Saviour’s passion is our mission” this is an inspiring thought based on which Fr. Francis Jordan, our Venerable founder, who filled with Zeal for mission readily accepted when Cardinal Oreglia from Propaganda Fide requested to undertake the Assam Mission territory. Fr. Francis Jordan, who was afire with desire to spread God’s kingdom entrusted this holy and difficult mission to his spiritual children.

It was indeed overwhelming news for the young members of the new Society and thus they responded with zeal and enthusiasm. Thus, two priests and two brothers were immediately chosen for the mission. Considering the membership of the society at that time, it was a high percentage. Fr. Otto Hopfenmuller was chosen to be the first Mission Superior. He, as well as his companion Fr. Angelus Muenzloher, Bro. Marianus Schumm were native of Bavaria, and Bro. Joseph Baechle from Baden. On 17th January 1890

at Mother House of the Society in Rome a farewell gathering was organized in honour of sending the young missionaries who were joyful and memorable family feast for the young Society at sending its first heralds of the faith into the mission lands on that day Fr. Francis Jordan handing the Missionary crosses to them he said “God’s work flourishes only in the shadow of the Cross”. On 19th January, 1890 the first missionaries embarked at Brindisi harbour on their voyage, which was to bring them to the land of their aspirations and dreams.

During the voyage with the help of the Irish professor of theology they learned English vocabularies and pronunciation. The voyage went off without mishap except for a few days of sea sickness. On 2nd February they reached Bombay and on the same day they continued their journey to Calcutta by train. In Calcutta they met Bishop and gathered information



about Assam and enjoyed for a few days the hospitality of Jesuits; they proceeded to Assam by a steamer. The nearer they got to their destination the greater was their apostolic zeal manifested by Fr. Otto.

On 21st February they reached Gauwhati and continued their journey to Khasi Hills. From Gauwhati one could reach Shillong by means of two- wheeled carts, which were drawn by horses, in two days' time. A ticket cost sixty rupees. A bullock cart took four days for the journey and price was Rs. 44.00 To cut down expenses Fr. Hopfenmuller thought it best to hire one cart for three persons at the cost of Rs. 44.00. Three travelled in the cart and all four took it in turn to follow the cart on foot. One can see that the missionaries tried to observe poverty as far as possible, and that they were happy to do so. After loading the luggage, there was not much place left on the cart and they had to travel more or less all the way on foot.

With the arrival of the first missionaries in Shillong on 27th February 1890, the Prefecture Apostolic of Assam finally established, not only de jure but also de facto and could begin to develop, under the leadership of its new apostolic workers.

Now, the real missionary work began with the beginning of the setting up of a little house, modification of the old existing furniture, making an altar table and simultaneously using their time to study theology and languages. Father Otto, in his missionary work, primarily, instructed the people in the Catholic faith, held conferences about the motives for becoming Christians and about the credibility of the Christian religion. He dedicated himself with great zeal and attention to learn new languages such as Khasi and Bengali as well as there was a group of young Bengalis, who were employed as clerks in government offices in Khasi land.

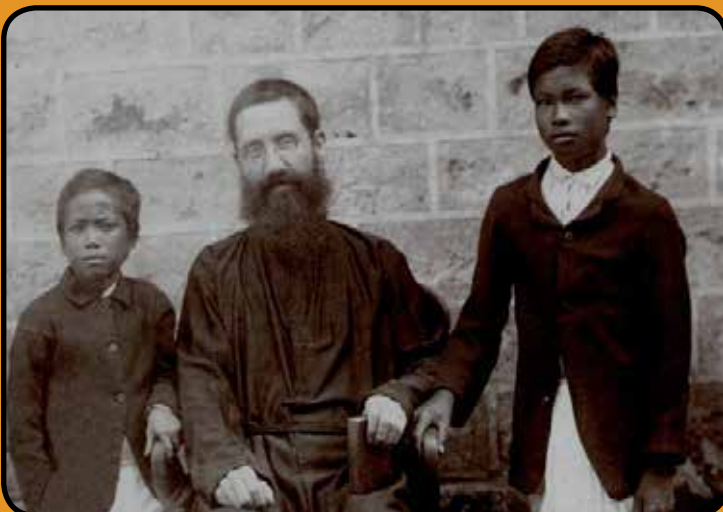




In a gist, to say the fact, the protestant sect who came from Wales had already established themselves among the Khasis fifty years before the arrival of the German missionaries as they already had a great number of followers and some Churches and schools and published several books in Khasi language. However, it was a blessing in disguise for Fr. Otto, but he had to begin the work of the religious formation of the Khasis again from the very beginning as for the work of conversion needed a solid foundation. After a few weeks, Fr. Hopfenmuller began to translate into Khasi the 'Our Father' and the 'Hail Mary'. He paid great attention to the making of a catechism book in this language. He also translated into Khasi the morning and evening prayers, the Angelus, prayers in preparation for the sacraments of Penance and Communion, the acts of faith, hope and charity as well as the Ordinary of the Mass. Due to his great and untiring zeal, the work went on speedily. A proper Christian Catholic formation

renovated just three months only after the arrival of the German missionaries under the Mission Superior of Fr. Otto Hopfenmuller. From the first moment of his missionary life, Fr. Otto Hopfenmuller tried to give the local people a good example by his own way of life of self-abnegation, mortification and Christian dedication.

Having done many works in propagating faith and Christianising the people mainly in Khasi land, Fr. Otto never paid much attention toward his health and his health gradually became worse. Moreover, it was on Sunday 17th August, the Mission Superior began to feel ill during the Church service. Owing to penance and fasting, his weak body had no resistance and on Thursday 21st August 1890, at 12 o'clock noon, Fr. Otto Hopfenmuller passed away peacefully. Death took him away after only half a year of work in the mission. Fr. Otto guided the mission work of Assam in





the right direction from the very beginning and tackled problems with great ability. He gave the first impetus for the conversion of the Khasi tribe and followed it up. The pre-mature loss of Fr Otto was in fact more painful because he was a man designated by God with multi qualities.

Nevertheless, the tale of woes and trials for the new mission was not over with the death of Fr. Otto and shortly after nine days of Fr. Otto's death, his innocent collaborator and simple soul, Bro. Marianus Schumm breathed his last due to some trouble with food and could not put any resistance to the disease. The consequences of the difficulties, privations and trials of various kinds reflected in the life and work of the mission personnel. Meanwhile, during the journey to Shillong, one priest died on the way, as he could not resist his less expensive journey or journeying on foot as well as having insufficient food. According to the number of missionaries who toiled so hard in Northeast, eleven of them died in Assam. Five missionary Fathers and one Brother, all were members of the Society of the Divine Saviour and five Salvatorian Sisters found their final rest from the hardships of life and their reward as Apostles of the Lord in the Hills of Assam and Meghalaya.

The first German Salvatorian missionaries set foot in Assam in February 1890. It was after twenty-five years that their missionary activities came to a sad and sudden end in July 1915. On the morning of 9th July 1915, the

missionaries departed from Shillong. In twenty-five years, the Church in Assam had a remarkable growth and achieved an enviable position before the public. With the blessing of God, the German Salvatorians contributed generously to this growth and left their enduring imprint upon it.

In 1920, the Jesuit Fathers continued the work of the German Fathers but due to lack of personnel, they were unwilling to continue the mission. On the other hand, the Jesuit Superior said that the Salesians of Don Bosco in Turin might be willing to accept the Assam mission. It was in July 1921, the Propaganda entrusted the Assam mission to the Salesians of Don Bosco. Henceforth, a new chapter in the history of the Assam mission opened. We can proudly say that the seeds of Christian faith sown by our pioneers in North-east mission has never dried up but produced varieties of coloured flowers and fruits ●





THE HISTORY OF 25 YEARS OF SALVATORIAN PRESENCE IN INDIA (1989-2015)

Fr. Vara Prasad, SDS

Every beginning has its own ups and downs. The history of 'the Arrival of Salvatorians' to India is no different, be it be, in their 'first coming' in the year 1890 or for the 'Re-establishment of their presence' in 1989 in India, for that matter.

Whenever, we recall the past history, it's an occasion to look back down the memory lane in order to share the scattered memories. It's to travel back in time to recapture the dreams and desires, victories and failures, sweat and toil, hardships and hurdles which can never be forgotten.

The 'first coming of Salvatorians had to cross through many hurdles, before they could establish many flourishing centers in 'Shillong', the then capital of

Assam, the undivided State of the North-East. The 'Re-establishment of Salvatorians' in India too had its early hiccups before its start and finally established in different communities, now termed as the 'Indian Vicariate'.

It was in the year 1989, Rev. Fr Andrew Urbanski SDS & Fr Willibald Ulrich SDS, who strongly voiced their support to re-establish the Indian Foundation, the first mission of the society in India once again. They both travelled to strategic places such as New Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Bangalore now 'Bengaluru' and finally chose Bangalore as their new base/foundation to re-start the Mission. They needed an able collaborator & co-coordinator to venture and shoulder this great undertaking. Rev. Fr John



Vallomprayil SDS, the first Indian priest who was from the British Province was contracted by the Tanzanian Pro-Province who willingly accepted this great work to undertake. The Tanzanian Pro-Province accepted the responsibility to supply the necessary personnel in the initial stages of its formation and growth. Rev. Fr John SDS was made as the 'first Local coordinator' of the Indian Foundation and Rev. Fr Krystian Golisz SDS to assist him. The place was chosen at Carmelaram, Bengaluru, at a lovely farmland, purchased from OCD Fathers for a nominal price to put up the 'First Formation House'. Meanwhile, Rev. Fr John SDS began to recruit the students from different states through pamphlets and magazines. The initial batches reflected the universality of our Founder, where in, the students were recruited from North to South & North - East. The Pioneer fathers and students had to rent 'Claret Nivas' for their temporary stay. Having stayed for about 8 to 9 months there, were shifted to 'Claret Bhavan' which was adjacent to our plot of land since it was more convenient to come and work full time. The Novitiate House was constructed by March 1990 and was blessed on 16.11.90 by Rev. Fr. Malachy McBride SDS. The First Batch of the Novices moved to the Novitiate, while major majority remained at 'Claret Bhavan'. The construction for the Formation House began in all earnestness. The foundation stone was laid on 16-11-1990 by Rev. Fr Malachy McBride SDS. The daily routine of the students would be Morning Prayer,

Meditation, Holy Mass followed by breakfast, one hour of English class, then off to the construction site to help and work with the workers. The pioneer fathers instilled in us the spirit of work and implanted in our mind that it was our own house and we needed to give our best. Hence, everyone, without any exception toiled hard. Meanwhile, Rev. Fr Eugene Resilinski SDS was appointed as the Novice Master in 1991 and Rev. Fr Mieczyslaw Kijaczek SDS was appointed as the 'prefect of candidates'.

The pioneer fathers used to come to India on Tourist Visas and stayed up to six months and then went back to their respective places of Missionary work in Tanzania. Thus, we have had a good bunch of foreign fathers who came to help us in the formation. Rev. Frs. Genifried Nnai SDS and Marian Browzowski SDS replaced Frs. Eugene Resilinski SDS & Mieczyslaw SDS as the Novice Master & Prefect of Candidates. It was time for the First Batch to profess their religious vows in the year 1992. During this time, Rev. Fr. John was asked to take care of the Mission and Christ Jyoti School. His contribution towards the CJS was highly appreciable and commendable wherein he made an imprint of his. The number of students had grown steadily due to his innovative methods of teaching & learning process in the school. The formation house adjacent to the Novitiate House at Bengaluru slowly was getting ready for use. By the end of 1992, all the candidates moved to the newly constructed formation



house and permanently bid good bye to 'Claret Bhavan'. The blessing of Rakshaka Sadan (House of Formation) took place on 19th March 1993 by Rev. Fr Genifried SDS during the First Profession of the 21 Novices. The combined classes for the Novices began at Claret Bhavan. All the male and female religious congregations at Carmelaram began to send their Novices for these all important classes apart from learning/studying their own charism/Apostolate at their respective places of formation. Rev. Frs. Krzysztof Szczotka SDS & Stanislaus Golus SDS came as the superior & Novice Master at this period. During their tenure, the first ever joint Indian SDS common Retreat for the male & female wings took place in Bengaluru. Rev. Sr. Jean Thresher SDS, animated this retreat. The aspects of formation got stabilized during the tenure of Rev. Frs. Krzysztof & Stan SDS. Many Foreign Missionaries who include Rev. Frs. Tom Novak, Andrew Urbanski shouldered the responsibility to teach the young novices. When the scarcity of personnel arose in the formation, Rev. Frs. Prakash & Cyprian, who joined the Society from the Archdioceses of Guwahati & Shillong, and made their First Profession on 4th April 1994 & 16th June 1994 respectively. Rev. Fr. Andrej Wasso SDS & Martin Kamienski followed the Indian unit for the next six months. After them, Rev. Fr. Cyprian Phrang Lyndoh SDS, Rev. Fr. Krystian Golus SDS, Rev. Fr. Jaroslaw Dziuba SDS helped the Indian unit in the still early stages of its growth. Rev. Fr.

Mariusz Sztuk SDS & Artur Chrzanowski SDS came as the Superior & the Novice Master by the year 1997. The number of students to the society kept growing but there was also a point of decline when some students left the Society or were asked to discontinue. Despite all this, the Indian Unit survived and steadily grew. Rev. Fr Mattias Millanzi SDS replaced Rev. Fr Mariusz Sztuk SDS since he couldn't extend his Visa. Rev. Fr Artur Chrzanowski SDS took over as the Superior and during his tenure, the Indian Unit started reprinting of Salvatorian Spirituality & Charism Series and Founder's Auto-biography. Some translations in the regional languages too took place. The First Ordination of the young Indian Unit members in the persons of Anandaraj, Philip & Selvaraj took place at Tyrna, in Meghalaya on 16th Feb 1997. In 1999, the new team of Generalate assumed the office. Rev. Fr Andrew Urbanski SDS became the General & Rev. Fr. Piet Cuijpers SDS became the Vicar General. Rev. Fr Piet SDS paid his maiden visit in his capacity as the Mission Secretary and Vicar General and separated the different stages of formation. All the members starting from the candidature to priesthood resided in the Bengaluru house of formation till then.

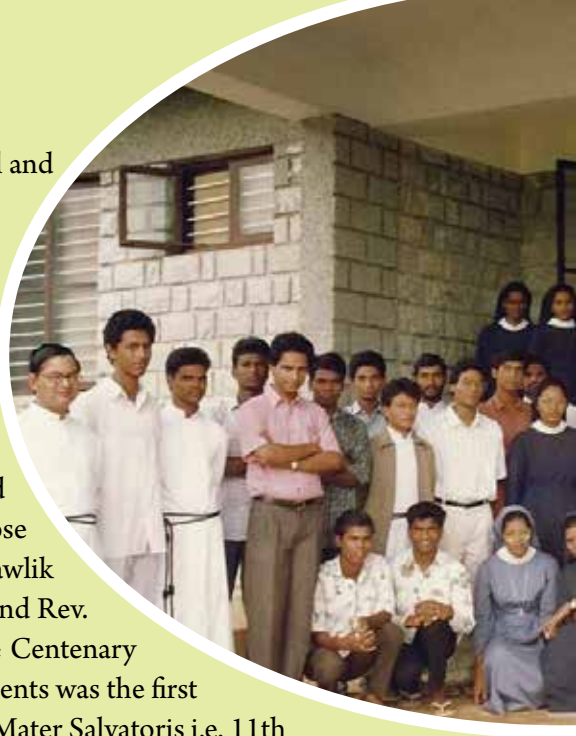
The students who studied Pre-University Courses moved, with their formator, to the Jordan Bhavan, a place near the town/city. Some newly ordained Priests and Deacons were transferred to Nagaon and Dhing. Christ Jyoti School has its branch at Dhing town, when



for the Dhing Model School and

in numbers and excel in credit to the Educationalians indeed!

to re-start our Formation Society. Some students Rev. Fr. Sahayaraj SDS and was purchased for the purpose w Urbanski, Wladyslaw Pawlik

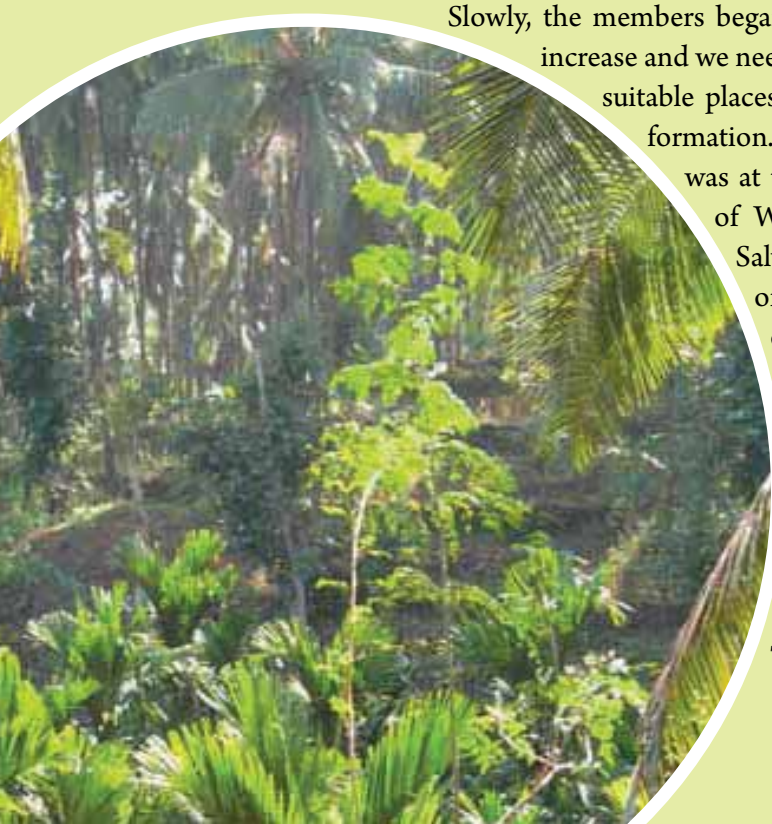


with the help of the Auxiliary Bishop of Shillong, Rt. Rev. Tarcisius Resto and Rev. Fr. Sebastian Karotempral SDB in 1990 when they were all invited for the Centenary Celebration of the Catholic Church in North-East India. This bunch of students was the first ones to study Philosophy at Christ King College, Shillong. On the Feast of Mater Salvatoris i.e. 11th October 2000, Otto Hopfenmuller Study House at Shillong was blessed and inaugurated by the Archbishop Dominic Jala SDB, in the presence of Rev. Fr. Artur, salvatorian confreres and a good number of local people. Shortly after a year, Fr. Otto's mortal remains were transferred from the local cemetery to the memorial tomb erected next to Shillong Cathedral during a solemn ceremony on 1st July 2001. Yet another milestone was achieved when Salvatorians were officially entrusted with our centuries-old Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, by Rt. Rev. Dominic Jala SDB, who installed Rev. Fr. Rajesh SDS as the Parish Priest of Laitkynsew Parish on 25th January 2004. Thus the first House of Formation & first Parish, apart from Bengaluru began to take shape.

Slowly, the members began to increase and we needed suitable places for formation. It



was at this time in 2006, a prolific contact with the then Bishop of Warangal, Thumma Bala was made and who offered to Salvatorians, a plot of land to construct our own study house of philosophy at Warangal in Telangana State and to send our students for their Philosophical studies to Salesian Philosophate (Viswa Jyoti Donbosco Philosophate). The house was built in the year 2007 to cater to the needs of the students of Philosophy and was blessed on 16/06/2007. Since the house for Philosophy was divided and it was inevitable that the house for Theology naturally got its permanence in Shillong (Otto Hopfenmuller Theology Study House) and our first batch of students began their Theological studies in 'Oriens Theological College'.





Yet another milestone was added to the young foundation, when Telespore Toppo, the Cardinal of Ranchi Archdiocese extended an invitation to the Salvatorians, bifurcating from the Cathedral Parish and naming it as 'Divine Saviour Parish' at Bitha on 08/12/2005. The dream of having a second Parish was thus accomplished.

It was inevitable to divide the Minor Seminary formation from Christ College, Bengaluru for their Pre-University Studies when numbers grew rapidly and the decision was made to send our young students to CJS, Nagaon for their Higher Secondary Studies and a house was needed to cater to this. Accordingly in our farm house at Tokabari, Jordan Minor Seminary was built on 20th January 2012 & was blessed by Rev. Fr. Andrew Urbanski SDS.

Another feather in the cap was the Establishment of Salvatorian Estate at Chullikara, in Kerala on 8th December 2015, in the southern part of India from where the Society can reap its harvest by selling annually its crop. A self-sufficient management program for the young unit. In the last general body meeting of the finally professed members in 2010 January, it was decided to undertake Sri Lanka (a small foundation) into Indian Mission Vicariate, comprising of Sri Lanka and India now. In Srilanka, two local communities at Chilaw and at Jaffna were established on 16th June 2010 & on 20th December 2011.

Now, the Indian Vicariate is growing steadily with 150 persons, which includes about 28 priests, 1 Deacon, 11 Students of Theology, 4 Regents, 5 Novices, 19 philosophy students and other students in the initial stages of the formation.



The struggles and pains of foreign Salvatorian Fathers and Pioneers, the unmatched dynamism of our Indian priests are praise worthy and we acknowledge sincerely their heroic services for the growth and development of the Indian Vicariate ●



Salvatorians in the Service of the Church through Various Apostolates in India

Fr. Benny Valiyaveettil SDS

“I accept what Holy Church accepts and I reject what Holy Church rejects,” said Fr. Francis Jordan the founder of the Salvatorians. This is the keyword for all the Salvatorians. A Salvatorian is born with the spirit of universality, with a joyful heart, with an open mind and with a spirit of gladness. A Salvatorian basically is an evangelizer of the word of God. He does not rest until all know the Saviour. To preach the word of God to all people and nations, a Salvatorian chooses no particular method but rather he considers any means available.

The Catholic Church has a very great mission to be accomplished and it cannot do it all by itself. The Salvatorian Society in collaboration with the Church willingly chooses to give itself at its service. To be a Salvatorian is to surrender all our talents and skills at the service of the Divine Saviour. A true Salvatorian must not reserve anything to anybody except for Christ. The duty of the Church is to help all people fulfill their vocation in which they receive the word of God containing the teaching of the law of Christ. The Church also has the duty always and everywhere to announce moral principles, including those pertaining to the social order and to make judgment on any human affairs to the extent that they are required by the fundamental rights of the human person or the salvation of souls. This shows that our ministry is something to do with promoting the

welfare in the society and to save souls as commanded by the Church. Therefore, a Salvatorian manifests his presence at the service of the Church through various institutions and other relevant activities. Salvatorians do not limit themselves to one or two apostolate. On the other hand he reads the signs of time and responds to them according to the need of the hour. Some of our apostolates are: Education, Parishes, Professional



Training Centers, Formation Houses, helping the poor and needy etc. These apostolates are taking place in several places in India. For instance, in Assam the Salvatorians have schools, college and Parishes. In Shillong, Salvatorians run schools, parishes, and training centers. Our apostolates varies from time to time as the need of the people is different at different places and times.

Pluralism of religion is one of India's common characteristics. Christianity in India is only a minority. Pope John Paul II in his address to the Catholic Bishops of India in New Delhi on 1 February 1986 said, "this (a clear proclamation) must be done with due respect for the great challenge of Evangelization." He also said: "the Gospel has come in order to be incarnated in

your cultures without doing violence to them." Most people in India think of the Church as a foreign, not spiritual, not religious, but a power structure running educational, social and health institutions. India is a secular state. This statement is never been true in the history of religion in India. The Church in India faces some difficulties mainly as one organization we may have failed to reach across to the other regionists or they may have felt we are encroaching upon their legitimate right to be the masters of the place. Some of the difficulties we faces are as follows: communal violence, forced conversion, vandalizing of church property, illegal forces against the religious, struggle for identity and autonomy.

However, in India there are countless numbers of institutions established by various religious Congregations to serve the Church. Definitely many people have benefited from them. But, in the course of time, we may have shifted focus unknowingly and now it is time to make corrections and change course. The religious Congregations in India lack stability at the service of the Church. Another point that leads to the failure of many Congregations in India is that they have failed to understand the language of the heart of the people. The Congregations have become myopic in their outlook and have not succeeded in reaching out to people as much as they should have. They have started to modernize their vision which gradually leads to a tunnel vision. They begin to see things not as they are but as they are to them. Therefore, we the Salvatorians have a very important task to accomplish. We have to decide here and now how to eliminate this contemporary issues. It is pertinent for us at this juncture to discern and choose a path which will lead to fulfill the vision and mission of our founder. We need a course correction and then we will be on path to fulfill the will of God. ●





Fr. Gerard Rogowski, SDS
Superior General 1975-1987



In view of the fact that our Venerable Founder, Father Francis Jordan, started the first mission apostolate in 1890, in Assam, India, the Generalate considered at the beginning of the second century (1981) of the existence of the Society the re-establishment of the Salvatorian presence in India. Since the Salvatorians had to leave their Mission in the North-eastern States of India (Assam, Meghalaya) in 1915, as a consequence of World War One, and, since this Mission Territory was taken over by the Salesian Fathers, we did not intend to return right away to the former Mission.



Considering a new foundation in India, we had to remember that, according to the present legislation, no foreign missionaries could obtain a resident visa for India; that as far as indigenous Indian Salvatorians are concerned, we have at present only one priest, Father John Vallomprail; one novice, Kuruvilla Punnankuhzi, both belonging to the British Province, and several candidates from India who applied for membership in our Society. Therefore, at the beginning, the main task of the pioneers of the new establishment would be the promotion of vocations and the formation and education of young candidates. For this purpose, we would need a formation house in or close to an area where there are vocations and educational possibilities like diocesan or religious seminaries: Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh or Tamil Nadu.

For all these reasons, we decided to try first in the Diocese of Mangalore, because it is the closest to Kerala; also not far from Goa, where there are many Catholics and vocations, and by Indian standards, not too distant from Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. For the same reasons as Mangalore, we considered to try also in the Archdiocese of Bangalore, which is even more centrally located as regards to the four mentioned States. Almost all religious of India study in Bangalore, the climate is milder than in Mangalore; and more English is spoken there.

In June, 1986, accompanied by Father John Vallomprail, I travelled to India in order to explore the possibilities of a new Salvatorian foundation. We started at Mangalore, where Bishop Basil S. D'Souza told us that the policy of his Diocese is to accept religious congregations only for immediate work in the parish apostolates, and that at the present time, all existing parishes are taken care of pastorally. -

With the help of the Provincial Superior of the Carmelites of Mary Immaculate at Calicut, Kerala, we contacted the Archbishop of Bangalore, who, for reasons of internal tensions, lived in the Bishop's House at Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.

An appointment was made and I met him at the Ecumenical Centre at Bangalore, where he conducted a symposium. Archbishop Packiam Arokiaswamy, still in full charge of the Archdiocese, after having listened to my presentation of the matter, expressed his willingness to grant us the permission to start a Salvatorian House in Bangalore.

I am very pleased that one hundred years after the first foundation, the Salvatorians could return to India. On the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the re-establishment of the SDS presence in India, I convey my heartfelt greetings, sincere congratulations and wishes for God's blessing for our dear Confreres in India! ●



A Salvatorian Returns to India

Father Malachy McBride SDS

It was a great joy for all of us that Salvatorians were able to return to India some one hundred years after our founding of the mission in Assam. It was also some seventy-five years after the early missionaries were obliged to leave India because of difficulties caused by the outbreak of the First World War.

The Indian Mission holds a privileged place in the thoughts and prayers of Salvatorians. It was the first mission established by our Founder, Father Francis Jordan, in a short space of time after the founding of the Society – about nine years in fact. This was a great act of courage on the part of the founder and his first

disciples based on the faith of the Founder in Jesus Christ and his mission to spread the Kingdom of God.

I began to notice that some in the Motherhouse, notably Father Peter Van Meijl and Father Nikolaus Wücher and some in Germany like Father Willibald Ulrich, were creating an interest in the coming centenary. Father Peter prepared a beautiful ceremony which took place in the Motherhouse chapel held on the exact date of the centenary of the departure of the first missionaries. About the same time we were delighted to receive an invitation from the Archbishop of Shillong, the most Reverend Hubert D’Rosario SDB, to send a delegation to the centenary celebrations which were to take place later in the year in Shillong and other centres associated with the early mission.

We gladly accepted the invitation and flew to Calcutta via Frankfurt and Delhi. In Calcutta we were joined



by Sister Jean Shafer, the Superior General and other Salvatorian Sisters. We were also met there by Father Andrew Urbanski, the Superior of the recently established Indian Mission and Father John Vallomprayil, our first Indian priest. It is right to put on record here our indebtedness to Father Andrew and the Tanzanian Mission, of which he was superior. It was under the auspices of the Tanzanian Mission that we were able to re-establish the mission under the rules that existed in our Society at that time.

We had to remain in Calcutta for some days while we negotiated with the Indian immigration authorities to receive special visas to enter Assam. I remember the security officer looking suspiciously at all the visas in my passport as he asked me "Are you a political person?" I assured him I was not and received my visa.

We spent a memorable week in Assam as guests of the Archbishop. He was most welcoming and gracious as were the other Bishops and priests of the thirteen dioceses in Assam and the priests and religious of the orders which had apostolates there. We visited all the places associated with our first missionaries. We were impressed by our visit to the Otto Hopfenmüller library in the seminary in Shillong where we heard that Shillong and Würzburg, Father Otto's native diocese, were both interested in promoting his course for beatification. We visited areas of Assam where our sisters had been active, especially in running schools and orphanages. One school I remember had been struck by an earthquake only a week before our arrival. I listened with some awe to the accounts by some of

the teachers of their experience.

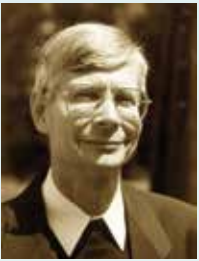
One of the most moving events of our pilgrimage was the open-air Mass which we celebrated in the cemetery in Shillong where a number of our Salvatorian Priests, Brothers and Sisters are buried. Fittingly Father Willibald Ulrich was the principal celebrant of the Mass and the preacher. He was one of the prime-movers in promoting a Salvatorian presence at the centenary celebrations. His knowledge of the history of the mission became apparent on many occasions during our travels.

The Brahmaputra Valley describes geographically the territory of the early mission. On the long way back to Guwahati airport from Shillong we were able from high up on the hill to look down on the river and the old road on which one of our first missionaries had died of a heart attack. The river valley was obviously central to the mission communications as the title of the early history "ImStromtal des Brahmaputras" (In the River Valley of the Brahmaputra) suggests.

Before returning to Frankfurt, we spent some days in our new formation house in Carmelaram, Bangalore. We were fortunate to be established in Bangalore with its facilities for priestly and religious formation. When I first approached the Archbishop of Bangalore for his permission to establish such a house he said "No", he already had enough religious houses in his archdiocese. I was bitterly disappointed until I unearthed a letter from a former Archbishop to Father Gerard Rogowski giving him permission to have such an establishment. When the new Archbishop saw the letter he relented and gave the permission we needed. Father Andrew Urbanski had by this time made the new foundation, there were now candidates, novices and professed religious in training. I blessed the foundation stone for a new scholasticate and Father Wladyslaw Pawlik and I were the first two to occupy rooms in the new novitiate building.

I can tell you we left India and returned to Rome mightily satisfied with the progress the Society had made in what had been its first mission territory ●





Fr. Karl Hoffmann SDS

A New Foundation in India – Building on the Old Foundations

As a young man I read the book „Im Stromtal des Brahmaputra“ (In the valley of the Brahmaputra river) by Fr. Christoph Becker SDS and was absolutely fascinated. It was about the Salvatorian Mission in India. A Salvatorian Father in Berlin, who was my Chaplain at that time, had given it to me. I would never have dreamed of ever going there, but as a General Superior several decades later, in March 1995, I visited the valley of the Brahmaputra river in Assam in the Northeast of India, to follow the footsteps of the first missionaries of our Society. But not only that: I was able to see for myself on the very site how the seed of the first beginnings had flourished and how well the Salvatorian presence was reestablished on the Indian Kontinent. I was accompanied by Fr. Zdzislaw Tracz, the Superior of our Mission in Tanzania, who was responsible for our new foundation in India.

Our tour began in the city of Bangalore in Southeast India, where our Study House is located since 1990. The students, novices and candidates already living there in great numbers gave us a warm welcome singing cheerfully. From the very first moment we began to experience Indian hospitality and openness and felt at home, immediately.

A new beginning in India was necessary because in 1915, the first Salvatorian missionaries had been expelled from the country for political reasons, because they were Germans. Almost 100 years went by before the Salvatorian presence was reestablished, but the results are already astounding. The new beginning rooted in 1980 when several Indian students came to England to study theology. One of them, John Vallomprayil, returned to his home country in 1988 after his ordination to the priesthood and promoted candidates for the Society. Meanwhile the Generalate had decided to establish a foundation in India and asked the Tanzanian Mission to take on this responsibility. The Tanzanian confreres chose Bangalore as the starting point. With much verve and despite many difficulties the then Mission Superior and later General Vicar P. Andrew Urbanski set to work.

P. Zdzislaw and I spent more than a week in Bangalore, to share the life of our young confreres. At the time, the students were just facing the challenges of their exams. We had an opportunity to meet the professors of the various seminaries where our students had enrolled. It is a great joy, today, to see the development of this new foundation.

Fr. Willibald Ulrich SDS is one of those who supported the foundation in India in a special way. He would have loved to travel to India, himself, but his health did not allow him to do this. There was a passion in his heart for the new beginning in India and we can only thank God for the best of fruit it continues to bear. Several times I encouraged Fr. Willibald saying: With the grace of God you were able to prepare the ground. So, be grateful and let others continue the work, remembering the words of our Founder Fr. Jordan who emphasized just as St. Paul: Others will come and accomplish the works. He did not find it easy to accept this ●



Fr. Andrew Urbanski, SDS
Salvatorian Missionary in Tanzania
Mandera, 08.02.2015



Dear Readers,

I write to you from the third Catholic Mission of East Africa in Mandera, Tanzania. After working 19 years in Tanzania and another 19 years on the Generalate of Salvatorians in Rome I am back to Tanzanian Missionary Pro-vicariate to which I belong since 42 years. Helping pastorally my Tanzanian Salvatorian parish priests I have a time for reflection sitting quite often in the evenings on the terrace of our parish house and looking at the endless African bush and millions of stars with the Cross of the South which reminds me always the suffering and death of our Savior. A kind invitation of my Indian Confreres to write a few reflections and memories inspires me to bring back my memories of 27 trips to India and the history of beginning of re-establishment of Indian Foundation called today the Missionary Vicariate in India. It was 25 years when Fr. Wladyslaw Pawlik, the general consultor and the delegate of the Generalate came here to Tanzania to ask for help in re-establishment of Indian Foundation after many years since it was closed. Our Mission chapter decided with great majority of votes to help this re-establishment. Tanzanian Mission was responsible for re-establishing Indian Foundation with important help

of the first Indian Salvatorian Fr. John Vallompraiyl, the member of the British Province. As the beginning of the Indian mission was connected with great sufferings and difficulties so its re-establishment followed the same pattern. We were sending regularly two members of Tanzanian Mission to India for a short period because of problems to obtain more permanent visa. Many missionaries had to leave their apostolate here to go to India and to come back to Tanzania and possibly to return again. Surely this resulted in instability in the initial formation. Quite often it was and it is still criticized but was there another way, would Indian Missionary Vicariate celebrates now its 25 years Jubilee without these sacrifices connected with instability in the initial formation.



Here in Tanzania we are happy that Indian Vicariate develop so well and it clearly enjoys God's blessings. We congratulate you on your success at home and in Sri Lanka and we remember you all especially during this Jubilee Year. Every Jubilee is an occasion and a challenge to

make reflections on the past and present situation and to plan for the future. You yourselves have to do this reflection and discernment. We wish you God's blessings and further growth in missionary Salvatorian spirit and in building your unity in diversity. We pray that you stick firmly to universal vision and apostolic spirit of our Venerable Founder who had sent his first members to your country.

I wish you a blessed and joyous celebration of Silver Jubilee of your new beginning ●

Memories of a Heroic Mission



Fr. Piet Cuijpers, SDS
Provincial Superior
Belgian Province

“We are all Salvatorians”. This is what an elderly woman told us when we first visited Laitkynsew in the year 2000 and when she insisted, Salvatorians should again come to this historic place and serve the Catholics in the area. When I was appointed the general mission secretary of the Society of the Divine Saviour, little did I know of the history of our mission effort in Assam. Nor did I know much of the present day communities and mission of the Society in present India. But the learning curve was steep. Our Indian members and many Catholics in Assam and Meghalaya provided lots of intellectual and emotional input in order to understand what the first missionaries of our Society meant to the area and to the Church in North-East India. The sacrifice of his life turned Fr. Otto Hopfenmüller into the Apostle of the Khasi and the Founding Father of the Catholic Church

in the North-East. With the eyes of faith, the sacrifice of his own life as a consequence of his apostolic zeal, makes Fr. Otto a holy person. The reburial of his mortal remains in Shillong on 1 July 2001 was a celebration which deeply moved me and many others. Likewise, the publication in English of his biography, written by his second successor Fr. Christophorus Becker, represented an important step. For, apart from the book on the history of the Church and the mission in North-East India, no detailed account of the life and activity of Fr. Otto existed in English.

The Society was privileged to witness the rapid development of our mission in India. Reinitiated in the year 1989, effectively, started in 1990 in Bangalore, the Salvatorians returned to their historic starting point in Shillong in the year 2000. Whereas during the first 10 years after their second arrival in India the community



lived in one, but after 25 years the Society in India lives in 10 communities. Two of these are located in neighbouring Sri Lanka, which means the Indian mission itself became already involved in supporting another mission abroad. Preparations are in place to create more missions in other Indian states. This will happen in the next few years, actually more than 100 young men entered our Society and are preparing to become in turn missionaries and Salvatorians.

I have learned that good preparation is the key to success. Whereas our Society as such, was not well prepared at the moment of embarking on its first foreign mission in Assam, it did possess one big and priceless characteristic: its Founder, Fr. Francis Jordan, and his first confreres were ready to assume whatever task was given them by Divine Providence. Endowed with an enormous apostolic zeal, which offset the lack in manpower and financial means, they took great tasks upon their shoulders. Fr. Otto was well prepared in that; he was a seasoned and well respected priest in his home country, who ardently wanted to contribute to the foreign mission of the Church. In 25 painstakingly difficult years the first Salvatorian missionaries laid a solid foundation under the present day Catholic Church in the North-East. This foundation was what their successors, the Salesians of Don Bosco, built upon when they took over the responsibility of this mission. They developed further the schools, the

mission stations, the Christian communities... till they reached the fully developed 16 dioceses in India and one in Bangladesh in the former mission territory of "Assam, Manipur and Bhutan", as the first Salvatorian mission territory was described.

As the Salvatorians in India commemorate the first missionaries and their own second period of 25 years of presence in the Indian nation, what is the question to be asked? I think the past should be our teacher for the present in order to prepare for the future. One lesson history teaches, is for sure that notwithstanding seemingly insurmountable difficulties and obstacles, God has his own ways of writing history. When we dare to trust God's power, the strength of His Holy Spirit and the salvation which He offered us in the passion, death and resurrection of His only Son, we will be able to overcome everything. The Indian Salvatorians stand on the shoulders of the first Salvatorians who came to India, who also were the first group of Salvatorians around their Founder, Fr. Francis Jordan. With the attitudes, the zeal, the love for their apostolic tasks and their adherence to their Founder and their community, the first Salvatorian missionaries to Assam remain a strong and compelling example for new generations of missionaries. May the Indian Salvatorians be imbued with this example. May the Indian mission of the Salvatorians be the mother of many new missions in the years to come! ●



Bangalore Community

The Rashaka Sadan House, Bangalore is the epicenter of Salvatorian establishment and spread in India on its resumption after the unfortunate exit in 1915. The second phase of Salvatorian presence in India began with the establishment of a formation house in Bangalore, 1990. The subsequent establishments of different Salvatorian mission centers in India owe its origin directly or indirectly to Rashaka Sadan House, Bangalore. It has been serving the Vicariate not only as the house of initial formation but also as the seat of administration for about twenty five years. It has also been the place of novitiate formation for the students of the Vicariate since 1991. It is undoubtedly true that all the members would have some of their sweet memories of Salvatorian formation associated with this Community, as every member has spent at least a couple of years of formation in Bangalore.



Fr. James Thapa

The Community in Bangalore also takes care of the administration of the Salvatorian estate, Chullikkara (Kerala). The estate was procured in 2005 as an income generating project for the Vicariate. It also served as a temporary house of formation for pre-philosophy students on different occasions. The plan to build a full-fledged seminary for pre-philosophical formation is underway and hopes to be materialized soon. The Community also administers two lands purchased for the future apostolates in Annekel (near Bangalore) and Pollachi (Tamil Nadu).

The Rashaka Sadan House, Bangalore is indebted to many a missionaries from different parts of the world who generically contributed towards its growth and development. ●



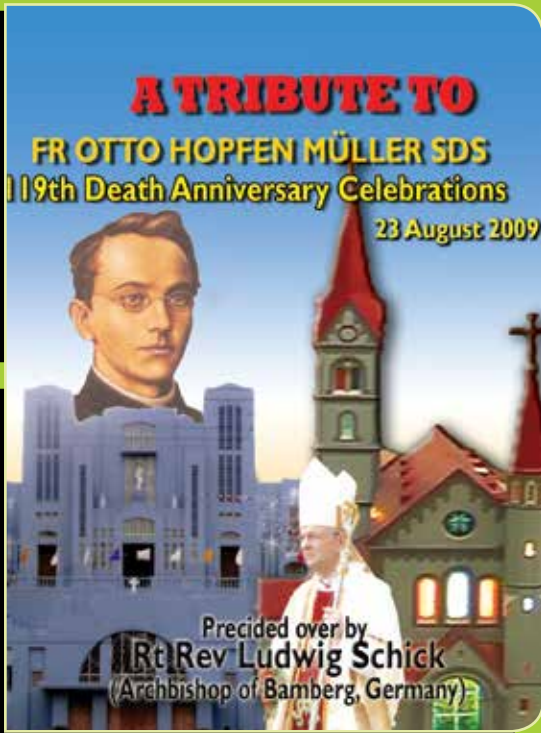


Shillong Community

The Salvatorians reached Shillong on the 27th February 1890, under the leadership of Fr Otto Hopfemnuller, SDS, and three other confreres namely: Fr Angelus Muenzloher SDS, Bro. Joseph Baechle SDS and Bro. Marianus Schumm SDS. They started to work among the local inhabitants, and began spreading the Good news of the Saviour far and wide. With the arrival of new members more centres were opened and mission activities were expanded. As the Church started to take root, it was brought to an abrupt end with the dawn of the First World War. All non-British nationals were expelled from India, including Salvatorian missionaries who were solely Germans at that time.



Fr. Peter Kordor
Nengnong SDS



The Centenary Celebration of the coming of the Catholic faith to North-East India on November 1990 was an ambient opportunity for the Salvatorians to visit their beloved mission once again. They were invited by the Archdiocese of Shillong to participate in the mega celebration; this invitation paved the way for the restart of the missionary work in Shillong. Fr Andrew Urbanski SDS, the former Superior General, was instrumental in buying a plot of land along with the existing building at Mawlai-Mawroh a town adjacent to Shillong with the help of some local clergy. Due to lack of members from India at that time to start a community, the building was temporarily rented to the Sisters of Missionary of Charity, who were taking care of the physically challenged children. It was only on 11th October 2000, that the starting of a community was materialised with the help of Fr Piet Cuijpers SDS the then Mission Superior, and Fr Arthur SDS the superior of the Indian Mission. Fr Michael Sahayaraj SDS was appointed as the first local superior. The purpose of this new establishment was to educate young seminarians in philosophy and secular degree. As years passed by a bigger and wider space was in need for the students, hence a plot of land, within the same locality, was purchased and an house was inaugurated and blessed on the 18th of April 2005. With the shifting of philosophical studies to Warangal, the house now serves as the place for the students of theology. Along with studies at Oriens Theological College, they also are involved in various ministries, especially on Sundays, like: teaching catechism, visiting the sick, organising prayer meetings, helping the youths and those in need. This gives them first-hand experiences of pastoral needs, they are exposed to the reality of human life and are enriched vocationally and spiritually. ●





Fr. Noble George SDS

The Catholic Church at Laitkynsew

After the earthquake in 1897 the activities of the mission station of Laitkynsew came to a temporary standstill after these events, it was impossible to take proper care of the Christians. The mission headquarters at Shillong took up the work of re-establishing the centre of Laitkynsew. Brother Symphorian Hass, after his recovery from a serious operation in a Calcutta hospital, was sent to Laitkynsew in the spring of 1911 by the Prefect Apostolic to supervise the work of reconstruction. The building of the school and the kitchen was undertaken first. The school could serve as a residence and chapel while the construction of the mission residence and the church was in progress. Building of reinforced concrete would have been the best solution to the dangers of earthquakes, the extreme dampness and the white ants. But this could not be done because of high costs and the difficulty of transporting building material. The foundation was made of stone; the pillars were of iron and the walls of galvanized corrugated iron sheets. On the occasion of The feast of the Queen of the Apostles, on 19th May,

1912, the fathers entered the mission residence, and the church was blessed by The Mission Superior. It was a day of great festivity and joy such as we had never yet seen in Assam. After the church service, there was an entertainment which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. The men held a meeting in the evening of the same day. One of them gave a speech in which he expressed the most sincere thanks to the Mission Superior for rebuilding the station. It was evident that the people, after all the trials of the past years were celebrating the day with great satisfaction and with sincere joy. Thus the station of Shella-Laitkynsew, within a space of not even twenty years, had risen a third time from the ruins of terrible catastrophes and bitter trials.

This mission at those times had 265 Catholics, 50 Catechumens, 2 Catechists, 2 Primary Schools, one dispensary, 2 Substations and 2 out posts at the end of 1914. However, the Laitkynsew Mission which was started in 1897 had to be abandoned by the Salvatorian Missionaries in 1915 due to the World War. After their



The First Original Catholic Church (1912)



The Catholic Church as of now (2011)



The Sts. Peter & Paul church renovated and re-dedicated on 1st feb 2015

departure the mission was left without pastors. But, by the benevolence of the Saviour, in 2004 on 25th January the mission was once again re-opened as a fully fledged Parish by His Grace Most Rt. Rev. Dominic Jala SDB, DD Archbishop of Shillong and was entrusted to the care of Salvatorians. This newly erected Parish under the patronage of the Apostles Peter and Paul consists of 36 Villages which is consisting of 1760 Catholic Families, a population of 6570 Catholics, 78 Catechumens, 4 Catechists, 11 Pre-Primary Schools, 3 Upper Primary Schools and 5 Sub-districts.

Whatsoever, as of now, the Laitkynsew Parish falls in between the Mountains of Cherrapunjee and Mawsynram. Some villages are located on high mountains, others in deep valleys, and a few others along the border with Bangladesh. A few villages are accessible with vehicles while others are reached on foot. In general people are poor and 80% of them

are farmers and depend much on nature for their livelihood. This parish consists of two tribes of the North East, the Khasis and the Garos. The first are the local people, settled in the hilly region. They own the land and live by cultivation. The Garos are migrants from Bangladesh, being Christians they find difficulties to live in the Muslim country. So they occupy the plain land along the border area. They do not own the land but work as daily laborers to earn their living. Each community has a different language, customs, traditions, way of life, but profess one faith. They count almost 50% each in the Catholic population in the Parish. Along with Catholics other denominations and religions are residing side by side. We have Khasi Religion, Protestants, Hindus, Muslims, Animist, and other traditional religions as well. The people are poor in their pockets but rich in their HEARTS and FAITH ●



Catholic Mission, Nagaon

Fr. G.K. Prakash, SDS

The vast area along the South Bank of Brahmaputra, known as Nagaon passed from the Ahom Rule to the Rule of East India Company on 28 Feb. 1826. It included present Nagaon and Morigaon Districts, Karbi Anglong, N. Kachar Hills and Nagaland. Nagaon Town was made the Head Quarters of British Rule in 1833. Gradually Nagaland, N. Kachar Hills and Karbi Anglong were separated from Nagaon.

Nagaon Catholic Mission was established by Bishop Joseph Mittathany of Tezpur Diocese in February 1979. Fr. G.K. Prakash took residence at South Haiborgaon, in the old house of Sri Tarun Bordoloi in February 1979. During his stay he purchased the first piece of land and started the missionary service by living under a tent. This tent was the beginning of Catholic Mission and Christ Jyoti School at Premnagar, Nagaon. New Catholic Communities grew up at different areas. Lands were acquired for local Churches. Churches and Schools were begun, one after another.

The Mission area was divided to form the present parishes of Jagi Road, Morigaon, Khatorbori, Silchang, Dhing, Amsoi, Chapormukh, Bebejia, Kothiatoli, Derapathar, Kaki-Tangia and Kaki-Sankarpur, Borkhola etc. Several Congregations of Sisters came to these Parishes. The works of apostolate: - Schools, Hostels, Hospitals, Destitute Home, etc. got established.

The Diocese of Tezpur and the Salvatorian Generalate in Rome initiated a process for a Canonical agreement to entrust the Nagaon Mission and the School to the Salvatorians. In the mean time Diocese of Guwahati was erected on 30 March 1992 out of the Dioceses of Shillong, Tura and Tezpur, the last contributing the biggest portion. With the creation of the Archdiocese of Guwahati Nagaon was shifted from Tezpur Diocese to Guwahati Archdiocese. The first Indian Salvatorian priest Fr. John Valomprayil was transferred to Nagaon





and he took charge of the Mission and the School as local coordinator and Principal on the 27 December 1992. Through his initiative with the first Archbishop of Guwahati, Thomas Menampampil the agreement of transferring the Nagaon Mission in perpetuity to the Salvatorians was completed. The Society of Divine Saviour developed the Christ-Jyoti School, Nagaon and Christ-Jyoti School, Dhing and the Jordan Minor Seminary at Tokobari.

Other developments that took place in the territory of the Nagaon Mission are: The SDS Sisters began building their Formation House in 2015, adjacent to Jordan Minor Seminary. In March 2015, the Arch-Diocese of Guwahati began construction of the Major Seminary for the Dioceses and Congregations of Assam Plains, i.e St. Clement College (of Philosophy) at Bhakatgaon, Nagaon. It is hoped that in June 2016, the first batch of major seminarians will begin classes here. The MSFS Fathers of Guwahati Province will manage the institution. The OMI Fathers are working at Khatorbori to develop their own Parish and School.



The HGN Fathers are at Kaki-Sankarpur developing their own Parish and School. The Vincentians Fathers have developed their Parish and School at Deraphathar.

The Nagaon District has in addition to the above, the old Parishes of Hojai (1969), Lumding (1974), Salana (1932) and Jakhalabandha. The Parish of Chandrapur was established chiefly for the spiritual care of the Garo refugees settled by Government at Gobardhan, part of former Nagaon Mission. With all these infra-structures, the Church has consolidated the existing communities in the area.

Fr. James Thapa was appointed as Parish Priest of Sacred heart of Jesus Church, Nagaon on the 4 of June 2010 as I had to retire on account of my age. He was succeeded by Fr. Philip Pukkurayil as Parish Priest and Administrator of Tokobari Seminary from 2 of February 2014 until today.

May it please God to make the Church grow in quality and Numbers also! ●



Christ Jyoti School (SEBA)

Fr. Chinnaiah Bellamkonda

Christ Jyoti School (SEBA) Nagaon was established by Fr. G.K. Prakash on 01 January 1983 and he was its Founder Principal until 1992. While staying in this premises the zeal and fervor of Fr. G.K. Prakash impelled him to embark on a house-to-house campaign for the cause of Christ Jyoti School, requesting people to send their children to the school. He succeeded in his first endeavour and managed to gather 25 students to start the School. The infamous Nellie massacre sent a shock wave across Nagaon that left the school orphaned leaving behind only Fr. Prakash in the

premises. This was a moment of great ordeal for him.

On 30 December 1985, the Venerini Sisters established their first convent in the Northeast India at Christ Jyoti School campus, Nagaon. Under the leadership of the Venerini pioneers;- Sr. Thresiamma Thomas, Sr. Theresa Chandy, Sr. Brigit Vadakkepurakal, Sr. Sylvia Madathil and Sr. Elsy Thomas, the School made great progress. Sr. Thresiamma Thomas drove the first school van while Kunjo Baido stood at the door of the van like the handyman. The school van and cyclerickshaws gave





way to school buses later on. Many other members of the MPV congregation are still collaborating with the SDS in assisting the Parish ministry, in the school as teachers and Vice Principals.

The first Indian Salvatorian Fr. John Vallomprayil was transferred to Nagaon and he took charge of the school on the 27 December 1992 as the Principal and continued until his transfer to London in 1999. Under his able leadership the school grew in strength from 650 students to 1000 and then to 1650. Till today it stands as one of best schools in the whole of Assam and the best in the district of Nagaon. The school secured a very good result with the appearance of the first batch of students in 1994 till today. It secured the state level rank in HSLC examinations many times starting from the year 2012.

After him Mr. Shaji Manuel was appointed principal

until 2000 and he was succeeded by Fr. Joseph Kannamparambil as Principal and local coordinator from 2001-2004. Fr. Sebastian Cheeramvelil took the responsibility as Principal and local coordinator in 2004 until his transfer to Germany. Fr. Benny Valiyaveetil was appointed as Principal and local coordinator from 15 November 2008 till March 2010. Fr. Gujjala Vyakula Vara Prasada Rao became the Principal and local coordinator from March 2010 till his transfer to Dhing as Principal on the 2 of February 2014. In the mean time in 2013 Fr. James Thapa took the responsibility as local coordinator until his transfer to Bangalore in 2014. In 2014 Fr. Benny was transferred back to Nagaon as Principal and as the first superior of newly established SDS local community of Nagaon, consisting the members from Nagaon, Tokobary and Dhing till date. The new office of administrator of the schools and community was added from 2009 along with the offices of Principal and local coordinator. Frs. Sebastian, Benny and Rosario Chinnappan have served as administrators and presently it is chaired by Fr. Chinnaiah Bellamkonda.

At present the school has a strength of around 2450 students, 75 teaching staff and 65 non-teaching staff. The hard work of all them paved the way for forming the young as good citizens of the Nation and sound moral persons for a healthy society in the future.

The School celebrated its Silver Jubilee from 27 October 2007 and concluded it on the 25 of October 2008 with a colorful celebration attended by a huge audience. The school has become the hope of Nagaon Town as temple of learning for the present and future generations to come ●



Christ Jyoti Junior College and CBSE School

Fr. Stephen Raj

The foundation stone for the Christ Jyoti Junior College was blessed and laid on 30 June 2001 by the former Superior General Rev. Fr. Andrew Urbanski and Vicar General Rev. Fr. Piet Cuijpers of the Salvatorians. The first pillar of the building was cast on 08 December 2001. On 21 April 2005 the Superior General of the SDS blessed and Vicar General of the SDS dedicated the school building to the fond memory of Fr. Dr. Christopher Becker the first Salvatorian Apostolic Prefect of Assam.

On the 30 July 2006 the first group of students began their class XI classes under the Higher Secondary Board of Assam. With the starting of the Junior College, the Aspirants from Bangalore, were shifted to Nagaon for their Classes XI and XII. Meanwhile in the same building the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) section was started. Sr. Valsa Chamaklayil MPV served as the first Principal from 2006-2008 and Laisy Chakkiath, MPV replaced her from 30 April 2008 to 03 April 2011. Fr. Benny

continued as the Vice Principal and he was succeeded by Fr. Rosario Chinniappan. In the year 2008 Fr. Lijo Joseph served as Vice Principal for a short term. Sr. Leena Kochuthazath, MPV served as principal from 04 April 2011 till 11 May 2014. Sr. Celin Vadayil took over the responsibility from her on the 12 May 2014 and continued as Principal till date. After Fr. Rosario Chinnappan, Fr. Stephen Raj took over the responsibility as the Vice Principal on 16 April 2012 till date.

The School got the affiliation for classes I-X from CBSE on the 01 April 2011 and the affiliation for the classes XI-XII on 24 May 2013. After securing the class XI-XII affiliation of CBSE, the Assam Higher Secondary Board's course was cancelled for all practical purposes.

Presently the school has the strength of 550 students and 32 teaching staff. There are around 17 non-teaching staff who also help in the regular smooth running of the school. The results so far are very good and the future is very promising ●



Christ Jyoti School, Dhing

Fr. Philip Pukkurayil



and note worthy among them was the owner of the shop named 'Amar Dukan' near the Dhing bus stand. The structural and architectural plans of the present school building were done by an experienced engineer by name Mr. Chakra Pani Das a well wisher of the Salvatorians from CJS, Nagaon, who did it for the CJS Silver Jubilee Block in the year 2008.

The magnificent picture you see in this page is the present Christ Jyoti School Dhing which had its humble beginning starting from 8 January 1991 in a location called Dhing Chariali as an initiative of the committee formed by the prominent people of Dhing Town. The school had its name 'Dhing Model School' and it had hardly 20 students as day scholars those days. The School was shifted from place to place temporarily. With the repeated request from the school committee as it was very hard for them to run the School, it was taken over by the Salvatorian Frs. G.K Prakash and John Vallamprayil who were residing at Nagaon. The handing over ceremony of the School took place on the 1st of January 1988 with a solemn celebration of the Scout and guides and other students and staff from Christ Jyoti School, Nagaon. With the support of the local people Fr. Prakash succeeded in buying a piece of land and the School was shifted to the present premises on 25 March 1998 and was being looked after from Prem Nagar, Nagaon. With the arrival cleric, Joseph Kannamparambil, in 1999 the daily running of the School was placed on his shoulders who looked after the school residing at Nagaon, in collaboration with the then staff. Between 1998 and 1999 school faced lots of financial debts due to insufficient number of students. During those days lots of good people from Dhing Town provided interest free financial loans to the school for its maintenance and running,

The scenario of the School improved a lot with the arrival of Fr. Philip Pukkurayil on 6 September 1999. Fr. Prakash bought another piece of land in the year



1999 and it was fully occupied by the initiative of Fr. Philip often single handedly as there were many unseen problems to occupy the land into our possession. With the support of some local friends, assistance of the local police and through legal means (court cases) this struggle seemingly ended in 2004. There were also many occasions of struggle for Fr. Philip as he did not get the required support from the SDS community or the required financial resources. In this critical time the only consolation he enjoyed was the short stay of the confrere in the person of Fr. Orlysius Marwein. With the result

of the first batch of class X students in the High School Leaving Certificate Examination (HSLC) in the year 2009 the quality of education at Christ Jyoti School came to light as all the students passed with very high percentage of marks.

Fr. Philip was transferred to Sri Lanka and he moved out of Dhing on the 17 of December 2009 to help in the starting of a new foundation in Sri Lanka. He was succeeded by Fr. Chinnaiah Bellamkonda who joined the School on 2nd June 2009 as the Principal and administrator of the School till his transfer to Bangalore



on 24th February 2012. He worked very hard for bringing up the academic standard of the School. He was succeeded by Fr. A. Alexis who joined the School on 24th February 2012 until he was transferred on 4th February 2014 as the Principal and administrator. During his time the school was blessed by the short term presence of the CCR sisters as teachers in the School. Fr. A. Alexis was succeeded by Fr. Gujjala Vyakula Vara Prasada Rao as Principal from 3rd February 2014 and Fr.

U Selvaraj as administrator from 2013. This year 2015 the School was blessed by the arrival of a new group of sisters called Daughters of Presentation of Mary in the Temple (DPMT) as the former group of sisters left the Dhing School during last December 2014. From the time of Fr. A. Alexis the Dhing school community was blessed by the regular presence of a regent.

The School came in the limelight when it secured the 10th rank in the whole of Assam in the HSLC examinations in the year 2012. The school has a strength of 621 students presently, a dedicated line of 29 Teaching staff and 08 non-teaching staff. The hard work of all of these dedicated persons under the visionary leadership of the Salvatorian Fathers and the religious sisters make this institution a beacon of hope for building the future of so many young people of the Dhing Town and a premier institution in nation building ●



Jordan Minor Seminary, Tokobari

Fr. Johnson Vinoth Kumar SDS



Tokobari is a hamlet which falls under the Shiilongani village which is about three kilometres away from our Nagaon Mission. It was in the year 1995, Fr. G.K. Prakash SDS wanted to establish an agriculture training centre which would train the young people of the surrounding area. With this intention in mind he bought a big plot of land in this place. There were many generous hearts who helped him to purchase it. For many years nothing could be done in this land due to litigations.

I remember an important occasion in the year 2002, where as a postulant I accompanied Fr. Jose and my companion Fr. Stephen to pray at the sight and we placed some medals of Mother Mary given by Bl. Teresa of Kolkata. There were many people who prayed that we could begin something at the place and it would be a great help for the Nagaon mission. We believed that our dream would come true. Although the intention of Fr. Prakash SDS to establish the agricultural training centre was not materialised, many other pastoral projects are being established like the St. Clement College of Philosophy and the Salvatorian Sisters' Formation House.

The first batch of Salvatorian aspirants began their junior college studies in Christ Jyoti Junior College from 13 July 2006 while temporarily residing at Premnagar, Nagaon. On 26 (Sunday) of October

2008 the foundation stone for the Jordan Minor Seminary, Tokobari was blessed and laid by Rev. Fr. Piet Cuijpers, the next day after the conclusion of the Silver Jubilee of the Christ Jyoti School, Nagaon. The location was an adjacent place to the already existing small building with a huge staircase constructed by Rev. Fr. Prakash some years back. Immediately after laying the foundation stone of the house, there were some troubles from the local Muslim people citing dispute on the location. Soon after that Fr. Benny initiated the construction but was completed by Fr. Rosario Chinnappan, local administrator and Vicariate Superior after a prolonged struggle with men and materials. The building was blessed on 20 January, 2012 by Rev. Fr. Andrew Urbanski, Superior General.

In the beginning Fr. James Thapa, SDS, and Fr. Stephen Raj, SDS was appointed to take care of the seminarians. They had to struggle a lot because of the frequent power cuts, insect biting, invasion of outsiders etc. They withstood everything and gradually developed the place. It would not have been possible without the cooperation of all the community members. Many people admire the serene atmosphere of the community which is surrounded by the paddy fields. With the consolidated effort of Fr. Philip (who joined as local administrator on 2 February 2014) and Fr. Chinnaiah (the administrator, Nagaon), the uncompleted areas of the boundary walls were constructed and so we could stay safely. The appointment of Fr. Johnson Vinoth Kumar from the 12 of October 2014 as formator has enhanced the formation of the minor seminarians. There are lot of efforts to cultivate rice and vegetables for our daily needs. The seminarians go to school every day by bus and they have enough time for all the activities such as work and games. We feel proud when we are able to cultivate and reap the harvest. As I conclude this brief article I hear Fr. Jordan telling us, "Continue to do good, working for the glory of God and the salvation of souls with all your strength. Move ahead. Go forward!" ●



Warangal

Fr. Alexis SDS

“The mission compels us to share our call to be apostles with people from all walks of life. We are ready to serve all people everywhere, by all ways and means which the love of Christ inspires.” With this Missionary mandate the Society of the Divine Saviour from Bangalore woke up to the call to travel to Warangal in the year 2006 to find a place to construct a Philosophy Study House to impart pure learning and wisdom in the Christian and Secular sense.

In the beginning with the invitation, to send philosophy students to Vishwa Jyothi, Don Bosco, Karunapuram had been accepted by the Society of the Divine Saviour. Hence, on 11th June, 2007 the Salvatorian brothers stepped into Vishwa Jyothi, Don Bosco Philosophate, Karunapuram. The Academic year 2007-2008 was inaugurated and the holy Eucharist was presided over by his Lordship Rt Rev ThummaBala, the Bishop of Warangal. Thus, for two years Salvatorians stayed along with other diocesan brothers at St Xavier’s major seminary, Karunapuram (parish), Warangal (diocese), Telagana State.

On 30th January 2007 the foundation stone was blessed by Rev Fr.Piet Cujpers, SDS the Vicar General of Salvatorians, which was an official Beginning of Salvatorians in Warangal. On the auspicious day Fr. Piet SDS, Exhorted and reminded everyone that the purpose of their stay here is to make Christ as the center of our lives and follow the footsteps of our founder.

After two years of stay at St.Xavier’s seminary in the month of October 2009 the brothers moved to Gnanapuram where the new house was being constructed and the new house was named after our founder Jordan Philosophy Study House, and was blessed on 9th January 2010 by Most. Rev. Thumma Bala, DD, Bishop of Warangal and inaugurated by Rev. Fr. Andrew Urbanski, SDS the Superior General of Salvatorians, that was Followed by holy Eucharist at 10:30. Am.

Since, then this Jordan Philosophy Study House has been doing a commendable job in the field of formation and pastoral ministry (in Human, Intellectual, Spiritual, Psychological, Pastoral and Salvatorian). Whatsoever, we thank everyone who has worked day and night to bring into reality the vision and mission of our Founder and we pray for those who have contributed in words and deeds that may God bless them and their intentions ●

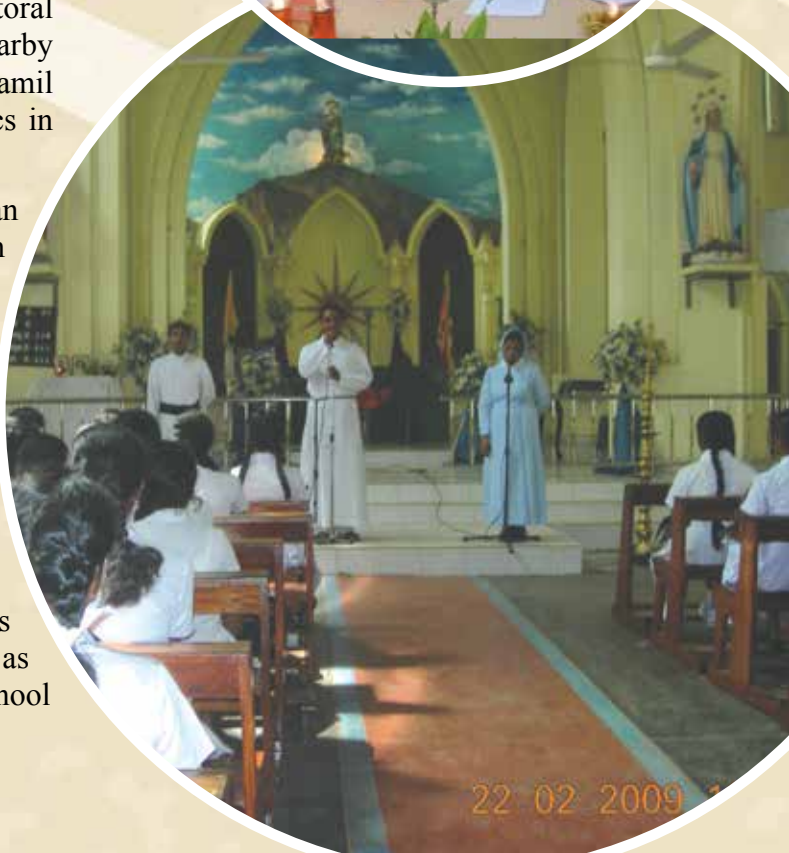
The Sri Lankan Community

Fr. Prabu Jesus Michael Rajah SDS

The effort of the British Province to educate some Sri Lankans and to send them back to Sri Lanka eventually did not find a success. So from the year 2001 vocation promotion was done by Fr. Artur Chrzanowski in collaboration with the local Salvatorian sisters. Upon the request of the Generalate, Fr. Joseph Kannamparambil went to Sri Lanka in 2009 February for prospection of future establishment and vocation promotion. As a consequence of that initiative, Mid-September 2009 an vocation camp was organized with the big help of the Salvatorian Sisters. Fr. Vinoy, Fr. Philip and Dn. Prabu jointly animated this camp. The matter was discussed during the local chapter of the Indian Salvatorians in January 2010 and a request was forwarded to the Generalate to open the foundation in Sri Lanka. It was decided that Fr. Philip Pukkurayil will be the first Indian to help in the establishment of this new foundation.

As a consequence of that our first community in Sri Lanka was established on 16 June 2010 by the Indian Mission vicariate in the diocese of Chilaw. In the diocese of Chilaw we are engaged in pastoral care for nearly 250 catholic families in the cathedral parish substation in which we have our mission house to attend the needs of the parishioners. Two priests are engaged in the pastoral activities at St. Bernadette's church as well as some nearby parishes in Chilaw diocese. There lies lackness for Tamil priests to attend the great number of Tamil Catholics in the diocese.

Our formation house at present has 11 students in an initial formation. Vocation promotion is our main priority for our community. Therefore, the Salvatorian sisters in Sri Lanka engaged themselves and played a vital role in doing the vocation promotion. Their help was immeasurable even at the initiative stage, and still they are fully devoted to extend their services to help us and ready to be within the reach of door step to meet our service requirements. We have initiated in having regular meetings and activities with lay Salvatorians as well our children by the help and support of the Salvatorian sisters. Our future vision is long streamed to promote more vocation activities as well as to open an English medium Educational school



to meet several demands of the public. We are confident that Salvatorian sisters are ready to help us to bring the educational measures a "Success."

Our second community was established on 22nd of December 2011 in the diocese of Jaffna. In 2011, two more Srilankan priests attained ordination that volunteered opening another community service in the country. It is praiseworthy to state that the generosity of a family in Jaffna volunteered a big hotel as a door step to form our formation house. We were successful in carrying out some renovations and made it suitable to meet our needs.

At present we have 12 students including four candidates who have completed their studies in Advanced Level and at the onset of their philosophy studies this year. Two priests are readily serving needs and helping in the formation and vocation promotion. The purpose of this community at present is mainly based on formation of the candidates as well as some parish activities in different parishes in Jaffna. We have a regular programme for the vocation promotion and there is no doubt that great possibility of getting more vocations in the future is possible. Our attention is now over a need for the purchase of a suitable location to enrich this formation of a new house and we believe that nothing is impossible when strong believe go forward and our knock will result in opening a door for "Success." ●





Fr. Lalit Kerketta SDS

“Go therefore into the whole world and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit”. (Mt 28:19)

The Salvatorian Fathers entered the Diocese of Ranchi at a time when the Diocese felt to have one more new parish in order to look after the spiritual needs of its Faithfull. His Eminence Cardinal Telesphore P. Toppo, with an open heart welcomed the fathers and accepted them into the Arch-Diocese offering a new parish to take care. This great task of looking for a suitable place for this purpose was shouldered by Fr. Rajesh Toppo, SDS, by the Indian Vicariate. We felt the grace of God being upon us very soon and on 31st August 2008, His Eminence Cardinal Telesphore P. Toppo officially welcomed the Salvatorian Fathers and entrusted the new parish at Bhitha to Fr. Rajesh Toppo, SDS. In the Ursuline chapel during the Holy Mass His Eminence also made an official announcement that there would be regular Sunday Eucharistic celebration in the newly bought land from the next week onwards where he laid the foundation stone for the new parish. Fr. Rajesh Toppo, SDS, celebrated the first Sunday Mass on 7th September 2008 with a hand full of faithfals in a small chapel. This new venture, Fr. Rajesh under took by staying in the Arch-Bishop's House of Ranchi diocese. He visited the place regularly and took care of the land and the faithful. Mean time the Indian Vicariate felt the need for a new community and so Fr. Vara Prasad Rao, SDS, was sent to Ranchi to assist Fr. Rajesh in this new endeavour. It took some time to come into its physical structure. On 14th January 2010 the new parish was named after our Society's name, “The Divine Saviour Parish” and was erected by His

Ranchi Mission

Eminence Cardinal Telesphore P. Toppo, in the presence of the then Superior General Rev. Fr. Andrew Urbanski, SDS, Vicar Superior Rev. Fr. Piet Cuijpers SDS, Rev. Fr. Joseph Kannamparambil SDS, Indian Vicariate Superior and many other Salvatorians with the faithfals.

The Divine Saviour Parish, at present, has grown up from a handful of faithfals to around 210 Catholic families and from a small chapel to a big temporary open hall church. It is also blessed with 5 religious Sisters' and 2 religious Brothers' Congregations at the service of church. Furthermore driving our attention to the purpose and the object of Ranchi community is basically the expansion of the Society in the Northern part of the country starting from Jharkhand and moving towards the other neighboring states.

The Society and the Ranchi community have extended its service to the local people through education. On 2nd April 2011 one more stepping stone took place in the history of Ranchi community with the opening of a new school named Divine Saviour School. Fr. Benny V.S. SDS undertook the responsibility as its first principal with 3 students and now it has gradually grown up to 70 students. The purpose behind this is to give the basic foundation in learning to little ones. Today it is felt as a great help by the parents.

Every task or new endeavour is always looked up on as a community's hard work and support of each member of the community. Today the Ranchi community is happy to acknowledge and appreciate all those members who rendered their quality time and energy in its growth, especially, during the initial years of its development. We also remember and appreciate Fr. Vara Parsad Rao, SDS, and Fr. Benny V.S. SDS, the past Assistant Parish Priests of the Divine Saviour Parish for their services to the parish and the community. We are trusting in the Divine Saviour and looking forward to grow in our daily labour and service to God's people ●





From the Land of First Salvatorians



Fr. Sebastian Cheeramvelil SDS

Beginnings are always nostalgic. The mere thought on the beginnings of anything fills one with memories on the wings of which take one travels back in time. Memories, especially the first ones have a special place in our hearts. Nothing would be able to take their place. This is the reason, a girl cannot forget her first love, the first-born child has a special place in the hearts of the parents and a pupil cannot forget his or her first teacher. This is exactly also, the

reason, the Catholic Church in northeast India cannot forget the Salvatorians. This explains as well the fact why the German Salvatorians have a special place in the hearts of the Indian Salvatorians. Northeast India being the first ever mission of the Society of the Divine Saviour has a special place in the heart of the entire Society. “Back to the roots” is a cry, which fortunately has not lost its relevance even today. The “roots” of the Salvatorian tree in India are still living and active although the trunk was chopped down at its base in the year 1915. The tree planted in 1890 had already far-reaching roots by then. In Job 14,7-9 we read: “For there is hope for a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again... Though its roots grow old in the earth... yet at the scent of water it will bud and put forth branches like a young plant.” This is exactly what happened in the life of the Salvatorian tree in

India. The roots literally grew old without getting the scent of water from 1915 until 1990. The first silver jubilee of the Salvatorian presence in India in the years 1915-1916 could not be celebrated because of the world war and the consequent departure of the Salvatorians. Now it is time to celebrate the second silver jubilee in the year 2015. Incomprehensible are the ways of God who gave a second life to the Salvatorian tree in India! This second silver jubilee must take us back to the first silver jubilee, which was drenched in tears, the tears of the German Salvatorians who had to leave their mission overnight. They loved this mission and remained loyal and steadfast to the end. This second silver jubilee of the Salvatorians must turn their tears into tears of joy and contentment. Yes! The German Salvatorians of then and of today rejoice at the “sprouting again” of the tree planted by them. It all started with the ardent desire of a young



German man to make known to all the salvation, which appeared in Jesus Christ. The young man Francis Jordan was ready to go to any extent and to remain loyal and steadfast any long in order to achieve this goal. Germany, which brought forth this heroic son of the Church, is the motherland of Salvatorians all over the world. The German Salvatorians, with whom I live and interact, remain even today shining examples of loyalty and steadfastness to the end. The venerable Father Jordan was convinced that any price he could pay for the Gospel of salvation and its spread, would not be enough. This deep consciousness of the pricelessness of the Gospel of salvation made him remain steadfast and faithful to the end even in

difficult circumstances. The saintly Pope John Paul II has equated this steadfastness of the Founder to the end (“sein Festhalten bis zuletzt”) with a miracle itself. This wonderful quality of the venerable Father is still perceptible in his sons, the German Salvatorians. I am amazed by the many wonderful qualities they have inherited from the venerable Father, the best of which in my opinion is the ability to hold fast to the good and the God-given loyalty to the end. This is worthy to be imitated. In his desire to found the Society, the venerable Father stood faithfully and patiently trusting in divine providence for a period of almost 20 years during which he answered all the questions of the Church authorities and subjected himself to apostolic visitations, never losing confidence at any point of time during this period. Twenty five years, of course, is not a long period of time in the life of a religious Society, but certainly it is a decisively long span of time for the individual Indian Salvatorians, one teeming with experiences both good and bad. On 18. November 1898, Father Jordan wrote these lines: “Pray, suffer, endure, sustain, work, cry to God, run, fly, spend yourself totally for Christ, for the salvation of souls.” It was this comprehensive vision and unflinching zeal, which inspired Otto Hopfenmüller and his companions. It is not anything different I experience among the German Salvatorians even today. Let India move back to the roots! God bless the Indian Vicariate this jubilee year! ●



Mr. Sylvester Murmu

As I share my experience with the Salvatorian Fathers, I would like to mention how I happened to be with them. It was during the month of December in the year 1991 I met Rev. Fr. G.K. Prakash at Tezpur Bishop's House. He was looking for an office assistant for his office job. Rev. Fr. Bosco Kujur, then parish priest of Salana Church who had known this, arranged a meeting between both of us. After the meeting Fr. Prakash willingly accepted me and asked me to meet him in his office on the 6th of January, 1992. Thus I became one of the lay persons to be with the Salvatorians. In the month of May, 1992 Rev. Fr. John Vallomprayil SDS came to Nagaon Christ Jyoti School and visited the institution. During his stay with us I had requested Fr. John to say something after the Rosary prayer. He willingly accepted to talk about himself and his vision for the future Salvatorians who are to take over the institution, and then we the inmates came to know that something great change is going to happen in this part of Assam. Fr. John told us that he will be coming in the month of December, 1992 to look after the institution. I remember Manik Nath, one of the students remarked; "Fr. John, will be coming with a stick to lead us we suppose!" Fr. John said, "Yeah! Of course." we had a nice laugh.

Thus he came just before the Christmas 1992. I had a great time with him to work. He is a very gentle and straight man. He introduced 'Year Planner' for the School, unit test, computer science, lesson plan etc. Those days we were having unit tests every Saturday a subject. By Wednesday teachers were giving their hand written question papers to the office for cutting stencils. We were using type-writer to cut the stencils. We remove the ribbon of the typewriter and type on

My Experience with the Salvatorian Fathers



to the stencils. It was a horrible time if one had typed mistakenly a wrong word, because there was hardly any chance of re-correcting the same. Nursery to class X there were twelve question papers to be typed and then made copies in the machine that time we call it cyclostyle machine, which one has to use his hand to drive the machine. As I was alone that time; day time I do typing and evening or night I was making copies. By Friday evening all the question papers should be divided as per the number of section of the classes. Those days we had sections of A,B and C for all the classes. From 1992 to 1998 I was alone in my office; but in the month of May 1999 Rev. Bro. J.P Selvaraj SDS (presently he is in Dhing CJS) was appointed and was assisting me to make copies of the question papers. He used to make copies when all the question papers are ready because once he starts doing he won't stop till all the question papers are finished from Nursery to Class X. For this there is a reason too, while making copies the black ink used into the machine sometime spreads all over the area and thus he gets painted all over his body, his cloth even on his face; only his teeth can be seen when he finishes the job! This was his regular duty on Fridays after lunch. Later on Rev. Fr. Joseph Kannamparambil SDS also used to help me in

printing question papers.

I remember one incident of the year 1993 when I was alone to manage my office. My wife had delivery day for our fourth child Simon; and I was given information on one Wednesday to come and attend her. As it was my day for making question papers for the Saturday, I kept it to myself and did not go to attend her, she managed with our neighbours. Later on, one Saturday I went to see her, and found her with a baby boy, who was born on Thursday. She kept in mind that I ignored her when she needed me most. Because all the children were there at home I was spared from her anger. Later on when our children were away she found me to pour her agony on me! This was the one of incidents I could not handle to be with my wife though I wanted to be!

Another incident was that of train journey to Bangalore with Rev. Fr. John. I suppose the year was 1994 when Rev. Fr. G.K. Prakash was attending his one year Novitiate course at Salvatorian House, Carmelaram, Bangalore. Fr. Prakash had asked me to come to Bangalore, and hence Fr. John had arranged train ticket reservation for both of us as he too wanted to come to Bangalore for some other purposes. While we were at Guwahati Bosco guest house Fr. John got information that Rev. Sr. Paula, the superior of Hospital Sisters who had come to visit them wanted to go back to Bangalore with us as because she had no reservation ticket. Thus I had to offer my reservation seat to her for the night time of the railway journey to Bangalore! As I had no seat to rest on for the night I was moving all over the train to avoid the uneasiness. Next day I found till 3:00 p.m. Fr. John was not getting up. I too was not aware much because I was far away from him. When he got up he found his purse was missing and along with our both the train tickets too! We called the train ticket examiner and explained the situation. Fr. John told him that he had taken coffee before sleeping and could not get up till next day 3:00 p.m. and when I got up my purse has been lost along with our train tickets. The TTE asked Fr. John at which station did he take the coffee? Fr. John told him it was in Guwahati. TTE's reply was "you should have complained there!! Now

no use." Thus he left us in our fate! Fr. John asked me whether the man who took his purse will remain in peace, I replied no. That was our consolation for the rest of the journey to Bangalore. While getting down from the train we three planned; and acted as if both of us (me and Fr. John) have come to railway station to pick up Rev. Sr. Paula, we were moving together in a row so that she be in the middle of both of us!! The ticket examiner in the railway exist door was fooled enough to make us way out of the Bangalore railway station; he neither asked us the platform ticket!!

Thus I had very nice time with Rev. Fr. John Vallomprayil SDS.

In the year 2004 Mr. Justin Kujur was appointed to assist me and in the year 2008, Mr. Manorajan Das and in the year 2014, Mr. Simon Murmu, my son who was born while I was busy working and could not attend my wife during her delivery joined here in 2014. Now we have computers and Xerox machines to make question papers.

I find all the Salvatorian Fathers to be very good and gentle. I think although they are offended they kept with themselves; because I find none of them telling me do this or that. Once I was very sick at home; about to die and my daughter Caroline informed the Fathers. In all such moments of my difficulties they all stood by me. I am proud and blessed to be with the Salvatorian Fathers! Let God continue to shower his choicest blessing upon the Salvatorians and through them to all the people they serve ●



My Encounter with the Salvatorians

Mr. STEPHAN LANONG

With immense joy and gratitude to God almighty, I greet each of the Fathers, Brothers and Sisters of the Salvatorian family in this great and memorable year of the 125 anniversary of Catholic faith coming to Northeast India, 125 death anniversary of our first mission superior, Fr. Otto Hopfenmuller, SDS and Bro. Marianus Schume and the silver jubilee of Salvatorian re-establishment in India.

I would like to give a glimpse of my encounter with the Salvatorian Congregation and how I became part of this family. It is true that most of the Catholics in Northeast India do not know about the Salvatorians, despite being the first religious Congregation to spread Catholic faith in this region, even I did not hear about them explicitly. When I was a kid my grandmother used to tell me about the German Priests; she called them “Ki Phadar German” and always used to sing the Khasi song translated from German songs in the Khasi Hymn Book “Ka Lynti Bneng”. As the time passed by, I began to actively participate in the day to today running of my own parish, the Cathedral of Mary Help of Christians, Laitumkhrah since 2001. One fine Sunday morning in the month of February, 2001 Rev Fr. Hilarius Lamare (the then parish priest and the present Diocesan Administrator of Jowai Diocese) called me urgently to his office. I hurried to his office and found a priest and five brothers present in his office. He introduced me to Fr. Machael Sahaya Raj, and other brothers, as Salvatorians. I told Fr. Hilarius Lamare that I never heard about a Congregation called Salvatorian, he then asked me “Kumno phim tip”? “kine ki dei ki phadar German,” then I recalled what my grandmother used to talk about the German Fathers. Then I asked Fr. Hilarius, whether he had called me just to introduce to them. He then replied that, since they were new in our Archdiocese, having their house in Mawroh-Mawlai, they wanted to have some Church associates as their friends and helpers. I then asked in surprise, “why me.” He spontaneously replied that it was my name that came first to his mind. It might be the will of God! That was my first encounter with the Salvatorians.

From the first date I met them till now my family and I are so close to the Salvatorian Fathers and Brothers. I always have a deep regards and love for this Congregation and admire their works, their sacrifices for the sake of the Kingdom of God. One day Fr. Michael Sahaya Raj called me to their house in Mawlai- Mawroh and gave me a photocopy of a booklet containing the life of the First Mission Superior to Assam Mission, Fr. Otto Hopfenmuller SDS, and requested me to translate it to Khasi language so that the local people can read and know about the dedication and the sacrifice of Fr. Otto Hopfenmuller SDS.

I read the book many times and I came to know deeply in my heart about this Congregation, the pain and sacrifices by those Fathers; yet we hardly





know them as “Ki Phadar German.” Deep within me I began to develop a great reverence and admiration for those missionaries namely; Fr. Otto Hopfenmuller, Fr. Angelus, Bro. Marianus, Bro. Bachle, and other Salvatorian Fathers under the leadership of Fr. Angelus and Fr. Becker.

My association with the Salvatorians starting from 2001 till date was truly an enriching experience. It is true that God has his own plan. I never dreamt about translating the life history of Fr. Otto Hopfenmuller in Khasi which was released on the 1st July 2001. My most memorable moment with the Salvatorian which I won't forget was on the 4th June 2001 when the remains of Fr. Otto Hopfenmuller was shifted from All-Saint Cemetery to the Salvatorian House in Mawlai. It was God's will that I was one of the 15 members team to dig the Graveyard of Fr. Otto Hopfenmuller. I was also honored to be a part to transfer the remains of Fr. Otto Hopfenmuller from Mawlai-Mawroh to the Cathedral Parish on the 1st July 2001. I had the opportunity to translate the Spiritual life of Fr. Jordan, the founder of the Congregation to Khasi language which was released by the Archbishop of Bamberg (Germany) in the year 2011.

I enjoyed and had a great time with all the Salvatorian Fathers and Brothers I have met and worked during the

past many years. As a family I accompany them in the annual Vocation Camp organized by the Archdiocese. I join them and speak on their behalf about the life of Fr. Otto Hopfenmuller and about the Salvatorian Congregation. I have the privilege of helping them in their annual Jingiaseng (prayer gathering) on the death anniversary of Fr. Otto Hopfenmuller by giving speech on his life.

I enjoy a good relation with Fr. Noble George, the Parish Priest and Fr. Probestar Nongsiej, the assistant Parish Priest of the Salvatorian Parish in Laitkynsew. I visit them often and do attend various programmes, Holy Eucharist and even give speech to the faithful of Laitkynsew about the Salvatorians. Fr. Noble, a good priest and a friend of mine always smiles and speaks Khasi very fluently. Last but not the least Fr. Peter Kordor Nengnong is a wonderful priest, a good friend and a very jovial person. In their company as a member of the family, I witness their faith, their dedicated, their love and their sacrifice for the kingdom of God. These men of God have taught me so many things in life which I always treasure in my heart.

To all those Salvatorian Fathers, Brother and Sister whom I have come across I wish to say “THANK YOU”. I always pray that God may protect and bless them ●

An Encounter with a True Salvatorian

Teresa Von Wüllenweber

Sr. Lilly Kurian

These days we are invited to reflect more deeply on our Salvatorian identity. Salvatorian Apostolic Identity was the theme of our Continental meetings in Africa and in Asia. This inspired me to contemplate on the life of our first Salvatorian Sister, who would often say,

*"I want to give myself to you wholly and entirely-
Wholly and entirely for whatever you choose."*

She was born into a noble family as the eldest of the five daughters of Baron Theodore and Elise von Wüllenweber. Always deeply religious as a girl, Maria Therese felt drawn to religious life and wanted to become a missionary. At the age of 24, she entered the convent of the Sacred Heart, Blumenthal, Germany. She held positions of leadership in convents. Having realized that her vocation was not that of a teacher, she left religious life and returned to her family. She developed a deep devotion to the Sacred Heart and gradually came to know the Sisters of the Visitation. Later, she became a member of the Congregation of Perpetual Adoration in Brussels, Belgium and began working with the poor. She took-up challenging initiatives, such as those in Germany, but she was assisting during the anti-Catholic Kulturkampf era. Therefore she had to return to her home. Her heart was searching for something greater!

Finally, when she encountered the founder, Francis Jordan, whose vision matched that of hers, she understood where she belonged. As individuals, we realize that our vocations are hidden in where we are and who we are. We are unique human beings, each with a call to fulfil in life what nobody else can, and to live it to the full, concretely, in the context of the here



and now.

In the Savior, she was ready to lose her identity; in humility she sang,

The smaller I, the greater You, oh! Jesus, make me small.

In February 2015, I was in Malaysia with our sisters. The sisters there serve in an orphanage called the "Salvatorian Home." The sisters dedicate themselves totally night and day to the

needs of these poor children. The children live with the sisters and take part in all of the daily activities of the sisters, except for the times when they are at school. It was a beautiful sight on February 19th, the 182nd Birthday of Blessed Mary of the Apostles, to see the sisters and the children gathered in the chapel to pray in honor of Blessed Mary of the Apostles. The prayer began with a birthday song, first in English and then in Chinese. Blessed Virgin Mary seemed to be very much alive for these little children. In return, Blessed Mary of the Apostles must have been happy because she believed that the mission of which she dreamt and wanted is now a reality.



*When I hear about the missions
I experience within me a real urgency-
A love and an yearning that
Are otherwise unknown to me.*

I personally identify Blessed Mary of the Apostles as a great Missionary, very strong in her faith, a loving woman toward all, always waiting patiently to know the will of God in her life ●

Venerini Sisters and Salvatorian Fathers

Venerini sisters, North East India

“How wonderful it is, how pleasant for God’s people to live together in harmony! That is where the Lord has promised his blessing” Ps 133.

The Trinitarian unity is the life style that prevails among all the consecrated people who are deputed by God the Father, signed by Christ His son and enlightened by the Holy Spirit to be the living gospel in the world. This unity in diversity is very much reflected in the corporate missionary activity of Venerini sisters and Salvatorian fathers.

The church, from time immemorial has recognized education as one of the essential dimension of her mission. Venerini charism of education began to germinate in the ground of Christ Jyoti School, Nagaon under the initiative of Rev Fr. Prakash in the year 1985. During this long tenure of 29 years, we, priests and the nuns tilled and toiled hand in hand to brighten the days of many youth and children through education inculcating in them both human and spiritual values.

Our apostolic activity branched into formal education as well as pastoral work. The co-operation and mutual understanding that exist between the two religious congregations enabling each individual to bloom where they are planted. The spiritual guidance and material assistance remain as a boost for everyone to express the views and vision freely and find way to keep up the core of our charism intact adopting new ways and means for an effective evangelization as per the signs of the time and need of the place.

Any endeavor unless it is nourished from the well spring of the Word of God and Eucharist, it loses its sanctity. Our day (community of fathers and sisters) begins at the altar and ends with Mother Mary by the recitation of the Holy Rosary. Both the congregations aim at paving way for the individual, taking into

consideration their uniqueness, exploring the capability and aptitude to channelize them to attain maturity in all aspects of life.

This transparency in dealing is the binding cord and the success of our joined mission in Nagaon. We are happy indeed to co-operate with the Salvatorian fathers who in turn help us to live a life

of contentment which culminates in bringing out the charism of Venerini congregation “educate to set free” in its wide perspective. This way of living together always becomes an expression of grace where the missionary activity of teaching and learning contributes substantially to the harmonious blending of Gospel values, culture, faith and life irrespective of cast, creed and religion.

As you all know, it was indeed hard to go through the birth pang of this mission in Nagaon. Yet together with one mind and heart we could withstand all the problems, trials and threats that came on our way of growth. In this jubilee year all that we wish and pray is that the Lord who held your hand down through these years to the silvery line may lead you to the golden strings. Congratulations to one and all ●





The Universality of Salvatorians in Formation

Fr. Vinoy Joseph

Religious formation today is a complex subject to discuss. Formation as a work in progress is one of the courageous ways of looking at this complex reality. Formation is aimed at helping the candidates acquire a certain way of life; way of our Saviour. A culture where more advanced level of religious aspirations and a more developed knowledge of the faith is embraced. We Salvatorians, help our candidates learn this way with an attitude of humility and compassion. First and foremost we help them experience the love of our Saviour. Religious formation therefore is a thrilling and challenging pastoral work of vocations because the goal is to accompany the candidate as one enters with the mystery of his/her own life.

Candidates need to experience the love and compassion of our Saviour especially through their formators. This requires that the formation team accompanies the

candidates. The accompaniment aims not only towards bringing the best out of each of the candidates but also helping each of the candidates discern God's will. Like the good shepherd, the formators help the candidates feel safe, secure and help them discern where Saviour wants them to reach. An attitude of deep humility is indispensable as one is being formed in this culture to exercise the compassion. In a Salvatorian way sharing the goodness and kindness of the Saviour with an attitude of appreciating others, where one is becoming little less demanding and more compassionate towards others.

Based on the essential characteristics of Salvatorian mission, the Salvatorian formation focuses on strengthening the joy of the vocation and prepares a Salvatorians for the charism of mobility for the universal apostolic mission. Care needs to be given

not to end up with an attitude of indifference towards other 'side of the lake'. The intention of the Salvatorian from the Spiritual Diary (SD) is clear; let your dealings be in heaven; do not focus on earth unless it promotes the glory of God and the salvation of the souls. (SD. I/143).

The religious formation reminds everyone that the kingdom of God does not mean eating or drinking. It means righteousness, peace and joy brought by the Holy Spirit. Formation helps one to be a disciple of Jesus who pleased God by serving the humanity, by being a Savior for everyone. Formation helps candidates to adopt customs that leads to peace and mutual improvement. (Rom: 14-17).

Formation prepares the candidate for the consecration by training them to be intimate with Christ. It is a training period establishing a loving contact with the life and the intimacy of Christ. This also meets the expectation of the people of God; the lips of priest guard knowledge, and men seek the law from his mouth, for he is the angel of the Lord Almighty. (12 July, office of the readings). On the occasion of announcing the year of consecrated life, Pope Francis remarked that “ a radical approach is required of all Christians but religious persons are called upon to follow the Lord in a special way; they are men and women who can awaken the world”. He went on to say, “consecrated life is a prophesy. God asks us to fly the nest and to be sent to the frontiers of the world, avoiding the temptation of to ‘domesticate’ them. This is the most concrete way of imitating the Lord”. (Zenit. online, 3 sep. 2014).

Formation is very challenging in today's world where media shapes the mentality and the culture more by than the family. Formators need know the candidate well and need to help them enough to be a member in our congregation.

Even though formation may not guarantee that the candidates acquire the way of our Saviour, providing a conducive ambience to acquire this way is essential. Our community life needs to attract the candidates and help them feel at home, especially as they come to the



seminary leaving their parents, relatives and friends.

Religious men and women embody and witness to a dimension of the universal Christian call to unity in Christ which is special (though not unique) to them, namely, the transcendent quality of Christian community as eschatological reality. Jesus is Saviour of the world (cf Jn 4,42) and the Church must incarnate that universal mission in his/her life and ministry.

Formation is not an add-on to other activity, but a fundamental pre-requisite for all that happens. It is not built upon instruction and enforcement, but more identified with exploration and integration of a message that gives life to the individual and meaning to the mission. Drawing inspiration from Jesus the compassionate Saviour and keeping Him as the centre of his heart, Pope Francis has set clear goals for the disciples of Jesus to break the boundaries which exist among the nations, churches, societies, families, religious communities and individuals. As consecrated men and women we need to love, identify, and come closer to the people of God and only then the renewal in consecrated life is attainable.

Though it is challenging, formation is to believe that in any human person/candidate there is a richness that needs to be developed. Formation becomes a love affair when formators know the candidate have come with the requirements that are in fact essential to our Congregation. Formation is also a work of conversion and religious consecrated life is one of the means to better the baptismal call for holiness and accomplishing this mission in and for the church in the service to the humanity.



“Talk about Father Jordan and the Pioneers”

By Robert, Ajith & David (Novices 2015-16)

It was indeed a graceful occasion for all those who have attended the SDS retreat cum seminar in Bangalore guided by Rev.Fr. Peter van Meijl, SDS a member of the Austrian Province of the Salvatorians. The retreat cum seminar lasted for five days. We started it on 9th and ended on 13th of July 2015. The retreat was held at Camillian Pastoral Health Center, Carmelaram which is an excellent place for such events. There was active involvement among the participants and thus it was a very fruitful one. There were twenty four participants all together. By the end of the week, there was a tremendous feeling of togetherness in the group.

The subjects presented during the retreat were wonderful. For some people the retreat rings a bell. For other it was an input session about our Society. Still for some other it is a time to renovate the spirit of our founder, Fr. Francis Jordan. Many interesting facts and several fascinating questions about the Society were brought out during the retreat. As a result, in the course of time it started to brainstorm us. We could not help, but to reconcile with the shortcomings and the failures we had made during the last twenty five years as Salvatorians. Fr. Jordan himself rightly said in his Spiritual Diary, “Do not spend time brooding over your mistakes; it wastes your time, discourages you, and confuses your mind and heart. Humble yourself and repent as soon as you notice them. After that, set them aside and continue on your way.”¹ This seminar



cum retreat was definitely a very apt situation for the preparation of the conclusion of the silver jubilee on the 23rd of August 2015 in Shillong.

The retreat covered many important topics such as the internationality as the pearl of our Society, our Charism as a ‘mobility’ and the role of the ‘Spiritual Diary’. It is interesting to know something about the functions of the spiritual diary in our spiritual life. For Fr. Jordan the Spiritual diary provided a compass for his life. It was perhaps a journal of his spiritual journey. It contains all the feelings and emotions that any human person can have. The Spiritual Dairy provides a ‘road map’ or a spiritual direction for all his spiritual sons and daughters.

During his life time Fr. Jordan knew very well about the importance of the presence of women in the Salvatorian Society. He considered women as the other side of the same coin that is man. Therefore, he humbled himself and collaborated with them. Consequently, we have the Salvatorian Sisters with Mother Mary as the head. The Sisters are our mutual supporters and partners in

¹ Spiritual Diary, 1/46.

our proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Both Fr. Jordan and Mother Mary had a burning desire to preach Christ crucified. They left no stone unturned in their missionary activities. Mother Mary just like Fr. Jordan was a gentle soul. She is known for her nobility, motherliness, obedience, prayerfulness etc. Both Fr. Jordan and Mother Mary never failed to impress anybody who came across their lives.

There are only two ways when we talk about the development of any Congregation, which is about the rise and fall of that Congregation. All the same, there is always a burning desire among the members to improve it. This is vividly seen during this retreat. Each person has his own burning concerns or desires, affirmatively of course. When we place these concerns or desires together we find that we are very much



positive to build our Society. It is a sign of achievement that we could possibly make in the immediate future. We do realize that we are not the copy of our founder. However, we are his worthy successors living in the contemporary world to accomplish his dreams in the contemporary world as an extension of his charism and dreams. This understanding helps us to have a proper means to face the challenges of the current era. Our founder was very advanced in his thoughts and actions. He is recognized as the forerunner of the Vatican council II. He was the man of prayer, enthusiastic, jovial etc, and he admonished his spiritual sons and daughters to practice the same.

The five days retreat made us to think something through about the 25 years of our existence in India.



We couldn't think up a better excuse than to say "Yes we have to move on and achieve more and more in our mission." This retreat has created a different impact on each participant. Each one received the same things but in a different perspectives. This is the beauty of being a Salvatorian. And so at the end of the retreat cum seminar each one acknowledged his/her benefits by expressing them orally. Here are some of the acknowledgements; the retreat was a journey through the life of our founder, the retreat was an advantage to recapture the spirit of our past missionaries, the retreat posted a challenge to live as Salvatorians, the retreat provided more chances to learn about our founder and his spirituality and so forth.

The Vicariate superior and the council have done a wonderful job by arranging this retreat. It acts as a wakeup call to the all the members of the Vicariate. We must take our hats off to them for this great initiative. We believe that we must continue to take up such task in the future on a regular basis. This sort of program will lead us to succeed in our mission and apostolate as Salvatorians after the heart of our beloved Founder, Fr. Jordan.



List of Members who have made their Perpetual Profession in the Indian Mission Vicariate



Fr. A. Alexis



Fr. Benny Valiyaveetil



Fr. Chinnaiah Bellamkonda



Fr. George Prakash
Kizhukarakat



Fr. J. Stephen Louis



Fr. James Thapa



Fr. Jesurajan Lambert Juliu



Fr. John Peter Selvaraj



Fr. Johnson Vinoth Kumar



Fr. Joseph Kannamparambil



Fr. Lalit Kerketta



Fr. Lijo Joseph
Puthenkandathil



Fr. Noble George



Fr. Patrick Damien
Raj Peries



Fr. Peter Kordor
Nengnong



Fr. Philip Pukkurayil



Fr. Prabu Jesus Michael Rajah



Fr. Probestar Nongsiej



Fr. Rajesh Toppo



Fr. Rosario Chinnappan



Fr. S. Amal Vimal Raj



Fr. Sebastian Cheeramvelil



Fr. Selvanathan Soosai



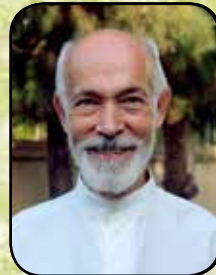
Fr. Shaji Sebastian
Kallukeerthouty



Fr. Stephen Raj



Fr. Sunil Thomas
Kashamkattil



Fr. Thomas Runggaldier



Fr. Vara Prasada Rao
Gujjala Vyakula



Fr. Vinoy Joseph Thottakkara



Dn. Joby Philip Koonthamattathil



Dn. Vinothan Francis
Mudiyaappu Culas

In Loving Memory



Fr. Orlysius Marwein SDS
(1971-2007)



Bro. Steven Waugh Kharbani
(1989-2007)



(L-R) Dn. Arockia Samy Kanikia, Dn. Kumar Irudayasamy,
Dn. Ashok Reddy and Dn. Lessmon Nongtdu



Theology Students at Shillong



Philosophy Students as Warangal

