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DIOCESAN CENTRES, COMMISSIONS AND COUNCILS

DIOCESAN ADVISORY SERVICE TEAM

Archbishop's House, 21 N. Parekh Marg, Bombay-400 039.
Tel.: 23 10 93

Members: Fr. Thomas Tauro, Mr. Vincent Raymond,
Fr. Alexander Pinto.

The Diocesan Advisory Service Team was created on August 15, 1975 to assist Parish Priests in understanding and complying with the regulations and requirements of the Bombay Public Trust and the Finance (Income Tax) Acts, which are growing both more complex in their provisions and stricter in their application. When first formed in 1975 the Team consisted of Fr. Thomas Tauro and Mr. Clarence Soares (former Deputy Municipal Commissioner). Today it consists of three members: Fr. Tauro, Mr. Vincent Raymond (former Zonal Manager of the Life Insurance Corporation), and Fr. Alexander Pinto.

Functions

- (1) To scrutinize comprehensively all the documents, registers, relevant books.
- (2) To advise the Parish Priests and/or Principals as to what is lacking and to be obtained, maintained or to be done in accordance with the requirements of the Charity Commissioner and the Income Tax Authorities.
- (3) To report to the Archdiocesan office so as to provide this Office with a clear picture of the state of each Church Institution.

The programme of work of the Advisory Service Team includes its presence at Archbishop's House every Thursday, where it can be approached by Parish Priests/Principals who may seek their advise or assistance. During the rest of the week the Team visits parishes or schools individually as and when it is invited or is necessary.

DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION

Archbishop's House, 21 N. Parekh Marg, Bombay-400 039.
Tel.: 37 66 00

Chairman: Archbishop Simon Pimenta

Secretary: Fr. Herculean Silveira

The Diocesan Board of Education was constituted in 1940 during the administration of Archbishop T. Roberts SJ. In 1949 by common agreement among the Heads of the Archdioceses of Bombay and Goa, and the Dioceses of Pune and Ahmedabad, the Diocesan Board was re-constituted and became an Interdiocesan Board of Education. This Board continued to function into the late 1960's when it was dissolved as each of the constituent dioceses developed a Board of its own.

The present Board of Education, whose membership includes all the Managers and Principals of Catholic Schools and Colleges (parish institutions and institutions run by the Religious) together with a few educationists nominated by the Chairman, has at its objective the co-ordination and promotion of the extensive catholic educational system in the Archdiocese. Towards this end, the Board assists in the formulation of policy decisions with regard to School/College matters.

DIOCESAN COMMISSION FOR DIALOGUE

"Vinayalaya", P.O. Chakala MIDC, Bombay-400 093.

Tel.: 57 21 62

Promoter: Fr. Aelred Pereira SJ

It may be said that the two following texts from the Documents of Vatican II led His Eminence Valerian Cardinal Gracias in 1975 to appoint Fr. Aelred Pereira SJ as the Promoter for Dialogue with non-Christians and non-believers.

“The Church, urges her sons to enter with prudence and charity into discussion and collaboration with members of other religions. Let Christians, while witnessing to their own faith and way of life acknowledge, preserve and encourage the spiritual and moral truths found among non-Christians, also their social life and culture” (Declaration on the Relation of the Church to Non-Christian Religions, no. 2)

“Although the Church altogether rejects atheism, she nevertheless sincerely proclaims that all men, those who believe as well as those who do not, should help to establish right order in this world where all live together. This certainly cannot be done without a dialogue that is sincere and prudent” (Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, no. 21).

Aims: The Commission has as its aims the following:

- (1) To instil in Christians a right attitude to non-Christian religions and their adherents and to inculturate the Church in the religious and cultural life of the country.
- (2) To help non-Christians to understand the Church and to be rightly disposed towards it.
- (3) To promote inter-religious peace and amity between non-Christian religious communities themselves.

Activities:

- (1) Full-day “Live-Ins” with participants of other major religious traditions. The first two-day live-in was held in April 1975. So far, 20 full-day sharings have been organised bringing together people of different religions and walks of life. The general theme of such live-ins is, “Religion can unite people.”
- (2) Involvement of Catholic schools and parishes in the activities of the Commission by helping them to organise inter-religious celebrations of festivals.
- (3) Assisting Catholic and Christian organisations to work with non-Christian organisations.
- (4) Through its Chairman, the Commission maintains links with the Secretary of the CBCI Commission for Dialogue, which is also the Commission for non-believers. Accordingly,

the Commission has collaborated with the National body in organising surveys on the crisis of Faith and the attitudes of scientists to Religion, seminars on the crisis of faith, on values in a fast-changing society, on Science and Religion.

(5) Out of the participants who attended the Live-ins, the Bombay Chapter of the World Conference of Religion for Peace (WCRP) was formed. This Chapter has organised two public prayer meetings and a Symposium on Religion in Education.

DIOCESAN COMMISSION FOR JUSTICE AND DEVELOPMENT

Eucharistic Congress Building III, Ground Floor, 5 Convent Street, Bombay-400 039. Tel.: 23 15 09

Chairperson: Sr. Hazel D'Lima

Executive Secretary: Fr. Ralph Fernandes

The Commission for Justice and Development is one of the latest bodies to be set up in the Archdiocese. At its inaugural meeting on July 11, 1981, Archbishop Simon Pimenta defined the scope of the Commission to consist in acting as a means of pooling and co-ordinating the works of the various agencies of Social Work and Development in the Archdiocese. The Commission is not meant to be another agency to actually do field work (though it may take up such activity); it rather tries to ensure that various needs are met by the different agencies. As the name implies, the Commission will not restrict itself only to matters of Social Welfare and Development, but will also take up issues of Justice and Human Rights.

Besides the Archbishop, the following constitute the membership of the Commission:

- (a) Catholic organisations which have social or developmental work as their object or part of their functions;
- (b) Individuals who, because of their expertise or experience, may be helpful to the Commission.

Aims: The aims of the Commission are to harmonize, co-ordinate and assist activities;

- (a) in the fields of development and welfare in society, irrespective of caste, community and creed.
- (b) in the field of social justice.

Functions:

- (1) To set up goals for justice, development and welfare activity in the diocese.
- (2) To plan in view of the above goals.
- (3) To co-ordinate services and resources in the field of justice and development.
- (4) To assess efforts in the light of the established goals.
- (5) To work at documentation, research and education in the above fields.
- (6) To be represented in Government, Ecclesiastical and other bodies at National and Local levels, in matters relating to Justice and Development.
- (7) To deal with any other related matters referred to it by the Archbishop of Bombay.

DIOCESAN COMMISSION FOR THE PROMOTION OF THE BIBLE

St. Pius College, Goregaon East, Bombay-400 063. Tel.: 69 12 17

Chairman: Fr. Francis Ripoll SJ

The Family Section of the Diocesan Pastoral Council recommended the formation of a Bible Service Team or Commission at the Council's meeting on January 23, 1977. Before that, Fr. Francis Ripoll SJ had already been appointed as the Diocesan Promoter of the Bible. On February 7, 1977 the Bible Service Team was formed which organised three Bible Moderators' Courses and several Bible weeks in the Archdiocese. The Commission was created on February 22, 1978 with Fr. Ripoll as its Chairman.

Aims: To spread the Bible to Christians and non-Christians and to promote the knowledge and the study of the Word of God.

Activities:

- (1) Bible weeks at the Parish level.
- (2) Bible Courses for the Laity at different centres.

- (3) An Annual Bible Sunday at the Diocesan level
In 1978 the theme was "a Bible for every home"
In 1979 "Read the Bible"
In 1980 "Pray your Bible at Home."
- (4) Publication of Scriptural material.
- (5) Cooperation with "The Good News Centre" and other Christian bodies in diffusing the Bible.

DIOCESAN FAMILY SERVICE CENTRE

"Snehalaya", Victoria Church Compound,
Lady Jamshedji Road, Mahim, Bombay-400 016.
Tel.: 46 82 18



SNEHALAYA
FAMILY SERVICE CENTRE

Director: Fr. Dawson Ambosta

"Snehalaya", the Diocesan Family Service Centre, established in December 1976 as a registered charitable Trust, caters to people irrespective of caste or creed.

Aims: To strengthen family life and to promote the welfare of the family.

Services: The services offered by the Centre include:

Marriage Counselling: by a team of two Marriage Counsellors, two Clinical Psychologists, a Psychiatrist, a Psychotherapist, a Medical and Psychiatric Social Worker, and a Lawyer.

Vocational Guidance and Aptitude Testing: provided by a team of two Student Counsellors and a Social Worker, both at the Centre and in Schools. This service is also availed of by Religious Congregations.

Marriage Preparation courses: Three types of Courses are offered on a regular basis:

- (a) *Engaged Encounters:* residential courses for engaged couples from Friday evenings to Sunday evenings.
- (b) *Weeklong Courses:* held in the first week of every month, every evening from Monday to Sunday, at the Centre and in parishes.
- (c) *Daylong Courses:* held on a Sunday or Public holiday in parishes that are not easily accessible to the Centre.

These programmes are conducted by a team of priests, doctors, specialists and married couples.

Natural Family Planning: Courses on the Natural Methods of Family Planning (Ovulation and Sympto-Thermal), with a follow-up programme, are conducted in parishes by four NFP workers under the supervision of a trained nurse.

Marriage and Parent Enrichment Programmes: Such programmes are conducted by a team of trained couples and other professionals for parish groups, organisations like the PTA, etc.

Family Life Education: Courses for Schools and Colleges by a team of trained teachers and parents.

Self-employment Schemes: for those economically handicapped, through short-hand and typing classes and tailoring; thus the family income may be augmented.

The Centre has been selected by the erstwhile CBCI Commission for the Family to conduct systematic training programmes for Family Counsellors in the Western Region since it also functions as the Regional Centre for eight Dioceses of the Western Region.

DIOCESAN PASTORAL CENTRE, Bandra
4 Kane Road, Bandra, Bombay-400 050. Tel.: 53 25 56

Director: Fr. Jude Pereira

Catechetics and Liturgy: Fr. Jude Pereira, Fr. Guy Archambeaud SJ,
Fr. Cleophas Fernandes

Youth: Fr. Raymond D'Silva, Fr. Hugh Fonseca

Evangelization: Fr. George Aranha

The Diocesan Pastoral Centre at Bandra was officially inaugurated on July 24, 1975. Prior to this year, two preliminary initiatives had been undertaken practically at the same time, one by Fr. G. Archambeaud SJ and the other by Fr. Raymond D'silva. The former had started the "Diocesan Catechetical Centre" at the present site in Bandra in August 1972, while the latter had opened a "Diocesan Youth Centre" at St. Joseph's Rectory, Colaba in 1972, which was subsequently transferred to its present location

in Bandra in 1974. In July 1975, the two "Centres" became "Sections" of the new Diocesan Pastoral Centre with Fr. Jude Pereira as its over-all Director. In his inaugural speech, Auxiliary Bishop Simon Pimenta envisaged the task of the Pastoral Centre to be that of aiding and co-ordinating the pastoral work of the Archdiocese, the training and up-dating of Parish Priests, Assistants and Lay-leaders for a more effective pastoral ministry through in-service programmes of formation and information. At present, the Pastoral Centre at Bandra comprises three Sections: Catechetics, Liturgy, and Youth.

I CATECHETICAL SECTION

Aims: To assist schools, parishes, families and other institutions in the on-going formation of their members.

Activities:

Such activities and programmes are organized that will promote the Faith-formation and the overall value-education of Church leaders:

- (a) **In-service Training Courses:** offered throughout the year both at the Centre and in schools, parishes, deaneries and institutions.
- (b) **Co-ordination:** through a team of "Religion Moderators" appointed by each school at the local level.
- (c) **Publications:** The catechetical newsletter, "SHARING CHRIST," provides doctrinal and biblical formation, sample Scripture-services and prayer-services, book-reviews, exchange of experiences in the field of catechetics, projects and "Do-it-yourself" supplement sheets.
- (d) **"Diploma in Religious Education" Course:** conducted partly through "live-in" seminars and partly through a Correspondence Course.

Thus, every aspect of catechesis is sought to be covered: School catechesis, Sunday School catechesis, Family Life Education, Family Catechesis in the Home, Adult Catechesis, Biblical Catechesis, Sacramental and Liturgical Catechesis. General Orientation Courses are also conducted for all teachers and special courses for all parents (through the PTA units in schools).

II LITURGICAL SECTION

Aims: To bring about a renewal in the Liturgy and a greater involvement and participation of the faithful in the Liturgy.

Activities:

- (a) **In-service Training Courses:** for priests, religious, teachers, liturgical leaders. This is done through Seminars, Printed material, Cassettes, and Pilot Projects.

Liturgical and Sacramental Catechesis has been given a strong impetus through the Centre in parishes and institutions. In this category are the "First Communion Catechesis in Home and Parish" and the "Confirmation Catechesis."

- (b) **Publications:** The Centre publishes "COMMUNICATING THE GOOD NEWS" five times a year. This publication presents in tabloid form the biblical background for the texts, ideas for the Homily and suggestions for the liturgical celebration. Other publications are on the Eucharist, First Communion catechesis and (in cyclostyled form) various aspects of liturgical catecheses.

- (c) **Special Audio-Visual Sessions:** These are held during Advent and Lent each year and are geared to a deep renewal of the Youth or Adults attending.

III YOUTH SECTION

Aims: To form responsible Christian youth in schools, colleges and places of work. They are helped to discover their own selves, and to be able to relate maturely with others. They are also made aware of society, especially the poor and downtrodden and, in the analytical process, made to respond concretely to situations of injustice where change needs to be brought about. This understanding is reached through a reflection on their faith and they are motivated to respond to life in faith.

Activities:

This Section offers programmes especially for AICUF, YCS/YSM and parish youth groups:

- (a) Formation sessions for Youth, Teachers, Parents and Youth Animators.

- (b) Documentation.
- (c) Publications: A YCS/YSM magazine entitled "GROWTH."

JEEVAN DARSHAN KENDRA, Vasai
Giriz, Vasai, Thane Dt.-401 201 Tel.: 198 (Vasai)

Director: Fr. Hilary Fernandes

Liturgy Evangelization, and Family: Fr. Hilary Fernandes

Catechetics: Fr. Joe Gonsalves, (On Study Leave: Fr. Michael Gonsalves)

Youth and Vocations: Fr. Bathol Machado

"Jeevan Darshan Kendra" at Giriz was officially inaugurated on June 1, 1977. This Centre is the Marathi counterpart of the Diocesan Pastoral Centre at Bandra, for it was erected to cater specifically to the needs of the Marathi-speaking areas of the Archdiocese—namely, Vasai, Dharavi Island (in Salsette), and the Missions north of Vasai.

Prior to the establishment of this Centre (Kendra), Fr. Hilary Fernandes had initiated the "Sanjeevani Kala Kendra" to promote the indigenization of the Liturgy and Music through such forms as bhajans, kirtans, dance, drama, etc. At about the same time, Fr. Michael Gonsalves had started "Jeevan Jyoti" (Light of Life) in July 1973 at OL of Grace Church, Papdy to promote Catechetics in the schools of Vasai. In 1977 these two Centres were brought together to form the "Jeevan Darshan Kendra", with Fr. Hilary Fernandes as its over-all Director. The Centre is located in the former "Pavitra Maria Hospital" which was donated to the Archdiocese by the Congregation of the Daughters of the Cross. Today, the Pastoral Centre at Giriz comprises the Liturgy, Evangelization and Family Sections (under Fr. Hilary Fernandes), the Catechetical Centre (under Fr. Michael Gonsalves) and the Youth and Vocation Centre (under Fr. Barthol Machado). Five sisters of the Poor Sisters of Our Lady reside at the centre, attend to the needs of the Centre, and assist the Fathers in their work.

I LITURGICAL SECTION

Aims: To bring about a renewal in the Liturgy and a greater involvement and participation of the faithful in the Liturgy.