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Mission Sunday 2009



St. Little Teresa, Pray for us

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

World Mission Sunday 2009

Dear Your Excellencies, Reverend Fathers and Beloved Brothers,

Once again we are in the month of the missions and in the month of the Rosary! We have begun this month specially dedicated to the missions by celebrating the feast of St. Little Theresa, the patroness of the missions, on the first day of this month. That day was closely followed by another feast, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi known as the second Christ because of his closeness to Christ in his personal life. On 18th October we celebrate World Mission Sunday together with Catholics all over the world. The First Indian Mission Congress that the three Catholic Churches of India celebrate together in Mumbai as *Yesu Mahotsav* from 14th to 18th October is a great sign of the missionary awareness of the present Indian Churches.

We are very much familiar with Mission Sunday celebrations since our childhood. Most of us might have actively participated in raising funds for missions during our school days. We might have collected all sorts of things by visiting houses for the purpose of auction on Mission Sunday. Besides raising funds for missions, such activities were very good means of creating in us a missionary awareness. If we are active missionaries now as members of MST, those mission activities that we did during our school days may have played a decisive role.

The World Mission Sunday is a day set aside for Catholics worldwide to recommit themselves to the Church's missionary activity through prayer and sacrifice. Annually, the World Mission Sunday is celebrated on the next-to-last Sunday in October. According to the encyclical *Redemptoris Missio*, Mission Sunday is "an important day

in the life of the Church because it teaches how to give: as an offering made to God, in the Eucharistic celebration and for all the missions of the world" (no. 81). The offerings of the World Mission Sunday are collected in a common fund of solidarity to support missions and missionaries all over the world.

The World Mission Sunday 2009 message of Pope Benedict begins with the words of Revelation 21: 24: "The nations will come to its light." He tries to allay the fear of the followers of other religions over our celebration of Mission Sunday. "The Church works not to extend power or affirm dominion, but to carry, to all, Christ, the salvation of the world. We ask nothing except to put ourselves at the service of all humanity, especially the suffering and the excluded." He means to say that the Mission Sunday celebration is not to consolidate world power in our hands, but to extend our loving service to those who are suffering and to those who are excluded or abandoned. The Pope reminds the world that all peoples are called to salvation. "In truth, the whole of humanity has the radical vocation to return to its source, to return to God, since in Him alone can it find accomplishment through the restoration of all things in Christ. ... The Church's mission is to 'infect' all peoples with hope. This is why Christ calls, sanctifies and sends his disciples to announce the Kingdom of God, so that all nations may become the people of God... The universal mission should become a fundamental constant in the life of the Church. To announce the Gospel must be for us, as it was for the Apostle Paul, a primary and impelling duty" (1). Quoting *Evangelii nuntiandi* (53), the Pope says that the universal Church feels responsible for announcing the Gospel to all peoples (2). Referring to the decree *Ad gentes* (8), Pope Benedict XVI says "mission of the Church, therefore, is to call all peoples to the salvation accomplished by God through his incarnate Son. It is therefore necessary to renew our commitment to proclaiming the Gospel which is leaven of freedom and progress, brotherhood, unity and peace" (3). Concluding the Mission Sunday message, Pope Benedict XVI says that that "missionary impulse has always been a sign of the vitality of our Churches" (cf. *Redemptoris missio* 2). The Pope reminds us "that

evangelization is primarily the work of the Spirit and that before being action it is witness and irradiation of the light of Christ (cf. *Redemptoris missio* 26) on the part of the local Church, which sends her own missionary men and women beyond her frontiers.”

This year’s Mission Sunday celebration has a special significance for us missionary priests as it is the ‘Year of Priests.’ As you know, the occasion of the priestly year is the 150th death anniversary of St. John Maria Vianney. He is no longer the patron of parish priests only but the heavenly patron of all priests. During this year we should learn more about his priestly ministry and spirituality and try to become more authentic witnesses of Jesus as St. John Maria Vianney was.

We have the unique model of Jesus to imitate in our priestly life and ministry: we have to proclaim the good news of the arrival of the kingdom of God which was made possible through the death and resurrection of Jesus. We have to follow Jesus’ example of being a good shepherd who lays down his life for the sheep. Finally, we have to forgive sins with Jesus’ own authority and bring Jesus in the midst of the Christian community through the celebration of the Eucharist. Jesus, who offered his body and blood sacramentally to his disciples in the form of bread and wine at the Last Supper, offered himself literally on the cross on the next day.

We who offer the Holy Eucharist on the altar must also imitate this model of Jesus, i.e. we should die on the cross for the sake of our people. In the Eucharist we can say over the bread and wine “my body” and “my blood” only if we are ready to be crucified as Jesus was. In the World Mission Sunday message of late Pope John Paul II in the year 2004, he emphasized this aspect of the ‘Eucharist and Mission.’ According to the pope, “*Eucharist and Mission*” are inseparable. “Gathered around the altar, the Church understands better her origin and her missionary mandate.” According to the Pope, “Around Christ in the Eucharist the Church grows as the people, temple and family of God: one, holy, Catholic and apostolic.” He wants us to become “missionaries of the Eucharist” to carry to every environment the great

gift received. “The Eucharist is the comfort and the pledge of final triumph for those who fight evil and sin; it is the ‘bread of life’ which sustains those who, in turn, become ‘bread broken’ for others, paying at times even with martyrdom their fidelity to the Gospel.”

Dear missionary friends, I urge you, as a fellow-missionary, to rededicate your lives to the cause of evangelization. We are first and foremost missionary priests. Whatever we do, wherever we are, we can never hide our missionary identity and character. We are persons totally set apart for the sake of the Gospel, the good news of salvation. Each and every day of our lives let us be fully aware of our missionary identity. Pastoral apostolate in the East or in the West should never diminish the missionary zeal of any members of MST. Let us all remember that each member of the Society actively contributes towards the noble mission of evangelization, some of us directly while others do a supportive role. We are interdependent missionaries working wholeheartedly to proclaim the Kingdom of God inaugurated by Jesus through his earthly mission. Let us appreciate and encourage one another to continue in our missionary apostolate with greater zeal. May St. Alphonsa, “our own saint of Bharananganam”, the saint who encourages us to face our sufferings and challenges positively, St. Little Theresa, the patroness of missions who inspires us to pray intensely, and St. Thomas, the apostle of India and our heavenly patron, help us to be ever zealous in our missionary apostolate! May our Blessed Mother bless us abundantly in this month when we pray rosary with greater fervor and devotion as well as with our missionary intentions!

‘Priestly Year’ and ‘MST Priests’ Renewal Week’

Dear Reverend Fathers,

Joyful greetings of the Priestly Year to each one of you! In this year of the 150th death anniversary of St. John Maria Vianney, the pope has asked the entire Christian world to pray for us priests for our sanctification and for the renewal of our priestly spirituality. Parishes, convents and Catholic families pray for us priests every day in this year.

Several religious congregations of women have announced their special plans of prayer and penance for the sake of us priests with the intention of our holiness and deeper spirituality. What about us priests? What do we do for ourselves in this Priestly Year? Do we make any personal and communal efforts for our own sanctification and spirituality?

In this Priestly Year we are happy to provide all MST priests an opportunity for renewal of their spiritual and priestly journey. Santhome Bible Centre, Pariyaram MC, is getting ready to welcome each one of you for a renewal programme of a week each. Together with the Central Council, Fr. Sebastian Kizhakkeyil, its Director, has planned a weeklong spiritual programme for all MST priests in the next two years. Groups of twenty priests each will be accommodated at the MST House at Praiyaram MC, Kannur, every alternative week from March 2010. Making use of the services of various retreat preachers as well as our own resource persons, the Renewal Week will offer you days of intense prayer, meditations on biblical spirituality, talks and discussions on challenges to catholic priesthood and evangelization, and talks and reflections on MST spirituality and priestly-missionary life. From the dates announced you may choose three dates of your choice and inform Fr. S. Kizhakkeyil about it via e-mail, phone or letter. According to the accommodation availability, he will confirm your dates. skizhakkeyil@gmail.com; Tel. 0497-2808279; Mob. 09539046005.

Coming together to spend a week in quiet time for prayer, introspection and sharing will be greatly beneficial for all of us priests to get energized and renewed in our dedication and commitment to evangelization. I request each of you to make use of this possibility for renewal in the context of the Priestly Year.

Wishing you God's blessings in abundance, especially in this Priestly Year,

Yours in the Lord,

Fr. James Athikalam
Director General

Priests' Renewal Week *(Proposed Programme)*

- 1st Day : Arrival in the evening, supper, rest
- 2nd Day : Prayer Day
Talks by any one of the well-known retreat preachers, Confession, Prayer Hour for Renewal of Priestly Spirituality
- 3rd Day : Priestly Spirituality in the Light of the Bible
Talks on 'Inspiring Biblical Models for Priests'
- 4th Day : Priestly Spirituality in the 21st Century
Talks and discussions on 'Challenges to Catholic Priesthood and Evangelization'
- 5th Day : MST Spirituality
Talks and discussions based on the book *Evolving MST Spirituality* and *MST Constitutions*
- 6th Day : MST Spirituality
Talks and discussions based on the book *Evolving MST Spirituality* and *MST Constitutions*
- 7th Day : Departure in the morning

Dates offered

1. 2010 March 7-13
2. 2010 March 21-27
3. 2010 April 4-10
4. 2010 April 18-24
5. 2010 May 2-8
6. 2010 May 16-22

More dates will be available in the months of September-November 2010 according to the need of our priests.

We have envisaged the following programmes too.

Regional level

- **St Paul region, Ujjain** joins with the programmes scheduled by the diocese of Ujjain
- **St Thomas region, Mandya** plans to conduct a seminar for priests in the region
- **St Alphonsa region, Sangli** has planned to conduct this year all monthly recollections for priests with a special attention to various themes related to priesthood. They have already conducted two day seminar for priests led by Fr Sebastian Kizhakeyil on all Church documents/ Encyclical from 1908 which are referring to priests and priesthood. They have also special prayers for priests in every station.

Central level

- After the Holy Qurbana special prayer for priests are said everyday
- Assigning to members a day of prayer.

Three days with the Lord

In connection with the year of priests, three days in the last week of April 2010 will be set apart for prayers, renewal talks, praise and worship at Deepti Bhavan. All priests working in Kerala and those who are interested to join are most welcome. Please arrange your summer holidays accordingly.

Adopt a Priest

Every family at St Xavier's' Church, Attathara, Kundannur, Thrissur has adopted a priest of the Society. They pray for the adopted priests everyday. Rev Fr Mathew Puthuppallimyalil, the parish priest is the inspiration behind this programme. The members of the Cherupushpa Misison League of St Antony's church Padua in the diocese of Palai too has adopted priest members of the MST in the same way. Rev Fr Mathew Mathilakath, the parish priest who is a promoter of the MST gathers together the members of the CML every Sunday and they pray for the MST Priests. From both the parishes they will contact their

adopted priests by letter or telephone call. Please cooperate with this programme.

Regional Teams Meet the Central

The second annual meeting of the members of the Regional administration and the Central team was convened from 24 -25 September 2009. The Regional Directors presented their respective annual report of the spiritual and temporal status of the members in the region with an account of the apostolic activities in the Region.

Decisions of the General Council

- It is decided in the General Council that hereafter the management of all institutions and ministries owned by the MST in the Region is also the responsibility of the respective regional administration. The financial responsibility is shared by the Society respecting the estimation of the regional director. The proceeds from such institutions shall be made use of in the mission. This shift is based on the principle of subsidiarity and the decentralization of the administration in view of giving more autonomy to the regions.
- The central administration is responsible for all the formation houses, estates and other institutions and ministries in the cosmopolitan cities.
- Rev Fr Kurian Kochettonnil is given the mandate to regularize the ownership of the land in the regions by making an agreement from the particular member to transfer the land in the name of the Society.
- The General Council passed the resolution to retain the existing trust /society in the region when a particular region is elevated to the status of an ecclesiastical unit (Diocese, Exarcate). The copy of the resolution is to be kept at the regional house too.
- The management of the school at Chiplun, in St Alphonsa region, Sangli developed from the Communion fund, is hereafter considered as any one of the schools owned by the Society.
- As our priests in Africa do not receive sufficient remuneration for their mission from the diocese of Songea, Tanzania, the General Council decided to make available to them \$100/- per head per month. This allowance will be granted to Songea mission till it reaches self sufficiency.

- MST deacons will be sent to different dioceses of Kerala this year for pastoral experiences. The decision is made in view of vocation promotion and mission animation in the mother Church.
- It is decided to plan different activities/programmes for our major seminarians (philosophers and theologians) in their summer vacations. Fr Paul Mudathotty, the formation Secretary is authorized to arrange the programmes.
- It is decided that there will be no live-in-experiences at Deepti Bhavan for the major seminarians during the summer vacation.
- There will be gathering of major seminarians in summer 2010 at Deepti Bhavan.

General Councilors on Move

Fr Paul Mudathotty visited all mission stations in St Thomas Region, Mandya, Fr Joseph Muthuplackal in the diocese of Bhadravathy and also spent time with Fr Salas Karikandathil and Fr Binoy Kadankavil who pursue their studies in MSW and B.Ed, in Mangalore and Bangalore respectively. He also visited the students in Mary Matha, Thrissur and the staff and students of Deepti minor seminary, Palakad.

Fr Mathew Elavumkal has completed his first round of visiting all priests working in India and he is set to make the next round.

Fr Antony Perumanoor spent one week visiting all mission stations in St Alphonsa region Sangli. Fr Thomas Chirackal and Fr Kurian Kochettonnil too visited some of the mission stations in Sangli and Ujjain. All Councilors are happy to see the good work the members of the MST do and found time to inspire and encourage the fellow priests engaged in various apostolates in the mission.

Coordination of Schools

A meeting was organized for all the three regional directors, Managers and principals of schools owned by the MST at Vishwadeepti, Kolhapur on the 6th of August 2009. Rev Frs. Thomas Chirackal and Kurian Kochettonnil represented the Central team.



MST Mourns at the Death of Kunjettan

P.C. Abraham, popularly known as Kunjettan who together with late Rev Fr Joseph Malippampil founded Cherupushpa Mission League, died on Aug. 11 nine days after a fatal road accident. His Excellency Mar John Perumattam representing the MST family offered floral tribute at the deceased when the wailing voyage passed in front of Deepti Bhavan. The Director General and a good number of MST priests and brothers attended the funeral service at Chemmalamttam, his home parish. He was a well wisher of the MST. May his soul rest in peace!



Foundation Stone Laid for Aram

His Excellency Mar John Perumattam, the bishop emeritus of the diocese of Ujjain, in the presence of the fathers and brothers of the Deepti Nagar, laid the foundation stone for the newly planned Aram on 1 August 2009.



Visits of Dignitaries

Deepti Bhavan was blessed by the visits of following dignitaries:

Excellencies Most Rev. Sylvester Ponnuthan, the bishop of Punalur diocese, Mar Paul Chittilappilly, the bishop of Thamarassery,

Mar George Alencherry, the bishop of Thuckalay, Mar Thomas Elavanal, the bishop of Kalyan, Mar Simon Stock Palathara, the bishop of Jagadapur and Mar Vijayanand Nedumpuram, the bishop of Chanda.

RUHALAYA MAJOR SEMINARY, UJJAIN

Convocation and New Priests Day

20 new priests gathered at Ruhhalaya, their *alma mater*, to share their joy in being ordained priests. At 7.00 pm on 15th July there took place the third convocation ceremony of awarding the B.Th degree and Diplomas to the new priests who completed their studies in Ruhhalaya. His Excellency Mar Sebastian Vadakel was the chief guest of the day. Ruhhalaya Theological College is affiliated to Paurastya Vidyapeetham, Vadavathoor in 2006. In the morning of 16th July the new priests together with the formators offered Holy Qurbana to thank the Lord for the gift of priesthood.

The Feast of St Alphonsa

The first feast after the canonization of St Alphonsa was celebrated most solemnly. The Holy Qurbana was celebrated by Rev.Fr Jaison Thachilettu, the Chancellor of the diocese of Ujjain. July 28th will be a holy day for the seminary from this year.

The Feast of St John Maria Vianney

The feast was celebrated August 4, 2009 with special solemnity as it is the 150th anniversary of his death and also the Year for Priests.

Freshers' Day

On the eve of the double feast of Assumption and Independence, the freshers of Ruhhalaya performed variety entertainments at Philosophate auditorium and exhibited their talents before the community.

Community Day

Ruhhalaya family joyfully celebrated its community day on Monday 7th September 2009. The day began with the celebration of a common solemn Holy Qurbana. A tug of war competition was conducted in

which the formators team made history by winning the First Prize. There was also a friendly get-together of all the fathers and brothers.

Seminar and Bible Quiz for Women Religious

The annual seminar cum Bible quiz competition for women religious in the diocese of Ujjain was conducted on Friday, 2nd October 2009. About 50 sisters participated in the seminar and eleven contestants participated in the Bible Quiz Competition on Synoptic Gospels.

MISSIONARY ORIENTATION CENTRE, JEEVAN JYOTI

Twenty Second Batch in JJ Ganjam

The academic year 2009-10 was officially inaugurated by His Excellency Rt. Rev Dr Thomas Antony Vazhappallil, the bishop of Mysore on the 04th of July 2009. In his inaugural address he reminded the brothers to be more God oriented especially in this Priestly Year. The Day was blessed by the Eucharist Celebration presided by Rev Fr Sebastian Koottumkal, the Regional Director of St Thomas region Mandya . This year there are ten brothers. They spent the following day with the Lord in recollection.

First Holy Qurbana in Kannada

Rev Fr Prasad Kallapuraparampil initiated the brothers in to the local language, Kannada which is given priority in the curriculum of Jeevan Jyoti. The Feast of the Patron saint of Jeevan Jyoti, St Alphonsa was celebrated with local Christian community with all pomp and glory on the 28th of July when the brothers participated in the Holy Qurbana in Kannada language. The month of August was spent for the second course of Kannada language led by Rev Fr Zacharias Thadathil.

Exposure to Mission

Brothers had a direct opportunity to mingle with the local people as part of their missionary formation while they volunteered the medical

camp conducted by Asha Sadan in Mandya on the 09th of July. The brothers started their village visits on the

11th of September. By this time they visited different mission stations such as Gollarahalli, Hosadoddi, Panditahalli and Rudrakshipura. From 19th October to 01 November 2009 the brothers will stay with missionaries in different Mission Stations in Mandya for a better mission experience.

New Priests' Day

Jeevan Jyoti was privileged to extend a warm welcome to its alumni who were ordained to priesthood this year. The presence and sharing of the new Priests in Jeevan Jyoti on 26th July 09 was an inspiration to brothers.

Annual Retreat

Days from 03 to 07 October in Jeevan Jyoti were filled with the vibrations of the Holy Spirit as the brothers were making their Annual Retreat led by Fr Benny Arthanakunnel MST.

Mission Seminar

Brothers will be enriched by listening to scholarly talks and sharing of mission experiences by zealous missionaries in a Mission Seminar organized at Jeevan Jyoti on 16th and 17th October, 2009.

MINOR SEMINARY

Ruby Jubilee of Deepti Minor Seminary

Deepti College, the minor seminary of the MST celebrated its 40th birthday on 31 August 2009. The day was graced by the solemn concelebrated Qurbana presided over by His Excellency Mar Sebastian Vadakel, bishop of Ujjain. In his homily he pointed out the importance of one's vocation. He inspired the brothers to be truthful and trustworthy to God who nurtures the vocation. There was a felicitation meeting presided over by the Director General. Rev Fr George Kuppayil, the



Vice-Rector of Deepti Minor Seminary welcomed the dignitaries. Rev Fr Sebastian Thuruthel the first rector of the Deepti and his successor Fr Joseph Padannamakal and Fr Mathew Mattappallil, recollecting their ever fresh memories of good old days at Deepti really showed how happy they were to be in the formation team of the Deepti Seminary. We shall remember with gratitude all priests who served Deepti Bhavan.

New Face in the Formation Team

Fr Jose Valiamangalam after his pastoral ministry in Sweden for almost 10 years is back home and joined the formation team of Deepti minor seminary, Melampara. There are now six priests in the formation team.

Deepti Minor Seminary, Palakad

Life at Deepti seminary, Palakad is at a brisk pace with lot of activities. Our brothers came on September 9th after their Onam holidays. They had a day of prayer and recollection led by Fr. Sony CST. We had a half day outing to the Chulliyar Dam. The day marked special because we had Fr. Johnson Kuppayil with us. And it was on the Dam site we had the inauguration of the mission Sunday competitions. Brothers are energetic and agile, taking part in various items. We enjoyed the paternal care and love of our Director General, Very Rev Fr James Athikalam during his visit on 9th and 10th of September.

ST PAUL REGION, UJJAIN

Missionary and Pastoral Collaboration with the Archdiocese of Bhopal

At the invitation of His Grace Rt. Rev. Dr Leo Cornelio, the Archbishop of the Bhopal, the General Council has sent Frs Hans Puthiyakulangara and Shaji Sasseril to the Archdiocese of Bhopal. Fr Hans is appointed priest –in –charge of Syro-Malabar Catholics in Bhopal and associate pastor at Sacred Heart Parish, Ratenpur Rev. Fr Shaji is appointed to the formation team of the minor seminary of the Archdiocese of Bhopal and is also appointed the house procurator of the seminary.

Gathering at Santhome

Priests of St Paul region, Ujjain gathered in the regional house to celebrate the heavenly patron's day on 8th July. It was an occasion to thank the Lord for all the blessings the region received in the past years and also made use of this occasion to evaluate the overall mission in the last year.

Blessing of the New Block of St Thomas School

Rev. Fr Paul Parecattil, the Regional Director blessed and opened the newly constructed block of St Thomas school on 'Dukhrana' in the presence of many MST priests and well wishers.

Mission Exposure

Twenty two deacons of Mary Matha Major Seminary Trichur chose the diocese of Ujjain for their missiological classes and they stayed at Santhome, the MST regional house. The classes were arranged in the regional house and the classes were mainly led by Fr Joseph Thekkekarott. There were also sharing sessions by some of the experienced missionaries from Ujjain such as Fr Francis Kandathil, Fr Joseph Karikilamthadam, Fr Antony Pulickamandapam and Fr Paul

Parecattil. They spent their evenings in visiting the neighboring villages in small groups under the guidance of experienced missionaries. One has to appreciate them that they took keen interest to learn the local language and this helped them to actively participate in Holy Qurbana and Canonical prayers and Rosary in Hindi. After 12 days of preparation and study at the regional house, on 2nd October they moved to different mission stations in the diocese of Ujjain and Jhabhua (where MST missionaries are working). They returned home on the 9th of October with a first hand experience in the mission. The credit goes to Fr Devis Kavungal as this programme is his brain child. He accompanies the students in the mission throughout the programme.

ST THOMAS REGION MANDYA

Silver Jubilee of Hadanur Mission Station

Hadanur mission station celebrated the conclusion of its Silver Jubilee on 20th September 2009. Rev Fr James Athikalam, the Director General presided over the thanksgiving Holy Qurbana and in the homily he praised and appreciated the wonderful service Hadanur mission station has been rendering to the people of Mandya and neighbouring districts since 1992. The Vice Superior General, Provincial Superior, councillors of Snehagiri Congregation and many of the Fathers, Sisters and then Regents who worked in Hadanur station, Mandya missionaries and invited guests graced the occasion by their presence. The MST family wishes God's graces on Fr Augustine Mundiavil and the Snehagiri Sisters who render great and valuable medical care to the poisonous snake bitten patients. We wish and pray that this Centre may become a well developed Ayurvedic Hospital of MST in the future.

Specialization

Fr Joy Muringayil participated in a seminar on Snake poison treatment and use of Ayurvedic medicines at Puttur, Mangalore. Wish you all the best in your earnest search and interest in Ayurvedic medicine treatment.

Kannada for Beginners

An intensive Kannada language course is being conducted at Santhome for the fresh new Priests, Regents and Rev. Sisters at Santhome from 12 to 30th September. Rev. Fr. Prasad K.J. and Rev. Sr Pressy CMC conducted the course making use of their Dasara holidays in the schools. Thank you very much for your generosity and hard work.

Chethana, Nanjangud

As an expansion of St Thomas Region Mandya to other neighboring districts, Rev. Fr. Jose Akkattukudilil was entrusted with starting a new mission centre for MST. He started the Chethana Mission station at Nanjangud (Mysore District) in a rented house. Almost after 9 months of study, survey, contacts, search and preparing a project for rural development, he could find a suitable plot of land for the new mission station at Thelakanambi in Chamarajanagar district. Now we are waiting for the registration of the 2.5 acres of land. Congratulations, Fr Jose.

Adieu to Fr Azhakath and Fr Thekkel

- Rev. Fr. Abraham Azhakath, who started the Hosadoddi mission station and has been working there for the past 16 years, took leave of the mission station on 14th September 2009 to go to Canada for pastoral work. He reached there safe and sound. We thank you sincerely for your dedicated, simple style of mission work at Hosadoddi and wish you every success in your new ministry in Canada
- Rev. Fr. Joseph Thekkel, the Director of Deepti Nivas (Rehabilitation Centre for the disabled) at Kalenahalli, has left the centre on 30th September to go to Brazil for pastoral work. We thank him sincerely for having established this MST Centre, worked for its development and served Mandya mission. Wish you all the best in your new apostolate!

Social Action

- The implementation of the Drinking Water Project at Pandithahalli Mission station is in full swing. People of the villages are waiting eagerly for the pipe connections to get water from the constructed big tanks

- Asha Sadan special school under the Directorship of Fr Francis Kureeckal is now extending its service to many more students from different areas in Mandya town and vicinity with the purchase of the new 40 seater school bus. Government officials and people of Mandya town have great appreciation for this school.
- Ashakirana, HIV/AIDs awareness and Counselling centre has taken up the T.B. patients' care in two Taluks of Mandya district in collaboration with WORLD VISION agency and with the help of 20 volunteers, besides the care and support to the HIV/Aids affected /infected persons and their families. Wish you all the best in your new venture, Fr Binish Arackal.
- Social Work Department of Mandya Mission. headed by Fr Sunny Mundackal could give almost 30 Lakhs Rupees last week as loan for buying cows/buffaloes to 180 poor families of our SHG groups through the support and co-operation of BRIDGE FOUNDATION, Bangalore. They have to pay back the loan by selling the milk in the Milk Dairy run by the SHG group, which they do without fail.

St. ALPHONSA REGION SANGLI

Delving in to Church *Magisterium*

In the year for priests, Alphonsa Region organized a two day seminar on Church document on priest at Vishwadepti, the Missiological Centre of MST. Rev Fr Sebastian Kizhakeyil was the resource person for the seminar. Almost all the fathers from Sangli Mission keenly attended the seminar. There were only words of appreciation and gratitude from the part of the participants to Fr Kizhakeyil who led them through the Church documents on priests and priesthood since 1908.

CCC Ratnagiri Admired for Best documentation

Community Care Centre (CCC) at Ratnagiri for the PLHAS completed its first year of services. As a part of the celebration the group visited 111 houses of the affected and infected of PLHAS within

a period of 15 days. The centre was appreciated by the KHPT for the best documentation in Maharashtra. Hearty Congratulation to Frs Siju Azhakath and Mathew Edathiparambil.

Thirty Seventh Batch at Asmitha

The Thirty seventh batch from Asmita Marathi Language Centre at Vishwadeepti has successfully completed the Marathi language course. Rev Fe Peter Vattappara, the Director, Vishwadeepti, presided over the convocation ceremony and the certificates were given away to the students by Rev Fr Sebastian Thuruthel. Congratulations to Rev Fr Paul Painadath and his team.

Shelter for the Affected

Alphonsa School, Miraj shared its premises and school buildings to the public servants for stay and accommodation during the communal disharmony and violence in Sangli district.

RPF team at Shahuwadi

RPF team as part of their training stayed at Alphonsa School Shahuwadi shared its school building and lived with the children.



Purchase of Land

Ashadeep Sangli has purchased a plot of about 5000 sq ft land for the purpose of special school cum convent close to the present centre.

Annual Retreat

Annual retreat for the fathers and sisters of Sangli Mission is arranged at Vishwadeepti from 13 to 17 and 18 to 22 of October 2009 respectively.

Celebration

Mary Matha Church Chiplun celebrated its parish feast in honour of Blessed Virgin Mary. Three children received First Holy communion and four received the sacrament of confirmation. Many could not reach because of the curfew in many places at Kolhapur and Sangli districts.

Flood

Due to heavy rainfall residences of priests and sisters of Vilavade centre were under water. There was 4 feet high water in the residence of Fr Siby Vadakeputhenpura and the whole night he stayed inside the house without light, food and any other help. Sisters took shelter in the School building. The flood caused extensive damages to home appliances, furniture, teaching materials and food materials worth above one lack rupees. The vigilance and courage of Fr Siby reduced the enormity of the losses.

Visits

Rev Fr Sebastian Thuruthel visited Sangli Mission in the last week of September. Fr Thuruthel addressed the gathering of ONAM Celebration organized by Malayalee Samajam, Sangli. Fr Thuruthel will never forget his visit as he was caught by the flood in Konkan that caused him to spend one whole night in the Jeep on road near Amberi. They could neither move forward nor back due to flood. The courage and missionary zeal of Fr Sebastian Thuruthel was an inspiration to the young missionary personnel in Sangli Mission

Mrs. Meena K, Regional Coordinator of Stichting Liliane Fonds (SLF), visited the project area centers at Shanti Nivas, Khutalwadi and Pratiksha, Vilavade, Watul and appreciated the works.

Kadukumani Mission Quiz 2009

Kadukumani Mission Quiz 2009 is successfully completed and the telecast started from September 09. 48 children selected from the five mission camps would contest for the title. It is fascinating, wonderful

and unbelievable. The young generation of Kerala will appear in dazzling colours, setting before us a mission banquet. Don't forget to watch!!!

*Telecast: Sunday at 6.30 pm
Tuesday at 5.00 pm
Thursday at 8.30 am*



The final camp and the shooting took place at Yuvakshetra, Palakkad from 28th to 31st May. Rev. Fr. Shaji Sasseril was the Quiz Master and Dn Joshy Vazhakattu organized the event. On this occasion we gratefully acknowledge the great cooperation extended by

the Ruhalya Staff and the students. Ruhalya supports our endeavours to the maximum. Rev. Fr Joseph Thekkekarot and Rev. Fr Joy Panjikkaran, through their classes and mission sharing added real spirit to the one month long Kadukumani Mission Camps. Dn. Joshy Vazhakatt, Dn Lijesh Panackavayalil, Bros Shijomon Thettalickal, Lijo Kavunnukattil and Shaiju Kizhakkekureethadathil conducted five Multi-media mission camps for Kadukumani children and these children are now going to perform in the Shalom Television.

Contribution of the MST to Prison Ministry of India

The credit goes to Fr Josekutty Kalayil MST, the National Co-ordinator of Prison ministry who took the lead to purchase a building at Carmelaram, Bangalore for the national office of prison ministry India. Rev Fr Paul Mudathotty was present for the blessing and inauguration of the new office. Congratulations to Fr Josekutty for this achievement and the MST wishes you all the best for your ministry towards the least, lost and last.

Pilgrimage to St. Alphonsa's Tomb

Members of Cherupushpa Mission League of the neighbouring parishes of Deepthi Bhavan gathered at Deepthi to



begin their pilgrimage to the tomb of St. Alphonsa. His Excellency Mar John Perumattom, the Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Ujjain inagurated the pilgrimage and inspired the children with mission thoughts.

MST Mission in Tanzania

Rev Fr Thomas Chirackal visited our missionaries working in Chegaena parish in Songea diocese. Parishioners accorded a warm welcome to him with gifts of chicken eggs and many other things. Chengena parish has got five outstations. The catholic population in the parish is 3000. It is a Muslim dominated area. Fr Prakash Njallany and Fr Biju Pullappillil working there are quite happy with the work. They have a very good rapport with the people.

In view of expanding MST mission in Tanzania, Fr Thomas visited some other dioceses too. He visited the diocese of Panda. It was erected a diocese in 2000. There are only 10 parishes with 13 priests. The total population of the diocese is more than 3 Lakhs. Catholic population of the cathedral parish is about 80000.



People are very cooperative and all the parishes are self-sufficient

Fr Thomas also visited the parish of Kasangezi in Kigoma diocese where he worked for 9 years. The faithful accorded him a warm welcome.



Conference at Mary Matha Major Seminary

A conference of all major superiors of men Religious Congregations and Societies and Rectors of minor seminaries was held at Mary Matha, Thrissur on the 8th August. The participants discussed the challenges the major seminaries face. Fr Paul Mudathotty represented the Society at the conference.

AMSAL Bi-Annual Continental Assembly

In 1997 the FABC organized a meeting of the missionary societies in Asia. From this initial gathering, AMSAL (Asian-born Missionary Societies of Apostolic Life) has grown. The group meets on the Asian continental level once every two years. Rev Fr. James H. Kroeger MM (Mary Knoll Missionaries) is the Secretary and Convener of AMSAL. The following are members of AMSAL.

- ◆ Mission Society of the Philippines (Philippines)
- ◆ Korean Foreign Mission Society (Korea)
- ◆ Lorenzo Ruiz Mission Society (Philippines)
- ◆ Thai Mission Society (Thailand)
- ◆ Little Way Missionary Priests of St. Therese (Myanmar)
- ◆ Mission Society of St. Thomas the Apostle (India)

This year it was held in Manila, Philippines from August 6-10, 2009

Fr. Antony Perumanoor representing the MST participated in the AMSAL gathering. The members discussed the present challenges

in the seminary formation and shortage of vocations. Among these Societies, we are first in vocations, members and areas of apostolate. Thai Mission Society has welcomed us to collaborate with them in their missionary apostolate in Thailand. Rev Fr. Jacob Theckanath, the Executive Secretary of FABC Office of Evangelization too participated in the Assembly.



Fr Palakeel Member of Jury for SIGNIS



SIGNIS is the world catholic association for cinema and communication and is the largest catholic communication organization Fr Jose Palakeel is invited as a jury member of the SIGNIS jury at the 66th international film Festival in Venice, Italy. It is a big event with 100s of new films competing for prize. The jury watches the same films and chooses one with Christian and catholic values. He had to view 24 films in 10 days (3-4 a day) and give evaluation and work with 7 member jury to choose one film for SIGNIS award. Congratulations!

Biblical Story Telling

This is to invite you all to an exciting program being organized by IMPACT Cochin, the missionary animation and communication program of MST. It is primarily about the theory and practice of biblical storytelling in oral and digital culture. This is an attempt exploring new ways of proclaiming the Gospel, using traditional and new communication tools and technologies.

Rev Fr Jose Palakeel, the Director of IMPACT invites all MST missionaries to any of these programs. Please contact him for registration.

There is one conference and two training Workshops on Biblical storytelling

1. One scholarly Conference at Nava Spoorthi Kendra in Bangalore East on Oct 31-Nov 2 (food and accommodation free).
2. Two Training workshops on practice - understanding, learning and telling biblical stories orally and digitally.
 - ♦ in Delhi in collaboration with CBCI Media office and Signis north India on Oct 9-10 (free food and accommodation; registration fee 200).
 - ♦ in Bangalore in collaboration with United Theological college, behind Cononement station on Oct 29-30.

Land at Nedumkandam

A piece of land of 2.5 acres, 2K.m away from the city of Nedumkandam on the way to Ramakalmedu in the diocese of Idukki is bought for MST. There is a house with a dozen rooms and it is a peaceful abode which can be made use of by those who wish to take some rest and also as a contact house in the High ranges.

Success in Studies

Frs Biju Muringassery and Binoy Kadankavil took the degree in MA English (correspondence) from Mysore University. Congratulations to you!

Sabbatical year

Fr Paul Karottekunnel remains in US in the diocese of St Petersburg, Florida using the constitutional privilege of sabbatical year.

Studies

Fr Salas Karikkandathil began his MSW studies at St Aloysius College, Mangalore. He got selected from 600 candidates who had applied for MSW course.

Fr Binoy Kadankavil left Nagamangala mission station to do his B.Ed studies at Christ College Bangalore.

Fr Kulapurath got the scholarship from the Oriental Congregation, Rome and is pursuing his studies in Oriental Theology at the Pontifical Oriental Institute, Rome.

Fr Tony Mampilly is given scholarship from ERASMUS, and he has registered at the Leuven, Belgium to do his licentiate in Moral Theology .

Fr Mathew Anithanam is doing his post graduate studies in Education at St Xavier's University, Cincinnati, USA.

Fr George Mampillil has registered with the EFLU (English and Foreign Language University) Hyderabad for his PHD studies.

Fr Chettiakunnel has applied for his B.Ed studies in Shillong

Frs Kalmapulieyl, Ettany, Manthara, Muttathupadam and Mecheril do their German language studies in Goethe Institute, Pune in view of doing pastoral work in Germany.

Frs Joseph Thekkel and Pulickal started learning Portuguese language in view of doing pastoral work in Brazil.

Back Home

Frs George Koormullumpurayidom and Joseph Valiamangalam are back to mission in India from Sweden after their pastoral service in Sweden for nine years. Fr George is in Sangli and Fr Jose is appointed member of the Staff at Deepti Minor seminary, Melampara.

Frs Anto Munjanattu and Augustine Thekkemyladiyil returned to India after their pastoral service in the diocese of Dallas, USA for five years. Fr Thekkemyladiyil is in Sangli and Fr Anto is in the diocese of Ujjain. The MST is grateful to you dear fathers for your dedicated service in the overseas.

TRANSFERS AND APPOINTMENTS

St Paul Region, Ujjain

Rev Fr Anto Munjanatt - Priest -in-Charge & Rector of the MOC, Vikas Maitri, Kotra

Rev Fr Varghese Cherolil - Spiritual Father, MOC, Vikas Maitri, Kotra

Rev Fr Varghese Chakkungal - Priest-in-Charge, St Alphonsa Church, Akodia

Rev Fr Sebastian Mullamangalam- Education Secretary, Diocese of Ujjain

Rev Fr Sebastian Varikatt- Priest-in-Charge, St Joseph's Church, Narasingarh

Rev Fr Cyriac Vanchipurackal - Priest-in-Charge, Santhome Catholic Mission, Barnagar

ST THOMAS REGION, MANDYA

Rev Fr Xavier Kadaplackal - Priest- in -Charge, Kalanahalli

Rev Fr Sebastian Tharapputhotty - Priest-in-Charge, Hosadoddi

Rev Fr Binish Arackal - Director, Deepti Nivas at Kalenahalli

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Tel: 0032-485373269

CORRECTIONS IN THE DIRECTORY JULY 2009

There are some mistakes in the Directory 2009. Sorry for it. Kindly send to us the corrections and they will be published in the Christmas news bulletin.

Corrections

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Kadookunnel John Mob: 09961395431

Kallidukkil Savio Mob: 09497145592

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E-mail: georgetmst@yahoo.com

Thonikuzhyil Augustine Mob: 099 69 08 73 75

Thuruthel Sebastian Mob: 09744157743

Unniepillil Joseph Mob: 094 25 94 56 60

Valiamangalam Jose Mob: 097 44 15 85 10

Transfer of Regents

- ◆ Bro Vipin Vanmelil from Deepti Bhavan to St Alphonsa Region, Sangli
- ◆ Bro Bipin Vettikattil from St Paul Region, Ujjain to Deepti Bhavan

- ♦ Bro Lijo Manikompel from Deepti Estates, Palakad to St Paul Region, Ujjain.
- ♦ Bro Jubit Thellyil from Cherish, Amberi, St Alphonsa Region, Sangli to Deepti Estates, Palakad.

Wish you all the best and enriching experiences in your missionary training in the field.

New Book released:

“Paul’s Concept of Mission, An Exegetical and Theological Study of Romans 10:8-17”

This book written by Rev Fr Joy Panjikaran was released by His Excellency Mar Sebastian Vadakel on the Convocation and New Priests Day in Ruhalya on 14th of July 2009. Foreword to this book was written by Dr Lucien Legrand, St Peter’s Pontifical Institute, Bangalore. India. Congratulations to Fr Joy!

Necrology

Uncle of Fr Tom Kakkaniyil, Sister in law of Fr Alexander Pinamarukil, Eldest Sister in Law and the maternal Aunt of Fr Lonappan, Father of Fr Jose Ottalamkal, Elder Brother of Fr Paul Vadakeoram, Sister of Fr Kuzhikandathil, Elder Sister of Fr Jose Edattukaran, Grandfather of Fr John Thannickapara, Mother of Fr Abraham Azhakath; she is Grand Mother to Frs Kuriakose Azhakath and Jiji Pullikattil, Mother of Fr Antony Pedickattukunnel, Grand Father of Fr Thomas Plappallil, Stepmother of Fr Thomas Chirackal.

Let us keep the departed in our prayers

Prayer Day

In the Year of Priests, let us be more united with the Lord. The General Council has decided to assign for every priest a day to be spend in prayer. Each one is free to spend the day in the manner he feels comfortable to be with the Lord and pray for all priests all over the world and especially for the MST Priests.

October 2009

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Fr James Athikalam | 17. Fr Jose Edattukaran |
| 2. Fr Paul Mudathotty | 18. Fr Jose Valiamangalam |
| 3. Fr Thomas Chirackal | 19. Fr Biju Muringassery |
| 4. Fr Antony Perumanoor | 20. Fr Joseph Ayathamattam |
| 5. Fr Appachan Mulamkothara | 21. Fr James Mandapam |
| 6. Fr Kurian Kochettonnil | 22. Fr Roy Muthumakal |
| 7. Fr Jomon Ayyankanal | 23. Fr Sebastian Pothenparampil |
| 8. Fr Sebastian Pottanany | 24. Fr Jose Palakeel |
| 9. Fr John Kadookunnel | 25. Fr Sebastian Kizhakkeyil |
| 10. Fr Sebastian Thuruthel | 26. Fr Sebastian Elanjimattam |
| 11. Fr Thomas Ayathamattam | 27. Fr Francis Thottumarickal |
| 12. Fr Francis Ezhanikatt | 28. Fr Joseph Karodan |
| 13. Fr Zacharias Cherunilam | 29. Fr Venus Karamullil |
| 14. Fr James Kurukilamkatt | 30. Fr Zacharias Thadathil |
| 15. Fr George Kuppayil | 31. Fr Thomas Kalapura |
| 16. Fr Savio Kallidukkil | |

November 2009

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Adappoor Kuriakose | 16. Arumachadath Varghese |
| 2. Aerthedam Sebastian | 17. Araynkalayil Joseph |
| 3. Aikarakunnel George | 18. Aykara Abraham |
| 4. Akkattukudilil Joseph | 19. Azhakath Abraham |
| 5. Allumpurath Raju | 20. Azhakath Kuriakose |
| 6. Ammanathukunnel Kurian | 21. Azhikannickal Zacharias |
| 7. Anithanam Mathew | 22. Chakiriamthadam Joseph |
| 8. Arackal Joseph | 23. Chakalckal Davis |
| 9. Arackaparampil Sebastian | 24. Chakalackal George |
| 10. Arangassery Lonappan | 25. Chakkungal Varghese |
| 11. Aranjanal Jose | 26. Champakara Francis |
| 12. Aranjanyil Biju | 27. Chandrankunnel Cyriac |
| 13. Arathil Thomas | 28. Chempottickal Abraham |
| 14. Areeplackal Kurian | 29. Chenganariparampil Thomas |
| 15. Arathanakunnel Joseph | 30. Cheriampantatt Joseph |

December 2009

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|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Cherickanmpurath Sebastian | 16. Kakkaniyil Thomas |
| 2. Cherolil Varghese | 17. Kalampulyel Scaria |
| 3. Chettiakunnel Joseph | 18. Kalarickal Jose |
| 4. Chitteth Xavier | 19. Kalarickal Joseph |
| 5. Choorakunnel Sebastian | 20. Kalarickal Thomas |
| 6. Edathiparampil Mathew | 21. Kalathil Francis |
| 7. Edattamkuzhy George | 22. Kalathoor Chandy |
| 8. Elamplakatt Mathew | 23. Kalayil Joseph |
| 9. Eniyekatt Sebastian | 24. Kalladayil Sebastian |
| 10. Ettaniyil Joseph | 25. Kallupuraparampil Sebastian |
| 11. Kadalikkattilputhenpura Vincent | 26. Kanatt Justin |
| 12. KadankavilThomas | 27. Kandamparampil Martin |
| 13. Kadaplakal Xavier | 28. Kandathil Francis |
| 14. Kadaprayil Joseph | 29. Kannamthadam Joseph |
| 15. Kaithottumkal Antony | 30. Kannamundayil Mani |
| | 31. Kannany Thomas |

January 2010

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Kannathukuzhy Joseph | 17. Kizhakkarakatt John |
| 2. Kappilparampil Joseph | 18. Kizhakkethottam Joseph |
| 3. Kappumkaparampil Varghese | 19. Kizhakkeparampil Joseph |
| 4. Karamel Thomas | 20. Kochaymkanal Joseph |
| 5. Kariathil Johny | 21. Kocheetathott James |
| 6. Karickamukalel Philip | 22. Kocheetathott Thomas |
| 7. Karikandathil Salas | 23. Kochuchakala George |
| 8. Karikilamthadam Joseph | 24. Kochuparackal Joseph |
| 9. Karimpanackal Manuel | 25. Kochuparampil Johny |
| 10. Karottekunnel Paul | 26. Kochuparampil Joseph |
| 11. Kattuthara Paul | 27. Kollamkudy Varghese |
| 12. Kavukatt George | 28. Kollamparampil Mathew |
| 13. Kavumkal Sebastian | 29. Kollithadam Abraham |
| 14. Kavumpuram Peter | 30. Kondoor Joseph |
| 15. Kavungal Davis | 31. Koren Joseph |
| 16. Keeranchira George | |