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Provincial Assembly 2018 and The announcement of the New Provincial and Councilors

"My soul glorifies the Lord my spirit rejoices in God my Savior"

BENGALURU, India - The Indian vice-province is jubilated and revitalised with the establishment of the new provincial and the team. After the successful administration headed by Fr. Micheal Sahayaraj SMM, the Vice-Province of India had the provincial assembly facilitated by the General Councilor, Fr. Marco Pasinato SMM, from 19th to 23rd of November. The theme that was chosen for the assembly was "Called to Listen, to Discern and Respond to the Incarnate Wisdom"

The Assembly began with an optimistic recollection led by our Montfortian family member Bro. Paulraj SG on the title "Living and Leading a Multicultural Religious Today". It was indeed inspiring and refreshing to renew back the zeal and spirit of our Founder de Montfort through the recollection.

The Provincial assembly began enthusiastically on 20th November and the program was well arranged by the preparatory committee to reflect and evaluate on three major topics in three consecutive days; on Formation, Finance and Mission presented by Fr Joseph Joseph smm, Fr. Jerome Gonsalves smm and Fr. John Victor Dias smm respectively. It was, in fact, a genuine evaluation to look back on our hard work, our joys and sorrows, the challenges we faced with a moment of discernment. A special note of gratitude to our new Bishop-Elect, Msgr. Rozario Menezes for giving us hope and life through his personal sharing and witnessing spirit. We as vice-province felicitated and congratulated him on 21st of this month. It was an emotional moment indeed.

On the final day of the assembly our general councilor Fr. Marco Pasinato announced that Fr. Joseph JOSEPH is our new Provincial, and Fr. Jerome GONSALVES, Fr. Selvakumar DOMINIC, Fr. Remy Joseph PUNNAPPANAL and Fr. Kiran Babu JALAGAM are his councilors. In his opening and his concluding address, Fr. Marco constantly stressed on the essence of 'Unity' and encouraged the Vice-Province to become experts in communion, to reinforce our sense of belonging and to renew ourselves.

We then had time to discuss our personal queries on relevant national and international mission activities with Fr. Marco and among ourselves. The assembly concluded with a solemn mass presided by Fr. Marco Pasinato, concelebrated by the new provincial and the councilors. In his sermon Fr. Marco said that we become friends of truth and charity and discern together the will of God in order to collaborate to change the things for the unity in this vice-province of India.

We thank God for accompanying us throughout the assembly and all the confreres for their support and collaboration. Special thanks to the Holy Cross Fathers who accommodated us. Once again, our hearty congratulations to the new team.

-Fr. Nashwin smm