ST. PETER'S PONTIFICAL INSTITUTE
CURRICULUM VITAE

REV. FR. DR. GUJJALA VYAKULA VARA PRASADA RAO SDS

HOD, Missiology | Society of the Divine Saviour (Salvatorians)

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Current appointment:	HOD, Missiology, St. Peter's Pontifical Institute, Bengaluru (2025–Present)
Religious affiliation:	Society of the Divine Saviour (Salvatorians / SDS)
Address:	Salvatorians, Carmelaram, Bengaluru – 560035, India
Email:	varaprasadsds@gmail.com
Mobile:	+91 78427 10077
Date of birth:	21 July 1970
Place of birth:	Salur, Vizianagaram District, Archdiocese of Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, India
Nationality:	Indian
Priestly ordination:	10 July 1999, by Most Rev. Ignatius Pinto, Archbishop of Bangalore

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

- Doctorate in Missiology, University of Santo Tomas, Manila, Philippines (2022).
- Licentiate in Missiology, Sacred Heart Theological College, Shillong; affiliated to Salesianum, Rome (2008).
- Master's in Christian Studies, University of Madras, Chennai (2006).
- Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.), St. Mary's College of Teacher Education, Shillong, NEHU; Fifth Rank in the State of Meghalaya (2005).
- Bachelor of Theology, Carmelaram Theology College, Bengaluru (1998).
- Bachelor of Philosophy, Dharmaram Vidya Kshetram, Bengaluru (1994).
- Bachelor of Arts in English Literature, Osmania University, Hyderabad (1990).

ACADEMIC, FORMATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

2025–Present	HOD, Missiology, St. Peter's Pontifical Institute, Bengaluru.
August 2024–June 2025	Visiting Professor of Missiology, St. Peter's Pontifical Seminary, Bengaluru.
2022–2025	Local Superior and Formator, Salvatorian House of Formation, Carmelaram, Bengaluru.
2016–2022	Rector, Mater Salvatoris Theology House, Manila, Philippines; Council Member, Director of Formation and member of the East Asian Mission Vicariate.
2015–2016	Principal, Christ Jyoti School, Dhing, Assam.
2010–2014	Local Superior and Principal, Christ Jyoti School, Nagaon, Assam.
2009	Assistant Parish Priest, Digia Parish, Jharkhand.
2004–2009	Rector, Otto Hopfenmuller Theology Study House, Shillong; Vicar Superior, Director of Formation and Council Member of the Indian Foundation.
2002	Assistant Parish Priest, Bijni Parish, New Bongaigaon Diocese, Assam.
2001–2002	Vice-Principal, Christ Jyoti School, Nagaon, Assam, and In-charge of Silchang Mission.
1999–2000	In-charge of Postulants, Salvatorian House of Formation, Bengaluru.

BOOKS

Echoes of the Heart: A Journey Toward Holiness and Purpose — ATC Publishers, Bengaluru, 2025. ISBN 978-93-48685-68-1. Released 21 July 2025, the Feast of Blessed Francis Jordan and the author's birthday, by Fr. James Thapa SDS and Sr. Lilly Pushpam SDS.

Hope in a Fractured World: The Church's Whisper in the Windstorm — Omega Book World, Bengaluru, 2025. ISBN 978-81-991541-2-4. Released 17 September 2025 during the Golden Jubilee of St. Peter's Pontifical Institute by His Eminence Cardinal Philip Neri Ferrao. First copies presented to Cardinal Philip Neri Ferrao, Most Rev. Peter Machado, Most Rev. Lawrence Pius, Most Rev. Arulselvam Rayappan and Fr. Sebastian SDS.

Mission Beyond Boundaries: A Salvatorian Call to Global Communion — ATC Publishers, Bengaluru, 2025. Released 20 October 2025 during the First Pro-Provincial Chapter, Shillong, by Most Rev. Archbishop Victor Lyngdoh.

Salt of the Earth: St. Devasahayam Pillai and the Rise of the Laity — Omega Publishers, Bengaluru, 2026. Released 11 November 2026 during the centenary celebrations of Prof. Dr. Lucien Legrand MEP by Most Rev. Bishop Anthony Swamy Thomasappa, Bishop of Chikmagalur.

A Century of Faithful Service: Fr. Lucien Legrand and the Indian Church — Omega Publishers, Bengaluru, 2026. Released 11 November 2026 during the centenary celebrations of Prof. Dr. Lucien Legrand MEP by Prof. Dr. Lucien Legrand MEP.

- Forthcoming book: *God Beyond Boundaries: Journeying Toward the Inclusive Kingdom.*

SCHOLARLY ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

"Imago Dei in a Pluralistic World: Cultivating Divine Traits Through Interreligious Dialogue and Missional Praxis." — *Journal of Indian Theology*, Vol. XVIII, No. 2 (May–August 2025), pp. 33–57.

"Bridges of Grace: A Theological Inquiry into Religious Pluralism in Scripture and Church Tradition." — *Third Millennium: Indian Journal of Evangelization*, Vol. 28, Issue 3 (July–September 2025), pp. 5–23.

"God Beyond Borders: Theological Horizons in a Religiously Plural World." — *Third Millennium: Indian Journal of Evangelization*, Vol. LXII, No. 3 (September 2025), pp. 379–394.

"The Charism of Hidden Presence: Salvatorian Spirituality in the Margins of Mission." — sds.org, Article section, 13 October 2025.

"The Holy Spirit's Quiet Revolution: A Pneumatological Missiology for Cultural Renewal and Global Encounter in Redemptoris Missio 28." — In *The Dynamics Presence of the Spirit (History, Culture & Religions)*, Golden Jubilee commemorative volume of St. Peter's Pontifical Institute (1976–2026), ISPCK, Delhi, 2026, pp. 234–246.

"Christ the Fulcrum of Salvation: A Theological and Missiological Exploration of Redemption in a Religiously Plural World." — *Vidya Jyoti Journal of Theological Reflection*, VTR 90/5 (May 2026), pp. 366–386.

"Fr. Lucien Legrand and the Living Legacy of Faithful Presence, Prophetic Dialogue and Fruitful Witness." — Part Two Missiological Perspectives, Published 11 November 2026, pp157-170.

FORTHCOMING ARTICLES

- Clericalism and the Crisis of Servant Leadership.
- Digital Evangelization: From Pulpits to Pixels.
- Marginalization and Mission to the Peripheries.
- Mission and Marginalized Youth: A Pastoral Response.
- Synodality and the Future of the Church.

BOOK REVIEWS

- Review of *Families in Quest of God: Theological and Pastoral Orientations for New Times*, by Msgr. Philippe Bordeyne. ATC Books (India), 2025, 220 pp.
- Review of *Fiery Word: A Theological Reflection on Prophetic Witness*, by Raj Irudaya SJ. ATC Books, 2025, 240 pp.
- Review of *Sacred and Secular: India's Religious Dynamics (A Dialogue Between Faith and Society)*, edited by Arnald Mahesh L. SDB and Joseph Souza. ATC Books, 2025, 280 pp.
- Review of *The Social Dynamism of Catholic Education: With a Special Reference to India*, by Adrian Fernandes with Dorothy D'Souza. ATC Books, 2025, 250 pp.

These reviews appeared in *Third Millennium: Indian Journal of Evangelization*, Vol. XXIX (2026), No. 2 (April–June), pp. 95–103.

CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR CONTRIBUTIONS

"Evangelii Nuntiandi at 50: Evangelization as the Church's Identity, Dialogue, and Transformative Witness." — Paper presented during the 50th-anniversary commemoration of *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, highlighting its continuing relevance for missiology, dialogue and evangelization in 2025.

"Walking Together: Rooted in Synodality, Dialogue, and Witness." — Animated a one-day seminar for the diocesan clergy of Chikmagalur, Karnataka, on 4 August 2026, at the request of the diocesan bishop.

BITS (Bangalore Inter-Theologate Seminar) Faculty Seminar. — Ecumenical Christian Centre, Whitefield, Bengaluru, 16 November 2024. Represented St. Peter's Pontifical Seminary in discussions on eco-justice and care for creation with 34 participants from 14 institutions.

WORKSHOPS, TEACHING AND ACADEMIC SERVICE

- Speaker and facilitator in theological formation programmes across India and the Philippines.
- Teaching and supervision in Missiology, including M.Th. And Doctoral research guidance.
- Academic and pastoral formation, intercultural dialogue and theological research.

LANGUAGES AND AREAS OF COMPETENCE

- Languages: Telugu, English, Hindi and Italian.
- Missiological research, teaching and postgraduate research supervision.
- Educational leadership, institutional administration and curriculum development.
- Theological writing, editorial work and academic publication.
- Pastoral and religious formation, intercultural dialogue and collaborative mission.
- Musical composition; contributor to the Salvatorian Song Book, Shillong (2007).

PERSONAL VISION

"*To remove all barriers of regionalism and foster a spirit of unity among all those working together wholeheartedly for the spread of God's Kingdom. I envision a community where collaboration transcends boundaries, and our shared mission becomes the driving force behind every endeavour.*"