



KARNATAKA JESUITS

Dear Mr. Stefan Schäfer and Mrs Joane Tobisch

Christmas reveals to us a God who chooses closeness over distance, accompaniment over authority, tenderness over power. In the mystery of the Incarnation, God walks with humanity—listening, healing, and guiding us gently as Emmanuel, God with us. This is the heart of synodality: journeying together, discerning together, and discovering God’s presence in the shared stories of hope and struggle within our communities.

In a world fractured by polarization, indifference and fatigue, the Babe of Bethlehem reminds us that the smallest gestures of compassion can rebuild trust; the simplest acts of listening can restore dignity; the quietest movements of the heart can break down walls. Christmas calls us to become a people who walk with one another—especially with the poor, the excluded, the voiceless, and the wounded—so that God’s light may shine through our collective witness.

I thank you sincerely for your collaboration, solidarity and support in our shared mission. Your partnership strengthens our efforts to build communities where justice, compassion and fraternity flourish.

May this Christmas draw us closer to one another and to Christ who walks with us. May the New Year 2026 be filled with grace, peace and renewed courage as we continue our journey together. Be assured of my prayers for you and your family members and I wish you a **Merry Christmas** and a **Happy New Year 2026**.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Dionysius Vaz, SJ
Provincial
Karnataka Jesuit Province

Fr Arun Luis SJ
Director PDD

