



Gold and beyond...

2014 has been the year of grace for the SVDs in Goa. They thank God for 50 golden years of SVD presence in Goa. It was late Fr. Peter Verhaelen SVD, who ventured into Goa in 1964, to look for vocations for the Society of the Divine Word.

The Golden Jubilee celebrations commenced on 9th May 2013 with the First Mass of the two newly ordained priests – Frs. Michael and Glorio.

During the year a few events took place to mark the milestone of golden jubilee. The 'Fr. Peter SVD Memorial Football Tournament' became the favorite among Goans and the Goan Youth.

The culmination of the Golden Jubilee was on 8th May 2014, along with the Sacerdotal Silver Jubilee of 4 Goan SVDs, namely, Frs. Manuel Pereira, Cajetan D'Mello, Justin D'Souza and Joe Dias. It was also the thanksgiving Mass of the newly ordained SVD, Fr. Alfred Fernandes.

The celebration began with the solemn procession of the large number of priests to the venue. The Holy Eucharist was presided by Rt. Rev. Filipe Neri Ferrao, the Archbishop of the Diocese of Goa and Daman.



A brief introduction about the SVD presence and its international character was given by introducing the celebrants at the altar.

The Word of God was brought with reverence in procession and the INM Provincial honoured it in the traditional Indian way.

At the end of the Mass, Fr. Antony Menezes, the rector of the seminary, thanked all those who were involved in making this celebration a success.

A Golden Jubilee souvenir was released by the Archbishop and the Football tournament trophies were presented.

A short felicitation programme followed. All the SVDs who worked at Raia Seminary were felicitated and 32 Goan SVDs were introduced, who later sang in unison the praises of God and the founder, St. Arnold Janssen through a song.

One of the SVD Friends later entertained the gathering along with his musical troupe, as people enjoyed the fellowship meal.





Traditional Welcome through Aarti



Bible Procession



The Solemn Jubilee Eucharist



The Melodious Choir



Souvenir Release and Presentation of first copy to Fr. Peter's relations



Presentation of the Football Trophy



Con-celebrants along with the Archbishop



Goan SVDs singing the Jubilee Song

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