



# SANDESH

Indian Montfortian Communication

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## From the Desk of the Provincial

*"God loves each of us as if there were only one of us." - St. Augustine.*

*We are in the season of Lent, and during this season, we enter into a time of preparation, self-reflection, and repentance. We seek during the preparation, to literally "turn around" and realign our lives and focus toward God. It is a special time to realize that we need to give up things as well as take on new life-giving practices, helping us rid ourselves of distractions and our selfish desires. When we do this, we are made to feel that God loves each of us as if there were only one of us. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16). Jesus not only came to make God's love possible but to make God's love visible.*

*An American Protestant Theologian, Walter Brueggemann, reflecting on Lent points out the following: "I imagine Lent for you and me as a great departure from the greedy, anxious anti-neighborliness of our economy, a great departure from our exclusionary politics that fears the other, a great departure from self-indulgent consumerism that devours creation. And then arrival in a new neighborhood, because it is a gift to be simple, it is a gift to be free; it is a gift to come down where we ought to be."*

*This year's Lent has made us, Montfortians especially in Indian Vice-Province, to reflect not only on the message of Lent; Prayer, Penance, and Alms-giving but also on the reality of human suffering. Many of us had faced the reality of sickness and sufferings in our Senior and sick confreres. This reality has brought to us, to introspect our inner existence and fidelity to the Lord. Looking at many of our confreres suffering physically, and one of them, the youngest of all of us, unexpectedly choosing to go beyond the human world, leads us to ask: "Why did it happen? What does it all mean? Why did God let it happen?"*

*The situation in the world over due to Coronavirus; the total number of cases reached up to 345,289 with 14,925 deaths and 10,633 cases with a critical condition (as on 23rd March 2020) has put every one of us into the atmosphere of sadness and grief. Whatever lesson this deadly virus has brought us, maybe, we cannot deny the fact that it led everyone, without any barrier, to think: "Could an 'outer change lead to an inner change'"? It made us accept the fact that 'Human suffering is one of the greatest mysteries in life'. It made us accept the fact that only the Transcendent can lead us to find answers to our human quests. 'From the Christian perspective, suffering is transformed by Christ and made the greatest instrument of grace. By suffering on the Cross, Christ brought salvation to the world. We learn from Christ that suffering is an opportunity for grace. By suffering, the Christian becomes a sign of one's closeness to Christ and a path of holiness'. Let us pay attention to the Grace that comes through Cross and suffering. By accepting our cross and walking with Jesus will lead us to be in communion with our brothers and sisters in their time of suffering. May the intensive prayer and penance of Lent lead us to the Glory of resurrection.*

*Have a Blessed Easter!*

Vice-Province of India  
Fr J Joseph SMM  
Vice-Province of India

## New Priests in the Vineyard of the Lord.



Philip Pramod and Jesu Doss ordained to the priesthood on the 9th of January 2020 by Most Rev. Francis Serrao, SJ, the Bishop of Shimoga are entrusted with a new mission of collaborating in Nicaragua and Brazil.

Read what Pramod and Jesudoss has to say about their mission:

**Mission in Nicaragua, America Central:** The Nicaraguan mission founded on October 4, 1974, by the Province of the United States, today has five missionaries: two Nicaraguans, two from Indonesia and one from India (myself) and we also accompany a candidate in the pre-novitiate formation process. Our mission is in the central part of the country (Chontales), where we serve two parishes, namely, Apóstol Santiago (Apostol Saint James) in the village called Santo Tomás and María Reina de todos Los Corazones (Mary Queen of all Hearts) in the village called La Gateada with 21 rural communities (substations).

Nicaragua, very far from India in terms of distance but very close to my country in terms of customs and traditions because people are very much committed to the Church and I always admire their enthusiasm and missionary spirit. God-fearing people and very respectful towards priests and religious. Their collaboration in the rural mission is

splendid. I am glad to be part of the mission here, joyfully express my freedom and availability and ready to take the risk for God's mission walking through the footsteps of Father de Montfort.

*Fr. Philip Pramod, SMM*

## Montfort Missionaries in Peru-Brazil

In this small write up, I would like to share a few details about the Montfortian presence and mission in the delegation of Peru-Brazil. The Peruvian mission was founded by the Italian province in October 1961, whereas the Brazilian mission was founded by the Holland province in 1967. Today, the delegation has 26 Montfort missionaries from five nationalities (Peru-13, Italy-5, Brazil-4, France-2, Haiti-1, and India-1). Among them, 20 are in Peru in five communities and 6 are in Brazil in two communities. We also have one scholastic from Brazil and three pre-novices from Peru. Besides that, we have an International Scholasticate for Latin-America and Caribe where there are 8 scholastics from four nationalities.

***Our Presence and Mission in Peru:*** At present we are in three different parishes. All these three are unique in their way because three are formed and nurtured by the Montfort missionaries. Apart from the evangelization, we accompany many groups such as Legion of Mary, Montfort Lay Associates, the Association of *Mary Queen of All Hearts*, Montfortain Youth groups, etc. Apart from the parish activity, we do have a Marian Centre and Montfort Centre through which we share our spirituality by preparing people for the consecration (To Jesus Through Mary), offering talks and retreats in Montfortian way. ***Our Mission in Brazil:*** I have personally not been there but as for my knowledge we have two parishes and these

two are also unique in their way. One is formed and nurtured by the Montfortians and the other is just completed fifty years of our presence.

**My Impression:** The past six years have given me multiple opportunities to grow and to prepare myself as a Montfort missionary who is always ready to open to the will of God to go on mission despite all the challenges that come on my way. At present, I am in Peru preparing to go to Brazil. Indeed, I feel happy to be part of this small mission group and to collaborate in all the way possible by making myself available and be open to the mission.

*'Liberos: Fear not, my little flock'.*

**Fr. Jesu Doss, SMM**

### **Bible Soba (Convention) in Shantinagar Mission, Andhra Pradesh:**



The 23rd Bible Convention for *Savaras* at K.D. Jola Parish, Andhra Pradesh was held and the theme was EVANGELIZATION. The Word of God is alive and active among the *Savara* tribe. The *Savara* Bible Soba originally was started by Rev. Fr. Joseph Mulan, CM in 1997 to strengthen their faith and from then the *Savara* speaking parishes took the responsibility of organizing it each year in different parishes. This Bible Soba meant for the *Savara* speaking parishes begins every year soon after the Ash Wednesday as a preparation for the Easter

when our Lord defeats the death by rising. These *Savara* parishes widely spread in Srikakulam, Rayagada, and Bharampur Dioceses. This year 2020, Montfort Missionaries at Shantinagar Community took the initiative to conduct 23rd Bible Convention at Chintamanuguda village, K.D. Jola Parish, Srikakulam Diocese in Andhra Pradesh. This Bible Convention was organized from 27-02-2020 to 01-3-2020 for the spiritual nourishment of the *Savara* faithful, coming from Andhra Pradesh and Odisha under the guidance of the Shepherds of the Catholic Church.

It was well organized by the committee members especially Rev. Fr. Kiran and Fr. T. Ravi in collaboration with the supervisors, catechists and faithful from both Shantinagar and K.D. Jola parishes to help the people have a deeper spiritual, God-fearing experience at the beginning of Lent and to celebrate the Easter in a worthy manner. During four days, the Holy Mass was live-telecasted on Divyavaani Broadcasting Channel. We express our sincere gratitude to God, all departments and people who have helped us in one way or the other to organize it successfully. We concluded it by giving glory to God for His countless blessings.

### **Jubilee Celebration in Bethamcherla, Kurnool Mission:**



Our mission in Bethamcherla, Kurnool diocese recently began the jubilee year on 9th February 2020 in the presence of the

shepherd of the diocese, Rev. Bp. Poola Antony. The celebration began with a grand procession by the pastoral clergy of the diocese along with religious priests who came from far and near. Former parish priests were honored by the present parish priest, Fr. Vara Prasad SMM. Frs. Kiran, Ashwani, Ravi Joseph, Ravi T., took an active role in the success of this event. The work of the Montfortians was recognized and well appreciated in Kurnool diocese. It was in 1995 the mission was handed over to the Montfort Fathers by the diocese and from then on, there is no doubt, the Missionaries have brought them to the Lord through educating them in faith, respecting their culture and eradicating their superstitions. We thank all the fathers who have contributed to the growth of the mission.

**PNG Missionaries:** *Frs. Robert Periya and Francis Prashanth*



After 3 long years, the Missionaries from Papua New Guinea came home for their vacation. They actively took part in the Ordination of Deacons Jesudoss and Philip Pramod. They made effort to visit some of our communities and mission places and shared about their challenging and inspiring work in Papua New Guinea. The entity also honored them on behalf of their presence here in India. Their visit to the communities and their families rejuvenated enthusiasm in them. They also brought desire in the hearts of the

future missionaries. They are back into their mission work refreshed in their home country.

### News and Views:

- We are thrilled to see **the women's-day celebration** among the Montfortian mission work at K.D. Jola Parish: Applause to Fr. Ravi Thappeta.
- **Superiors from Europe & America** who came for the Assembly and Ordination in January 2020 appreciate our life and thank us for our hospitality.
- **Summer Program for Seminarians** between the month of April and May and also the Summer Community Experience for Scholastics has been canceled due to the Coronavirus effect.
- **Fr. Rayappa JOSEPH**, SMM met with an accident, his car was severely damaged but he is safe without any hurt. Our prayers are with him.
- **Fr. Amal's Dad (Mr. Kulanthaisamy)** is still on treatment at the hospital after a severe accident. Please continue praying.
- **Fr. Roshan Pinto** has completed the Formators course at DVK with high Grade. Congratulations to him. We assure him our prayers and wish him Good Luck for PNG Formation.
- **Fr. Mohan** has completed his course at *Sanyasa*, Bangalore. We wish him all the best.
- The Council decides to have the **College studies for the students** in Gurumandir for the coming year. The remaining II PUC students in the study houses will complete their year in the same place.

• **Seminarians** in the coming year:

- Guru Mandir - PUC -23
- Hierekerur - PUC -02
- Kerala - PUC - 02
- Andhra Pradesh - PUC - 02
- Pre-Novices - 12
- Novices - 08
- Scholastics - 22
- Regents - 07

New comers: 30(expected)

**Grand Total = 78**

**The Inauguration of Chapels at K.D. Jola Parish, Shantinagar Mission:**



On 14th February 2020, a new house of God named after St. Charles Borromeo Church at Nayuduguda village, and on 15th February 2020 another God's house named after St. Raphael Church at Arikakoradi village at KD Jola parish was inaugurated and blessed by Rev. Fr. Joseph JOSEPH, SMM, Provincial Superior. In both places, we had the welcome dance by youth followed by the blessing of the chapels, a litany of the saints, blessing of new religious articles, statues and Holy Eucharistic celebration. The Holy Mass was celebrated by Rev. Fr. Kiran SMM in *Savara*, a local language of the faithful and the homilies were delivered by Rev. Fr. Balashowri, SMM and Rev. Fr. Anand, MF our neighboring Parish priest. After the Holy Eucharist, we had a short felicitation program followed by a fellowship meal served for all.

It was a very delightful moment to see our Montfort fathers, Montfort sisters, Montfort brothers who presented themselves to pray for faithful besides other diocesan priests, religious priests, and nuns from Srikakulam Diocese. At this joyful moment, Rev. Fr. Ravi Thappeta, SMM (KD Jola Parish Priest), expresses his deepest gratitude to God and to Fr. Provincial for his support towards the mission. He thanks Dr. Karl Anspach from Germany for his financial help towards Nayuduguda Church and Mr. Jobert Anjelo and Anu family, Talackotoore house, Thrissur from Kerala for their help towards Arikakoradi Church.

**Health Updates:**

**1. Fr. Alphonse SMM:** In consultation with the Fr. J. Joseph Provincial Superior, Fr. Alphonse is staying at home from December 2019 for rest and additional treatment. We learn that he has shown considerable progress in his physical condition. Fr. Alphonse will continue the treatment at home until the end of June 2020.

**2. Fr. Michael Sahayaraj SMM:** After getting discharged from St. John's hospital, Bangalore he is at Maria Bhavan (Scholasticate) for rest, since then. His health is improving and he is taking normal food but with dietary instructions. He has to visit the doctor for a timely checkup. At the moment he has gone to stay with his sister for few days in Bangalore.

**3. Bro. Shaiju:** After two operations and radiations in Bangalore and in Kerala, he has been asked by the doctor to take chemo tablets for three months (from 17th March) and then he might be asked to repeat the same. He is at home continuing his treatment since 15th October 2019.

**4. Fr. Anthony Pereira:** Twice weekly dialysis is continued and he is able to take

care of himself. He spends most of his time at Provincial house for better care of his health.

**5. KJ Michael:** He is free from TB, thanks to Fr. David and Gurumandir community for being patient with Fr. Michael in helping him to come out of this sickness. We also recognize the efforts made by Fr. Selvam and Maria Bhavan Community when he was treated in Bangalore. Time and again he goes to the hospital for extra care. As he is growing in age, we have found that he needs constant assistance and so the care is given.

**6. Norbert Lobo:** Due to recent developments in the Parish in Goa where Fr. Norbert was residing, we had to take the hard decision of terminating our service to the Diocese in Goa. We have done sufficient dialogue on this matter and communicated the same to the Archbishop of the Diocese. As a result of all this, we have allowed Fr. Norbert to stay with his sister for the next two months (as Fr. Norbert expressed it) and he will return to the community by June 2020.

### **SANYASA: AN EXPERIENCE**

Sanyasa is a place for spiritual refreshment with a prayerful atmosphere. It is a place for deep introspection and inner vision with classes being the constant input and priests as spiritual guides. It is a mixed group of all kinds – young and elderly; for various purposes and expectations: some to prepare for final commitment, some for retirement; some are here for Sabbatical, some for refreshment course and some for a short break.

I went to Sanyasa on the 18th of June 2019 for a diploma in Consecrated life. It is a place to encounter God in many ways like prayer, work, study and community living. JAR [J – A – R – Jesus Awareness Retreat] kick-started the academic year. It was an experience to configure ourselves with Christ. Through the year we were given various heavily loaded

subjects on religious consecrated life. Almost forty of them. Every subject is a two-credit course.

Let me share with you one of my inspirations. It goes like this:

The purpose of evangelical counsels is to reproduce the form of life of Christ in the church and the world. They help me to consecrate myself through the Spirit to Jesus who leads me to the Father. Thus, I become ...

- God's little parable
- The visible witness of God's invisible presence, and
- The conscience of the church and the world

...to the world.

Katie Couric – an American journalist writes, "Have the courage to accept that you are not perfect. Nothing is, and no one is – and that's okay." If only we introspect sincerely, we know that none of us are perfect, yet, we try to give our best for the good of our community...

The beauty and strength of the community are expressed in the sense of belongingness – love, and service. All the participants will cherish the varieties of creative prayers, work, and games that we enjoyed as one community. The concern shown and care given to the sick, both by the staff and those in charge are remarkable. Community recreations and picnic along with other activities are our sweet memories. Religious co-ed is a first-time experience for some in the group. Personal guidance and support provided for those needed.

"Nothing is really over until the moment you stop trying," says Brian Dyson [*president of Chatham International Corporation*]. The institute has imparted a lot of knowledge. It is the turn of every individual to make use of it in their practical life.

**Fr. Mohan Vincent**

## OBITUARY – FR. ARUN D’SOUZA SMM

We are deeply saddened and shocked to hear the loss of Fr Arun D' Souza Smm, who passed away on 15th March 2020, Sunday, at 6.30 pm in Manipal Hospital, Goa, due to his fibrosis in his lungs. May our Lord embrace and comfort him and his family during this time of grief.



Fr Arun D’Souza was 32 years old and hailed from St. Antony's Parish, Kakkeri, Belgaum Diocese. He was the eldest son among the four siblings. He was born on 26th April 1987 and joined Montfort Missionaries in the year 2005. He was Ordained on 5th June 2018 in Bangalore and served as Assistant Formator in Guru Mandir and from June 2019 he was the Parish Priest in St Rita's Parish at Camurlim De Bardez, Goa. He was well appreciated by the Parish community for his energetic and youthful ministry.

We the Montfort Fathers express our deepest sympathies to the bereaved family members of Fr Arun, to the Parishners of St. Rita's Parish, Camurlim and the entire Montfortian family. On 15<sup>th</sup> of April 2020, the family celebrates the month mind in his native place, Kakkeri and the Eucharistic Celebration will be at 11.00am. On behalf of the Vice-Province of India, I, Provincial Superior, request all our confreres to pray for his departed soul and to express deep sympathies to the family of Fr. Arun D’Souza. May his soul rest in peace.

### RE-FORMED COMMITTEES:

#### FINANCE COMMITTEE

1. Fr. Selva Kumar
2. Fr. Jason Anthony
3. Fr. Francis Bulipe
4. Fr. David Joseph
5. Fr. Michael Sahayaraj

#### FORMATION COMMITTEE

1. Fr. Reni Joseph
2. Fr. Selva Kumar
3. Fr. Madhivanan
4. Fr. Prakash
5. Fr. John Marie (Vocation Promoter)

#### MISSION COMMITTEE

1. Fr. Kiran Babu
2. Fr. Philip Arokiaraj
3. Fr. Joseph T.
4. Fr. Victor Dias

#### EDUCATION COMMITTEE

1. Fr. Kiran Babu
2. Fr. Deepak
3. Fr. David Joseph
4. Fr. Jason Anthony

#### SPIRITUALITY COMMITTEE

1. Fr. Jerome Gonsalves
2. Fr. Peter Mascarenhas
3. Fr. Nashwin
4. Fr. Ravi T.

**CALENDAR: We have tried to work out the calendar for the Vice-Province. Kindly mark out the time/week in your Schedule. The Calendar may not be as perfect as we wanted. We shall work on it in the coming days to suit our need better.**

### **CALENDAR FOR THE MEETINGS IN THE VICE - Province (2020-21)**

<b>MEETINGS</b>	<b>JAN</b>	<b>FEB</b>	<b>MAR</b>	<b>APR</b>	<b>MAY</b>	<b>JUN</b>	<b>JUL</b>	<b>AUG</b>	<b>SEP</b>	<b>OCT</b>	<b>NOV</b>	<b>DEC</b>
<b>COUNCIL</b>	1 <sup>ST</sup> WK			1 <sup>ST</sup> WK			1 <sup>ST</sup> WK	2 <sup>ND</sup> WK YOUNG PRIESTS	3&4 WK RETREAT	1 <sup>ST</sup> WK		
<b>FORMATERS</b>		3 <sup>RD</sup> WK					3 <sup>RD</sup> WK					
<b>FINANCE</b>			2 <sup>ND</sup> WK			2 <sup>ND</sup> WK						2 <sup>ND</sup> WK
<b>INTEGRITY</b>		1 <sup>ST</sup> WK						1 <sup>ST</sup> WK				
<b>LITURGY</b>						1 <sup>ST</sup> WK					1 <sup>ST</sup> WK	
<b>PARISH PRIESTS</b>								4 <sup>TH</sup> WK				
<b>SPIRITUALITY &amp; M.CENTRE EDUCATION</b>		2 <sup>ND</sup> WK					2 <sup>ND</sup> WK					
			3 <sup>RD</sup> WK					3 <sup>RD</sup> WK		3 <sup>RD</sup> WK		
<b>MISSION</b>	3 <sup>RD</sup> WK					3 <sup>RD</sup> WK						
<b>VOCATION PROMOTION</b>		3 <sup>RD</sup> WEEK BEFORE THE FORMATERS MEETING			3 <sup>RD</sup> WEEK SELECTION OF NEW CANDIDATES		3 <sup>RD</sup> WEEK BEFORE THE FORMATERS MEETING					
<b>SUPERIORS &amp; BURSARS</b>						4 <sup>TH</sup> WK						

### **A Note to the Committees:**

The committees will meet as per the schedule in the Calendar and more in case of need. There are some changes made into the list. Those who are not in the previous list, my apologies and those who are brought in newly without prior information, please consider it as an opportunity to serve the Vice-Province.

### **A Note to Vocation Promoters:**

Corona Virus has contained us to our houses and therefore VPs are not able to contact the aspiring candidates. Make sure that you keep in touch with the list of candidates who have expressed their desire, also with their parish priest or the family to encourage them. Those of you who are working in the parishes, kindly help the Vocation Promoters in this regard. Finally, all of you stay in and stay safe!

## UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

### April

Fr. Thapetta Ravi – 03

Fr. Anand Babu – 10

Fr. Roshan Pinto – 15

Fr. Dominic – 20

Fr. Jesu Raj – 25

Fr. Aswani Kumar – 28

### May

Fr. Philip Pramod – 03

Fr. J. Joseph – 03

Fr. Jose Jacob – 15

Fr. Madhivanan – 16

Fr. Francis Xavier – 20

Fr. Vinod D'Mello – 25

