

NEW SVD BISHOP TELESPHORE BILUNG CONSECRATED



In the presence of 40 Bishops including many Archbishops, about 300 priests, hundreds of Religious Sisters, brothers and about 15 thousand faithful, Msgr. Telesphore Bilung, SVD, along with Msgr. Theodore Mascarenhas, SFX, was ordained Auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Ranchi, at Loyola ground Ranchi, Jharkhand on 30th August, 2014. The main consecrator was Most Rev. Telesphore P.

Cardinal Toppo, Archbishop of Ranchi along with the co-consecrators Most Rev. Salvatore Pennacchio, the Apostolic Nuncio to India and Nepal and Most Rev. Oswald Cardinal Gracias, Archbishop of Mumbai.

The Consecration ceremony began with a colorful entrance dance according to local culture. The Archbishop of Ranchi Most Rev. Telesphore P. Cardinal Toppo welcomed everyone for the great event and expressed his happiness in getting two young and energetic Auxiliary bishops for the Archdiocese. In his homily he stressed that a bishop is a shepherd who should not run away from his “sheep” whatever the difficulty or danger may come. Recalling the words of His Holiness Pope Francis, he said that a bishop is to serve and not to dominate. The appointment letters from His Holiness Pope Francis for both the Auxiliary bishops were read and a big round of applause was given by the audience. The Holy Eucharist along with the consecration ceremony lasted about three hours with very melodious choir and peaceful atmosphere maintained by the audience all through. Most Rev. Salvatore Pennacchio, the Apostolic Nuncio to India and Nepal, read the message of the Holy Father, Pope Francis, for the newly ordained auxiliary bishops.



After the consecration ceremony a felicitation program was organized which included colorful cultural and religious dances. The Superior General of the Society of Pillar and the Provincial Superior of SVDs India East Province, Rev. Fr. Ronald Pereira, SVD felicitated the newly ordained auxiliary Bishops on behalf of the two religious congregations of which the auxiliary bishops are the members.

Most Rev. Teleshphore Bilung, SVD was recently elected the Provincial Superior of the India East Province of the Society of the Divine Word for the second term and took charge on April 1, 2014. He had been leading the India East Province of the SVDs since 2011.

Born on 15.04.1961 to late Mr. Deonis Bilung and late Mrs. Shalomi Toppo of Sargidipa Village of Gaibira Parish in the Catholic Diocese of Rourkela Bishop Teleshphore is the second sibling of the 8 children in the Bilung Family. He joined the Society of the Divine Word in 1979 after completing his High School. He completed his Philosophical and Theological Studies at Jnana Deepa Vidyapeeth (JDV), Pune and was ordained a Divine Word missionary priest on 02.05.1992. Besides his Theological and Philosophical studies he holds a Bachelor's degree in English Literature. After his studies as a formator at NVSC, Pune in 1998 and at the Institute of St. Anselm, Kent, London in 2005, he was mainly involved in forming young missionaries in the India East. He has served as Rector and prefect at Jyoti Bhavan Minor Seminary, Sambalpur and Vidya Jyoti Lungai, SVD Minor Seminary at Rourkela for quite many years. As a pastor he has served in the capacity of an Assistant Parish Priest as well as Parish Priest in different Parishes of Odisha and West Bengal. He was elected Provincial Superior for the first term in 2011 and again for the second term in 2014, for the India East Province (having headquarters at Jharsuguda, Odisha) of the Society of the Divine Word.

Fr. Sunil Damor, SVD
SVD INE Province Coms. Coordniator
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