



## Message

Dear Members,



Most Rev Dr. Bernard Moras  
Archbishop of Bangalore

The Church is basically a Community. Unlike the other forms of communities that exist in the world, the small Christian communities reflect directly the Trinitarian life, which is essentially based on eternal love, unity and communication. If these primary qualities do not exist

in our Christian communities, they would just function as any other secular communities, perhaps with a tinge of spiritual elements. Small Christian Communities are approved and encouraged by the universal Church; these are Biblically based; and historically proven to be a haven for world evangelization and Church renewal.

Pope Paul VI and Blessed John Paul II encouraged the formation of small communities and indicated how the Spirit is developing Small Christian Communities in the Church. Even, our present Holy Father Pope Francis spoke about the importance of a Christian Community. At his morning Mass on Thursday, May 2, 2013, he said: "We ask the Lord that the Holy Spirit help us always to become a community of love, of love for Jesus who loved us so much. Jesus asks us first for love, love for Him and to remain in His love. When a Christian community lives in love, confesses its sins, worships the Lord and forgives offenses is charitable towards others and manifests love and thus feels the obligation of fidelity to the Lord to observe the commandments."

Small Christian Communities (SCCs) will be a hope for the universal Church to the extent:

- that they seek their nourishment in the Word of God and do not allow themselves to be ensnared by political polarization or fashionable ideologies, which are ready to exploit their immense human potential;
- that they avoid the ever present temptation of systematic protest and a hypercritical attitude, under the pretext of authenticity and a spirit of collaboration;
- that they remain firmly attached to the local Church in which they are inserted, and to the universal Church, thus avoiding the very real danger of becoming isolated within themselves, then of believing themselves to be the only authentic Church of Christ, and hence of condemning the other ecclesial communities;
- that they maintain a sincere communion with the pastors whom the Lord gives to His Church, and with the magisterium, which the Spirit of Christ has entrusted to these pastors;
- that they never look on themselves as the sole beneficiaries or sole agents of evangelization — or even the only depositories of the Gospel — but, being aware that the Church is much more vast and diversified, accept the fact that this Church becomes incarnate in other ways than themselves;
- that they constantly grow in missionary consciousness, fervor, commitment and zeal; and
- that they show themselves to be universal in all things and never sectarian.

The above conditions are certainly demanding, but also uplifting. The ecclesial communities should



correspond to their most fundamental Christian vocation; as hearers of the Gospel which is proclaimed to them and privileged beneficiaries of evangelization, they will soon become proclaimers of the Gospel themselves - as stated in *Evangelii Nuntiandi* No. 58.

“Because the Church is communion, the new ‘basic communities’, if they truly live in unity with the Church, are a true expression of communion and a means of construction of a more profound communion. They are thus cause for great hope for the life of the Church” (Pope John Paul II, *The Mission of the Redeemer*, 51).

Our parishes in our dioceses and the region should establish and promote Small Christian Communities, and these communities would certainly inject new life into our families and generate Christian dynamism and commitment.

Blessed Pope John Paul II said: “Internal to the parish, especially if vast and territorially extensive, small Church communities, where present, can be a notable help in the formation of Christians by providing a consciousness and an experience of ecclesial communion and mission, which are more extensive and incisive” (The Lay Members of Christ’s Faithful People, 61).

May this monthly newsletter ‘COMMUNION’, released from the Regional Office of the SCC Commission, promote true Christian fellowship among the People of God in our Karnataka Region.

*With best wishes and God’s abundant blessings,*

*Yours sincerely,*

*+ [Signature]*

**Bernard Moras**  
Archbishop of Bangalore &  
President, Karnataka Regional Catholic Bishops’ Council.

## From the Editor’s desk



I am happy to place before you the second issue of our regional SCC Newsletter ‘COMMUNION’. Ten Directors of our region attended the ‘National Meeting of SCC Regional/ Diocesan Coordinators’ that took place at PAC, Nagpur from 26th February - March 2nd 2013. There

were 101 participants from 87 dioceses of 13 regions. Our members actively participated in the meeting and offered suggestions and support to the SCC Convention - 2013. The Bishops of Mangalore Diocese, Udupi Diocese and Belgaum Diocese will be witnessing the inaugural program of the Convention - 2013. From Karnataka region, 140 numbers have enlisted for the SCC Convention - 2013.

This event will be witnessed by 8000 SCC members from 166 dioceses of India. At the Convention, we are going to affirm that SCCs build communion and collaborate in the Church. We are going to witness the power of SCC, how they help people to live their faith and Gospel values, and evangelize the neighborhood. It is a unique opportunity to show our unity and faith both at personal and community levels. Let us pray for its success. In this Year of Faith, there will be a

TOT program on the theme ‘SCCs are the Instruments of Evangelization’.

Karwar and Bellary dioceses have appointed new SCC Secretaries; I welcome them and wish them a fruitful pastoral ministry. I make an appeal to the reader to subscribe the newsletter and help us in your little way. May God bless our SCCs.

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

## Participants from Karnataka at the National Meeting of SCC



(R to L): Fr. Shantaraj (Chikmagalur), Fr. Jacob P. (Belthangady), Fr. Johnson Rodrigues (Karwar), Fr. Clary D’Souza (Gulbarga), Fr. Walter D’Souza (Mangalore), Fr. Alphonse D’Lima (Udupi), Fr. Harold Pereira (Bangalore), Fr. Duming Dias (Shimoga), Fr. Stanley D’Souza (Belgaum), Fr. Joseph Arokiam (Bellary), Fr. Susairaj (Bangalore), Mr. V. M. Francis (Bangalore)

## National Meeting of SCC Regional /Diocesan Coordinators from 26th February to March 2nd 2013 at PAC, Nagpur



The National Meeting of SCC Regional/Diocesan Coordinators took place at PAC, Nagpur. There were 101 participants from 87 dioceses of 13 regions. From Karnataka, there were 12 participants.

The following topics were covered during the meeting:

- The mode of formation and functioning of NST for SCC.
- Effective use of media in SCC formation.
- SCC National Convention plan and region wise planning.

### The SCC National Convention details:

- a) Number of participants and Ratio: Bishop, diocesan coordinator, 2 priests, 2 religious sisters, 3 men, 3 women, 4 youth and 5 others.
- b) Registration process before the convention by 31st May 2013.
- c) Registration for the Convention: 200 rupees from each SCC unit and Rs 300 registration fee from the participant at the venue.
- d) Displays from regions.
- e) SCC prayer form has been given which could be translated in vernacular languages.
- f) Fund raising.

**Mr. V. Maria Francis**

*Regional Representative to NST for SCCs*

## Past Regional activities

- |                     |   |  |
|---------------------|---|--|
| 06.01.2013          | = | SCC training at Thirthalli Parish, Shimoga Diocese - 75 participants.                |
| 14.01.2013          | = | SCC resource team meeting at KRPC, Bangalore (5 participants).                       |
| 26 .01.2013         | = | TOT (Trainer's Training) – SMSSS, Shimoga – 15 participants.                         |
| 27.01.2013          | = | SCC in-charge [Sisters] – SMSSS, Shimoga – 29 participants.                          |
| 07.02.2013          | = | SCC Mass and Jubilee program at Bela Parish of Mangalore diocese.                    |
| 09 02.2013          | = | Regional Secretary's visit to Belthangady Diocesan SCC secretary.                    |
| 21.02.2013          | = | SCC Animators' Meeting at Sacred Heart Parish, Bangalore.                            |
| Feb 25 to 2nd March | = | All India SCC Directors' Meeting at PAC, Nagpur (12 participants from Karnataka).    |
| 28. 02.2013         | = | Releasing of Newsletter Communion.   |
| 12.04.2013          | = | SCC resource team meeting at KRPC, Bangalore (5 participants).                       |
| 28.04.2013          | = | SCC Sunday celebration at St. Thomas Church, HAL, Bangalore (150 participants).      |
| 08-.05.2013         | = | Along with the national secretary Fr. Thomas Vijay visited Archbishop and discussed. |
| 16.05.2013          | = | SCC Silver Jubilee Celebration at Mangalore. (1200 participants).                    |
| 19.05.2013          | = | 'SCC Sunday' celebration at Kasargod Church, Mangalore Diocese (400 participants).   |
| May 24 -26          | = | Alpha Team Training program at KRPC (10 participants).                               |
| 27.05.2013          | = | SCC DAT meeting of Archdiocese of Bangalore at St. Thomas Church (20 participants).  |
| May 27-29           | = | SCC training at Sacred Heart Parish, Bangalore (24 participants).                    |

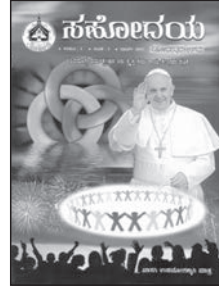


Release of Karnataka Regional SCC Newsletter 'COMMUNION' by Most Rev. Abraham, Archbishop of Nagpur on 28th February

## The members of Diocesan Animation Team of Shimoga Diocese



**DAT Members are:** Rev. Fr. Duming Dias, Rev. Fr. Anil D'Souza, Sr. Rita Lobo UFS, Mr. Paul Rodrigues, Ms. Reena Cicilia D'Souza, Vianney Deanery; Fr. Anthony Nazareth, Sr. Dorothy Pinto, Mr. Wilson, Ms. Reena David, Carmel Deanery; Fr. Chako RK. CMF; Sr. Shila CSST, Mr. Maxim Tellis, Ms. Celine Jayraj, Little Flower Deanery; Fr. Santosh D'Almeida, Sr. Chitra, Mr. Joseph I., Ms. Suma, Holy Family Deanery.



'Sahodaya' SCC News Magazine of Shimoga Diocese

## Future Events of the Region

1. Diocesan SCC Directors and SCC Council gathering on 26th June 2013 at KRPC, Bangalore.
2. TOT on 17, 18 September 2013 at Karnataka Regional Pastoral Center, Bangalore.
3. Animators Training at Gulbarga in the month of October 2013.
4. National SCC Convention 2013 on 18th to 22nd November 2013.

## Silver Jubilee Celebration of SCC in Mangalore and Udupi dioceses

The Small Christian Community (SCC) of Mangalore and Udupi Dioceses celebrated its Silver Jubilee at St. Sebastian Church, Bendur on Thursday, May 16th 2013. The celebration began with the Eucharist offered by Dr. Aloysius Paul D'Souza, Bishop of Mangalore. Fr. Denis Moras Prabhu (Vicar General), Fr. Harold Pereira (Regional Secretary) preached the homily, Fr. Antony Serrao (Parish Priest of Bendur Church), Fr. Thomas Vijay (National Secretary of SCC) & Fr. Walter D'Souza (Diocesan Director of SCC) and many diocesan and religious priests were the concelebrants.

The Mass was followed by a formal stage program at St. Sebastian Jubilee Hall where Bishop Aloysius Paul D'Souza presided while Fr. Denis Moras

Prabhu, Mr. J R Lobo, (newly-elected MLA), Fr. Vijay Thomas, Fr. Alphonse D'Lima, Fr. Harold Pereira, Fr. Walter D'Souza, Mr. Robert D'Souza and Sr. Mabel shared the dais.

On the occasion, Vicar General Fr. Denis Moras Prabhu released a Souvenir published by SCC on the occasion of completing 25 years. Bishop Aloysius Paul D'Souza along with other dignitaries felicitated Mr. J R Lobo for winning the recent Assembly elections.

Acknowledging the honor, Mr. J R Lobo thanked the Bishop for honoring him and inviting to the program. "I am able to stand before you as an MLA because of you and mainly the Catholic Community. Along with Catholics, people of other communities



have also supported me a lot, including around 50% of the Hindus who voted for me," said the MLA. "It is not only the responsibility of the priest to spread God's message; we are also Christ's missionaries and are also equally responsible. People should live with unity. SCC has done excellent job in all the parishes and people have received various benefits through it," Lobo added.

Fr. Vijay Thomas, the National Secretary for SCC said that since 1989, he has been associated with Mangalore Diocese SCC and was proud to say that Mangalore Diocese was the first among the 10 best dioceses of the country, which are having SCCs.

In his presidential address, the Bishop congratulated SCC on completing 25 years. "A large number of people from around 161 parishes in Udupi and Mangalore dioceses are present today to witness this program, which shows the unity among us. The credit for this goes to SCC," he said. "God in his message asked us to live with unity and that message is spread by SCC through its work.

The Mangalore Diocese has grown mainly because of SCC," he lauded.

"Through SCC, we have improved in liturgy, fostered unity among people, enhanced faith, and increased concern towards the poor," said Dr. Aloysius, lauding the present and past Directors of SCC.

On the occasion, Bishop Aloysius also released an audio CD produced by Fr. Walter D'Souza based on SCC.

In recognition of their tremendous service towards SCC's growth over the last 25 years, the Bishop honored Fr. Gilbert D'Souza, Fr. Alphonse D'Lima, Fr. Harold Pereira, Fr. Walter D'Souza, Sr. Lydia Serrao, Sr. Usha BS, Mr. L. J. Fernandes, Mr. Robert D'Souza and Ms. Helen Frank.

**Fr. Walter D'Souza**  
SCC Director - Mangalore Diocese



## SCC in Belgaum Diocese



In 1998, SCCs were started in Belgaum Diocese. 11 parishes of the Diocese have SCCs. There are 53 SCC units with 15 animators. Presently, Rev. Fr. Stanley D'Souza is the Diocesan Director of the Commission for SCC.

He conducted two Animators training on 10th March 2013, at Sevalaya, Dharwad (40 participants) and on 17th March, at St. Anthony's Church Hall (30 participants). The topics dealt with were:-

1. The four Marks of SCC
2. The Qualities and responsibilities of SCC Animators
3. SCC and Parish
4. 7 steps Gospel Sharing

**Fr. Stanley D'Souza**  
SCC Director - Belgaum Diocese



## SCCs in the Archdiocese of Bangalore

SCC was started in the Archdiocese of Bangalore in the year 1999 by Rev. Fr. Joe Morgan, a Redemptorist missionary and Rev. Fr. Benjamin Vaz introduced the seven steps Gospel Sharing method to the seminarians of Bhakti Bhavan minor seminary. SCC was brought to the forefront in the Archdiocese by Rev. Fr. Francis Xavier who invited Most Rev. Dr. Bosco Penha, who was then the Auxiliary Bishop of Mumbai

Archdiocese, who conducted one week seminar with the parishioners of Nativity Church, Vidyaranya pura in the year 1999. It was further strengthened by Rev. Fr. Joseph Abraham who initiated SCC in Our Lady of Fatima Church, Jalahalli.

When Archbishop Bernard Moras took charge of the Archdiocese, His Grace wanted to bring about renewal in the Archdiocese and thus implemented

the Regional Pastoral Plan for Karnataka in the Archdiocese by forming 17 commissions (now 18 commissions) which included Commission for SCCs. His Grace appointed Rev. Fr. Christy Raj as the first Archdiocesan SCC Secretary in the year 2005. Fr. Christy Raj went far and wide of the Archdiocese and formed SCCs in most of the parishes both rural and urban. Archbishop has encouraged many deacons to attend 40 days SCC Theological Course at PAC, Nagpur. A great number of priests and lay people have been trained in SCC in the Archdiocese.

Thereafter, in the year 2011, Rev. Fr. Susairaj was appointed as the Secretary of Commission for SCCs. At present, 22 parishes have 62 SCC units which have been animated by 24 animators.

### Role of Parish Priests in SCC

If at all SCCs are functioning effectively in the Archdiocese of Bangalore it is because of the hard labor of the parish priests along with the Religious and lay leaders.

### Role of Religious

The contributions of the religious women for the growth of SCC in the Archdiocese are praise worthy. In most of the SCCs, the women religious are the animators of the group who maintain the spirit of SCCs. Many religious nuns have given priority to SCC by attending weekly SCC gatherings and trainings.

### ACTIVITIES OF SCCs

#### a) Spiritual activities

- i) Many Catholics have their personal copy of the Bible and read it regularly.
- ii) People have learnt to share the Word of God openly and sincerely.
- iii) Most of the members personally know neighbors well after joining SCC.
- iv) Weekly meetings are planned well; as a result community members wait for the next SCC gathering.

- v) Fasting & Adoration is being observed every month by SCC groups.
- vi) SCC Sunday is celebrated and annual SCC day is also celebrated.
- vii) Christmas joy is shared with the people of other faiths.
- viii) There is a qualitative change in family life and faith expression of people.

#### b) Social activities through SCC

1. Ex-gratia Fund: If a SCC member dies, the SCC members of the Parish Community visit the family and console them and pay Rs. 1000/- as Ex-gratia fund (St. John the Evangelist Parish).
2. Medical assistance is given to the poor.
3. Educational assistance to the needy SCC children in the form of Scholarship, distribution of note books, partial payment of School fees, children who secure 80% and above are honored.
4. Ration (feeding hands): Monthly ration is given in the form of rice, dal, sugar and oil to the SCC members at St. John the Evangelist Parish and a special gift hamper during Christmas (St. Thomas Parish).

Archdiocesan SCC Commission Secretary, Rev. Fr. Susairaj along with the Joint Secretary Rev. Fr. Santosh under the guidance of the Archbishop, Most Rev. Dr. Bernard Moras, Vicar General of Archdiocese Msgr. S. Jayanathan and Msgr. C. Francis, along with the support of Regional Secretary, Rev. Fr. Harold Pereira and the DAT (Diocesan Animation Team) continues the herculean task of building SCCs in the Archdiocese. The SCCs have become the instruments of change in the parish and SCCs members are proud to be called as SCC member and they are real evangelizer's themselves.



SCC animators training  
at Sacred Heart Parish



DAT members of Archdiocese



PAT members at  
St. John the Evangelist

**Obituary**



**Rev. Fr. Joseph Arockiam,  
Bellary**  
Born: 18.05.1976  
Died: 21.05.2013

Karnataka Region SCC deeply mourns the sad demise of SCC Director of Bellary Diocese.

**SCC Trainings**

April 27th 2013 = SCC training at T. C. Palya, St. Anne's Sisters of Chennai (43 participants)  
April 28th 2013 = SCC Day at St. Thomas Church, HAL, 200 participants.  
May 27th 2013 = Archdiocesan SCC Animation Team Meeting at St. Thomas church, 20 participants.  
May 27 - 29, 2013 = SCC Training at Sacred Heart Parish, 24 animators.

**Rev. Fr. Susairaj**  
Secretary - Commission for SCCs  
Bangalore Archdiocese

**Welcome**



**Rev. Fr Edwin  
D'Souza**  
SCC Secretary  
Karwar Diocese



**Rev. Fr. Anil  
Kumar**  
SCC Secretary  
Bellary Diocese

**NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND DIOCESAN SCC ACTIVITIES JAN-MAY 2013**



## 'Empowering Value Based Leaders for Nation Building'

More information contact:  
**Chris Leonard Bernard**  
 Chief Mentor  
 Mobil: 9901304993 Email: kics.blr@gmail.com.

### This issue is Co Sponsored by

St. Thomas Church, Jeevan Bhima Nagar, SCC Communities



## RELIANCE ENGINEERING WORKS

### Manufactures & Fabricators

More information contact: **A. I. DEEPAK RAJ**, Proprietor  
 5/90, Church Street, Lingarajapuram, Bangalore 560084  
 Ph 080-25463422/ 8105268121, Mobil: 9886399292  
 Email - deepakraj292@gmail.com

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

Published by Commission for SCCs

Karnataka Regional Pastoral Centre, P.B. No 8427, 2nd Cross, Da Costa Layout,  
 Wheeler Road Ext. Bangalore – 560 084.

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

Printed at Brilliant Printers Pvt. Ltd, Bangalore

FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY