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Annual Assembly 2020 in the Vice-Province of India

Maria Bhavan, Bengaluru: On the 8th of January 2020, the Vice-Province of India together with the General team held its annual assembly at Maria Bhavan. In preparation for the assembly, Fr. Balaswamy Kata, SMM had a meeting with the Finance Committee in which he stressed the role and importance of the committee. He also invited them to take part in the financial matters of the Vice-Province and participate actively in the meetings by giving suggestions and help the administration in running the Vice-Province as per spirit of the congregation.

The theme of the assembly was "*Fraternal Communion for Effective Mission*". The gathering began with the lighting of the lamp by Superior General Fr. Luiz Augusto Stefani, SMM, Fr. Arnold Suhardi, SMM, Fr. Balaswamy and Fr. Joseph Joseph, SMM, the superior of the Vice-Province who delivered his keynote address afterwards. Before this meeting, there was an adequate spiritual preparation for few months. During the assembly, there were also few presentations on Spirituality, Mission, Formation, Finance and other matters of the Indian Vice-Province.

With regard to Spirituality, Fr. Jerome Gonsalves, SMM presented the spiritual activities that are taking place in the entity such as Retreat, Recollection, Montfortian Rosary, Marian Seminars, etc. Feedbacks from the assembly were also raised and stressed the importance of the spirituality of the founder by following the Vision and Mission statement that is formulated by the Vice-Province. Likewise, Fr. Jason Antony, SMM presented on Finance in a detailed manner and emphasized the in-depth contributions made by the confreres for the growth of the entity and presented as well the future plans for the self-sufficiency indicating Maria Bhavan property and Guru Mandir. The discussions and deliberations during the assembly on finances made the confreres to take personal responsibility in building up the Vice-Province towards making it financially self-sufficient.

Fr. Reni Joseph, SMM presented on Formation and elaborately mentioned about the activities and the subject dealt with the formation communities. He also stressed the importance of ongoing formation and the assembly also discussed the important role of a Formator and Vocation Promoter.

In his presentation, Vice-Province Superior Fr. Joseph discussed the important events of the entity in 2019, the initiatives that he has made for the progress of the Vice-Province and his future plans to make the entity self-sufficient. He also stressed the importance of the Montfortian way of living in both mission and formation communities.

The moderator for these sessions was Fr. Arnold. The assembly concluded with the words of the Superior General. In his message, he spoke about the importance of "Montfortian Mission in Today's World." This is the latest circular by the Superior General where he stated, "The Extraordinary Missionary Month of October 2019 has ended but the Montfortian Mission continues and will continue beyond the month."

Father Joseph Joseph, SMM