



# SANDESH

Indian Montfortian Communication

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## From the Desk of the Provincial

Rejoice! The Lord has risen indeed, Alleluia!

We are still in the fragrance of Easter celebration. We do not think of Easter without setting our minds and hearts on the stone rolled, on empty tomb and on the new life from the Risen Christ. "Scripture clearly says that Jesus must rise from the dead, but they had not yet understood that." (Jn20: 9) Because of lack of understanding of the Scriptures, we too, like Mary Magdalene and other women keep running to the tomb. Mary and other women going to the tomb, always made me to reflect about the reason for which they went. The purpose of the empty tomb stories has less to do with proof than with meaning. The empty tomb indicates not the presence of Jesus but his absence: 'He is risen, he is not here'.

The power of Resurrection should influence the lives of each of us in the vice-province. How? Our houses are in a way empty these days, perhaps because of holiday season. We need to consider not so much the empty houses but the emptiness in the full houses and in the emptiness of the en-fleshed hearts. If we are basing our life in the houses, and faith in our hearts on the 'empty tomb' reality, we may still keep hearing the words, 'He is not here, He has Risen as He said he would'(Mt 28: 6). Perhaps, we still try to bear witness, showing our empty houses and our empty hearts, to convince people that 'He has Risen as he said He would.' We will still keep running from Chapels to Retreat Centres, looking for Him to find Him in the 'empty tombs'; empty institutions, empty houses, empty communities, empty hearts. We still keep talking about 'He is not here.' People want to know, they keep asking, 'the tomb is empty, your house is empty, even your heart is empty, He has Risen, but where is He?' they ask us, 'Do you want to be the witnesses of the empty tomb?'

Our witnessing to the Risen Lord is not based on 'empty tomb stories', but on 'appearance narratives.' Yes, the Risen Lord has appeared to Mary Magdalene (Jn 20: 11-18), He appeared to other women (Mk16:9), He appeared to the disciples(Mk16: 14). We did not understand the Scriptures, He showed Himself to us, He talked to us, He walked with us, He explained the Scripture to us(24: 27f.), He ate with us (Lk 24: 43), He broke the bread for us(Lk 22: 19), we have seen Him, we know Him, we have touched Him(1 John 1: 1), therefore, we bear witness to Him (Act 5: 32).

All of us are in the Upper Room(Acts1: 12-14), as He appeared to us, have we seen Him, touched Him? Our Chapels, if they are not 'Upper Rooms', then they remain as 'Cellar Rooms', filled with other things or they can become empty tombs where we find not the Risen Lord, but only the wrapped linen of his dead body. Let the experience of the Risen Lord burn our hearts as He appears to us in the 'Scripture', 'Breaking of the Bread', in our 'confreres', in our 'communities'. Let us strive to become living temples, and let our communities and houses become 'Upper Rooms' to people in the coming academic year.

**Fr. J Joseph SMM**  
**Provincial**  
**Vice-Province of India**

## Summer Programme for the SMM Seminarians



The purpose of this programme is to bring more and more interaction between the SMM young priests and Seminarians. The idea of inculcating Montfortian Spirit in the young seminarians and their response to it came about in the YUVA MILANA- an inter-community seminarian gathering that we held last year at Gurumandir, Mysore. It is well thought to continue the same spirit by involving young priests of the entity. It is well planned and programmed. The programme is meant for all the seminarians who are in postulancy. It is held batch wise both in Mysore and Hirekerur.

All the students, from Kerala, Andhra and Karnataka are given common classes and orientation towards how they can be preparing themselves to be future Montfortians. The response is very positive by the students and the staff. We hope this programme will continue in the coming days. We thank all the organisers, confreres who took the trouble to give classes, the Gurumandir and Hirekerur communities along with Sneha Bhavan and Estate Manager for making the place available and also those organising it well.

## Inauguration of the New Hall at K. D. Jola

On 28th of April 2019, on the occasion of the Feast of our Founder, St. Louis Marie De Montfort, the long-awaited project, the hall at K. D. Jola Parish of Shantinagar Mission completed and inaugurated. The hard work of many parish priests who worked there: Mohan Vincent, Balaswamy Kata, Ravi Joseph, Kiran Babu has borne fruit under the

supervision of Balaswamy Kata in finding Donors to complete the project.

Fr. Kiran Babu worked tirelessly in executing the work. Fr. Provincial, Joseph Joseph SMM, Inaugurated the Hall (St. Brendon Hall) and celebrated the Holy Eucharist of St. Montfort. Fr. Balashowri preached the homily. There were other diocesan priests along with Fr. Prakash SMM concelebrated. The Parish is dedicated to St. Montfort, and so the people came in large number for this great event. We thank everyone for their contribution towards this work for God Alone!



## Council Meeting

Council Meeting was held on 9-10th April 2019 at Adarsh Bhavan, Provincial house. Previous Council's decisions were highlighted. The present meeting had its focus mainly on two main areas, namely, new appointments, and evaluation of the students for the renewal of vows. It was difficult to place the right people in the right place. Many of the confreres had their works half done and wanted one more year to complete the works. We were left over with few hands and we had to manage. The appointments done may not be the best but the administration has tried its best with what is available. We wish all our confreres good luck to their new obedience, and congratulate all the Scholastics who are going to renew their vows.

## Health Updates

1. **K. J. Michael:** We recently came to know that Fr. K J Michael is infected with Tuberculosis and was shifted from St. John's to Nimhans(Sanitorium). On 22<sup>nd</sup> April Frs. Joseph and Selvakumar visited the doctors and they are positive about his health that he's responding to his medication and there is no symptom of vomiting, joint pains and burning sensation in the stomach. Now at this present condition, we have shifted him to Montfort Farm community. There is a scholastic who is taking care of Fr. Michael.
2. **Fr. Prabhakar:** Fr. Prabhakar had to undergo two surgeries for his ankle. He was treated at St. John's Medical College for 15 days. Now, he is well and back to his parish at Jalahalli, Bangalore.
3. **Fr. Anthony** is having temporary medication in Goa. As he comes down to Bangalore, he will be attended for his health issues.
4. **Fr. Norbert Lobo** is improving day by day. He needs more time to get fully recovered. At the moment, the council has decided to place Arun D'Souza as Parish Priest and Fr. Norbert will be taken care in Goa itself.

**Trip to Goa:** Frs. Joseph J., Jerome and Jason went

to Goa on 23rd March 2019 to meet the Bishop and to discuss the future of Goa's Montfortian

presence. After listening to Frs. Norbert Lobo and Anthony Pereira, they met Fr. Vicar General (could not meet Bishop due to his non-availability). Fr. Vicar General gave the option to continue or write to Bishop if not continuing the mission.



Taking into consideration the health conditions of both the confreres in Goa, and at the same time taking time to discern on the Montfortian presence, the council decided to continue for the time-being the mission in Goa.

## Preparation for Perpetual Profession:

Bros. Jesudoss and Pramod are preparing well for their Perpetual Profession under the leadership of Fr. Reni. They were sent to Personal Growth and Renewal Course in Don Bosco Institute, Bangalore and



later Frs. Peter Mascarenhas, J. Joseph, Micheal Sahayaraj guided them on important subjects. They also had a Marian Pilgrimage to Velankanni and attended Vipassana Meditation in Sneha Bhavan by a religious brother, Bro. Abraham. We wish them fruitful preparation. All are invited to take part in the joyful celebration of Perpetual and First profession held on 31st May 2019 at Sneha Bhavan, Montfort Estate. All those who wish to come for the First and the final profession, please inform in advance to the respective superior or the Administrator in order to arrange for the proper accommodation.

## Retreats during Lenten Season:



During the Lenten Season, our confreres have come forward to organize in their respective missions different activities like Retreats,



animation of the way of the cross, Palm Sunday processions etc.

**Frs. Francis & Johnson to FIM:** International Montfortian



Formation is being attended by two Indian confreres, Frs. Francis Bulipe and Johnson. They departed to France on

9th April 2019. After their formation course, they visit Rome and they will be back in India on 28th June. We continue to wish them through our prayers.

**Novitiate House Furnishing:** The house is equipped with Solar power for lights to the entire new building and Solar Hot water system. The rooms are furnished with



wardrobes, desks and cots. Now the house is being equipped for the celebration on 31st May. The first floor of this wing is also meant to invite guests for hospitality and retreats. We can encourage this project without disturbing the Novitiate programme.

### Personal Information (Bio-Data)

We thank all the confreres who sent your personal information. Your openness in the areas of interest helped for consultation in the council, and the council has accommodated the confreres in the field they can serve best and collaborate in the Apostolate.

### Information

- **Bros. Jesu and Pramod** are going to Latin America for their Diaconate Ministry after Final commitment and Diaconate.
- **Fr. Vinod** after his holidays and his personal retreat in his native place, Mumbai he's going back to PNG to work in the Diocese of Lae for Bishop Rozario Menezes, SMM.
- **Fr. Mohan** has come down from the United States and is recommended for a year of Ongoing Formation. He will be attending a course in the Institute of Sanyasa in Carmalaram, Bengaluru.
- **Fr. Raja Ratna** is back to India. He has requested the Provincial for some leave, for rest, and the updates on Fr. Rajaratna will be given later.
- **Fr. Shibi** after completing his work in Kerala community will be preparing himself to go to the Canada Mission. Prior to his leaving, he will be doing a language course in Bangalore.
- **Frs. Roy and Jeevan** are promoted to be the parish priests. We congratulate them for their dedication and commitment in their mission and wish them all the very best for their successful mission as parish priests.

### 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Celebration – Megamalai

On May, 11<sup>th</sup> Saturday we have the blessing of the New Chapel of Our Lady of Way and the 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Celebration of the renovated Sacred Heart Church. The celebration will be solemnized and blessed by **Rev. Bp. Antony Popusamy** in Megamalai. Frs. Joseph J., Selvakumar and Nashwin will partake in the celebration. We also wish through our prayers Fr. Philip Arokiaraj all God's blessing for his dedication to the mission.