

Tempo Forte Circular

6-10 June 2016

“... O Lord, let us bring the joy of the Gospel to the ends of the earth, so that no periphery will be deprived of your light, and the poor will again be in the center of the Church and of our lives”
(adapted from the “Prayer for the Time of Assemblies”).

Dear Confreres,

May the grace and peace of Our Lord Jesus Christ fill your hearts now and forever!

We discussed the following points.

A. Updates

1. **General Assembly.** We had an open discussion on the method of Appreciative Discernment, led by Father Eli Chaves.
2. **Reconfiguration.** We spoke about the process of reconfiguration between the Eastern Province and the New England Province. Both provinces will be encouraged to continue to work toward reconfiguration.
3. We studied a list of the **membership of the new Vice-Province of Cameroon**, indicating those natives of Cameroon who will be fully incorporated into the Province of France and those who will be temporarily incorporated into it.
4. We considered a reflection that was sent to us by Abba Welde-mariam from the Province of Saint Justin De Jacobis, regarding a **worldwide reconfiguration of the Congregation of the Mission**. It reflects the direction in which we hope to go as a Congregation, recognizing our internationality and working from that perspective, rather than from the perspective of limits that are placed on us by provincial boundaries.

B. The General Curia

1. Father Jorge Rodríguez, Director of the Office of Communications, gave us a report on the coverage that will be given to the General Assembly, using different forms of multimedia. We hope that the General Assembly reaches as many people as possible, while safeguarding, as we always do, any matters that might be confidential.
2. *Vincentiana*. We recently made a transition to having *Vincentiana* published by Editorial La Milagrosa in Madrid at a substantially lower cost than we had been paying here in Italy. The magazine, *Vincentiana*, will continue to be distributed from Rome.
3. We studied a number of reports concerning SIEV's online project for Vincentian Studies, beginning with the minutes of a meeting of the Presidents of Vincentian Universities.
4. The Superior General gave a brief evaluation of the most recent CIF program. The program was based on the *Ratio Formationis*. A number of the Conferences of Visitors have also organized programs for discussing the *Ratio*, making the international project that was presented by CIF not as well attended as hoped. There were nine participants. The directors considered it most positive. At the same meeting, the new Director for CIF, Father Andrés Motto, was present to begin a process of transitioning with the CIF team, Fathers Daniel Borlik and Adam Bandura. The plan is that, at the end of 2016, Father Dan will finish his service as Director and Father Andrés Motto will assume it.
5. We received a report from the VSO. Father Miles Heinen mentioned a number of projects that are underway. There is a significant amount of money coming in that will help support the micro-projects that had been suspended. The Superior General sent a letter to 19 provinces of the Congregation, asking them to help contribute to the Vincentian Solidarity Office Fund. Previously, that fund was supported by the Provinces of the United States and a Foundation. Now more provinces have been invited to contribute funds for macro-projects and micro-projects. We are grateful for the solidarity that many provinces have shown toward the Vincentian Solidarity Office. This theme of solidarity will be discussed in our General Assembly.

6. **UN NGO Representative.** Father Guillermo Campuzano gave us an update on the application made to upgrade the status of the Congregation at the United Nations. The other branches of the Vincentian Family, together with Father Guillermo, have developed a logo for Vincentian Family collaboration at the United Nations. He spoke about the collaboration that is occurring with the universities. For example, DePaul students participated in a ten-day experience with internal refugees in Colombia, giving special attention to sustainable-development goals and global education. Saint John's University, together with the campus ministry's Justice Office, participated in a conference organized by the Mission of the Holy See to stop human trafficking. One of the senior students of VISA, the Vincentian Institute for Social Justice, will do an internship with the Vincentian Family at the United Nations. There will be another student, from Lebanon, who will work with Father Guillermo in social-media development, research, and representation of the office on different committees. Father Guillermo is working on the Committee of Social Development and the Stop-Human-Trafficking Committee.

In September 2016, there is the hope of sponsoring, with the *Big Questions* TV series, a program to combat underage sex trafficking in America. Father Guillermo has connected with the Commission of Latin American Religious Men and Women to stop human trafficking. The Vincentian Family members at the UN meet every month to share materials. One of their meetings was held with the coordinator of the FamVin website, Father Aidan Rooney. They have decided to develop a space on the website to inform the branches of the Family of collective efforts at the UN. Four of the members of the Vincentian Family at the UN went to Korea to participate in a conference on Education for Global Citizenship. Prior to that conference, a session was held for the Vincentian Family in Korea. There is hope of developing a formation project for the Family around *Laudato Si'* and our Vincentian charism.

Guillermo will be present at the General Assembly. He hopes to meet with all the Visitors and delegates to encourage them to develop local offices of Justice and Peace and the Integrity of Creation. Finally, there was a report on the VOM Conference that was held on Religious and Migration in the 21st Century. There were 100 participants, among them, eight Daughters of Charity and two

members of the Congregation of the Mission. We are very happy with the report. We hope that Father Guillermo continues to bring information from the UN down to the grassroots and what happens at the grassroots to the attention of the decision-makers at the UN.

7. **Interreligious Dialog.** There will be a session on Islam and Christianity from 21-26 November 2016, held at the Center for Interreligious Studies at the Gregorian University in Rome. It will be given in Italian, English, and French. For further information, please contact the Pontifical Gregorian University: interreligios@unigre.it. The cost of the session is 250 euro and the university is offering scholarships that can be obtained by sending a request to the Director, Father Basanese, at the above email address.

We discussed a memo from Father Claudio Santangelo, concerning the project of the CM presence in Muslim countries to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the birth of the charism. This will be presented at the General Assembly. Concretely, that project has begun with a contract with the Archbishop of Tunis. We are extending our presence by assuming a parish in Sousse. The contract will go into effect on 1 September. The two mission houses, that of Sousse and La Goulette, will be one canonical house and we have asked Father Narcisse Djerambete to serve as the superior.

Father Claudio, Father Pavle Novak (President of CEVIM), and Father Joaquín González (Visitor of Madrid) visited Melilla. They have a project to submit to CEVIM during their General Assembly session. If the project is accepted it will be recommended to formalize a commission composed of different Visitors, together with an Assistant General.

Father Claudio gave us a report on the USG-UISG's Commission for Interreligious Dialog. He participated in a meeting that dealt with violence and non-violence in Islam. The next event will be in October at the Gregorian University on the theme, *Christianity in India under Attack: Hindu Fundamentalism after Gandhi and the Response of the Indian Catholic Church*. With Father Claudio's assignment to the new mission in Sousse, the Superior General and his Council recommend names to substitute for him. The final report he gave was on the Working Group for Interreligious Dialog. They have begun discussing having a gathering in Kenya in 2017.

C. Economic Questions

1. The Treasurer General gave us a report on the statement and activities for the **General Fund**.
2. Together with the Assistant for Missions, Mathew Kallammakal, we determined the **Mission Fund Distribution** for this year, 2016. The provinces and the Conferences of Visitors will be informed of this matter through the Assistant for Missions. We made a decision to encourage the new administration to do a full evaluation of the Mission Distribution Fund.

D. International Missions

1. We read a glowing report from the Cardinal Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples regarding our seminary efforts in **Papua New Guinea**, Holy Spirit Seminary in Bomana, under the direction of our confrere, Father Jacek Tendej. We reviewed the minutes of the meeting that was held during the Superior General's visit. At Holy Spirit Seminary, Father Jacek is working with members of different dioceses in this diocesan-seminary. The young Polish confrere who arrived a few months ago, Father Marcin Wróbel, continues his orientation program, substituting at this time for one of the missionaries from the Philippines, Father Marceliano Oabel, who is on vacation and later will be taking a sabbatical. Father Neil Lams, from the Province of Oceania, has been transferred to the Diocese of Alotau-Sideia, which is under the direction of our confrere, Bishop Rolando Santos. Another member of the mission, Father Joel Bernardo Yco, works for the Malaysian Institute and encourages us to take into consideration a workshop to promote better community living in an intercultural setting.

The Papua New Guinea mission has another student candidate. The Province of the Philippines has been requested to help support his formation. We await a decision of the province's administration to see if it will be willing to assume the formation of other candidates from Papua New Guinea, as the Province of Oceania has assumed the responsibility for the formation of candidates from the Solomon Islands.

2. After having consulted the confreres in both Papua New Guinea and the **Solomon Islands**, Fathers Justin Eke and Teclmicael will

work in the Solomon Islands to help boost the staff there with the departure of Father Gregory Cooney. We expect both of them to arrive before the end of the year.

We reviewed a report from the Superior General after his visit to the Solomons. The Province of Oceania is considering establishing a canonical house of formation at Red Beach, which will include the parish house and church. It will work in conjunction with the members of the international mission. The question of personnel continues to be a concern for the Superior General and his Council. The matter will be discussed at the APVC meeting at the General Assembly, and it will be recommended to do a serious evaluation of this mission, which has experienced a lot of instability in recent years, because of change of personnel. We ask the Lord to help us continue this good work, but it cannot be done without the necessary personnel. The new superior is Father Paulus Suparmono, the former Visitor of the Province of Indonesia. He also has been named officially the rector of Holy Name of Mary Seminary in Honiara.

3. The Superior General reported on his visit to the International Mission of **Angola**, where presently there are three confreres, but will be reduced to two at the end of August. This mission also has a number of young men interested in pursuing a vocation in the Congregation of the Mission. At this time, there is one candidate studying at the local seminary, where two of our confreres participate actively in spiritual direction and helping form the spiritual life of the seminarians. The bishop wants to increase the number of communities that the confreres cover to an additional 40. Even with close to 80 communities, it continues to be the smallest parish in the Diocese of Malanje. They need at least one new missionary. I ask the confreres, especially those who are in provinces that have vocations and have not yet developed a sense of participating in international missions or with very few confreres who do so, to take this into serious consideration. We are a missionary Congregation and one of our options should be to go beyond our own provincial boundaries in order to serve the needs of the Church.
4. We had a brief sharing on our mission in **Tunisia**, which had been discussed previously.

5. Father Zeracristos Yosief, Assistant General, recently visited the mission in **Chad**, where we have expanded to include two confreres working in the minor seminary. The two newest arrivals, from the Province of Congo, are Fathers Léon Moninga and Sylvain Rémy Disuka. Father Onyeachi Sunday Ugwu from Nigeria soon will be finishing his experience and moving on for further studies. He has been in the mission since its beginning and has done very fine work as pastor of the parish. We are requesting the Province of Nigeria to provide another missionary. We hope to have three confreres in the parish: the pastor, the superior of the mission, and the principal of the school. A contract between the Diocese of Mondou and the Congregation of the Mission was signed and is effective from 29 May of this year to 28 May 2019.
6. We discussed the international mission of **Benin**. As of March, a third missionary has arrived from the Province of Poland to help reinforce the missionary efforts that are being carried out there. They are collaborating not only in the parish, but also with spiritual support for the Sisters of the Miraculous Medal.
7. We discussed **Punta Arenas** and the **Tierra del Fuego**, where there are three missionaries. We received a very positive commentary from the local bishop, indicating his happiness with the presence of the Vincentians in his diocese. We also reviewed a report from the Visitor of Chile, who made a visit to encourage the confreres in this very remote mission. We are looking for a fourth missionary to increase the support that they can find among themselves. The missionaries presented us with their Community Project, in which they give us a description of the work with an excellent breakdown of the different aspects of life in the mission. Father Pablo Vargas of Chile has been asked to accompany the Hope Foundation, which responds to all types of poverties in the diocese. This will give him the opportunity to serve those who are poorest and in different situations of poverty and abandonment. One of the positive things about this mission is that it is self-sustaining with the support received from the bishop and the contributions of the faithful. The missionaries are involved in the accompaniment of the Vincentian Family, particularly the Daughters of Charity.
8. We reviewed some correspondence with the mission superior in **Alaska**. The Congregation of the Mission has been given the Parish of Our Lady of Guadalupe out of which to operate its Hispanic

ministry. Father Andrew Bellisario has been named the pastor and the vicar is Father Pedro Delgado from Colombia. Hopefully, by the end of this month or the middle of next month, they will have a third confrere joining them. This should help them consolidate their efforts to reach out to the Hispanics who are dispersed, not only throughout the Archdiocese of Anchorage, but also throughout the entire state. They are forming a pastoral mission team made up of the confreres themselves, as well as laity who are interested in being part of the evangelization team. Both Spanish-speaking and English-speaking communities have expressed interest.

The Congregation of the Mission made the Archbishop of Anchorage, Roger Schwietz, an affiliate. He is an Oblate of Mary Immaculate. In the letter he sent to the Superior General, he expressed his delight at becoming an affiliate. During the month of August, our Procurator General, Father Shijo, will join Fathers Pedro, Andy, and, hopefully, Jesús Gabriel Medina, in the mission. It will give him an opportunity to “come and see” this work, carried out in the very extreme northwest of the United States.

9. We updated our list of candidates for mission. These are: Father Rey Araneta from the Philippines soon will be joining the Vice-Province of Mozambique, when the necessary documentation is complete. Father Francisco Orlando Armellini from the Province of Venezuela will return shortly to Mozambique, where he had worked as a missionary a number of years ago, now that Venezuela, at least in terms of personnel, is becoming somewhat more stabilized with the assistance of the Province of Colombia. Recently, as was stated in some news releases, the Province of Colombia has assumed Venezuela as a Region. The Superior General and Council approved the Statutes for the new Region, hoping that the spirit of the charism might continue to grow in this new mission experience between Colombia and Venezuela. A confrere from the Province of the Orient, Father Fadi Bassil, will join Father Claudio Santangelo in our international mission in Sousse, Tunisia. Another candidate, Father Alexandre Fonseca de Paula from the Province of Fortaleza, has offered to be a missionary and is open to going wherever he might be called. The Superior General and his Council recommend that he form part of the team for the new international mission of Tefé in Brazil, where our confrere, Fernando Barbosa, is the bishop. As previously mentioned, we have two volunteers to begin, *ad*

experimentum, a mission in Beni, Bolivia. Father Andreas Medi Wijaya from Indonesia will travel shortly to Peru to further his studies in Spanish and prepare to get a visa to enter this mission. He will work with Father Julio César Villalobos of the Province of Peru. They begin this experience from September to December 2016.

10. The Superior General gave a report on his visit to Tefé, Brazil, the mission territory, under the responsibility of our confrere-bishop, as previously mentioned. Tefé is in the state of Amazonia, some 500 kilometers from the capital of Manaus. It is made up of ten cities, Tefé being the principal one. It is a mission mostly of rivers and most of the transportation is by boat. The communities are both mixed and indigenous. There are over 400 communities in the diocese, along four major rivers. Some communities are a three-day distance by boat from the main city. Tefé borders on Colombia. Missionaries willing truly to have the experience of a lifetime are invited to Tefé.

E. The Vincentian Family

Commission for Systemic Change. We reviewed the minutes of its most recent meeting, held in Brazil. The members continue to work out strategies to help people understand what constitutes real systemic change, as opposed to human promotion. They have initiated a program of regional coordinators. To help them, our confrere, Father Mizaél Poggioli from the Province of Curitiba, has prepared a manual, copies of which will be available at the General Assembly. The following workshops are planned: Thailand and Madagascar in November 2016. It is anticipated having one in Mozambique in May or November 2017. Together with all the Vincentian Family Commissions, they will gather in Rome in January 2017.

F. Conferences of Visitors

COVIAM held a meeting in Maputo, Mozambique, in addition to the one that will be held during the General Assembly. The reason for this meeting is that the majority of the members of COVIAM are not yet provinces or vice-provinces. They have three major regions: Kenya (USA-Western), Tanzania (South India), and Rwanda-Burundi (Colombia); as well as four international missions: Chad, Tunisia, Angola, and, hopefully, Benin, in the future. COVIAM's project of the interprovincial theologate was discussed. It is being held in Enugu,

Nigeria. COVIAM gives special attention to Chad, the international mission under its responsibility, together with the General Curia.

During this meeting, new leadership was elected. The President is Father José Luís Azevedo Fernandes, the Vice-Visitor of the Vice-Province of Mozambique, and the Vice-President is Father Cyril Mbata, the Visitor of Nigeria. The Secretary of COVIAM, who is nominated by the President, will continue to be Father Narcisse Djerambete from the Vice-Province of Cameroon, working in the international mission in Tunisia. They make up the Executive Council of COVIAM.

The rector of the interprovincial theologate is Abba Hagos Tewolde from the Province of Saint Justin De Jacobis and the vice-rector and treasurer is Father Longenus Odum from the Province of Nigeria. The project is ambitious and, as most things, expensive. In addition to the contributions that each of the provinces, vice-provinces, and regions in Africa make, the Superior General and Council made a decision to contribute, from the Mission Distribution Fund, to this interprovincial formation project. After the meeting that will be held during the General Assembly, the next meeting of COVIAM will be held in May 2017 at the international mission in Chad.

That wraps up our last *Tempo Forte* meeting of this administration. We only have two ordinary council meetings in the final two weeks of June, prior to departure for the General Assembly at DePaul University in Chicago.

As of 5 July, we will have elected a new Superior General. After the General Assembly, Father Gay will vacation with his family and confreres in the Eastern USA Province and then participate in an ongoing formation program run by the Oblates of Mary Immaculate in San Antonio, Texas. It is a holistic program, during which he hopes to discern what God wants of him when the sabbatical is completed at the end of 2016.

“Lord, send Your Church good workers, but they should be really good ones; send good Missioners ... persons, my God, truly detached from themselves, their own ease, and worldly goods; they can be a smaller number, provided they’re good” (CCD:XI:321-322).

Your brother in Saint Vincent,

G. Gregory Gay, CM
Superior General



The Little Company and the Church in South Odisha. The Birth of a New Diocese and a New Bishop

Babu Oonnukallinkal, CM

Ninety-four years have passed since the Little Company of Saint Vincent de Paul began its existence on Indian soil. Responding to the invitation of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples (Propaganda Fide), four Spanish confreres of the Province of Madrid, namely, Fathers José María Fernández, Ferrer Ramon, Guemes Valeriano, and Coello Rey left Spain for India. On 10 January 1922, they reached Berhampur, in South Odisha, having travelled from Madrid through Barcelona, Paris, Marseilles, Colombo, and Vishakhapatnam. From Berhampur, Father Ramon took the road to Cuttack and the other three to Surada.

They took over the “Ganjam Mission,” of the presidency of Madras, from the Missionaries of Saint Francis de Sales (MSFS Fathers), who worked in the region for 72 years, from 1850 to 1922. The Ganjam Mission, with 4200 Catholics and 2500 catechumens was officially handed over on 3 February 1922, by Bishop Peter Rossillon, MSFS, of the Diocese of Vishakhapatnam at Surada, Orissa (cf. *The Little Mustard Seed* by Father Anslem F. Biswal). There were eight churches, four chapels, five residences with or without priests, and another 12 dilapidated residences as in the available inventory, as per the writings of Father Vincent Urbaneja, CM.

The tireless and continued efforts of our dedicated confreres gave growth to the church and got it established as the years passed by; and the same for the Congregation, with more confreres joining them. On 5 October 1925, the mission was declared a Vice-Province. On 18 July 1928, Pope Pius XI declared the “Cuttack Mission” that was comprised of “Ganjam” of the presidency of Madras and “Orissa” of the presidency of Bengal of the British rule, “*Missio Sui Juris*” and appointed Father Valerian Guemes its administrator.

After 15 years of committed evangelization work, from the start by the Vincentians, the Cuttack Mission was declared a diocese in 1937; and in January 1938, Father Florencio Sanz Esperanza, CM, was appointed the first Bishop of the Cuttack Diocese. He shepherded the diocese for 11 years. In 1947, Father Paul Tobar Gonzáles, CM, became the second Bishop of the Cuttack Diocese. Bishop Paul Tobar was called to the Lord on 18 April 1971, after shepherding the Diocese of Cuttack. It comprised the present four dioceses namely, Cuttack-Bhubaneswar, Berhampur, Balasore, and the newly erected Diocese of Rayagada, spread out over 17 of the 30 civil districts of Orissa, which constitute 56.66% of the total area of the state. The arrival of the Daughters of Charity in 1940 boosted the work of evangelization through their special focus on the pastoral, educational, and health ministries. After the death of Bishop Paul Tobar, Father Vincent Urbaneja, CM, was elected administrator of the diocese, continuing until 24 January 1974, when the Cuttack Diocese was bifurcated into the Metropolitan See of Cuttack-Bhubaneswar and the Diocese of Berhampur. Most Reverend Henry D'Souza was appointed the first Archbishop of Cuttack-Bhubaneswar and Monsignor Thomas Thiruthalil, CM, was appointed the bishop of the new Diocese of Berhampur.

The newborn Diocese of Berhampur had its initial unrest and struggle for a couple of years. But simplicity of life, love for the poor, and constant contact with the faithful made Bishop Thomas well accepted in the new diocese. The Indian Province of the Congregation of the Mission and that of the Daughters of Charity backed him with the needed support. The late Bishop Joseph Das, who succeeded Bishop Thomas in the Diocese of Berhampur, wrote in an article in the Silver Jubilee Souvenir of the diocese, "with the creation of the new Diocese of Berhampur and the appointment of Bishop Thomas, the new bishop, a new hope dawned. New plans were conceived. The shepherd in Bishop Thomas Thiruthalil took the staff to tend the flock." By the year 1999, at the time of the Silver Jubilee of the Diocese of Berhampur, it had a Catholic population of 85,000 spread out in 470 mission stations in 35 parishes. There were 45 diocesan priests, 55 religious priests, including Vincentians, 165 religious sisters, including the Daughters of Charity, and seven religious brothers engaged in the works of evangelization.

On 8 June 1968, the then districts of Balasore, Mayurbhanj, and Keonjer were separated from the Archdiocese of Calcutta and the

Apostolic Prefecture of Balasore was erected, annexing it to the Ecclesiastical Province of Ranchi, until then under Calcutta; and, on 14 June 1968, Monsignor Jacob Vadakkeveetil, CM, was appointed its first Apostolic Administrator and the Prefecture was entrusted to the care of Vincentians, with 3000 Catholics and three established parishes. In 1974, it was placed under the Ecclesiastical Province of Cuttack-Bhubaneswar. On 13 January 1990, on the retirement of Monsignor Jacob Vadakkeveetil, CM, the Prefecture of Balasore was raised to a diocese; Bishop Thomas Thiruthalil, CM, was transferred from the Diocese of Berhampur and appointed first Bishop of Balasore. Today the Diocese of Balasore has over 30,000 Catholics in 22 parishes with 40 priests, 133 religious sisters, and about 60 full-time and part-time catechists engaged in missionary activities. After the retirement of Bishop Thomas Thiruthalil, CM, in 2014, Father Simon Kaipuram, CM, from the North India Province, was appointed to shepherd the Diocese of Balasore.

The Diocese of Berhampur has given birth to the new Diocese of Rayagada which will formally be inaugurated on 28 May 2016; yet another confrere of the North India Province, Father Aplinar Senapati, CM, has been appointed the first bishop of the new diocese. He will be consecrated on 28 May 2016 in Rayagada. Born on 28 October 1960 at Dantoingi, the place of the famous Marian Shrine in Surada, one of the first three houses of the Congregation of the Mission in India, Father Aplinar, a son of the soil, had his matriculation at Technical High School, Surada. He entered the Minor Seminary at Jyoti Nivas, Baripada in 1980. Having completed the Internal Seminary and philosophy in Gopalpur-on-Sea and theology in Jnana Deep Vidhyapeeth, Pune, he was ordained a priest at Surada on 28 November 1990. Father Aplinar served the Congregation as assistant parish priest, parish priest, formator, Director of the Internal Seminary, principal of school, and as the assistant Visitor of the North India Province. He holds two Masters Degrees: one in Political Science and the other in Economics.

The new diocese is carved out of the Diocese of Berhampur; six out of eight civil districts namely, Rayagada, Kalahandi, Nuapada, Nabarangpur, Koraput, and Malkangiri comprise the ecclesiastical territory of the new Diocese of Rayagada. It has an area of 39,368.4 sq. km., with a Catholic population of 61,827, in 24 parishes, with 30 diocesan priests and 270 catechists. There are members from five men's Congregations and 13 women's Congregations working in the Diocese

of Rayagada. In five Vincentian parishes, there are ten confreres engaged in pastoral, social, and educational ministries, including that of Rayagada where there is a parish, a school, and a hostel for boys, as well as a hostel for girls entrusted to the Sisters of Handmaids of Mary.

The Diocese of Berhampur now has the two civil districts of Ganjam and Gajapati for its territory under the pastoral care of Dr. Sarat Chandra Nayak, a schoolmate of Father Aplanar. The diocese has an area of 11,920.6 sq. km. It has 24 Parishes, including six Vincentian parishes, 40 diocesan priests, and 372 catechists. There are members from nine men's Congregations and 24 women's Congregations working in the Diocese of Berhampur. More than 20 confreres are engaged in pastoral, formation, retreat, social, educational, and technical-training ministries.

The Architects of the Cuttack Mission – the Church in South Odisha

1928 – 1938:	Father Valerian Guemes, CM Administrator of Cuttack “ <i>Missio Sui Juris</i> ”
1938 – 1949:	Bishop Florencio Sanz, CM First Bishop of the Diocese of Cuttack
1949 – 1971:	Bishop Paul Tobar, CM Second Bishop of the Diocese of Cuttack
1968 – 1990:	Msgr. Jacob Vadakkeveetil, CM Prefect Apostolic of Balasore Prefecture
1971 – 1974:	Father Vincent Urbaneja, CM Administrator of the Diocese Cuttack
1974 – 1990:	Bishop Thomas Thiruthalil, CM First Bishop of the Diocese of Berhampur
1990 – 2014:	Bishop Thomas Thiruthalil, CM First Bishop of the Diocese of Balasore
2014 – :	Bishop Simon Kaipuram, CM Second Bishop of the Diocese of Balasore
2016 – :	Bishop Aplanar Senapati, CM First Bishop of the Diocese of Rayagada

The “Vincentian leaven,” from the Church of South Odisha, has spread far beyond the frontiers of the Cuttack Mission. The Vincentians are not only in Odisha, but also in most of the states in India, including northeast India. The Fiji Islands, in the past, and Tanzania, China, Ethiopia, and Germany have been the vineyard of the Indian confreres. The Vicariate of Nekemte in Ethiopia has its Apostolic Vicar, Bishop Varghese Thottamkara, CM, from the South India Province, as its shepherd. After 94 years of the Little Company’s existence on Indian soil, the great legacy of Saint Vincent, handed over through the four pioneer confreres, continues to live vibrantly, through more than 240 confreres in two provinces, even far beyond the subcontinent. Standing at the threshold of the centenary of the birth of the Congregation in India, that is just six years away, one can look back with sincere gratitude and look forward with greater hope and say ardently with commitment and conviction, “*EVANGELIZARE PAUPERIBUS MISIT ME.*”