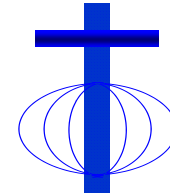


Voluntas Dei Institute
Canadian District



Voluntas Dei
More than a name:
a passion, a vision, a mission

Arunprakash Paul

Voluntas Booklets - 2016-2017

Do you believe that our vision about the Institute is similar to the vision of Jesus and his disciples?

What is your own vision of the present world?

How does the exchange between three fellow members enlighten your own vision of the Institute?

A VISION

Could you name “*People of Vision*” in our Institute?

In our Church?

In the present world?

At the moment, what is your vision of the Institute, today?
in future?

Here in our District?

Or among the world?

Dear Sisters and Brothers Voluntas,

At the 2016 Congress held in Trois-Rivières, we heard three colleague priests in a conference-testimony, inside a block entitled: "These Voluntas who came from elsewhere". To each of these members from other Institutes, Congregations or Dioceses I had asked to share with us the motivations behind this move and also to tell us what their expectations were, their hopes, when joining the Institute.

I found it interesting to hear from them on this subject and to realize the contribution of these Members in our Family, who, like me, have arrived with their life history, their culture, the imprint of the spiritualities that shaped them in the past, their desire to be in coherence with their being and their quest for the will of God.

Also, in connection with the theme of last year's Congress, we asked them to react to this theme proposed to all members: "Voluntas Dei, more than a name: a passion, a vision, a mission". They talked about their passion, their vision of the Institute, their own mission and how it fits into our own and colors it. All three have spoken to us with inner freedom, conviction and their joy so communicative.

For our benefit, John Yake, Arunprakash Paul and Jublas Nolasco, have put on paper the reflections they have delivered to all the delegates. We are grateful to offer them to all Voluntas, Members and Affiliates.

Yes, a big thank you to you three, John, Arun and Jublas for the care taken in responding to this invitation. And thank you for sharing the richness of your persons!

Robert Lebel, Director

**Voluntas Dei... Much more than a name:
a passion, a vision, a mission**

According to me, to be member of Voluntas Dei is to follow Christ in the foot prints of Fr. Parent, living our charism like the Virgin of the Annunciation, the instrument of Christ living the Father's will in the present moment in the midst of the world.

My name Arunprakash means "Arun – Sun; Prakash – Light" I prefer calling me Paul – because I have chosen St. Paul as my Patron Saint. I have no problem with people calling me Arun too.

How I joined the Institute or how I came to know the Institute?

- I did a research about IVD in the computer... Fr Sengol and Fr, Inyasi Mudiyan from Madras Mylapore popped up in the system. I was curious to know what IVD stands for. Internet (google) and it took me to the IVD website in Trois- Rivières.
- I read the IVD spirituality in the website and just sent a mail to Fr. Dunstan and Fr. Michel Beauchamp. Fr. Michel was kind enough to respond to my email.
- Fr. Andy asked me to meet Fr. Patrick, at Prince of Peace parish.
- Meeting with Fr. Patrick - Prince of Peace parish- After meeting with Fr. Patrick, I was a bit upset, because Fr. Patrick was a man of few words, but he did explain to me about Institute and he was a kind and compassionate listener. I could not grasp much about the Institute at that point of time.

JUST FOR TODAY

Lord Jesus,
give me the grace to think of you
every hour, just for today
so that I may live in your presence.

Lord Jesus,
empty my heart of all sadness,
hate and spite, just for today
so that I may love without criticizing,
and serve without complaining.

Lord Jesus,
help me to follow your footsteps
just for today,
so that following your example and Mary's,
I may be, every day of my life,
an element of peace. Amen.

This talk was presented on 5th August 2016 at La Madone for the 2016 Congress.

By Arunprakash Paul I. V. Dei

WHAT IS UNIQUE ABOUT VOLUNTAS DEI

Structure – more collegial and interactive in operation and in management style. More cohesive and more secular like director, district director, team animator.

Living the spirituality individually and the responsibility and sharing in the team during team meetings.

The spirituality of the 5-5-5 arouses a sense of wonder, because of its utmost simplicity and richness.

Positive outlook: The spirituality facilitates to discern the Will of God by focusing on the positive and detaching oneself from one's own will and one's negative aspects. Attitude to love and serve God and others without destructive criticism and useless complaints.

Exploiting the present moment. JIT – In business world, it is called 'Just in time', my understanding is "JIT - Jesus at all times". When I am clear of my JIT, I am able to live the present moment in the midst of the world.

To be a Voluntas? According to Fr. Parent, it is a simple daily exercise. He says that every person, every event and every experience that we encounter everyday should give us a message of God. It does not matter whether it is good or bad. What is important is that we feel the presence of God in those persons, events and experiences and be able to discern the will of God in those encounters. Voluntas is called to "be the will of God" as Jesus and Mary.

Fr. Parent in his book, "The Present Moment", wrote a beautiful prayer that expresses our spiritual attitudes. This prayer brings a positive outlook towards others and would aid us to live the secular consecration.

- I started attending regular team meetings with the Corpus Christi team from September 2012.
- My experience with the Corpus team- warmth, team life, sharing, constant encouragement and positive outlook. Team dynamics: Monthly team meetings, lunch outings, sharing. Team members from all walks of ministry were an eye opener and enable me to recognise IVD diverse ministries that emerged from individuals living their IVD spirituality in the world.
- People who helped me to part of the team: Andrew constantly writing to minister provincial ... it took two years for my indult to come from Rome. Lots of people helped me towards a transfer from Friars minor (OFM) to Voluntas Dei.
- Fr. Gilbert, New Brunswick experience - was a great experience to be in various parish units and work with pastoral agents, that gave me a IVD parish experience.
- All the team members of Corpus Christi who helped me in journeying in the Institute – worth mentioning their names: Jim Saginario, Gabriel, Doug, Robert, John Yake, Jim Huth, Cecil Norohna, Norma, Ron and Carol, Renato.
- Very special thanks to Fr. Andrew for writing to my superiors in India and continue to be my mentor and constant support in my formation.

PASSION

THE INSIDE THAT MATTERS

There was a man who made a living by selling balloons at a fair. He had all colours of balloons, including red, yellow, blue and green. When the business was slow, he would release a helium-filled balloon into the air and when the children saw it go up, they all wanted to buy one.

They would come up to him, buy a balloon and his sales would go up again. He continued this way all day long. One day, he felt some one tugging at his jacket.

He turned around and saw a little boy who asked him, “If you release a black balloon, would that also fly?” Moved by the boy’s concern, the man replied with empathy: “Son, it is not the colour of the balloon, it is what is inside that makes it go up.”

PASSION: to live the calling matters very important in every individual who want to live a religious life and specially to be Voluntas Dei in the midst of the world.

VISION

What is my vision?

- Internet ministry
- Job centre and soft skills ministry
- Hospital ministry or hospital management
- Might learn Spanish and work in a Spanish community
- Teaching ministry and education ministry
- Building new teams for IVD and promoting vocations for IVD.

Story: A couple from a certain part of Iraq was trying to leave ISIL dominated area. While they were escaping, they were stopped by the coup leader, who asked them the question, are you guys Muslim? The husband said: ‘yes’. Then the coup leader asked him to recite a verse from Koran. The husband said a verse from Bible. The coup leader said: good, you know the Koran’ and said: ‘you guys can leave’. Once they left that area, the wife of that man asked: ‘how could you say that you are Muslim and quote a bible verse to the coup leader’. The husband said that if the coup leader knew Koran, he would not carry guns and kill people. If he were a real Muslim, he would not persecute others in the name of God.

If one does not know, what is mission – he or she would go astray from one’s own life and do just opposite to his or her own mission.

MISSION

My Mission is to live 555’s in the given context, taking into consideration the skill sets I have. Voluntas Spirituality fascinates me and enables me to bring out my talents and skills to cater to the needs of the society in my own ways keeping in with the mission of the Institute and the church.

As church is constantly emerging, so does the ministry. ready to choose and adapt to a ministry that caters to the contemporary needs... because the focus is the present moment and not the past and not the future.

Dynamic nature of the evolving church and at the same time being contextual (in the given context) makes my mission more relevant and able to respond to the times, which makes Gospel to encounter given context and earnestness to work and to build Church for the glory of God.