



Vinfam India



News Bulletin of the Vincentian Family in India

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CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Jesus Christ & 'SYSTEMIC CHANGE'

December 25 is one of the most favourite days of the year. This day is remembered and celebrated by all without distinction of caste, colour or creed. As we celebrate the birthday of the Saviour of the world, I wish all the members of the Vincentian Family in India a very Merry Christmas. May our Lord be benign to each one of us during this season and bestow our choicest blessings so that we may experience His love, joy and peace.

The deep and profound love of God is manifested by sending his only Son into this world. As St. John says, "God so loved the world that he sent his only begotten son to this world". St. Paul says, Christ "who though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men" (Phil 2: 6-7). Let us celebrate meaningfully this event.

While we commemorate the first event of God becoming man, let us reflect the purpose of His advent. It is clearly articulated in the Gospel of Luke. "He has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord" (Lk 4: 18-19). It is to be noted that Jesus' public ministry is marked with doing these messianic works. He was conscious of providing what is needed to become a real

human being. Thus for example, for the blind man, He gave eyesight and not money or other help which would make him continue to live as blind and thereby promote him to be an imperfect human being. But rather he tried to rectify the system that paralysed man. In this sense we can say Jesus' words and deeds aimed at systemic changes.

He had a clear and definite vision and mission in this world that is to reinstate him what is lost through sin – sonship. That is why St. John the evangelist says, "to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God" (Jn 1: 12). It is Jesus Christ who made us adopted children of God and we are able to call God as our 'Abba! Father' (Gal 4: 6).

How did he bring systemic changes in the life of men? The steps that led to the process of change are the following: First of all, affirming the need for change. It is true that the many of his hearers did not want to change. However, he affirmed the need of change. The Sermon on the Mount as found in the Gospel of Mathew is an apt example where Jesus affirmed the need of change. Secondly, creation of a transformative vision: He gave a clear picture of the Kingdom of God which was totally different from the concept that the Jewish community longed and cherished for. They expected an earthly kingdom with four boundaries and with material welfare. Thirdly, creation of a team of disciples: In continuing and multiplying the project that Jesus initiated he selected 12 apostles and a number of disciples both men and women. He formed them meticulously

(Lk 10: 3-12) and commissioned with a precise mission (Mt 28: 18-20). Fourthly, communicate the vision in a comprehensible and adequate manner: One of the methods of communication was using of parables (Mt 13: 10). Therefore his hearers could understand the mysteries of the Kingdom of God in an easy manner. Fifthly, empower others to act in accord with the vision: Jesus empowered his disciples and others so that they could become multiplying agents to continue the vision that Jesus had. For this he even assured the assistance of the 'Counselor' or the Holy Spirit (Jn 15: 26-27). The empowerment of the disciples with the Holy Spirit is narrated in the Acts of the Apostles. The disciples after having received the Spirit were empowered to carry the vision of Christ to the ends of the world. Sixthly creation of short term goals: Jesus tried his level best to help each one to focus on things of the other world. However, he had some short term goals. The various ministries found in the Gospel of Mathew such casting out demons, healing the sick, cleansing the lepers and raising the dead (Mt 10: 1) were some of the immediate remedy that Jesus performed though these were Messianic signs. Seventhly gazing with hope: on different occasions Jesus felt overwhelmed with problems, criticisms and even with cross. He never got discouraged to carry the cross (Mt 26: 42). He went ahead with the plan of his heavenly Father. Finally, the institutionalisation of new methods, policies and strategies: Jesus knew that new methods, policies and strategies are required

as the time passes. Therefore he established Church (Mt 16: 18) and entrust the responsibility of responding to the signs of the time. Through these steps Jesus brought a real transformation. We are called to follow these steps in our endeavour to imitate him.

The concept of “systemic changes” as a strategy both for evangelisation and in service of the poor has been on the horizon of the Vincentian Family for a number of years. Today it is much more vibrant and indeed relevant. The church in India needs this strategy both for evangelisation and in the service of the poor. In view of this we are going to have an

input session on “Systemic Changes” in the last week of February 2013. As members of VFI let us be proud of this strategy and let us join our hands together for the implementation of it so that our vision of evangelisation of the poor will be effectively realised. Let Jesus be our model whose words and deeds were with this concept. During this joyful occasion let Christ inspire and strengthen us so that we can be better multiplying agents of Christ.

God bless you.

Rev.Fr.Francis Puthenthayil,CM

National Coordinator, VFI

NEWS-NATION

List of the Participants for the Seminar on Systemic Changes cum General Body Meeting at Ranchi
February 23 to 27, 2013

Resource Persons

01	Mr. Jim Claffey	SSVP
02	Miss Kerry Anthony (Ireland)	SSVP
03	Deacon Eugene Smith (USA)	SSVP
04	Fr. Pedro Opeka, (Madagascar, Africa)	C.M.
05	Fr. Joseph Foley, (UN representative)	C.M.
06	Sr. Ellen Flynn, (UK)	D.C.
07	Fr. Norberto Carcellar, (USA)	C.M.
08	Sr. Patricia de Nava (Mexico)	AIC
09	Fr. Robert P. Maloney (USA)	CM

GUESTS

10	Sr. Rhoda Kay Glunk(USA)	SCN
11	Sr. Antoinette Severin(USA)	SCN
12	Sr. Adeline Fehribach(USA)	SCN
13	Sr. Teresa Kotturan (USA)	SCN
14	Sr. Susan Gatz (USA)	SCN
15	Sr. Mary Elizabeth Miller (USA)	SCN
16	Fr. Giuseppe Turati (Italy)	CM
17	Fr. Zerachristo (Eritrea, Africa)	CM
18	Mrs. Jim Claffey	

Participants

No.	Name of the Participants	Community
19	Sr. Primosa	SCV
20	Sr. Ancita	SCV
21	Sr. Ancilla	SCV
22	Sr. Celina John	SCV
23	Sr. Catherine	SCV
24	Bro. Joseph Pandian	SSVP
25	Fr. Mathew Kallamackal	CM
26	Fr. Basil Thottamkara	CM
27	Fr. Vijoy Nayak	CM
28	Fr. Benedict Hembrom	CM
29	Fr. Susanto Kumar Dugal	CM
30	Sr. Rose Kidengen	DC
31	Sr. Anne Muttathil	DC
32	Sr. Mary Kallurthottil	DC
33	Sr. Anne Anchumanackal	DC
34	Sr. Beena Puthiyaparambil	DC
35	Sr. Treesa Pullolil	DC
36	Sr. Rose Edattu	DC

37	Sr. Gabrielle	SCSM
38	Fr. James Chelapurath	VC
39	Sr. Basanti Lakra	SCN
40	Sr. Philomena Kottoor	SCN
41	Sr. Roselyn Karakattu	SCN
42	Sr. Anjana Kunnath	SCN
43	Sr. Marianne Puthoor	SCN
44	Sr. Anne Palatty	SCN
45	Sr. Sheela Palamoottil	SCN
46	Sr. Ann Moyalan	SCN
47	Sr. Manisha Azhakathu	SCN
48	Sr. Gracy Thombrakudiyil	SCN
49	Sr. Victoria Singh	DC
50	Sr. Emerencia Hasda	DC
51	Sr. Elisabeth Puthuvellil	DC
52	Sr. Sherly	DC
53	Sr. Placida Minj	DC
54	Fr. George Machukuzhy	CM
55	Fr. Davis	CM
56	Fr. Saju	CM
57	Fr. Thomas Kallely	CM
58	Bro. Shaji Bosco	AMM
59	Bro. Francy	AMM
60	Fr. Varghese Pudussery	VC
61	Fr. Joby Kaithakalam	VC
62	Fr. Davis Arackal	VC
63	Fr. Thomas Ambattukuzhy	VC
64	Fr. Joby Azhiakunnel	VC
65	Bro. V.M.J.Balaswamy	SSVP
66	Bro.V. Rajeswar Rao	SSVP
67	Bro.K.M.Augustine	SSVP
68	Bro.(Dr) N.Krupanandam	SSVP
69	Bro.Dominic Pinto,	SSVP
70	Bro.Kota Jaya Raju	SSVP
71	Bro.I.Prakasham	SSVP
72	Bro.H.Nesamony	SSVP
73	Bro.Anthony Kempuraj,	SSVP
74	Sr.Clara Fernandes	SSVP
75	Bro.Baby Thekkan	SSVP
76	Bro.M.Arockiam	SSVP
77	Sr.A.D.Annamma	SSVP
78	Bro.Harry Francis	SSVP

79	Bro.S.J.Lawerence	SSVP	98	Fr. C. Wilson	CM
80	Bro.Xavier James Raj	SSVP	99	New Provincial elect of North India	CM
81	Bro.M. C. Mathew	SSVP	100	Fr. Francis Puthenthayil	CM
82	Bro.Justin David	SSVP	101	Sr. Jessie Saldanha	SCN
83	Sr.Gwendolin Menzes	SSVP	102	Fr. Aneesh Mathew	CM
84	Bro. Francis Xavier	SSVP	103	Sr.Malini Manjaly	SCN
85	Sr. Jayanti Kerketta	SCV Ranchi	104	Sr.Sunita Vayalipara	SCN
86	Sr. Anima Toppo	SCV Ranchi	105	Sr.Sangeeta Aithamattam	SCN
87	Fr. Devasia Pudussery	CM	106	Sr.Basanti Besra	SCN
88	Fr. Thomas Kottiri	CM	107	Sr.Rita P	SCN
89	Sr. Lilly.P	SCJM	108	Sr.Aisha K	SCN
90	Sr. Rashmi Kerketta	SCJM	109	Sr. Ancilla Kozhipat	SCN
91	Sr. Lidwin Mary	SCJM	110	Sr. Joel Urumpil	SCN
92	Sr. Sushila Toppo	SCJM	111	Sr. Reena Fernandes	SCN
93	Sr. Albina Mundu	SCJM	112	Sr.Rosita	SCN
94	Sr. Molly Jose	SCJM	113	Sr. Helen	SCN
95	Sr. Susanna Barla	SCJM	114	Sr.Tessy	SCN
96	Sr. Mary Saleena Thottam	DC	115	Sr.Teresa Pegado	DC
97	Bro. Santhosh Nayak	JMV			

Guidelines for the members of Vincentian Family in India

Preamble

We, the members of the Vincentian Family in India, impelled by the love of Christ and inspired by the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul commit ourselves to live and serve in a spirit of communion and mutual collaboration to work for the evangelization of those who live in poverty, according to the signs of the time.

Part I

Nature and Purpose

Article 1. Name

It is called Vincentian Family, because there are common elements that unite its members together as a Family, having St. Vincent de Paul as founder, patron, inspiration, or Vincentian spirit/charism and desire to serve the people living in poverty.

Article 2. Our Position in the Church

Responding to the call of Jesus to be at the service of people living in poverty, in a direct or indirect way, in the tradition of Vincentian Charism, we are challenged to seek effective and concrete ways to address the root causes of poverty. Although we belong to different Societies of Apostolic Life or Institutes of Consecrated Life or any Association, public / private, we desire to organize ourselves as members of Vincentian Family, while retaining the autonomy of each group and their juridical status in the Church. The Vincentian Family in India is not a new movement or a juridical organization.

Article 3. Vision

To empower people who live in poverty to realize the reign of God in their lives.

Article 4. Mission

We are:

- Called to live and share the Vincentian Spirit.
- Chosen to respond to God's call to evangelize and be evangelized by people living in poverty.
- Sent to the whole world to witness the compassionate love of Christ.

We Believe:

- In the presence of Christ in people living in poverty.
- In the manifestation of the love of God by being at the service of people living in poverty with affective, effective and inspiring love.
- That the source of our strength and unity is the Eucharist, the sacraments, the Word of God and the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
- In the strength of collaboration to bring about the reign of God here on earth.

We intend:

- To be prophetic witnesses in the world in word and deed.
- To involve actively those who must live in poverty in transforming their lives.
- To risk our lives and resources in this endeavour.

Article 5. Objectives

- To promote collaboration, solidarity and networking among the branches of Vincentian Family in India.
- To recognize and become deeply aware of the challenging reality of those who must live in poverty. To collect and circulate information about the present day realities, needs, hopes and fears of the people living in poverty.
- To develop new forms of collaboration in the formation among the members of the various branches
- To deepen the Vincentian charism in light of present day needs.
- To strengthen common apostolic endeavours among the members of the Vincentian Family.
- To undertake common ministries in light of the emerging realities of the people who live in poverty.

Article 6. Principles

- Openness of each branch within an ecclesial context of service to the marginalized.

- Respect for the autonomy and specificity of each branch.
- Spirit of solidarity, mutual support and equality among the different branches.
- Recognition of the experience of each branch and its contribution to the Vincentian heritage.

Article 7. Priorities

- Promotion of the Vincentian tradition and spirituality by collaborating in the initial and ongoing formation programmes.
- Responding collectively in times of natural calamities and disasters.
- Undertaking common ministries for persons living in poverty.

Article 8. Formation programme

§1. Formation Team

A team of five members, excluding the Chairperson shall be constituted to plan for various formation programmes.

§2 Formation Chairperson

He/she shall be elected by the General Body whose function is to conduct various programme planned by the General Body or the Executive Body. The term of office shall be for three years and could be re-elected.

§3 Common Programme:

Common formation programme will be organized for all branches of the Vincentian Family..

§4. Special Programme

The National Executive Body in consultation with the Regional Executive Body will help to organize special programme for a particular branch.

§5. Each branch will share the financial expenses.

Part II

Organization

Article 9. National Coordinator

§1 To promote and foster unity and collaboration among the various branches of the Vincentian Family, there shall be a National Coordinator.

§2 He / She shall be elected by the General Body from among the members of the Vincentian Family for a term of three years and can be re-elected. He / She need not be a Major Superior.

Article 10. National Secretary

§1 To assist the National Coordinator, a Secretary shall be elected by the General Body for a term of three years and can be re-elected. He / she will function also as treasurer of the VF.

§2 Functions

- a. To take minutes of the meetings of the General Body and the Executive Body
- b. To assist the National Coordinator in correspondence
- c. To keep the financial records of the VF
- d. To keep the records of the VF
- e. To collect and prepare news for the VF magazine.

Article 11. National Secretariat

To facilitate the coordination of the Vincentian Family there shall be a Secretariat which will function under the direction of the National Coordinator.

Article 12. General Body

§1. It shall consist of the various branches which belong to the Vincentian Family in India.

- a. The executive body members will be ex-officio members.
- b. Major Superiors of various Societies of Apostolic Life and Institutes of Consecrated Life.
- c. National Presidents / National Executive body (not more than 6 persons) of lay associations
- d. Regional Coordinators

§2 Meeting

An annual gathering of this body will be held once a year, preferably on the last Saturday - Sunday of February.

§3 Functions

- a. Review and evaluate decisions and activities planned for the year.
- b. Plans for future involvements at the regional or national level
- c. Decides common ministry initiatives for people living in poverty.
- d. Raises funds for common ministry endeavours and for the operational needs of the National Secretariat
- e. Approves the budget for each year.
- f. Elects the National Coordinator, National Secretary and members of the Executive body for a term of three years.
- g. Approves the entire formation programme planned for the members of the Vincentian Family.
- h. Proposes amendments to the guidelines for the Vincentian Family.
- i. Resolves any conflicts that may arise.

Article 13. National Executive Body

§1. It shall comprise of the National Coordinator, National Secretary and seven members, who shall be major superiors or presidents of associations. To facilitate a wider representation, more than two members from one branch will not be elected. There should be at least one representative from the Lay Associations.

§2. Meetings

The Executive Body will meet at least twice a year. The National Coordinator presides over the meeting.

§3. Functions

- a. Animates and coordinates common activities of the Vincentian Family. Communicates to the members and the General Body from time to time through annual reports, circulars, bulletins, etc.
- b. Implements the resolutions of the General body.
- c. Arranges special formation program for the members.
- d. Monitors the common involvements and prepares their documentation.
- e. Appoints sub committees for the implementation of projects.

(To be continued in the next issue)