

CCBI NEWS



Synodal Church

Volume No. XXXII, 2

July-December 2021

Construction of a Village Chapel for the faithful in Giridharpur, Balosore Diocese, Odisha.



*Assist Communio to help the faithful in Giridharpur
to construct a decent place for worship.*



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CCBINNEWS

Volume No. XXXII, 2

July - December 2021



**Largest Bishops Conference in Asia and
Fourth Largest in the World
132 Dioceses and 195 Bishops**

Conference of Catholic Bishops of India

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CONTENTS

Editorial05

I Church in India 08

1. PM Modi invites Pope Francis to visit India08
2. Devasahayam will be canonised on 15 May 202209
3. Church in India Organised National Prayer Service for the Health of the World 10
4. Church in India Commenced the Synodal Journey 13
5. The CCBI issued Roadmap for Synodal Journey 13
6. Transform Church in India to a Synodal Church: Urges Cardinal Oswald Gracias 14
7. CCBI PR Office in Delhi Inaugurated 15
8. CCBI Establishes Bioethics Forum 16
9. Communio Website Launched 17
10. Apostolic Nuncio Released Ecumenism Textbook "May They All Be One" 18
11. "Healing the World: Life After Pandemic" Released 18
12. Archbishop Filipe Neri urges to make liturgical celebrations more meaningful 19
13. Christians oppose anti-conversion law in Karnataka 20
14. Bethania CCBI Youth Centre Celebrated Second Anniversary 21

II Commission Reports 22

1. Commission for Bible 22
2. Commission for Catechetics 23
3. Commission for Ecology 26
3. Commission for Ecumenism 27
4. Commission for Family 30
5. Commission for Migrants 34

6. Commission for Proclamation	39
7. Commission for SCC	44
8. Commission for Vocation	51
9. Commission for Women	61
10. Commission for Youth	69

III Pastoral News..... 76

1. Bishop Sebastian Durairaj New Archbishop of Bhopal	76
2. Most Rev. Telesphore Bilung appointed as Bishop of Jamshedpur	77
3. Fr. Deepak Valerian Tauro appointed as Auxiliary Bishop of Delhi	78
4. Fr. Antonis Bara appointed as new Bishop of Ambikapur	79
5. Fr Anthony Rebello appointed as Bishop Francistown, Botswana	79
6. Archbishop Thomas Macwan appointed as one of the members of International Council for Catechesis.....	80
7. Bishop Theodore Mascarenhas Appointed as Apostolic Administrator of Daltonganj	81
8. New Coordinators for Education, Health, Social Service and Media Apostolates	82
9. Fr. Christopher appointed as Director Bioethics Forum	83
10. Archbishop Leo Cornelio of Bhopal Retired	84
11. Bishop Goji Govindu of Nalgonda Retired	85
12. Bishop Angelus Kujur of Purnea Retired	86
13. Bishop Godfrey de Rozario of Baroda Retired	87
14. Bishop Jacob Mar Barnabas of Gurgaon Passes Away	88
15. Fr. Stan Swamy Passes Away	89
16. Fr. Jacob Theckanath Passes Away	90
17. Fr. Dominic Veliath Passes Away	91
18. CCBI 87 Executive Committee Meeting	91
19. CCBI Office Bearers Meetings	91
20. Joint Meeting of the Secretaries	92
21. Recent Bishop Events	92
22. CCBI Forthcoming Programmes	94

SYNODALITY

a clarion call for Reformation

The Church in India is setting out on synodal journey to make the Church a Synodal Church. After the formal inauguration of the opening Synod in Rome on 9-10 October 2021 by Pope Francis the Bishops in India solemnly opened the synodal journey in all our dioceses. Synod on Synodality is the most ambitious Catholic renewal project with a listening exercise that aims to give every member of the Church a stake in its future. Through a “synodal” process, the Pope Francis is asking us to help re-imagine the future of the Church.

The CCBI constituted a Synodal Desk and launched the website (www.synodindia.com) to assist the Bishops, diocesan contact persons, major superiors and all who involved in the synodal journey. The national Episcopal Conference issued more than four circulars requesting all the Catholic faithful in India to involve actively in this Church renewal process. The synodal journey is not for meetings, discussions, reports and synthesis but for reformation.

The emphasis of the Synod is on listening rather than preaching. In the synodal Church everyone has something to learn. “The faithful people, the college of bishops, the Bishop of Rome: all listening to each other, and all listening to the Holy Spirit, the ‘Spirit of truth’ (Jn 14:17), in order to know what He ‘says to the Churches’ (Rev 2:7).” (Preparatory Document 15). Listening to people will be meaningful when every voice is heard. It doesn’t matter whether one speaks what is pleasing to the ear of the authorities or something critical of their actions. The Church should lend an ear to both. There cannot be a one-size-fits-all approach in synodality.

One of the beautiful community images proposed for a Synodal Church in the Preparatory Document is that of “Jesus, the Crowd, the Apostles” (cf. PD, 17-21). The Church in India is carrying forward the mission of Jesus and it is his Church. The Church without Jesus is a mere organisation like a corporate entity. The fundamental question that we should ask ourselves in this journey is: Is Jesus with us? Are we with Jesus?

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Jesus was always accompanied by the Apostles and the Apostles carried forward the mission of Our Lord. The Bishops are the successors of the Apostles and we are all called to work together with our Bishop to build the local Church. We have parishes and institutions managed by the dioceses and religious congregations. All our ministries, institutions and associations are established to carry forward Our Lord's mission as one family. Are we able to work together in communion as one family under the leadership of our Bishops?

Jesus was always found with the crowd, people loved Him and followed Him. "The proclamation of the Gospel is not addressed only to an enlightened or chosen few. Jesus' interlocutor is the "people" of ordinary life, the "everyone" of the human condition, whom he puts directly in contact with God's gift and the call to salvation." (PD, 18). If we want to speak of a synodal Church, we cannot remain satisfied with appearances alone; we need content, means, and structures that can facilitate dialogue and interaction within the People of God, especially between priests and laity.

The Church in India should be always with the people. We are serving the people, who all are coming to church and institutions. There are people who really deserve our services, who are not connected with us. Are we able to reach out to these people? Is it possible to network with the people in peripheries, those who went away from the Church and those are against the Church?

The synodal journey is also a call for us to revive all our ministries and apostolates. The apostolates of the Church in India became the privilege for a few. Pope Francis once presented a successful image of Jesus who overturned the tables (cf. Mt 21:12). To form the synod we need 'to drive out the merchants and overturn their tables.' The merchants are always close to the temple, because there they do business, there they sell formation, organization, structures, and pastoral certainties. Merchants pride themselves on being 'at the service' of the religious. Every apostolates in the Church is the part of the Mission which share the joy of the Gospel.

The Synod is a process of spiritual discernment, of ecclesial discernment, that unfolds in adoration, in prayer and in dialogue with the word of God. It is a call to empty ourselves, to free ourselves from all that is worldly, including our inward-looking and outworn pastoral models. If we are able to transform the present model of working together to a model of communion, participation, and mission we could transform the Church in India to a Synodal Church.

Dr. Stephen Alathara
Editor

I. CHURCH IN INDIA

1. PM Modi invites Pope Francis to visit India

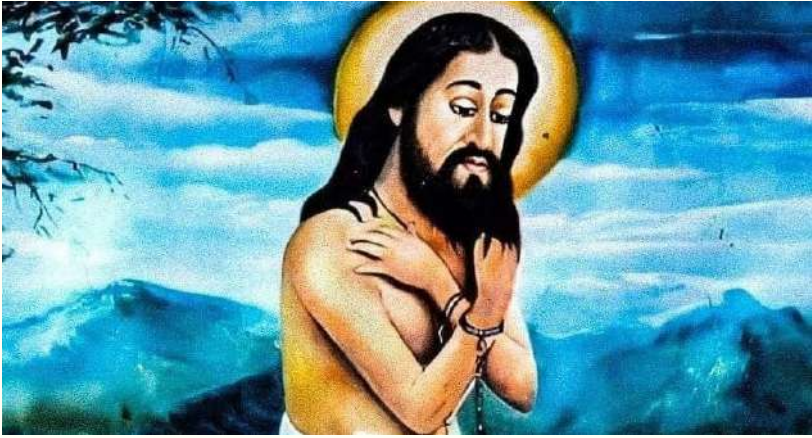


Vatican 30 October 2021 (Vatican News): Pope Francis on Saturday 30 October 2021 received in the Vatican Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the first-ever meeting between the two leaders. After holding talks with the Pope, Modi was received by Vatican Secretary of State, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, and Vatican Secretary for Relations with States, Archbishop Paul Richard Gallagher.

Modi's Vatican visit lasted nearly an hour. The Indian Prime Minister gifted the Pope a silver candlestick and a book on the commitment to the environment. The Pope reciprocated with a bronze plaque with the inscription "The desert will become a garden", volumes of papal documents, his message for World Day of Peace and the document on Human Fraternity, signed on February 4 of 2019 in Abu Dhabi by the Pope and the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar.

Notably, the last Papal visit by an Indian leader happened in 1999 when Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the prime minister and Pope John Paul II visited India. During their meeting, PM Modi and the Pope discussed a wide range of issues including climate change and poverty. Modi is the fifth Indian Prime Minister to meet the head of the Roman Catholics. Before him, prime ministers Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi, I K Gujral and Atal Bihari Vajpayee had met the then popes at the Vatican.

2. Devasahayam will be canonised on 15 May 2022



Vatican 9 November, 2021 (CCBI): Blessed Lazarus Devasahayam of India and 6 others will be officially declared saints at a canonization Mass and ceremony in the Vatican on 15 May 2022. The official declaration of an 18th century Indian Hindu convert to Catholicism as a saint by the Catholic Church in May next year, is a “historic moment”. Blessed Lazarus, also known as Devasahayam, will be the first layperson and martyr of Indian origin who will be officially declared a saint of the worldwide Catholic Church. He was martyred for his faith nearly 270 years ago in what is Tamil Nadu state today.

On 3 May 2021, Pope Francis officially cleared Blessed Lazarus Devasahayam and 6 others for sainthood but had not set the date for the canonization ceremony because of the pandemic. The Congregation for the Causes of Saints on 9 November 2021 declared that the canonization Mass will take place in the Vatican on 15 May 2022. The Pope Francis will preside over the liturgy.

Born on April 23, 1712, as Neelakanda Pillai, in the village of Nattalam, Devasahayam served in the palace of southern India’s Hindu King Marthanda Varma of Travancore, whose kingdom stretched from what is Kanyakumari District of Tamil Nadu state today, right up to Cochin in neighbouring Kerala state. He was baptized at the Catholic church of Vadakkankulam village (in the present Tirunelveli District of Tamil Nadu), by Jesuit priest Father R. Bouttari Italus. His refusal to worship the Hindu gods of the palace and renouncing the traditional Hindu religious festivals greatly angered the officers. He was imprisoned and subjected to harsh persecution. A Catholic for only seven years, he was shot dead in the Aralvaimozhy forest on 14 January 1752.

On June 28, 2012, Pope Benedict XVI authorized the Congregation for the Causes of Saints to promulgate the decree recognizing Devasahayam's martyrdom. On December 2, 2012, Italian Cardinal Angelo Amato, former Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, presided over the Mass of Beatification at Carmel Higher Secondary School campus in Nagercoil, Kottar Diocese, on behalf of Pope Benedict, conferring on Devasahayam the title Blessed.

3. Church in India Organised National Prayer Service for the Health of the World



Bangalore 7 August 2021 (CCBI): The Latin Catholic Church in India conducted a one-hour National Prayer Service on Saturday 7 August, 2021, from 8.30 to 9.30 pm, in view of the difficult times that the people of our nation are going through on account of Covid 19 and to pray as one family for the health of the world. The prayer was conducted from the tombs of St. Thomas, St. Francis Xavier and St. Teresa of Kolkata and from the Marian Basilicas of Bandra (Mumbai), Sardhana (Meerut), Hyderabad, Shivajinagar (Bangalore) and Vailankanni.

This special Prayer Service with a Eucharistic Benediction was telecasted on Catholic satellite television channels like Shalom TV, Goodness TV, Madha TV, Divyavani TV, Atmadarshan TV, Ishvani TV, CCR TV and Prarthana Bhawan TV; it will also be streamed through leading Catholic YouTube channels. Most Rev. John Rodrigues, Auxiliary Bishop of Bombay, along with the choir members, sang the opening hymn from the Basilica of Our Lady of the Mount, Bandra, Mumbai. The initial part of the prayer was recited from the tomb of St. Thomas, Santhome Cathedral Basilica, Chennai by Most Rev. George Antonysamy, Vice President, CCBI and Archbishop of Madras-Mylapore.

The Gospel was proclaimed from St. Mary's Basilica, Shivajinagar, Bangalore, by Rev. Dr. Raymond Joseph, Secretary, CCBI Commission for Vocations. His Eminence Oswald



Cardinal Gracias, the Archbishop of Bombay, gave the reflection from the Holy Name Cathedral, Colaba, Mumbai. The Prayers of the Faithful was recited in seven languages from the Basilica of Our Lady of Graces, Sardhana, Uttar Pradesh. Fr. Chetan Machado, Secretary CCBI Commission for Youth lead the intercessory prayers. Ms. Jyotsna D'Souza, President, ICYM; Bro. Alex Diamond Raj, SG, Director, Montfort Bhavan, Meerut; Ms. Valentia Nongtdu, Finance Secretary, Jowai Diocese; Mr. John Paul, Member, ICYM; Sr. Sudeepti, FSLG, Staff Nurse, Our Lady of Graces Hospital, Sardhana, Bro. Prem Murmu, Assistant Director, Montfort Bhavan, Meerut and Sr. Dr. Lisa, FSLG, Our Lady of Graces Hospital, Sardhana recited the prayers in Hindi, Tamil, Khasi, Telugu, Kannada, Santali and Malayalam.

Most Rev. Anthony Poola, Archbishop of Hyderabad, recited the prayer for the control of Coronavirus from the Basilica of Our Lady of the Assumption, Hyderabad. Most Rev. Thomas D'Souza, Archbishop of Calcutta and Very Rev. Mary Prema Pierick, M.C., Superior General, Missionaries of Charity, led the Litany of Supplications from the tomb of Mother Teresa, Kolkata.

There was special prayers for all deceased bishops, priests, religious and lay faithful, to whom the Church was not able to give a decent funeral due to the pandemic restrictions. Most Rev. Vincent Aind, Bishop of Bagdogra, West Bengal led the prayer for the departed





souls. All people in India was consecrated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Most Rev. Anil Joseph Thomas Couto, Secretary General, CCBI and Archbishop of Delhi, recited the consecration prayer from the Sacred Heart Cathedral, New Delhi.

Most Rev. Filipe Neri Ferrão, President, CCBI and Archbishop of Goa and Daman, gave the Eucharistic Benediction from the Basilica of Bom Jesus, Goa (Tomb of St. Francis Xavier). The concluding prayer song was delivered from the Basilica of Our Lady of Good Health, Vailankanni. Most Rev. Devadass Ambrose, Bishop of Thanjavur along with the choir members, sang the famous Marian prayer “Salve Regina” (Hail Holy Queen) in Latin.

The Circular, issued by the President of the Conference of Catholic Bishops of India, requests everyone, particularly families and religious communities, to join in the prayer service and asked that this event be shared also with those whose family and community members are abroad, so that they too may join in as one family. All the faithful in India spend this one hour as one family, thus giving witness to the Catholicity and cultural and linguistic diversity of the Church.



4. Church in India Commenced the Synodal Journey



Bangalore 17 October 2021 (CCBI): The 132 dioceses in India launched the diocesan phase of the synodal journey and the bishops of the each dioceses opened synodal process in their respective dioceses by celebrating solemn Holy Mass in their Cathedrals. The Theme of the 2023 Synod is, "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission." The Official Inauguration of the Synod was presided over by the Holy Father in the Vatican, on October 9-10, 2021, with a time for reflection, prayer and celebration of the Eucharist.

The CCBI Office Bearers resolved that the CCBI Commission for Theology and Doctrine would be responsible for coordinating the preparatory phase of the synodal journey. Fr. Francis Gonsalves, S.J., the Executive Secretary of that Commission, will be the Contact Person for liaising both with the diocesan officials and with the General Secretariat for the Synod of Bishops in Rome, headed by Mario Cardinal Grech, the General Secretary. The CCBI requested all 132 dioceses 674 provinces of various religious congregations, the CCBI Commissions, Movements and lay associations to begin this synodal journey meaningfully. The President of the CCBI appealed through special circular to recite the Synodal Prayer in all families, parishes and religious communities every day.

5. The CCBI issued Roadmap for Synodal Journey

(1) Till January 15, 2022 = Dissemination of information and preparation to have consultations, choose questions, decide on groups, select models and give training to the Coordinators. (2) From January 15 to April 10, 2022 = Consultation Phase. Meeting groups, conducting consultations, preparing reports. (3) By April 10, 2022 = All the consultation reports are to be submitted to the Diocesan Synodal Team / Diocesan



Contact Persons. (4) From April 10 to May 15, 2022 = All dioceses will prepare a 'Working Document' in preparation for the Diocesan Synod and will conduct the Diocesan Synod. 95) By May 31, 2022 = The 10-page diocesan summaries should reach the Regional Deputy Secretaries (RDSs). (6) By June 20, 2022 = The RDSs will prepare a 10-page 'consolidated report' from the diocesan summaries, which should be sent to the Central Coordinating Team. (7) By July 15, 2022 = The Working Document will be completed by the Central Coordinating Team for the CCBI Consultation. (7) By July 31, 2022 = The CCBI Consultation is expected to be completed. (8) By August 15, 2022 = The Final Report is to be dispatched to the General Secretariat of the Synod of Bishops in Rome.

6. Transform Church in India to a Synodal Church: Urges Cardinal Oswald Gracias



Mumbai 17 October 2021 (CCBI): His Eminence Oswald Cardinal Gracias, the Archbishop of Bombay, President of the CBCI, and one of the topmost consultants of Pope Francis,

appealed to every Catholic faithful to transform the Church in India to a Synodal Church. He was inaugurating the diocesan phase of the Synod at the Holy Name Cathedral, Mumbai on Sunday 17 October, 2021 and also released a Handbook for the Synod: "For a Synodal Church".

"To transform the Church to a Synodal Church, we have to walk together in the same path including everybody, we have to encounter Jesus through prayer and adoration and to hear what the Spirit wants to say to the Church. Church should listen to all than hearing." Quoting Pope Francis the Cardinal Oswald reiterated that: the Synod is a process of spiritual discernment, of ecclesial discernment, that unfolds in adoration, in prayer and in dialogue with the word of God."

The Handbook for the Synod is a useful tool for all those involved in the two-year-long 'Synodal Journey', which will unfold itself in three phases of consultations, at the diocesan, the continental, and the universal levels, culminating in October 2023, in Rome.

7. CCBI PR Office in Delhi Inaugurated



New Delhi 1 September, 2021 (CCBI): The CCBI PR Office in Delhi was blessed and inaugurated on Wednesday 1 September 2021 at the CCBI Secretariat Building, Bhai Vir Singh Marg, New Delhi by His Grace Most Rev. Anil Couto, Archbishop of Delhi and the Secretary General of the CCBI. Rev. Dr. Stephen Alathara, Deputy Secretary General of the CCBI, Fr. Adv. Joseph Elamthuruthy, Fr. Savari Muthu, Fr. Ajeet Patrick, Fr. Rohan Ronald and Mr. Shashidharan were present for the blessing and inauguration of the PR Office.

The Office Bearers meetings held on 23 September, 2018 at the CCBI Centre, Bangalore and on 13 February, 2020, St. John's Bangalore discussed the possibility of establishing a PRD office in Delhi because of escalating some problems in the Latin Church in India,

which needs support from various central government departments in Delhi. The Office Bearers meeting held on 6 March, 2021 took the decision to establish the CCBI PRD Office at Delhi. It was rectified in the 86 Executive Committee meeting held on 14 and 15 May 2021 and also discussed in 87 EC meeting held on 20 and 21 September, 2021.

This PR Office will operate from the CCBI Secretariat building in New Delhi. Rev. Fr. (Adv.) Joseph Elamthuruthy, of the Archdiocese of Delhi, will be the Coordinator of our CCBI PR Office. This Office will function under the direction and guidance of Most Rev. Anil Couto, our Secretary General, and Rev. Dr. Stephen Alathara, our Deputy Secretary General. A PR team is also constituted. Fr. Adv. Joseph Elamthuruthy will be Coordinator. Fr. Jaison Vadassery, the Executive Secretary to the CCBI Commission for Migrants, Fr. Chetan Machado, Executive Secretary to the CCBI Commission for Youth, Fr. George P. A., the Director of Holy Family Hospital and Mr. Shashi Dharan, the PRO of the Delhi Archdiocese are the members. The address is: CCBI PR Office, CCBI Secretariat Building, 9-10 Bhai Vir Singh Marg, New Delhi 1100001, Email: ccbiprd@gmail.com

8. CCBI Establishes Bioethics Forum



Bangalore 23 September, 2021 (CCBI): The Conference of Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI) established a Bioethics Forum and appointed Rev. Dr. Christopher Vimalraj from the Archdiocese of Bangalore as its first Director. The decision to establish the Bioethics Forum was taken during the 87th Executive Committee meeting of the CCBI, held on 20 and 21 September, 2021. The CCBI Bioethics Forum will work under the CCBI Commission for Theology and Doctrine. His Grace Most Rev. Felix Toppo, SJ, Archbishop of Ranchi and Chairman of the CCBI Commission for Theology and Doctrine, will be the Chairman of the CCBI Bioethics Forum.

The CCBI Bioethics Forum is a consultative forum that engages with moral questions arising in clinical practice, biomedical research and public policy on healthcare issues, through a person-centred bioethical approach. The forum will engage in scholarly dialogue with healthcare workers, bioethicists, lawyers and theologians; it will also seek to study the implications of the teachings of the Catholic Church for the fields of medical practice and public policy. The CCBI had come up with a bioethics document concerning the Covid Vaccine “A Catholic Ethical Response to Questions about Covid-19 Vaccines” on 11 February, 2021. It was internationally appreciated.

9. **Communio Website Launched**



Panjim, Goa 16 December, 2021 (CCBI): Archbishop Filipe Neri Ferrão, the President of the Conference of Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI) and the Metropolitan Archbishop of Goa and Daman, officially launched the Communio website (www.communio.in) on Thursday, 16 December, 2021, in a simple function held at Archbishop’s House, Panjim.

The new website will help the dioceses and religious congregations to know more about the services of Communio. The website provides relevant details about Communio and also information concerning project applications and related guidelines. It also helps the faithful to know about the service the Church is rendering in our country and provides an online opportunity for people of good will to generously contribute towards the evangelization work of the Church in India.

Communio is an initiative of the Conference of Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI) to assist the dioceses and religious congregations working in rural and backward areas, in their pastoral ministry. It was officially inaugurated in 2017 to help the faithful build a culture of sharing and solidarity with our needy brothers and sisters throughout our country.

Communio also inspires lay faithful to do volunteer work and collaborate in the work of sharing the Good News brought by Jesus.

10. Apostolic Nuncio Released Ecumenism Textbook “May They All Be One”



New Delhi 31 August, 2021 (CCBI): His Excellency Most Rev Leopoldo Girelli, the Apostolic Nuncio to India released the Ecumenism Textbook “May They All Be One: Ecumenism in Catholic Perspective” on Tuesday 31 August 2021 at Yusuf Sadan, Archbishop’s House Campus, New Delhi. Most Rev Anil Joseph Thomas Couto, Archbishop of Delhi and Secretary General, CCBI, Most Rev. Kuriakose Bharanikulangara, Archbishop-Bishop of Faridabad, Most Rev. Subodh C. Mondal, Delhi Episcopal Area, Methodist Church in India, Most Rev. John Mor Irenaeus, Believers Eastern Church, Delhi Diocese and Rev. Dr. Stephen Alathara, Deputy Secretary General of the Conference of Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI) were participated in the releasing ceremony.

The book is the outcome of the long and in-depth research and study by the CCBI Commission for Ecumenism by Archbishop Anil Couto, Archbishop Felix Machado, Bishop Selvester Ponnuthan, Fr. Jos De Cuyper S.J., Fr. Gilbert De Lima, Fr. Gilbert Aranha, Fr. Anthoniraj Thumma, Fr. Joseph Sugun Leon and Fr. Errol A. D’ Lima S.J. Foreword written by Most Rev. Francis Serrao S.J., Bishop of Shimoga and Chairman, CCBI Commission for Ecumenism. Preface is written by His Grace Filipe Neri Ferrão, President CCBI and Archbishop of Goa and Daman.

11. “Healing the World: Life After Pandemic” Released

Mumbai 12 September 2021 (CCBI): His Eminence Oswald Cardinal Gracias, the Archbishop of Bombay, President of the CBCI, and one of the topmost consultors of Pope Francis, appealed to everyone to journey together along the path of healing a Covid-19 stricken world with discernment for the future. We have to transform the interdependent approach of the Church in India to solidarity. The post-pandemic Church needs a more



humanized pastoral approach.

Cardinal Oswald was releasing the Indian edition of *Healing the World: Life After Pandemic*, a book by Pope Francis, on Sunday, 12 September 2021 at the Holy Name Cathedral, Mumbai, after his online Sunday Eucharistic celebration, which was attended by more than thirty thousand people all over the world. "It is a visionary book, to equip the Church to face the post pandemic challenges. We cannot be indifferent nor lookers on from the balcony. The exit path from the crisis as better human beings lies in healthier societies with a common venture." said Cardinal Oswald. The book, *Healing the World* by Pope Francis, is published in India by the Conference of Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI).

12. Archbishop Filipe Neri urges to make liturgical celebrations more meaningful

Panjim, Goa 16 December, 2021 (CCBI): Archbishop Filipe Neri Ferrão, the President of the Conference of Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI) and the Metropolitan Archbishop of Goa and Daman, urged the faithful to make liturgical celebrations more meaningful, active and participatory. The Archbishop was speaking at the launching of the book "Liturgical Books: Translation-Adaptation-Publication" on Friday, 17 December, 2021, at Archbishop's House, Panjim.

"The liturgical celebration becomes more experiential when it is celebrated in the vernacular languages. Language is the means by which we express thoughts and also religious experiences. The translation of the liturgical books and its adaptations in vernacular languages should follow the procedural norms and it should help the faithful to participate in the liturgical celebrations more meaningfully," said Archbishop Ferrão.

The CCBI published the above-mentioned book, following the promulgation of Pope Francis' *Motu Proprio Magnum Principium*, with which the norms of §§ 2 and 3 of can. 838 of the Code of Canon Law were changed. The recent Decree, published on



22 October, 2021 by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, outlines the practical meaning of the 2017 reforms to the canon law on liturgical adaptations. The book contains: (1) The Decree giving effect to the dispositions of canon 838 of the C.I.C.; (2) The Apostolic Letter *Motu Proprio Magnum Principium* (3) Canon 838 in the light of Conciliar and Post-Conciliar sources; and (4) A Key to the Reading of the *Motu Proprio Magnum Principium*.

13. Christians oppose anti-conversion law in Karnataka

Bangalore 14 December 2021 (Agenzia Fides): To oppose the anti-conversion bill that targets Christians in the state of Karnataka, in southern India. With this aim, the faithful of the state have launched an awareness campaign and various public demonstrations. Among the promoting associations, the United Christian Forum of Karnataka openly criticized the Prime Minister of Karnataka, Basavaraj Bommai, exponent of the nationalist party "Bharatiya Janata Party" (BJP): he, in fact, announced that, during the session of the state parliament, between December, 14 and 23, the bill will be presented to the assembly for approval. "The anti-conversion law is a violation of the fundamental rights of the Indian Constitution. It violates many articles of the Indian



Constitution. Even B.R. Ambedkar, the main architect of the Indian Constitution, had also converted to Buddhism without the permission of the state”, said Msgr. Peter Machado, Catholic Archbishop of Bangalore to Fides. “The Anti-Conversion Law is a shame for the coexistence and pluralism of the Indian nation. It is a dangerous law that could trigger inter-community violence”, warned Msgr. Machado.

14. Bethania CCBI Youth Centre Celebrated Second Anniversary



Bangalore 4 September 2021 (CCBI): On the evening of 3rd September, Bethania Youth Centre organized a small programme to celebrate two years of Bethania. The programme began with the Eucharistic celebration at 06:30pm followed by a fellowship meal for the guests invited. Most. Rev. Anil J T Couto, the Archbishop of Delhi, Rev. Dr. Stephen Alathara, the Deputy Secretary General of CCBI, Fr. Richard OCD and Bethany Sisters were present on the occasion together with the 10 residents at Bethania.

Mass was celebrated by Archbishop Anil together with the other priests, followed by a short programme organized by the youth at the centre. Mr. Percival Holt, the manager and programme coordinator welcomed all and introduced the residents and staff of Bethania. Archbishop Anil Couto and Fr. Stephen Alathara in their message shared their experiences and support towards the centre, its activities and vision. A short video presentation on the journey of Bethania from the beginning prepared by Mr. Ankit Kujur, the media volunteer of Bethania was shown. Later Fr. Chetan Machado, the director of Bethania shared a thanksgiving message with the people gathered. The celebration ended with laughter and dinner.

Bethania Centre, is a national training and animation centre of the CCBI National Youth Commission aimed at the holistic development of youth, therefore organizing programmes in skill development, human resource skills and ongoing formation. It was dedicated to this mission on the 13th September 2019 by Most. Rev. Anil J T Couto, the Archbishop of Delhi. At present, youth volunteers from ICYM, YCS/YSM and YOUCAT India stay and coordinate the National Youth Ministry as well as activities of Bethania together with Mr. Percival Holt and Fr. Chetan Machado.

II. COMMISSION REPORTS



Bp. Antonysamay Peter Abir
Chairman

COMMISSION FOR BIBLE



Rev. Dr. Yesu Karunanidhi
Executive Secretary

1. *St. Paul's Bible College - Bible Correspondence Course.* The Bible Correspondence Course was initiated on 31 July 2021. About 190 students have registered. This is a two-year diploma program with 24 lessons. For details contact: www.stpaulbiblecollege.com.

2. *Lectio Divina on YouTube.* Since 15 August 2021 Lectio divina voice-over presentation in English is made available through our St. Paul Online Bible College channel.

3. *Joint Webinar on St. Joseph.* The Commission for Bible, in collaboration with Jesuit Chennai Province Commission for Dialogue and Spirituality, organizing a webinar series (5 lectures from July to November 2021) on St. Joseph. The videos are available at our College YouTube channel.

4. *Biblical Hebrew Foundational Course.* As part of the 'Read the Bible in Original' series, the Commission arranged a 30-hour course (July – August 2021) on Biblical Hebrew. 6 students have completed the course and have been awarded certificate.

5. *Biblical-Pastoral Retreat for the Clergy and the Religious on Inner Freedom.* The online retreat was conducted from 18 – 23 October 2021. The retreat was preached by the Executive Secretary. 16 persons participated in it. The recordings are made available on our YouTube channel.

6. *Training on Socio-Psychological Interpretation of the Bible.* In October two training sessions were conducted for the Divine Word Missionaries (SVDs) of Central India Province, and India Hyderabad Province.

7. *Presentation at the CBCI Bishops-Theologians Symposium.* A paper was presented on 21 July 2021 at CBCI Bishops-Theologians Symposium, on Querida Amazonia's Challenges to Biblical Interpretation in India.

8. *Meeting the Regional Secretaries.* The meeting of the regional secretaries was held on 20 August 2021, to discuss the following: (i) Activities and plans of the regional commissions; (ii) Bible Sunday celebrations; (iii) VBS 2022 on 'Everybody'; (iv) Guidelines based on *Verbum Domini* and *Evangelii Gaudium*; (v) Networking with the Dioceses & the Religious Congregations; and (vi) Promoting St. Paul's Bible College.

9. *Catholic Bible Wallpapers for Mobile in Regional languages.* The three regions – Karnataka, Telugu, and Tamil – are creating and circulating bible wallpapers for mobile every day.

10. *Forthcoming Programs:* (i) Publication of the Research Papers on Biblical Interpretation in India, papers presented at the Joint Research Seminar conducted in October 2019, at NBCLC. The papers have been read and reviewed; (ii) Biblical Greek Foundational Course. As part of the 'Read the Bible in Original' series, the Commission has planned a 30-hour course Biblical Greek in Jan – February 2022. (iii) Audio Bible. In collaboration with Mega Voice. To make the Word heard in regional languages.



Abp. Thomas Ignatius Macwan
Chairman

COMMISSION FOR CATECHETICS



Rev. Fr. Duming Gonsalves
Executive Secretary

Report of Nihil Obstat Granting Committee Meeting (July 2021): CCBI Commission for Catechetics organized a webinar of Nihil Obstat Granting Committee for Catechism for Adults on 31 July 2021 at 5.00 pm with a prayer led by Fr. Yesu Karunanidhi. Archbishop Thomas Macwan, Chairman Bishop, Bishop Thomas Dabre of Poona, Bishop John

Rodrigues, Auxiliary Bishop of Bombay, Fr. Duming Gonsalves (Executive Secretary), and team members were present for the meeting. After the welcome Archbishop Thomas Macwan addressed the members and thanked all for their observations, comments and corrections that were done while reading the texts. He assured that the corrections will be incorporated.

Bishop Thomas Dabre mentioned the following points Regarding the Nihil Obstat, all must clearly state whether it should be given or not. Why and what conditions it should be given. After listening to all he would give his statement of Nihil Obstat. The corrections that were made were of the nature of faith problems, matters of language, formatting, syntax, references, bibliography etc., and some missing contents.

All members expressed that the suggestions that were made which have serious difficulties need to be incorporated. If they are incorporated then there is no objection in granting the Nihil Obstat. Archbishop Thomas Macwan and Fr. Duming have agreed that they will incorporate the suggestions that were made. Archbishop Thomas Macwan thanked all the members, especially Bishop Thomas Dabre, for their hard work in spending time in going through the text and making valid suggestions. The meeting was concluded with a short prayer.

Regional Chairmen and Secretaries Meeting (August 2021): CCBI Commission for Catechetics organised Regional Chairmen and Secretaries Meeting on 31 August 2021 at 9.30 am. Meeting began with prayer led by Fr. Francis Xavier (Karnataka Regional Secretary). The following members were present for the meeting ... Archbp. Thomas Macwan (Chairman), Bp. Anand Jojo (Member Bishop) Archbishop Anil Couto (North Region), Fr. Duming Gonsalves (Executive Secretary), Fr. Sabu (North East), Fr. Anton Kattara (M P), Fr. Akula Prasad (Telugu), Fr. Silvanus Xalxo (Chattisghar), Fr. Mathew Puthiyath (Kerala), Fr. Francis Xavier (Karnataka), Fr. Robert Dung Dung (Jharkhand), Fr. Manikya Raju (North), Fr. Anil Benet (Bihar), and Fr. Onshu (Bengal), Fr. George Chinnappa SDB (TN).

In his welcome address Archbishop Thomas Macwan (Chairman Bishop) having welcomed members, thanked and appreciated all the Regional Secretaries for catechetical activities in their respective regions and Fr. Duming Gonsalves. He mentioned that our commission is bringing out Catechism for Adults in three volumes and an Online Catechetical Diploma Course will be launched soon. Bishop Anand Jojo (Member Bishop) was with high regard for all the catechetical work that is being carried out in spite of the pandemic situation. He expressed that they had their regional secretaries meeting to assess the situation of faith.

Archbishop Anil Joseph Couto appreciating the commission activities he said that all the dioceses in our country have carried out the catechetical ministry in spite of lock down through online activities. The Regional Secretaries shared the catechetical activities that were done in the last three months. Some of the activities are online catechesis for the children, exams, publishing Catechism (Catechetical Text books), Revival of catechists, visiting people for catechesis and prayers in families, Grandparents' day on 25th July, Catechism Teachers' refreshers' program, Monica Diwas with Novena preparations was celebrated, Conducted season based activities, Different kinds of competitions and courses for teachers and students named 'UNARVU', Introduced 10 points programmes in honour of the St. Joseph's Year, Honouring the teachers who completed 25 years of service, Family Cantered VFF (Vacation Faith Fest), Class on *Frattellie Tuti*, Kerygma Courses for teachers and parents, Digital Magazine competition, Physically and mentally helping families and children who were affected by Covid 19, Ongoing formation of the confirmation candidates, Sacramental Catechesis, Brief sketch on the life of saints, Faith formation through Facebook, Circulation of video with different concepts of catechism, Launching of catechetical YouTube channel to send catechism related videos, offline Catechism, First Holy Communion Classes, 2 years Catechist training Course, Offline Catechesis in the schools, hand book for confirmation, Youth Catechesis books.

After having listened to the secretaries Fr. Duming Gonsalves informed the following points. Diocesan and regional secretaries meeting to be held and executive secretary be invited for the meeting, CCBI Commission for Catechetics through Shanti Sadan organising an Online Catechetical Diploma Course, posting of National Catechetical Conference, Updating of contact details of diocesan directors by October every year.

It was decided to have the National Catechetical Conference in January or February 2022 if the situation is favourable.

Fr. Sabu appreciated for starting an Online Catechetical Diploma Course. He said that the brochure was well circulated in the North East Region and Catechists are encouraged to join the course. Those who are not able to pay the fee will be helped by Bp. James Thoppil in Kohima Diocese. A seminar could be organised with regard to how to go about post pandemic. One region could be a resource person for the other region. Meeting of Diocesan Directors could be held for one-or two-hour sessions instead of NCC.

Archbishop Thomas Macwan thanked all and Fr. Duming Gonsalves proposed the vote of thanks. With a prayer and blessing from Archbishop Anil Joseph Couto the meeting ended.



Bp. Allwyn D'Silva
Chairman

COMMISSION FOR ECOLOGY



Rev. Fr. Joshua D'Souza
Executive Secretary

Online Programmes: The Commission for Ecology organized various online programmes for the Season of Creation. A 30 minutes prayer service was prepared which was accessible to all who wished to use it during the Season of Creation and also in the future.

A session based on Catechizing people was conducted by Fr. Luke Rodrigues SJ. This session was streamed on the Archdiocese of Bombay's YouTube channel on the 31st of August 2021. The session helped people change their outlook towards Climate Crises and what each of us can do on an individual level.

A Common Action Day was selected for the 19th of September. The theme selected for this day was "A HOME FOR ALL". Participants recorded their various works on the basis of this theme. These videos were then compiled and released. The video helped in creating awareness of what the other is doing, it also helped us understand the difficulties all of us go through regarding the same.

A session was conducted based on COP 26. This session broke down the technical aspect of COP26 which covered points like the Agenda for COP26, NDC's, Global Warming limit, Net Zero Goal, Climate finance, Phasing out of Coal, Methane Emissions, Carbon Trading etc. The session also covered India's Nationally Determined Contributions and future plans.

Commission for Ecology launched Prithvi Parivar, a Pan-India ecological movement open to all eco-conscious citizens of the country. As highlighted during its first online get-together, protagonists of the newly launched Prithvi Parivar shared their achievements and hope stories. Their sharing helped everyone believe in a cleaner future.

The purpose of Prithvi Parivar is to connect various citizens who follow the principles of restoration and eco-justice. This is a platform for bonding, networking and knowledge sharing. This will also help in various grass root initiatives.

There were 3 online gatherings (10th July, 28th August and 30th October) in which topics like Sustainable lifestyles, Networking and Advocacy, Ecological Education, Eco Spirituality, A Pledge was also incorporated into our lives to guide us towards a better and more sustainable lifestyle.

Eco Ambassadors' course: An online Eco Ambassador course was conducted in the month of October and November 2021. This course put into perspective the spiritual, technical and practical aspect of Ecological challenge. The overall objective was to create leaders of transformative change who will take forward the Ecological mission of the Church.

Four sessions were conducted over two weekends. The topics covered were Eco – Crises, Eco – Spirituality and the Churches' response, Eco-Justice and Participatory Action. Certificates were issued to those who successfully completed the course along with the projects and actions.



Bp. Francis Serrao SJ
Chairman

COMMISSION FOR ECUMENISM



Rev. Fr. Baptist Pais, SVD
Executive Secretary

Regional Secretaries Meeting: Fr. Baptist Pais, belonging to the Society of the Divine Word was appointed National Executive Secretary for Ecumenism by the Executive Committee of CCBI with effect from June 1st 2021. The National Commission for Ecumenism held its first meeting of the year 2021, on Wednesday, 11th August 2021 over zoom, the online platform. It was mainly organised to bring together all the Regional Secretaries of the Commission to acquaint with one another and to chalk out a way forward to carry out the mandate of the commission. Accordingly, 13 Regional Secretaries along with Bishop Francis Serrao SJ, the Chairperson of the Commission, attended the meeting. The highlight of the meeting was the talk given by his Lordship Francis Serrao SJ, on contextual Ecumenism. He highlighted the various Socio-Political development taking place in the country, including the unchecked communalism.

Based upon my inquiries and the reports I received from the Regional Secretaries, the commission received 7 New Regional Secretaries and they replaced 7 outgoing Regional Secretaries this year. The year 2020-21 has been a year of grief and sadness due to the spread of COVID-19 and it snatched away Fr. Maurice Prabir Biswas (Regional Secretary of Bengal unit) on February 26, 2021. May his soul rest in peace.

The second online meeting for the Regional Secretaries of CCBI Commission for Ecumenism was held under the theme, 'May they all be one' on Friday, Sept. 24, 2021. The meeting was organised mainly to share with the participants how various countries engage in Ecumenical activities in their respective countries. Fr. Joachim Andrade, the coordinator of Ecumenism for the Archdiocese of Curitiba, Brazil, and Consultor of the Bishop's Conference of Brazil and Professor at Pontifical Catholic University of Parana, Brazil, was the resource person. After his presentation, a sharing was held to discuss on how some of the best practices in Brazil could be replicated in Indian continent as well, for Ecumenism. A proposal was made to have this kind of meetings and sharing once in two months.

Meeting on Synodality: The Third online meeting of the Commission was held on 19th November 2021. The theme of the meeting was, 'The Role of Ecumenism in The Synodal Journey'. The commission had chosen a right person who could give some valuable inputs on the topic 'Synodal Journey'. It was none other than the Deputy Secretary General of the CCBI, Fr. Stephen Alathara. During his talk Fr. Stephen very systematically highlighted some valuable inputs on the topic, 'The role of Ecumenism in the Synodal journey'. ("Communion, Participation and Mission). He said Ecumenism is a ministry of relationship. It's a call to listen to everybody and listen to them with humility. This is a positive attitude we need to cultivate. For Jesus did that when he listened to his audience. This a reflection discernment by first listening to the Holy Spirit. The ecumenical approach invites to the same, to accept change. It is a big process to listen even to other Faiths. This makes our journey effective. What the Holy Spirit speaks to us we need to speak and share. It is the Holy Spirit unites us. During this meeting we also discussed about the future plans of our commission to animate the post pandemic church in the context of the Synodal journey.

In the document, issued by the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, (The Bishop and Christian Unity). An Ecumenical Vademecum: (4 para 2) Pope Francis says, "The commitment to build a synodal Church a mission to which we are all called, each with the role entrusted him by the Lord has significant ecumenical implications",[2] because both synodality and ecumenism are processes of walking together. Keeping in mind the above-mentioned implications the Karnataka Region for Ecumenism very well worked out a vision mission statement, its goal, objectives, indicators and strategies. This was discussed at the 3rd online zoom meeting and decided to forward it to other

regions, so that they may have similar goals, objectives and strategies in their respective regions. The points discussed are as follows;

Encourage the Regional and Diocesan secretaries to form Strong Ecumenical groups, comprising the leaders of various Christian denominations. In the time of emergencies and general needs try to seek the help from the leaders of Christian groups. Organise get-togethers and invite leaders of other denominations during the time of our common feasts, such as Christmas, parish feasts and Easter and build up good relationship with them. Try to build rapport with the Heads of all denominations at different levels. Organise regular meetings of different churches/denominations, independent evangelicals at different levels.

Mysore Diocesan Meeting: Efforts to be made to represent grievances and problems to the authorities as one Christian community (Mysore Diocese organised a meeting on 7th November, 2021) (1) Vision: Unity among all Christians. (2) Mission: Collaboration among Christians in common issues for renewing Christian unity. (3) Goal: All Churches / Denominations, Independent Evangelicals are of one mind by 2023.

Objective 1: There is solidarity among different Christian denominations irrespective of traditions and dogmas by December 2023. (1) Indicators: All Christian leaders and faithful participate in get-togethers with much enthusiasm. In the time of emergencies and general needs, all Christian denominations join to help.

Objective 2: All Christians live together in fellowship by December 2023. (1) Indicators: Increase in the number of common celebrations. (2) Increase in the attitude of sharing facilities among Christians. (3) Respect for each other among faithful of different churches and denominations.

Strategies: (1) Regular meetings at all levels are organized to report, review and revise plan. (2) Regular training programmes are conducted for the facilitators at all levels. (3) "Principle of Subsidiarity" is followed for administration at all levels. (4) Building rapport with the Heads of all denominations at different levels. (5) Regular meetings of different churches/denominations, independent evangelicals at different levels. (6) Continued efforts to represent grievances and problems to the authorities as one community.

News Letter Sampreeti: Three Volumes (one volume of the year 2021 and two volumes of the year 2022, are printed in one book) of the newsletter of the commission, 'Sampreeti', are already printed and all the members will receive the copies by the end of this year 2021.

Booklet on Christian Unity Prayer Week: A booklet on The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2022, is ready. Soft copies of it have been already sent to the Regional Secretaries through emails, so that they can start translating them in their local languages. The printed copies of the booklet would be dispatched as soon they are printed.



COMMISSION FOR FAMILY



Abp. Sebastian Kallupura
Chairman

Rev Fr. Milton Gabriel Gonsalves
Executive Secretary

1. The Year *Amoris Laetitia* Family initiatives- Quiz on the document *Amoris Laetitia*: One of the goals of 'the Year *Amoris Laetitia*' (March 19, 2021- June 26, 2022) is to share the content of the Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* more widely. Therefore, CCBI Commission for Family conducted an exciting National Quiz on *Amoris Laetitia* - JOY OF LOVE. The participants registered for free using the Link / QR Code given in the poster and study the Exhortation and actively participate in the quiz every week. In return they would be equipped with the knowledge to be strong instruments for strengthening Christian Families and to win prizes worth 10,000/- and a Certificate from CCBI Commission for Family. In ten weeks' time more than 900 contestants participated in the quiz from all over India in Hindi and in English.

A QUIZ ON AMORIS LAETITIA

Joy of Love

NATIONAL LEVEL QUIZ

STARTS ON 11TH JULY 2021

The series of short Videos on Amoris Laetitia: The commission has prepared introductory and chapter wise videos on the Document Amoris Laetitia, which have been widely circulated through social media. The Vatican material like family rosary, posters, prayer for engaged couples and videos, is being disseminated through regional secretaries' forum, the family movements and social media. This tool is intended to be helpful for pastoral ministry to families, and contains proposals and suggestions that can be adapted to the local situation. The objective is to nurture reflection, dialogue and pastoral practice and, at the same time, to provide encouragement, stimulus and help to families in their spiritual and concrete daily lives.

2. The first World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly on the theme 'I Am with You Always': According to the Vatican guidelines many dioceses in India celebrated the first World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly which included the Holy Eucharist at parishes, in hospitals and homes for the elderly, presenting the Holy Father's message to grandparents and the elderly. Some dioceses prepared posters, videos and visitation to the sick. The celebration took shape in homes and neighborhoods with preparing of cards, selfies, special prayer, cooking meals or taking them out for a meal and the giving of gifts.

3. Online meeting with the MP Region on 7th July 2021: After the prayer and welcome by the regional secretary Fr. Peter Karadi, the Diocesan Directors shared their responses to the pandemic. Some dioceses had marriage preparation courses online and others at the parish level. Fr. Milton Gonsalves presented the Toolkit for the 'Year Amoris Laetitia Family' CCBI Family had proposed, so that the Diocese may effectively implement 12 ways to walk with families following "Amoris Laetitia".

4. Approval of the international statutes of Missionary Families of Christ (MFC): A virtual meeting of a committee constituted by the 86th Executive Committee (EC) of Conference of Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI), held on 7th September 2021 at 4.30pm. The report of the Committee was presented to the EC and EC response was sent to the MFC Country Servant.

5. Online meeting with the Regional Secretaries & Core Team of HOFM regarding Future Programs on 5th October 2021: The Executive Secretary presented the future activities of the CCBI Commission for Family. The discussion and deliberation on the same was thought provoking and many suggestions were put forward.

6. The National Online Meeting of Regional Secretaries, diocesan Directors/Secretaries and Heads of Family Movements held on 19-Oct-21 from 09:30 am – 12:00 noon on the Theme: Family Apostolate and Family Movements "Journeying Together": The meeting began with an opening Prayer by Deacon Jaime & Ligia da Fonseca. Jimmy

Xavier, Country Servant of MFC, was an anchor of this meeting. Fr. Milton Gonsalves welcomed the participants. During the inaugural Address, Archbishop Sebastian Kallapura, Chairman – CCBI Family Commission, said our role is to prepare of families for the Synod 2023 and challenged participant to listen to one another, especially laity, against the background of extreme clericalism.

Fr. Anil D'Souza, Regional Secretary, Karnataka introduced the resource person, Rev. Dr. Francis Gonsalves, S.J. President of Jnana Deepa Institute of Philosophy & Theology. In the presentation Rev. Dr. Francis Gonsalves S.J. said that the Pandemic has stalled a lot of our activities thereby losing a sense of communion. This is the time to rejuvenate the Church and bring about a real communion. He dealt with the basics of the Synodal process, specifically, what is a Synod and Synodality? Training and Helps for Diocesan Contact Persons and Diocesan Coordinators, the main question for the consultation, the New Structure for Coordinating and Networking between Diocesan Contact Persons (DCPs) and the Regional Deputy Secretaries, the Process of the present Synod on Synodality and the need to jot down points and take notes during the consultations by the different Groups of Participants and activities possible as part of the Consultations and the roadmap for Work at the Diocesan Phase. This was followed by a Q & A Session which was animated by Fr. Saleen Pushpraj, regional secretary-Chhattisgarh.

In the second session the Regional Secretaries made their presentations regarding the work of Family Apostolate carried in their respective regions. The presentations narrated response to the pandemic and the situations in the regions. The thirteen regions out of fourteen, presented their reports and the future programs. The meeting ended with a concluding Prayer and blessing by the Archbishop.

7. Hybrid (offline/online) MPC TOT for marriage preparation course teams on 7th & 8th August 2021 at Satyodayam, Hyderabad: Fr. David Francis, the Director of Family



commission, Hyderabad, welcomed the resource person and the participants. The introductory session by Fr. Milton Gonsalves commenced with a discussion regarding the expectation of the participants from the seminar. Many concerns and issues were shared during the session. Fr. Milton Gonsalves conducted a full day session.

After briefing about 'way' of marriage preparation, he continued his session and then focused on the MPC TOT Manual with its First Unit of the manual – Building Bonds and discovering the need. He also brought out through interaction with the group, the need and expectations that they want to learn through the seminar. For the next two days, he focused on the MPC TOT Manual with its different Units of the manual, namely, intimacy, managing finances, healthy sexual life, Natural Family Planning and the Sacrament of Matrimony.

Mr. Jimmy Xavier, Country Servant of MFC conducted online sessions on the Biblical foundation of Sacrament of Matrimony and on the topic of interpersonal relationship between spouses and their children and how to improve their relationship and communication with each other. Dr. Roshan Nazareth from Goa animated another online session on the topic 'called to oneness through our sexuality'. In the last session, Fr. Milton Gonsalves elaborated on the Message and the implication of the 29th CCBI Plenary Assembly on the theme 'Promoting Joy of Love in Our Families'.

8. Online Meeting with the Secretary General of CCBI with the Executive Secretaries: Fr. Milton Gonsalves, the Executive Secretary presented the activities especially during the pandemic. The commission was constantly in touch with the regional secretaries and the heads of the family movements and ministries and conducted several online meetings with the same, with His Grace Sebastian Kallupura, the Chairman, being guiding force. The regional secretaries' meeting, and meeting with the heads of the family movements focused on the family life during pandemic. Presentations of reports of the regions, the Event 'Howdy Family', Action Plan titled: "CCBI Family 'Unlocked', Pastoral Response Co-vid to Co-with": Contact-Connect-Coordinate, the two Regional Chairmen's' online meeting and online counselling for families were some of the key activities during the pandemic.

The Year Amoris Laetitia Family is being celebrated at different levels. The CCBI Family initiated the toolkit for the 'Year Amoris Laetitia Family', workshops on the Vatican Videos on Amoris Laetitia were conducted, the ten weeks Quiz on Amoris Laetitia which were participated by more than 900 persons.

9. The National meeting of the regional secretaries, the diocesan directors/ secretaries and members of the family movements on the Synodality was animated by Rev. Dr. Francis Gonsalves, S.J. Archbishop Anil Coutto said that the families are to be reached out to because they are at the grassroots. Then, he stated future plans of the commission namely, (i) To take the ministry to the grassroots – to the families; (iii) Online certificate course – New Marriage Preparation Manual – from January; (iv) Preparing teams at the national level for prolife, marriage preparation etc., and (v) Connecting with difficult couples.



Abp. Victor Henry Thakur
Chairman

COMMISSION FOR MIGRANTS



Rev. Fr. Jaison Vadassery
Executive Secretary

World Day of Migrants and Refugees (WDMR): Every year the WDMR is celebrated on the last Sunday of September and this year it was celebrated on 26 September, 2021. The title for his annual message, the Holy Father has chosen TOWARDS AN EVER WIDER "WE". In order to ensure the proper care of our common home, the Holy Father calls on us to come together to create communion within diversity. Keeping in mind the need to communicate the message of Pope Francis, CCBI Commission for Migrants has taken a keen interest in translating the message of Pope Francis into few regional languages ie Hindi, Bengali, Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu and Marathi. The message was circulated to all the dioceses and major superiors.

On the World Day of Migrants and Refugees Holy Eucharist was celebrated at Sacred Heart Cathedral, New Delhi for Migrants and Refugees. Fr. Jaison Vadassery, the Executive Secretary, representing the National Office, concelebrated the Holy Mass along with the main celebrant Most Rev. Anil J T Couto, Archbishop, Delhi, Secretary General CCBI & Chairman RBCN Commission for Migrants. It was live broadcasted as well.



Livelihood Support to Returned Migrants: CCBI Commission for Migrants in collaboration with ICMC funded by Raskob Foundation, USA has started a project on 'Livelihood Support to Returned Migrants'. The project targets the returned migrants in the Archdioceses of Delhi and Agra, as well as the Diocese of Meerut, located in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana states, which are adjacent to Delhi. Beneficiary Target: Returned migrants and Covid affected families: 200, Community outreach: 500.

Online Consultation: An online consultation was organised prior to the take off the project and that was the preliminary and informal meeting with regard to the knowhow of the project. This online meeting discussed in detail about the number of beneficiaries and the persons responsible in each area to supervise and monitor the same.

Inauguration of the Project Report: On August 6th, the Inauguration of the Project of CCBI Commission for Migrants, on 'Livelihood support to the Returned Migrants' was held at Archbishops house New Delhi. The project was inaugurated by Archbishop Delhi Most Rev. Anil JT Couto, who appreciated and encouraged the CCBI Commission for Migrants team and assured his prayer and support of any kind for the implementation of the project in three different dioceses namely: Delhi, Meerut & Agra.



Implementation of Livelihood Support to the Returned Migrants: Each diocese and the partners identified the returned migrants who needed livelihood support. These migrants were given entrepreneurship training on various dates. Training was conducted by the CCBI CM along a resource person Mr. Ajit Osta, Life Coach & Trainer.

Trainings conducted:

No.	Venue of Training	Date	Participants
1	Holy Cross Community Centre, Meerut Diocese	07. 08. 2021	40
2	NDWM, Delhi Archdiocese:	09. 10. 2021	25
3	Fatima Hospital, Agra Diocese	14.10. 2021	30
4	Agra Catholic Seva Samaj, Agra Diocese	26. 10. 2021	65
5	Meerut Seva Samaj, Meerut Diocese	08. 11. 2021	40
6	Jehangirpuri, Delhi Archdiocese	13. 11. 2021	25
7	Holambi Kalan, Delhi Archdiocese	15. 11. 2021	25
8	Chetanalaya, Delhi Archdiocese	17. 11. 2021	20

In the third phase of the project the 130 returned migrants have already received Rs. 15000/ into their personal bank accounts as a seed capital. Accordingly they are in the process of starting their livelihood according to their experience and aptitude.

Trainings/ Seminars conducted on different Occasions: Webinar held on Aug. 2, 2021 On the Theme 'TOWARDS AN EVER WIDER "WE"', in preparation for the World Day of Migrants & Refugees to be held on Sept 26, 2021 with this year's theme: 'Towards an Ever Wider 'We'. Archbishops, Bishops, the Regional secretaries and few other members those actively involved in this ministry took part in this. It was an Interactive meeting between M&R Section Vatican and CCBI Commission for Migrants. 82 persons participated.

Training on Exodus program for the Regional and Diocesan Secretaries of Commission for Migrants on 23rd November 2021 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Exodus Training program was a set of training programs and tools used by the National Bishops' Conference of the Philippines and the National Bishops' Conference of Malaysia to train pastors working for the migrants in their respective countries and abroad. The two hours training program was conceptualized as an exchange of ideas and information also to orient about these Exodus training programs by the National Bishops' Conference of the Philippines and the National Bishops' Conference of Malaysia, it was facilitated by the Vatican Section for the Migrants and Refugees (M&R Section) Rome. 100 persons participated in this online training.

An online consultation was held on 6th November with the Tamilnadu Region, the Tamil Ministry of Delhi and Commission for Migrants Delhi. CCBI CM noted that many migrants



from Tamilnadu are facing various issues particularly during the Pandemic. Discussions on their issues helped the team to give more focus on their livelihood issues.

Regional Interventions: Kerala Region: Commission for Migrants in collaboration with Kerala Conference of Major Superiors (KCMS) organised a conference on 'Consecrated life in today's society' on the Zoom Meet platform for the Consecrated Persons on Saturday, 24th July 2021. Synodality - Consultative meeting on 25th November at ESSS, Kerala. The migration of the interstate workmen and movement of the people abroad looking for livelihood have become a priority of the Catholic Church in India, especially at this time of COVID-19 pandemic. 'Welcome', "Protect", "Protect" and "Integrate" migrants are the key concepts that Pope Francis has given for our work for the welfare of the migrant workers. Issues of migration and immigration also have emerged as one of the key themes of the Synod on 'Synodality'. Keeping in mind the above points, at the beginning of the Synod Process among the migrants a consultative meeting was organized by the CCBI CM on 25th November, Thursday from 10 am to 4 p.m. at ESSS Hall, Kacheripady, Ernakulam. Archbishop Joseph Kalathiparambil, Archbishop Verapoly inaugurated the synodal workshop. 30 migrants, social workers and activists working with migrants attended the workshop.

CCBI Regional Bishops' Council of the North (RBCN), New Delhi: CCBI Regional Bishops' Council of the North (RBCN) Commission for Migrants organized a meeting in collaboration with National Commission for Migrants - CCBI, on 27th September, 2021 at Community Centre, Archbishop's House, New Delhi. This meeting took place on the next day of the 'World Day of Migrants & Refugees' (WDMR). The meeting focused on the message of Pope Francis on the WDMR 'Towards an Ever Wider "WE" which echoed his appeal, that "we will think no longer in terms of "them" and "those", but only "us" (Fratelli Tutti, 35).

Andhra and Telangana Region: CCBI Commission for Migrants Andhra & Telangana Regional Meet via Google Meet. Date 9th September 2021, 4:00 p.m on different issues

of migrants and their contribution to the society. Data collection was discussed as an important step to work for them. Encourage parish priests, youth and laity in each diocese to help us gather evidence based data for a better coordination and mission and also to establish Migrant resource Centre to provide immediate assistance to distress migrants.

West Bengal Region: The Archdiocese of Calcutta celebrated 107th World day of Migrants and Refugees on Sept. 25-26. It was a twin celebration with a day spent on Seminar on the topic and on the second day, on Sunday, Sept 26 with a Thanksgiving Mass and a cultural program on the theme of this year, "Towards an ever Wider 'We'", celebrated by the North 24-Parganas deanery at the Church of O L of Lourdes, Barasat.

COVID Emergency Support: Covid Vaccination Camp was organised in Ernakulam, Kerala with the support of Ernakulam social service society and Suchithra and Lourdes Hospitals on 21st October where 400 migrant workers were administered Covishield Vaccine free of cost. These 400 migrants were also provided with the dry rations with the funding support of Caritas Italiana. Migrants who lost the livelihood in Shimla – Chandigarh Diocese and Jammu and Srinagar Diocese were supported with dry ration kit for 300 families on 6th October, 2021



On the 4th and 5th of July the dry ration for 330 domestic workers were distributed in Patna with the support of NDWM and Commission for Migrants of the Bihar Region. 300 Food kits and sanitary items were distributed in Diskili, Balikat, Kudagarha and Serengtoli villages in Namkum Block in Jharkhand state. Most of the population of these villages are cultivators who are depended on agriculture and farming. The food kits was sufficient to support them to have a good meal for a few days. 200 warm cloths and stationery were distributed to poor children from R.C. Primary School, Serengtoli in

Namkum block, Rajeshwar M/High School, Sidrol in Burmu block and St. Joseph Boy's Hostel, Rajaulhatu in Namkum block. In a similar way the distribution of ration kits for the migrant families and poor children are organised in Delhi, Chhattisgarh, Gujrat and Maharashtra.



Abp. Raphy Manjaly
Chairman

COMMISSION FOR PROCLAMATION



Rev. Fr. S. Panneer Selvam
Executive Secretary

A. Online Suvarta School of New Evangelization: "SUVARTA", a mega online Certificate course, was launched in collaboration with the CNSC to benefit Priests, Religious, CCR members, all active leaders of Parish Council, DSC Members, Catechism Teachers, Pious Associations, Choir members, Youth Groups etc., Online Classes began on 17th April 2021 uploaded on YouTube channel 'CHARISINDIA' between 8 pm to 9 pm, every Saturdays till 14th August 2021. And on every Sunday 6pm to 7pm the summary of the previous session and clarification was given by Fr Panneer Selvam. The online classes were made available only for registered participants.

Valedictory Function and Certificate Distribution on 29 August: We had concluded the Sessions with a Valedictory function online presided by the Chairman Bishop Most Rev Raphy Manjaly, Archbishop of Agra and a keynote address by Most Rev Francis Kalist, Bishop of Meerut along with experience sharing of the participants. It was assured that the Completion Certificates (hard copy/soft copy) would be given to all those who attended all the 18 sessions. By this more than 170 persons committed to do New Evangelization and to form many more Missionary Disciples.

B. Mission Retreat for the Priests of Patna – 12-17 Sept: A Mission retreat had been organized in Mokama, Shrine of Our Lady of New Evangelization in Patna Archdiocese by Most Rev Sebastian Kallupura for the Priests of the Archdiocese. Fr Panneer Selvam conducted the Retreat on the theme of Missionary Discipleship with special spiritual experiences of God's Unfathomable Love, Confession, Jesus in the Liturgy, Anointing of the Holy Spirit, Pastoral Conversion and spiritual leadership. Finally all committed for New Evangelization full of zeal for the Mission.

C. Orientation Workshop on the Synod on Synodality 2021-2023: As proposed in 4.4.6 of the Guide Book *Vademecum* for the first phase of the Synod on Synodality 2021-



2023, in consultation with Fr Francis Gonsalves, Executive secretary, CCBI Commission for Theology and Doctrine and Most Rev Dr Raphy Manjaly the Chairman Bishop of the CCBI Commission for Proclamation, Fr Panneer Selvam, Executive Secretary of the CCBI Commission for Proclamation designed an Orientation Workshop for the benefit of the Diocesan Contact Teams and facilitators of the Consultations. The First Level Orientation Workshop has 10 workshops based on the 10 Principles of Synodality as following: Principle of Inclusivity, Principle of My Church, Principle of Journeying Together, Principle of Listening to the Holy Spirit, Principle of Becoming a Synodal Church with a deeper Communion, fuller Participation and fruitful Mission, Principle of Stimuli Question, Principle of Consultation in a Synodal way, Principle of Synthesis and Principle of Discernment. As we proposed this Orientation Workshop, many regions and dioceses invited us to conduct the workshops.

1. Orientation Workshop on Synodality for Jharkhand Region at Jamshedpur – 26-28 Oct: Most Rev Telespore Billung svd, Bishop of Jamshedpur arranged a 3 days Orientation Workshop on Synodality in Christian Charities Centre, Jamshedpur for his own diocese and for Jharkhand Region. Parish Contact Teams from the Diocese of Jamshedpur and the Diocesan Contact Teams from Jharkhand Region participated. The workshops were initiated and concluded with the Liturgical Celebrations. All got the clarity and experience about synodality. And the teams were helped to plan for the consultations in their own places. Everyone committed to work for the synodal process.

2. Orientation Workshop on Synodality at Suvarta, Pachmarhi – 5-7 Nov: Suvarta Team arranged a 3 days Orientation Workshop on Synodality in Suvarta Kendra, Pachmarhi for the interested Diocesan Contact Teams. The Diocesan Contact Teams from Telugu Region, Karnataka Region, Madhya Pradesh Region, Bihar Region participated. The workshops were initiated and concluded with the Liturgical Celebrations. All got the



clarity and experience about synodality. And the teams were helped to plan for the consultations in their own places. Everyone committed to work for the synodal process.

3. Orientation Workshop on Synodality for South Bengal in Kolkata – 12-14 Nov:

Most Rev Vincent Aind, Bishop of Bagdogra and the General Secretary to the West Bengal Bishops Council arranged a 3 days Orientation Workshop on Synodality in Calcutta for South Bengal Region. Parish Contact Teams from the Archdiocese of Calcutta and the Diocesan Contact Teams from South Bengal participated. The workshops were initiated and concluded with the Liturgical Celebrations. All got the clarity and experience about synodality. And the teams were helped to plan for the consultations in their own places. Everyone committed to work for the synodal process.

4. Orientation Workshop on Synodality for North Bengal in Bagdogra – 16-18 Nov: The 3-day Workshop on Synodal Process conducted by Fr. Panneer Selvam, the Executive



Secretary, Commission for Proclamation, was quite effective. It was held at Loyola Pastoral Centre, Matigara, under the Diocese of Bagdogra from 16 to 18 November 2021. Some 175 participants from four dioceses of North Bengal included three Bishops, 58 priests (diocesan and religious), 2 Deacons, 48 women religious, 1 Men Religious and 63 lay men and women.

The resource person explained the fact that this XVI Synod is of a different kind. He said that this is not an event but an experience. It is not a synod for only a chosen few to take part; rather it is all-inclusive and welcomes participation from one and all. It is an invitation to experience how the church can be truly synodal: the Church must walk together in its journey of faith which requires a spirit of communion among the faithful first; where there is communion there will be sweet collaboration and participation; where there is communion and good participation, the mission of the Church is very likely to be fulfilled.

At the end of the three-day workshop one of the Bishops of the region said: "This workshop has changed my concept. I am grateful to you. Fr. Panneer Selvam is indeed right person to lead us. He has not only studied the Synodal document thoroughly but imbibed the spirit of Pope Francis. It was indeed a retreat for me..." We, the participants from the local diocese, stayed back for planning our implementation of the process, while the participants from the neighbouring dioceses were departing after this 3-day Workshop. We wanted to launch out to the entire diocese the synodal process which we had experienced. This meeting turned out to be a good example of synodality; it was so spontaneous and well participated that we really felt that synodality had already become our style. That speaks of the effectiveness of Fr. Panneer's sessions and also augurs well for the diocese of Bagdogra as the latter goes ahead in its effort to bring many more people in this synodal experience.

5. Orientation Workshop on Synodality for Patna Diocese – 27 Nov: Most Rev Sebastian Kallupura, Archbishop of Patna arranged a one day Orientation Workshop on Synodality in the Regional Catechetical Centre for his own diocese. Parish Contact Teams and the Diocesan Pastoral Council from the Archdiocese of Patna participated. Rev Fr Prakash Louis sj and Fr Panneer Selvam conducted the workshops.

6. Orientation Workshop on Synodality for Tamilnadu Region at Salem, 1-3 Dec: International School of New Evangelization had arranged a 3 days Orientation Workshop on Synodality for the Tamilnadu Region. Parish Contact Teams and the Diocesan



Contact Teams from all over Tamilnadu participated. Most Rev Dr Arulselvam Rayappan, Bishop of Salem, Fr Vimal, the Diocesan Contact Person, Salem and Fr Panneer Selvam conducted the workshops.

7. Orientation Workshop on Synodality for Allahabad Diocese – 9-11 Dec: Very Rev Louis, the Diocesan Administrator had arranged a 3 days Orientation Workshop on Synodality in the Pastoral Centre for his own diocese. Parish Contact Teams, Parish Priests and Religious participated. Fr Panneer Selvam conducted the workshops.

8. Orientation Workshop on Synodality for Major Seminarians at Ashta – 13-17 Dec: Suvarta Team conducted New Evangelization training for the Major Seminarians in Kristjyothi Premalaya the MP Regional Major Seminary in Ashta. They were trained to take part in the Synodal Process through the 5 days of Orientation Workshop on Synodality conducted by Fr Panneer Selvam.

9. Result of the Orientation Workshops on Synodality: By the above mentioned Synodal formation programs conducted by the CCBI Commission for Proclamation more than 25 Dioceses from 7 Regions have benefitted to carry on the Synodal Consultations in their own places. All the participants were able to enter in to the Synodal experience by themselves to promote the Synodal Process. All got the clarity and experience about



synodality. And the teams were helped to plan for the consultations in their own places. Everyone committed to work for the synodal process.

D. One Day One Diocese Regular Intercession: From 4th February 2021 we have started every day Intercession for New Evangelization in every diocese in India. We have fixed a day for each diocese. Also there is online intercession every day 7pm to 8pm via zoom meet for each diocese. It is very encouraging to note that many Dioceses organize intercessory prayer in their own dioceses to pray for New Evangelization in India. We will be finishing the 2nd round of all 177 Dioceses in India. In 2022 we will start the third round of intercession for New Evangelization in India.



Bp. Ignatius Loyola Mascarenhas
Chairman

COMMISSION FOR SCC



Rev. Fr. George Jacob SAC
Executive Secretary

1. Kerala Regional SCC Meeting: Kerala regional SCC meeting was held on first July on the virtual platform. There were 22 participants. Directors of all the Latin diocese of Kerala attended the meeting. Regional Chairman Bishop Selvister Ponnuthan at his message welcomed and thanked all for the good works that everyone is doing at this time of the pandemic. Bishop Insisted that we must focus our attention on the faith formation so that though the sccs we can revive faith and make people to stand the tribulations. There was a suggestion to begin children and youth SCCs in every diocese so that we could encourage the participation of the youth and children. Fr. George spoke of the National level training programmes and encourage d all to keep up the training in online.

2. Agra Regional SCC Meeting: A virtual meeting of the Agra region was held on July 3rd under the chairmanship of Bishop Gerald John Mathias. There were 12 participants for the meeting. The diocesans director spoke about the various relief works there were doing at the Agra region and the counselling that was given to youth who required them. Bishop spoke of the need to a call a virtual meeting of the regional Council. And it is fixed to take place by the end of August. Fr. George spoke of the importance of SCC to take the lead in various relief activities and we are in this time of suffering and we need to awaken the faith of the people.

3. Four days of Training Programme on SCC and Family: Four days of on line Training was organized by the Commission on the topic SCC and Family from 5th to 8th July 2021. It was attended by 60 participants from different regions. Participants included priests, Sisters and married couples. The sessions were animated by Frs. George Jacob, Anthony Louis (Pune) Joachim Fernandez (Mangalore), Sr. Christin (Kolkata) and Mrs. Jyosntna Lal (Nagpur). The Participants appreciate the programmes and said it was worth attending as it will be useful for their lives.

4. Three days of Seminar on BEC: Three days of online Seminar on BEC/SCC was organised by the commission for the diocese of Bhadravathi on 15th, 16th & to 17th July. Topic of the Seminar was 'SCC is the church in the Neighbourhood, a tool for the formation of a New Society based on the Civilization of Love' the priests and religious sisters of the diocese along with Bishop Joseph Arumachadath attended the sessions. There were more than 40 participants. Frs. George Jacob, Gregory (Kerala Regional Director) and Mr. Mathew Linchen Roy (Member NST) animated the sessions. It was appreciated well by the Bishop and participates and requested for more seminars in future. Bishop Joseph spoke of the importants of modelling the parishes according to the vision of the BECs and early Christian communities. The Diocesan director Fr. Tomy took initiate to further strengthen the work of SCCs in the diocese in future.

5. Bihar regional SCC meeting: Online meeting of Bihar region was held on 20th July 2021. Secretaries of four diocese attended the meeting and others could not participate the meeting due to poor internet connectivity. Archbishop Sebastian Kallupura in his message spoke about the new structure of SCC?BECs and appreciated the SCC national Commission for the wonderful work and said the BEC is the need of the hour as we need



to build up real human capital and resources and not build institutions. Our effort should be now to build communities of communion based on real faith. Fr, George Jacob the Commission Secretary shared about the areas of development that we need to focus today at this time such as building up and training real animators for the region. The Meeting ended with thanking all and encouraging each other for the good works done at this time of the pandemic.

6. M.P. Regional Meeting: Online Meeting of the M.P regional SCC was held on 5th August. Bishop Chacko in his address spoke of the need to give the importance of digital

meetings as that is the only way we can keep ourselves connected. We can have most of our meetings in that way. Meeting was organised by Fr. Peter Karadi the regional secretary. Fr. George Jacob SAC, Executive secretary spoke of the on line training programmes. Three days of virtual training programme for couples is planned on 12th, 13th, & 14th August on SCC evangelizes Families.

7. Seminar on SCC and Families for the M. P. regional teams: Three days of Seminar was organized by the commission on SCC & family for the M.P. region on 12th, 13th & 14th August. 2021. Fr. George Jacob m, the Executive Secretary, Mr. Emmanuel Johnson and Mrs Jyostna Lal animated the sessions. There 38 Participants from the diocese of Indore, Bhopal, Gwalior, Jhabua & Khandwa. Participants expressed the view that these lessons on families are very important to be given in SCCs and especially for the young couples.

8. Commission for SCCs meets all the Regional Secretaries: Commission for SCCs (CCBI) organized a virtual Meeting of all the regional secretaries on Monday 23rd August 2021. There were 13 Regional Secretaries representing the 13 Ecclesiastical Regions. Telungu region was absent for the meeting. Commission Chairman Bishop Ignatius Mascarenhas in his opening message spoke of the Synodal character of the Church and informed all about the letter of Cardinal Oswald Gracious regarding SCCs taking the lead to organise the Synodal character in a more explicit way as that of Participation, Communion and Mission in the activities of the Church in every local places. He insisted that we should work towards the bringing the church closer to people. Bishop Gerald Mathias speaking of the present situation expressed that in spite of the lockdowns and sufferings caused by Covid-19 we have worked hard and grown towards the Human community leading to the vision of Pope Francis that we are all one as brothers and sisters. All the 13 secretaries shared about the various activities of the region and how they have been helping people in this time of the pandemic. The Open discussion brought us to the awareness that we need to work hard to keep the spirit through the virtual platform and keep the spirit of SCCs in every diocese. Bishop Ignatius spoke that we must form teams to plan together for the Synodal concept of the Church. Bishop Gerald also spoke of Regional Service team meeting of the Agra region to be help in September end.

9. Odisha Regional Meeting: A virtual meeting of the Odisha region was held on 3rd Sept.2021. Bishop Niranjan spoke of the forth coming Bishops Synod and the preparations. He also insisted that we need to have a class/webinar on the Synodal character of the church and to that effect a webinar was arranged on 4th October 2021. There were 8 participants for the meeting. Each diocesan coordinators shared about the different activities that are happening in their places. Fr. George Jacob spoke of the



need to think of physical meeting for training and discussions. Meeting was concluded with looking forward to the next meeting on 4th October.

10. NRT Meeting: A virtual meeting of the National resource Team was called on 24th Sept. 2021 to discuss and plan for the resource building seminar. In this meeting we discussed and set the outline programme for the forthcoming resource building programme to be held in Goa in the month of November 2021.

11. Agra Regional Council Meeting: The regional council meeting of the Agra region was held in Sadhana Sadan, Prayagraj, on 29th and 30th of September 2021. This council meeting was animated by Frs. George Jacob and Vijay Thomas. The Theme that was



chosen was the study of the Encyclical 'Fratelli Tutti' of Pope Francis. Bishop Gerald John Mathias Chairman of the Agra region in his inaugural address gave a beautiful introduction to the Encyclical and spoke about the brotherhood, fraternity, social friendship and compassion, among people of good will. Frs. George and Vijay lead to the whole encyclical and animated the sessions wonderfully to show that the work of SCCs

is to build fraternity and universal brotherhood and finally build a human community. The whole seminar and council meeting was attend by Eleven dioceses of the Agra Region in total there were 15 priests, 6 sisters and 19 lay faithful. SCC Class at St. Charles Seminary.

12. SCC Class at St. Charles Seminary: The commission for SCCs organized five days of SCCs classes for the third year theology students of St. Charles Seminary, Nagpur. There were 11 students who attended the classes. Fr. George Jacob and Mrs Jyostna Lal conducted the classes and the seminarians were enthused to work for the future of building up SCCs in the parishes were they go to work.

13. Meeting of the West Bengal Regional and Asansol Diocesan Team: A meeting of west Bengal and Asansol diocesan team was held on Saturday 23rd October and the Pastoral Centre, Asansol. Meeting was attended by the 23 members of the diocesan and regional team. Fr. George and Sr. Christin spoke about the importance of building the diocesan and regional team. Bishop Emeritus of Asansol diocese Bishop – spoke about the need to be working at the grassroots level and building the sccs in all parishes. Fr. I.P Sarto gave a report of the whole regional activities to the Fr. George Jacob the Executive secretary.

14. Meeting of the Dumka Diocesan Team: A physical meeting of the Dumka diocesan meeting was held on 24th October at the pastoral Centre. The Jhan regional Coordinator Fr. Sonathan Kisku and Fr. presented the report of the various activities that took place in the Pandemic. The diocesan team shared the difficulties, challenges and problems that they faced especially during the pandemic times and in going to the remote villages etc. Fr. George and Sr. Christin attended the meeting and encouraged and appreciated all for the hard work and heroic activities carried out during the past two years the Dumka diocesan team.

15. Meeting of the Bihar regional Meeting: A joint meeting of all the Bihar region diocesan SCC coordinators were held on 26th November 2021 at the diocesan centre Bhagalpur. Fr. Alphonse the regional coordinator took the interest to arrange the meeting. Fr. George Jacob the Executive secretary and Sr. Christin Joseph of the NST animated the Meeting. It was decided at the meeting that the Bihar region will soon organize a workshop for the SCC animators of all the dioceses in order to activate the work of building up the SCCs in all the Dioceses of Bihar region.

16. Meeting of the Jamshedpur Diocesan Team: Fr. George Jacob SAC the Executive Secretary met the diocesan SCC team of Jamshedpur diocese on 29th October at the Diocesan Pastoral Centre, Chaibasa. Fr. Anil Dung the coordinator of the diocese



organized the meeting and Fr. George Jacob gave an input session on the importance of Gospel sharing in our lives. There were 14 animators present for the meeting.

17. Meeting of the Hazaribag Diocesan Team: Hazaribag diocesan SCC core team met on 30th October 2021 at the Bishop's house Hazaribag. There were 25 animators from different parishes. Sr. Neelam the diocesan co-ordinator of SCCs organized the meeting. Bishop Anand Jojo addressing the group spoke of the importance of synodality and said that SCC is the best way to initiate the Synodal activities in the church. Fr. George Jacob SAC conducted the sessions on the importance of Gospel sharing and the basis for Gospel sharing. He also said that it is important to have a diocesan team to be trained.

18. Odisha Regional Meeting: Odisha regional diocesan coordinators meeting was held on 3rd November 2021 at the Bishops house Sambalpur. Fr. Kasian Pradhan the regional co-ordinator organized the meeting. In his message Bishop Niranjan Sualsingh the regional chairman for SCCs spoke of building up SCCs is the best platform for the Synodal church. Fr. George Jacob Executive secretary gave the input session on the encyclical '*Fratelli Tutti*'. The session was liked by all present. There were 12 participants from different dioceses of Odisha.

19. Seminar on SCC and Family: Four days of seminar on SCC & family were organized at the Pallottine Animation Centre, Nagpur by the Commission for SCCs from 8th to 11th November 2021. There were 29 participants from different diocese of North India. The sessions were animated by Fr. George Jacob, Sr. Christin Joseph and Mrs. Jyostna Lal. The participants expressed the enthusiasm to have such seminars in future as well and decided to begin such programmes in their own dioceses and SCCs.

20. National Resource Building Seminar: The Commission for Small Christian Communities organized a resource building training programme from 15th to 19th

November 2021 in Shanti Sadan, Benaulim, Goa. It was organized with a view to build up resource teams at each region. All the NST members and regional Secretaries of the SCCs attended the meeting. There were 29 participants for the seminar. It was well appreciated and the participants really felt the need to train persons for the work of building SCCs at each region. Arch Bishop Filipe Neri Ferrão (Archbishop of Goa and Daman) at the Inaugural session gave a very good message on the Synodal Nature of the Church, how we need to work at the grassroots level to promote participation, communion and mission and walk together towards the building up of SCCs.

21. National Service team Meeting at Goa: Meeting of the National service team was held on 19th & 20th November 2021 at Shanti Sadan, Benaulim, Goa after the resource building seminar. Bishops Ignatius Mascarenhas and Bishop Selvester Ponnuthan attended the meeting along with all the other members of the NST. The meeting deliberated on the structure of SCCs and discussed at length and corrected the aspects that were brought to the notice by different bishops. It was attended by 14 members of the national service team.

22. Media Course: Five days of Media Course was organised by the Commission for Small Christian Communities from 22nd to 26th November 2021 at Pallottine Animation



Centre, Nagpur. There were five participants for the course. It was a lively gathering of interested and motivated persons. The work done was futuristic and addressing real issues facing us. The process used helped all to workout script writing and preparing shooting. Learning Zoom meetings, template making were helpful. Two topics on Gospel sharing was identified.

23. Workshop for Priests/sisters/ Lay Faithful: Three days of SCC workshop for the Priests, Sisters and laity of the Diocese of Jalandhar was organised by the Diocesan

SCC Commission. All the three days of workshop was animated by the Commission for Small Christian communities CCBI. Fr. George Jacob took the sessions for the priests and sisters and Mr. Emmanuel Johnson from Delhi helped Fr. George to animate the workshop for the laity on the last day. It was well attended. 23 priests- Deans and Deanery SCC coordinators, 74 Religious sisters from the diocese and 94 lay faithful of various parishes and deaneries attended the workshop. It was decided that in future all will work hard to build SCCs in parishes.

24. Northern Regional RRT Meeting: Northern Regional RRT Meeting was held on 13th December, 2021 at the Archdiocesan Community Hall, Delhi. There were 12 Participants from 4 dioceses of the Northern region. Bishop Ignatius Mascarenhas Chairman of the SCCs in India spoke of communion aspects of the Synodal procedure of the Church. Fr. George Jacob SAC the Executive Secretary conducted a session on the RRT formation and its importance in building SCCs in the region.

25. North Eastern regional RRT Meeting: A North Eastern Regional RRT Meeting was held at Guwahati on 14th & 15th December 2021. Bishop Ignatius Mascarenhas and Fr. George Jacob SAC attended the meeting online and gave message to the group gathered at Guwahati. Fr. Hippolytus Toppo the regional Secretary organized the meeting in the presence of Bishop Stephan Rotluanga, the regional chairman for SCCs.



Bp. Udumala Bala
Chairman

**COMMISSION
FOR VOCATION
SEMINARIES, CLERGY
AND RELIGIOUS**



Rev. Dr. Raymond Joseph
Executive Secretary

01) On-going Formation Programme for Formators of Propaedeutic Seminaries in India (14-19 September, 2021, NBCLC, Bangalore, Karnataka): Corona has crippled the activities of the CCBI commissions and in a special way many of the programmes of the CCBI commission for VSCR all over India for the last one and half year. We were able to organize a few online programmes.

For the first time, the CCBI commission for VSCR ventured out to organize an offline seminar for the formators of the propaedeutic seminaries in India. It was held on 14-19

September, 2021 at NBCLC, Bangalore, Karnataka. The theme of the seminar was “The Psycho-Spiritual Integration”. The resource person was Fr. Maria Antony, a scholar in matters concerning, counselling, spirituality and psychology, who hails from the diocese of Sivagangai, Tamil Nadu. There were 10 formators from 9 Propaedeutic Seminaries in 8 regions participated in the seminar: Bengal-Sikkim (Amghata), Chhattisgarh-MP (Risda), JHAAN (Jamshedpur), Karnataka (Mangalore), North (Gauli), Odisha (Jatni), Tamil Nadu (Coimbatore & Karumathur) and Western (Goa). The formators from the regions of Agra, North-East (Guwahati & Chabua), Tamil Nadu (Chennai, Chengalpattu & Vellore), Telugu (Nuzvid) & Western (Bombay) did not attend the seminar. Kerala has not yet decided for Propaedeutic Seminary.

02) Symposium for the Rectors of Karnataka Region (24 September, 2021, St. Peter’s Pontifical Seminary, Bangalore, Karnataka): One day symposium for the rectors (Minor,



Propaedeutic and Major) of the Karnataka region was held on 24th September, 2021 at St. Peter’s Pontifical Seminary, Bangalore. Keynote address was given by Most Rev. Dr Peter Paul Saldanha, Chairman of Karnataka Regional Commission for Vocations, Seminaries, Clergy & Religious. Motivational Talk was given by Most Rev. Francis Serrao, SJ, Vice-Chairman of Karnataka Regional Commission for Vocations, Seminaries, Clergy & Religious. During the afternoon session the rectors were asked to discuss on the pros and cons of the formation in the seminaries and study houses in the region. The symposium concluded with the concluding session where the reports of the groups were taken up. Fr. I. Raymond Joseph, Executive secretary of CCBI Commission for VSCR and Most Rev. Peter Paul Saldanha moderated the session.

03) Online Zoom Meeting of the National Team of CCBI Commission for VSCR, Regional Chairman-Bishops and Regional Secretaries of CCBI Commission for VSCR (September 30, 2021 at 6 PM to 8.30 PM): Online meeting of the National Team of CCBI Commission

for VSCR, Regional Chairman-Bishops and Regional Secretaries of CCBI Commission for VSCR was held on September 30, 2021 at 6 PM to 8.30 PM. There were 16 regional secretaries 14 regional chairman-bishops and 4 national team members. Out of 34 members 26 members participated in the online meeting. 6 chairman-bishops and 2 secretaries were absent for the meeting. Fr. Pentareddy Raja Reddy (Telugu Region) let the inaugural prayer. Fr. Robert Pen (Western Region) welcomed the participants. Introductory talk was given by Most Rev. Bp. Udumala Bala, Chairman of CCBI Commission for VSCR. Fr. I. Raymond Joseph, moderated the session.

All the regional secretaries reported the different activities in their regions. Many have acknowledged that the commission work came to standstill due to the spread of covid-19. In spite of this phenomenon some of the regional secretaries could organize online and offline regional meetings. After the report of each regional secretary the respective chairman-bishop also shared the details about the commission work in the region.

Concluding the reports of the secretaries and the chairman-bishops, Fr. I. Raymond Joseph, the national executive secretary, brought four points into the discussion: 1) the job description of the regional secretaries; 2) the short-term course for rectors and spiritual fathers of the minor seminaries; 3) importance of the Networking in the national and regional level; 4) Making year plan in the regional level. All the participants accepted the proposals and requested the national executive secretary to go ahead with the preparation of the job description of the regional secretaries and the preparation of the syllabus for the short-term course for the rectors and spiritual directors of the minor seminaries. The members also suggested to make this short-term course to be mandatory for those who have not done any course on formation. Vote of thanks was proposed by Fr. Richard Britto (Karnataka Region)

04) Regional Meetings of ARMS (Online Zoom Meeting): Due to pandemic the activities of ARMS were very much curtailed. The annual General Body meeting of year 2020 was cancelled. Instead of that, two webinars were organized, one on 13th November, 2020 and another on 18th February, 2021. There were no regional meetings possible. In consultation with the regional teams there were serious of online and offline regional meetings were planned from July to September, 2021. North East, North and Western regions have decided to organize the meetings by themselves. The other regions approached the executive secretary of CCBI commission for VSCR for help in organizing the regional meetings.



On 1st September, 2021, the online regional meeting of Central Eastern region was organized at 6 PM. Out of 13 members 11 members participated and presented the reports about the formation in their respective study centres. Fr. Lancy Rodrigues, rector of Khristo Jyoti Interdiocesan Regional Theologate, Sason was as the regional president of ARMS.

On 21st September, 2021, the online regional meeting of Kerala region was organized at 6 PM. Out of 20 members 11 members participated and presented the reports about the formation in their respective study centres. Fr. I. Raymond Joseph, executive secretary of CCBI Commission for VSCR had a short sharing on "Some Basic Principles of Formation". Fr. Sumesh Joseph, St. Augustine's Study House, Always moderated the session.

On 22nd September, 2021, the online regional meeting of Telugu region was organized at 6 PM. Out of 23 members 14 members participated and presented the reports about the formation in their respective study centres. Fr. I. Raymond Joseph, executive secretary of CCBI Commission for VSCR had a short sharing on "Some Basic Principles of Formation". Fr Thumma Vijay Prathap Reddy SDB, St. John's Regional Philosophical Seminary, Kondadaba, was elected as the Telugu regional president of ARMS.

On 29th September, 2021, the online regional meeting of Tamil Nadu region was organized at 4 PM. Out of 25 members 12 members participated and presented the reports about the formation in their respective study centres. Fr. I. Raymond Joseph, executive secretary of CCBI Commission for VSCR had a short sharing on "Some Basic Principles of Formation". Fr. Stanislas S., Good Shepherd Seminary, Coimbatore moderated the session.

On 29th September, 2021, the online regional meeting of Karnataka region was organized at 6 PM. Out of 32 members 22 members participated and presented the

reports about the formation in their respective study centres. Fr. I. Raymond Joseph, executive secretary of CCBI Commission for VSCR had a short sharing on "Some Basic Principles of Formation". Fr Subash Sebastian CRSP, Barnabite Vidya Bhavan, Bangalore was elected as the Karnataka regional president of ARMS. All these regional meetings were organized by Fr. I. Raymond Joseph, executive secretary of CCBI Commission for VSCR.

05) National EXCO Meeting of CDPI (Online Zoom Meeting on October 16, 2021 at 10 AM -12.30 PM):39th Executive Committee Meeting of CDPI was held via virtual platform (Zoom) at 10 AM on October 16, 2018. Out of 19 executive members of CDPI, 11 of them participated. Most Rev. Bp. Udumala Bala, Chairman of CCBI Commission for Clergy and Bishop of Warangal who is also Patron of CDPI, presided over the meeting and moderated it. Fr. Michael Ani, the National president of CDPI, welcomed the members. Fr. I. Raymond Joseph, the secretary of CDPI, presented the minutes of the XXXVIII EXCO meeting of CDPI virtually held on March 24, 2021. Fr. Dileep Marandi, Joint Secretary cum Treasurer of CDPI, presented the account statement of CDPI for the months between April - September, 2021.

Then the regional presidents of CDPI, who were attending the EXCO meeting, presented the reports of their regions (Agra, Bihar, Bengal-Sikkim, JHAAN, Kerala, North & TN-PY). After the reports, the main agenda of the meeting, the selection of the theme and the planning of the proposed XVIII National council meeting of the Conference of the Diocesan Priests of India (CDPI), was taken up. The members proposed the theme, "Building up the Fraternity of the Diocesan Priests in the Context of Synodality and its thrust on Communion, Participation and Mission". The National meeting was proposed to have at NBCLC, Bangalore on February 22-25, 2022. Before the conclusion of the meeting the prayer for the diseased diocesan priests due to Covid-19 all over India was recited by Most Rev. Bp. Udumala Bala. Fr. Philomin Doss, Vice-President of National CDPI, proposed the Vote of Thanks.

06) EXCO Meetings of ARMS (November 12 & 15, 2021 at 2 PM): The 44th EXCO Meeting of the Rectors of Major Seminaries (ARMS), was held at NBCLC, Bangalore at 2 PM on 12th November, 2021. 9 out of 13 EXCO members participated in the meeting. Most Rev. Bp. Udumala Bala, Patron of ARMS, presided over the meeting. Fr. I. Raymond Joseph, the secretary of ARMS, moderated the meeting. The meeting began with a scripture reading and an introductory prayer by Fr. Subash Sebastian CRSP, regional president of ARMS (Karnataka Region). Fr. Stanislas Savarimuthu, regional president of ARMS (TN-PY), welcomed the members. The minutes of 43rd EXCO meeting virtually held on 23rd March 2021 was presented by Fr. I. Raymond Joseph, the secretary of ARMS.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the tentative time-table of the annual general body meeting of ARMS which was to begin on the same day evening and to form committees to help for the functioning and the smooth running of the annual meeting of ARMS. Members who are to be in-charge of Liturgy & Choir, drafting of the statement, drafting of the report were chosen. The responsibility of choosing the moderators for all the sessions was given to the regional presidents of ARMS. Each region had to select one moderator for one session. In the absence of the treasurer, Fr. Michael Augustine SCJ, is given the responsibility of collecting the contributions from the rectors towards ARMS. Fr. Athanas Kerketta MSFS, regional president of ARMS (North East Region), proposed the Vote of Thanks.

On 15th November immediately after the conclusion of the annual general body meeting the 45th EXCO meeting was held. Out of 13 executive members of ARMS, nine of them participated in the meeting. The meeting was presided over by Most Rev. Bp. Udumala Bala, the patron of ARMS. The meeting was called to discuss the four points, the venue, the dates, the theme and the resource persons, that have been proposed in the XX Annual General Body Meeting. As far as the first point is concerned, there were three venues suggested by the EXCO members: 1) Agra, 2) Kolkata and 3) Varanasi. The EXCO members decided to take the final decision regarding the venue in the forthcoming EXCO meeting after collecting information about all the venues. Then the EXCO members took up second point, the dates of the XXI Annual General Body Meeting. The dates proposed by the EXCO members for the Meeting were November 9-13, 2022. Concerning the third point, there were a few themes proposed in the Annual General Body Meeting: 1) The Psycho Sexual Issues & Problems Facing in Seminary Formation; 2) Synodality in Priestly Formation; 3) Ongoing Formation; 4) Implications of Digital Media; 5) The Legal Systems of Indian Society. The EXCO members unanimously decided to take up the theme, "Synodality in Priestly Formation". Regarding the fourth point, the resource persons, the EXCO members agreed to finalize it during the forthcoming EXCO meeting. Fr. Kommareddy Marreddy, Vice-President of ARMS, proposed the Vote of Thanks.

07) XX Annual General Body Meeting of ARMS (November 12-15, 2021): The Twentieth Annual General Body Meeting of the Association of the Rectors of Major Seminaries (ARMS) was held at NBCLC, Bangalore, from 12th evening to 15th noon November, 2021. Eighty-four rectors from various major seminaries and study houses of Theology and Philosophy in India participated in the meeting together with Most Rev. Udumala Bala, Patron and Chairman of CCBI Commission for Seminaries and Fr. I. Raymond Joseph, the secretary of ARMS. The theme for the Meeting was "The Reading of The Ratio Nationalis (Proposed Charter of Priestly Formation for India) in the light of The Ratio Fundamentalis

Institutionis Sacerdotalis (The Gift of Priestly Vocation, 2016). The Resource Persons were Most Rev. Udumala Bala, Patron and Chairman of CCBI Commission for Seminaries and Fr. I. Raymond Joseph, the secretary of ARMS.



The inaugural Eucharistic celebration was held at 5 PM on 12th evening of November, 2021. Most Rev. Abp. Peter Machado, Archbishop of Bangalore, was the main celebrant and homilist. During his homily Abp. Peter Machado spoke on the qualities of a pastor: committed pastor with devotion to Christ, dedication in the ministry and discipline in life. He also emphasized that a pastor should love his people, joyful in his approach and willingness to sacrifice himself. The inaugural session started at 6.30 PM with a prayer and scripture reading by Fr. Sumesh Joseph Illickaparmabil OSA, the regional president of ARMS-Kerala. Fr. Richard Britto, Rector of St. Peter's Pontifical Seminary, Bangalore, welcomed the chief guests and the rectors. Fr. I. Raymond Joseph, the secretary, highlighted the report of the 19th Annual General Body Meeting held at Monfort Social Institute, Hyderabad.

Most Rev. Bp. Udumala Bala, the patron of ARMS, delivered the Key-note address. His topic was "The Radical Reforms Essential in Seminary Formation". He presented his Key-note address on the following ten headings: 1. Situation of priests in India-Asia, 2. Context of clergy abuse, clericalism and careerism beside Covid-19 pandemic, 3. Challenge to be passionate disciples and compassionate priests, 4. Gift of priestly vocation, 5. Essential purpose of formation is to form seminarian to become shepherds after the model of Jesus Christ, 6. Seminary formation: priest as a missionary disciple with passionate love and compassionate mercy, 7. Philosophy for Discipleship and Theology for Configuration to Christ, 8. The Pastoral stage, 9. Experts in pastoral compassion: good Samaritan model and 10. From comfort zones to peripheries.

Most Rev. Archbishop Peter Machado, Archbishop of Bangalore, delivered the presidential address. He spoke on formator, formation and priests at length in which he emphasized the following thoughts: 1. Formator is a journeying companion, 2. Seeking the opinion of

the companions for better evaluation, 3. Listen to the candidates, 4. Formees must speak out and formators must listen to, 5. Celebrate life, 6. Dialogue in the Church, 7. Dialogue with other Christian denominations, 8. Authority and participation, 9. Discernment and decision making and 10. Forming yourself in synodality among the people. Fr. Subhash Sebastian CRSP, the Karnataka regional president of ARMS, proposed the vote thanks. Fr Athnas Kerketta MSFS, the rector of MSFS Study house, Shillong, was the compere of the day.

The second day began with the Eucharistic celebration presided over by Most Rev. Bp. Udumala Bala. The morning session began at 9 AM with the talk given by Fr. I. Raymond Joseph, Secretary of ARMS. In his first talk he spoke on the theme, The Background and the General Structures of Ratio Fundamentalism and its impact in the Ratio Nationalis on the Preparatory Training before Initial Formation. First, he gave the background of Ratio Fundamentalism and Ratio nationalis. He explained about the process that went behind in preparation for the Charter of India. Then he synthesized the Ratio Fundamentalism 2016. Second, he explained the impact of Ratio Fundamentalism on the Ratio Nationalis, in particular on the Preparatory Training before Initial Formation. Fr. Bellarmine Fernando SDB, rector of Don Bosco Theological Centre, Kavrapettai, was the moderator of the session.

The theme of the second talk was "Looking from the Prism of Ratio Fundamentalism: The Initial Formation in the Ratio Nationalis – From Propaedeutic Stage up to the Stage of Philosophical Studies (Discipleship)". Fr. I. Raymond Joseph, Secretary of ARMS, was also the resource person for the second talk at 11.30 AM. He spoke on the initial formation in the seminary formation, i.e., from the propaedeutic stage up to philosophical studies. Each stage is a preparation for the next stage of formation. He highlighted the interconnectedness among all the stages and stressed on the unity of vision in the seminary formation. He also proposed the subjects to be taught at different stages of formation to train the seminarians as Disciples of Christ. Fr. Stephen Raj SDS, rector of Otto Hopfenmueller Study House (Salvatorians), was the moderator of the session.

At 3 PM was a general open session. The theme of the session was "The Challenges of the Post Covid-19 and the Revisioning of Formation". The session was moderated by Fr. Lancy Rodrigues SVD, the regional president of Central Eastern region. All the participants agreed that Covid-19 has brought new challenges in the life and in particular in the seminary Formation process. There arose the urgency to invent new responses to meet the new challenges. The participants also felt the need for a spirituality that would help to vision a holistic formation in the post Covid-19 scenario. There were opportunities for open discussions and many rectors shared their thoughts on this subject. The new challenges brought about Covid-19 and the new responses to the challenges. Fr. Joe

Andrew Mangalraj, rector of Sacred Heart Seminary, Chennai was the compere for the whole day.

At 6.30 PM all the regions gathered separately to discuss the activities and future plans of their respective regions. With the evening prayer at 7.45 PM the second day concluded. On the third day, the Eucharistic celebration was presided over by Fr. Stephen Alathara, the Deputy General Secretary of CCBI. At 9 AM was the third resource talk. Most Rev. Bp. Udumala Bala was the resource person. The topic was "Looking from the Prism of Ratio Fundamentalis: The Initial Formation in the Ratio Nationalis – From Theological Studies (Stage of Configuration) up to Pastoral Formation (Stage of Synthesis)". Bishop Udumala Bala, with his wide experience in formation and with his sense of humour, spoke about the importance the stage of Theological studies and the stage of Pastoral Formation in the initial formation for priesthood. He compared the movement from the stage of philosophical studies to the stage of theology studies with the movement from knowing thyself to being thyself, and finally, to giving thyself. Fr. Vatti Rayappa Reddy SDB, rector of Vishwajyothi Don Bosco Philosophate, Warangal was the moderator.

After Coffee break, at 11 AM was the session of group discussion. All the members were divided into 6 groups. The questions for discussion were, 1) How do you define passionate love and compassionate mercy in the life of seminarians? Suggest steps which will help to form the seminarians to become priests with the smell of the sheep? 2) Every member of the staff is responsible for the formation of the students in the seminary. How to animate the staff of the seminary to participate and contribute towards it? After 45 minutes of discussion the reporting session was held. All the secretaries of the groups presented their reports. Fr. Subash Jose IMS, Rector of Vishwa Jyoti Gurukul, Varanasi, was the moderator of the session.

At 12.30 PM Rev Fr Ambrose Pitchaimuthu, the national president of the Pontifical Mission Organization, Bangalore, presented the activities of the Pontifical Mission Societies and in particular, the Society of Peter Apostle, in the formation of the seminarians. He stressed the need to include a course on pontifical mission societies and their activities in the pastoral course of the deacons. He encouraged the rectors to educate the students about the help that they receive from others and the need to be grateful for the same. He also highlighted some of the practical issues involved regarding the process of applying for grants and subsidies etc. from the Pontifical Mission Societies.

At 3 PM was a general open session. The theme of the session was "Sharing of Rectors in Introducing Innovative Ideas and Programmes in the Seminaries". The Moderator of the

session was Fr. Sumesh Joseph Illickaparambil OSA. It was a very interesting session listening to the various rectors narrating their experiences of handling the brothers in the formation houses entrusted to their care.

The election of the President, Vice-President and Treasurer of ARMS was called for at 6 PM. Fr. Richard Britto, rector of St. Peter's Pontifical Seminary, Bangalore was elected as president. Fr. Kommareddy Marreddy, rector of St. John's Regional Theological Seminary, Hyderabad was elected as Vice-President. Fr. Vincent Lourdasamy MSFS, rector of Fransalian Seminary, Pune was elected as Treasurer. A general open session on "The Current Theme of 'Synodality: Communion, Participation and Mission' in Seminary Formation" was planned at 7 PM. Since the election process consumed more time than it was expected, Most Rev. Bp. Udumala Bala introduced the theme on Synodality and requested the participants to share their opinions during the election process itself. With the evening prayer at 7.45 PM the second day concluded.

The fourth day began with the Eucharistic celebration presided over by Fr. Kommareddy Marreddy, newly elected Vice-president of ARMS. At 9 AM the drafting committee comprising of Fr. George Panthanmackel MSFS, Fr. Chinnu Polisetty OFM Cap. and Fr. Joshua Gopini MSC who worked tirelessly to prepare the Statement of the XVIII Annual General Body Meeting of ARMS came to the stage. The statement was presented to the floor by Fr. George Panthanmackel MSFS. Several amendments were proposed, and the drafting team was asked to re-draft the statement based on the amendments and the proposals that emerged from the floor. At 11 AM the Matters of Common Concern was taken up. At 12 PM the drafting committee once again presented the final draft of the Statement integrating all the suggestions proposed from the floor. Then the statement was approved by the house.

The concluding session was held at 12.15 PM. It was presided over by Most Rev. Bp. Udumala Bala. Fr. I. Raymond Joseph, secretary of ARMS, gave various information regarding ARMS. The participants suggested Agra, Kolkata and Varanasi for the next annual general body meeting. A few themes were suggested for the next meeting: The Psycho Sexual Issues & Problems Facing in Seminary Formation, Synodality in Priestly Formation, Ongoing Formation, Implications of Digital Media and The Legal Systems of Indian Society etc. Fr. I. Raymond Joseph, secretary of ARMS, also informed that the next Annual General Body Meeting will be held on 9 -13 November, 2022. Then followed the concluding message of the patron of ARMS, Most Rev. Bp. Udumala Bala, Chairman of CCBI Commission for VSCR. Fr. Kommareddy Marreddy, the vice president, proposed the vote of thanks.



Bp. Francis Kalist
Chairman

COMMISSION FOR WOMEN



Rev. Sr. Lidwin Fernandes, UFS
Executive Secretary

Virtual meetings with 14 Regions: 1. On 3rd July all the Diocesan Secretaries of Agra Region attended the meeting. All of them appreciated the hard efforts of Regional Secretary and support of Regional chairman to bring up the Women's Commission in the Diocese. Only Diocese of Udaipur is yet to get a new Secretary for the Women's Commission.

2. On 4th of July all the Diocesan Secretaries of Orissa Region attended the meeting. They expressed their difficulty of poor network in organizing the on-line programmes. Along with that social distance has created a big gap between church and people. They were also grateful for their Regional Secretary and chairman bishop for their cooperation.

3. On 5th of July the meeting was held with Karnataka Region. Since they do not have a Regional Secretary as well as Regional Chairman for Latin rite Commission for women for whom, functioning and coordinating is a big problem. They were grateful to the national Secretary for the direct contact with the Diocese and not abandoning them without Regional in charge.

4. On 6th of July meeting with the North East Region was fruitful, they acknowledged the smooth functioning of Women's Commission with the help of Regional Secretary and Regional Chairman. In the whole Region it is only Diocese of Tura does not have Women Secretary.

5. On 7th of July for the first time Kerala Region came into picture. 4 Diocesan Secretaries agreed to be present for the meeting. There is a lot of gap between national office and Kerala Commission for Women, which needs to be built up.

6. On 8th of July the meeting was held with the Telugu Region with maximum diocesan Secretaries. Sr. Sarita JMJ the Regional Secretary motivates the diocesan Secretaries to have complete participation in the programmes arranged by the national office. Challenges of the Region are to convince the Bishops to appoint Female Secretaries



in the 4 Dioceses and have correspondence with the Regional /national office for any information.

7. On 12th of July the meeting was held with the Bihar Region. Sr. Jane SCN the Regional Secretary did a praiseworthy work by inviting all the Regional Secretaries except one Diocese which was not responding for the past 3 years. The challenges of the women Commission to organize online programmes were poor network as well as difficulty to own a device and internet facility.

8. On 13th of July the meeting was held for the Chhattisgarh Region but it was a discouraging moment as none of the Secretaries attended the meeting. The meeting room was open for 30 minutes waiting for the participants. A request was forwarded to all the Bishops of the Region but till date there isn't any reply.

9. On 15th of July, West Bengal Region attended the meeting in a great number. They expressed the difficulty of reaching the parishes because of the distance and transport as well as network issues.

10. On 20th of July since the Regional Secretaries did not show any interest in promoting the Regional meeting, the national office combined a meeting for 4 Regions namely Western, Northern, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh. It was really discouraging to note that the Regional Secretaries neither do anything nor give up the office. As a result, the faith formation of the Regions' is not taking place in the whole of Region. The Secretaries expressed their desire for a training programme but this initiative is possible only when the Regional Secretaries take the initiative and arranges it.

11. On 21st July the meeting was organized for Tamil Nadu Region. It was amazing to know the wonderful initiatives taken by each Diocese for the sake of faith formation which is also great inspiration to the others. All the Dioceses still do not have female Secretaries.

FABC Meeting: In charges of women Commission of South Asian countries attended the virtual meeting organized by Most Rev. Gilbert Garcera. It was a time for me to share the initiatives taken up by CCBI and Women's Commission for the upliftment of the women. The point that I strongly felt was working with grass root level is very important.

Role of Women in the Church and Society: On 24th July a webinar was conducted to understand women's role in the church and society. Ms. Leela Kumari who is a professional in law and worked for the justice for women was the resource person to speak on topic of the day. She called upon the women not only to represent but also to raise the voice in decision making.

On 30th July another webinar was conducted for all the Hindi speaking people. It was an initiative taken up by the executive members of Jamshedpur Diocese. Mrs. Nikunj Bala Francis has been serving the women's Commission for the last 25 years and convincingly she said that the women empowerment is possible only when women take initiatives to uplift themselves.

Grandparents Day: On 25th of July a live telecast programme was organized through YouTube Channel. Ms. Ruby Narapareddy the diocesan Secretary of Hyderabad



Women's Commission anchored the whole show of the day. The programme lasted for an hour and the main issue was 'Grandchildren miss Grandparents'. The message imparted through the programme was 'let the children grow with their grandparents for a holistic development'. Message of Pope Francis was shared through a video in different languages.

St. Monica's Day: A webinar was organized in collaboration with Northeast Region for all the catholic women of India. The topic discussed was 'role of a good mother and her care in the family'. Sr. Lidwin Fernandes said "we always picture ourselves as Monica's but there is a great need of Ambrose in the society". Just like Ambrose we need to go in search and find the children who have lost their way and bring back to the fold. In honour of St. Monica and Mothers' Day reflection, prayers and 9 days' Novena was circulated to all the 132 Dioceses.

Girl Child Day: On the occasion of Girl Child day the National Office for Women's Commission organized a webinar on 9th September from 6.00 to 8.30 pm. The Regional Secretaries of 9 Regions explained in detail the 'responsibility of Regional Secretary and diocesan Secretaries in taking care of girl children in the Diocese and Region'. Each of them took the opportunity to express their functioning in their respective places; following are the few points came up during the discussion.

1. Northeast Regional Secretary Sr. Sunanada SCN said; we need to pay attention on the moral based education of the girl children. The glamour world has instigated the



children to go against etiquettes of life. The beauty of the young girls and poverty has led the Girls to fall into the laureates of traffickers. So, the Women's Commission has a great responsibility to create awareness through the educational institutions or write ups.

2. Tamil Nadu Regional Secretary Mrs. Angela Savariraja said: At the end of every year a study is to be made from the baptismal register to understand the ratio of boys and girls. For every celebration meaningful liturgy is prepared and shared with the Dioceses. The Commission for women of TNBC also shares with the public, written articles to create awareness on respect to girl child.

3. West Bengal Region: According to the views of Mrs. Rajni Lakra from Bagdogra Diocese, said that the girl is availed with many opportunities but very minimum is

implemented. So, the Women's Commission in the Region has the greater responsibility to create awareness on the same in their respective areas.

4. Bihar Region: We congratulated Sr. Jane SCN for convincing the Bishops on appointing proper personnel as a Secretary for the Commission and taking care of each Diocese and their functioning. The girls in the Region are well taken care even by the government but the boys are still lacking in the discipline and education. The empowerment of women among the tribal's is an open eye to the other Catholics in the parish (Dalit Christians) to change the way of life living. The biggest challenge is that the Secretary of the Dioceses does not have emails or proper network so the functioning is becoming little more difficult.

5. Northern Region: Sr. Babita congratulated the Secretaries of her Region for having well organized programmes for the empowerment of the women and girl child. The need of the hour is to create awareness on empowerment as well as caste-based system. She also said the empowerment of both boys and girls is important because boys are moving away from the family life and lack of morality. Sr. Babita also feels that she has ignored the need of Catholic Church. Henceforth, she decided to increase her concentration on the functioning in the Region and Diocesan level.

6. Agra Region: Ms. Pancy Thomas one of the vibrant Regional Secretaries said in North India the need of the hour is joining our hands with the people of other Religions and work to create an identity of our presence in the State as locals and not foreigners. She is highly appreciated for working with Acid Victims, Tibetan Group, releasing captives from the prison, and admission of children in different colleges. She also said that the Region needs to take care of both boys and girls in the Dioceses. Since it is the month of Girl Child a webinar on CHILD ABUSE was organized by the Diocese of Jaipur.

7. Telugu Region: Sr. Sarita MJM the Regional Secretary was grateful for all the diocesan Secretaries of the Region for giving their 100% service for the eradication of corona and awareness programmes on use of social media, smart phone, etc. The Region has planned to organize a webinar on child rights and etiquettes to be followed in the daily life. Since Sr. Sarita herself takes initiative to do something new. She is confident with the complete support of diocesan Secretaries

8. Western Region: Sr. Lily Francis expressed her views on empowerment of women/Girl child through writing books.

Care of Migrant Women, Girls and Children: Fr. Jaison Vadassery the executive Secretary for migrants' Commission CCBI was the guest speaker of the day. He enlightened the gathering with a message on our behaviour in the post pandemic times. He said nurture

'we' feeling because Catholics are called to be universal. He also asked us to keep in mind two things 1) to spread the awareness on available government schemes for the children. 2) Networking with civil society and NGO's who are working against the human trafficking. 3) Keep the doors open for new learning from each other.

Other than the webinar, to celebrate this day meaningfully, the national office shared reflections and prayers of the faithful on girl Child Day. The national office in collaboration with YCS/YSM national office has organized online skit competition and the topic was 'SHE IS MY SISTER'.

Third National Conference: The 3rd National Conference of CCBI Women's Commission focused on forming Strong and Sustainable Women Cells at grass root level (parishes). Hence, for the first two days, a study was conducted under the proficient leadership of Rev. Fr. Reginald Pinto, Director of Social Service Center, Diocese of Udupi, and the National Executive Secretary, Sr. Lidwin Fernandes UFS. On the third day, the same study was conducted in 14 regions along with the diocesan secretaries and representatives from different parishes, and on the 4th and 5th day, once again the same study was reworked with the help of an evaluation from 132 dioceses that are coordinated by 14 capable regional secretaries.

Day 1 (11thOctober 2021): Rev. Fr. Stephan Alathara the General secretary of CCBI addressed the participants with his key note address and the participants appreciated the clarity given on beginnings of church in India and our role to lead the church as women who are empowered. It was a virtual conference and thus we had 312 participants from all the 14 regions. Most Rev. Francis Kalist, the Chairperson of CCBI Women Commission declared the 3rd National Conference open and there after we proceeded on the draft guidelines.

Day 2 (12thOctober 2021): Most Rev. Gerald Isaac Lobo the member bishop of Women's Commission addressed the gathering and insisted to follow the vision and mission so that we bring certain changes in the lie-style. He said it is very necessary not to deviate from the guidelines because they are the stepping stones to success. Bishop also gently reminded and warned on the hardships that we may come across in our faithfulness to follow the guidelines, vision and mission.

Day 3 (13thOctober 2021): The regional secretaries from 13 regions along with the Bishop In-charge, the regional Chairman took over the conference and came out with valuable suggestions to modify the memorandum. Only Jharkhand region did not conduct the regional conference.

Day 4 (14thOctober 2021):In his message Most Rev. BinayKandulna the member bishop of Women's commission said we are all interconnected - if 'I' exist it is because of 'we' -

so let us take initiatives to up bring the women by following our vision and mission. Soon after that all the 13 regions presented their understanding on Memorandum followed by which we discussed on fund raising and monitory self-sufficiency of Women's commission.

Day 5 (15thOctober 2021): Results of 2021 online competitions conducted for young boys and for three women from all the 132 dioceses were announced. We congratulated the diocesan secretaries and the winners for taking special interest and creating awareness on social issues. The conference came to an end with the concluding remarks and closing thoughts by the national Chairman Most Rev. Francis Kalist.



Elimination of violence against Women: On 25h November awareness was created on elimination of violence against women through skit and poster circulation in the social media. A 9-day Novena was circulated in English and Hindi and a request was made to pray for the atrocities faced by the women in different parts of the world.

Training on creating monthly Newsletter: According to the decision taken in the third national conference, training on creating a diocesan newsletter was conducted to the diocesan secretaries from 22-24 November. It was something new to the office bearers so they appointed young women from their respective dioceses to learn and execute the task. Fr. Chetan Machado was the resource person for three days. He was very patient in making to understand and thus women could learn efficiently.

Regional Training Programme: From 30thNovember to 2ndDecember, the national Executive Secretary Sr. Lidwin Fernandes UFS facilitated the regional leadership training programme organized by Odisha Region. On the first day, the interactive session deepened the understanding on vision and mission and on the following day practical sessions on 'how to be a good leader' was demonstrated by all the participants. Though the language was a barrier yet the love and passion for the mission made the participants

to give themselves fully. The participants witnessed themselves to be excellent leaders at the end of the session.

Jharkhand Region: (From 3rd – 8th December) Since there was no representation from the majority of dioceses from the Jharkhand region in the third national conference



which was conducted virtually and not able to conduct the regional Conference on 13th October, to make a study on the memorandum draft that was proposed anew for the women's commission, there by Sr. Lidwin Fernandes travelled to meet at least 4 bishops of the region and requested the Archbishop Most Rev. Felix Toppo SJ to discuss the matter in the Regional Bishops conference.

Animation Programme in Jammu and Srinagar: (From 11th – 14th December) on the request of Diocesan Secretary Sr. Jaya Peter, the national Executive Secretary visited Jammu – Srinagar Diocese and conducted four days animation programme for Women. The discussions included the topics like - "Strong and Sustainable Women Cell" in all the parishes; besides an evaluation was conducted on - drawbacks why we do not grow as a united church - and few measures were discussed to prevent severe social issues and for the betterment of the future generations. The Participants were also encouraged to be a part of socially, economically and politically empowered societies.

Synod on Synodality: The programme was planned for 5th December but could not go ahead because it was also conducted by CBCI Council for Women. And the same was attended by the Diocesan secretaries. Fund Raising for Women's Commission: Fund raising is very important for two reasons; first of all the women units wanted to be self-sufficient than always being dependent on the Bishop or parish priest. Secondly, the diocesan secretary will get an opportunity to build a good rapport with all the parishes. Thus, the diocesan secretaries were instructed to collect Rs. 100/- per parish's individual women unit as a contribution to the National office. And I am glad to acknowledge the contribution generously given by the dioceses. Because of this contribution it has become possible for me to visit the dioceses and regions.



Bp. Nazarene Soosai
Chairman

COMMISSION FOR YOUTH



Fr. Chetan Machado
Executive Secretary

Introduction: The National Youth Commission coordinates all the activities of the movements. The National Secretary along with volunteers operates from the youth center in Delhi named 'Bethania Centre'. At present Mr. Percival Holt is coordinating activities at the Centre. Ms. Jyotsna and Mr. Abhishek are volunteering full time for the youth ministry and Ms. Angelina is a volunteer for Youcat India. Ms. Jesvita and Mr. Jimmy P'dang completed their term and returned to their places and continue to serve the Youth Commission. Ms Rebecca also served as a volunteer for a short time. Mr. Joseph Prananay and Mr. Arpit Katara from the YCS/YSM Movement also are serving as volunteers at present. Many other young people visited the centre during this time and volunteered to help during events. We organised the following activities with their help and support.

Bethania Youth Centre: Bethania Youth Centre is a National Youth Centre from where National Youth Ministry is coordinated. The centre conducts various national, regional and diocesan level programmes on a nominal fee. Also various training, animation programmes and courses based on various skills and Youth Ministry.



National Youth Sunday -2021: The 5th National Youth Day was celebrated on 8th August 2021. The day was celebrated by the youth in their parishes, dioceses and institutions. Young people organized virtual and physical activities on this occasion. In some

parishes Eucharistic celebration was organised and in many places keeping in mind the Covid-19 restrictions, they organized virtual prayer meetings. In some places young people organised various charity and fundraising events.

Due to COVID 19 restrictions, the celebration was not elaborate this year but that did not dampen the spirit of young people. They organized community programmes, recreation, fellowship, competitions, etc., to celebrate their youthfulness & fellowship. The CCBI Youth Commission prepared the liturgy to celebrate the Eucharist which was translated into many languages. Prior to NYS, young people celebrated the first World day for grandparents and the elderly. At the National level, 'BIBLOS' (Bible Quiz) was organised.



The theme for the Youth day was: "Stand up I appoint you as a witness of what you have seen. "Acts 26:16" . This is also the theme for the World Youth Day which will be celebrated locally on Christ the King Solemnity.

In his message to young people, Most Rev Soosai Nazarene, Chairman bishop of the Youth Commission urged the young people to spread the Good news like St. Paul and bear a good witness. He wished them and thanked them for the good work done by them. Most Rev. Ignatius D'Souza, member bishop of the commission asked the young people to take the message seriously and stand firm in their faith. Fr. Chetan, the National Youth Secretary in his message wished the youth and appreciated the good work and asked them to celebrate the day in a meaningful way.

Bible Quiz – BIBLOS: The fifth Season of the National Bible Quiz 'BIBLOS' was organised on 8th August 2021 to mark the National Youth Sunday 2021. This competition was open to all, irrespective of age or denomination. Over 1000 people registered for this. We received a very good response from all the regions.

Consultative Body Meeting: The commission organized a Consultative body meeting with National youth leaders of various youth movements in India on August 23, 2021. The movements present were ICYM, YCS/YSM, YU4C, Jesus Youth, YOUCAT, Focolare, St. Vincent De Paul youth wing and Salesian Youth. Members suggested to have a combined youth fest celebration and discussed challenges faced by each movement. Some of these matters were taken up during the Directors meeting on 24th August 2021.

Diocesan Secretaries Meeting: The Annual Diocesan Youth Secretaries meeting was held on 24 August 2021. Ninety five diocesan secretaries participated in this online meeting. Heads of the other youth movement were invited to this meeting. National leaders of ICYM and YCS were also invited to this meeting. All the reports (national and regional) were sent to the participants in advance. Most Rev Soosai Nazarene, Chairman CCBI Youth Commission, Most Rev Ignatius D'Souza, member bishop of the commission and Fr. Stephen Alathara, Deputy Secretary General of CCBI were present for the meeting.

Fr. Chetan Machado, National Secretary, CCBI Youth Commission welcomed the participants and the other invitees. Since the National and Regional reports were sent to all the participants in advance, he only presented the highlights of the activities.

Most Rev Soosai Nazarene, Chairman of the commission greeted all the participants present and congratulated and appreciated the National Secretary and the NEXCOs for organizing various programs and activities. He thanked the National and Regional teams for the efforts made to organise various annual programs such as youth ministers and animators programme (YMAP), NEXCO Regional and Diocesan team Meetings etc.

Quoting the Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Francis, *Christus Vivit*, 134 "youth is a gift of God, to be young is a grace, a blessing. It is a gift that we can squander meaninglessly, or receive with gratitude and live to the full." he explained how the Holy Father is attaching a greater importance to the years of youth when taken as a grace, and also a tag of caution or warning when squandered meaninglessly. He said the role of the youth secretaries and directors come into play in this context. Though youth themselves are the agents of youth ministry, (CV 203) they need to be helped and guided at the same time and left free to develop new approaches. (CV 242) Young people need to be accompanied. He stressed on 3 important areas in guiding and accompanying young people under our care. To be rooted in Jesus; To go back to our roots ; To read about the signs of our time.

Bishop Ignatius, member bishop, greeted all the members present and shared his reflection on the theme, 'You will be my witnesses.' He congratulated the Commission for keeping the spirit alive during the pandemic by organising various online activities. Referring to Acts 1:8, where Jesus explains what the disciples should do after his departure, bishop said that the Lord is asking us to do the same i.e. to be his witnesses

here on earth. He emphasized on the need to be God's witnesses. He highlighted on two points: firstly, the Holy spirit empowers disciples and secondly the spirit filled disciples witness Jesus around the world. He said 'no one can change the spirit of our youth; only the Holy Spirit can change'. He further explained about, who is a witness? – a person who has seen or watched something, a person who knows the truth. To be a witness means we need to see and hear Jesus. For the Word is the witness of Christ.

Fr. Stephen, deputy Secretary General of CCBI in his message asserted on three focal points. 1. Youth ministry should be based on spirituality. 2. Commitment and dedication towards our cause. He pointed out on how post COVID church is going to be totally different church and 3. To network and collaborate with other movements and maintain unity especially at the grassroots level. He gave an example of a high profile youth from Arunachal who encountered Jesus at her work place in Bangalore and now working as a missionary in the North East. He also said the place for youth ministry is where the youth are, institutions, working places etc. He congratulated all the movement leaders for their commitment and all the efforts put forth towards the upliftment of the youth and the ministry, being a role model for all the other commissions. He requested everyone to carry forward the mission with utmost dedication and responsibility.

NEXCO Online Meetings: National Executive Committee – ICYM and YCS/YSM meetings



were conducted regularly online. Several topics inclusive of National Youth Sunday, NSLTP, upcoming activities, etc. were discussed on the Agenda.

The YCS/YSM NEXCO's along with the Chaplain and coordinators came together every Sunday for cell meetings and also to share their experiences/ stories and to plan out a few national level activities.

Regional Youth Presidents Meetings: A meeting with all the 14 Regional Presidents with the ICYM National office bearers was conducted. The main motive of the meeting was to build good connection, bonding and network well with all the regions. The agenda

included Regional activities and personal sharing. Response received was positive and had cent percent attendance.

FIMCAP Asian Meeting: ICYM is a member of FIMCAP International. Fr. Chetan and Ms Jyotsna attend quarterly meetings regularly.

Socio-political Activities: ICYM sent an appeal in support of the agitating farmers on Delhi borders and supported the cause of Fr. Stan and other activists jailed in Mumbai.

Youth United for Myanmar Campaign: National Youth Commission joined the Catholic Youth Movements of Asia to support the Campaign for Peace and Freedom for Myanmar. The inaugural event was held on Tuesday 29 June 2021. Many youth directors and youth joined this event to support the campaign and pray for the people of Myanmar.

COVID Relief Programme: 'YOUth YOUined' Project Campaign: The National Youth Commission is continuously supporting young people who are in need of help. The



commission through its movement has been helping students for scholarships. We have helped a few regions to distribute medicines and dry ration during and after the pandemic.

The first World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly: Answering the call given by Pope Francis, young people all over the country made efforts to celebrate this day meaningfully. The national commission prepared the guidelines and ran a few campaigns to make young people aware of the importance of grandparents. Posters and prayers on this occasion were circulated.

Regional Programmes: The National Director and Ms Jyotsna, National Youth President were invited by the MP Regional youth Commission on 23 -24 July 2021 to conduct orientation programme during the 5th Regional Youth Council.

Fr Chetan was invited by the Regional Youth Commission of Telugu region for the virtual Diocesan Youth Directors and REXCO meeting on 31 July 2021. He spoke on the importance of celebrating National Youth Sunday and World Youth Day

ICYM NEXCO's were invited by Agra Region to conduct a two day workshop on Leadership. NEXCO's took sessions and shared their views on key topics like "What is Leadership?" and The "Art of Decision Making". Group Activities, Discussions and Case Studies were presented to give a wider perspective of what a true leader stands for in our present society. Fun games, action songs and quizzes were also conducted to make it more interactive.

Webinars: The National Secretary and volunteers have participated and contributed as resource persons in webinars conducted by other commissions, regions and dioceses.

'YOUTHSHIP' – ICYM Newsletter: Youthship' is a mouthpiece of ICYM published quarterly. It includes National, Regional and Diocesan news, activity reports, announcements about upcoming programs and opportunities, articles and experiences penned down by our youth, priests, lay missionaries and much more.

'The Search' – YCS/YSM Newsletter: The bimonthly newsletter focuses on the issues such as creating safe school for children, forest fire on the occasion of World Environment Day, facing fear of failure and Corona awareness.

Networking/ Collaboration: The National office is networking with other likeminded associations and movements. We took part in the meetings organised by SCC, Migrant, Caritas India, and Health Commission of CBCI.



Social Media Presence: With the intention to create an impact and express our strong opinion on Social, Political and Environmental issues in the country, ICYM is working hard on establishing a strong and concrete presence on social media. ICYM has been successful in establishing a strong hold on platforms like Instagram and Facebook and has recently launched its own account on Twitter as well. The team NEXCOs is working hard on creating and manifesting our presence on YouTube and other influential social media platforms.

YCS/YSM India is active on Instagram and Facebook. Posting posters and running other campaigns which help the movement grow. We get a very positive response for the world environment day (#planting a sapling) and grandparents day campaign (#send your hug)

Information: 1. World Youth Day(Change of Day) : After a series of consultations, the World Youth Day will be celebrated on the last Sunday of the Ordinary year from 2021. The WYD will be celebrated on the Solemnity of Christ the King. Till now it was celebrated on the Palm Sunday every year. Guidelines to celebrate WYD are already sent to the dioceses.

2. Mr. Percival Holt, former ICYM National president was appointed to the Synod of Bishops to the “12 member Commission on Methodology” for the planning and implementation of the next Synod of Bishops in 2023. The forthcoming Synod will discuss on Synodality and the theme is “For a Synodal Church: communion, participation, and mission.”

3. Ms Jesvita Quadras from Mangalore diocese, Karnataka Region, former YCS/YSM National President was invited to attend the meeting in Rome organized by the Secretary of Synod of Bishops and the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life from 9 - 12 October, 2021.

4. Mr. Krishnakar Kummari from Warangal diocese, Telugu Region, a former YCS/YSMer was elected as MIJARC World president.

5. The National Youth Commission has a website : www.ccbiyouth.in and YCS/YSM India also has a website: www.ycsysmindia.com. All the information is updated on the website. Kindly visit.

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III. PASTORAL NEWS

1. Bishop Sebastian Durairaj New Archbishop of Bhopal



Bangalore 4 October 2021 (CCBI): His Holiness Pope Francis has appointed His Excellency Most Rev. Alangaram Arokia Sebastian Durairaj (64), S.V.D., until now Bishop of Khandwa, Madhya Pradesh as the new Archbishop of Bhopal on Monday, 4 October, 2021. He was installed as the fourth Metropolitan Archbishop of Bhopal on 27 November, 2021.

Archbishop Alangaram Arokia Sebastian Durairaj, SVD, was born on 3 May 1957, at Thirunagar in the Archdiocese of Madurai in Tamilnadu. After attending elementary school in the hometown and in Madurai, he joined St. Charles Seminary in Tiruchirapalli for the Society of the Divine Word in 1971. He completed his pre-university course while he was in St. Charles Seminary. He made his final profession in the Society of the Divine Word on 12 July 1984.

He was ordained priest on 8 May 1985, at Thirunagar, Madurai. Following his priestly ordination, he ministered as follows: 1985- 1987: Parish Vicar in Jhabua; 1987-1988: Procurator, S.V.D. Vidhya Bhavan (Philosophate), Bhopal; 1988-1993: Prefect of Students at the Juniorate in Palda; 1993- 1995: Studies in Counselling in the United States; 1995-1996: Spiritual Director, Khrist Premalaya Regional Philosophate, Bhopal; 1996-1999: Rector, S.V.D. Philosophate, Bhopal; 2000-2003: Studies for a Doctorate in Educational Psychology in Chicago (Illinois, USA); 2003-2004: Vice Director, Snehalaya,

Spirituality Centre in Indore; 2004-2005: Rector, S.V.D. Regional Philosophate, Provincial Superior for the Central Indian Province, S.V.D. (S.L.) 2005-2008. He has been appointed bishop of Khandwa diocese by Pope Benedict XVI on 11 May, 2009, and was ordained on 16 July 2009. He is a priest for 36 years and a bishop for 12 years.

2. Most Rev. Telesphore Bilung appointed as Bishop of Jamshedpur



Bangalore 1 November 2021 (CCBI) His Holiness Pope Francis has appointed Most Rev. Telesphore Bilung, S.V.D. (60), Auxiliary Bishop of Ranchi, as Bishop of Jamshedpur, Jharkhand. This provision was made public in Rome on Monday, 1 November, 2021.

Most Rev. Telesphore Bilung was born on 15 April 1961, at Sargidipa in the Diocese of Rourkela, Odisha. In 1979, he joined the Jyoti Bhavan Minor Seminary in Sambalpur. In 1985, he entered the Society of the Divine Word (SVD). He professed his first vows in 1986 and his solemn profession was in 1991. He was ordained priest on May 2, 1992, in Gaibira, the Diocese of Rourkela. Between 1986 and 1992, he completed his studies in Philosophy and Theology at Jnana Deepa Vidyapeth in Pune. From 2005 to 2006 he did a counselling course in Britain.

He has served as Assistant Parish Priest in Puri from 1992 to 1994 and as Rector of the Minor Seminary in Sambalpur from 1994 to 1996. In 2005, he was made Chairman of the vocation board. In 2007, he joined as pastor in Premnagar, Archdiocese of Calcutta. He was the Provincial Councillor from 2008 to 2011 and the Rector of the SVD Minor Seminary in Lungai from 2010 to 2011. Since 2011, he has been the Provincial Superior of the Divine Word Missionaries.

On May 6, 2014, he was appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Ranchi. He was ordained Bishop on August 30, 2014, in Ranchi. On June 20, 2019, he was appointed Apostolic Administrator sede vacante et ad nutum Sanctae Sedis of the Diocese of Jamshedpur. He is a priest for 29 years and a bishop for 7 years.

3. Fr. Deepak Valerian Tauro appointed as Auxiliary Bishop of Delhi



Bangalore 16 July 2021 (CCBI) His Holiness Pope Francis has appointed Fr. Deepak Valerian Tauro (54), of the Clergy of Muzaffarpur, as Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Delhi, assigning him the Titular See of Buleliana on 16 July 2021. He was ordained Bishop on 29 September, 2021.

Fr. Deepak Valerian Tauro was born on 2 August, 1967, at Chikmagalur, Karnataka. He did his Minor Seminary at Muzaffarpur, Bihar, and studied Philosophy at Morning Star College, Kolkata. After two years' regency, he completed his Theology at St. Albert's College in Ranchi and was ordained priest on 10 May 1996, for the Diocese of Muzaffarpur, Bihar.

He obtained a Masters in Spirituality and Counselling from Dharmaram Vidya Kshetram, Bangalore (2005). He served in the following ministries: Asst. Parish Priest at Samastipur (1996-1997); Asst. Parish Priest at Bettiah (1997-1999); Rector of the Minor Seminary, Muzaffarpur (1999-2002 and 2005-2007); Secretary to the Bishop (2007-2010); Vice Director and Director of Diocesan Youth Forum (2007-2011); Regional Secretary of CDPI (2009-2011); Rector of the Minor Seminary, Muzaffarpur (2010-2011); Professor and Spiritual Director at St. Albert's College, Ranchi (2011-2015). Since 2012, he has been Secretary of Bihar, Jharkhand and Andaman's Bishops Council (BIJHAN) and since 2015, Rector of St. Albert's College, Ranchi (re-elected for a second term).

4. Fr. Antonis Bara appointed as new Bishop of Ambikapur

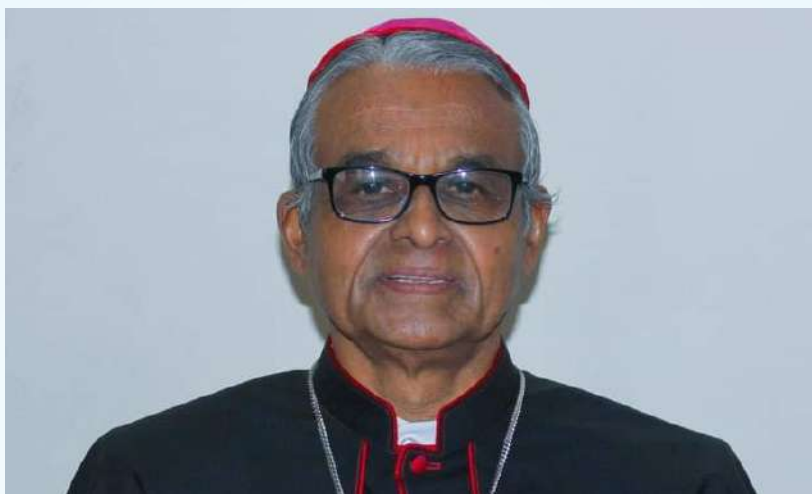


Bangalore 22 December 2021 (CCBI): His Holiness Pope Francis has appointed Rev. Fr. Antonis Bara (53) as Bishop of Ambikapur in Chhattisgarh on Wednesday, 22 December, 2021. Fr. Antonis Bara was born on 26 February 1958, at Shobha (Bahora), in the diocese of Jashpur, Chhattisgarh. In 1977, he joined the Minor Seminary in Ambikapur. He did his theological studies in Rome, at the Propaganda Fide College. He was ordained Priest on 13 May 1988, in C.A. Saraitoli, in the Diocese of Jashpur. From 1988 to 1998 he served as Parish Priest in three different parishes of the Diocese of Ambikapur.

From 1998 to 2005 he was the Vicar General of the Diocese of Ambikapur and in charge of the formation of the Seminarians. From 2005 to 2012 he did his studies in Pastoral Theology (Licentiate and Doctorate) in Padova, at the Facoltà del Triveneto. From 2013 to 2017 he was the Vicar General, Parish Priest and in charge of the Seminarians. Since 2017, he has been the Vicar General of the Diocese of Ambikapur and in charge of the formation of the Seminarians.

5. Fr Anthony Rebello appointed as Bishop Francistown, Botswana

Bangalore 5 July 2021 (CCBI) Pope Francis has appointed a Goan priest Fr Anthony (Tony) Pascal Rebello (70), SVD, as bishop of Francistown, Botswana, a southern African country on 5 July 2021. He was ordained Bishop on 4 September, 2021. Fr Rebello, who hails from Fatorda, Goa was born on 18 March 1950 in Nairobi-Kenya, Fr Rebello entered the Society of the Divine Word (SVD) in 1969, completing his noviciate in Khurda, Madhya Pradesh. He concluded his priestly formation at the Divine Word Seminary of Pune (1969-1977) and was ordained a priest in Goa on 10 May 1977.



Following his ordination, he first exercised his pastoral ministry in India and obtained a Bachelor of Education (1977-1979). He was then awarded a licentiate in spiritual theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome (1979-1981), and went on to serve as a missionary in Botswana, where he was parish priest in Palapye (1981-1984), in Kenya, where he also held the office of provincial superior (1984-1987), in Antigua, where he exercised his ministry in a rural parish and then in the Holy Family Cathedral (1987-1990); and in Angola, where he held the roles of parish vicar (1990-1992), parish priest (1992-1996) and master of novices (1996-2000). He then continued his pastoral ministry in India (2000-2002). Since 2003 he has served as a missionary in Botswana, in the diocese of Gaborone, where he has held the office of parish priest of Palapye and Metsimotlhabe, and until now in the Holy Cross parish in Mogoditshane.

6. Archbishop Thomas Macwan appointed as one of the members of International Council for Catechesis

Bangalore 2 November 2021 (CCBI): His Holiness Pope Francis has appointed Most Rev. Thomas Ignatius Macwan (69) Archbishop of Gandhinagar, Gujarat, as one of the members of International Council for Catechesis (COINCAT) for a period of five years. Currently he is the Chairman of the CCBI Commission for Catechetics. The International Council for Catechesis (COINCAT) was established by St. Pope Paul VI in 1973 as a consultative advisory body. The council studies and proposes pastoral initiatives on catechetical issues, opportunities and challenges facing bishops, pastors and lay



catechetical leaders and catechists around the world. Currently it is under the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of New Evangelization.

Archbishop Macwan was born 14 October 1952 in Bhavnagar, Gujarat. He was a bank manager and later joined the seminary to become a priest. He was ordained a priest at the age of 36 for the diocese of Ahmedabad on 9 April 1988. He was appointed Bishop of Ahmedabad on 11 November, 2002 and was ordained Bishop on 11 January, 2003. Pope Francis has appointed him as the second Archbishop of Gandhinagar on 12 June 2015 and installed as Archbishop on 12 September, 2015. The 27 Plenary Assembly of the CCBI held in 2015 at Bangalore elected Archbishop Macwan as the Chairman of the CCBI Commission for Catechetics and again re-elected in 31 Plenary Assembly held in 2019 at Chennai. He is a priest for 33 years and a bishop for 18 years.

7. Bishop Theodore Mascarenhas Appointed as Apostolic Administrator of Daltonganj

Bangalore 8 December 2021 (CCBI) His Holiness Pope Francis has appointed Most Rev. Theodore Mascarenhas (61), S.F.X. the Auxiliary Bishop of Ranchi as the new Apostolic Administrator, sede vacante et ad nutum Sanctae Sedis of the Diocese of Daltonganj in Jharkhand on 8 December, 2021. This appointment is an additional to his present Office as Auxiliary Bishop of Ranchi. Diocese of Daltonganj was vacant in 2016 by the resignation of Bishop Gabriel Kujur, S.J. and Most Rev. Anand Jojo Bishop of Hazaribag was appointed as the Apostolic Administrator of Daltonganj on 7 July 2016.

The Bishop Theodore was born on 9 November 1960, in Camurlim, Archdiocese of Goa. He studied Philosophy at St. Charles Seminary, in Nagpur, Maharashtra, and Theology

at the All India Mission Seminary, of the Society of Pilar, Goa. He holds a Master of Arts in political science from the Nagpur University, and a licentiate and doctorate in sacred scripture from the Pontifical Biblical Institute, Rome. He was ordained a priest on 24 April 1988.

After his ordination he has held a number of pastoral roles: 1988-1993: Pastoral work in Punjab, North India, in parishes and in two schools as Vice-Principal and Principal; 1994-2001: Studies for the Licentiate and Doctorate at the Pontifical Biblical Institute, Rome; 1998-2004: Coordinator of the works of the Society of Pilar in Rome; 2005: superior delegate for the Society of the Missionaries of St. Francis Xavier in Europe; 2006: Official of the Pontifical Council for Culture; since 2010: procurator general of the Society of St. Francis Xavier, member of the Pontifical Committee for the International Eucharistic Congresses and lecturer in sacred scripture at the Pontifical Gregorian University and at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum), Rome. He was appointed



Auxiliary Bishop of Ranchi on 9 July 2014 at the age of 53. He was ordained Bishop on 3 August, 2014. He was the Secretary General of the CBCI from March 2016 to June 2019. He is a priest for 33 years and a bishop for 7 years.

8. New Coordinators for Education, Health, Social Service and Media Apostolates

Bangalore 21 September, 2021 (CCBI): The Conference of Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI) appointed Coordinators for Education, Health, Social Service and Media apostolates. The appointment was made during the 87th Executive Committee meeting of the CCBI held on 20 and 21 September, 2021.



Fr. Joseph Manipadam
Coordinator, Education



Fr. Prakash Sagili
Coordinator, Health



Fr. Bipin Kumar Pani
Coordinator, Social Service



Fr. Cyril Victor Joseph
Coordinator, Media

Rev. Fr. Joseph Manipadam, SDB, currently the Coordinator for Education and Culture of Don Bosco Youth Animation for South Asia, is appointed the CCBI Coordinator for Education. He was the former Executive Secretary of the CBCI Office for Education and Culture. He is a member of the Salesian Province of St John Bosco, Kolkata.

Rev. Dr. Prakash Sagili, from the diocese of Cuddapah in Andhra, is appointed as the Coordinator for the CCBI Health Apostolate. He was the former associate Director of St. John's National Institute of Health Sciences, Bangalore and the National Director of YCS/YSM.

Rev. Fr. Bipin Kumar Pani, currently the Regional Director of Social Service of Jharkhand Bishops' Council, is appointed as the Coordinator of the CCBI Social Apostolate. He belongs to the diocese of Jamshedpur and holds an MBA with specialization in Rural Management from the Xavier Institute of Management, Bhubaneswar and a Diploma in Integrated Rural Development from Searsolin, Xavier University, Philippines.

Rev. Dr. Cyril Victor Joseph, from the Archdiocese of Bangalore, has been appointed as the Coordinator for the CCBI Media Apostolate. Currently he is the Secretary for the Commission for Social Communication and Director of Paalanaa Bhavan of the Archdiocese of Bangalore. He holds a Licentiate and a Doctorate in Institutional Communication from the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross in Rome and has worked for the EWTN TV in Alabama, USA.

9. Fr. Christopher appointed as Director Bioethics Forum

Bangalore 23 September, 2021 (CCBI): The Conference of Catholic Bishops of India established a Bioethics Forum and appointed Rev. Dr. Christopher Vimalraj (53) from the Archdiocese of Bangalore as its first Director by the 87th Executive Committee meeting of the CCBI, held on 20 and 21 September, 2021. Rev. Dr. Christopher Vimalraj is a moral theologian and an adjunct professor of Bioethics, Division of Health and Humanities, St. John's National Institute of Health Sciences, Bangalore. He is also a member of



the Institutional Ethics Committee at St. John's Medical College and Indian Council of Medical Research, Bangalore. He holds a doctorate in moral theology from the Accademia Alfonsiana, Rome. He took a master's degree in Bioethics from the Gemelli Medical College, Rome. He was born on 23 October 1967 and ordained priest for the Archdiocese of Bangalore on 11 July 2007. He is currently the director of St. Germain Academy, Bangalore.

10. Archbishop Leo Cornelio of Bhopal Retired

Bangalore 4 October 2021 (CCBI): His Holiness Pope Francis accepted the resignation of His Grace Most Rev. Leo Cornelio (76), SVD, from the pastoral governance of Bhopal Archdiocese. He was the Metropolitan Archbishop of Bhopal from 2007 to 2021 and the Bishop of Khandwa in Madhya Pradesh from 1999 to 2007. Archbishop Leo Cornelio was born on 14 March 1945 in Kukkunje, near the coastal city of Udupi in Karnataka to Late Mr. Valerian Cornelio and Mrs. Rose Cornelio. After completing his school studies and joined the Divine Word Society (AVD).

Having made the Religious Profession on 11th June, he was ordained a priest in his native parish at Mount Rosary Church, Kallianpur on 14 November, 1972 by the then Bishop of Mangalore, Bishop Basil S. D'Souza. He obtained Master's degree in English literature from the State University and took up specialized studies in the field of Education. In June 1983 he was sent to Rome for a spiritual and theological course. On his return to India in 1984, he was elected as Provincial Superior of the SVD Central Indian province with its headquarters in Indore. Three years later, in 1987, he was re-elected to the same



position. In June 1988, at the SVD General Chapter held in Rome, he was elected a General Councillor. He served for two terms of six years each in that position.

Pope Saint John Paul II appointed him as Bishop of Khandwa Diocese in 1999. In the year 2000, Holy Father appointed him as a member of Pontifical Council for Migrants and Itinerant People; and in 2006 he was reappointed by Pope Benedict XVI for a second term for the same. He was the chairman of the CBCI Office for Youth. He was also the financial administrator for the Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh Regional Major Seminaries at Bhopal and Ashta. He was appointed as the Metropolitan Archbishop of Bhopal on 15 June 2007 and installed on 16 September, 2007. He was the main instrumental to convene the 29 Plenary Assembly of the CCBI held from 31 January to 8 February, 2017 at Pastoral Centre, Ashaniketan Campus, Bhopal. He is a priest for 48 years and a bishop for 22 years.

11. Bishop Goji Govindu of Nalgonda Retired

Bangalore 31 July 2021 (CCBI): Pope Francis has accepted the resignation from the pastoral governance of the Diocese of Nalgonda presented by Most Rev. Goji Govindu (77) on Saturday, 31 July, 2021. Bishop Govindu Goji was born on 3 May 1944 as the third child of late Govindu Anthaya and Arulamma at Dharmaram, Nalgonda Diocese in Telangana State. He has four sisters and two brothers. After his school studies, he joined the diocese of Warangal and later Dioceses of Khammam and Nalgonda were bifurcated from the Diocese of Warangal. He finished three years of Latin at St. Peter's Minor Seminary in Kadapa (1959-1963). From there he went to study Philosophy and Theology at St. John Regional Major Seminary in Nellore (1963-1964). From there the seminary was shifted to Hyderabad and from there he completed his priestly studies (1964-1969).



Bishop Govindu Joji was ordained priest in Dharmaram his native village for the Diocese of Warangal on 26 December. His first appointment was at Dornakal as the Assistant Parish Priest. After a year he was appointed as the Parish Priest of Banigandlapadu. Since then, he worked in Warangal Diocese as the Parish Priest till he became Bishop of Nalgonda Diocese. At the age of 53 Pope John Paul II appointed him as the third Bishop of Nalgonda Diocese on 23 May 1997. He was ordained Bishop on 24 June 1997 and served for 24 years as the Bishop of Nalgonda Diocese. Bishop Govindu Joji toiled throughout his 24 years of service and he was successful in his mission.

Bishop Govindu Joji founded the Woman Religious Congregation called "Missionary Sisters of Mother Mary" to evangelize in different areas where there is need with different Apostolate. Bishop Govindu Joji's resignation was accepted and announced on 31 July 2021 by His Holiness Pope Francis. He is a priest for 52 years and a Bishop for 24 years.

12. Bishop Angelus Kujur of Purnea Retired

Bangalore 8 December 2021 (CCBI) His Holiness Pope Francis accepted the resignation of His Excellency Most Rev. Angelus Kujur (75) S.J., from the pastoral governance of diocese of Purnea in Bihar on 8 December, 2021. Bishop Angelus Kujur, SJ was born on 14 July 1946 in the village of Mundaltoli, diocese of Purnea, Bihar. In 1968 he joined the Society of Jesus. He completed his studies in philosophy at Jnana Deepa Vidyapeeth in Pune, and in theology at the Jesuit Seminary in Vidyajyoti, Delhi. He was ordained a priest on 13 April 1980. The Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI on 20 January 2007



appointed him as the Bishop of Purnea at the age of 60 and he was ordained Bishop on 18 April, 2007 by Telesphore Placidus Cardinal Toppo.

As a priest he was ministered as follows: 1981: six months parish pastoral work ; 1981-1985: studies for a Licentiate in psychology and spirituality at the Gregorian in Rome; 1985-1989: parish priest and then novice master at Jisu Jaher, Dumka; 1989-1995: first Provincial Superior of the Jesuit province of Dumka-Raiganj; 1996-2001: Novice Master St. Paul the Apostle's College, Jisu Jaher, Dudhani, Dumka. Since 2001 superior and director of Jeevan Dhara (Retreat Centre) in Chotparua, Raiganj. He is a priest for 41 years and a bishop for 14 years.

13. Bishop Godfrey de Rozario of Baroda Retired

Bangalore 18 December 2021 (CCBI): His Holiness Pope Francis has accepted the resignation of Most Rev. Godfrey de Rozario, SJ, (75) from the pastoral governance of the Diocese of Baroda, Gujarat from 18 December, 2021. Most Rev. Stanislaus Fernandes, SJ, Archbishop Emeritus of Gandhinagar, will continue as Apostolic Administrator of Baroda sede vacante et ad nutum Sanctae Sedis, until the appointment of the next Bishop of Baroda.

Bishop Godfrey was born on 13 September 1946, in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. He joined the Society on 21 June 1963 and pronounced his first vows on 22 June 1965 in Mt. Abu. He was ordained a priest on 21 April in 1978, and appointed teacher and Assistant Principal at St Xavier's, Loyola Hall, Ahmedabad. He did his tertianship at Dindigul in 1982 and pronounce his final vows on 11 June 1983. After his tertianship he was appointed Principal first in Zankhvav and then in St Xavier's High School, Gandhinagar. Having

earned a name as a good educator and administrator, he was appointed Provincial of the Gujarat Province in 1995. He had a short run as Provincial, since in 1998 when Bishop Francis Braganza retired, Fr Godfrey took over. At the age of 50 he was appointed as the



third Bishop of Baroda on 29 August 1997 by St. John Paul Second. He was ordained Bishop by Simon Ignatius Cardinal Pimenta on 28 December, 1997. He is priest for 43 years and a Bishop for 23 years.

14. Bishop Jacob Mar Barnabas of Gurgaon Passes Away

Bangalore 26 August 2021 (CCBI): Most Rev. Jacob Mar Barnabas (60) Bishop of Gurgaon Syro Malankara Eparchy passed away on Thursday 26 August, 2021 at 1.30pm at Fortis Hospital, New Delhi. He was undergoing post Covid treatment. Funeral was conducted on 28 August 2021. Bishop Jacob Mar Barnabas was born on 3 December 1960 at Karikulam, Ranni, Pathanamthitta in central Kerala. He was the eldest among the eight with three brothers and five sisters. Three of his sisters are nuns in the Congregation of the Sisters of the Imitation of Christ.

He was ordained Priest on 2 October, 1986 by His Grace Archbishop Benedict Mar Gregorios at Mount Bethany, Mylapra. On 7 February, 2007 Pope Benedict XVI appointed him as the Apostolic Visitor with an Episcopal Character for the Malankara Community in the Extra Territorial Regions in India and the Titular Bishop of Bapara. The Bishop designate Msgr. Aerath OIC was ordained Ramban on 7 March, 2007 at St. Marys School, Ranni, Pathanamthitta.

He was ordained as Bishop by His Beatitude Major Archbishop Moran Mor Baselios Cleemis Catholicos on 10 March 2007 at St. Mary's Cathedral, Pattom, Thiruvananthapuram.



He was installed in his new office at New Delhi on 22 March, 2007. Later, His Holiness Pope Francis erected a new diocese for Syro Malankara faithful which comprises of 22 states, and Bishop Jacob Mar Barnabas was appointed as the first bishop of the diocese of Gurgaon. The inauguration of the diocese was held on 1st May 2015 at St. Marys Cathedral Church. He is a priest 34 year years and a Bishop for 14 years.

15. Fr. Stan Swamy Passes Away

Mumbai 5 July 2020: The tribal activist Father Stan Swamy (84), who was imprisoned in the Bhima Koregaon case, passed away on 5 July 2021, a month after he was admitted to a private hospital in Mumbai, following court's orders. Octogenarian priest had been on a ventilator since his health deteriorated a day earlier. He had recovered from Covid-19



recently. Father Swamy was arrested from Ranchi on 8 October 2020. He was brought to Mumbai, the same evening and a court sent him to jail the next day. Swamy was shifted to the hospital from the Taloja Central Jail on 29 May 2021, on orders from the Bombay High Court. Father Swamy and other accused in the case had repeatedly complained of inadequate health facilities in the Taloja prison near Mumbai, where they had been jailed during their trial. They had alleged neglect by prison officials in ensuring medical aid, tests, hygiene and social distancing.

Father Swamy was born on 26 April 1937, in Trichy, Tamil Nadu. He joined the Jamshedpur province of the Society of Jesus on 30 May, 1957, and was ordained a priest on 14 April, 1970. He took his final vows as Jesuit on 22 April, 1981. He served as a social worker in Jamshedpur and Chaibasa from 1971 to 1974. He sent to Indian Social Institute in Bangalore in 1975 where he remained until 1991. He returned to Jharkhand to do social work in tribal research and training centre attached to St Xavier's, Lupungutu village in West Singhbhum district. He then worked for the Chaibasa-based Jharkhandi Organisation for Human Rights (JOHAR) for five years from 1996. A year later, he came to Bagaicha near Ranchi where he remained until his arrest.

16. Fr. Jacob Theckanath Passes Away



Bangalore 28 November 2021 (CCBI): Fr. Jacob Theckanath former Executive Secretary to the FABC Office for Peace and Harmony and the former Director of NBCLC passed away on Sunday 28 November 2021 at Malayattoor, Kerala. He was born on 30th September 1942. Ordained priest on 18 December 1967 for the Archdiocese of Cuttack-Bhubaneswar, Orissa. Fr. Jacob was on the staff of NBCLC as Associate Director of Bible Department (1977 – 1980) and Served as the Third Director of NBCLC from June 1991 to October 2001. He was lecturer of Biblical Theology in the Department of Christianity, University of Mysore (1981-1982). Served as Secretary of Christian Life Commission of the CBCI (1982-1991), he was also Associate Director of St. John's Medical College, Bangalore (2002-2003). He was the founder and director of the Bible Correspondence Course (BCC) and editor of Word & Worship, theological quarterly published from NBCLC. He served as Executive Secretary at Office of Evangelization of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conference (FABC-OE), Goa for a period of two terms, 2007–2016.

17. Fr. Dominic Veliath Passes Away



Bangalore 28 November 2021 (CCBI): Father Dominic Veliath (79) SDB, passed away on 27 November 2021 and his funeral was conducted on 29 November at Kristu Jyoti College, Bangalore. Born on 25 January 1942 at Visakhapatnam, Fr. Dominic Veliath was ordained a priest on October 31st 1973 at Yercaud. He served the province mostly as the Professor and Rector at Kristu Jyothi College, Bangalore. Over the years Fr. Dominic has rendered invaluable service to the Church as the Executive Secretary of the Doctrinal Commission of the CBCI, President of the Indian Theological Association,

and member of the International Theological Commission. He contributed significantly to the development of an Indian theology and stood firmly for the Catholic principles and teachings through his books and articles.

18. CCBI 87 Executive Committee Meeting

Bangalore 21 May 2021 (CCBI): The 87 Executive Committee meeting of the CCBI was held virtually from 20 to 21 May from 9.30am to 1.30pm. The meeting was presided over by Abp. Filipe Neri Ferrão, the President of the CCBI. All members were present for the online Executive Committee meeting. The meeting discussed inter-ritual matters, Guidelines for Pastoral Ministry, Complimentary Legislation of Canon Law, synodal journey of the Church in India, the matters of Communion, Bible Commission matters, approval of Mundari Bible, the 107th World Day of Migrants and Refugees, adult catechism textbooks, online catechetical course were discussed.

The matters of the CCBI PR Office in Delhi and the names of the PR team were discussed in the meeting. The EC established the CCBI Bioethics Forum and appointed the Director. The meeting also resolved to establish CCBI Apostolates for Education, Health, Social Service and Media and appointed Coordinators.

19. CCBI Office Bearers Meetings

Bangalore 21 December, 2021 (CCBI): There were four CCBI Office Bearers online meeting were held: (1) 9 July, 2021 from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm, (2) 21 September 2021, from 1.30pm to 2.30pm; (3) 21 October 2021 from 9.30am to 1.30pm and (4) 21 December, 2021. The CCBI Office Bearers, Most Rev. Filipe Neri Ferrão, the President, Most Rev. George Antonysamy, Vice President, Most Rev. Anil Joseph Thomas Couto, Secretary General and Rev. Dr. Stephen Alathara, Deputy Secretary General were participated all meetings.

Abp. Raphy Manjaly Archbishop of Agra, Abp. Leo Cornelio Archbishop of Bhopal, Abp. Sebastian Durairaj, Archbishop Designate of Bhopal, Abp. Victor Henry Thakur of Raipur, Abp. Anthony Poola of Hyderabad, Abp. Thomas Macwan of Gandhinagar and Abp. Elias Gonsalves of Nagpur were specially invited to the meeting held on 21 October 2021. The meeting held on 21 December, 2021 discussed the Communion matters and the projects were selected to disburse the Communion fund.

20. Joint Meeting of the Secretaries

The joint meeting of the Executive Secretaries of the Commissions, the Directors of Pontifical Mission Organisation, and Bioethics Forum, the Coordinators of the Apostolates of Education, Health, Social Service, Media, and Public Relations Office, along with the regional Deputy Secretaries was held virtually on 11-12 November 2021. His Grace Most Rev. Dr. Anil Joseph Thomas Couto, the Secretary General of CCBI, convened, presided over, and moderated the meeting. Rev. Dr. Stephen Alathara, the Deputy Secretary General of CCBI, planned, organized, and executed it. The total number of participants is 35.

The CCBI Officials and Regional Deputy Secretaries briefly presented their report and future programmes. The Regional Deputy Secretaries assured that they will help the national synod desk in preparing the final synthesis. They will collect the syntheses from the Dioceses and consolidate. The Secretary General thanked the Executive Secretaries and the Regional Deputy Secretaries for the sharing, collaboration, and cooperation. He exhorted that we need to put the Church on the top, network, and coordinate. In the context of Synod let us continue to journey together as one family, as one Church.

21. Recent Bishop Events

Date	Event	Bishop	Age	Current Title
6 Jul 2021	Appointed	Deepak Valerian Tauro	53	Auxiliary Bishop of Delhi
31 Jul 2021	Retired	Joji Govindu	77	Bishop Emeritus of Nalgonda
4 Aug 2021	Ordained	Arulselvam Rayappan	60	Bishop of Salem
15 Aug 2021	Ordained	Savarimuthu Arokijaraj	66	Bishop of Tiruchirappalli

21 Aug 2021	Ordained	Visuvasam Selvaraj	55	Bishop of Port Blair
26 Aug 2021	Died	Jacob Barnabas Chacko Aerath, O.I.C	60	Bishop of Gurgaon (Syro Malankara)
13 Sep 2021	Appointed	Leopoldo Girelli	68	Apostolic Nuncio to Nepal
26 Sep 2021	ORDAINED	Siby Mathew Peedikayil, H.G.N	50	Bishop of Aitape, Papua New Guinea
29 Sep 2021	Ordained	Deepak Valerian Tauro	54	Auxiliary Bishop of Delhi
4 Oct 2021	Appointed	Alangaram Arockia Sebastian Durairaj, S.V.D.	64	Archbishop of Bhopal
4 Oct 2021	Retired	Leo Cornelio SVD	76	Archbishop Emeritus of Bhopal
1 Nov 2021	Appointed	Telesphore Bilung, S.V.D.	60	Bishop of Jamshedpur
27 Nov 2021	Installed	Alangaram Arockia Sebastian Durairaj, S.V.D.	64	Archbishop of Bhopal
8 Dec 2021	Appointed	Theodore Mascar- enhas, S.FX.	61	Apostolic Administrator of Daltonganj
8 Dec 2021	Retired	Angelus Kujur, S.J.	75	Bishop Emeritus of Purnea
18 Dec 2021	Retired	Godfrey Rozario, S.J.	75	Bishop Emeritus of Baroda
22 Dec 2021	Appointed	Antonis Bara	53	Bishop of Ambikapur

22. CCBI Forthcoming Programmes

Date	Programme	Venue and Place
January 2022		
Date	Programme	Venue and Place
1 Jan	YCS/YSM Crib and Card competition, Youth Commission	Online
5-6 Jan	National EXCO meeting of ICYM, Youth Commission	Chennai
6-8 Jan	National EXCO meeting of YCS/YSM, Youth Commission	Chennai
8-10 Jan	Telugu Region, leadership training programme, Women commission	Guntur
10 Jan	Meeting With Chairman And Member Bishops On Synodal Consultation, Proclamation Commissions	Virtual
15 Jan	Meeting on Synodality Fly movements, Family Commission	Virtual
15-17 Jan	Synodal Consultation With Lay Missionaries, Proclamation Commission	ISONE, Salem
22 Jan	A certificate course on new MPC, Family commission	Virtual
25 Jan	Synodal Consultation With Regional Secretaries, Proclamation Commission	Virtual
29-31 Jan	Seminar for the Vocation Promoters and Minor Seminary Rectors (South Zone), VSCR Commission	NBCLC, Bangalore
February 2022		
1-6 Feb	Jubilarians Retreat cum Seminar, VSCR Commission	NBCLC, Bangalore

5 Feb	A world family days preparations, Family Commission	Virtual
7 Feb	Synodal Consultation With Diocesan Secretaries, Proclamation Commission	Virtual
7-15 Feb	Jubilarians' Holy Land Pilgrimage, VSCR Commission	
10 Feb	Chairman and member bishops' meeting, Family Commission	Virtual
12 February	e-Shram Awareness Programme, Women Commission	Virtual meeting
14-18 February	Training for Catechists, Proclamation Commission	Suvartha, Pachmarhi
19 February	Regional Secretaries' Meeting, Family Commission	Offline/ Virtual, (Goa)
19 February	Heads of the Family Movements' Meeting, Family Commission	Offline/ Virtual, (Goa)
20 February	Finalizing Guidelines for women Commission	Virtual meeting
26 February	A certificate course on new MPC, Family Commission	Virtual
March 2022		
1-7 March	Training South India Lay Missionaries, Proclamation Commission	ISONE, Salem
5-9 March	NSLTP in Hindi, Youth Commission	Gwalior
6 March	Executive Committee Meeting of ARMS, VSCR Commission	NBCLC, Bangalore
8 March	International Women's Day, Women Commission	Virtual

10-12 March	Seminar for the Vocation Promoters and Minor Seminary Rectors (North Zone), VSCR Commission	Nav Sadhana, Varanasi
10-14 March	National Symposium On Synodality and New Evangelization, Proclamation Commission	Suvartha, Pachmarhi
11 -13 March	MP region, leadership training programme, Women Commission	Jabalpur
15 March	Finalization of the Synthesis -5 Pages, Proclamation Commission	Suvartha, Pachmarhi
19 March	Team Meetings, Family Commission	Virtual
26 March	A certificate course on new MPC, Family Commission	Virtual
May 2022		
2-3 May	CCBI Executive Committee Meeting	Virtual

“The synodality represents the main road for the Church, called to renew herself under the action of the Spirit and by listening to the Word.”

Preparatory Document No. 9



Construction of a Chapel at Dhekidol village, Tezpur Diocese, Assam.



Assist Communio to help the faithful in Dhekidol to construct a decent place for worship.



TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS THIS PROJECT:

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Ongoing Projects

Construction of a village Church at Duraliang, Tezu Parish, Diocese of Miao, Arunachal Pradesh.



*Assist Communio to help the faithful in Duraliang
to construct a decent place for worship.*



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