

INE MISSION ANIMATION SEMINAR *In the Light of the 17th SVD General Chapter*

A three day 'INE Mission Animation Seminar' for the confreres of the age group 40-60 years was conducted from 6-8 November, 2012, as a part of the Ongoing Formation as well as an exercise of reliving the 17th SVD General Chapter at the local level. The triple focus of the Seminar was – Reading the New Challenges of Mission Today, Renewing our SVD Commitment to Mission Today and Recognizing our Creative plans of Mission, in the light of the 17th SVD General Chapter which was held at 'Ad Gentes' Centre Nemi, Rome, in the month of July, 2012.

Fr. Hector D'Souza, S.J., dealing with the first topic, practically challenged the participants with his concrete experiences in the mission and experience with the SVDs. He invited the participants to 'fan the fire' hidden within, to translate the Spirit and the Ideas of the 17th General Chapter into action, models and practices. He strongly recommended that as sons of Arnold Janssen the SVDs should live up to the Spirit of their founder by being missionary (moving on) and not 'stationary' (stagnant). He also strongly urged the participants to revive and relive the SVD heritage of being



'Frontier' and men of research and well versed in various cultures. "And for this task the members may have to climb up as many as 'seven mountains' but no mediocrity should be entertained", advised Fr. Hector.

Dealing with the topic 'renewing our SVD commitment to mission today', Fr. Joy Thomas, SVD led the participants through the past 17 General Chapters of the society of the Divine Word. He drew the attention of the participants to the Spirit of the 17th General Chapter in connection with the Biblical (God's) Mission. He stressed that our mission is nothing but "good news of God's love incarnated in the witness of a community for the sake of the world." He also highlighted the types of leadership and invited the participants to improve the leadership qualities with the help of some tips and guidelines.

Fr. Jerry Rosario, S.J., focusing on the final topic, led the participants to the 'analysis, animation and action of mission today'. He very convincingly presented how a congregation can deteriorate or die away if it does not go through this process or does not read the signs of the time and space. Based on the documents of the 17th SVD General Chapter he drew the attention of the participants to focus their goal on very specific target groups, social justice in various fields and integration of creation in its totality. Finally the participants were guided to draw a clear cut action plan to be implemented at personal, district and province levels.

Fr. Joy Tomas, SVD, the acting National Mission Secretary, on behalf of Fr. Baptist D'Souza, SVD, the National Mission Secretary, organized the seminar and Fr. Ronald Pereira, SVD, the Vice-Provincial Superior, INE, convened the seminar. Fr. Telesphore Bilung, SVD, Provincial Superior INE, thanking the resource persons and the participants, said that it is only the beginning of the spark and the fire of transformation has to catch up in the whole SVD INE Province. And for this purpose some strategies will be drawn at district and province level in the coming days and months.

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