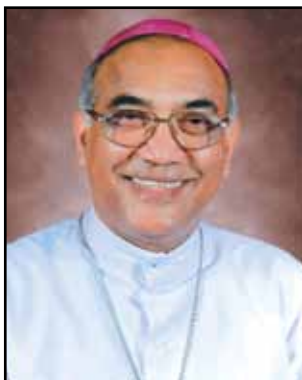




## Message



**Most Rev Dr. Aloysius Paul D'Souza**  
Bishop of Mangalore Diocese  
Chairperson – Commission for SCCs

Dear members,

The Chorus of the Theme Song of the first National Convention of SCC at Goa is as follows:

*Send your Spirit  
Lord and gather us  
in SCCs*

*Forming us as  
your little church in  
love*

*To be one in you  
and share your love  
to all*

***May we be leaven to renew the world around.***

The driving message throughout the first National Convention of SCC at Goa is "Church being a leaven to the world through SCCs". We have been leaven in the world through our service in the field of education, health and social service. But we have not been sufficiently leavened as living witnesses.

Lay people can become a leaven in the society by living their Baptismal call and by faith-based response to the challenges and demands of the society, by becoming a powerful weapon of love and it is the SCC that gives them an opportunity to exercise their three fold Baptismal mission: PROPHETIC, KINGLY and PRIESTLY. The exercise of this mission will create a New Way of Being Church. While creating a New Way of Being Church we have to face three challenges. They are:

1. Creating a new mind set in the minds of the people (Clergy, Religious and Laity).
2. Building a new style of leadership (Emerging and rotating servant leadership).
3. Charting new pastoral approaches. (participatory approach).



Small Christian Communities, a concept launched all over the world to activate the spirit of Vatican II, have emerged in response to the pastoral needs of the local churches in Karnataka. Since SCC is founded on the Word of God, the Seven Steps Gospel Sharing has been a great tool for growth in Christian life and it calls for a personal transformation. We need to be courageous to manifest our transformation in our day to day living by

- a) Coming closer to our neighbour in love
- b) Strengthening the family bondage by my life
- c) Sharing my time and talents with the community
- d) Upholding Christian values and principles at my work place.

This personal transformation will, in turn, lead to the transformation of the community and society through communion of faith in love.

May this monthly newsletter 'COMMUNION' released from the Regional Office of the SCC Commission, promote authentic community living among the People of God in our Karnataka Region.

I take this opportunity to wish all the directors and animators A Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year 2014.

With best wishes and God's blessings.

SCCs: A home and school of  
Communion & faith.

SCCs: Leaven for Evangelization  
& renewal of Society



**Rev Fr. Harold Pereira.**  
**Regional Secretary - Commission**  
**for SCCs**

## From the editor's desk

I am happy to place before you the Third issue of our regional SCC newsletter 'COMMUNION'. The first National SCC Convention took place at Goa from 19th to 21st Nov 2013. The theme of the Convention was 'SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES: COMMUNION OF FAITH IN LOVE'. There were 124 delegates participated from 10 dioceses of Karnataka region. The Bishops of Mangalore, Karwar and Belgaum Dioceses were present for this first National Convention of SCC. The Region was able to mobilize Rs 1, 90,000 as donation and from advertisements around Rs 70,000/-. I thank those Dioceses who made their generous contribution towards this noble cause. At the Convention, the Regional SCC Team presented the region's report. I take this opportunity to thank all the Bishops and the directors who came along with their delegates to this first National SCC Convention. "The Convention has helped us to experience a strong movement of the Spirit in our hearts and in the community to dedicate ourselves more fully to SCC building" (Final statement of the Convention). Let us march a way ahead with renewed vigor and joy and by committing ourselves to build SCCs. I wish all our readers A Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year 2014.

## The First National Convention of SCCs at GOA November 19- 21, 2013

The First National Convention of SCC in India was held near Bom Jesus Basilica, Old Goa from Nov. 19-21, 2013. The General Theme of the Convention was "*Small Christian Communities: Communion of Faith in Love*". Around 7000 delegates of which 2060 were from outside Goa participated in this convention along with 81 Bishops/Archbishops and over a thousand priests and nuns from all over India. Outside delegates were housed with local families, where traditional hospitality was on ample display. The convention was organized by the National Service Team for SCCs (CBCI) and hosted by the Archdiocese



of Goa & Daman.

The program consisted of plenary sessions on November 19 & 21 and Deanery/Parish level SCC programmes on 20th November.

### A. The theme for Day 1 was "*SCCs: A Home and School of Communion & Faith*".

1. The Inaugural Eucharistic Celebration was presided by His Excellency, Salvatore Pennacchio, Apostolic Nuncio to India.

2. **Most Rev. Felipe Neri Ferrao, Archbishop of Goa & Daman** addressed the gathering on the theme of the day. He said that just as we are born into a family, through Baptism we are born in to the Church. Hence, we are brothers and sisters in the one Body of Christ. This means that we should profess values of equality and interdependence in our relationships as exemplified by the Holy Trinity. However, the Church has grown in numbers; but we see a sense of aloofness and lack of involvement in society.

The 4 main problems that exist today are:

- Discrimination in society.
- Shallow faith & worship; there is no depth.



- c) Selfishness; failure to reach out.
- d) No sense of Church or ecclesial belonging. SCCs provide the solution to these problems:
  - i) Promote relationships among neighbors: rich/poor, old/young (**ONE**).
  - ii) Through the Word of God, we grow in personal spiritual experience (**HOLY**).
  - iii) Develop relationship with the entire church; accept the leadership & teachings (**CATHOLIC**).
  - iv) Develop relationship of neighbors with the needy, poor & marginalized (**APOSTOLIC**).

SCC does not mean just meeting once/twice a month, but living it 24 x 7, continuously. SCC is a home and school of communion where love is shared dynamically.

**3. Most Rev. Bosco Penha, the Emeritus, Aux. Bishop, Mumbai** explained how SCCs are the Antidote to Materialism, Individualism & Consumerism, through Word of God, Community & Sharing respectively.

He said that there is a danger of SCC becoming another ritual if the goal of changing the local community is not achieved. We need to develop a community spirit. Consumerism encourages us to live life King size; there is no end to wants which make one unhappy. In Gospel Sharing, the focus is on Christ and people share from their own experience. However, SCCs are not the end goal; we must develop SHCs (Small Human Communities); the goal is spreading the spirit of Jesus and not conversion.

#### **B. The Theme for the 2nd day was "SCCs: the New Way of being Church in the Neighborhood"**

- During an input session, a family life situation was examined by the delegates to deepen their understanding of the 'SCCs as the Miniature Church in the neighborhood' & its mission.
- In the evening, the delegates visited SCC members' houses and assembled with local communities across Goa. The 7 steps Gospel Sharing & an interactive session of sharing SCC experiences was held and the fellowship meal.

#### **C. The Theme of the 3rd day was "SCCs: Leaven for Evangelization and Renewal of Society"**

**Most Rev. Thomas Dabre, Bishop of Pune & Chairman** of the National Convention enlightened us on "SCCs - A Leaven (for Church) in Society".

The Catholic community is known for being:

1. Well educated, well cultured, non-violent.
2. Reducing poverty from its fold.
3. Community that inspires – baptism, novenas.
4. Significant contribution to healthcare & education.

But how conscious are we of the need to witness and promote the mission of the church in India; of the need to be active and committed disciples of Jesus?

He suggested that we share our wealth and riches with the underprivileged. That all resources of the church are placed at the disposal of the underprivileged; don't spend unevenly on structures and buildings.

SCCs have learned to apply the Gospel in real life situations. But SCCs are not NGOs, for social status. Enlightened by the Word of God, we move into society. To be Christian implies that we must be among people, not insular, parochial, a ghetto community. We are the leaven according to Christ; leaven permeates fully and changes the dough entirely. We must make a difference to the situation we live in.

Catholics, through SCC, must concentrate on 3 different areas of concern to become the yeast:

1. Inter-religious dialogue, as a regular way of life.
2. SCCs are not prayer groups; get involved in gender issues, discrimination, caste; promote social justice.
3. Become more politically active and conscious.

D. Fr Vijay Thomas, Secretary of National Service Team (SCCs) spoke on "Convention & Beyond".

We have had 40 years of SCC in India & we have around 68, 105 SCC groups.

- a) SCC helps people to grow in faith, fellowship & service. But most SCCs are poorly equipped to transform the neighborhood; we need well-trained animators, who receive ongoing training, make participation natural & empower others.
- b) Gospel sharing is a must; energized by the Word of God, we will be propelled into action.
- c) SCCs must be empowered to act pastorally (pre-eminent pastoral bodies).

The concluding Eucharistic celebration was presided by His Eminence Oswald Gracias of Mumbai, the CBCI President.

### Diocese wise contribution for the first National SCC Convention.

1. Mangalore Diocese	75,000
2. Archdiocese of Bangalore	50,000
3. Udupi Diocese	25,000
4. Karwar Diocese	5,000
5. Chikmagalur Diocese	5,000
6. Belgaum Diocese	3,000
7. Karnataka Region	5,000
8. Dominican sisters of the Presentation, B'lore	5,000
9. Apostolic Carmel Generalate, Bangalore	5,000
10. The U F Congregation Karnataka	3,000
11. P M Srs, St.Vincent Krupa Convent, B'lore	2,000
12. Holy Trinity Ashram, Bangalore	2,000

### Diocese wise participants for the Convention

1. Mangalore Diocese	24 participants
2. Udupi Diocese	10 participants
3. Archdiocese of Bangalore	22 participants
4. Mysore Diocese	11 participants
5. Belgaum Diocese	17 participants
6. Bellary Diocese	13 participants
7. Shimoga Diocese	08 participants
8. Gulbarga Diocese	07 participants
9. Belthangady Diocese	05 participants
10. Karwar Diocese	01 participants
11. Bishops	03 participants
12. Karnataka Region	03 participants

## Residential SCC Trainers' Training (TOT)



The residential SCCs Trainers' Training (TOT) Program was held at Regional Pastoral Centre, Bangalore on 26-27<sup>th</sup> August 2013. There were 33 participants from 9 dioceses. The TOT program began at 10-00 am. with the Bible Enthronement. After a formal

welcome to the participants by the Regional Secretary, Rev. Fr. Lourdasamy T, the KRPPIC Coordinator, stated in his message that the Vatican II Council has brought about very significant changes in the Church and they are:

- Liturgical celebrations in vernacular.
- Ecumenical and inter religious dialogue.
- Three-fold ministry of the church: celebration of Sacraments, proclamation of Word of God and witnessing Christ.

He stated that SCC being a New Way of Being Church is the forum to implement these above ministries.

Then the regional joint secretary, Sr.Emilia Monteiro SMI presented the previous Year's report (18-19<sup>th</sup> September 2012). Thereafter, the day's resource person, Fr. Faustine Lucas Lobo (National Director of Pontifical Mission Society) explained the purpose of 'New Evangelization'. He stated:

- a) The pilgrim Church is missionary by its nature- (Ad Gentes)

- b) Every Christian is missionary by nature (EN)  
c) Our mission is – mission ad intra and ad extra.

During the training program 6 diocese of the region presented 6 lessons of the Year of Faith given by NST for SCCs.

1. Shimoga Diocesan DAT - Lesson I : 'Deeper Reflections On Christian Faith'
2. Mangalore diocesan DAT - Lesson II : 'God The Father'
3. Gulbarga diocesan DAT - Lesson III: 'Jesus, God The Son'
4. Mysore diocesan DAT - Lesson IV: 'The Holy Spirit'
5. Bellary diocesan DAT - Lesson V: 'Trinity'
6. Belgaum diocesan DAT - Lesson VI: 'Incarnation'

The Lessons were presented with a Role play, PPT presentation, group discussion and hand outs. After each presentation the group was evaluated and the members were told what was good about their presentation and suggestions were given for improvement.

Then faith sharing was held in groups on the question, "How SCC has helped the animator to grow in faith?"

At last the regional joint secretary Sr.Emilia Monteiro SMI conducted the evaluation of the 2 day's TOT program.



**Evaluation points:**

- The participants felt that the program was meticulously organized.
- Faith sharing was enlightening and motivating.
- Lesson presentation by DATs of 6 dioceses gave a chance to build confidence and the team.
- Participants were kept active and all were accommodative.
- Session on the New Evangelization was very informative and practical.
- Introducing the 2<sup>nd</sup> method of Gospel sharing was appreciated.



persons and the TOT program ended with a Bible service.

Mr. V M Francis, the regional representative for NCNST for SCCs thanked all the participants and resource

**Mr. V M Francis**  
Regional Representative to NCNST for SCCs

### My Experience of 30 days Theological Pastoral Seminar at Nagpur held in September 2013.



I am very happy that I got this rare privilege of attending the 30days Theological Pastoral Seminar on SCCs. We were 28 participants from 20 Dioceses of India. In Nagpur at PAC, we formed one community under the banner of SCC. The methodology used was that of participatory. The sharing of the faith based life experiences of the resource persons created interest in us and inspired us. The Liturgy, Gospel Sharing, Gospel meditations and community prayers were spiritually nourishing.

Though I was not a theology student yet this Pastoral Course helped me to deepen my knowledge of the Scripture and Church teachings. The Pastoral Course consisted of the following topics:

- |                           |                          |                      |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| • SCC and Sacraments      | • 7 Steps Gospel Sharing | • Servant Leadership |
| • Church teaching on SCC  | • Pastoral Planning      | • Animation Skills   |
| • SCC awareness programs. |                          |                      |

The Introductory workshop and Team training helped me to learn by doing. All were accommodative and lots of appreciation and encouragement were given as a result we were bonded and lived as one family. During the Course there was a SCC visit to parishes, namely, Ajni and Bhayavanpur. In these parishes we gave a awareness program on SCC. As I was learning things by doing, it helped me to understand how SCC is a New Way of Being Church. I wish that many more persons may benefit from this course.

**Sr. Emilia Monteiro SMI**  
Joint secretary- Commission for SCCs



SCC Diocesan Directors/SCC Council meet  
26<sup>th</sup> June 2013



Fr. Harold Pereira, Sr. Emilia Monteiro SMI and  
Sr. Mable D'Souza UFS participated in the  
(NRT) meet from Aug. 20-25, 2013 at Nagpur.



Bellary Diocesan SCC animators training on  
6th Oct 2013.

## Diocesan SCC Reports of the Year 2013

### I. SHIMOGA DIOCESE:

1. Training of SCC Animators at Thirthahalli, on 6th Jan 2013, 71 participants, Fr. Harold Pereira and Fr. Duming Dias were the resource persons.
2. Training of Trainers (TOT) at SMSS, Shimoga, on 26th Jan 2013 and 15 participants. Fr. Harold Pereira, Sr. Emilia Monteiro SMI, and Fr. Duming Dias were the resource persons.
3. SCC in Charge-Sisters training on 27th Jan 2013 at SMSS, Shimoga, 29 participants. Fr. Harold Pereira, Sr. Emilia Monteiro SMI, and Fr. Duming Dias were the resource persons.
4. Release of SCC Bulletin: SCC Commission of Shimoga Diocese released 4,500 copies of SCC bulletin in March 2013.
5. Training of Animators at Shimoga Cathedrel on 11th April 2013, 44 participants.
6. Training at Channagiri parish on 14th April 2013, 45 participants, DAT members were the resource persons.

### II. BELGAUM DIOCESE :

1. SCC training at St. Francis Xavier Church on 17th Feb.2013, 62 participants, Fr. Stanley D'Souza was the resource person.
2. SCC training program at Holy Rosary Church, Patne, on 19-20, Feb 2013, 54 participants, Fr. Stanley D'Souza was the resource person.
3. Training program for the animators at Sevalaya, Dharwad, on 10th March 2013, 40 participants, Diocesan Secretary and his team were the resource persons.
4. Training program for the animators at St. Anthony's School, on 10th March 2013, 40 participants, Diocesan Secretary and team were the resource persons.

### III. MANGALORE DIOCESE:

#### **Activity 1: Deanery conveners and coordinator meetings:**

Director has conducted 4 deanery Conveners and Coordinators meeting to evaluate and plan SCC work in the Diocese of Mangalore on 11.02.2013, 30.04.2013 Fr. Francis Rodrigues, Fr. A. D'Lima and Fr. Walter D'Souza were the resource persons. Bishop of

Mangalore and Vicar General, Msgr. Denis Moras Prabhu was present for the deanery gatherings.

#### **Activity 2: Participation of DAT members in the Regional DAT Training:**

A team of four members including the director had taken part in the two days residential regional SCCs training at KRPC, Bangalore from 18 -19, Sept 2013.

#### **Activity 3: Formation of Priests & Religious**

- SCC training for the new priests: on 9-10, May 2013. Five new priests were present.
- One Day SCC Seminar for Regents: at St Joseph's Seminary Mangalore on 23.04.2013, 35 regents participated.
- SCC training for UFS Novices: at Rosary Convent, Jeppu, from 17-19, June 2013. Fr. Harold Pereira, Fr. Anil D'Souza and Fr. Walter D'Souza were the resource persons. There were 30 participants.
- SCC ongoing formation for the Priests of Mangalore Diocese was held in two batches. 1st Batch was from 29- 30, July 2013 and the 2nd batch was from 5- 6, August 2013. More than 200 priests took part in this training.

#### **Activity 4: Religious Conventions at Deanery level:**

Kasargod deanery on 25th Jan 2013, 55 participants. Bantwal deanery on 3rd March 2013, 55 participants. Kinnigoli deanery on 10th March 2013, 60 participants. Permanur deanery on 17th March 2013, 50 participants. Moodbidri deanery on 7th April 2013, 30 participants.

#### **Activity 5: SCC Parish Conveners Training:**

Parish Animators training was held at St. Anthony's Ashram, Jeppu, Mangalore on 10-03-2013, 98 participants.

#### **Activity 6: Deanery SCC Conventions for animators:**

In 3 deaneries of the Diocese, SCC Conventions were held in which around 1050 animators have been motivated to work effectively to build communities of love and service in the neighborhood. The topic of input session was "The Growth of SCCs in the Diocese". Pezara deanery SCC Convention on 10th Feb 2013,

95 participants. City deanery SCC Convention on 3rd March 2013, 300 participants. Permannur deanery SCC Convention on 17th March 2013, 285 participants.

**IV. MYSORE DIOCESE:**

1. SCC awareness program to Madikeri parish on 6th Jan 2013.
2. Six SCC units of Mandy parish were visited by the secretary on 14th Jan 2013.

**V. GULBARGA DIOCESE:**

1. SCC training to 3 SCC units of Itga Centre on 4th April 2013, 22 participants.
2. SCC day celebration at Bhalki Centre in month of April 2013 and there were 48 members.

**Past Regional activities:**

- June 26, 2013 SCC Diocesan Directors/ Council joint meet

**OBITUARY**



**Msgr. Paul Puthanangady, SDB**

Born : 26-04.1934  
 Ordained : 09.02.1964  
 Died : 14.11.2013

- July 19, 2013 Media Desk Meeting Nagpur
- July 20 – 25, 2013 NRT Meet Nagpur
- July 29-30 & Aug 5- 6, 2013Mangalore Diocesan aftermath Jubilee SCC Evaluation meets
- Aug 11, 2013 Visit to Belthangady Diocese
- Aug 21- 22, 2013 SI Resource Team meet at Kerala.
- Aug 26- 27, 2013 TOT Meet at KRPC, Bangalore
- Nov19-21, 2013 the first National SCC Convention at Goa



DAT of Mangalore Diocese



DAT of Belgaum Diocese



DAT of Shimoga Diocese



DAT of Mysore Diocese



DAT of Belgaum Diocese



DAT of Shimoga Diocese

**NATIONAL , REGIONAL AND DIOCESAN SCC ACTIVITIES JUNE-NOVEMBER -2013**



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**More information contact:**

KROSS Director, Rev. Fr. Peter Brank  
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*This issue is co sponsored by*

**Mangalore Diocesan Animation Team of SCCs**



From

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Bangalore – 560 084

To

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*We wish you A Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year 2014*

**Editorial Team:** Fr. Harold Pereira, Sr. Emilia Monterio SMI, Mr.V M Francis and Mr. Joseph M Fernandes.

Published by Commission for SCCs

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Wheeler Road Ext. Bangalore – 560 084.

Contact No. 09740943528, Email: krscdesk@gmail.com.

Printed at Brilliant Printers Pvt. Ltd, Bangalore

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