

# ECHO



*from the generalate*

*September 2012*

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## **General Government**

On 07<sup>th</sup> September, Sr. Valsala George began her canonical visitation of the South Province, Belgium. By way of concluding it, Sister will have a meeting with the Provincial Council on 1<sup>st</sup> October.

From 20 October – 07 December sister will be in the province of Sri Lanka for the canonical visit. In between she will go to the Philippines to visit the community at legazpi and the Inter Asian Novitiate. Sr. Valsala will be present for the inauguration of the new novitiate building scheduled for 03 November.

Sr. Scholastique Meta and Sr. Anne-Marie Berckmans have been delegated by the Superior General to accompany the Province of Pakistan in its discernment process for the nomination of a new provincial government. They will return to the generalate on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October after the installation of the new provincial team, handing over and orientation sessions. The SCJM family is invited to be united in prayer with our sisters in Pakistan on the occasion of this important event in the life of the province.

In the month of September, Sr. Isabelle Ilunga is busy with the English language study.

From 18 October to 05 November, Sisters Anne Marie Berckmans and Isabelle Ilunga will be in the province of St. Bernard; and Srs. Scholastique Meta and Lucy Jacob in the province of St. Vincent de Paul (18 Oct – 07 Nov) for animation on membership of the Sisters of the two provinces of Congo.

On 19 November, Sr. Lucy Jacob will leave for India to conduct the Formators' Session, scheduled to take place in Hulhundu in the Ranchi province. The formators of Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Delhi and Ranchi, Vietnam and the Philippines will be attending this session along with the four provincials of Asia.

## **General Bursary and Project co-ordination:**

Sr. Anne Marie Dhooghe will be going to the Inter-Asian Novitiate Philippines on the occasion of the inauguration of the new novitiate building. In her capacity as general bursar, she had been following up this initiative of the congregation, right from the start of purchasing the land to the completion of the building. We thank Anne Marie for her role in the realisation of this project. Hearty congratulations also to the members of the IAN community who have given much of their time and energy to the completion of this work.

Between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> September, Sr. Anne-Marie Dhooghe, Sr. Lohini Fernando and Sr. Monica van Kerrebroeck, Project Coordinator for the Congregation, attended a Workshop on 'Fundraising for Religious Congregations' in Rome. The Workshop was conducted by Br. Allen Shelley of the Marist Brothers at the Generalate of the Salvatorian Fathers.

The aim of the workshop was to help religious congregations to find funding for their manifold projects and to do so in a professional, innovative and creative way. The participants were initiated in finding funding agencies with their own specific goals and particularities and were in a very practical way led through all the different stages of defining and writing projects, following up these projects and writing reports both as a narrative and a financial report. Interaction between the participants, who came from all continents, enhanced the learning process.

As part of Project co-ordination, Sr. Monica Van Kerrebroeck regularly organises events for fund raising. On the 25<sup>th</sup> September, she is planning one such session in Ghent – this time a dance program by “Samadhi Dance Company” (Amsterdam). This is in aid of the “Pahari-Project” of India (a project to help nonviolence and women’s rights).

## **News from the Provinces and Regions**

### **SCJM province of Saint Bernard, Congo**

Sr. Marie-Anne Misenga, who is presently teaching theology at the inter-diocesan seminary of Kananga, will be coming to Belgium to do her Masters from the University of Louvain-la-Neuve in scripture.

### **SCJM province of Saint Vincent de Paul, Congo**

Sr. Hélène Mujinga will arrive in France on 28 September. She will follow a one year course for Religious Formators at the Jesuit *Centre Sèvres* in Paris.

Sr. Yolande-Edith Ngomale from the Central African Republic, belonging to St. Vincent de Paul province, made her final vows in Central Africa. Sr. Perpétue, the provincial, managed to arrive in time to receive her vows after a long and adventurous journey. We welcome Sr. Yolande-Edith into our Congregation and assure her of our sisterly support and prayer.

We wish all the three sisters a fruitful mission.

### **Province of Pakistan: New Provincial Team**

Sr. Sophia Patras is appointed as the new Provincial of Pakistan province. Sr. Martin de Porres Cock, Sr. Maria Teresa Ujagar, Sr. Magdalen Yacub and Sr. Sabina Barkat are appointed as Provincial Councillors. The installation of the new Provincial Team was held on the 27<sup>th</sup> of September, the feast of St. Vincent de Paul. We thank Sr. Arsene Anthony and her council for leading the province in the spirit of our founders during the last four years.

Sr. Kalsoom Lazar returns to Pakistan in October after completing a three years study: “Bachelor in Religious Science” at the *Mater Ecclesiae* Missionary College in Rome.

### **Province of Sri Lanka**

Sister Concy Mariampillai and Sister Premila Gamage had been to India following renewal courses at Don Bosco Renewal Centre, Bangalore and Sadhana Institute, Pune respectively. Enriched by this course, they have returned to their province full of life and enthusiasm.

Sister Marie Samaranayake is following a three month course from 3rd Sept. to 29th November at the Hwkstone Hall, Redemptorist International Pastoral Centre, Marchamley, Shrewsbury, SY4 5LG, UK.

The three month course is designed for women and men in Christian ministry worldwide who are in need of a sabbatical and time of spiritual and personal renewal. This course is organized by the London Province of the Redemptorists Congregation of Priests and Brothers. They are assisted by a residential team, day staff, and visiting lecturers. The course has been offered three times every year since 1975 and it has an international reputation as an excellent program drawing participants from all parts of the world.

### **Delhi Province**

In the light of the directives of GC11 and the subsequent PC, the province has taken up ongoing formation as one of its top priorities. In order to help sisters in their journey towards becoming effective Disciples of Christ, the province has organized a program for all sisters on the topic "Self Esteem & Interpersonal Relationship," with Fr. Ephrem Thomas as its facilitator. The program is being conducted in four sessions of four days each, two of which are already over. Approximately 50% of the sisters have benefited from these sessions and they have had a very enriching experience.

Sr. Mary Scaria was in Sweden for a conference of international lawyers, who are involved in practising human rights issues. She writes to say that she was happy with this experience and her presentation.

### **Ranchi Province**

34 young sisters of the province gathered in Nirmala College, Ranchi for a retreat directed by Fr. Sebastian OCD. This was followed by some sessions given by Sisters Lilly and Rashmi.

#### **Vincentian Family National Seminar:**

4 Sisters participated in the 5 days' seminar that was organized for the Vincentian family in Bangalore, at the seminary of the Daughters of St. Vincent de Paul. The main topic was Vincentian Charism & Heritage: a course on Systemic Change.

### **South Province**

These days, the province is having the canonical visit of Sr. Valsala. It is indeed a historical event for a province. May this visit encourage our sisters and strengthen them day after day on the path they walk so generously.

Two Vietnamese postulants are doing six months formation in India. Let us pray for these young women that this period of formation and discernment be a time of grace for them.

### **Dutch-speaking Province**

"The solidarity project North-South" organises a number of programs to help our mission in Asia and Africa. On the 19<sup>th</sup> October they are organizing a concert "Tous les Regretz" in the chapel of the Sisters of Charity of Jesus and May in Ghent.

## **Anglo-Irish Province**

The Anglo-Irish Province held their yearly Assembly at High Leigh, Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire, from the 10<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> September 2012.

Sr. Elizabeth Roche writes: “..... At the opening session, having welcomed everybody and conveyed Sr. Valsala’s greetings to the group, Sr. Elizabeth gave an outline of the work done in the Province during the year in preparation for this Assembly.

The facilitator, Sr. Jane Maltby rscj, began by saying that she felt the group was not in the same place as it had been last year. She said that there had been development and growth throughout the year which was evident at the Area Days which Jane herself had facilitated. The Sisters were really taking things on board and looking to the future.

So as we continue our SCJM journey we ask God’s blessing for the coming year...”.

## **Region of Mali**

Political situation in Mali continues to be unstable. People of good will are longing and praying for peace. Let us keep the people and particularly our sisters in our daily prayers.

## ***Notre Dame de Kibeho Region (Rwanda)***

The region will be starting a new community of three sisters in Gatagara in collaboration with the Brothers of Charity, who are caring for the physically handicapped.

## **Inter-African noviciate**

The 24 June has been an unforgettable day for the inter-African noviciate in Mali: Sr. Françoise Kamuang Mbay, Sr. Mélanie Nsango Kalunga, Sr. Emilie Keboka Vadiambu, and Sr. Jeannine Mbondji Lubembo made their first profession. Sr. Scholastique Meta was delegated to receive their vows. They have now returned to their respective provinces to continue their mission of the Congregation. We wish them best wishes and God’s blessings to serve those they have been sent to.

## **Inter-Asian noviciate**

Charlotte Geerts, a young Belgian woman who is aspiring to be an SCJM, will leave for Legazpi in the Philippines on 24 September for a ‘come and see’ program. Let us pray that this experience with our Congregation will help her to discern what the Lord wants of her. May she be guided by the Spirit.