

COMMUNICATION SKILLS FOR NEW GEN LEADERSHIP

A Weeklong training for trainers in "Communication Skills for New Gen Leadership" was held at St. Arnold Vikas Sanchar, (the Regional Communication Centre), Jharsuguda, Odisha, from June 24-29, 2013. Thirty participants from the region comprising of priests, religious and lay leaders participated in the training program. The training sessions were conducted by local resource persons including Fr. Alphonse Toppo (Regional President of Signis), Fr. Sunil Damor, SVD (Regional Secretary for Communications), Fr. Ashok Nayak (M.A. in Journalism), Mr. Bhagabat Patnaik (a professional in graphics and video making) and Mr. Sudesh Herman.



Various topics such as Mass Media & Communication according to the teachings of the Catholic Church, P R as a skill for leadership, Journalism as a skill for leadership, various new media and social media as a powerful tool for leadership and other techniques like Photoshop etc. were dealt with during the course of training. The participants were well contended and expressed the need of more training programs of such nature.

By: Fr. Sunil Damor, SVD

First non SVD Bishops for Gangpur and Sambalpur Mission

Pope Francis on Friday 29th of July appointed two diocesan priests as new Bishops for the dioceses of **Sambalpur** (area 37,254, population 7,565,323, Catholics 42,656, priests 131, religious 400) and **Rourkela**(area 9,675, population 1,829,000, Catholics 238,085, priests 164, religious 555) in Odisha, India.

Father Niranjan Sual Singh of Cuttack Bhubaneswar Archdiocese would take over as the Bishop of Sambalpur diocese and Fr. Kishore Kujur of Sambalpur diocese would be the new Bishop of Rourkela diocese.

Fr. Niranjan replaces Bishop Lucas Kerketta,SVD who retired after completing 75 years. Fr. Niranjan the Bishop elect of Sambalpur diocese is currently professor of theology and moderator of the Seminarians in the Regional Theologate at Sason, Sambalpur.

He was born on July 20, 1961 in Kottama in the diocese of Berhampur, Orissa and was ordained a priest on 29th April, 1991 for the diocese of Cuttack-Bhubaneswar. He holds masters in English literature and Ph.D. in Systematic Theology from the Pontifical University Urbanianum, in Rome.

He has served in a number of pastoral roles, including parish assistant in Raikia, Mondasoro and Balliguda, professor at the Khristo Jyoti Mohavidyaloyo Regional Theologate at Sason, moderator of seminarians in the archdiocese of Cuttack-Bhubaneswar. He has been also very active in creative apostolates like "Village Adoption and Tuition" and "Dialogue and Ecumenism".



Fr. Kishore Kujur, the Bishop elect of Rourkela diocese, is currently the professor of Sacred Scripture at the Regional theologate at Sason, Sambalpur. He takes over as the Bishop of Rourkela which was vacant since Feb.11, 2011 following the transfer of Bishop John Barwa,SVD as the Archbishop of Cuttack-bhubaneswar.

Fr. Kujur was born in Gaibira on Jan.6,1964. He completed his theological studies from Khristo Jyoti Mohavidyaloyo, Regional Theologate, Sason, Odisha. He has bachelor of Arts and a licentiate and Doctorate in Sacred Scripture from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum), Rome.

He was ordained a priest on Feb.7, 1993 and incardinated in Sambalpur diocese. He has served in a number of pastoral, teaching

and administrative roles, including parish assistant in Balangir, professor of sacred scriptures at the regional theologate Sason,Sambalpur, head of seminarians for the diocese of Sambalpur, member of the College of Consultors, and member of the Presbyteral Council.

The mission in Rourkela and Sambalpur dioceses has been brought up by the SVD missionaries since it was handed over to them by the Jusuits in 1948 having Five parishes Kesramal, Hamirpur,Gaibira, Jhunmur and Kusumdegi. The mission then was called Gangpur mission which came under the diocese of Ranchi. It was in 1948 that the Divine Word Missionaries under the leadership of Fr. Stanislaus Wald,SVD took charge of Ganpur mission. In 1950 Ranchi diocese was divided and diocese of Sambalpur was created with Bishop Herman Westerman,SVD as its first Bishop having his residence at Kalunga, near Rourkela. In 1974 Bishop Westerman,SVD retired and Bishop Raphael Cheenath,SVD took the reign of the big diocese. In 1979, the diocese of Sambalpur was divided into two-Sambalpur and Rourkela. Bishop Raphael Cheenath,SVD moved to Sambalpur town handing over the diocese of Rourkela to bishop Alphonse Bilung,SVD. In March 1987 Bishop Lucas Kerketta,SVD took over the diocese of Sambalpur and Bishop Raphael Cheenath,SVD moved to Cuttack-bhubaneswar as the Archbishop of the Archdiocese. In 2006 diocese of Rourkela got its first co-adjutor bishop in the person of Bishop John Barwa,SVD. He took up the charge as the Bishop of Rourkela in 2008 and in 2011 was transferred to Cuttack-Bhubaneswar as the Archbishop.

All through the tenure of SVD bishops both the dioceses (Gangpur & Sambalpur mission) have seen a steady growth in all the spheres of the life of the local Church. Today Rourkela diocese has 40 parishes, above 238,000 Catholics, many institutions and schools, and above all 80 diocesan local clergymen. The diocese of Sambalpur has 23 Parishes, above 42,000 Catholics, various institutions, hospitals, Schools etc. The diocese has 55 diocesan clergymen of which majority are from the local origin.

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