

## Synergy - 2014(Provincial's Inaugural 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...

This is the 4<sup>th</sup> Synergy programme and is being held for a second time at Anakkara. The first time itself, Anakkara rose above our expectations. This time, Montfort School, Anakkara has created the perfect ambience for this event under the Leadership of Bro. Augustine Novello, the Principal. At the outset, I appreciate him, Bro, Binu, the other Brothers of the Community, the members of Staff and the students for the same.

Last year, we defined '**Synergy**' saying 2+2 is more than four- an apparent Mathematical aberration! Maybe this year, we could say, it is the **energy equivalent** of all the hard work and efforts of our children, teachers & Brothers. For this, we could call upon the Great Einstein to teach us the Mass-energy equation with the 'Mass defect and Binding' energy puzzle! The overflowing abundance of energy that we speak about at Synergy, particularly Synergy 2014 emerges from the '**binding energy**' that exists between the Montfortian Institutions – between you Children, Teachers, Brothers and Parents. And all those little defects- limitations and imperfections will be burnt up in the positive energy flame of Synergy-2014.

Today and tomorrow, we are going to celebrate the joyful fruits of 'Montfortian Education' through the various cultural events based on the theme given to us. Montfortian education is holistic and is a continuous process. It is not a product, wherein what happens outside the classroom, even outside the school is more important than what happens within its boundaries and inside the classrooms.

**The theme of Synergy 2014 is quite unique:**

**A parable of Jesus:**

A recent finding by Educationists all over the world shows that '**Story telling**' is the best way to impart education. Jesus Christ, the greatest of all the teachers, the eternal teacher had discovered and has told us the same nearly 2000 years ago! That is why, right from the beginning of His public ministry, Jesus repeatedly used simple but very powerful stories to drive home His message of the Kingdom of God built on **Love, forgiveness and peace!** He used nearly **42** parables throughout His public ministry. Children of our Institutions were invited to read and re-read the parables of Jesus and to come up with their interpretation of them.

It is going to be a thrilling experience for all of us, especially for Brothers and teachers to discover how our children have come up with different but beautiful reflections and interpretation of these parables.

If we look deep into the parables we will find in the heart of them, Jesus Himself – the hidden **hero** of every parable is **Jesus Himself** - the hound of Heaven with a **three point agenda – Peace, Love and Forgiveness** . We have not asked you children to take up the events from the Gospels or sayings of Jesus outside the parables.

Jesus was a raging egalitarian, an invisible socialist and an economic democrat. The proof of it lies in His parables! Through the parables, Jesus preached a New and revolutionary way of life – and that way of life is not only for Christians but is for everyone. The parables of Jesus - preach a universal Religion. Sri Ramakrishna and Swami Vivekanda were enthralled by the parables of Jesus. The shortest parable is the Parable of the mustard seed and the longest, the Parable of the Prodigal son and father.

**The second part of the theme** is a remedial measure and a challenge to each one of you! Your role in eradicating poverty, corruption and crimes against women and children!

Jesus showed us through His life that **self imposed poverty** coupled with the spirit of renunciation can be a powerful tool for a peaceful and contented life. **However**, poverty due to **inequality** must be wiped away **or else corruption and crimes** will persist in this world causing further inequalities and sufferings! Crimes against women and children are on the increase day by day.... Do we have an answer to it? One lifetime is not enough for us to fight these evils – you dear children, when you reach 30,40,50,60 or 70 years, corruption, poverty and crimes against women and children may continue to exist – it may be even more – but for us Montfortians, what can we do about it? Synergy 2014 is an opportunity to evolve collectively a strategy to combat this situation. Fight ...? no..Fight along with Jesus – Jesus has shown the way- For Him, all are God’s children- boys and girls, men and women are all equal – His manifesto and mission objectives were very clearly directed to this-

*“The blind must see, the lame must walk, lepers must be cured, the deaf must be hear, the dead must be raised and the good news must be preached to the poor”.*  
Matt.11/4-5.

Dear children, only you can do this – only you can change the world – Jesus is not only the God of all Christians, He is the God of all – who has come to unite all people and all races without any discrimination into one race - **‘the people of God’** .

Francis, our great Pope, a man of Hope is turning the world upside down with his Christ like ways of thinking and doing. According to him **‘Child labour is modern slavery’** – He calls it a ‘plague’!

He further added, “It is a deplorable phenomenon, which is constantly, growing, especially in poor countries. Millions of children, mostly girls are the victims of this hidden form of exploitation!”

“Woe to those who suffocate their joyful enthusiasm of hope” - the **Pope** said.

As Billy Graham would say, you are ‘**Jesus Generation**’. With Jesus, everything is possible; you can fight with Him as your leader against corruption, imposed poverty due to inequality and eliminate the crimes against women and children.

Let ‘Synergy-2014’, like a wild wind herald such a message that as ‘Jesus Generation’, we shall succeed in fighting corruption, abject poverty and crimes against women and children.

In India, a man like ‘Anna Hazare’ has picked up this message of Jesus and has shaken this mighty Nation with a second Independence struggle. This time, not against the British Empire but against the empire of corruption. Can you all be little Anna Hazares? If some of those who took inspiration from him are struggling to sustain the momentum, it is because they are trying to build their own kingdoms and not that of God’s Kingdom. If we follow the path shown by Jesus Christ, we shall surely succeed.

But remember this saying: “Yesterday I was clever, so I wanted to change the world; today I am wise, so I wanted to change myself”.

I wish you all a wonderful performance on the stage with determination and a purpose.

**Thank you!**