



Provincial Circular

Salesian Province of Dimapur-IND

ind.sdbprovincial@gmail.com; nestorguria@gmail.com 03862-244817, 9436002717



Province of
St. Francis De Sales

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My Dear Confreres,

Greetings from Provincial House Dimapur!

We are in the month of December which marks some significant events in the Church that affects our lives. The most significant event in this month definitely is CHRISTMAS the joyful feast which is preceded by the season of Advent. I would like to wish you all a Very Happy Christmas 2014 and fruitful Christmas ministry in our centres.

ADVENT

As we begin a new liturgical year, the four Sundays of Advent call us to look behind us, to look beside us and to look ahead of us. The Advent Season has a twofold character: (1) as a season to prepare for Christmas when Christ's first coming is to be remembered joyously, and (2) as a season when that remembrance directs the mind and heart to await Christ's second coming at the end of time, which is a metaphor for the whole of our life time. Advent is thus a period for a devout and joyful expectation (*General Norms for the Liturgical Year*). Advent is always with us. From Jesus' birth, to the present, to the second coming in glory, we are always in Advent – a lifetime of waiting looking into the past, present and future. Let this joyous waiting be for us a time for profound reflection.

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

On December 3, we celebrated the solemnity of St. Francis Xavier. Francis was born in 1506 in Navarre, Spain. He met St. Ignatius Loyola at the University of Paris and was one of the founding members of the Society of Jesus. Francis spent many years working as a missionary with the people of Goa, South-east Asia and Japan. He had excellent organizational skills. The communities he established continued to flourish long after his departure. Francis died while waiting to go from Japan to China in 1552. He was canonized in 1602 and is patron of all foreign missions. For us missionaries he is a model to imitate. His zeal for the glory of God and salvation of souls is to be admired, and more, to be emulated.

DECEMBER 8

Feast of The Immaculate Conception of Our Lady was very dear to Don Bosco, because it was on this day that he began his God given work in the heart of the congregation, Valdocco, with a simple catechism class to an orphan boy, Bartholomew Garelli on December 8, 1841. Don Bosco considered this date to be very sacred and thereafter began many initiatives on this day. The congregation also considers this date to be very significant and important events are conducted on this day.

I believe many of us had our vestition or clothing ceremony on this day. We have this year in our novitiate 14 novices due for vestition. Two of them come from the missionary aspirantate of Chennai. As we accompany them with our prayers let us visualize the clerical investiture of Don Bosco and make it our point of meditation.

We read in the Memoirs of the Oratory written by Don Bosco an account of his own clerical investiture: *"I made a novena, and on the feast of St. Michael (October 1841) I approached the Holy Sacraments. Before the solemn High Mass, Fr. Cinzano, the Vicar Forane of my region, blessed my cassock and vested me as a cleric. He instructed me to remove my lay clothing, praying: 'May the Lord strip you of your old nature and its deeds'. As he did so, I*

thought, 'Oh how much old clothing there is to cast off. My God destroy in me all my evil habits'.

"When he put the clerical collar round my neck, he said, 'May the Lord cloth you with the new nature, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.' Deeply moved, I thought to myself, 'Yes, O my God, grant that at this moment, I may put on a new nature. May I henceforth lead a new life in complete conformity with your Holy Will. May justice and holiness be the constant object of my thoughts, words and actions; Amen! O Mary, be my salvation!'"

CHRISTMAS

"Behold I bring you news of great joy for all the people. Today a Saviour has been born to you: He is Christ the Lord". This was the message the angels brought to the shepherds on the first Christmas day. Today through the voice of the Church, this marvellous message is announced to us too. Let us open our minds and hearts to receive the 'great joy'. This joy we receive must also be radiated to our neighbours. Christmas is the Incarnation of God - God becoming man and dwelling among us!

The theological meaning of Christmas is profound and it has a power to transform our lives. In the Eucharist, we see "the Word dwells among us" - in His Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity. Mother Teresa once called the Eucharist the "continuing Presence of the Incarnation." This connection is seen in the fact that 'Bethlehem' in Hebrew, means 'House of Bread'. Just as Our Lord was placed in a manger in Bethlehem, so is the Blessed Sacrament placed in the tabernacle, a gilded 'House of Bread'. In this regard, our sanctuary lamp, too, burning brightly and continuously to signify the Real Presence, is seen as analogous to the Star that hovered over Bethlehem to guide the way of the shepherds.

It has been a practice in the province that during Christmas times we visit villages and celebrate Christmas there. Since priests cannot be present in all the villages on Christmas day itself, often in the villages the Christmas Eucharist is anticipated. At this time during this Christmas let us make aware the faithful of the nearness of God to us and thus share with them the real joy of Christmas!

LET US PRAY FOR

- **Our Deacons going to be ordained in January:**
04 Jan KUJUR GYAN SANDEEP at Saporam, Ranchi
17 Jan STANISLAS XESS at Harasmara, Odisha
- **Our Confreres who passed away in December:**
22 Fr. Michael Mundathanathu 2006 71
31 Fr. Thomas Kannath 1995 48
- **December Birthdays**
03 Cl Phimu Hriiyio Michael
06 Cl Awungshi Ngasammi Joseph
07 Fr Akkarapatty Jose (AD)
09 Fr Tirkey Albert
18 Cl Xess Stanislaus
23 Fr Thottappallil Joseph
24 Fr Kamei Jiangamlung Philip
24 Cl Kamei Hiamthuiyang James
25 Fr Kunnathettu Vincent John
26 Fr Pfohrührü Kaisü Moses
27 Fr Mathews Jossy
27 Cl Varakukalayil Jerry
28 Fr Padmanabhan Suresh Innocent
28 Fr Parappilly Jacob (PD)
30 Fr Panü Paul
30 Fr Thottappilly George (TD)

Provincial's Programme		
DECEMBER 2014		
Mon	1	Kheti
Tue	2	Longding
Wed	3	Mintong
Thu	4	Mintong
Fri	5	Dimapur
Sat	6	Dimapur
Sun	7	Zubza Emmaus
Mon	8	Zubza Emmaus: Vestition
Tue	9	Dimapur
Wed	10	Dimapur
Thu	11	Dimapur
Fri	12	Council meeting
Sat	13	Council meeting
Sun	14	
Mon	15	Harmuty, Palin
Tue	16	Palin
Wed	17	Itanagar
Thu	18	Itanagar
Fri	19	Dimapur
Sat	20	
Sun	21	
Mon	22	
Tue	23	
Wed	24	Doomdooma
Thu	25	Doomdooma
Fri	26	
Sat	27	
Sun	28	
Mon	29	
Tue	30	Jharkhand
Wed	31	Jharkhand
JANUARY 2015		
Thu	1	Jharkhand
Fri	2	Jharkhand
Sat	3	Jharkhand
Sun	4	Jharkhand: Ordination of Dn Gyan Sandeep Kujur SDB
Mon	5	Dimapur, Guwahati

I wish all of you a very Happy Christmas and a Peace filled New Year 2015!

Yours affectionately in Don Bosco,

Fr. Nestor Guria, SDB
(Provincial)

