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*News Bulletin*  
*of the*  
*Vincentian Family in India*



**News Bulletin of the Vincentian Family in India**

(For Private Circulation among members only)

# Message

## **New Evangelization in the Year of Faith**

Today as in the past, Jesus sends us through the highways of the world to proclaim his Gospel to all the people of the earth (Mt 28:19). Through his love, Jesus Christ attracts to himself the people of every generation: in every age he convokes the Church, entrusting her with the proclamation of the Gospel by a mandate that is ever new. Today too, there is a need for stronger ecclesial commitment for the proclamation of the Gospel because on the one hand the rapid growth of religious indifference, the wide spread of secularism, the ascent of atheism, consumerism etc. brings divergent impact in the faith of the Christians. On the other hand there are many Christians - who are baptized but inadequately catechized; who have been evangelized but largely uncatechised; who are marginalized or disenfranchised from the church; whose faith and public life are disconnected, standing as counter-witness to the Catholic faith. These emerging deplorable situations are a threat to the true and solid faith in Jesus and in the Church founded by our Lord Himself. Hence Benedict XVI, the former Pope called for the need of revitalizing the faith in the Church. In view of this he has called first of all a Synod of Bishops in Rome which held from 7 to 22 October 2012 having the theme "The new Evangelisation for the transmission of the Christian Faith" and secondly a Year of Faith which was formerly inaugurated on October 11, 2012 and it will run until the Solemnity of Christ the King on November 24, 2013. The Year of Faith aims at (i) giving a fresh impetus to the mission of the whole Church, (ii) through renewed conversion to the Lord, and (iii) the rediscovery of faith in order that we become credible and joy-filled witnesses capable of leading others to the faith.

New evangelization though is an old concept but a new catch-word today with lot of new implications and dimensions. This word is found in the encyclical letter of Blessed Pope John Paul II, *Redemptoris Missio* (para. 3). According to him, the pressing pastoral needs call for the involvement of the entire People of God, and requires a new fervour, new methods and a new expression for the announcing and witnessing of the Gospel. This task demands both clerics and laity to respect and foster the different roles, charisms and ministries present within the ecclesial community. Further he said, "I sense that the moment has come to commit all of the Church's energies to a new evangelization" Notice that Blessed John Paul II said that the Church should devote not some, but *all* of its energies to the new evangelization. When John Paul spoke about new evangelization he did not mean that the Christian message was new, but rather that the culture in which it has to be proclaimed has changed in many respects. For instance, in Europe, which is so secularized, millions of nominal Christians have little or no contact with the Church, are largely ignorant of its teachings, and live as if God does not exist. So the Gospel message has to be shared with them in ways which will help them to encounter the Lord Jesus in a new and appealing way.

When Benedict XVI, the former Pope called for the need of new evangelization he wished to contemplate and to look for a concentrated action to implement what his predecessor was dreaming for strengthening the Church. The synod Fathers wish that "The New Evangelization is a time of awakening, of new encouragement and new witness that Jesus Christ is the center of our faith and daily life. It calls on every member of the Church to a renewal of faith and an actual

effort to share it.... All of us are invited to once again hear the Word of God in order to encounter the Lord Jesus in a new and profound way” (proposition 5).

I suppose St. Vincent de Paul’s situation in sixteenth and seventeenth centuries were in no way different from that of ours. There was a dearth of faith in his times. The evangelization methods were not effective. Most of the people of rural areas were totally neglected by the clergy. It is said at that time sermons were often proclaimed with the use of flamboyant, verbose and complex language. But St. Vincent was able to restore a simple style to preaching, one which explained the Gospel message in a way that made it understandable to the people, a style that Vincent referred to as the “little method”. St. Vincent tried his level best to restore the faith of the Christians. He was also serious in mission *ad gentes*. He could be called as a forerunner of new evangelisation that today the church is promoting for. As members of Vincentian Family we cannot ignore the call of the Church or to overlook what St. Vincent loved and practiced. We cannot but we have to utilize *all* of our energies for the new evangelization.

I will now conclude. If we were to become aware of the fact that some living species suffered a spectacular decrease in numbers similar to that which the Catholic population in the various parts of the globe has experienced during the past few decades, we would suspect, and rightfully so, that the habitat of that species had become hostile. Those who do not see this are those individuals who prefer to ignore the reality. Once we admit that the environment that surrounds us is hostile toward the faith we ought to remember what Saint Augustine said to those who complained about bad times: “*Bad times! Troublesome times! What these men are saying? Let our lives be good; and the times are good. We make our times; such as we are, such are the times*”. So as true Vincentians let us make our time good and favourable year for God’s innumerable blessings. There is a Latin saying, *nemo dat quod non habet* which means “you cannot give what you haven’t got.” You and I can only evangelize effectively if we have first been truly evangelized ourselves. As St. John says, “this is the victory that overcomes the world, our faith” (I Jn 5: 4).

**Rev. Fr. Francis Puthenthayil, CM**  
**National Coordinator , VFI**

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**NEWS – NATION**



## Participants in the Seminar on Systemic Change held at Ranchi

### 1. General Body Meeting and Seminar on Systemic change at Ranchi:

The Seventh General Body meeting was held at St. Anne's Generalate, Namkom, Ranchi from 23 to 27 February 2013. 125 members from 11 various branches of the VFI participated in the sessions. **Systemic change: the focus of the worldwide Vincentian family,**” was the theme. Systemic change attempts to bring about a wide ranging impact on the life of people living in poverty. It is a new form of evangelization, helping people help themselves, discovering their own gifts and potentials. A nine member Commission headed by Rev. Fr. Robert P. Maloney CM (the former Superior General of the Congregation of the Mission and the Daughters of Charity) of the Vincentian Family for Systemic Change was the resource team. Indeed the workshop was an eye opener for a number of participants from the various branches of the Vincentian family as they developed a new understanding on systemic Change as way for social transformation.

The hopes of Father Robert P. Maloney for the Vincentian Family in India is to be inventive in developing systemic change projects to stand at the side of the marginalized, being a voice for the voiceless. To engage in continued collaborative networking, building bonds both among the branches of Vincentian Family in India and with the world wide Vincentian Family. He also wished that the participants be multiplying agents for systemic change not only as practitioners but also as teachers of Systemic Change.

As a follow up to the workshop it was decided that we would narrow down to a specific issue/topic that was utmost concern for all the branches of the Vincentian family in India. “Restoring Dignity of Women in all its aspects” was chosen as the burning issue to work on. A committee was formed to take the issue forward and to lead the process. Fr. George Varakulam

CM. Fr. James Chelapurath VC, Sr. Roselyn Karakattu SCN and Sr. Clara Fernandez, SSVP, were nominated as members of this committee. This committee is expected to form the vision, objectives, plan of action and strategies to work on to promote the dignity of women.

The presence of Rt. Rev. Dr. Thomas Thiruthalil CM., Rt. Rev. Binay Kandulana, Bishop of Khunti, Rev. Fr. Zeracristos Yosief Woldemichael CM, the Asst. General of the Congregation of the Mission, Rev. Fr. Giuseppe Turati CM, the Secretary General of the Congregation of the Mission (the future chairperson of the International Commission for Systemic Change), Sr. Mary Elizabeth Miller SCN, the Superior General and her team of General Councilors, Sr. Adeline Fehribach SCN, the Provincial Superior and her team from USA created an indelible impression among the participants.

The Vincentian Family in India is immensely grateful to the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth (Patna Province) especially Sr. Basanti Lakra SCN, the Provincial Superior and her collaborators for having hosted the General Body Meeting and the Seminar on 'Systemic Change' at Ranchi. It is the Patna Province of the SCN volunteered to provide and food and lodging for all the participants. The other expenses were met by the contributions of the participants and the donations by various donors like the CCs of Patna and Ranchi etc. The Vincentian Family in India is also grateful to the local organizing team headed by Sr. Jessie Saldanha SCN for meticulously arranging the programme successful. All the participants enjoyed the input session and all the arrangements for the seminar while recollecting joyfully the bygone days at Ranchi.

## **2. New Members of the Executive Body**

Rev. Fr. Mathew Kallamackal CM, the former Visitor of North Indian Province and Sr. Primosa SCV, the former Superior General were succeeded by Fr. Joseph Maniangat CM and Sr. Ancita Vadayaparampil SCV respectively. The VFI is immensely grateful to the outgoing Executive Body members for their generous and excellent contribution for the growth of VFI. At the same time VFI extends a warm welcome to the new members of the Executive Body.

## **NEWS – REGIONAL**

### **The New Regional Coordinators**

Karnataka Region	Rev. Fr. Devasia Pudussery CM (Provincial Director of DC, South Indian Province)
Jharkhand- Bihar Region	Sr. Lilly Pallipurath SCJM (Provincial Superior of Ranchi Province)
Western Region	Sr. Teresa Pegado DC
Eastern Region	Sr. Kumary Singh DC (Visitatrice of North Indian Province)

## **Andhra Pradesh Region**

### **5<sup>th</sup> Vincentian Family meeting of Andhra Pradesh Region**

The fifth meeting of the Andhra Pradesh Regional VF meeting was held at De Paul Bhavan of Daughters of Charity , Yendada, Visakhapatnam on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2013. Msgr.Joji Babu , Vicar General and Formation In charge of Visakhapatnam Archdiocese inaugurated the session. During his homily during the Holy Eucharist, he advised the participants to follow the ABC of life, where A stands for ALWAYS, B for BE and C for COMPASSIONATE. “ALWAYS BE COMPASSIONATE.”. Bro. V. Rajeswara Rao, National Secretary, VFI presided over the meeting. Rev. Fr. Thomas Kalley read out the minutes of the previous meeting held at Good Shepherd Regional House, Chinnautapalli, Vijayawada. Members expressed their gratitude to the Sr.Fidelis DC and her team for all the necessary arrangements for the meeting.

### **NEWS – FROM VARIOUS BRANCHES OF VFI**

#### **1. Congregation of the Mission**

**Fr. Joseph Maniangat CM, the new Visitor of the North Indian Province of the Congregation of the Mission:**

Very Rev. Fr. Gregory Gay, the Superior General of the Congregation of Mission and the Daughters of Charity, appointed Fr. Joseph Maniangat CM as the new Visitor of the North Indian Province. He succeeds Fr. Mathew Kallammakal CM. Fr. Joseph joined the Congregation of the Mission in the year 1975 and as ordained priest in 1980. He holds Doctorate degree in Philosophy. The Vincentian Family in India expresses sincere congratulations to the new Visitor and wishes him all the success for his Ministry as the Visitor of the North Indian Province of the Congregation of the Mission.

#### **2. Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent De Paul (Manathavady)**

**Sr. Ancita Vadaparambil SCV is elected as Superior General**

Sr. Ancita Vadayaparampil SCV is elected as the new Superior General of the Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul. She succeeds Sr. Primosa SCV. Sr. Ancita joined the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul in 1976. She was serving the Congregation in the capacity as Assist General from 2009 to 2013. She was elected as Superior General on 18th January, 2013 in the General Synaxis of the Congregation. The Vincentian Family in India congratulates the new Superior General and wish her all the success for her new Ministry.

## **LIVES OF VINCENTIAN SAINTS AND BLESSEDS**



### **BLESSED LINDALVA JUSTO OLIVEIRA (1953 – 1993)**

Lindalva was born on October 20th 1953, in a little town of Acu in North Rio Grande State, Brazil. She was the sixth child in a family of 14 children. Her parents were Joa Justo and Maria Lucia de Oliveira who were devout Catholics and had simple and deep faith.

Lindalva received an ordinary Christian education. A generous child, she often helped her mother in the home. She was very gentle and loving. Attentive to the suffering of otherwise, she would visit people who were lonely or poor in the town, and even gave them her own clothes in a sensitive and discreet way. She began to realize that she was being called to follow Christ by reaching out to poor persons to witness to the Father's love for them. After completing her studies as an administrative assistant, she took care of her elderly and ill father. After his death, she asked to be admitted to the company of the daughters of charity. She said "I am 33 years old, I come from a simple, honest family. I have felt God's call for a long time but have not been available to serve Christ until now. I am in good health and feel I have endless energy to do good works."

#### **HER VOCATION AS A DAUGHTER OF CHARITY.**

On 16 July 1989, she was admitted into the Company of the Daughters of Charity in the Province of Recife. After two years of formation she was sent on Mission in 1991 to Don Pedro II residence in Salvador, Bahia state. She was appointed coordinator for the care of men who were elderly or ill. Sr. Lindalva did this service to the elderly persons as a real apostolate of words, witness and listening as she spiritually prepared those who were ill to live out the final moments of their lives.

#### **A JOYFUL AND GENEROUS HEART.**

Sr. Lindalva loved the elderly people in her care with a gentle and humble heart. In a spirit of faith she saw them as her lords and masters. There were 40 of them in her care. Her modest, simple and discreet conduct revealed the purity in her attitudes as she treated everyone with charity. She understood her vocation as a response to God's will. "When God calls no one can hide from this call. Sooner or later God's will is accomplished. Her faith was a simple and complete adherence to life's events, which she welcomed as a gift and a call from God. Her generosity of heart enabled her to overcome all difficulties. She knew how to share her faith with others and support her companions when difficulties overwhelmed them. She once said "the

service of the elderly people brings me greater happiness each day and I would rather shed my blood than be separated from this service.”

### **HER MARTYRDOM ON GOOD FRIDAY.**

“We will come to know God’s love by carrying the Cross “These words spoken by Sr. Lindalva herself have taken on a prophetic meaning. In 1993 there came a new arrival to Don Pedro II residence a 46 year old man named Auguste to be one among the inmates there. He sought out Sr.Lindalva and even made known his intentions to her. She was afraid and tried to distance herself from him as much as possible. She confided this to her sisters and sought refuge in prayer. Her love for the elderly residents kept her at the residence. Energetic, always smiling and available, Sr.Lindalva radiated the presence of God, and she lived her vocation as a servant of the poor in a spirit of justice inspired by love she loved each person without favoritism or discrimination.

One day not achieving what he wanted, Auguste flew into a violent rage and managed to get a sharp knife .On Good Friday, April 9<sup>th</sup> 1993, Sr.Lindalva made the way of the cross with her sisters and the parishioners in the nearby parish church and when she came back to the house, she prepared breakfast for the residents as she did ach day. As she began her work, she was brutally stabbed and murdered by the 46 year old man who was angry with her; for he could not accept the fact that she had repulsed his advances.

This Daughter of Charity certainly did not expect to die at such a young age. Having offered her life united to the sacrifice of Christ, after the way of the cross, she gave witness by her death to the words of Jesus “no one has greater love than this than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”(Jn.15:13) Let us pray through her intercession that we may be strengthened when faced with trials and tribulations of every kind in our day to day life.

Sr.Lindalva was beatified by Pope Benedict XVI on December 2, 2007. Her mother was present for the beatification ceremony. Her feast is celebrated on 7<sup>th</sup> January.

Sr.Anne Muttathil DC  
Bangalore.

## **Guidelines for the members of Vincentian Family in India**

(Continued from the last issue)

### **Article 14. Regional Representative Body**

#### **§ 1 Composition of Regional Representative Body:**

It shall comprise of the various branches that belong to the Vincentian Family in the region.

1. Major superiors of the region or their delegates
2. Two superiors delegated by the respective major superior of each branch
3. Heads of lay associations – not more than 6 (For SSVP all the CC presidents and National executive members present in the Region)
4. Regional Coordinator and Secretary elected by the Regional Representative Body.
5. Zonal Coordinators

#### **§ 2 Functions of the Regional Representative Body:**

1. Elects the Regional Coordinator and Secretary.
2. Fosters unity and collaboration among the various branches of Vincentian Family.
3. Implements the common activities planned by the National General Body and National Executive Body.
4. Gathers and circulates information on present day realities, needs, hopes and fears of the persons who live in poverty and makes proposals to the National General Body.
5. Monitors the functions of the zonal and local bodies.
6. Gathers news from the branches for publication in the magazine as well as on the website.

**Article 15. The Regional Coordinator:**

Coordinates and promotes the unity and collaboration among the branches of the Vincentian Family in each region<sup>1</sup>. He / She shall be elected by the Regional Representative Body and subsequently confirmed by the National Executive Body.

**§ 1 Qualifications for the Regional Coordinator:**

1. He / She shall be a member of the Vincentian Family but need not be a Major Superior.
2. He / She should have sufficient knowledge about the Vincentian Family and Vincentian charism.
3. He / She should have the necessary qualification of a good leader.
4. He / She must have a genuine interest for the causes of the poor.
5. He / She must take initiatives to promote the activities of Vincentian Family
6. He / She must be truly outstanding in integrity, charity and transparency.

**§ 2 Term of Office:**

1. He / She shall be elected for a term of three years and can be re-elected.
2. He / She can resign by submitting his / her resignation in writing to the National Coordinator. Acceptance by the National Executive Body is required in order for the resignation to become effective.

**§ 3 Functions:**

1. Coordinates and promotes the unity and collaboration among the branches of the Vincentian Family in the region in accordance with the direction given by the National General Body and Regional Body.
2. Arranges seminars, prayer services, recollections, common feast day celebrations etc. in order to deepen Vincentian Charism as well as unity among the various branches.
3. Convoques meeting of the Regional Body and presides over it.
4. Implements the resolutions of the General Body.
5. Promotes and coordinates the Vincentian Family in the diocesan and parochial level.
6. Identifies the urgent needs of the poor of the region which are to be recommended for common action.
7. Reports to the National General Body about the various activities conducted in the respective region.

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<sup>1</sup> The following are the regions: Kerala, Tami Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Western (includes the States of Goa, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Rajasthan), Eastern (includes the States of Orissa, Chattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal), North Eastern (the seven States of North East), Bihar-Jharkhand and Northern (all other States not included in the other lists)

**Article 16. Regional Secretary cum Treasurer:**

1. Helps the Coordinator for the correspondence to various branches when needed.
2. Prepares agenda for the meeting and takes minutes of the meeting.
3. Maintains proper network with various branches.
4. Collects news for the National News Bulletin
5. Maintains the files and documents of the Vincentian Family of their respective region.
6. Collects information regarding causes of poverty.

**Article 17. Zonal Bodies**

In order to realize the Vincentian Family in grass root level, the Regional Body shall form Zonal bodies while taking into consideration of the vastness of the area as well as the number of various branches present in the zone.

**§ 1 Members:**

The zonal Body consists of:

1. Zonal coordinator and the Secretary
2. All the local superiors or their delegates
3. Presidents the various lay associations of Vincentian Family (for SSVP all the Presidents of AC and all the Regional representatives present in the zone).
4. The Coordinators and the Secretaries of local bodies

**§ 2 Meetings:**

Will be conducted at least twice a year and will be presided over by the Zonal Coordinator.

**§ 3 Functions:**

- a. Elects the zonal coordinator and secretary
- b. Fosters unity and collaboration among the various branches of Vincentian Family.
- c. Collects and circulates information on present day realities, needs, hopes and fears of the people who live in poverty and makes proposals to the Regional Coordinator.
- d. Organizes common celebration of feasts of the Saints and Blesseds of the Vincentian Family.
- e. Evaluates common endeavours and presents future plans.
- f. Organizes prayer services / recollections for special occasions.

**Article 18. Zonal Coordinator****§ 1 Qualifications for the Zonal Coordinator:**

1. He / She shall be a member of the Vincentian Family.
2. He / She should have sufficient knowledge about the Vincentian Family and Vincentian charism.
3. He / She must have a genuine interest for the causes of the poor.
4. He / She must be truly outstanding in integrity, charity and transparency.

**§ 2 Term of Office:**

1. He / She shall be elected for a term of three years and can be re-elected.
2. He / She can resign by submitting his / her resignation in writing to the Regional Body.

3. Acceptance by the Regional Body is required in order for the resignation to become effective.

**§ 3 Functions:**

1. Coordinates and promotes the unity and collaboration among the branches of the Vincentian Family in the zone in accordance with the direction given by the Regional Body.
2. Arranges seminars, prayer services, recollections, common feast day celebrations etc. in order to deepen Vincentian Charism as well as unity among the various branches.
3. Convoques meeting of the Zonal Body and presides over it.
4. Implements the resolutions of the Regional Body.
5. Promotes and coordinates the Vincentian Family in the local level.
6. Identifies the urgent needs of the poor of the region which are to be recommended for common action.
7. Reports to the Regional Body about the various activities conducted in the respective area.

**Article 19. Zonal secretary cum Treasurer:**

**Functions**

1. Helps the coordinator for the correspondence to various branches when needed.
2. Prepares agenda for the meeting and takes minutes of the meeting.
3. Maintains proper network with various branches.
4. Collects news for the National News Bulletin.
5. Maintains the files and documents of the Vincentian Family of their respective region.
6. Collects information regarding causes of poverty.

**Article 20. Local Bodies.**

In order to realize the Vincentian Family in grass root level, the zonal body shall form local bodies while taking into consideration of the possibility of where all the members of the locality could come together at least on important occasions.

**§ 1 Members:**

The local body consists of all the members of the various branches of Vincentian Family present in the area.

**§ 2 Meetings:**

Will be conducted at least thrice in a year and will be presided over by the local coordinator.

**§ 3. Functions:**

1. Elects the local coordinator and secretary
2. Fosters unity and collaboration among the various branches of Vincentian Family.
3. Collects and circulates information on present day realities, needs, hopes and fears of the people who live in poverty and makes proposals to the zonal coordinator.

4. Organizes common celebration of feasts of the Saints and Blesseds of the Vincentian Family.
5. Evaluates common endeavours and presents future plans.
6. Organizes prayer services / recollection for special occasions.

#### **Articles 21 Local Coordinator**

##### **§ 1 Requirements to be a Local Coordinator:**

1. He / She shall be a member of the Vincentian Family.
2. He / She should have sufficient knowledge about the Vincentian Family and Vincentian charism.
3. He / She must have a genuine interest for the causes of the poor.

##### **§ 2. Term of Office:**

1. He / She shall be elected for a term of three years and can be re-elected.
2. He / She can resign by submitting his / her resignation in writing to the Zonal Body.

##### **§ 3. Functions:**

1. Coordinates and promotes the unity and collaboration among the branches of the Vincentian Family in accordance with the direction given by the local Body.
2. Arranges seminars, prayer services, recollections, common feast day celebrations etc. in order to deepen Vincentian Charism as well as unity among the various branches.
3. Convoques meeting of the local body and presides over it.
4. Implements the resolutions of the zonal body.
6. Identifies the urgent needs of the poor of the region which are to be recommended for common action.
7. Reports to the zonal body about the various activities conducted in the respective region.

#### **Article 22. Local Secretary cum Treasurer:**

##### **Function**

1. Helps the Coordinator for the correspondence to various branches when needed.
2. Prepares agenda for the meeting and takes minutes of the meeting.
3. Maintains proper network with various branches.
4. Collects news for the National magazine.
5. Maintains the files and documents of the Vincentian Family of their respective area.
6. Collects information regarding causes of poverty.

#### **Article 23. Fund**

In order to meet the operational and administrative expenses of the National Executive body, each branch shall contribute as decided by the general body from time to time.



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