



# **SOCIETY OF THE DIVINE WORD - SVD**

## **Central Indian Province INC**

### **St. Arnold's Seva Sadan, Indore**

*Dear Confreres, Comrades & Collaborators,*

***“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord!”***

This invitation extended to us by prophets Isaiah (2:3b) and Micah (4:2b) in identical terms at the very outset of the Advent, is a clarion call to collectively experience safety and security, stillness and stability, protective and providential care of God on the one hand, and to give visibility and ascent to our spiritual identities and aspirations on the other, leaving behind our narrow and negative tendencies, and concentrating on higher (heavenly) things. The sense signified in the symbolic invitation affirms:

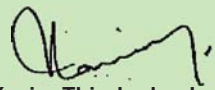
1. In an era marked by increasing sense of insecurity, distrust, threat and uncertainty, seeking God in solidarity with others will strengthen our safety and security.
2. When humanity is braving itself to manage its life without God, or losing its connectivity with God, providing visibility to faith will create credible human communities that do not hesitate to confess its insufficiency, pointing beyond itself.
3. In the face of frequent flare up of communal passions, conflicts and completions, rising above our narrow and negative strategies, and promoting projects of collaboration will give way to broad based intercultural communities and religious metropolis.

Incarnation is an intercultural event. The descent of God on the human sphere is the divine design for us to **go up** to the mountain of God. Amazingly, the prophetic invitation proceeds from the mouth of others (**people and Nations**), signifying the unity of purpose and strength of collective will to ascent to God.

You will agree with me that our Christmas celebrations are generally characterized by intercultural, interreligious and interdenominational interventions. Faith seekers, people of other faiths and cultures will be present in numbers at our Christmas celebrations in parishes and institutions. Among various reasons that attract our guests to attend this odd time ceremony, their festive presence amidst us invites, exhorts and encourages us to **go up the mountain of the Lord**.

Often we may consider them as nuisance and inconvenience, ignore them or tolerate them! Why don't we pay attention to them this Christmas, acknowledge their presence and build up a foundation for a lasting rapport that enhances our common project to ascend to the **mountain of the Lord**?

***I wish you a Great Christmas and Gracious New Year!***



**Fr. Xavier Thirukudumbam SVD**  
**Provincial Superior, INC**

*Nemi, Natale 2016*

*In Cristo è apparsa la bontà di Dio apportatrice  
di salvezza per tutti (Tito 2,11)*

*Nel nome di tutta la comunità del Centro Ad Gentes (CAg),  
auguriamo un buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo 2017!*



*Mille grazie per la vostra presenza nel nostro Centro nell' anno  
2016!*

***BUON NATALE!!***

*P. Gino Hernàn Jiménez H. svd  
Praeses Centro Ad Gentes (CAg)*

