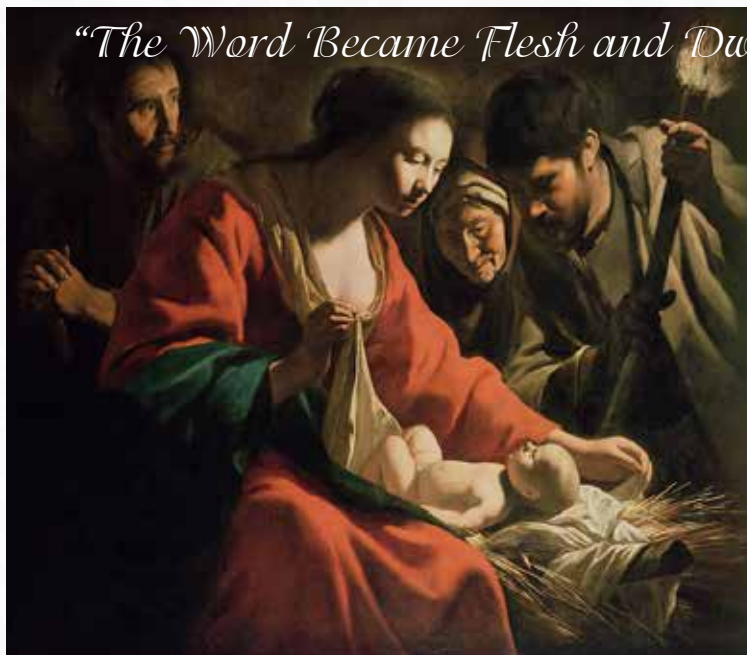


# Claretian Fraternity



News Bulletin for Families and Associates, Province of Bangalore, Vol. 12, 2022

*"The Word Became Flesh and Dwelt Among Us." John 1:14*



*Merry  
Christmas  
and a Joyous  
New Year  
2023*

## MESSAGE FROM THE PROVINCIAL SUPERIOR

Christmas is around the corner. All are getting ready to have a meaningful Christmas and preparations are on the way. Each year we celebrate Christmas recalling the event of Word becoming flesh to live among us, becoming one of us. As we read in Philippians: "...Jesus Christ, who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself". (Phil 2: 6-8). Indeed, we celebrate this **God becoming man** each year through Christmas.

People of Israel were eagerly waiting for the Messiah, who would come and rule the world from Jerusalem. But at last when He came, they could not recognize him as He was totally different from the way they expected the Messiah to be. This Messiah did not identify himself with the rich and the powerful, but with the poor and weak, the marginalised, those in the fringes of the society, and said "whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers, you do unto me" (Mt 25:40).

In this year's Claretian Fraternity, we focus on the social ministries in the Province of Bangalore. These ministries are the ways by which we touch the lives of those who are in the margins and the periphery of the society. Some of them are in the fringes of the society, not cared by others; some are differently abled, who need our support; and others are those who need medical care and love, so that they could lead a dignified life.

As we prepare ourselves to celebrate Christmas this year, may I invite you also to be partners in the ministry that we do, so that all of us would truly see Jesus the Messiah and the Word Incarnate in those who are weak and poor. Then we would hear Jesus speaking to us "whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers, you do unto me".

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2023.

A handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Fr. Sabu George Koottarappallil.

Fr. Sabu George Koottarappallil, CMF  
Provincial Superior



## Our Social Ministries in Care of the People of God

Our Founder, St. Anthony Mary Claret, was a champion of the poor and socially afflicted as the Archbishop of Santiago in Cuba. His charism continues to inspire us in taking up ministries for the uplift of the people, especially those at different types of peripheries in the society.

Claretian Province of Bangalore is spread across various states of India and is engaged in different social ministries. During this season when we celebrate the Birth of our Saviour, we highlight some of such ministries.

**Sumanahalli, Bengaluru:** At Sumanahalli in Bengaluru, together with many collaborators we



care for those affected by leprosy and other disabilities. Their treatment, follow-up medication, education, rehabilitation, job placement and housing facility, etc. is part of the project supported by many generous and good hearted people.

**Mukti, Tenali:** We strive to impart quality and affordable education, especially to the economically weaker and underprivileged sections of the society. Our education ministry ranges from educating children from the remotest hamlets to the semi urban areas. We run schools and hostels for the education of tribal students and help them stand out in the society. We have a special Residential School for Tribal Children at Tenali in Andhra Pradesh.





**Sneha Jyothi Centre, Athani:** Care and rehabilitation of visually challenged is another important ministry we undertake. Our Sneha Jyothi Centre at Athani in Belagavi district of Karnataka has been rendering yeomen service to the visually impaired children in Karnataka. The vision to rehabilitate these children through proper education has already been bearing fruits as most of them get into government jobs. Besides their education, various extracurricular activities like singing, music, orchestra, painting, etc. help them to grow in self-confidence and become independent.



**Project Vision, Tumkuru:** Through Project Vision initiative we have gone further in creating global awareness about the eye donation and care and rehabilitation of the visually impaired. The Project Vision rural campus at Arasapura in Tumkur district has initiated various activities for the care of the people affected with different disabilities, especially children. The Centre, in collaboration with many likeminded people takes up various awareness programme and provides facilities like Eye Clinic, Music Therapy, Daycare for children with disabilities, empowering rural women through tailoring unit and responding to the needs of people during disasters.





**Hope Recovery Centre, Belagavi:** Addiction to alcohol and drugs is another major disturbing evil in our society. Through our Hope Recovery Centre at Belagavi, we care for those affected by this social evil. A spacious green and healthy campus has helped in treating and rehabilitating thousands of affected from various walks of lives.



**Support Centre, Belagavi & Bengaluru:** In spite of the modern developments and facilities, we have a lot of people in the society who are uncared for and neglected due to illness or old age. Through our Support Care Centres at Bengaluru and Belagavi, we take care of the terminally ill, especially the HIV affected. Being accepted, loved and cared for makes their lives more meaningful.



**Gandhiji Health and Development Centre, Barwadih:** Health is wealth, but many do not have access to it and where available, many cannot afford it. Through our Gandhiji Health and Development Centre at Barwadih in Jharkhand, we provide affordable healthcare to thousands of rural people.

