



# INDIAN MONTFORTIAN COMMUNICATION

# SANDESH

Volume 4 : April 2023 to July 2023

## **FROM THE DESK OF THE PROVINCIAL**

Today we Christians rejoice in celebrating twin celebration which reminds of one great truth of Liberation. The Assumption of Mary is a revelation of God's graciousness, of his gift of divine life and the joy of heaven for all of us. Today is also the 77<sup>th</sup> independence of our country. This is the feast of two mothers, Mary Matha and Bharat Matha, every Indian Christian has reason to be proud of Mother Mary and Mother India with lot of significance on the essence of our religiosity and nationality with sense of fidelity and pride in our diversity and plurality but at the same time we are rather anguished by the situations in the country especially of Manipur.



We the Montfortians are celebrating the Golden Jubilee of our presence in India. A gracious moment and precious is all of us as we are to reflect the mission in the context of the Charism and spirituality of our founder St. Louis de Montfort to be the *Liberos* of the Incarnate Wisdom. At this juncture our General Chapter gives us the mandate to "*Dare to take risk for God and humanity*". As Montfort himself says, "Unless you risk for God you will not do anything worthwhile for Him". We are made aware of our role as *Liberos* to tread the unknown land, unforeseen scene, unheard call to be the missionaries after the heart of our servant leader Christ himself. As we all know "to be a missionary is call within the call", so we recall the spirit filled dynamism of our founder.

Pope Francis in his message to the World Youth Day in Lisbon said, Young people should have three languages of life on their side: the language of the head to think clearly, the language of the heart to feel deeply and the language of the hands to put what they think and feel into action. The Theme of the youth year is "Mary arose and went in haste" (Lk 1:39), which refers to the visitation of the Blessed Mother to St. Elizabeth. Exploring this motto is a call to zeal in our daily missionary tasks, has been preparation of the pilgrims from all around globe to move to Lisbon and participate, celebrate and invigorate or rekindle their faith and love for the Lord.

Our call as leaders begins with the alphabet "S": Servant, Steward, Shepherd, Spiritual and Self-Leadership. This along the lines of S 3 Leadership proposed by Owen Phelps. He spoke of Servant, Steward and Shepherd. We add two more as we have reflected in our Superior's meeting that is Spiritual and Self-leadership. Spiritual leadership stresses wholeness that is valuing all the different dimensions of the person and making space for the spiritual in the secular sphere. Self-leadership deals with one's own growth and emphasizes purpose and direction so that our reaction is of consecration and dedication. "Leaders have power, but power is safe only in the hands of those who humble themselves to serve" John Stott. We look upon St. Louis de Montfort our founder and make every effort to walk in his footsteps as our model and leader.

As we are in the Golden years of our presence in India. We recall with all simplicity and humility our missionary mandate with certain date and debate. "For it is a jubilee. It shall be holy to you. You may eat the produce of the field.... You shall not wrong one another, but you shall fear the Lord your God, for I am the Lord your God." (Lev 25:10, 17). We might not have achieved great things but small things for the greater glory of God Alone. Our commitment to the poor, downtrodden is noteworthy, our pastoral care is remarkable and our transformative formation responds to the signs of the times with the spirit of our Founder. We are moved by the zeal and enthusiasm of our pioneers to uphold the devotion to Mary and regard it as something outstanding and empowering in or mission centres, parishes and formation houses. We are privileged to recognize and emphasize our presence globally in many entities so also one another's talents, gifts, graces and blessings so that we may be blessing to the other as leaders, stewards and servants.

May the Jubilee year be a time of grace and God's bounty as we share the richness of our spirituality. May we rekindle the hope and faith of our brothers and sisters in our pilgrimage of faith as his worthy instruments. May the spirit of our Founder and the Glory of Mary inspire us to work with Hope and courage towards building God's kingdom and its values. Together let's make our country and our province flourish and prosper towards a better Future!

Happy Feast of Assumption and Independence Day!

Peter Mascarenhas smm

## **GENERAL CHAPTER 2023**

The 38<sup>th</sup> General Chapter of the Company of Mary was held from 1<sup>st</sup> -21<sup>st</sup> May 2023. The theme of the General Chapter was, “DARE TO TAKE RISKS FOR God AND HUMANITY OUR CREATIVE FIDELITY”. The Chapter was a time of sharing, listening and evaluating ourselves with fraternal discussion and discernment. Fr. Jean-Claude Lavigne O.P. was the moderator of the Chapter and all the discernment process. At the beginning there were presentations by the General administration and each commissions followed by each entity. On 9<sup>th</sup> May the new Superior General Rev. Fr. Yoseph Putra Dwi Darma WATUN SMM was elected. It was a joyful occasion to thank God for the new Superior General.



Following the election of the new Superior General the discussions and discernment continued. The Capitalants were divided according to each language group and continued to work on the Acts of the Chapter. Each group chose a theme in the guidelines and directions of General Chapter 2017 to face new challenges and realities in the Church, entity and the society having five themes namely; IDENTITY, EVANGELIZATION, TRANSMISSION OF CHARISM, ONGOING FORMATION AND CULTURE OF PLANNING. On the 16<sup>th</sup> May the members of General Council were elected. The new General Council members are Frs. Marco PACINATO, Jesus Cucho Puchuri, Lonely Paul MASHONGA and Prem Kumar. It was a great blessing for all the

Capitalants to have a personal audience with the Holy Father Pope Francis on 20<sup>th</sup> May. In the evening the new General Administration was installed during the Holy Eucharist presided over by Most Rev. Rozario Manezes SMM. The Chapter was concluded with the address by Dicastery for Consecrated Life Cardinal Braz de Aviz and thanksgiving Eucharist presided over by him.

Fr. Sebastian Raj SMM

## **Praise Lord in His House**

In gratitude to God- as the year remains milestone of our Montfort Fathers presence in India, it reminds us the spirit of St. Montfort to carry our charism and to take risk for God. To make this celebration a remarkable one at K.D Jolla Parish, by the support of Province and ‘The donors’ this year the two chapels have been completed and gifted to the people of God. The Our Lady of Lourdes chapel, at Yeguva Aviri village was blessed and inaugurated on 20-02-2023 by Mag. Rev. Fr. Dusi Devaraj, the Diocese of Srikakulam.

The Our Lady of Good Health chapel, at Peddaguda village was blessed and inaugurated on 13-07-2023 by Rev. Fr. Peter Mascarenhas, the Provincial of



Indian Vice-Province. Fr. Shibi Jose, the Provincial Bursar and Fr. Prem Kumar, the General Councillor.

The Chapels were built beautifully as the Lord deserves the best. I sincerely thank all the previous parish priests who have laid the foundation and contributed their might. Along with my parishioners I thank God for His providential help in completing the chapel works. I too acknowledge the provincial and the

team for their availability and support. I am grateful to the priests, sisters and brothers who have witnessed these two celebrations. I thank everyone for your valuable prayers, guidance, and care.

Rev. Fr. Bala Raju SMM

### **First Profession**

On the 31<sup>st</sup> of May 2023 on the feast day of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the community of Sneha Bhavan two of our younger brothers namely, Bro. Teja and Bro. Martin made their first profession in the presence of Fr. Prem Kumar the Assistant General and Fr. Peter Mascarenhas the Provincial Superior. Fr. Prem presided over the Eucharistic celebration and Fr. Peter Mascarenhas delivered an inspiring homily on consecrated life. It was a day of great joy and pride for the Vice Province of India to witness the ardent love and zeal of these youngsters who offered themselves whole heartedly to the Lord by making their consecration to God through Mary our Mother. On this auspicious day the gracious presence of our Montfort fathers, Brothers, Diocesan priests, religious sisters from various congregations and the laity from the neighboring parishes added joy and flavor to the celebration. Their prayers and wishes made the day very special and meaningful. It was also an occasion for us to felicitate Fr. Prem Kumar who has been elected as the General Councilor and Fr. Michael Sagayaraj who completed his term as the Novice Master and the Superior of the community. Fr. Prem, Fr. Peter and Fr. Michael felicitated the newly professed brothers and thanked the gathering. The celebration was concluded with a delicious fellowship meal.



### **Two Chapels Inaugurated in Shanthinagar Parish**

*“My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour”*



By the grace of God and through the continuous guidance of the Eternal Incarnate Wisdom the faithful of Shanthinagar parish feel blessed to inaugurate two more chapels in the substations. Through continuous prayers and trust in the Lord and the intercession of our dear Mother, they gained all the strength to face lot of hardships and gather the resources to complete both the chapels. One chapel dedicated to St. Michael at Marrimanaguda was inaugurated on May 14<sup>th</sup> by Fr Premanandam (Procurator of Srikakulam diocese) and the other chapel dedicated to St. Thomas at D. Antijola was Blessed by Fr. Peter Mascarenhas smm and inaugurated by Fr. Prem smm. All the faithful expressed their gratitude to the priests and religious present for the inauguration of the chapels and prayed for them; and also sincerely thanked the donors who generously contributed for the completion of the chapels. For me, it was gracious time where I experienced the merciful hand of God continuously guiding, leading and providing the needs of the mission.

Fr Aswani Kumar smm



## International Studies: Peru

On 21<sup>st</sup> of June, I along with Br. Mac came to Peru, in Latin America. Fr. Luis, The Superior of the scholasticate community came to welcome us at the airport. As we arrived to the scholasticate the community members welcomed us joyfully. We were happy to have reached the Community. There are thirteen members in the community, from Haiti, Colombia, Nicaragua, Peru and Italy. We started our language course of learning Spanish by the second week of our arrival and it is going on well. The students of the Scholasticate had their summer vacation in the month of July, and also the renewal of the vows. The community arranged for a day out to the place of St. Rose of Lima, it was a pleasant time. Later the community went to attend Annual Assembly, during this time Fr. Jesu Doss visited us. People of our parish are also very welcoming, and kind to us. The life in Peru has been a blessing, and it is an opportunity for us to learn and live a new way of life.

Joel & Mac smm



## **Dairy**

### Month of April

9<sup>th</sup> – Fr. Francis Prashanth visited Adarsh Bhavan.

12<sup>th</sup> – Fr. Jesudoss visited us.

30<sup>th</sup> – Frs. Peter Mascarenhas, Prem Kumar and Sebastian left to Rome to participate in the General

### Month of May

3<sup>rd</sup> – Mr. Jose, Dady of Fr. Shibi passed away to eternity. May his soul rest in peace.

24<sup>th</sup> – The participants returned after the General chapter. Fr. Prem Kumar elected as the General Councilor. We congratulate him and wish him well.

31<sup>st</sup> – Renewal of the vows of the scholastics at Maria Bhavan.

- Installation of Fr. Judis Valan as the Novice Master at Sneha Bhavan by the Provincial Superior. Thanks to Fr. M. Sagayaraj for his generous service as he finished his term.

31<sup>st</sup> – First profession of the Bros: Teja and Martino at Sneha Bhavan. Fr. Prem Kumar, General Councilor received the vows.

### Month of June

2<sup>nd</sup> – Visited the Montfort farm community, had a meeting with the staff and met the elderly confreres.

6<sup>th</sup> – Online Council meeting.

7<sup>th</sup> – Meeting with Maria Bhavan staff.

8<sup>th</sup> – Fr. Joji came for holidays so also to be with his father who is sick and hospitalized.

14<sup>th</sup> – Community meeting held at Adarsh Bhavan.

15<sup>th</sup> – Together with Fr. Peter Swamy went to Montfort Nivas. Evening we had the Installation of the Fr. Moses as the Superior of Montfort Nivas and on the following day we visited the Shrine of Our Lady of Velankani and prayed for the intentions of the Province.

21<sup>st</sup> - Bros. Joel and Mac Milan had send-off and they left to Lima, Peru for their theological studies. We wish them well.

21<sup>st</sup> - Visit to Sira Parish and met the confreres.

30<sup>th</sup> – Fr. Vinod from the Diocese of Lae visited Adarsh Bhavan.

We had a meeting with the Daughters's of Wisdom at Adarsh Bhavan regarding the collaboration of the Sisters at Kurupam school project.

### **Month of July**

July 2<sup>nd</sup> – Installation of Fr. John Marie as the Superior of Gurumandir our Minor Seminary in Mysore.

7<sup>th</sup>- Visit to the IMS formation house and Montfort Brothers at Sitagarah, Ranchi.

11<sup>th</sup> – Frs. Peter, Prem, and Shibi went to Shanthinagar mission in Andhra Pradesh. We had blessing of the chapels in Shanthinagar parish so also in K.D. Jola Parish. It was a joyful moment for the faithful and all of us. We had the installation of Fr. Issac as the Superior of Kurupam community.

15<sup>th</sup> – Mission meeting at Shanthinagar community.

16<sup>th</sup> - We visited the St. Francis college at Eluru and met our community there.

17<sup>th</sup> – Internal Auditing started for the whole week at Adarsh Bhavan.

18<sup>th</sup> – Fr. Nashwin had a leg injury and was hospitalized. We pray for speedy recovery.

21-23<sup>rd</sup> – KRCR Annual Assembly held at Dharmaram. There were more than 120 Major Superiors from Karnataka. Theme “*Retelling the story of Jesus in the present-day context in the spirit of Synodality.*”

24<sup>th</sup> –Meeting with the Auditors.

26<sup>th</sup> – We celebrated the Birthday of Fr. Shibi together with all the Superiors and parish priests as we had a meeting at Maria Bhavan.

27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> – Council meeting was held at Adarsh Bhavan

29<sup>th</sup> – Personal meeting of students at Maria Bhavan.

Fr. Issac and Fr. Balaraj visited Adarsh Bhavan.

31<sup>st</sup> –Maria Bhavan property Committee meeting.

### **Birthdays**

#### **July**

Fr Jerom	07
FrPrashanth	11
Fr Joji	17
Fr Roy	20
Fr Shibi	26

#### **August**

Fr Kiran	10
Fr Prakash	13
Fr Varaprasad	21
Bp Rosario	30

#### **September**

Fr Selvakumar	01
Fr Alex	02
Fr Jayakumar	04
Fr J. Michael	19
Fr Lawrence	20
Fr Sebastian	25
Fr Judis	28
Fr Philip	29



