

## Synergy 2014- Provincial's Valedictory Address

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Dear Bro. Augustine Novello, Members of the Provincial Administration, Brothers, participants from various Montfortian Institutions, Members of Staff and Students of Montfort, Anakkara, Rev. Fathers, Sisters, Parents and my dear friends...

We have come to the end of a very memorable event – 2 days of innovative and excellent performances from 17 Institutions of our Province. Each Institution had its own uniqueness, each one excelled in their own way. Whose performance was the best or who did better than others are not the questions to be asked! Instead, considering the background of the Institutions, what is the message brought out by their performances is the question and the answer as well.

Most of the Institutions have brought out powerfully the message of the parables- I must compliment all of you for that!

Regarding the role of Students, Brothers and Teachers in eradicating poverty, corruption and violence against women and children, there were some very interesting and innovative proposals and suggestions by our students. What we expected of you was not exploring deep into the corrupt practices and crimes against women and children, but rather point your finger to them and come up with corrective and practical measures. Otherwise, it will be yet another mere vegetative stage play. Please take for yourselves the 'good models' proposed at 'Synergy-2014', instead of slipping into the wrong side of the fence and becoming corrupt men and women of tomorrow or cruel tormentors of women and children.

In spite of all our efforts, we still see women at the receiving end - dominated and subjugated by men. The media musings, tall talks and crocodile tears shed have not made tangible changes in our society. Male domination continues to rage across the society in spite of our boasting about so many great women like Indira Gandhi and Mother Teresa! This domination should end if we have to eliminate the crimes against women and children.

For example, look at the names of companies and business firms.. Varkey and sons, Sankar and sons...Even if Varkey and Sankar have daughters- we don't have the names as Varkey & daughters or Sankar & daughters ... This is a serious, socially structured crime against women! This evil prevails even among Religions and in

Religious corridors. Our Blessed Mother Mary stands tall against such a structure- a true model of HOPE for us, to emulate and move forward positively.

The songs written, composed and rendered by various Institutions were very good and some were excellent. But at this juncture, I want to make one remark-while we have matured in the type of performances during the 4 Synergy programmes, I noticed one phenomenon-

“Work expands as Time available”- Parkinson’s II Law.

In our case here time was expanding! I do understand the Parables, themes such as fight against poverty, prevention of crimes against women and children etc., need more time. However, it should not double the permissible time. But am sure the administration will take note of this factor and come up with remedial measures in future.

Now I have some Homework and some Take home parcels.

The Homework is for the Heads of the Institutions- I request all of them, the Headmasters and Principals to present your Synergy programme to the entire Institution before you all get pre-occupied with the annual examinations.

And now for you students, here are the take home parcels-

**Parcel No.1:** Please tell your companions at school, colleges or outside your Institution or at home-to your brothers, sisters, parents, relatives and friends about the parables of Jesus. They are more interesting than the Hardy Boys, Chase, Superman or Spiderman stories. Encourage them to read them. You will find them mainly in Matthew, Mark & Luke. If you don’t have a Bible or a New Testament, ask your Principal to get you one or write to me with your full address, I shall send you one!

**Parcel 2:** Similarly, share with your relatives and friends about the evils of corruption, de-humanizing poverty and crimes against women and children.

**Parcel 3:** Each of you should take a promise before God in silence, never to wet your hands in corruption or take sides with the oppressors of poor, women and children.

Please carry these parcels with you!

These are the fruits I would like you to carry back home as you say goodbye to Anakkara. Don't go back empty handed/empty headed/or empty hearted from 'this Synergy' without the above fruits in the parcels.

Once again, I take this opportunity to congratulate and thank Bro. Augustine, the Principal for the meticulous planning, arranging and execution of Synergy 2014. Please give him a big hand. He along with Bro. Binu, the members of the staff and students have carried out a Herculean task, above our expectations! Let us give them a big hand.

The place was specially prepared and turned "Green" for Synergy-2014. The hall was meaningfully decorated and the programmes were systematically arranged. The food and accommodation were excellent without any extravaganza.

The staff and workers of Anakkara deserve a special word of appreciation for their commitment and dedication. The student-volunteers were very effective and are true models to be followed. Though we missed them yesterday, the students of Montfort, Anakkara are a disciplined bunch of boys and girls! We appreciate & thank you very much for your camaraderie and encouraging presence.

Turning to the participants of the various Institutions, I thank sincerely all the Heads of Institutions, Headmasters, Principals, Local Superiors and other Brothers who took the initiative and worked hard along with the staff members in order to make this programme a success! Your effort is nothing but 'new evangelization'.

I want to place on record my thanks and appreciation to the members of the Provincial Administration --Bros. George Padikara, K.K.Thomas, Jenny Kuriokose, Varghese Koonamavu and Thomas K.V. for planning and executing this beautiful programme. They have given a lot of support to me for organizing this programme. Thank you Dear Brothers.

Synergy programmes are organized by the Province Education Commission. The Education Commission Convener, Bro.Varghese Koonamavu has specially designed the T-shirts for this Synergy and has got ready the beautiful Souvenirs and mementoes that will be given to all the participants shortly! My sincere appreciations to Bro.Varghese-please give him a big hand.

Dear participants, you were the nucleus of Synergy-2014. You have done a wonderful work – your performances were excellent. ‘Synergy-2014’ will be remembered for long because of you – Congratulations to you all!

But before you go, I want you to take home another souvenir-this is not a physical souvenir but one that will remain always.

We are all Montfortians and look up to St. Montfort who was living under the mantle of Our Blessed Mother Mary, Mother of Jesus. We started this programme evoking her blessings and now as we say goodbye, let me draw your attention back to Mother Mary. As Montfortians, I want you to listen to what she said at Cana and take home those words as a souvenir. The words are from John-Chapter 2-Verse 5: At Cana during the marriage ceremony, when it looked as if Jesus was not going to perform a miracle, Mother Mary said-“Do what He tells you to do”-

This is the Souvenir I want you to take home-

*“Do whatever Jesus tells - through St. Montfort and Mother Mary”*

Dear children and Montfortians,

Synergy 2014 was an opportunity for us to discover whatever Jesus told us to do through his Parables, St. Montfort and Mother Mary.

Thank you-God Bless you all!