



# DIVINE LIGHT

*"May the Heart of Jesus live in the Hearts of all people"*

December 2022

For Internal Circulation Only

Year - XIV

No. 22

## CHRISTMAS: A CALL TO TRANSFORMATION

“When is the Deepavali of Christians (meaning biggest feast of Christians) coming this year”, ask the non-Christian brethren every year in my homeland Rajasthan where we miniscule Christians live amidst our Hindu, Muslim and Tribal brothers and sisters. Christmas, Deepavali, Id...& so on. Feasts after feasts! Every Religion has plenty of feasts. We do not get tired of celebrating feasts. Long preparations commence well in advance like renovating houses, cleaning, painting, decorating, buying new assets and cloths etc. The day comes and the day goes. The next morning begins the normal life. Of course in our tribal community here in Orissa, celebration goes for days together with dancing and singing. But what do we carry with us of the particular feast throughout the year ahead? Christ came as the Love incarnate, bringing Peace and Joy. This message was sung loud and clear by the Angels from the Highest Heavens. The same message is repeated from the pulpit year after year unceasingly. Two thousand and twenty two years have passed. Has this message become out-dated? No. Rather it is much more relevant today. Christ was born at a time when ignorance, superstition, greed, hatred and hypocrisy prevailed upon the land. Purity was forgotten and morality was neglected. In the midst of these conditions, he was born and he brought about a transformation in the lives of the people. He gave a new direction to the humanity. There came a change upon the land. Thus a new era dawned for the world. But as the civilizations grew, science developed and knowledge increased man is caught up in much more complicated and perennial evils of destroying self, others and the nature as well. Terrorists, Maoists, religious fundamentalists, corrupt politics, Greed of amassing wealth and becoming millionaires at the cost of the poor, greed of becoming super Power and capturing the territories of others at the cost of thousands of lives by means of dreadful wars etc. are the key issues to combat with the message of peace and love today. Thus the message brought by Christ two thousand and twenty two years ago remains ever fresh. Our General Visitors Rev. Bro. Mazola Mido and Rev. Fr. Marek Vanus in the recently concluded General Visitation to our province re-emphasized our SVD Mission, i.e. our Name is our Mission. We SVDs as Divine Word Missionaries are in a very specific way called upon to reincarnate the Word into the lives of others especially the poor, weak and marginalized in the society. For that matter as the followers of Christ the challenge is open for all Christians today. One may celebrate Christmas hundred times in his/her life. But unless and until one renounces a life of lust, anger, hatred, greed, deluded attachment, pride and jealousy, that Joy, Peace and Love of Christ cannot take birth in his/her life. One must enter into a new life of spiritual aspiration, purity and devotion, and then only Christ (the embodiment of Love, Joy & Peace) would take birth within one's heart. And that is the real Christmas when the Divine element begins to express itself in the heart of a person. From then onward, light begins to shine where darkness was before. And that is the Light we are called upon to keep re-kindling. Hence “Let Our Light Shine and Become the Message & the Messenger” as our Lord Himself has become. Wish you all a Very Happy Christmas 2022 And Bright New year 2023. At Christmas Pray, Sing and make good Cheer, for Christmas comes but once a year.



Fr. Sunil Damor SVD, Rector

### EDITORIAL BOARD

Fr. Albert B. Kunnethara  
Fr. Ashish K. Mathew  
Fr. Vinod Bhuriya

### DIVYA JYOTI PROFILE

#### FORMATORS

Fr. Sunil Damor SVD  
(Rector)  
Fr. Christu Raja Sekar SVD  
(Moderator & Treasurer)

#### SCHOLASTICS

##### First Years

Fr. S. Albert Xavier  
Fr. Ashish K. Mathew  
Fr. Birender Markey  
Fr. F. Joseph Mari  
Fr. Patibanda Joseph

##### Second Years

Fr. Albert B. Kunnethara  
Fr. Deepsan Dung Dung

##### Third Years

Fr. Conel Correa  
Fr. Vinod Bhuriya  
Fr. Sunil Kujur

##### Fourth Years

Dn. Pradeep Mohata  
Dn. Rajesh Nandeti  
Dn. Shann J. Fernandes

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## **DIVINE AROMA**

Every living being in the world needs some kind of energy to sustain itself. So too we human beings



need some energy to sustain ourselves. As spiritual beings we need some spiritual strength to sustain our spirituality. As we read in the Gospel “Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect” (Mt 5.48) we are all striving towards that perfection and in the process, we need to rejuvenate our soul. Retreat is the time to enhance our spiritual life and be aware of God's presence in one's life. Hence, we spent our

time in annual retreat from 14th to 19th June 2022. Fr. Rudolf SVD was our retreat preacher who guided and travelled with us with the themes like called to be like Christ, to put on Christ, becoming a prayerful person, returning to the Father, Evangelical Counsels and so on. These themes enabled us to reflect more on our relationship with Jesus Christ and thereby taking some resolutions to heighten our relationship with Jesus so that we can become an effective missionary to proclaim the Word of God as Jesus Himself proclaimed.

On the last day of our annual retreat the Provincial Superior of INE, Late Rev Fr. Petrus Kullu SVD, presided over the Holy Eucharistic celebration. In his homily he highlighted the importance of religious life and the evangelical counsels. He also helped us to realize the meaning and purpose of our call. During the celebration ten of our brothers renewed their religious vows in order to continue in the footsteps of our Lord Jesus and in the charism of our founder St. Arnold Janssen.

*Fr. Deepsan Dungdung SVD*

## **TRIPLE JOY IN DIVYA JYOTI SEMINARY**

July 29, 2022 was a joyous day for Divya Jyoti SVD Seminary as we observed threefold celebration in the community. Firstly, our newly ordained Priests Fr. Parash Kujur, Fr. Deepak D'Souza and Fr. Joseph Praveen Madanu received Mission Cross to serve in the vineyard of the Lord. The then Provincial Superior late Fr. Petrus Kullu highlighted the meaning, importance and implications of the Mission Cross. Secondly our third-year brothers Frt. Conel Correa, Frt. Vinod Bhuriya and Frt. Sunil Kujur walking in the footsteps of our founder and keeping in mind our society's charism, said yes to recommit themselves in the religious life through the initiation into their second novitiate as the preparation for their final vows and diaconate. Also, to make the day more memorable we welcomed our first-year brothers Frts. Ashish Mathew, Albert Xavier, Birender Markey, Joseph Mari and Joseph Patibanda who like colorful flowers in a bouquet were added to our community.



The Celebration began with gathering at the Marian grotto where Fr. Victor Rodrigues SVD, the then Rector of Divya Jyoti spoke on the importance of the threefold events. The Holy Eucharist was presided over by Late Fr. Petrus Kullu, SVD, Provincial Superior of INE Province who in his homily stressed upon the importance of missionary life in today's context. After the Holy Eucharist all our newly ordained priests, novices and newcomers were felicitated. The program culminated with the fellowship meal

*Dn. Pradeep Mohata SVD*

## LEARNING TO LIVE ARNOLDUS SPIRITUALITY

With an intention of inculcating the Arnoldus Spirituality among the students and formators, a two days paper presentation on Arnoldus Spirituality was organized in Divya Jyoti Seminary, Sason, on 23rd September and 3rd October 2022 respectively. The seminar was organized by the 3rd year Theologians Novices Conel Correa, Sunil Kujur, and Vinod Bhuriya on the topics “How does the spirituality of St. Arnold Janssen help us to develop a spirituality for our times?”, “What do you understand by inter-culturality in SVD?”, and “The role of the Holy Spirit in the life of St.



Arnold Janssen and its relevance today” respectively. Novice Conel Correa and Novice Sunil Kujur presenting the paper brought out the depth of the spirituality of St. Arnold, his parents and family. Novice Sunil Kujur highlighted on the relevance of St. Arnold's Spirituality in our inter-cultural living as Divine Word Missionaries. Fr. Lancy Rodrigues SVD as the moderator of the session reiterated the significance and importance of St. Arnold's life and spirituality. The presentations were well appreciated. During the query session lot of thought-provoking questions were raised which were answered efficiently by the presenters. Novice Vinod Bhuriya elucidated very thought provokingly the role of the Holy Spirit on the life, vision and mission of St. Arnold Janssen as the founder of three Missionary Congregations. Fr. Bhakthinath Sabhanayak was the moderator for this session who reaffirmed the importance of the Holy Spirit in our lives too. The research work and the presentation done by the 3rd year theologians for this seminar was indeed praise worthy. We firmly believe that this seminar has helped us to renew our spirituality and to carry forward the legacy of Arnoldus spirituality in our lives as well as in our future mission..

*Fr. Ashish K. Mathew SVD*

## COMPETITION FOR FELLOWSHIP

Competitions and tournaments teach us new lessons and leave indelible memories too in our minds.



July 14, 2022 was one of such memorable day in Divya Jyoti Seminary, as we organized a basketball match with the students of Khristo Jyoti Mohavidyaloyo. The purpose of the tournament was to know each other better, to share our happiness, joy, and to grow in fellowship. The neighboring communities of the campus namely KJM and Adhyayan Bhavan were invited for the event. All the staff and students of both DJS and KJM communities participated in the event with full gusto and excitement.

The match began with an inaugural ceremony at 4 pm. Fr. Sunil Damor SVD the sports and games in-charge extended a warm welcome to the honorable Chief Guest Fr. Victor Rodrigues SVD, the then Rector of DJS and all the fathers, brothers and sisters gathered for the event. Fr. Victor Rodrigues spoke on the importance of coming together and the purpose of having this tournament. He also wished best of luck to all the players. There was lot of excitement, encouragement and appreciation from spectators to the players of both the teams. The players of both the teams performed their best to grab the trophy. After the breath-taking match, the DJS team prevailed as winners. As the gesture of fellowship, we had tea and snacks together followed by 'sailo' after the match..

*Fr. Birendar Markey SVD*

## **BROTHERS' DAY OUT**

"We Wander for Distraction, but We Travel for Fulfilment," said Hilaire Belloc. A day out for the whole community is a day of joy, to laugh, and to relax from all the daily activities of the house as well as college. It's a day to burn all anxieties into fire that refines and fills us with lots of positive energy. The DJS Community travelled for a lunch out on August 4th, 2022, to SVD Community Bargarh. The day began with Holy Eucharist and by imploring God's blessings through the intercession of Blessed Virgin Mary. The journey began at 8.15 am with lot of curiosity and enthusiasm. As we reached Bargarh Parish at 9.45 am Fr. Albinus Kiro, the Assistant Parish Priest cordially welcomed us all and gave a brief introduction to the various missionary activities in their parish. Listening to new experiences was a new learning stint for all of us. Later the tasty breakfast energized us more to continue our day out. Having refreshed intellectually and pastorally we moved to Vikas Bhavan Community where we could hear, witness and experience the dedicated medical services rendered to physically challenged children by our confreres and Samaritan Sisters. It was an eye-opening experience about the new type of ministry our confreres are involved in. It was also an enriching experience to see beautiful lush green campus and variety of birds and animals in the campus. During the lunch time we gathered in the refectory where Fr. Anuranjan Dungdung the director of the house welcomed us and explained about the services they render to the needy and marginalised people in and around Bargarh District and especially the handicapped children at Vikas Bhavan. After the talk, we felicitated all the Priests as it was the Feast of St. John Mary Vianney. We relished the delicious lunch which was prepared by the sisters and staff. After the lunch we also spent some time in fun and games. Concluding the day out Frt. Ashish thanked the Bargarh community for their hospitality to all of us and appreciated the humanitarian services they render to the needy and the marginalised. We reached back DJS safely at 4.00pm with renewed missionary vigour and zeal.

*Novice Conel Correa SVD*

## **ARNOLD JANSSEN SPIRITUALITY AT PHALSA**

Divya Jyoti SVD Seminary, known for its contextualized theological formation as a part of pastoral exposure organized a one-day seminar on Arnold Janssen Spirituality at Phalsa parish in the diocese of



Rourkela on September 4, 2022. The seminar began with the Holy Eucharist presided over by Fr. Sunil Damor, SVD, the Rector of Divya Jyoti Seminary. Fr. Christu Raja Sekar V. SVD preached a meaningful homily on the importance of the spirituality of St. Arnold Janssen in the light of the Gospel reading of the day. Soon after the Holy Mass, a short program began with the enthronement of the Holy Bible. Fr. Sunil highlighted the spirituality of the family of St. Arnold and its relevance in today's context. A short video depicting the life and spirituality of Arnold Janssen and the SVD missionary activities in Odisha was presented. The brothers conducted action songs, which made the people's participation active and energetic. The enactment of a skit based on the life of St. Joseph Freinademetz helped the people to understand the life and the struggles of a missionary working in a foreign land. This seminar was an enriching experience for all the scholastics of Divya Jyoti Seminary to share about the SVD spirituality and learn from the people's simple faith and spirituality. The seminar was made possible with the kind cooperation and hospitality of Fr. Francis Pereira, SVD, the parish priest of Phalsa, and Fr. Praveen Madanu, SVD, the assistant priest.

*Dn. Shann J. Fernandes SVD*

## Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav 2022

We are happy and proud to belong to free and democratic Mother India where Unity in Diversity is practiced and celebrated. As true Indians filled with patriotic spirit and enthusiasm, we the Divya Jyoti community too celebrated our nation's 76th Independence Day as 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' to commemorate 75 years of freedom from British Raj. The day began with the Eucharistic celebration presided over by Fr. Victor Rodrigues SVD, the then Rector of DJS. In his homily, he stressed on the unity and various factors which bring about the welfare of our nation. After the Holy Mass, we had the National Flag hoisting ceremony. Fr. Victor Rodrigues, the Chief Guest of the day, hoisted the flag and delivered a thought-provoking message. Later we the brothers visited our tuition centres at various neighbouring villages like Talab, Bhalukunda and Madhupur and organized games as well as cultural programmes for the children to inspire them to be true citizens of our country.

*Fr. Albert Xavier SVD*

### DEACONS ENLIGHTEN AND INSPIRE

Divya Jyoti Seminary is known for its interculturality and contextual approach to reality and learning.



It tries to form the young confreres in holistic way by providing ample opportunities to the fraters who reside here. Preaching the monthly Recollection by the Deacons is one of the most important opportunity among them, which gives a lot of self-confidence and deeper knowledge on the topic. This year we have three deacons,

who have proved themselves to be effective and dynamic preachers by their well prepared and insightful recollection talks. The first recollection on 12th and 13th of August, was preached by Dn. Rajesh Nandeti on the theme "Lesson from Titanic Event", and the second recollection on 11th and 12th of November preached by Deacons Pradeep Mohata and Shann Joseph Fernandes on the themes "Jesus as Friend" and "Spirituality of Community" respectively. Both the recollections were very thought provoking, effective and inspiring as they have helped us to reflect more about our lives in the formation to prepare for the mission. Preaching during the formation period itself teaches us a lot as the American philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson says, "Practice confidence and faith and your fears and insecurities will soon have no power over you."

*Novice Sunil Kujur SVD*

### DUAL BIRTHDAY AND CULTURAL FESTIVITY

September 8, 2022, was an auspicious and grace-filled day for Divya Jyoti Seminary Community, as we celebrated the Birthday of our Blessed Mother Mary along with the foundation day of the Society of the Divine Word, Monti fest, the cultural feast of Mangalorean brethren and Onam, the cultural feast of the state of Kerala. The day began with a creative morning prayer followed by the solemn Eucharistic celebration presided over by our guest Rev Fr. Francis Pereira SVD, Parish Priest of Phalsa. In his homily he highlighted some of the inspiring characteristics of Mother Mary and our founder St. Arnold Janssen. He also highlighted the significance of Monti fest and Onam. In the evening we had a thanksgiving prayer service led by Fr. Sunil Damor SVD, the Rector of Divya Jyoti. The celebration concluded with a fellowship meal.



*Fr. Joseph Patibanda SVD*

## NEW REALITIES & NEW LEARNING

A mind that is stretched by a new experience can never go back to its old dimensions. As part of our



contextual Theology, each batch has the opportunity to venture into new realities of life. First year Theologians had the chance to go to Puri, a place considered to be the seat of Lord Jaganath as well as most sacred by the Hindu brethren in India. The First year theologians were fortunate enough to witness the famous “Ratha Yatra” (Chariot Festival of Lord Jaganath). The brothers also visited places in and around Puri. They also had fruitful interactions with different religious

leaders. They had the blessed moment of visiting the museum of servant of God Fr. Marian Zelazek SVD. The Second year Theologians had the enriching experience of visiting and staying in the parish of Madhupur, in the diocese of Sambalpur. They travelled to Madhupur as part of their annual seminar with the topic “Theological reflections on the belief system of Gondas in Sambalpur diocese”. The purpose of this exposure was to have a deeper knowledge about this particularly vulnerable Dalit group of Western Odisha. The brothers stayed in the parish interviewing Catechists, visiting families, and interacting with the parishioners. As the final result of their hard work, they presented two days of seminar which was an eye-opening experience for all those who attended it. The Third year Theologians travelled to Varanasi, the holy city of Hindu brethren to undergo ashram experience in Matru Dham under the guidance of Fr. Anil Dev IMS. It was a time of solitude and prayer, leaving behind all the gadgets and tensions. It was a wonderful time for brothers, taking a break from the daily busy schedule and to concentrate upon their inner self. As the culmination of their exposure, they had a day of Varanasi city dharshan. All these exposures and experiences though different, helped us to look into ourselves as well as to the world outside. The exposures certainly broaden our horizon of knowledge, wisdom and help our journey towards the Alter of God.

*Fr. Albert Kunnethara SVD*

### Trip to the City of Joy

As part of the community picnic, we, the Divya Jyoti community embarked upon the delightful trip to Kolkata from 27th to 30th September. Away from the hectic academic life, it was a time to relax as well as discover the beautiful and historical places of Kolkata. We left from our seminary on 27th evening. As soon as we reached our destination, we were welcomed by Fr. Sebastian Xalxo SVD, the Parish Priest of St. Joseph the Worker Church, Santragachi. During the two days of our stay, we visited the tomb of St. Teresa of Kolkata, Science City, Victoria Memorial, Premnagar mission, Bandel Shrine and Howrah Church. It was an enriching experience for all of us as we were deeply touched by the hospitality of the Missionaries of Charity sisters, Fr. Medard SVD, the Priest in-charge of Premnagar and Bro. Leo SVD. It was truly an exciting and thrilling trip for many of us as it was the first time we visited Kolkata. We are grateful to God for his protection and indeed deeply indebted to the generosity of Fr. Sebastian Xalxo for his hospitable accommodation and delicious food. With renewed spirit, and inspired mind, we returned to our community on 30th morning.



*Dn. Shann J. Fernandes SVD*

## Good Tidings from Generalate

November 12th, 2022 was a graceful and rare occasion for the Divya Jyoti Seminary, as our Visitor General Rev. Bro Mazola Mido Guy, SVD arrived at Divya Jyoti Seminary in the evening. He was welcomed in our traditional way followed by a short prayer in the chapel according to SVD ceremonial. The next day he met the Staff Members individually, our fraters in group and later the whole community. He stressed the importance of prayer, formation, commitment renewal, and transformation with creativity. We all were enlightened by his



life sharing experiences. We were also glad to receive our dear Procurator General, Fr. Peter Dikos SVD who arrived on November 19, 2022, at DJS early in the morning to offer Holy Eucharist for all of us. He was accompanied by Fr. Victor Rodrigues SVD, the Provincial Superior INE. We welcomed Fr. Peter Dikos SVD in a traditional way. He too talked to us as a community and inspired us by focusing on maturity, sincerity and learning to use social media with prudence and responsibility. He also stressed on the relevance of being faithful to God, formators, self, spiritual life, and sacramental life. Listening to our General Visitor, we felt that the Generalate cares for us and we are all members of worldwide Arnoldous family.

*Novice Vinod Bhuriya SVD*

## Adieus: Stepping into New Reality

Saying goodbye to someone whom we love is a very difficult task yet a reality of our life. Divya Jyoti Community organized a farewell program for our dear deacons Pradeep Mohata, Rajesh Nandetti and Shaan Joseph Fernandes, on December 3, 2022. The day began with the Holy Eucharistic celebration, presided over by Fr. Sunil Damor SVD, the Rector of Divya Jyoti Seminary. After the breakfast, the community went to a place which we fondly call the 'Bamboo Bush,' to spend some quality time together with our deacons. It was a day of fun, coming together and expressing our feelings to one another. We organised few games for the deacons and Novice Sunil Kujur expressed words of gratitude for the deacons on behalf of the community. Finally, Fr. Sunil Damor thanked the deacons for their contribution, commitment and being exemplary models to the community for the past three and half years. The program ended with Fun and dance followed by a fellowship meal.



*Fr. F. Joseph Mari SVD*

## Congratulations



Dn. Shann Joseph Fernandes SVD released his book "Beyond the Horizon" on 29th October 2022. Congratulations Dn. Shann.



Dn. Shann Joseph Fernandes SVD received Cardinal Ivan Dias Award, in the seminarians category, for his Essay on Mariology, for the year 2021-2022. Congratulations Dn. Shann.

# Tribute to



Late Fr. Petrus Kullu SVD, Provincial Superior, INE

Best Wishes to



Fr. Victor Rodrigues SVD,  
appointed as  
Provincial Superior, INE

Best Wishes to



Fr. Sunil Damor SVD,  
appointed as  
Rector, Divya Jyoti Seminary, Sason

## Priestly Ordination



Dn. Nandeti Rajesh  
Ordination: 5th January 2023  
First Mass: 6th January 2023  
Place: Patchala Tadiparru, A.P.  
Appointed to INE Province



Dn. Pradeep Mohata  
Ordination: 11th January 2023  
First Mass: 12th January 2023  
Place: Sendhwa, M. P.  
Appointed to MOZ Region



Dn. Shann Joseph Fernandes  
Ordination: 22nd April 2023  
Place: Sao Jose de Areal,  
Goa  
Appointed to ANG Province



MERRY CHRISTMAS  
&  
HAPPY NEW YEAR 2023



Divya Jyoti Sason Community 2022-23

