



MST World

MST News Bulletin 01/21

Easter 2021



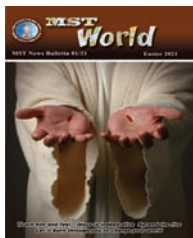
Touch him and feel, Jesus is indeed alive! Spread the fire! Let it burn through you to change your world.

Year of St Joseph



Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,... To you God entrusted his only Son;... With you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen.

(Pope Francis, Patris Corde, 7)



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“Joseph found happiness not in mere self-sacrifice but in self-gift. In him, we never see frustration but only trust. His patient silence was the prelude to concrete expressions of trust. Our world today needs fathers. It has no use for tyrants who would domineer others as a means of compensating for their own needs.”

Pope Francis, Patris Corde, 7.

I. MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

Dear Rev. Fathers and Brothers in Christ,



In the context of all the many Holy Week readings and devotions, we have been able to observe the patient suffering of Jesus: His compassion for the thief on the cross; His words to the women of Jerusalem; His love of the band of disciples at the last supper; and His care for His Mother, even from the cross. Above all, we witness His courage and obedience to the will of the Father, and His submission in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Obedience, love, compassion, humility, kindness, meekness and patience – these characteristics of Jesus which have been on full display throughout our Lenten season and Holy Week, guide us towards a glorious Easter Day.

We are invited to be transformed by the resurrection, not just as individuals but also as a community. And what type of community should that be? One which is compassionate, kind, humble, meek, and patient; one which has clothed itself in love which binds everything together in unity (Col. 3:12-17). Pope Francis has said this about his vision for us , ‘I prefer a Church that is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a Church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security’ (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 49).

Holy Week reminds us that the power of the cross is in the service of others, and the power of the cross is that Jesus Christ was a revelation of God’s love for his world in which God would be glorified. So as we rejoice in the glory of Easter Day, I pray that together we live in the service of others following the pattern of Christ, in and through the

Society.

Marking the 150th anniversary of St Joseph being declared Patron of the Universal Church by Blessed Pope Pius IX, Pope Francis proclaimed a special “Year of St Joseph,” beginning on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception 2020 and extending to the same feast in 2021. This will be a yearlong celebration dedicated to the foster father of Jesus.

In his apostolic letter ‘*Patris Corde*’ (*With a Father’s Heart*) which was released on 8 December 2020, Pope Francis describes Saint Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father; a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows. Christians can discover in St Joseph, who often goes unnoticed, “an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble.” He further went on to say that, “St Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation. A word of recognition and of gratitude is due to them all.”

Pope Francis also highlighted St Joseph’s “creative courage,” not only in finding a stable and making it a “welcoming home for the Son of God (who came) into the world,” but also in protecting Christ from the threat posed by King Herod.

The Apostolic Penitentiary, a Vatican tribunal that deals with matters of conscience, also issued a decree on 8 December stating that plenary indulgences will be granted to Catholics not only through prayer and penance, but also through acts of justice, charity and piety dedicated to the foster father of Jesus. Among the conditions for receiving an indulgence are a spirit detached from sin, receiving sacramental confession as soon as possible, receiving Communion as

soon as possible and praying for the Holy Father's intentions. However, the decree also highlighted several ways to obtain the indulgence throughout the year, including to those who "meditate on the prayer of the 'Our Father' for at least 30 minutes or take part in a spiritual retreat of at least one day that includes a meditation on St Joseph.

As a "just man," the document continued, who guarded "the intimate secret that lies at the bottom of the heart and soul," St Joseph practiced the virtue of justice in "full adherence to the divine law, which is the law of mercy." Therefore, those who, following the example of St Joseph, will perform a corporal or spiritual work of mercy will also be able to obtain the gift of the plenary indulgence. Other acts of devotion include entrusting one's daily activities and prayers for dignified employment to St Joseph, reciting the litany or any "legitimately approved" prayer to St Joseph.

During this time of pandemic, the Apostolic Penitentiary also decreed that special indulgences will be granted to the elderly, the sick and all those who "for legitimate reasons are prevented from leaving their home" by "reciting an act of piety in honour of St Joseph and committed to fulfilling the conditions as soon as possible."

May this year of St Joseph be a year of blessing for each one of us and a grace-filled opportunity to emulate the virtues of this incredible Silent Wonder Worker – St Joseph. Though he appears to be hidden, still continues to work from the shadows to guide the Mother Church during these troubled times as intercessor, protector and guide.

Wish you all a Blessed Easter!

Fr Antony Perumanoor
Director General, MST

II. NEWS FROM THE GENERALATE

(From 20 December 2020- 20 March 2021)

1. Priestly Ordinations

The priestly ordinations of eleven *ordinandi* took place at Deepthi Bhavan on 27 December 2020. The Director General, the members of the General Council, representatives from the MST seminaries,



especially the Rector of Ruhalaya, Ujjain took part in the ceremony. We were blessed to have His Beatitude Major Archbishop Mar George Cardinal Alencherry for the function who

presided over the entire ordination ceremony and the Holy Qurbana. Many of our members participated in the ordination online.

The first Holy Qurbanas of the new priests were held at their home parishes in the subsequent days. Representatives from the General Council and some of our members and collaborators joined the family of the new priests in the functions. The celebrations were conducted following the Covid-protocols with limited number of participants.

On behalf of the entire MST family, once again I congratulate and welcome all eleven new priests to the priestly fellowship of the MST



and pray that all of them find sanctification and fulfilment in their missionary vocation through the MST, by their dedicated involvement in the missionary apostolates (Cf. C7).

2. Regional Assignment of New Priests

Immediately after the ordinations, on 11 January 2021, the regional assignment of the new priests were done following C.44 of the *Constitutions and Directives* of MST and it was announced through Circular No. X/17. Out of 11 new priests, five were assigned to St Thomas Region, four to St Alphonsa Region and two to St Paul Region. As of now, we are 388 priest-members in total, out of which 143 belong to St Paul Region, 125 belong to St Alphonsa Region and 120 members belong to St Thomas Region.

In addition to the regional assignment, the General Council also appointed two new priests for St Mary Queen of the Missions Delegation (MQMD), Delhi and two others for Odisha Mission. One of the new priests is assigned to the Eparchy of Sagar.

3. Sleehusa – Commissioning of New Priests

In view of orienting the new priests to the ground realities of priestly missionary living, *Sleehusa-2021* was organized from 18 to 22 February 2021. This orientation programme included practical



sessions led by all the General Councillors, lay leaders, religious sisters and experienced priests from different capacities. On 22 February, during the Holy Qurbana, the Director General officiated the formal commissioning by ‘sending forth’ of the new missionaries to the mission territories.

4. Plenary Council – 2021

In accordance with the *Constitutions and Directives* of the MST (C&D 111-113) the Plenary Council of the present tenure of the administration was convoked on 15 January 2021. The Plenary Council will be held at Deepti Bhavan, Melampara, Kerala, India on Sunday, 9 May 2021 at 16:00 hours and will continue until it finishes the discussions and evaluation. The letter of convocation (Circular No. X/18) has detailed the committees and procedures for the conduct of the Plenary Council.

5. Extraordinary General Assembly - 2021

As per the first resolution of the Tenth Ordinary General Assembly 2018 and with the consent of the General Council, the Director General convoked an Extraordinary General Assembly of the MST. In accordance with the *Constitutions and Directives* of the Missionary Society of St Thomas the Apostle (C&D 74), the extraordinary assembly was convoked on 25 February 2021 (Circular No. X-18). The assembly will be held at Deepti Bhavan, Melampara, on Wednesday, 15 September 2021 at 16:00 hours, and will continue until it finishes its agenda. The agenda of the Extraordinary General Assembly-2021 is the Second Draft of the *Constitutions and Directives* (C&D) of the MST, along with new observations on it by the members. An election committee for the conduct of the election of the delegates to the assembly (C&D 63), and an agenda committee to circulate the Second Draft of the C&D to all permanent members of the MST and to gather their observations on this draft (C&D 69) have been constituted to facilitate the conduct of the assembly. The committees have started functioning already and will be contacting the members in the upcoming days.

6. Sacerdotal Silver Jubilee Celebration

Fourteen of our members who celebrate sacerdotal silver jubilee the current year (1995-1996 Ordination Batch) were honoured through an online gathering held on Thursday, 4 February 2021 from 6.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. Almost all the jubilarians joined the zoom



gathering which was attended by many of our priests across the globe. The programme was organized by Rev. Fr Peter Kavumpuram. The Director General felicitated the jubilarians and thanked each of them personally for their committed missionary life. Honouring the jubilarians, the MST seminarians from different stages of formation performed various cultural items. Each jubilarian was given some time to share their thoughts. The MST congratulates all of them at their

completion of 25 years in priesthood and acknowledges their commendable contributions for the growth of the missions.

7. Sacerdotal Golden Jubilee Celebration

Rev. Fr Joseph Kannathukuzhy who enters into the golden jubilee of his priestly ordination (1972-2022) had a humble beginning of the jubilee year on 12 January 2021 at Deepti Bhavan. The concelebrated Holy Qurbana was physically joined by his close relatives and friends, and it was live telecasted. His Excellency Mar George Madathikandathil, the Bishop of the Eparchy of Kothamangalam was present on the occasion and delivered jubilee message, honouring Fr Kannathukuzhy. The MST congratulates the jubilarian and thanks him for his contribution to the mission of the



Society.

8. New Leadership for MST Coordination in Germany

As the tenure of the team of leadership of the MST coordination in Germany was complete, a new team of leadership for the MSTs in Germany has been appointed from 1 March 2021, for a period of five years. Considering the mind of members working in Germany and as per the norms of the Trust - St Thomas Institut e.V, Rev. Fr Mathew Nellikunnel has been appointed the Coordinator of the MSTs in Germany and the president of St Thomas Institute. The other office holders are: Rev. Fr John Nayathuparambil (I Councillor), Rev. Fr John Maniamkeril (II Councillor) and Rev. Fr Mathew Mulankothra (Procurator). Prayerful wishes to the new team. The MST acknowledges the committed services of the outgoing team in leadership - Rev. Frs Alexander Vanderkunnel (Coordinator and President), George Valiamangalam (I Councillor), Joseph Ettaniyil (II Councillor) and John Maniamkeril (Procurator) in the past five years.

9. Celebration of MST Foundation Day

On 53rd foundation day of the MST, solemn Holy Qurbana was officiated by the Director General at the Generalate chapel, in which the new priests were commissioned for missionary apostolates. In the afternoon, the Director General and the members of the council participated in the inauguration of the newly organized facilities of



Thomasine Research Centre at Chaama MST Bhavan, Thumbur in the Eparchy of Irinjalakkuda. In the evening, the Director General along with two General Councillors visited the Major Archiepiscopal Curia at Mount St Thomas, Kakkanad and presented the Major Archbishop a new statue of St Thomas the Apostle which was prepared after the model of the portrait of the Apostle released during the Golden Jubilee of the MST in February 2018.

10. Official Visits

From 25 February to 15 March 2021, the Director General - Very Rev. Fr Antony Perumanoor along with the Vice Director - Rev. Fr Francis Kureeckal made official visit to Ruhalya Major Seminary Ujjain and St Mary Queen of the Missions Delegation, Delhi. In Ujjain, they interacted with the staff and students of the Ruhalya Seminary. In the Delegation, they visited all our centres in different states and held personal meetings with the missionaries there.

11. Constructions and Developments

a. Deepti Bhavan, Melampara: The Generalate building at Deepti Mount is undergoing expansion and modification, adding one more floor (II Floor) to the existing building. The assembly hall in the first floor is being converted as a chapel. A larger hall and more residential rooms will be furnished in the II floor. The construction is under progress.

b. Chaama MST Bhavan, Thumbur: Some modifications and furnishings were done to the existing building at Thumbur to make the house functional for apostolates. The modifications have added more facilities and have enhanced the shape of the building.

c. MST House, Nedumkandam: A new residential building is under construction at our property at Thannimood, Nedumkandam. The old house was not habitable with very little facilities. The new house will provide facilities for organizing short programmes for small groups in the Eparchy of Idukki.

d. MST Centre at Kuttikkanam: The development of the newly purchased land property at Kuttikkanam is under progress. A shelter

for the workers is built recently, and a borewell is dug for water resource for the property.

e. MST House at Mundoor, Thrissur: The construction of the MST house at our property at Mundoor is underway. Rev. Fr Lonappan Arangassery contributed Rs 22,00,000/- (Twenty two lakhs) towards the construction of this house in the Archdiocese of Thrissur.

12. Mission Expansion

Odisha Mission - Land Purchase at Balliguda: The MST purchased 2.90 acres of land for the development of Nirmal Jyoti Mission Centre at Balliguda in the district of Khandamal, Orissa.

Mary Queen of Mission Delegation: The MST has purchased a plot of land measuring around 180 square meter (1938 square feet) for constructing presbytery and prayer hall for the Christian faithful in Rohru, Himachal Pradesh.

13. Completion of Doctoral Studies

Rev. Fr Antony Thundathil completed doctoral studies in Pastoral Theology from the Catholic Theological Union (CTU) of the university of Chicago, USA. He defended his thesis titled – “Intergenerational, and Interecclesial Dynamics of Faith Transmission: Exploring the Liminality of Space and Time in the Transmission of the Traditional Faith toward the Second Generation of the Syro-Malabar Immigrants in North America” on 19 March 2021 and secured the top grade of summa cum laude. The research was done under famous theologian and author – Rev. Robert J. Schreiter C.P.P.S.

14. Publications

a. The doctoral thesis of Fr Kisincher Aniyekattu has been published into a book form by the initiative of the University of Fribourg, Switzerland under the banner of *Studia Oecumenica Friburgensia* by a German Publishing Company called *Aschendorff Verlag*. The name of the book is “*Visit of the Holy Spirit: A Theological Evaluation of the Contemporary Pneumatic*

Phenomenon in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the Syro-Malabar Church.” An Indian edition of the same book - affordable, reader-friendly and abridged form - is well underway and will be soon published by Jeevan Books, Bharananganam.

b. With the help of the Deepti Minor Seminarians, a book titled “Essential English Glossaries with Malayalam Meaning” has been published on 7 March 2021 by Fr Kisincher Aniyekattu. It provides a plethora of vocabularies of things that we see around. It is designed keeping in mind the requisites of teachers and students in schools and formation houses.

15. Gathering of the Major Seminarians, Vestition and Temporary Promise

The annual gathering of the Major Seminarians is scheduled to be held from 3 to 5 May 2021 at the Generalate, if then situations of Covid would permit the programmes. On the concluding day (5 May 2021), there will take place the first temporary promise by the seminarians who have been promoted to Philosophy after the MOC, and the vestition and renewal of the promise by the seminarians promoted to Theology after regency. May I place our seminarians for your prayerful support.



III. Transfers and Appointments

A. St Paul Region

Chamakalayil Joseph (Mijo): - Appointed in the Eparchy of Sagar.

Pezhumthottiyil Sebastian: -Relieved from Kripa Training Centre, Eparchy of Ujjain and assigned for Odisha Mission.

Poovathinkal Paul (Siby): -Relieved from Kripa Training Centre, Eparchy of Ujjain.

Pottananiyil Joseph (Bince): ----- Relieved from Shajapur, Eparchy of Ujjain and appointed assistant priest in charge of St Alphonsa Church, Bhopal, Eparchy of Shamshabad.

Thottaplackal Thomas (Twinkle): - Appointed assistant priest at St Mary's Church, Rajgarh in the Eparchy of Ujjain.

B. St Thomas Region, Mandya

Elamthuruthiyil George (Alex): Assigned for training in Telugu language at Raidurga, Andhra Pradesh.

Kadaplakkal Xavier: Relieved from Guthalu and appointed at Jeevashram Mission Centre, Hunsur.

Kandamparambil Martin: Relieved from Sikkaripura and appointed at Santhome Inspire, Mandya.

Koovackal Abraham: Relieved from Athipet, Eparchy of Hosur and appointed at St Mary's parish, Sikkaripura.

Puthusseryputhenpurayil Joseph (Jithin): Assigned for training in Telugu language at Raidurga, Andhra Pradesh.

Vazhuthanappalliyl Kurian (Abin): Appointed at Jeevodaya Mission Centre, Arakere.

C. St Alphonsa Region, Sangli

Kavunnukattil Joseph (Lijo): – appointed as Director, Department of Social and Development Action of St Alphonsa Region.

Kizhakkeparampil Joseph (Bineesh): Appointed as priest in-charge, Islampur.

Kuzhuppallil Abraham (Roshan) – Relieved from Department of Social and Development Action of St Alphonsa Region.

Moosariparambil Chacko: Assigned for Training in Marathi Language, Regional House, Kolhapur.

Moothasseril Mathew: - Relieved from Islampur and appointed Parish Priest - South Goa

D. Other Missions/Centres/Ministries/Studies

Akkattu Antony (Abhilash): Assigned for training in Punjabi, St Thomas School, Bathinda, Punjab (Mary Queen of the Missions Delegation).

Aranajanal Jose: Appointed Vicar of St Joseph Syro-Malabar Catholic Church, Vanjuvancheri of the Eparchy of Hosur.

Areeplackal Joshy: Relieved from Deepti Plantations, Mulas, Maharashtra (w.e.f. 1/4/2021) and assigned to St Thomas Region, Mandya.

Chirayil Mathew (Ranji): Assigned for training in Punjabi, St Thomas School, Bathinda, Punjab (Mary Queen of the Missions Delegation).

Kaithottumkal Mathew (Justin): Appointed Formator, Ruhailaya Major seminary (Philosophy Section), Ujjain.

Kalampuliyel Scaria (Sijo): Relieved from the Archdiocese of Hamburg, Germany and Appointed as Manager, Deepti Plantations, Mulas, Maharashtra.

Keeranchira Sebastian (Ashish): Assigned for training in Odia, MST Mission House, J.K. Pure, Rayagada, Odisha.

Kizhakkemuriyil Thomas (Tony): Assigned for training in Odia, MST Mission House, J.K. Pure, Rayagada, Odisha.

Kochuparampil Joseph (Boby): Appointed Chancellor, Tribunal Judge and Vicar of St Alphonsa Church, Kodambakkam of the Eparchy of Hosur.

Kollamparampil Mathew: Relieved from the Eparchy of Idukki.

Kuppayil Johnson: Relieved from Ruhahaya, Ujjain and Assigned for doctoral studies in Biblical Theology, JDV and Spiritual Director - PIME Vidya Bhavan, Pune (w.e.f. 1/6/2021).

Kuttipalackal Augustine (Nidhin): Appointed Assistant Manager, Deepti Plantations, Mulas, Maharashtra.

Kuzhuppallil Abraham (Roshan): Assigned for higher studies in Educational Leadership and Administration, Xavier University, Cincinnati, OH, USA.

Madathiparampil Kuriakose (Bibin): Appointed Asst. Vicar of St Mary's Church Peramangalam, Archeparchy of Thrissur.

Manthara Jose: Relieved from the Archdiocese of Hamburg, Germany.

Mecheril George: Relieved from the Archdiocese of Hamburg, Germany and Appointed as Priest-in-charge, St Alphonsa Centre, Dhuri, Punjab (Mary Queen of the Missions Delegation).

Pathrapankal Mathew (Sanoj): Relieved from Dhuri, Punjab and appointed at Rohru, H.P. (w.e.f. 15/04/2021)

Thaikkootathil Thomas: Appointed Vicar of Little Flower Syro-Malabar Church, Ramapuram of the Eparchy of Hosur.

Thonikuzhiyil Augustine: Relieved from the Archdiocese of Hamburg, Germany.

Vadakeoram Paul: Relieved from Good Shepherd Major Seminary, Kunnoth, Kannur.

IV. Change/Correction of Contact Information

A. *Postal Address*

Akkattu Antony (Abhilash): St Thomas School, Village Deon, Bathinda Dist. 151 002, Punjab.

Aranajanal Jose: St Joseph Syro-Malabar Catholic Church, Door No. 6/128, Indira Street, Vanjuvancheri, Padappai – 601301, Kancheepuram Dt., T.N.

Chamakalayil Joseph (Mijo): - C/o Bishop's House, P.B. No. 32, Sagar Cant. - 470 001, M.P.

Chenganariparampil Thomas: St Alphonsa Syro Malabar Catholic Church, Alphonsa Nagar, Behind Surabhi Vihar Colony, BDA Road, Awadpuri, Pin- 462022, Bhopal, M.P.

Chirayil Mathew (Ranji): St Thomas School, Village Deon, Bathinda Dist. 151 002, Punjab.

Elamthuruthiyil George (Alex): C/o Infant Jesus School, Near Bham Baba Temple Rayadurg -515 865, Anantpur Dt., A.P.

Kadaplakkal Xavier: Jeevashrama, Nilavagilu, Kasaba Hobli, Hunsur -571 105, Mysuru Dt., Karnataka.

Kaithottumkal Mathew (Justin): Ruhalya Major Seminary (Philosophy), P.B. No. 4, Agar Road, Ujjain City P.O. - 456 006, M.P.

Kalampuliyel Scaria (Sijo): Deepti Plantations, Bamberde (Mulas), Tervan Madhe P.O. 416549, Sindhudurg Dt, Maharashtra.

Kandamparambil Martin: Santhome Inspire, Chamundeshwari Nagar, 10th Cross, Mandya – 571401, Karanataka.

Keeranchira Sebastian (Ashish): MST Mission House, Sri Kshetra Township, Amalabhata, Penta P.O.756 017, J.K. Pure, Rayagada, Odisha .

Kizhakkemuriyil Thomas (Tony): MST Mission House, Sri Kshetra Township, Amalabhata, Penta P.O.756 017, J.K. Pure, Rayagada, Odisha.

Kizhakkeparampil Joseph (Bineesh): C/o Sant Thoma Bhavan, P.B. 306, Raman Mala, Kolhapur – 416003, Maharashtra.

Kochuparampil Joseph (Boby): St Thomas Pastoral Centre 16, Ayanavaram Road, Chennai-600 023, Tamil Nadu.

Kollamparampil Mathew: C/o MST Generalate, Deepti Mount, Melampara-686578, Kottayam Dt, Kerala.

Koovackal Abraham: Sanjeevana, Sikkaripura, Thuppathumadu P.O. -571432, Nagamangala, Mandya Dt, Karnataka.

Kuttipalackal Augustine (Nidhin): Deepti Plantations, Bamberde (Mulas), Tervan Madhe P.O. 416549, Sindhudurg Dt, Maharashtra.

Madathiparampil Kuriakose (Bibin): St Mary's Church, Peramangalam P.O., Thrissur- 680 545, Kerala.

Manthara Jose: C/o MST Generalate, Deepti Mount, Melampara-686578, Kottayam Dt, Kerala.

Mecheril George: St Alphonsa Bhavan, House No. 100, Green City, Near Preeth Vihar, Ward No. 3, Dhuri -148024, Sangrur, Punjab. (w.e.f. 15/04/2021)

Mlavil Mathew (Akhil): MST Generalate, Deepti Mount, Melampara-686578, Kottayam Dt, Kerala.

Moosariparambil Chacko: C/o Sant Thoma Bhavan, P.B. 306, Raman Mala, Kolhapur – 416003, Maharashtra.

Moothasseril Mathew: - C/o P.J. Joseph, 81/C, Cupem, Nuvem, Salcete- 403 604, Goa.

Pathrapankal Mathew (Sanoj): Kristjyoti Catholic Mission, Jagdish Niwas, 2nd Floor, Newseri, Rohru P.O., Dist. Shimla - 171207, H.P. (w.e.f. 15/04/2021)

Pazheveetil Jose: 319 Juniper Street, Brea, CA – 92821, USA.

Perumpuzha Xavier (Sunny): 209, Engineers Enclave Phase 1, BSF STS Road, Sathanur, Yelahanka, Bangalore- 63, Karnataka.

Pezhumthottiyil Sebastian: MST Mission House, Sri Kshetra Township, Amalabhata, Penta P.O. 756 017, J.K. Pure, Rayagada, Odisha.

Poovathinkal Paul (Siby): Santhome Bhavan, P.B. No 227, Mothilal Nehru Nagar, Ujjain Dt – 456010, M.P.

Pottananiyil Joseph (Bince): ----- St Alphonsa Syro Malabar Catholic Church, Alphonsa Nagar, Behind Surabhi Vihar Colony, BDA Road, Awadpuri, Pin- 462022, Bhopal, M.P.

Puthusseryputhenpurayil Joseph (Jithin): C/o Infant Jesus School, Near Bham Baba Temple, Rayadurg -515 865, Anantpur Dt., A.P.

Thaikkoottathil Thomas: Little Flower Syro Malabar Church, Periyar Str. Extn, Ramapuram P.O., Chennai-600 089, T.N.

Thonikuzhiyil Augustine: C/o MST Generalate, Deepti Mount, Melampara-686578, Kottayam Dt, Kerala.

Thottaplackal Thomas (Twinkle): St. Mary's Catholic Church, Rajgrah P O. 465661, Rajgarh (Dt), M.P.

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Vazhuthanappally Joseph: Director–CASI, C/o Tomy Bindu, Villaggio Di Ilva. 24, San Giovanni V. No, AR, 52027, Italy.

B. Phone Numbers

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V. News from Seminaries

A. Deepti College, Melampara

1. Seminary Reopens

After Christmas and New Year celebration seminary reopened on 8 January 2021. Due to the Corona Pandemic seminarians couldn't go home for Onam Holidays. Hence they had rather long Christmas holidays from December 22 to January 8. The New Year began with all the enthusiasm and earnestness.

2. Republic Day Celebrations

The staff and students of Deepti College joined with the Generalate



community in celebrating the 71st republic day of our nation. Rev. Fr C.D. Sebastian hoisted the national flag and delivered the message for the day. The seminarians also

delivered speeches in different languages and sang patriotic songs.

3. Covid-19 Pandemic

Everything went normal till 26 January in the seminary. The first case of Covid -19 was reported on 27 January. Covid provided very hard time for us. There were 42 positive cases including 4 fathers. Fortunately there weren't any severe cases. No one was admitted in the hospital. Most of them had no symptoms at all. Some of them had slight fever, body pain, loss of taste and smell. We had no regular classes for the month of February. The staff and students enjoyed the long quarantine. Thank you Lord for your ineffable providence.

4. Birthday Celebration

Rev. Fr Justin Vettukallel, Councilor and Secretary General of MST

celebrated his birthday on 19 January. He celebrated Holy Mass with the seminarians and the staff. He inspired the seminarians with his delightful homily. Fr Manu Kochumalayil and Joby Maprakavil celebrated their



Birthdays on 22 and 27 March respectively. Rev. Fathers from Generalate and *Aaraam* joined the celebrations in the evenings. May God bless them with good health and happiness.

5. Visit of Mar James Athikalam



His Excellency Mar James Athikalam MST, Bishop of Sagar Diocese made an affectionate visit to Deepti on 24 January. During Holy Mass he delivered an inspiring homily based on the ‘wedding at Cana’ he said, ‘Do whatever He tells you.’ Our short

comings will be changed into better quality wine and also to the full.

6. Experience Sharing by Missionaries

Deacon Joseph Thekkedath, originally from Ernakulum–Angamaly diocese who studies for priesthood for a diocese in Iraq came from Baghdad and vividly narrated his seminary life in Iraq, life of Iraq-Christians and persecution they are undergoing there. He also described the severe persecutions that he himself and the Christians are suffering in Mosul, Tikrit, Turkey etc.

7. Monthly Recollection

January monthly recollection was preached by Rev. Fr Vipin Vanmelil. Fr Ivan Muthanatt preached the monthly recollection for the month of March. Thank you fathers for motivating and inspiring our young candidates for priesthood.

8. Meritorious Achievement



MCBS Seminary, Athirampuzha conducts every year a speech competition for the Minor seminarians. (AMOS - Alakkalam Memorial Orations) Bro. Deepak Manimalayil, third year student of Deepti Seminary secured the third prize. It includes

cash prize and an ever rolling Trophy. Congrats dear Deepak for your stunning and prize winning performance.

9. Annual Exams/Vacation

Plus one Plus Two seminarians are given study leave and vacation from 13 March 2021. Plus Two Board exams are postponed to 8 April. They will come back to the seminary on 5 April. First year Seminarians starts their exams from 16 April and begins their vacation from 27 April.

10. Farewell to Third Year Students

An emotional farewell was arranged to third year students. They have completed three years of their formation and they are taking another important step towards their priesthood. The staff and students appreciated three years of their service to Deepti seminary. Third year brothers expressed their appreciation and gratitude towards Deepti formators of the present and the past. Thanks a lot dear brothers.

11. Farewell to Fr Joison Puthukattu

Fr Joison, who loves humans and nature, was given a wholehearted



farewell on 18 March 2021. He served MST in the capacity of Vocation promotor for the last Three years. His hard work and dedication brought excellent candidates to Deepti.

Dear Fr Joison, we express our heartfelt gratitude for your commitment towards the ministry entrusted to you. While thanking you we also wish you all the best for your higher studies at Hyderabad.

12. Essential English Glossaries

‘Essential English Glossaries’ (with Malayalam meaning) is a book of vocabularies that we often use for the daily conversation and writings. I am sure this will be of great help for the beginners of English language. This book is the brain child of Rev. Dr Kisincher Aniyekattu. We expect more such works in the near future. Congratulations dear father.

(Reported by Rev. Fr George Kuppayil, Rector, Deepti College)

B. Santhome Minor Seminary, Thamarassery

The members of Santhome family are keeping fine. Even in the midst of Covid-19 pandemic we had a good time as a whole. As we retrospect the year, we raise our hands to the heaven to thank the Lord for His abundant graces showered on Santhome Seminary! He not only protected us from Covid-19, but also blessed and provided us with everything we needed! I would like to start the news and events of our seminary from where we stopped in the Christmas edition; and this would cover the news and events from the middle of December to the end of March 2020–2021.

1. Christmas Celebrations



A very beautiful and natural crib was made by the brothers and we had a beautiful Christmas ceremony of blessing of blessing of the Crib, Procession and ‘Thee

Kaayikkal.’ etc. in the evening on 18 December, followed by a vegetarian dinner. Many of our brothers are participating for the first time in the ‘*Thee Kaayikkal*’ ceremony. Carol singing



competitions, Bible verse competitions were also conducted during this time.

2. Christmas Holidays

All brothers left for their long awaited Christmas holidays (19

December to 5 January) after the Holy Qurbana on 19 December. They had not gone home during the Onam holidays. All parents from vicinity of the Seminary picked up their children by car and others were sent by two Tempo Travellers: one to Payyavoor area (Kannur) and the other to Panathoor area (Kasaragod). Brothers to Pala side and Thrissur side went by car.

3. Participation in MST Ordinations

All members of the staff participated in the priestly ordinations conducted at Deepti Mount on 27 December. Some of them reached Deepti in the early morning and returned to Santhome immediately after the Ordination.

4. Happy Return after Holidays

All brothers returned to the seminary after the Christmas vacation by 4.00 p.m. on 5 January 2021. They all came back to the seminary by private car and Tempo Travellers. Nobody was allowed to use public transportation!

5. Feast of Epiphany

The second year brothers made arrangements for the “*Pindikuthi Thirunnal*” or Feast of Denha. A big “*Pindi*” with lights was



arranged in the courtyard and a procession after the Ramsa led by Fr Rector, singing “*elpaiyya, elelppaiyya...*” to the *Pindi* was very experiential. The first year brothers were participating in it for the first time!

6. Birthdays Celebrated

The Birthday of Fr Abin Kochupurackal was on 2 January, but it was celebrated only after the return of brothers from their holidays on 6 January. Fr Johny Kariathil celebrated his Birthday on 25 January, Fr Joseph Pulavelil - on 10 February, Fr Joby Kozhipattu

- on 22 March and Fr Shaijan Koonamparampath - on 28 March.

7. Christmas Friend Revealed

The Christmas friend was revealed after supper on 6 January. This was postponed to this day due to Covid protocol that our brothers could not go out for shopping to buy their favourite items for their friends!

8. Surgery for Staff Members

Two members from the Staff – Fr Koonamparambath and Fr Kozhippatt – underwent surgery on their right shoulders in the second week of January 2021.

9. Monthly Recollections

Well begun is half done! Before we embarked on to a new term, Fr George Vellaramkala, from Alphonsa Minor Seminary, Thamarassery guided our brothers in the monthly recollection on Thursday, 7 January 2021. Fathers from Alphonsa Minor Seminary helped us in the Confessions.

Fr Sheise Porunnakottu SJ, preached the monthly recollection on Saturday, 6 March. Fathers from Sanathana Major Seminary (MCBS) heard the confessions.

10. Syro-Malabar *Preshitha Vaaram*

Our Seminary also participated in the Syro-Malabar *Preshitha Vaaram* (06-12 January) with prayers and oath. We remembered all our missionaries and prayed for them! The solemn celebration was on 10 January. We had some items for auctions to raise fund for mission.

11. Music Night

To exhibit the singing talents, all are given a chance to sing on 16 January. All fathers and brothers sang their favourite songs. Music night began at 9.00 p.m. and ended at 10.15 p.m. Many brothers made use



of this chance.

12. Benefactor Day Celebrated

On 20 January, we remembered our benefactors and offered a Holy Qurbana as a sign of our gratitude towards them.

13. Kappa Vatt



We bought tapioca from the Bishop's House, Thamarassery and started peeling it at 2.00 pm and finished it after the Supper on 23 January. Sisters from SABs Provincial House came to help us. Fr Mathew Pulimoottil, the

Finance Officer of the Diocese of Thamarassery came in the evening to help us in boiling the tapioca. All brothers and fathers actively participated in it and enjoyed it.

14. Observance of 'Moonnu Nombu'

Fr Rector explained the meaning and importance of the 'Moonnu Nombu' and many brothers observed the three days Fast from 25 to 27 January.

15. Republic Day Celebration

Fr Benny Mundanatt, Chancellor, Diocese of Thamarassery was the main celebrant for the Holy Qurbana on 26 January. He hoisted the national flag and delivered an enriching patriotic message.

16. Catechism Final Examinations

All brothers who did not do Plus One and Plus Two catechism examinations appeared for it in the afternoon of 26 January. They are all enrolled into the Diocesan Catechism Department which is affiliated to Calicut University.

17. Visit of the Staff to Parishes

Fr Rector and Fr Abin Kochupurackal visited the parish priests of

the third year brothers in Kannur and Kasaragod, and received their feedback. They are all very positive about our brothers and their cooperation in the parish activities.

18. Economics Class by Sr Tinsa SABS

Sr Tinsa SABS from the SABS Provincial House, Thamarassery started taking Economics and Statistics classes for the third and the second year brothers from January.

19. Second Bi-Annual Retreat

The second bi-annual Retreat for all brothers was arranged from 30 January 3 February, led by Rev. Fr Scaria Thamarakkattu MST and his team – Sr Tessa MSMI and Sr Lisa MSMI. There was counselling along with the retreat.

20. New Priests' Day Celebrated

All the 11 new priests arrived at Santhome Seminary late in the



evening on 3 February. On 4 morning, all the new priests with Fr Renji Chirayil as the main celebrant, celebrated the Holy Qurbana. The Rector officially welcomed the new priests during the breakfast. Fr Thomas Thottaplackal delivered a beautiful homily on the cost of discipleship. We organized basketball and volleyball matches after the



breakfast, and the new priests won the basketball while Santhome brothers won the volleyball. The Rector gave away the prizes.

The sharing by all the new priests held was really boosting and motivating for our brothers. After a few cultural programmes and games, the new priests were given gifts from the part of the seminary by Fr Rector. With a high dinner, the day's curtain was down. They left for Mandya in the following day.

21. Rector's Day & Seminary Day



The birthday of the Rector is celebrated as Rector's Day. This year it was celebrated also along with the Seminary Day or Home Day without any public participation. There were some funny games

for all members of the community. The cultural programmes in connection with the Seminary Day were well staged in the evening.

22. New Fish Pond Blessed

The first year brothers made a new fish pond with NO COST, using the waste plastic sacks and unused tins, covered with an old flex! It was blessed on the Rector's Day. So, the entire fish pond cost nothing except the hard work of the first year batch! The second and the third year brothers are now preparing their own fish ponds, using their creativity!

23. Ash Monday

We started the Season of the great Lent on Monday, 15 February. Ash Monday liturgical service was held in the morning and the main celebrant was Fr Rector. It was observed as a day of abstinence from food. The entire community decided to have only *Kanji* during the Lenten season as a penance and for the progress of our Odisha Mission!

24. Visit of Missionary from Odisha

The Coordinator of Odisha Mission, Fr Jomon Ayyankanal visited us on 16 February and shared his mission experience and challenges in Orissa. His message really enriched all of us. He left for Pala on the following day.

25. MST Foundation Day

Rev. Fr Joy Kochuparackal, Director of our Ayurvedic Hospital, Bedshi, was the main celebrant of the Foundation Day of the MST – on 22 February. The conclusion of SCLA (Santhome Cultural and Literary Association), the literal and cultural wings of the Seminary, was also arranged on the same day with a high-profile cultural programme. Fr Joy Kochuparackal was the chief guest of the function. In order to add colours to the day, Volleyball and Basketball Matches were organized among the brothers.

26. Class on Psycho-Sexual Integration

We arranged a class on sexuality for three days. The resource person was Rev. Fr Thomas Kandathil CM, a famous person on this topic from Trivandrum. Brothers benefitted from the class which was both audio-visual and lecture.

27. Grotto Repair & Blessing

One of our new priests - Fr Abin Vazhuthanapalliyi, came to Santhome Seminary to repair the grotto here. His tireless work along with the help of some of our brothers brought out a beautiful grotto. He is such a wonderful artist that he repaired it very well, making a



new fountain, rails, mountains, etc. and got the grotto ready for blessing on Friday, 12 March 2021.

28. Friendly Basketball Match



Our basketball team went to MSFS Seminary for a friendly Basketball match on 27 February. Both the teams were equally strong. The MSFS brothers won it.

29. Friendly Football Match

The second year brothers took initiative to conduct a football match among our brothers. Each team consisted only of five members. There were five teams and each team played against the other and the top two teams – the First and the Third Years - competed each other in the final, and the First Years came out with flying colours in the Shoot-out!

30. Lenten Sharing

The Santhome community started sharing useful things in the room arranged for the ‘Lenten Sharing.’ These materials collected through ‘Lenten Sharing’ will be distributed among the brothers on 26 March. Rector thanked all for their sharing mentality.

31. Release of “Quest”- Manuscript

The artistic talents of brothers got collected into the Seminary



manuscript called “Quest.” The chief guest was Fr Abin Vazhuthanapalliyil who released the manuscript and Fr Emmanuel Mattam received it on 28 February. Hearty congratulations to Fr Johny Kariathil and brothers

whose hard work made it possible to bring it to light on time!

32. Annual Examinations

All our Plus Two brothers started their final/model examinations of the seminary on 2 March and completed on 10 March. As their board examinations were postponed to 8 April, the third Year brothers are sent home for study leave from 13 March till 5 April 2021.

33. Send-off to Third Year Brothers



As the Plus Two examinations which were scheduled to take place from 17 March were postponed, the third year brothers were given a fitting send-off on 12 March and they left home for study-leave from 13 March.

34. Annual Examinations

The first and the second year brothers started their final examinations on 12 March and will finish on 26 March. They go for their summer holidays on 27 March.

35. Feast of St Joseph – Workers' Day Celebrated

The feast of St Joseph was celebrated with the Holy Qurbana in the morning and the day was observed to honour our domestic staff. They were invited to sit with the seminary staff during the dinner. Their great service to the seminary in different fields was appreciated and gifts were distributed.

36. Blessing of Rabbit Cage and Nest

A couple of cages for rabbits was made and was blessed by Fr



Abin Kochupurackal. Now there are many rabbits in them!

A nest was made for different birds and fixed near the entrance of the Seminary which was blessed by Fr Rector. Now there are many different types of birds in it!

37. New Arrivals

We have bought around 200 quails to the seminary. We are enjoying their eggs now. Some more new birds like hens, chickens, ducks, emu and love-birds are on the waiting list!

38. End of Academic Year

The curtain of the Academic Year 202-2021 came down on 26 March and all brothers went home for their summer vacation. They went with their progress-card in their hands. They were sent home by a Tempo Traveller to Kasaragod side.

39. Covid Vaccination For Priests

Our senior priests took Covid Vaccination on 3 March. They are in good health.

40. Some Visitors To Santhome Seminary

Fr Joseph Thekkekarottu, Fr Salas Karikandathil, Fr Monse Karuvakkunnel, Fr Abin Vazhuthanappallyil, Fr Binu Areethara, Fr Zacharias Thamarakattu, Fr George Vellaramkala, Fr Mathew Pulimoottil, Fr Mathew Mavelil, Fr Akhil Mlavil, Fr Sijo Mookkenthottam, Fr George Mecherril, Fr George Ezhanikkat CMI, Fr Joseph Kannamangalath MSFS, MCBS Fathers, MSFS Fathers, Fathers from Alphonsa Minor Seminary, MST New Priests, Sr Tinsa, Sr Tessa MSMI, Sr Lisa MSMI.

(Reported by Rev. Fr Joseph Pulavelil, Rector, Santhome Seminary, Thamarassery)

C. Jeevan Jyoti, Srirangapatna

1. Christmas Programme



The overshadowing of the corona pandemic prevented our brothers from staging the Christmas cultural programmes at our different mission stations. As a result we had limited the staging of programmes only to a few places including: Asha Sadan, Manasadhara and Arakere mission station. However, the brothers were happy that they could at least stage it in some places and convey the Christmas message to the people that Jesus is the Redeemer of the whole world.

Thanks to Rev. Fr Sebastian Koottumkal as in charge of cultural activities, for preparing our bothers in an exceptional manner to perform the cultural activities on the stage.

2. Bi-annual Retreat

This year the Bi-annual retreat for the brothers was held from 28 to 31 December 2020. The preacher was Fr Shiju, (Dominican Order), a well-known preacher, among the religious of Bangalore. Since the style of his preaching was in the form of dialogue, brothers had entirely a new experience. The retreat was very fruitful, since it helped them to take a strong decision, in free will, with regard to their vocation and future life.

3. Blood Donation Drive

In the prevailing situation of the covid pandemic, we should reflect



on the role of 'LOVE' as a sentiment to feel with others. It was this sentiment of love towards the neighbour, which motivated our MOC brothers (11 of them) to donate their blood to the blood bank at the Taluk Hospital Srirangapatna.

4. Republic Day

Dr. Sujaykumar was the chief guest of the Republic Day. After unfurling the tricolor and saluting it, he gave a very inspiring message, highlighting the importance of the day. His message was very much connected with the patriotism and rich heritage of India, as a nation known for its unity in diversity. He also quoted, Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and swami Vivekananda and invited all of us to be faithful citizens of our Nation.



5. Entrance Exams to Ruhahaya Major Seminary

The brothers appeared for the entrance exam to Ruhahaya Major Seminary in the first week of February. There were three subjects such as English, Hindi and Spirituality. The entrance results were published after two weeks and all brothers came out in flying colours. Sincere thanks to all the members on the staff, and particularly to the Rev. Fr Johny Kariathil and Fr Mijo Chamakalayil for their untiring efforts to prepare our brothers for the entrance exams through their one week intensive courses of English and Hindi respectively.

6. Reception to the New Priests

On 6 February Jeevan Jyoti accorded a hearty welcome to nine of our new priests. After the reception and tea, there was a friendly volleyball match between the new priests and brothers. The match was won by our brothers. After *Ramsa* we had the *agape* meal,



during which all the new priests were congratulated and felicitated by the Jeevan Jyoti community. The new priests shared their Jeevan Jyoti experiences, which were a fillip to the youngsters. On 7th morning we had the solemn Holy Qurbana and after the breakfast our new priests together with Jeevan Jyoti brothers visited the Gumbaz and Sangam. By spending a day here at Jeevan Jyoti, all of them could recall their golden memories of MOC life. Thanks for their visit to the Alma Mater.

7. Home Day Competitions

This year the home day competitions (both sports and literary items) were started on 13 February 2021. Brothers were divided into two groups with names Red and Blue, each having nine each members and the group leaders were Bros Linto Kakkaniyil and Ben Karakkatt. The sports' day we conducted at Jyoti Nivas School ground in Srirangapatna.

Under the category of sports, we conducted 19 items with a total of 232 points and in the literary section we had 11 items with a total of 129 points. The 'Red Group' emerged as the group champion scoring 197 points. Home day completions were an occasion for brothers to express themselves making use of their physical, literary and intellectual strengths and talents. Therefore, there is no exaggeration in saying that, the competitions fostered in them mutual love, respect and team work. Kudos to Rev. Fr Thomas Manjalankal - the in charge of sports, and Bro. Abin Manayathukudy, the Jury of the competitions, for conducting the competitions in a praiseworthy manner.

8. Mysore Picnic

Our brothers were very happy to explore the nearby tourist destinations in Mysore as part of the curriculum. On 6 March, the



Jeevan Jyoti community visited all the main tourist destinations in Mysore like; St. Joseph Cathedral (St. Philomena's Church), Chamundi Hills, Mysore Palace, Zoo and KRS. All of us enjoyed the day in the

maximum way possible with the real spirit of community living.

9. Mission Tours

In spite of Covid, we made it possible to visit different mission stations in the Mandya Region. We started our mission tour on 13 March. First we visited the famous Shravanbelagola Gomateshwara statue. Visiting this holy place of Jainism brothers got a bird's eye view of the ideals of Jainism. And returning from Belagola, we stopped at our Sikkaripura Mission station, where Rev. Fr Abhraham Koovackal and the SMS sisters had arranged the refreshments and lunch. Brothers also got chance to visit the houses of the villagers. And Fr Koovackal explained to the brothers about the starting and struggles by the MSTs, for the up-liftment of the 'Sikkari community. After the lunch we visited the Nagamangala Station, where brothers got a chance to know the functioning of the 'V Guard Stabilizer Unit.' From there we headed towards Hadanur Mission Station, where in the absence of the Director, the SMI sisters received us and explained to us on the poison treatment they are doing for the snake bite patients. After the tea we continued our visit to the Ragimuddhanahalli station, and we returned to Jeevan Jyoti around 7.30 p.m.

On the second day of the mission tour we tried to cover more mission stations. First we visited Bannur mission Station, and from there we proceeded to Pandithahalli, and later to Halagur Mission Station. From Halagur we moved to Rudrakshipura where we halted for

lunch. In after noon we visited Koppa Mission Station, Sanjoe Hospital, Santhome School and Santhome Inspire.

By visiting all these places, brothers got a brief summary of the troubles and toil the early missionaries had undergone to bring these mission stations to the present status. Brothers were very much taken by this mission tour because they could experience the courageous missionary life witness given by our priests and religious at different stations.

10. Tapioca Boiling

One full day was dedicated for the tapioca boiling. This year we got a chance to buy 1600 kilos of fresh tapioca (for very low price)



from H. D. Kotte, near Mysore. All the brothers and fathers felt tapioca boiling as a community celebration with dedicated hard work and commitment. The Arakere mission community members also helped us in our effort.

11. Visit by Fr Raju Puthusseril

Rev. Fr Raju Puthusseril paid a visit to Jeevan Jyoti on 21 February. He offered the Holy Qurbana for us and after the breakfast he spent almost one hour with the brothers to share his experiences in the Mandya Region as a missionary. The experiences were very much enriching for the brothers. We are sincerely thankful to Rev. Fr Raju Puthusseril.

12. Computer Class by Fr George Olickal

In spite of the busy schedule at the *Santhome Inspire*, Rev. Fr George Olickal set apart a day for the Jeevan Jyoti brothers in order to teach them some basics of computer and typing. Though very short, the classes were very useful for the brothers. We are indebted to Rev. Fr George Olickal for dedicating his precious time and energy for us.

13. Visit by Santhome Minor Seminary Staff

On 13 February, the Rector, Vice-Rector and the Procurator of Santhome Minor Seminary, Thamarassery, paid a friendly visit to Jeevan Jyoti. They celebrated the Holy Mass for us. Thank you - Rev. Fr Joseph Pulavelil, Fr Shaijan Koonamparampath, and Fr Abin Kochupurackal for your love and concern for Jeevan Jyoti community and bringing some of the typical Kerala food items and Quail eggs for all of us.

14. Visit from Mother Theresa Minor Seminary, Mandya

It was an unforgettable day for Jeevan Jyoti, when the staff and students of Mother Theresa Minor Seminary, Mandya, visited us on 20 March. They came in the afternoon and after the tea we had a friendly volleyball match which was won by our Jeevan Jyoti brothers. The purpose of the visit was to know each other and to foster fraternal love between the members of both seminaries.

(Reported by Rev. Fr Roy Pullattu, Rector, Jeevan Jyoti, Mandya)

D. Ruhhalaya Major Seminary, Ujjain

1. Annual Retreat, Diaconate and Minor Orders



The annual retreat was conducted in the theology section from 12 to 16 December as an immediate preparation for the reception of Major and Minor Orders. The conferring of the Diaconate and the Minor

Orders was administered by Mar Sebastian Vadakel on 17 December while Very Rev. Fr Antony Perumanoor and Very Rev. Fr Chandy Kalathoor were co-celebrants. Very Rev. Fr Antony Perumanoor, the Director General, was present for the permanent Incorporation of the MST Deacons.

2. Christmas 2020

The Nativity was celebrated in respective campuses



separately with a one-hour adoration followed by a mid-night Holy Qurbana. It was followed by a celebratory gathering.

The community Christmas celebration was held in the Philosophate in the evening on 25 December where carols were presented by each batch and one by the staff as well. Christmas gifts were given away to all including the non-teaching staff and their children. It was followed by common Christmas supper.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic threat, there was no Christmas drama for the villagers neither in the campus nor in the mission stations. Unlike the previous years, the Theology brothers did not go to Kerala to participate in the Priestly Ordinations of the Rev. Deacons from Ruhahaya.

3. Home Day Competitions and Sports Days at the Philosophate

Umang 2020, the Home Day Competitions and Sports Days for the Philosophy brothers, was conducted during the Christmas holidays (27 to 31 December). The brothers were divided into four groups and the competitions were organized and managed by a panel of jury. It was an occasion for team building, boosting competitive spirit and finding out the champions in the literary items as well as sports and games.

4. New Year 2021

The year ending as well as the New Year was celebrated in Theologate and Philosophate separately. In both section, we had one hour of thanksgiving adoration which started at 11 p.m followed by a mid-night Holy Qurbana and a friendly New Year get-together.

5. Volleyball & Football Matches

The theology brothers had a friendly volleyball match with students and alumni of Dinah Covent School, Tharana on 22 December. Fr



Jose Kondoor, the Priest-in charge of Tharana Mission Station, was very happy to host the match and it was actually the first match conducted in the Corona year 2020 and Ruhhalaya won the match.

On the occasion of a half day outing of the brothers from Rajewar Bhavan, Ghosala, a friendly football match was conducted between them and the Ruhhalaya Philosophy brothers on 10 January 2021 which ended in a draw.

6. Colloquium on *Fratelli Tutti*

A symposium on *Fratelli Tutti* was arranged in the Theologate on 30 January 2021. The brothers were divided into nine groups of which eight groups presented eight chapters of the encyclical of Pope Francis. The ninth group was entrusted with the responsibility to organize the symposium. Fr Jose Valiyamangalam and Fr Lonappan Arangassery were the moderators of the colloquium.

7. Ruha-Elite Badminton Championship 2021

The Ruhhalaya Theologate conducted a badminton championship for priests, brothers and associates in the diocese of Ujjain, named Ruha



Elite Badminton championship on 30 & 31 January 2021. It was yet another initiative of the Ruhailaya theologians which created a great opportunity for the brothers to have *koinonia* with many

priests and close associates of the diocese of Ujjain. There were sixteen teams from the various parts of the diocese. The championship was inaugurated by Very Rev. Fr Manoj Vareeckal, the Vicar General of Ujjain Diocese and the prizes were distributed by Very Rev. Fr Vincent Kadalikattilputhenpura, the Regional Director of St Paul's Region, Ujjain. Fr Manoj Parackal and Bro. Jomon Kalapurackal bagged the first prize of Rs 5000. Dn Shinto Vettikuzhichalil and Bro. Naveen Kallaparambil won the second prize worth of Rs 3000 and Fr Abilash Pattasseril and Mr Qureshi won the third prize Rs 2000.

8. Annual Retreat for the Philosophy Brothers

The annual retreat for the Philosophy brothers was conducted from 11 to 14 January 2021. The retreat preacher was Rev. Fr John Kudiyruppil who preached on various aspects of Christian discipleship.

9. The Republic Day

The 72nd Republic Day of India was conducted in both campuses separately. While Rev. Fr Lijo Ikkaraparambil, the Chancellor of Ujjain Diocese, was the main celebrant of the Holy



Qurbana and the Chief Guest of the Republic Day meeting at the Theologate, Rev. Fr Joseph Placheril was the Chief Guest of the celebrations at the Philosophate. Along with the march-past and the hoisting of the National Flag, patriotic songs and tableaux were presented as part of the celebrations. There was an intra-seminary friendly basketball match between the Theology and Philosophy brothers, which was won by the Philosophy brothers.

10. Visit of Bishop Mar Raphael Thetttil.

Bishop Mar Raphael Thattil of Shamshabad Diocese visited Ruhailaya on 02 February 2021. He celebrated Holy Qurbana in the Philosophate chapel for the entire Ruhailaya community which was followed by common breakfast. In his homily, he emphasized the



importance of human formation in the seminary formation in view of the future priestly ministry.

11. MST Day Celebration at Pawasa

An MST Day celebration was organised by Rev. Fr Vincent Kadalikkattilputhnpura, the Regional Director and his team at Santhome School, Pawasa on 11 February 2021 in view of the MST Foundation Day on 22 February. All the MST brothers left for Pawasa after lunch and spent half a day conducting games and competitions. The celebration was concluded with a prayer session and a supper in which all the fathers from Ruhailaya also participated.

It was an occasion to boost the sense of belonging to the Society and our identity as MSTians.

12. One Day Mission Tour and Outing

The whole of the academic year 2020 -21 has been spent without any ministries or activities outside the respective campuses due to Corona Pandemic. There were no outings or other normal shopping for the brothers. Sunday 14th February provided the brothers with a well-deserved relaxation as the brothers from both sections had a combined one day mission tour and outing.

Brothers from the theology section with few members of the staff had a mission tour and a day of relaxation. Having started the journey at 9.00 a.m, the group visited the mission stations of Unhel, Nagda, Kacharod, Mehidpur and the minor seminary of Ujjain diocese, Rajewar Bhavan, Ghosala. Rev. Fathers and Sisters of the respective mission stations welcomed us wholeheartedly. The Birla Temple of Nagda was also a spot of attraction. The day was really fruitful and it was a time shared together sans corona phobia.

All the brothers from the Philosophy section visited Jai Amala Harsodan, Masih Ashram Korondia, Kripa Social Service Training centre Chandessery, St. Paul's MST Regional House, Mendia. The Rev. Fathers in each of these centres welcomed the brothers with great love and care and spoke to them about the history of the mission station and the various ministries carried out there. It was both a relaxing as well as an inspiring time out for the brothers.

13. 53rd MST Foundation Day



The 53rd MST Foundation Day was celebrated on 22 February 2021. There was a common Holy Qurbana at the Theology Chapel celebrated by Very

Rev. Fr Chandy Kalathoor and co-celebrated by other fathers on the staff which was followed by common breakfast there. In order to celebrate the occasion, a friendly intra-Seminary volleyball match was conducted at Theologate between the Theology and Philosophy brothers which was won by the Philosophy brothers. The day of celebrations was concluded with an *Al Fresco Dining* at the Philosophate during which brothers presented cultural programs and batch-wise songs.

14. Sharing by Fr Cheriampanattu

Rev. Fr Joseph Cheriampanattu came to Ruhalya for classes for theology students. There was a sharing session of his mission experience in the new MST mission in Orissa on 27 February. He presented before the brothers through videos, talk and Q&A session a glimpse of the possibilities as well as the challenges faced by the missionaries in this new mission areas entrusted to the MST. The brothers were inspired by this sharing session and many clarified their queries about the new mission and the challenges.

15. Visitation of the DG and Formation Secretary

Very Rev. Fr Antony Perumanoor, the Director General and Rev. Fr Francis Kureeckal, the Formation Secretary paid an official visit to Ruhalya from 1 to 4 March 2021. They held meetings with the staff of each section separately. They met the Deacons personally and the MST brothers batch-wise. They also held meeting with each batch separately. They addressed the entire staff together and gave



feed backs and shared with the staff the views shared by the brothers. The visitation was well appreciated by the staff and students.

16. Jubilee of Fr Francis Kureeckal



The Sacerdotal Silver Jubilee of Rev. Fr Francis Kureeckal was celebrated at the Philosophate on 2 March 2021. There was solemn Holy Qurbana celebrated by Rev. Fr Francis and co-celebrated by other fathers on the staff. The Qurbana was followed by a short felicitation before the common breakfast. It was also an occasion to thank God for the gift of the person of Fr Francis and all that he has been to the Society and the Seminary.

17. Conclusion of RCLA and Home Herald

Ruhalaya Cultural and Literary Academy and Home Herald for the academic year 2020-21 was concluded on 7 March 2021. Rev. Fr Joseph Venattumattam, the Director of RCLA and Home Herald welcomed all to the concluding meeting which was presided over by Very Rev. Fr Chandy Kalathoor, the Rector. Rev. Sr Joyce Maria SABS was the Chief Guest of the meeting. Brothers presented variety entertainment programs and speeches in Hindi and English.

(Reported by Very Rev. Fr Chandy Kalathoor, Rector, Ruhalaya, Ujjain)

VI. News from Missions

A. St Paul Region, Ujjain

1. New Year 2021

The New Year was begun with thanksgiving adoration at 10.30 pm on Thursday, 31 December followed by the solemn Eucharistic celebration at midnight at the Regional House chapel. Coffee and sweets were served to the whole community after the Mass.

2. New Year Gathering



A get together of all the MST priests in the Region was arranged at Pawasa school auditorium on 13 January evening. After a short prayer session led by Rev. Fr Abraham Pandampadathil, Rev Fr Vincent Kadalikkattilputhenpura welcomed all the priests and wished all a blessed year 2021. There was also a fruitful discussion on the various activities of the Region. The ruby jubilarians were specially greeted on the occasion. A Christmas (2020) gift was presented to all the priests. A Bible Quiz- play was conducted by Rev. Fr George Pottanickal and prizes were awarded to the winners. The meeting, participated by around fifty-five participants, was concluded with a festive dinner.

3. Foundation Day Celebration of MST Brothers

All the seminarians of the MST from Ruhahaya got together at St Thomas School, Pawasa on Thursday, 11 February anticipating the Foundation Day celebrations. Rev Fr. Thomas Kalarickal shared his mission experiences and interacted with the young missionaries at 3 p.m. During the tea-break brothers conducted various



competitions and games. Some of the brothers prepared the dinner under the leadership of Rev. Fr Shiju Pottananickal. The Rector and staff of Ruhalya also joined the supper. Regional Director welcomed and wished them the best, and requested to pray for the success of the missionary efforts of the MST.

4. MST Day Celebration on 22 February

On the Foundation Day of the MST, the Solemn Holy Mass was presided over by Rev. Fr Thomas Paradyil, the former Director General of MST. He also shared the message of the day. Monthly recollection in the month of February was conducted on 22 February combining with the Foundation Day celebration of MST. All members working in MST houses spent one hour in adoration remembering all the members, deceased and active, all the missionary efforts, benefactors and the associate members of the MST. A grand dinner was served to all present.

5. Sacerdotal Silver Jubilee of Fr Kureeckal

The Sacerdotal Silver Jubilee Mass was celebrated by Rev. Fr Francis Kureeckal on Sunday, 28 February. The Director General, Regional Director, Fathers, SH and SABS Sisters from neighbouring communities and the few faithful participated in the solemn celebration. The Regional Director felicitated and honoured him with bouquet and shall during the get together that was arranged immediately after the Mass.

6. Hearty Welcome to the New Priest!

Rev. Fr Thottaplackal Thomas (Twinkle), one of the new priests of the year was cordially welcomed and felicitated at the Regional



House. After a few days of stay here at the Regional House, he took charge as the assistant priest at St Mary's Church, Rajgarh in the Eparchy of Ujjain on 12 March. Rev. Fr George Thoppil and Reverend Sisters extended him a warm welcome. Let his

ministry be successful and pleasing to the Lord.

7. Blessing of a New Church, Bhopal



The newly built St Alphonsa Syro Malabar Church was blessed and consecrated by His Excellency Mar Raphael Thattil, Bishop of Shamshabad on 7 February 2021. Along with Bishop Mar Raphael Thattil, Bishop Mar Sebastian Vadakel

(Bishop of Ujjain), Very Rev. Fr. Antony Perumanoor, Director General MST, a good number of priests, sisters and lay faithful were present for the consecration programme. His Grace Most Rev. Leo Cornelio Joined the programme after the Holy Qurbana.

Pastoral care to the Syro Malabar faithful in Bhopal was taken up by the MST from 2009. Fr. Hans Puthiakulangara and Bishop James Athikalam struggled a lot to bring together the Syro Malabar faithful scattered all over Bhopal. It was a tedious work and they succeeded to a great extent. On 16 October 2018, our Major Archbishop His Eminence Mar George Cardinal Alencherry blessed and laid the foundation stone





for the parish church in Bhopal. After getting all the legal permissions, the work started on 9 November 2019. But due to the lockdown caused by the

pandemic, Covid-19 outbreak, the work was closed for a few months. By the grace of God, we could complete the work and it was consecrated on 7 February 2021. There is also a presbytery for this church which was blessed by Bishop Mar Raphael Thattil on 6 February 2021, on the previous evening of the church blessing. *(Reported by Fr Vincent Kadalikkattilputhenpura, Regional Director, St Paul Region)*

B. St Thomas Region

1. Visit of MST New Priests' to St Thomas Region

Our new priests visited St Thomas Region, Mandya and celebrated thanksgiving Holy Qurbana on 6 February 2021 at Santhome



Regional house together with the Regional Director, Fr Joseph Thekkekarott and other priests. We thank the Almighty for the blessing we have received through these new priests and wish them all the best in their priestly life.

2. New Priests Join the Missionary Team of the Region

Out of the five new priests assigned to St Thomas Region, three of

them joined our missionary team of this Region. We extend a hearty welcome to them. Two of them: Rev. Frs Alex Elamthuruthiyil and Jithin Puthusseryputhenpurayil are undergoing intensive Telugu language course under the efficient teacher - Rev. Fr Joseph Vedikunnel. Rev. Fr Abin Vazhuthanappalliyl is appointed at Jeevodaya mission centre, Arakere.

(Reported by Rev. Fr Joseph Thekkekarott, Regional Director, St Thomas Region)

3. New Missionaries for Andhra Mission

The Andhra mission of MST accorded cordial welcome to our new priests, Fr Alex Elamthuruthiyil and Fr Jithin Puthusseryputhenpurayil, on 3 March 2021. Rev. Fr Joseph Vedikunnel MST - the Coordinator of Andhra mission, welcomed them to the Rayadurgam mission centre. Rev. Fr Joseph Thekkekarott, the Regional Director



and Rev. Fr Martin Kandamparampil also accompanied the new priests to Rayadurgam. They celebrated the Holy Qurbana together in the convent chapel and started their mission journey by drawing strength from the Holy Eucharist. At present they are doing their Telegu language course guided by Rev. Fr Joseph Vedikunnel. We offer them all the prayerful wishes for their future ministries.

(Reported by Rev. Fr Joseph Vedikunnel, Coordinator, Andhra Mission of St Thomas Region)

C. St Alphonsa Region

1. Silver Jubilee Celebrations



It was the great moment of pride to celebrate the ordination silver jubilee of great missionaries Rev. Fr Vadakkeputhenpura Siby MST and Rev. Fr Mangalathil Tom MST. All the missionaries from the mission joined together at Vishwadeepti, Kolhapur to celebrate the occasion. Rev. Fr Mangalathil Tom presided over the solemn celebration of the Holy Qurbana. Thereafter, a grand ceremonial welcome and programme was arranged as part of celebration.

The whole mission congratulated the missionaries for their tireless effort, selfless sacrifice and hardworking. These moments were added with the flavour with the thought that these missionaries are rendering their service to the mission for the past 25 years by



being in the mission. Hence it was a pride moment for the co-missionaries including the sisters and priests to congratulate and appreciate them for the wonderful service they render to the Mission, to the Society and for the Church as a whole. Prayerful congratulations dear fathers!

2. Celebration of Foundation Day

The foundation day of the Society was celebrated with all glory and pomp. The missionaries joined themselves together at Vishwadeepti, Kolhapur on the previous day and had a spiritual renewal through monthly recollection in order to celebrate the foundation day. Recollection was followed a short seminar led by Rev. Fr Aryankalayil Joseph MST enumerating the present trend in the society, the need to have stronger relationship between the members, and also viewing the Society in a wholesome manner. The ordination silver jubilee of Rev. Frs Arthanakunnel Benny MST and Chakiriamthadam Saji MST was inaugurated by lighting the lamp. Rev Fr Njalliyil Joby gave a short message on the occasion. Rev. Frs Arthanakunnel Benny and Chakiriamthadam Saji presided over the solemn celebration of the Holy Qurbana.

(Reported by Fr Arun Karakkattu, St Alphonsa Region)

3. Asmitha and Personal Parish, Kalyan

a. Silver Jubilee of Asmitha: The Marathi language training



institute - Asmitha is celebrating her Silver Jubilee Year this year. So far, we could empower 610 Priests and Sisters with Marathi language for mission work in Maharashtra. Recently the 68th batch completed their training in Asmitha. Next Marathi Course (69th batch) will start on 11 April 2021. Thanks to all MST members for the constant support and prayer.

b. Ash Monday Celebration: Respecting the Covid protocols, Ash Monday rituals were solemnly celebrated by the Marthoma Syro-Malabar parish community of non-Keralites. It was conducted at the Cathedral and was attended by more than 100

faithful.

c. Inauguration of Prayer Centre: The ninth prayer centre of the Mar Thoma personal parish's was inaugurated on 21 February at Mira Road. It is a small chapel given to us for Sunday Mass by a builder from Vasai. This is our latest center. Because of covid restrictions we are not able to conduct prayers at present. We have few non-Malayalee Syro-Malabar Christians in and around Mira Road. Fr Jithin Kottarathil offered Holy Qurbana in Marathi. Our



parish team was present for the Mass and Adoration.

(Reported by Fr Paul Painadath, Mumbai)

D. MQMD, Delhi

1. Monthly Recollections and Annual Retreat

Monthly recollections are held regularly every month in different mission stations of the delegation. It becomes a chance for the fathers to spiritually refresh themselves and to be more active in the field. Recollection, adoration and confession is followed by a small meeting to discuss about the development of each station. Annual retreat of the year 2021 will be held from 12 to 16 April. Rev. Fr Saju Elanjyil MST will be the preacher.

2. Visit of His Beatitude Mar George Cardinal Alencherry



Delhi Delegation was blessed to have the presence of His Beatitude Mar George Cardinal Alencherry on 19 January 2021. His Beatitude was kind enough to be with us on this day and helped our fathers in monthly recollection. His Beatitude led the reflection and we had a few hours of nitration. He expressed his happiness and congratulated us for the grass root mission work of MST in different parts of India.

3. Foundation Day Celebration

MST foundation Day celebration was conducted on 11 February in Deepti Ashram, Najafgarh. All most all the priests of the Delegation reached Deepti Ashram for the celebration. Rev. Fr George Kachirayil offered the



Holy Mass and Rev. Fr Santhosh Olapurackal gave the Homily. The foundation day celebration was clubbed with the monthly recollection too. Rev. Fr Stanly Kozhimla gave the points for recollection and He led the adoration. We spent a lot of time in his church which is known as 'Morning Star Church.'

4. New Priests

Delhi Delegation family has received two young and vibrant new



missionaries. Rev. Fr Santhosh Olapurackal welcomed Rev. Fr Renji Chirayil and Rev. Fr Abhilash Akkattu to the Delegation on 27 February. Both fathers will be sent to St Thomas School

Bathinda for Punjabi course.

5. Visit of Director General and Vice Director



Delhi delegation welcomed Very Rev. Fr Antony Perumanoor and Rev. Fr Francis Kureeckal. They were visiting and observing the different missionary activities of the delegation from 7 to 15 March. They visited all the mission stations and parishes where MST

fathers are working in the Delegation.

6. Deepti Foundation, Dilshad Garden

Deepti Foundation, Gyanasarovar has been working in Bhalaswa Dump Yard since 2016 for the holistic developments of the children and families involved in rag picking. It is the hard-earned efforts dedicated minds of Deepti Foundation to support and guide the people living by waste collection every day.

a. Blessing of Child Resource Centre: The inaugural ceremony of dream project of Deepti Foundation Gyaansarovar Child



Resource Centre (CRC) took place on 8 March 2021. The program has begun at 11.00 a.m. His Grace Archbishop Kuriakose Bharanikulangara of Faridabad diocese was the main celebrant of the ceremony. Very Rev.

Fr. Antony Perumanoor, Director General of the MST, cut the ribbon and opened the CRC. Rev. Fr. Francis Kureeckal MST, Vice Director of MST unveiled the plaque. Fr Olapurackal, Director of



Deepti Foundation welcomed all dignitaries. Further inaugural blessing ceremony took place under the guidance of His Grace Archbishop, Kuriakose Bharanikulangara.

After the blessing there was public gathering to facilitate the

contractors and architect. Mr. Joseph Cherian and Ravikumar were honoured with mementos for constructing the wonderful building. Mr Alex Joseph was also honoured for planning such mind-boggling execution. Fr Joseph Karodan MST, the director of Deepti ashram thanked all for their support and collaboration. There was also a cultural program by the students of Gyaansarovar CRC and Deepti Ashram hostel. The program was concluded by 12.30am with a sumptuous lunch.



b. Interface With Delhi Police: On 10 March 2021 there was an interface of Children's Parliament (CP) with Delhi Police. It was the Assistant commissioner of Police [ACP] Mr. R.K Rathee contacted Fr. Olapurackal, to collaborate with Deepti Foundation

to make friendly communities and reduce the unhealthy situations in the area. The program begun at 11.00 a.m. in Gyaansarovar child resource centre. ACP said that Deepti Foundation should take initiative in reducing the crime rate in the area apart from imparting education to students. Station Head Officer [SHO] of Bhalaswa dairy Police station Mr. Sikandar Rai promised full support to Deepti Foundation. Children could drive away their fear by shaking hands with police who had come in uniforms.

c. Women's Day: Women's day of Deepti Foundation Gyaansarovar was celebrated on 11 March 2021 in Gyaansarovar



child resource centre. Ms. Varsha Saini was the chief guest for the program. The chief guest emphasized that women need to be the agents of change. Further there was

cultural programs organizes by the women from Kaalimandir and Rajeevnagar. There were 31 women representatives from the communities. We had to regulate the number of participants due to pandemic situations. Ms. Nayana Cherian, Community organizer, thanked all for the support and cooperation. At the end refreshments were distributed.

On 10th of March, 2021 the women's day of our manos project was celebrated in six different centres of East Delhi. Around 350 women participated in the programme. The programme was organised by Mrs. Nidhi Singh the Co-ordinator of the project, under the guidance of Frs. Olapurackal, Kuruvanplackel and Kachirayil. Different cultural programmes were organized in all the centres and with the refreshments the programme was concluded.

d. Annual Day: Annual day of Child Resource Centre was organized on 20 March 2021. Mr. Vijaykumar Bhagat, Municipal Counsellor of Bhalaswadairy was the chief guest. Miss. Kushi from Kaalimandir



centre welcomed all to the cultural program. There were dances, speech, and skit in the events. Miss Gulabsha from Kalandhar Colony thanked all for their support and cooperation. Chief guest pointed that we all need to collaborate for the massive changes in the society

e RIP: Employee of Deepti Foundation: It was sad news for us that Mr. Vijaykumar, who was an employee of Deepti Foundation Caritas project and Gyansarovar project, left for heavenly abode on 06 February 2021. He was associated with Deepti Foundation since 2009 and was well-wisher and promoter of our activities.

f CARITAS: On 18 March HRG [High Risk Group] meeting had taken place for People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIVs) in Nandnagari in East Delhi under the leadership of the coordinator and animators. Around 35 members were present for the programme. We give them timely counselling, guidelines and instructions so that they may become aware about the life situation and challenges around.



(Reported by Fr George Kachirayil, Deepti Foundation, Dilshad Garden, Delhi)

7. Mother Theresa Catholic Mission, Ludhiana



a. School Blessing And Reopening: St Thomas School resumed classes for the academic year 2020-2021 after the Covid pandemic threat. We conducted the blessing of the school in simple manner because of Corona situation. Parents, teachers and

children of our school participated in the blessing ceremony.

b. MST Day Celebration: We celebrated the 53rd foundation day of MST in Mother Theresa Catholic Mission, Dehlon. Rev. Fr Antu Alummoottil celebrated the mass and gave the homily. The whole community was present for the Holy Mass. We specially remembered and prayed for all the fathers in the society during the Holy Mass. We had solemn supper after the Holy Mass.

c. Community Building: The long awaited dream of creating a Christian community came to be fulfilled in Mother Theresa Mission



Center, Dehlon. As part of looking for the possibility of direct preaching we used to visit and go to different villages near Dehlon. We started to go to a village called khilahas around 13 kilometres away from Dehlon from 11 March 2021. On the first day itself we

had around 25 people were present for the prayer session. There after people come to our school on Sundays for prayer and their number increases each time. People were very active in listening to the word of God. We also such a blessed opportunity to visit some of the families in the village. People were happy to welcome us into their houses. We hope and pray that in the near future we get a good Christian community here.

d. Visit of Director General and Team: Very Rev. Fr Antony Perumanoor and Rev. Fr Francis Kureeckal made a visit to St



Mother Theresa Catholic mission on 10 March 2010. Rev. Fr. Santhosh Olapurackal and Fr. Joseph Karodan accompanied them during the visit. We were blessed by their visit and encouraging words. They also visited our school and evaluated the functioning.

e. Visit of Mar Jose Puthenveetil:

His excellency Mar Jose Puthenveetil, the Auxiliary Bishop of Faridabad – Delhi Diocese and vicar General Rev. Fr. Jose Vettikal to Mother Teresa Catholic mission station Dehlon. Bishop also visited our Christian community in Khilahas and prayed for the people.



(Reported by Fr Antu Alummottil, Ludhiana, Punjab)

8. Maria Bhavan, Bhikhi

a. Christmas Celebration And Easter Preparation: Christmas was celebrated solemnly in Maria Bhavan with the migrant community in and around Bhikhi. Rev. Fr Bobby Kayyalakkakathu was the main celebrant and Rev Fr Antu Alumoottil gave Christmas message. We also celebrated Christmas with the local community in Maur-Mandi and distributed cakes to the families there. Now the migrant community in Bhikhi prepares for the Holy week and the Easter.

b. Visit Of Dignitaries: Maria Bhavan Bhikhi was joyful to welcome Very Rev Fr Antony Perumanoor and Rev. Fr Francis Kureeckal



on 9 March. They were really eager to know about the missionary activities and development of the station. Rev Fathers were accompanied with Rev. Fr Santhosh Olapurackal and Joseph Karodan.

(Reported by Fr Cyril Kureekkattu, Bhikhi, Punjab)

9. Kristjyoti Catholic Mission, Rohru

a. Group Prayers And House Visits: Covid – 19 Pandemic which restricted the mass gatherings to a new has a huge impact on our big



prayer meetings too. We have found a solution as to bring people in small groups and family visits to make the prayer needs fulfilled. As a result we have arranged regular small group prayers in which families of nearby participate. It rejuvenated the prayerful

atmosphere. We also conduct regular house visits and prayers.

b. Purchase of New Land: A golden feather was added to the history of Kristjyoti Catholic Mission, Rohru on 1 March 2021. A small plot of land was purchased for the purpose of building a Church. This was the dream of ours for a long time to have a house and a Church of our own. Rev Fr Santhosh Olapurackal, Fr Sanoj Pathrapankal, Fr George Kachirayil and Fr Renji Chirayil were present here on the day of registration.

c. Visit Of Director General And Vice Director General:



Kritjyoti Catholic Mission Rohru was happy to welcome and accommodate Very Rev. Fr Antony Perumanoor and Rev. Fr Francis Kureekal. The Dignitaries reached Rohru on 11 March 2021 and spent their valuable time of three days.

Different programmes were arranged during these days as this was their first visit to Rohru. House visits, prayers, group prayers, etc. were conducted in their presence. On 13/03/2021 a big prayer gathering was conducted in which around one hundred and fifty people participated and a prayer of three hours was arranged. People were so happy to have the visit of

our superiors. The visit and their encouragement gave us more energy to work more for the people here.

(Reported by Fr Sanoj Pathrapankal, Rohru, Himachal Pradesh)

10. Deepti Ashram, Najafgarh

a. Mar George Cardinal Alencherry's Visit: From 18 to 20 January 2021, Deepti Ashram was in a state of spiritual joviality due to the august presence of Cardinal George Alencherry, the Major Archbishop of Syro Malabar Church. Rev. Fr Jacob Palackappilly,



the Director of POC, was with him. Our Delegate Rev. Fr Santhosh Olapurackal and all MSTs, except three, in Delhi Delegation gathered in Deepti Ashram and had a fruitful interaction with the Major

Archbishop. He was gracious enough to listen to each one of us and simple enough to encourage and to enjoy the cultural programme of our hostel children and on the last day he found time, from his busy schedule, to preach monthly recollection to us. The provincial Superiors of VC, OCD, SH visited him at Deepti Ashram. Rev. Frs Santhosh Olapurackal and Abin Kuruvanplakal accompanied him to the Nunciature and PM's Office.

b. Visit of Director General and Vice Director: Deepti Ashram was blessed with the graceful presence of Very Rev. Fr. Antony Perumanoor, the Director General MST, and Rev. Fr. Francis Kureeckal, the Vice Director. We all enjoyed every moment of their stay here. The hostel children performed various programmes to honour and to entertain them.

c. MST Foundation Day Celebration and Monthly Recollection: On 10 February, our members in the delegation gathered in Deepti Ashram for foundation day celebration and monthly recollection. On 11 February, we had very solemn Holy Qurbana in the morning and then went to Ish Vatika - Eco Spirituality Centre

for Monthly recollection and Adoration.

d. Visit of Mar Jose Puthenveetil:

On 22 February Mar Jose Puthenveetil, the Auxiliary Bishop of Faridabad – Delhi Diocese paid a friendly visit to our Ashram and interacted with the children. He was so impressed by our service here.



e. Annual Retreat and Vestition at

Parish – Najafgarh: On 13 and 14 March the annual retreat was conducted for the parishioners of our parish at Sacred Heart Church, Najafgarh. There was the vestition and first profession of three of the candidates of Pushpadam Province of SD Congregation.

f. Republic Day: On 26 January, we celebrated Republic Day with patriotic fervour. After the flag hoisting and march past there were various cultural programme. Bro. Jithin delivered the message of the day.



g. Secondary School Exam and Result: Four of our boys appeared for class X examination conducted by NIOS and they cleared it in first class. Now they go for vocational training programme conducted by GMR Dwaraka -8 Delhi.

h. Adieu and Welcome: From Deepti Ashram Rev. Sr Ithisree SCCG got transferred to their Convent in Sonapat, replacing her Rev. Sr. Violet SCCG took charge. On 19th March we had both farewell and welcome gathering.



i. New Solar Energy: New solar panels and inverter are installed in Deepti Ashram Boys hostel. It will make positive changes in the lives of our children.

j. Visits and Thanks: In the past months many important personalities such as Shri Alphonse Kannamthanam, former central minister, Shri. Thomas Chazhikadan MP, Shri. George Kallivayalil, CB of Deepika–Delhi, several fathers, sisters, generous people specially from Buradi and Mayur Vihar parishes visited Deepti Ashram. Thanks for their generous support and timely help.

(Reported by Fr Joseph Karodan, Deepti Ashram, Najafgarh, Delhi)

11. St Alphonsa Bhavan, Dhuri

Visit of Director General and Vice Director:

St Alphonsa Bhavan Dhuri was extremely happy to welcome Very Rev. Fr Antony Perumanoor and Rev. Fr Francis Kureeckal.



They stayed in house and enquired about the development in missionary works of the station. We gratefully thank them for their visit and encouraging words.

(Reported by Fr Aby Kolliyil, Dhuri, Punjab)

12. Institute of Harmony and Peace Studies, New Delhi (Personal Initiative)

a. Lectures at Seminars

1. Delivered *Keynote Lecture* on ‘Role of Religion Amidst Growing Communalism and Fundamentalism’ – during Seminar on ‘Role of Religion Amidst Growing Communalism and Fundamentalism’ – organized by Commission for Inter-religious Dialogue, Archdiocese of Kolkata – at Proggaloy, Barasat, Kolkata – on 07 January 2021.

2. Delivered *Keynote Lecture* on ‘Role of Religion Amidst Growing Communalism and Fundamentalism’ – during Seminar on ‘Role of Religion Amidst Growing Communalism and Fundamentalism’ – organized by Commission for Inter-religious Dialogue, Archdiocese of Kolkata and Rotary Club of Kolkata, Nabadiganta – at Shakespeare Sarani, Kolkata – on 08 January 2021.

3. Delivered *Lecture* on ‘Durust Pariwaar se Durust Samaaj kee Or’ (From Family Wellbeing to Social Wellbeing) – during Workshop on ‘Celebrating Families’ – organized by World Vision India, New Delhi, and Institute of Harmony and Peace Studies, New Delhi – at National YMCA, New Delhi – on 02 March 2021.

4. Delivered *Lecture* as Guest of Honour on ‘Swachchhtaa Ek Bhautik, Saamaajik, Naitik aur Aadhyaatmik Muhim’ (Cleanliness a Material, Social, Ethical and Spiritual Drive) – during Launch of the Campaign ‘Har Kadam Swachchhtaa Kee Or’ – organized by Society for Bright Future, New Delhi – at India Islamic Cultural Centre, New Delhi – on 14 March 2021.

b. Lectures at Webinars

5. Delivered *Lecture* on ‘Dharm aur Shaanti kee Samajh’ (Understanding of Religion and Peace) During Webinar on ‘Religion and World Peace’ (<https://fb.watch/49mbFNa2K>) – organized by World Organization of Religion and Knowledge, Rampur, Uttar Pradesh and Sach Khoj Academy, Ludhiana, Punjab – on 10 January 2021.

6. Delivered *Lecture* on ‘Desh aur Samaaj kee Samridhi kaa Aadhaar Aapsee Sambhandh’ (Collective Fellowship the Basis of the Prosperity of the Country and the Society) during Webinar on ‘Mutual Love and Harmony, the Foundation of Prosperous India’ (<https://fb.watch/49sXac6ldN/>) – organized by Dharmik Jan Morcha, New Delhi, and Jamaat-e-Islami Hind, New Delhi – on 20 January 2021.

7. Delivered *Lecture* on ‘Sarv-Dharm Sansad se Sarv-Aastha Bhaav kee Or’ (From Parliament of Religions to All Faiths Spirit) – during Webinar on ‘Parliament of Religions’ (<https://youtu.be/12mNileEVio>) — organized by Guru Govind Singh Department of Religious Studies, Patiala University, Patiala, Punjab – on 01 February 2021.

8. Delivered *Lecture* on ‘Applied Forms of Compassion and Love’ – during Webinar on ‘Compassion in Interfaith Dialogue’ (<https://>

fb.watch/49tCrGeqHe/) – organized by Online Group for Compassion – on 03 February 2021.

9. Delivered *Lecture* on ‘Sustainable Development through Solidarity’ – during Webinar (Online Interfaith Conference) on ‘Sustainable Development through Solidarity’ (<https://youtu.be/hXCqZci2z70>) — organized by ‘City Montessori School, Asharafabad Campus, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh — on 04 February 2021

10. Delivered *Lecture* on ‘Issues of Minorities in India’ – during Webinar on ‘Issues of Minorities in India’ (<https://youtu.be/JbQ20EiHXlw>) — organized by Millat Times, New Delhi — 07 February 2021.

11. Delivered *Lecture* on ‘Towards a Culture of Sustainable Peace’ – during Webinar on ‘Sustainable Peace in Religious Scripture’ - organized by World Alliance of Religions’ Peace (WARP), Seoul, South Korea – on 11 March 2021.

c. Messages on Social Media: YouTube Channel of IHPS
(<https://www.youtube.com/Institute of Harmony and Peace Studies>)

12. Delivered *Video Message* on ‘Christian Unity Week 2021’ – YouTube Link (https://youtu.be/_mQLZEoh3bI) – at IHPS Office, New Delhi – on 18 January 2021.

13. Delivered *Video Message* on ‘Gantantr Diwas 2021’ (Republic Day 2021) – YouTube Link (https://youtu.be/hLEY8_GaBnY) – at IHPS Office, New Delhi – on 26 January 2021.

14. Delivered *Video Message* on ‘Shaheed Diwas 2021’ (Martyrs’ Day 2021) – YouTube Link (<https://youtu.be/w025ZAg6NAk>) – at IHPS Office, New Delhi – on 30 January 2021.

15. Delivered *Video Message* on ‘World Interfaith Harmony Week 2021’ – YouTube Link (<https://youtu.be/c-yAlCPlfjQ>) – at IHPS Office, New Delhi – on 01 February 2021.

16. Delivered *Video Message* on ‘International Mother Language Day 2021’ – YouTube Link (<https://youtu.be/LqYtN-5kLKU>) – at IHPS Office, New Delhi – on 21 February 2021.

17. Delivered *Video Message* on ‘Antarraashtreey Mahilaa Diwas 2021’ (International Women’s Day 2021) – YouTube Link (<https://youtu.be/N8dWligzado>) – at IHPS Office, New Delhi – on 08 March 2021.

18. Delivered *Video Message* on ‘Mahaashivraatri 2021’ – YouTube Link (<https://youtu.be/9i46wIIMLcY>) – at IHPS Office, New Delhi – on 11 March 2021.

d. Interaction with Dignitaries

19. Had *Interaction* with Fr Dr Felix Raj, Vice-Chancellor, St Xavier’s University, Kolkata, along with Fr Sunil Rosario, Director, Commission for Inter-religious Dialogue, Archdiocese of Kolkata — on ‘Making a Better Society through Education’ — at St Xavier’s University, Kolkata — on 04 January 2021.

20. Had *Interaction* with Janab Syed Irfan Sher, President, Rotary Club of Kolkata, Nabadiganta, along with Fr Sunil Rosario, Director, Commission for Inter-religious Dialogue, Archdiocese of Kolkata — on ‘Doosre Samudaayon kee Nindaa ke Bajaay Taareeph kee Jaaye’ (Appreciating Other Communities rather than Finding Fault with Them) — at Rotary Club of Kolkata, Nabadiganta, Kolkata — on 04 January 2021.

21. Had *Interaction* with Fr Sunil Rosario, Director, Commission for Inter-religious Dialogue, Archdiocese of Kolkata — on ‘Promoting Social Relations among Communities’ — at Office of Commission, Proggaloy, Barasat, Kolkata — on 05 January 2021.

22. Had *Interaction* with Mr O. P. Shah, Director, Centre for Peace and Progress, Kolkata, along with Fr Sunil Rosario, Director, Commission for Inter-religious Dialogue, Archdiocese of Kolkata — on ‘Desh kaa Vartmaan Maahaul Shaanti aur Pragati ke Khilaaph’ (The Current Atmosphere of the Country is Against Peace and Progress) — at Shakespeare Sarani, Kolkata — on 08 January

2021.

e. Articles to Journals, Books and Websites

23. Authored *Article* on 'Inter-faith Relations' (Contributions of the Religious and Missionaries towards Inter-faith Relations) – in 'CRI Encyclopaedia', Vol. II (P-Z), p.1543-1549 — published by ATC Publishers, Bangalore – in 2020.

24. Authored *Article* on 'Dialogue with Hinduism' — in 'Local Churches in South Asia and Evangelization' (Book) – published by Morning Star Regional Seminary, Kolkata, and Claretian Communications, Chennai, p.245-265 – in 2020.

25. Authored *Article* on 'Interfaith Dialogue: Concept, Implications and Applications' — in 'Mission Today' (Annual Journal), Shillong, Vol. XXII/1-4, p.380-394 – in January-December 2020.

26. Authored *Article* on 'Faith Criss-crosses Natural, Human and Divine Realms' — in 'Journal of Indian Theology' (Quarterly Journal), Bangalore, Vol. XIII, Issue No. 03, p.56-80 – in September-December 2020.

27. Authored *Article* on 'Oh! Christians, Will You be United?' — in 'The Secular Citizen' (Weekly Magazine), Mumbai, Vol. 30, Issue No. 04, p.01, 03 — on 25-31 January 2021

28. Authored *Article* on 'Believers, Be in Harmony with Other Faiths' — on 'Matters India' Website (<https://mattersindia.com/2021/01/believers-be-in-harmony-with-other-faiths>) – at New Delhi — on 27 January 2021.

29. Authored *Article* on 'Believers, Be in Harmony with Other Faiths' — on 'The Asia Live' Website (<https://theasialive.com/believers-be-in-harmony-with-other-faiths/2021/28/>) – at Kathmandu, Nepal — on 28 January 2021.

30. Authored *Article* on 'Believers, Be in Harmony with Other Faiths' — on 'Al Bilad Daily' Website (<https://www.albiladdailyeng.com/world-interfaith-harmony-week-1-7-february>) – at Jeddah, Saudi Arabia — on 28 January 2021.

31. Authored *Article* on 'Unity among Christians Called For' — in

‘People’s Reporter’ (Fortnightly Magazine), Mumbai, Vol. 34, Issue No. 03, p.06 – on 10-25 February 2021

32. Authored *Article* (Report) on ‘Celebrating World Interfaith Harmony Week 2021’ — on ‘World Interfaith Harmony Week’ Website (<https://worldinterfaithharmonyweek.com/pec-events/celebrating-world-interfaith-harmony-week-2021/1611705600/>) – at Amman, Jordan on 10 February 2021.

33. Authored *Article* on ‘Language a Medium of Inter-cultural Harmony’ — on ‘The Asia Live’ Website (<https://theasialive.com/language-a-medium-of-inter-cultural-harmony/> 2021/16/) – at Kathmandu, Nepal — on 16 February 2021.

34. Authored *Article* on ‘Language a Medium of Inter-cultural Harmony’ — in ‘The Secular Citizen’ (Weekly Magazine), Mumbai, Vol. 30, Issue No. 08, p.01, 03, 07 — on 22-28 February 2021.

35. Authored *Article* on ‘Mahilaaon kee Bhoomikaa se Desh va Samaaj Behtar Bane’ (The Role of Women to Make the Country and the Society Better) – in ‘Sandesh (Monthly Magazine), Patna, Vol. 03, Year 73, p. 20-21 – in March 2021.

36. Authored *Article* on ‘An American Paradigm for India’ – in ‘The Secular Citizen’ (Weekly Magazine), Mumbai, Vol. 30, Issue No 12, p. 14-15 – on 22-28 March 2021.

f. Articles to Blog ‘Towards Harmony’ **(<https://drmdthomas.blogspot.com>)**

37. Authored *Article* on ‘Believers, Be in Harmony with Other Faiths’ (World Interfaith Harmony Week / 1-7 February 2021) – on ‘Towards Harmony’ Blog (<https://drmdthomas.blogspot.com/2021/02/Believers%20Be%20in%20Harmony%20with%20Other%20Faiths.html>) — on 09 February 2021.

38. Authored *Article* on ‘Oh! Christians, Will you be United?’ (Christian Unity Week / 18-25 January 2021) – on ‘Towards Harmony’ Blog ([https://drmdthomas.blogspot.com/2021/02/Oh%20Christians%20Will%20you%20be%20Unit ed.html](https://drmdthomas.blogspot.com/2021/02/Oh%20Christians%20Will%20you%20be%20United.html)) — on 14 February 2021.

39. Authored *Article* on ‘Unity among Christians Called For!’ (Christian Unity Week / 18-25 January 2021) – on ‘Towards Harmony’ Blog (<https://drmdthomas.blogspot.com/2021/02/Unity%20among%20Christians%20Called%20For%20.html>) — on 14 February 2021.

40. Authored *Article* on ‘Language a Medium of Inter-cultural Harmony’ (International Mother Language Day / 21 February 2021) – on ‘Towards Harmony’ Blog (<https://drmdthomas.blogspot.com/2021/02/Language%20a%20Medium%20of%20Inter-cultural%20Harmony.html>) — on 21 February 2021.

41. Authored *Article* on ‘Vijayaadashmee Buraayee par Achchhaayee kee Jeet Dilaaye’ / ‘MayVijayaadashmee Make Victory of Good over Evil Possible’ (Vijayaadashmee / 25 October 2020) – on ‘Towards Harmony’ Blog(<https://drmdthomas.blogspot.com/2021/02/Language%20a%20Medium%20of%20Inter-cultural%20Harmony.html>) — on 01 March 2021.

42. Authored *Article* on ‘Eid-e-Milaad’ / ‘Hazarat Muhamad kee Prerna se Samaaj Behtar Bane’ (Birthday of Hazrat Muhammad’ (Eid-e-Milaad / 30 October 2020) – on ‘Towards Harmony’ Blog (https://drmdthomas.blogspot.com/2021/03/blog-post_1.html) — on 01 March 2021.

43. Authored *Article* on ‘Air Pollution: Towards an Ethical Way Out’ (November 2020) – on ‘Towards Harmony’ Blog (https://drmdthomas.blogspot.com/2021/03/blog-post_99.html) - on 01 March 2021.

44. Authored *Article* on ‘Deepaawalee Par Desh Mein Saamaajik Raushnee Phaile’ / ‘MayDeepaavalee Spread Social Light in the Country’ (Deepaawalee / 14 November 2020) – on ‘Towards Harmony’ Blog (<https://drmdthomas.blogspot.com/2021/03/%20%20%20%20%20.html>) — on 01 March 2021.

45. Authored *Article* on ‘Saampradaayik Sadbhav se Desh wa Samaaj Jyaadaa Jeene Laayak Bane’ / ‘May the Country and

Society Become More Liveable through Communal Harmony’ (Communal Harmony Week / 19-25 November 2020) – on ‘Towards Harmony’ Blog ([https:// drmdthomas.blogspot.com/2021/03/%20%20%20%20 %20%20%20%20%20.html](https://drmdthomas.blogspot.com/2021/03/%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20.html)) — on 01 March 2021.

46. Authored *Article* on ‘Human Rights Not to be Violated’ (World Human Rights Day / 10 December 2020) – on ‘Towards Harmony’ Blog (<https://drmdthomas.blogspot.com/2021/03 /Human%20Rights%20Not%20to%20be%20Violat ed.html>) - on 02 March 2021.

47. Authored *Article* on ‘Alpshankhyak Samudaayon ke Adhikaar Mahphooj Rahein’ / ‘The Rights of Minority Communities to be Safeguarded’ (Minorities Rights Day / 18 December 2020) – on ‘Towards Harmony’ Blog (https://drmdthomas.blogspot.com/2021/03/ %20%20 %20%20%20_2.html) — on 02 March 2021.

48. Authored *Article* on ‘Prem kaa Swarnim Niyam Eesaa kaa Paigaam’ / ‘The Golden Rule of Love the Message of Jesus’ (Christmas / 25 December 2020) – on ‘Towards Harmony’ Blog (https://drmdthomas.blogspot.com/2021/03/%20%20%20%20%20_2.html) — on 02 March 2021.

49. Authored *Article* on ‘Bhaarat kaa Gantantr Mazboot Ho!’ / ‘May the Republic of India be Strong!’ (Republic Day / 26 January 2021) – on ‘Towards Harmony’ Blog (https://drmdthomas.blogspot.com/2021/03/blog-post_2.html) — on 02 March 2021.

50. Authored *Article* on ‘Mahatma Gandhi kee Prerna se Desh Behtar Bane’ / ‘May the country Become Better by the Inspiration of Mahatma Gandhi’ (Martyrs’ Day / 30 January 2021) – on ‘Towards Harmony’ Blog (https://drmdthomas.blogspot.com/2021/03/blog-post_2.html) — on 02 March 2021.

51. Authored *Article* on ‘Mahilaaon kee Bhoomika se Desh wa Samaaj Behtar Bane’ / ‘Role of Women to Make the Country and Society Better’ (International Women’s Day / 08 March 2021) – on ‘Towards Harmony’ Blog (<https://drmdthomas.blogspot.com/>

2021/08/%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20.html) — on 08 March 2021.

52. Authored *Article* on ‘Shiv-bhaav se Desh wa Samaaj Shubh Bane’ / ‘May the Country and Society be Auspicious with the Spirit of Shiv’ (Mahaashivraatri / 11 March 2021) – on ‘Towards Harmony’ Blog ([https://drmdthomas.blogspot.com/202111 / %20%20%20%20%20%20%20.html](https://drmdthomas.blogspot.com/202111/%20%20%20%20%20%20%20.html)) — on 11 March 2021.

53. Authored *Article* on ‘Holee ke Parv se Jeevan mein Rang Aaye’ / ‘The Festival of Holee to Bring Colour to Life’ (Holee / 28 March 2021) – on ‘Towards Harmony’ Blog (<https://drmdthomas.blogspot.com/2021/28/%20%20%20%20%20%20%20.html>) – on 28 March 2021.

g. Articles to ‘Academia.edu’ Website

54. Authored *Article* on ‘Towards a Mission that Evolves: From Ad Gentes to Inter Gentes’ – on Academia.edu Website ([https://www.academia.edu/45105173/ From_Ad_Gentes_to_ Inter_Gentes](https://www.academia.edu/45105173/From_Ad_Gentes_to_Inter_Gentes)) — on 14 February 2021.

55. Authored *Article* on ‘Non-Violence: A Christian Perspective’ – on Academia.edu Website ([https://www.academia.edu/45105105/ NON_VIOLENCE_A_CHRISTIAN_PERSPECTIVE](https://www.academia.edu/45105105/NON_VIOLENCE_A_CHRISTIAN_PERSPECTIVE)) - on 15 February 2021.

56. Authored *Article* on ‘Faith, Inter-faith and Harmony among Faiths’ – on Academia.edu Website ([https://www.academia.edu/44280041/FAITH_INTER_FAITHAND_HARMONY_ AMONG_FAITHS](https://www.academia.edu/44280041/FAITH_INTER_FAITHAND_HARMONY_AMONG_FAITHS)) — on 16 February 2021.

h. Interview

57. Conducted *Interview* on ‘Father Thomas: Working for Religious Harmony in India’ ([https://www.licas.news/2021/03/17/father-thomas-working-for-religious-harmony-in-india/-](https://www.licas.news/2021/03/17/father-thomas-working-for-religious-harmony-in-india/)) by Mr Jose Kalathil, Senior Journalist and Former Journalist of Statesman Daily News Paper, New Delhi – in ‘Licas. news (Light of Catholics in Asia website), Bangkok – on 17 March 2021.

(Reported by Fr M.D. Thomas, IHPS, Delhi)

E. Odisha Mission

1. New Mission Centre and House for the Coordinator



MST mission in Odisha was started in a rented house at Cuttack. Coordination of the mission works in Odisha, registration of the Educational and Charitable

Trust, attempt to coordinate the Syro-Malabar Migrants, etc. were done from the MST Mission House in Cuttack. In the meantime, we started another four mission centers in South part Odisha. As we completed the initial work of the Trust registration, MST decided to close down the house in Cuttack and start a new house in South Odisha. So on 25 January 2021, Bishop Mar Raphael Thattil inaugurated the new Mission House for MST Odisha Mission in J K Pure, Rayagada. The Coordinator shifted the office to Rayagada in a rented house and stated the evangelization and social action programs for nearby villages together with the Coordination of the Odisha Mission.

2. Visit of Bishop Mar Raphael Thattil



MST Odisha Mission was blessed with the visit of Mar Raphael Thattil, Bishop of Shamshabad. His Excellency started the visit on 25 January 2021 and on the first day he held meeting with the missionaries of Odisha at MST Mission house at Rayagada. His Excellency guided the monthly recollection for the missionaries of Odisha and spent time with them hearing the sharing and mission

experiences. The visit continued till 30 January 2021. His Excellency visited all the mission centers in Odisha with different programs and village visits.

3. New Missionaries to Odisha Mission



Three new missionaries joined MST Odisha mission in this month of March. We were happy to welcome the young and vibrant new priests Frs Ashish Keeranchira and Tony Kizhakkemuriyil to this land of

Odisha. We are also blessed with the new appointment of our experienced and senior missionary Fr Abraham Pezhumthottiyil. After completing the Odia language course and other initiation programs, they will be joining our mission activities by the end of April 2021.

4. Language Course for New Missionaries

As an initiation to Odisha Mission and evangelization programs, we



have arranged intensive language course for our new missionaries for one month. This year we have three MST priests and two SD Sisters attending the language course. They

will be having a two-week class room session to learn the basics of Odia language and another two weeks in the villages to experience the culture and customs of the land, followed by training for Syro Malabar Odia Holy Qurbana and other practical sessions for missionary life.

5. Sacred Heart Mission, Laxmipure

a. Foundation Stone for the Construction of the Church cum Community Centre: His Excellency Bishop Raphael Thattil visited Laxmipur mission station in the month of January. He stayed with us



a day and visited Khodomcholo village. During his visit bishop laid the foundation stone for the newly constructing Church cum Community Care Centre (CCC), at

Khodomcholo. A good number of villagers were present for the function. This center will be used for prayer gatherings, non-formal education programs, skill development trainings, conducting medical camps etc. The construction of CCC is progressing with the cooperation of the villagers.

b. Inauguration of the Non Formal Education Centres: We

have inaugurated three more non formal education centres in three interior villages as per the need and request of the people. We take it as an opportunity to get access to those villages and make sound



relationship with them. The place of our non-formal education initiatives are slowly becoming the centers of the development and social gatherings and also the centres of fraternity and brotherhood. During the inauguration the study materials also were distributed to the children.

c. Faith Formation Programs: We have regular house visit and



prayer services. A couple of families are undergoing faith formation and spiritual training. At present we have got two villages for Sunday prayer service and a good number of people are regular for the prayers. We teach them our prayers,

traditions, etc. On every Saturday, we conduct faith formation classes

followed by Holy Qurbana for some of the villagers in our centre.

6. Nirmal Jyoty Mission, Baliguda Kandhamal

a. Purchase of Land: A long waited dream and hard work have come true on December, 23, 2020 by the purchase of 2.91 Acres of land in Baliguda of Kandhamal. As these areas of Odisha are occupied by tribal people, purchase of land in these areas was a challenge for us. The newly bought land is just four Kms away from Baliguda town, which is the municipal headquarter city of the district of Kandhamal. We have completed the registration process and fencing of the land. As we get fund, we will start the construction for the Church, priests' residence, etc. We do express our gratitude to General Council team and appreciations for the missionary team of Baliguda.

b. Blessing of the Village Churches: Nirmal Jyoty Mission



Baliguda was blessed with the visit on Bishop Mar Raphael Thattil. His Excellency's visit was marked by the blessing of two village churches in different villages. The first church was blessed and opened for the villagers by the Bishop at Shikkatti village. We have around fifty villagers undergoing faith formation in the village. We have started different work of mercy by using the facilities in this building. The second village Church was blessed at Dodkhongia village. We have twelve Syro-Malabar Catholic families in this village. With this new

church building we have started Syro-Malabar Holy Qurbana thrice a week in this village.

c. First Holy Communion: We would like to share the joy of the First Holy Communion of five of our Children of Dodkhongia village.



After having a month of intensive catechism classes and preparations for the first Holy Communion, these Children received the Communion from Mar Raphael Thattil during the blessing of the village church and solemn Holy Qurbana on

29 January 2021. The whole program and the preparation for the communion have a great impact on our evangelization work and a great witness among the people. We have few more adults and children preparing themselves for the sacraments in this Centre of MST.

d. Faith Formation Programs: Nirmal Jyoty Mission of Kandhamal



is growing with number of Catholic villages and other developmental programs. As a part of faith formation we had different programs arranged during these months such as Friday fasting and adoration in every villages, house visit for prayers and blessings of the

houses, evening catechism classes for the catechumens, retreat for the people as the preparation for the Easter, etc. Frs Joy Areekal and Joy Koopally of Shamshabad Eparchy are the resource persons for these programs.

e. Social Action Programs: MST Odisha Mission arranges integrated programs for the people who have joined our faith in



Odisha. As the people of these areas join our faith, they lose their government aids and schemes. So it has become our duty to make them self-sufficient and to

work for the development of these people and area. So we have started SHGs and different income generation programs like Candle making, sheep growing, tailoring training, etc. A special training for the vegetable cultivation was arranged for the people of our villages. The vegetable seeds were distributed to the people and they cultivate it under the monitoring of Fathers of Baliguda. A tailoring centre was inaugurated by Mgr. Abraham Palathinkal, the Vicar General of Shamshabad on 15 March 2021 in Somadadi village. We have 20 ladies learning tailoring in this village.

f. Programs for Widows: We could identify around 150 widows in different villages of our mission centre. As a part of our work of mercy we have started different programs for these widows to make them self-sufficient and to bring them to the front line in the society. Confidence building programs for these people were arranged by FCC sisters and fathers. Now different income generation programs are being introduced to them and trainings are given to start the programs.

7. Sacred Heart Mission, Kundra

a. Visit of Mar Raphael Thattil and Foundation for the Village Church:



SH Mission, Kundra was happy to receive our Bishop Mar Raphael Thattil on 27 January 2021 at our centre in Kundra. During the visit His Excellency blessed the foundation stone for a village Church at Kaya Padar. Bishop visited few villages and houses and spent time with the villagers in prayer and sharing. Visit of Bishop was a great

opportunity for us to share our faith and Syro Malabar traditions to the villagers.

b. Faith Formation and Social Action Programs: SH Kundra Mission is happy to share its growth and success within short span



of time from its beginning. We have five villages with different programs and faith formation activities. Sunday prayers, evening catechism

classes, house visits and prayers are the few evangelization activities of the centre. Apart from this we also have started many work of mercy to share the Gospel values through action. We have started Non Formal education programs, awareness programs for the ladies and villagers, Youth programs, etc.

(Reported by Fr Jomon Ayyankanal, Coordinator, Odisha Mission of MST)

8. Divine Mercy Centre, M. Rampur

a. Jesus Encounter Retreat for Catechism Children and Youth:

As part of the faith formation programme, Jesus encounter retreats



were conducted in almost all villages and participation was very positive. As an outcome of it, in 4 villages they come together every day for evening prayer. Rosary, common

reading and reflection of the Word of God, praise and worship form part of evening prayer.

b. Completion of Village Chapels:

We could complete the construction of 5 more chapels in the villages and one more is under construction. Now we have place for worship in 10 villages.



c. Inter-village Camp for Catechism Children: An inter-village camp for catechism children from six villages were conducted from January. Rev. Sr Ritty FCC and Mr Jatindra Nayak were chief resources persons. The children were instructed in fundamentals on catholic faith.



d. Odisha state level Divine Christmas Carol Singing Competition: A Christmas carol singing competition, both individual and group, was conducted for all Odisha. There were 74 entries, from different Christian denominations. The winners were awarded with attractive cash prizes.

e. Catechists' Training Program: Training of the catechists of Kolahandi and Khandhamal was conducted from 30 January to 6 February Pipalpada village. The training was led by Rev Fr Paul Manickathan (Berhampur) diocese, Fr Libin Valiyaparambil MST and Mr Sebastian Kuzhipallil.



f. Safe Drinking Water Project in Villages: Some of our villagers are carrying drinking water from 1-2 kilometers away. With the generous contributions from Syro-Malabar communities in India and



abroad we could dig either tube wells or open wells in seven villages. The first open well at Kentuluba village was inaugurated and blessed by Bp

Raphael Thattil during his visit on 28 January 2021.

g. Intensive Odia and English Language Course for Students: Intensive Odia and English language courses are conducted in 4



villages. The number of attendants varies according to the size of the villages but with an average of 40 to 60 in all villages. They are made fluent in speaking, writing

and reading.

h. Divine Housing Project for Widows and Destitute: There are a number of widows and destitute in our villages without proper housing. Work of two houses started in the beginning of March and is expect to be completed in 3 months. The beneficiaries are one widow with 5 children and another widow with two children.

i. Informal Literacy Programme for House Wives: Some of our village women expressed their desire to learn Odia language. An intensive Odia language course is conducted in two villages. Their interest in learning the local language is for reading the Word of God.

j. Installation of Rice Mill at Badapadar Village: The people from Badapadar and two surrounding villages were carrying on head walking 10 kilometers for grinding rice and other grains. We installed a rice mill at Badopadar and 64 families are beneficiaries of it. The villagers are reimbursing the cost



(Rs.47,000) in monthly installments.

(Reported by Fr Jose Cheriampanatt, Divine Mercy Mission, M. Rampur, Odisha)

F. Arunachal Mission

1. Sagalee Mission

a. Reopening of the School and Boarding: The school and boarding in our mission reopened after long months of break due to the pandemic. The attendance in the school now is almost full. No special regulations are now followed to control the Covid. The boarding too functions as usual. The students have been very eager to return to the boarding and reunited with their friends.



b. Interschool Drawing Competition: There was an inter-school drawing competition conducted among the schools of this educational district, which was attended by students from twenty schools of this region. Our students fared well, securing the first and fourth prizes.



(Reported by Frs Choorakunnel & Mundaplackal, Sagalee, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh)

2. Pakke Kessang Mission

a. Consecration of St John's Catholic Church, Ngoleko: After a long awaited period of time Blessing of one of the sub parishes of St Mary's Catholic church, Pakke Kessang, is going to take place on 28 March 2021. The first church at Ngoleko got damaged and washed off in a land slide which happened in 2017. The present church is constructed in the land sponsored by a parishioner.

The foundation stone was blessed and laid by Rev. Fr Benny Kulirany MST in January 2020. Later Frs Aji Chakkungal MST and Jeess Thundathil MST took charge of this mission and completed the

construction. His Excellency Most Rev. John Thomas, the Bishop of Itanagr will preside over the liturgical ceremony. The local MLA and other political leaders of the area will also be present for the function. For the entire celebration, the parish community has chosen the theme – Tell the city of Zion; look, you king is coming to you (Mathew 21:5)

b. Wedding Celebrations



Many of the tribes in Arunachal Pradesh keep their marriage celebrations during this season. The celebration long for several days at different location with series of rituals. St Mary's Catholic Church, Pakke Kessang witnessed several wedding celebrations and

the festivities coloured the parish life in the past few weeks.

c. Nyokum Festival



In the state of Arunachal Pradesh, the 'Nyokum r-festival' is being celebrated by the Nyishi Tribe. 'Nyok' means land or earth and 'Kum' means collectiveness or togetherness. By

celebrating this festival they are inviting all the Gods and Goddesses of the Universe to bless the land and to ensure the harmony, prosperity, and well -being of the people who observed. During this occasion, a special prayer structure called 'yugang' is made of bamboo. Our faithful have Christianized this celebration conducting special prayers in the Church.

(Reported by Frs Chakkungal and J. Thundathil, Pakke-Kessang, Arunachal Pradesh)

G. Overseas Missions

1. United States

a. Church and the Nation on the Path to Normalcy: With mass vaccination underway (2.7 million people are vaccinated everyday) the church and the society are slowly returning to normalcy. The number of church attendees are on the increase on everyday basis. Though the churches are still physically closed to more than half of the people and feel physically distanced, Our priests in the parish and hospital ministry maintain the spiritual and social connections with the people through various live streaming programs like online catechism classes, arranging motivational talk and retreat programs.

Change of Residence: Rev. Fr. Joseph Pazheveetil has moved to different location of residence which is closer to the hospital he works in Brea, California.

(Reported by Fr Antony Thundathil, Coordinator of MSTs in USA, Chicago)

2. Austria

a. Sending of Sternsinger: On the day of the feast of Epiphany (on 6 January) we have the tradition of Children or Adults dressed



like Three Kings (Casper, Melchior and Balthasar, kings from east visited Child Jesus in Bethlehem) and a few others visit every house of parish conveying the Christmas message of Joy and Peace. They make prayer and give to each

house Frankincense and sticker, to paste on the front-door of the house. The sticker scripted for example 20C+M+B+20. CMB is interpreted Casper, Melchior and Balthasar or Christus Mansionem Benedicat (Christ blesses this house). Due to Covid-19 instead of visiting the houses we created a video, children visiting the house and Christmas message from Fr. Sabu Maprakavil and published in parish Homepage. Christmas cards and Christmas message with

bank account number were put in their postbox. The response of the faithful was encouraging and the collection was higher than normal year.

b. Blasius Blessing: On the feast of St: Blasius, the faithful get



special blessing for the neck and throat. This is two candles cross tightened and kindle them. With these kindled candles every faithful get the Blessings for neck and throat by the Priester after the Holy

Mass.

c. Ash Wednesday: Despite the Covid, we had the customary celebration of the Ash Wednesday. This year we gave the Faithful small packets of Ash and they could make the sign of the ash cross on their forehead themselves during the Mass. The rest they could take home for others.

d. Bible Reading: To keep the spirit of Lent we introduced Bible reading competition among the faithful, reading first 4 books of Old Testament and first 4 books of New Testament. Those who successfully complete the reading get prize on Easter.

e. Way of the Cross: We have Way of the Cross and Holy Mass and Adoration at 5.00 p.m. on every Friday and a good number of faithful participate in it. Besides, the Way of the Cross is also conducted through village Roads in all parishes. The 14 stations were given for reading to different category of people, for example representatives from Panchayath, Police, Fire Station, Village Band group, parish council etc.



(Rev. Fr Joy Punnakuzhy, Coordinator, Vienna, Austria)

3. Canada

a. Nelson, British Columbia: All the thirteen provinces of Canada are governed by their own governments. There are eight priests working in four different provinces. Every province allows churches to function with a limited number of people. But NDA government in British Columbia gives less importance for religious gatherings and our churches are closed for more than a year. Every other facility is open, except the religious gatherings.

Within the limits of laws and restrictions, we have Online Holy Mass, other meetings and Catechism classes through Zoom application, Vimeo application for direct telecast and Parking Lot Masses on FM radio stations on all seven days of the week. One way or another, despite the lockdown, every member of the church tries to keep the church alive, through their presence, contributions and zeal for the sacraments. In Canada, no priest can force the people by any means for their church contribution. Normally we request them to consider the needs of the Church. MSTs are always busy in doing one or other way of reaching out to the faithful.

The Diocese of Nelson has 35 priests from 12 nationalities, cordially working in the diocese. Among all these members, MST priests are more appreciated by the people, the priests and the Bishop. In Spite of acute weather and road conditions, we are imparting Jesus to the members of the community. MSTs are committed to the people wherever we are and we stick to the parish administering all the sacraments. Without much complaints, we have celebrated One Christmas and one Easter. Perhaps, we hope that we might be allowed to open our churches at least during the Easter days. We are expecting some relaxation as early as possible.

(Reported by Fr Tom Kakkaniyil, Nelson, BC, Canada)

b. Regina, Saskatchewan: The winter is slowly scrolling back and the spring smiles at the door. The sky land Saskatchewan is becoming brighter day by day. The movement of life is getting swifter all day. The Archdiocese of Regina is in full swing to celebrate Easter after the churches are open for her people. Churches can

accommodate 30% of its capacity only and hence bigger parishes are planning to arrange more than two services on important days. Archdiocese had scheduled the Chrism Mass on Monday, 22 March. Palms and Holy Oils were availed on that day. Parishes are very earnestly willing and waiting to hold their social gatherings once stopped due to the pandemic. Of course, the Provincial Health Department the Archdiocese has given strict instructions to its people and everybody has accepted it whole heartedly.



Annual general meetings are going on in the parishes and the involvement of the people is amazing. After Easter, our Archbishop Donald Bolen is visiting the parishes to administer the First Holy Communion and Confirmation to the candidates. Archbishop is always there to take care the well-being of his priests and the faithful of his diocese. He arranges various online meetings and seminars on different subjects especially to support and encourage his people during this pandemic. The annual retreat is scheduled to be held in the first week of May.

MST priests working in the archdiocese are doing fine and busy in their ministries. The Feast of St. Joseph was celebrated in and a yearlong special devotion is planned in our parishes. We three MST priests have a parish named after St Joseph. Archbishop Don was there in St. Joseph's Parish, Moose Jaw to initiate the devotion.

We MSTs have frequent friendly conversations and do support each other in need. Fr Joseph Akkattukudilil has received Covid vaccination. Fr George Thattuparampil and Fr Tom Mandapathil



will receive the vaccine in the second week of April.

(Reported by Fr Tom Mandapathil, Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada)

c. Grouard McLennan, Alberta: We will all be relieved when the pandemic is overcome, which appears now on the horizon with vaccination being started. Even so, it seems that final victory on this front will not be declared until well by the end of this year. In the meantime, Alberta, Canada continues to observe the protocols promulgated by the government on the recommendation of the Chief Medical Officer, that all places of worship is limited to 15% of the total seating capacity. And virtual or online services are strongly encouraged. All these measures deeply affect the day today pastoral activities of the parish. So nothing much is happening around the Archdioceses of Grouard McLennan.

The parish of Slave Lake of mine is engaged in various social activities during this time. We formed a team of volunteers who would help people struggling with self-isolation, financial hardship, working on the frontline, or are simply feeling scared about the future. And the Catholic Women's League (CWL) of the parish takes the initiative to promote the importance of COVID vaccination and books the appointment and drive the needy especially the elderly ones to the vaccination centers.

(Reported by Fr Ephrem Njallaniyil, Grouard McLennan, Alberta Canada)

4. Germany

a. New Coordinator and Office Bearers in Germany

We had conducted the election for the new office bearers of our registered society “St. Thomas Institut e.V.” on 20 December 2020 and the list of candidates was sent to the General Council. The names of priests in the new team with their respective portfolios were officially announced by the Director General on 24 February 2021. The new team has taken charge on 1 March 2021. In order to facilitate the organization of the MST Fathers working in Germany, Rev. Fr Nellikunnel is appointed as the Coordinator.



The New Team:

Rev. Fr Nellikunnel Mathew (President)

Rev. Fr Nayathuparambil John (Councillor)

Rev. Fr Maniamkeril John (Board Member)

Rev. Fr Mulamkothra Mathew (Procurator)

Congratulations to the new team! We implore God's blessing upon them and at the same time we assure you of our cooperation and prayers.

We wholeheartedly thank the outgoing team, for their commendable and committed services carried out under the leadership of Rev Fr Sajimon Vanderkunnel for the past 5 years. Rev. Fr Sajimon, together with his team Members Rev. Frs Joy Valiyamangalam, Jiji Ettaniyil and Johny Maniamkeril did their best to support our priests and coordinated our activities here in Germany. We gratefully remember and appreciate their sincere teamwork and cooperation. Thanks dear Fathers!

b. Transfers

After successfully completing 10 years of pastoral ministry in the

diocese of Hamburg Rev. Frs Jose Manthara, George Mecheril, Augustine Thonikuzhiyil and Scaria Kalampanyel have returned to India. We gratefully remember them for their friendship, love and care that they shared with us all throughout these years. We wish them all the best for their future ministry in India.

c. Gathering

Unfortunately, we could not conduct our gathering in December 2020 due to Corona pandemic. Instead, we conducted Zoom meetings regularly to share our ideas and to support each other. In December, through Zoom meeting we gave farewell to our Fathers in Hamburg. The election of the new office bearers for our registered society was also conducted online. Again, on 5 March, through video conference, the new team members conducted the first zoom meeting with all the members of MST koinonia and discussed future plans. In the meeting we expressed our heartfelt gratitude towards the outgoing team.

(Reported by Fr Pradeep Mattathilanickal, Germany)

5. Switzerland - Parish of Schlieren:

On 19 March the Swiss government announced that it had postponed plans to further relax coronavirus restrictions. It cited an increasing number of coronavirus cases and insufficient progress on vaccinations. Last month the government confirmed plans to ease a number of national Covid measures imposed in mid-January. Since 1 March shops, museums and sports facilities have re-opened, for example.

More than 9,400 people have died in connection with Covid-19 in Switzerland, which has a population of 8.6 million. The Swiss government has ordered nearly 36 million vaccine doses from five companies. Health regulator Swissmedic has given the green light to two Covid-19 vaccines: from Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna. Vaccinations are underway across the country but have been delayed by vaccine production problems.

Unlike last year, the church functions are going on this year, of course

with Covid restrictions. 50 people are allowed to come in the Church – all with Masks and by keeping distance. We have started lenten season with Ash Wednesday. There are regular ‘Fasten-Meditation’ on Tuesdays and ‘Way of the Cross’ on Fridays in our church. Moreover Mass with different languages, special youth Masses, penitential rites with confessions, Holy week ceremonies, etc. On 19 March we celebrated our Patron Saint St Joseph’s Feast with 5 different musical Instruments. Because we are restricted to sing in the Church.

(Reported by Fr Varghese Nadackal, Schlieren, Zurich, Switzerland)

6. Tanzania

a. Madale Parish, Dar Es Salaam

i. MST Gathering

We, MST priests living in Tanzania, had memorable gathering and get together in the month of January. We were together from 10 to 15 January 2021. We had the plan to gather on the week of foundation day in the month of February but since the lent was starting in the month of February we anticipated the date. All the parish priests are busy with the Lenten season. All were very happy to see, share and spent a little time with each other.

ii. Ash Wednesday

This year we had arranged four masses for the faithful of Madale parish, two masses for the pupils who study nearby schools and other two for the faithful. The church was filled with the children and around three thousand children attended the mass on Ash Wednesday.

This year we did not draw cross on the forehead of the people but Bishops asked us to put the ash on the head without touching their body. Priests were using masks during the liturgical and sacramental celebrations.

iii. Seminar for the Leaders

This year the leaders of Madale parish were very happy to receive



the one day seminar. Fr Biju Pullapillyil Joseph guided the seminar for all the parish leaders under the parish of Madale. There are several groups in the parish such as parish council, station church's council, women's group, men's group, youth's

group, charismatic group, ministrants' group, choir group etc. He arranged the seminar for each group separately and guided them.

iv. Death of the President of Tanzania

The country is in a sombre mood - for the first time in its six decades of existence, Tanzania has lost a sitting president, John Pombe Magufuli. The news of his death was received with shock and disbelief - although there were rumours of his illness, the authorities reassured the country that all was well with him. We the priests and faithful of Madale parish also arranged special prayer and mass on Thursday 25 March to pay honour to our demised President John Pombe Magufuli.

(Reported by Rev. Frs Pullappallil & Manianchira, Dar Es Salam, Tanzania)



b. Chengena Parish, Songea

1. Kongamano: Our children dance and sing with great joy when they hear the term 'KONGAMANO' (catechism children's gathering). The excitement doubled when they heard, it would be conducted in





another parish away from their village. For the first time our 60 children went out of their village in a big bus as we took them to St. Elizabeth of Hungry Parish at Subira run by CST Priests. It is situated 90 kms away from Chengena. It was time to leave our parish at 5.

30 and a boy delayed to reach while the bus started to move, and I could see a child running from a far to catch the bus. It was a heart throbbing scene and we all waited for him ...he entered the bus panting but eyes were sparkling with joy.

Our children reached Subira by 9.00 a.m. along with the Catechists and Parish committee leaders by singing and praying the rosary. The children of St. Elizabeth parish and sub stations gathered together in the parish compound to welcome us. Our children were



outstanding among the others with their newly stitched special uniform with white top and yellow skirts/pants, badges, ribbons etc. As soon as they reached they were refreshed with breakfast. The program began with the Holy Eucharist. Our children participated actively and lead the choir, offered their offerings with great fervour and devotion. The Holy Eucharist was followed by lunch which they enjoyed having it under the shade of different

trees. After this the children presented various programs like choir, and skits. Our children presented beautifully the story of Good Samaritan and were appreciated and applauded by all. At 4 p. m. we concluded the program with a short prayer and blessing by Fr. Jojesh CST, Parish Priest of St Elizabeth of Hungry.

The KONGAMANO was successfully conducted with the cooperation of CST Fathers, help of our Catechists, leaders of

Chengena Parish, children and their parents and UMI Sisters and Formees. Our children enjoyed visiting the parish at Subira. It was with great joy and fulfilment that I watched the simple children of my Parish growing in faith and taking initiatives in the Parish activities as I arranged Kongamano. My great belief is that the elders in the parish need to be led in their life of faith but it would be of greater benefits if I spend more time teaching catechism for the little children to enable them to come up in Christian faith from their early childhood.

ii. Cultivation by Children: To enable the children to earn money for their various programs in the Parish we have encouraged them to have a plot to cultivate maize and soya. And they cultivated it with great enthusiasm and joy. The savings of their hard work would be used for their own activities in the parish.

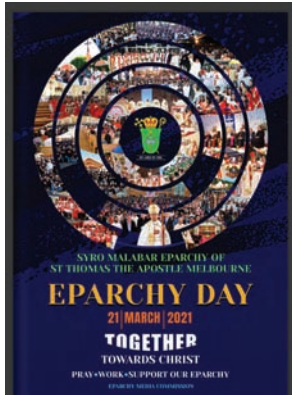


iii. Group Farming: Our people spent their whole life cultivating maize, tapioca and soya depending on rain. To encourage and introduce them to other ways of earning money we cultivated a large portion of our land with plantation of plantain trees. It is coming up well and the people are very happy indeed to know the way of cultivating plantain trees in large number close to the small streams.



iv. Registration of Parish Land: Our parish has got a large plot of land but without registration. It was my concern to register it for the diocese. It was done with the help of government officials and Parish leaders. And the Bishop was happy and grateful to us MST's for accomplishing this great task without delay in concern towards the Diocese.

v. OSF Sisters to Chengena: The Parishioners of Chengena had a great dream to have the presence of women religious, particularly



to help the parish in the socio pastoral activities. It is partially fulfilled as the OSF Sisters (South Indian Province - Bangalore) bought a piece of land near the church. 14 acres of land with cheap price. They are hoping to launch into their activities in the near future.

I am grateful God and my authorities for having this parish under the care of MSTs. And I feel privileged to work in this Parish

with all its adventures and hurdles. The Bishop and all other religious Congregations both men and women appreciate our MST mission at Chengena. It is a right place to fulfil our MST vision and mission. *(Reported by Rev. Fr Shaiju Kizhakkekureethdathil, Chengena, Songea, Tanzania)*

7. Australia – Syro-Malabar Mission, Melbourne

Syro Malabar Eparchy of St Thomas the Apostle, Melbourne celebrated the Eparchy Day on 21 March 2021. All parishes celebrated the Eparchy Day on the occasion of the 7th anniversary of the inauguration of the Eparchy. The Year of Family was officially inaugurated in all parishes of the Eparchy on 19 March on the feast day St Joseph and we have planned many activities as the part of celebration of the Family Year in our parishes and family units as suggested by the eparchy. After having the spread of Covid controlled in Victoria province, all the parishioners started coming to the churches here and participating in the Holy Mass with social distancing. We started regular Sunday Catechism classes too in this academic year. We were having Sunday Catechism classes online in the last academic year. We conducted three day's 'Faith Fest' programme for the catechism students during summer holidays in the month of January. Children were very happy to come together for the Faith Fest programme after having Sunday Catechism classes online for the whole academic year 2020. It was very fruitful in their faith formation and well appreciated by all children and youth.

We had four days Lenten retreat online for all the people of the eparchy starting on 19 to 22 March. It was live-streaming on official YouTube channel of the Eparchy. Rev.Fr Daniel Poovannathil and Rev. Fr Jose Uppani were the retreat preachers.

(Reported by Fr Varghese Vithayathil, Shepparton, Australia)

8. Sweden

Our situation with Covid is till the same in Sweden. We don't celebrate the normal public Masses in the parishes, but each priest can celebrate 4 masses on Sundays and 8 participants can come for each mass. We hope and wish that after Easter the government may come with a little more flexible restriction.

a. Vocation Camp in Stockholm: We organized a vocation Day on 27 February and 8 participants took part in that event. The day was so wonderful and priests and sisters from different congregation also spoke about the vocation. The day was full with enthusiasm and vitality and the youth were so happy with it. We started the with Holy Mass and ended with adoration. We hope and wish that we may get some Swedish vocations next academic year.



b. Syro-Malabar mission in Scandinavia: As the Covid pandemic continues and we have no way to travel in and outside Sweden as usual, there are no public Masses celebrated in Malayalam in different countries. But thank God that we have Malayalam Masses every Sunday through Zoom platform and usually we have 50 to 60 families participate in the masses from different countries.

During the Lenten season we have the way of the cross on Fridays and Sundays and roseries on Sundays by youth group. Holy Week is arranged with Holy Masses and different services.

As we don't have many children here for the Sunday school, we collaborate with the Sunday school in Ireland and children study

with the Sunday school group in Ireland online.

c. Priestly Ordinations:

We have two ordinations this year. Dn. Joseph Rizk will be ordained in Göteborg on 1 May and Jan Byström will be ordained in Stockholm on 8 May by His Eminence Cardinal Anders Arborelius OCD, the bishop of Stockholm.



May I wish you all Happy Easter, May the Risen Lord bless us all.
Halleluiah!

(Reported by Fr Binu Thottiyil, Stockholm, Sweden)

9. Italy

a. Overall Covid Situation in Italy: Italy was gravely affected by Covid-19 and lockdown was imposed on 9 March 2020. Things improved in spring and summer 2020 and many restrictions were lifted. People were able to travel around Italy and other parts of Europe and some European tourists came to Rome. Then in early fall, infections began rising again. And so, different restrictions across Italy, depending on infection/death rates and also on hospital capacity were imposed again. As of now, Covid cases across Italy are said to be on the increase again. Stronger restrictions are applied at a regional level and Rome, quiet, empty and lonely, remains shut for tourism.

Now, people should wear masks indoors and outdoors across Italy and maintain social distancing. People outside homes are exempted from wearing masks when they are completely alone and while exercising/playing sport, eating or drinking. Children below six years of age need not wear masks. Schools for children of all ages are open in some areas, however teaching is split between in person and distance/remote learning methods. Some areas have changed all teaching to distance learning depending on local case numbers. Bars, restaurants and cafés can no longer offer dine-in services. They

can offer takeaway and home delivery until 10 p.m. Only essential shops such as supermarkets, pharmacies and newsagents remain open. In red zone areas, people must carry a self-certification form to explain why they are out of their homes. If they fail to do that or are out without a valid or necessary reason, they can be gravely fined. There is a national curfew from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. Between these hours people must only leave the place they are staying for an important reason such as work or a health-related emergency. The government has split Italy into red, orange and yellow zones, based on multiple risk factors which are reviewed weekly. The ultimate goal is to eventually go to being a 'white zone,' where everything is fine and there are no closures.

b. St Matthew Church, Latina: St Matthew Church, Latina remains thankful to the dedicated pastoral service rendered by Fr Jaison (Augustine) Kulapurath. Fr Jaison moved to Rome on 15 December to complete his doctoral studies. The parish is blessed with the arrival of Fr Manu Maprayil. He reached the parish on 20 December 2020 after a quarantine for two weeks in Rome. Both Fr Bino Kannamundayil and Fr Manu involve themselves in the pastoral activities of the parish that is slowly bouncing back to normalcy amidst the pandemic. Catechism for children has been re-started in presence. Church attendance, especially on Sundays, for the Holy Qurbana is on steadily on the increase. A few deaths also have been reported in the parish due to Covid-19. Moreover, the faithful are very keen to resort to the safety measures to resist the spread of this fatal virus. Lazio Region falls under Red Zone as per the latest announcement and the Diocese has also issued some restrictions in view of the prevention of the pandemic. Thanks to the Almighty, Holy Qurbana and the Way of the Cross, maintaining distance in the church, are going on well and the faithful do attend these services. Holy week services also must be conducted as per the new norms from the diocese and the administration. Vaccination, although some people are sceptical about it, is being given on priority basis.

(Reported by Rev. Fr Joby Koottumkal, Italy)

10. Brazil - St Sebastián's Parish, Itaruma

Devotees of St Joseph

Parishes of the Catholic Church of Brazil have lots of pious movements incited under the leadership of the faithful. One of the strong pious movements in my parish at Itarumã is the group of men



called devotees of St Joseph. They identify themselves by their uniform T Shirts with the image of St Joseph stamped on it. They gather once in a week especially on Mondays at 7 p.m. for the recitation of Holy Rosary wearing their uniform. Some 40 to 50 to men participate the rosary. Some of them even bring their sons or grandsons for the recitation of rosary. It is very nice to watch how the parents prompt them and teach them to recite rosary. The group



carries a small statue of St Joseph and place amongst them and members sit around it in a circular way. One who recite the last Hail Mary of the Rosary carries the statue to their home and brings it for

the next week. Members have great enthusiasm and actively participate in it. Special mass is celebrated on 19 March day of St Joseph organized by the group. Because of the fast-accelerating cases of covid in Brazil the celebrations were restricted with covid protocol. The devotees of St. Joseph help me organize feasts and other events of the parish. They extend their help voluntarily in cleaning and planting the premises of the church and its land.

(Reported by Rev. Fr Joseph Pulickal, Brazil)

11. United Kingdom

Preparing for the New Normal: As we bravely face these unprecedented times, life and ministry for the four of us here in the UK have been very challenging. From the beginning of December 2020, the churches are open for public worship. But, last Christmas was nothing like the previous years, as a very limited number of people were able to attend the churches.

Though many of our regular parishioners are either shielding or have chosen to stay at home, so many of them found churches and the services providing them huge spiritual and emotional support. The Bishops Conference of England and Wales has been very vocal in convincing the authorities about the need of keeping the places of worship open. Moreover, there were very few instances of churches being the reason for the spread of infection, as there are stringent measures of infection control in place.

Currently, we are witnessing the plateauing of the second wave, which, in turn, has brought an amount of confidence in people to return to churches. Many churches have made arrangements for online booking for the Holy Week services. But with regard to the number of people returning to the churches, some doubt if everything will be the same even in the new normal.

The UK has vaccinated around 50% of its adult population. (All of us have had either the first dose or both doses of our vaccination). The Prime Minister has asked for a National Day of Reflection on the first anniversary of the first lockdown on 23 March. The Catholics will hold this day not only as one of Reflection, but of Prayer.

The road-map announced by the Prime Minister recently sets out to cautiously ease the lockdown restrictions and expects to lift them fully by the end of June. We all pray and hope there is light at the end of the tunnel as we prepare ourselves for the new normal.

(Reported by Rev. Fr Roy Muthumakkal, London, United Kingdom)

VII. NEWS FROM OTHER MINISTRIES/ CENTRES

A. Vocation Promotion



After the lock down effects, people are now recovering to the normal life situation. In the same way vocation promoters are also now active in the field. We started house visits, meeting the parish priests and mission animation events etc. Our fathers are always extending their support to make the house visit result oriented.

To promote vocation and make the students empowered with Holy Spirit we have conducted an online retreat named “Jio in Jesus” (live in Christ). 100 students took benefits from the same and have given good feedback regarding the retreat. Rev Fr Saju Elanjickal, Rev Fr Binoy Purayidom and Brothers from Deepti Seminary have given their good effort to make this retreat a fruitful and experiential one. We have also requested all the MST brothers to render their help to find candidates for the next year – as said in the maxim - ‘each one, catch one’.

Let’s all put our efforts to find suitable candidates to MST. Thanks to all dear fathers, brothers and missionary associates for all your hard work and support in vocation promotion.

(Reported by Frs Puthukkattu, Alencherry and Karuvakunnel, Vocation Promoters)

B. Santhome Fellowship

1. Meeting of Santhome Fellowship - Indore

The Indore Santhome fellowship had their meeting in the month of January. 27 members took part in this meeting. Rev.. Fr Chacko Koottarappallil presided over the meeting. The members discussed of opting a mission station of MST for prayer and financial assistance.

2. Retreat for the Kothamangalam Group

A retreat was organised for the members of Kothamangalam unit



on 2 March 2021. Rev. Fr Saju Elanjiyil gave the retreat emphasising the point on the passion, death and resurrection of Christ. He emphasised on the point that

the resurrection experience should enliven our missionary zeal.

3. Santhome Fellowship in Ernakulam

It is a happy occasion for MST to begin a new group of members of Santhome Fellowship members in the Archdiocese of Ernakulam – Angamaly. This group is initiated and is growing on a daily basis due to the special interest taken by Mrs Mary Elanjiyil, one of the missionary associates from the diocese. The preliminary house visits and gatherings are completed and it is decided to have a common gathering in the month of June.

4. Director General with Santhome Fellowship, Indore

It was a great matter of happiness to have the Director General of MST with the Santhome fellowship group, Indore. His visit gave an



impetus to the missionary spirit of the members. He address the members and spoke about the missionary activities of the MST. The meeting was facilitated by Rev. Fr John Panthalipadam MST, the priest in charge of Indore. Mr.

K.K. Joseph, the president of Santhome Fellowship group, Indore welcomed all the fathers. Mrs Simi Biju, the Secretary read out the report. Rev. Fr Francis Kureeckal, the Vice Director of the MST

accompanied the Director General during the visit. The meeting concluded with agape.

5. Meeting of Missionary Associates



A meeting for the missionary associates of MST was organised in the month of February. It was after a long time that the missionary associates joined together in a physical platform. The meeting was hoisted by Mr Sinu Abraham from

Athirampara. Rev. Fr Peter Kavumpuram, the Councillor in charge, gave a short message in the meeting. Rev. Fr Saju Elanjiyil shared a short spiritual nourishment for all.

6. Support to Orissa Mission by Santhome Fellowship

The Santhome Fellowship groups from Dubai and Vannapuram took up two mission stations for their special prayer and financial assistance. Rev. Fr Jomon MST held discussions with the groups and explained to them details. The Dubai group adopted the J.K Pure mission station and the Vannapuram unit adopted the Lakshmipur mission.

(Reported by Rev. Fr Monse Karuvankunnel, Director - Santhome Fellowship)

C. SANTHOME – IMPACT, Kochi

1. Mission Animation

a. Syro-Malabar Mission Sunday Mass at Mangalapuzha Seminary: Fr Joy Panjikaran was invited by the Vice Rector of Mangalapuzha Seminary for a Hindi Mass. Fr Joy offered a solemn Mass in Hindi and gave a homily on the mission and mission activities on 10 January 2021. Two MST Philosophy students and few former Ruhalya Philosophy students assisted at the Mass and led the choir.

b. Planning session for Trans-gender's Gathering at POC:



Fr Daey Kunnath and Fr Vipin Vanmelil were invited by the POC to be part of a planning committee for gathering the trans-genders in POC under the Youth department on 16 February 2021. A follow up of the planning session was conducted at Thrikkakkara on

28 February 2021.

c. Facebook Live: Fr Daey Kunnath and Fr Vipin Vanmelil went on Facebook live on 4 to 6 March 2021 for a Lenten reflection programme organized by the Youth Department of the Mananthavady diocese. It was aired in the Catholic Youth Channel.

d. One Day Recollection at Perumbavoor:



Fr Vipin Vanmelil conducted one day recollection for F.C Sisters at Rani Maria convent, Perumbavoor on 14 March 2021.

e. Camp at Kuthiyathodu: Fr Daey Kunnath and Fr Vipin Vanmelil conducted one day camp for the inmates of Jeevadhara Hostel run by the Dominican sisters. The camp was attended by 30 students.

2. Santhome IMPACT News

a. Christmas Celebration: We visited the Major Archbishop's Curia and wished the Major Archbishop Mar George Cardinal Alencherry and the Curia Bishop Mar Sebastian Vaniyapurackal and all the Fathers and Sisters there. We wished them the blessings of Christmas with cakes. We also visited most of the Ecclesiastical institutions and our benefactors around and wished them happy Christmas. Many of them visited us also. We went to the houses of all our neighbours of all religions and wished them the joy of Christmas with cakes. We prepared here beautiful Christmas crib. Some of us went to the parish for Night Mass.

b. Ordinations: All Impact members participated in the ordination of all MST Deacons at Deepti Bhavan, Melampara on 27 December 2020. Some of us participated in the First Mass celebrations of some of the New Priests.

c. Participation in the funerals: We attended the burial of the father of Fr Ashok Kollamkudy at Manickamangalam parish, and of the father of Fr Joseph Koren at Meloor parish. Some of us also took part in the burial of the brother of Fr Tony Mampilly at Njarackal parish. All of us participated in the funeral of Sr Jeseena DST at Vazhakala. All the above parishes are in the Archdiocese of Ernakulam Angamaly.

d. New Priests' Day celebration: We were blessed to have our MST New Priests with us from 7-9 February 2021. We had their solemn Mass, Felicitation meeting and supper. We took them to Edappally church, MST Bhavan at Thumboor and Saint Maria Thresia's tomb at Kuzhikkattussery. We visited also Puthenchira church.

e. Farewell to Fr Madathiparambil: On 8 Feb 2021 we had farewell meeting with supper to thank and wish Fr Bipin well in his new assignment. Together with our New Priests, Fr Jimmichan Karthanam, our Parish priest of Thevackal also participated. On 10th we accompanied Fr Bipin to the place of his new apostolate. He was solemnly welcomed as Asst Parish Priest at Peramangalam parish in the Archdiocese of Trissur. We also accompanied him to our new land at Mundoor, the neighbouring parish of Peramangalam. We thank Fr Bipin wholeheartedly for his zealous and dedicated work here in Impact.

f. Foundation Day: We celebrated MST Foundation Day with solemn High Mass and special prayers.

g. Inauguration of Thumboor: On 22 Feb 2021 we participated in the inauguration programme of our MST Bhavan at Thumboor, in the diocese of Irinjalakuda.

h. Visits: We were blessed by the visits of Mar James Athikalam

MST, Fr Antony Perumanoor, Fr Francis Kureeckal and many other Fathers at different times. Fr Shijo Konuparamban, our new parish priest of Thevackal visited us on the very day of his arrival in the parish. We also gave farewell to our outgoing parish priest Fr Jimmichan Karthanam.

i. Repair and Renovation: We had some repair and renovation works in our offices, kitchen and studio. We also took a public water connection.

3. Santhome Media-IMPACT

Following are the major initiatives recently undertaken by Santhome Media-IMPACT

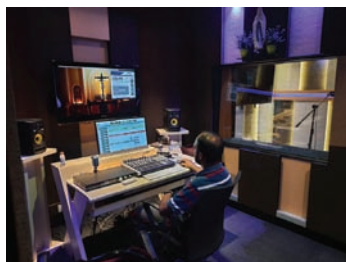
a. *Manikya Kallu*: It is a Marian song uploaded in our YouTube channel sung by Teena Mary Abraham.

b. Ordination Promo: In preparation for the priestly Ordination Santhome media uploaded a Promo Video in our YouTube channel.

c. Priestly Ordination Live: Santhome Media aired the full HD live telecast of Priestly Ordination of the MST deacons. Santhome Media also covered the full video and photos of the ordination.

d. *Karuthalin Sneham*: on the feast of St Joseph Santhome Media uploaded a reflection on St Joseph in our YouTube channel by Fr Daey Kunnath MST.

e. Audio Recording: Santhome Media audio recording Studio is blessed with eminent personalities like Rajesh Cherthala, Kester, Wilson Piravom, Ramesh Murali, Pradeep Tom, Mithila Micheal, Teena Mary Abraham, Chitra Arun, Alice Mathew and Shaju Cheriyan.



More than 15 devotional songs, Documentary Voiceover and Audio Magazine were recorded here.

f. Renovation and New Equipment: By the Grace of God and with the support of our Director General and General Councilors

and few MST Fathers, Santhome Media audio recording studio was renovated and equipment was updated. Now our studio is one of the best studios in Ernakulum.

g. Invitation to all MSTs to collaborate with Santhome Media-IMPACT: Santhome Media-IMPACT invites all the members of MST to avail its facilities to manifest their talents in communication. Santhome Media will technically support the MST members to work out their creativity and bring out as media productions.

h. Upcoming Initiatives of Santhome Media-IMPACT:

- i. Capsule type Short Films
- ii. Motivational Classes
- iii. Web Series

*** To watch all our programs please visit our Website: www.santhomemedia.com, You Tube Channel and Facebook Page & Plz don't forget to subscribe and like our You Tube Channel and Facebook Page.**

(Reported by Fr Joy Panjikaran, Executive Director, Santhome-IMPACT)

D. Syro Malabar Mission (SyMM)

Syro Malabar Mission (SyMM) fund is a department established by the Synod of Syro Malabar Church in the year 2011 to support the missionary activities of the Church outside Kerala. The Syro Malabar Church has supported the Missions of MST in multiple ways, especially through the instrumentality of this department. SyMM supported a number of missions with mission-projects where MST priests serve. An amount of 19,85000/- was utilised through MST priests to support the missionary activities of the Church in the year 2019-20 alone. The Ruhailaya Major Seminary is an important formation house for the future missionaries of the Syro Malabar Church. SyMM supports this mission Seminary through projects and scholarships. Five of the newly ordained MST priests had sponsors from SyMM, while there are 17 brothers at different stages of formation who are supported by the sponsors of SyMM.

Finding generous sponsors and connecting them with the missions is another support that SyMM does to the Church. Mr Sebastian is a generous sponsor who got connected with MSTs and MST missions through SyMM. He along with his prayer group has made a substantial contribution across India and also to the missions of MST, especially the Orissa mission. Mr Angelo Paul will support the Orissa Mission of MST to construct a new church for the faithful in that mission.

(Reported by Fr Siju Azhakath, Director - SyMM, Mount St Thomas, Kakkanad)

E. Thomasine Research Centre (TRC)

New Office and Residence inaugurated at Thumbur: The New



office and residence of TRC was inaugurated on 22 February 2021, the Foundation Day of MST, at Thumbur by His Excellency Mar Pauly Kannoorkaden, the Bishop of Irinjalakuda in the gracious presence of the Director General and the Councilors of MST. The Bishop on the occasion lauded the missionary role fulfilled by MST in the Syro-Malabar Church and appreciated and Thanked MST for opening this house in the diocese of Irinjalakuda. Very Rev. Fr Antony Perumanoor presided over the function. Rev. Fr Johny Menacheril, vicar of St Mathew's church, Thumboor and Rev. Fr Jaison Kudiyirickal, Vicar of Sacred Heart Church, Kaduppassery also spoke on the occasion and welcomed MST to the diocese of Irinjalakuda. Rev. Fr James Kurikilamkatt, Director of TRC



welcomed the guests and introduced the various activities of TRC to the audience.

In connection with the Foundation Day of MST and the inauguration of Chaama MST Bhavan, an exhibition hall was opened by Very Rev. Fr Antony Perumanoor. The exhibition is a humble attempt to introduce to the public the mission of the Apostle Thomas to India and the various apostolic ministries of MST.

As the director of Chaama MST Bhavan and TRC, I would like to place on record my sincere thanks to our Director General Very Rev. Fr Antony Perumanoor, Rev. Fr Joy Kunnel, the Treasurer General, Rev. Fr Francis Kureekal (the Councilor-in-charge of TRC) and all the council members for their support and encouragement. Let me also thank Rev. Fathers Saju Thuppilanjyil and Joison Puthukatt for spending their valuable time and energy in preparation for the inauguration Day. There is also a heart full of thanks to my collaborators at Chaama MST Bhavan, Rev. Fathers Sijo Moookenthottam and Mathew Mlavil for their great support and hard work.

Please note the new Address of TRC:

Thomasine Research center

Chaama MST Bhavan

Maithri Nagar

Thumboor – 680662

Thrissur DT.

thomasinerc@gmail.com

www.trcmst.org

(Reported by Fr James Kurikilamkatt, Director, TRC)

VIII Necrology

Family Members & Collaborators of the MSTs

As informed by the members (15 Dec. 2020- 20 March 2021)

Mr Mathai Joseph, Father of Fr Kalampuliyel

Mr Jose Koren, Father of Fr Koren

Mrs Thresiamma Joseph, Mother of Fr Vattappara

Mrs Mariakkutty, Mother of Fr G. Kuppayil and Grandmother of Fr J. Kuppayil

Mr Antony Mampilly, Brother of Fr Mampilly

Mr Appachan Mundackal, Brother of Fr Mundackal

Mrs Mary Muthuplackal, Sister of Fr Mundiayvil

Mr Thomas Pendanath, Grandfather of Fr Pendanath (Jr)

Mrs Annakkutty Kavalanal Grandmother of

Fr Puthusseryputhenpurayil

Mrs Mariakutty, Grandmother of Fr Kizhakkemuriyil

Mrs Mariamma, Grandmother of Bro. Pullikkattil (II Theology)

Mrs Arya Jineesh, Sister-in-law of Fr Maprayil

Mr Philip Mukalathu, Brother-in-law of Fr Kumblanthanath

Mr V.V. Mathew, Uncle of Fr Kakkaniyil

Mrs Kuttiyamma Valikulam, Aunt of Fr Kavukatt

Mr Arun Palackal, Cousin of Fr Maniyalil

Mr Sunny Kulathumkal, Nephew of Fr Kulathumkal

Mr Saju Puthuppallimiyalil, Nephew of Fr Puthuppallimiyalil

Mr Jacob Parayadyil, Uncle of Fr Parayadyil

Mr Joseph Kandamkettiyil, Cousin of Fr Aryankalayil

Mr Kuriakose Kottianikara, Cousin of Fr Naralakkattukunnel

Mr Varkey Pandiyil, Uncle of Fr Pandiyil

Sr Franco Vayalil FCC, Aunt of Fr Jacob Purayidom

Obituary: Rev. Sr Alesia Kuttikattu SMC



Rev. Sr Alessia SMC (74), one of the five sisters of Kuttikatt family who donated us the land property at Mundoor (Thrissur) was called to eternal bliss on 11 January 2021. He belonged to the Congregation of the Sisters of the Mount Calvary (SMC). Born in 1946, she entered into the SMC in 1968 and made the final profession in 1978. She worked in Italy until 1996. After her return to

India, she was a member of the SMC community at Cherur, Thrissur until her last in 2021.

Rev. Sr Alessia was known for her commitment to do any work assigned to her and had the skills and efficiency to do them. She was personally very disciplined and dutiful in doing her apostolates and in fulfilling the routine spiritual exercises. Along with other four sisters, she visited Deepti Bhava in February 2020, immediately after donating their land to MST.

The funeral of Rev. Sr Alessia took place in the afternoon of 11 January at the cemetery of the SMC community at Cherur, presided over by His Grace Archbishop Andrews Thazhath of Thrissur. Two General Councillors, the Treasurer General and Fr Bibin Madathiparampil attended her funeral service on behalf of the MST. As we are grateful to Sr Alessia and other Sisters of Kuttikatt family for their generous gift of property to the MST, let us pray that the good Lord grant Sr Alessia the eternal reward that she had been aspiring to.

(Rev. Fr Thomas Karamel, General Councillor, MST)

Your Excellencies, Reverend Fathers and Brothers,
Prayerful greetings from Deepti Bhavan!

This is to bring to your kind attention towards some important information that concerns all the members of the Missionary Society of St Thomas the Apostle.

1. Priestly Ordinations

The priestly ordinations of eleven *ordinandi* took place at Deepti Bhavan on 27 December 2020. On behalf of the entire MST family, I congratulate and welcome all eleven new priests to the priestly fellowship of the MST. Let us pray that all of them find sanctification and fulfilment of their missionary vocation through the MST, by their dedicated involvement in the missionary apostolates (Cf. C7).

We were blessed to have His Beatitude Major Archbishop Mar George Cardinal Alencherry for the function who presided over the entire ordination ceremony and the Holy Qurbana. He was very happy to avail his time for the MST and generously recognized our missionary contributions in his message. May I also appreciate and thank all those who participated in the ordinations online and others who were ardently praying for the *ordinandi*, as physical participation in the ceremony was controlled due to covid regulations. May I also take this opportunity to thank the vocation promoters, the formators in various seminaries, the benefactors and other collaborators who contributed in the making of eleven new priests for the MST. God bless them all!

2. The Regional Assignment of the New Priests

Following C.44 of the *Constitutions and Directives of MST* and with the consent of the General Council, I have done the regional assignment of the new priest-members as given:

St Paul Region, Ujjain

Chirayil Mathew (Renji)

Thottaplackal Thomas (Twinkle)

St Thomas Region, Mandya

Akkattu Antony (Abhilash)

Elamthuruthiyil George (Alex)

Keeranchira Sebastian (Ashish)

Puthusseryputhenpurayil Joseph (Jithin)

Vazhuthanappallyil Kurian (Abin)

St Alphonsa Region, Sangli

Chamakalayil Joseph (Mijo)

Kizhakemuriyil Thomas (Tony)

Kuttipalackal Augustine (Nidhin)

Moosariparambil Chackochan (Jimson)

As of now, there are 388 priest-members in the MST. Among them 143 members are assigned to St Paul Region, 119 to St Thomas Region and 126 to St Alphonsa Region.

All the new priests are being sent to the missions soon after ***Sleehusa-2021*** (the formal orientation and commissioning) being held at the Generalate from 17-22 February 2021.

Wishing you abundant blessings in the New Year 2021 and requesting your prayers for each other,

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Sd/-

Fr Antony Perumanoor
Director General, MST

Sd/-

Fr Justin Vettukallel
Secretary General, MST

PLENARY COUNCIL 2021**LETTER OF CONVOCAATION**

In accordance with the *Constitutions and Directives* of the Missionary Society of St Thomas the Apostle (C&D 111-113), I do hereby convoke the Plenary Council of the present tenure of administration in the MST. It will be held at Deepti Bhavan, Melampara, Kerala, India on Sunday, 9 May 2021 at 16:00 hours and will continue until it finishes the discussions and evaluation.

In accordance with C 113, the Plenary Council has the competence to:

- a) evaluate the apostolate, facilitate the execution of the resolutions, general policies and guidelines given by the General Assembly.
- b) offer assistance in any matter referred to it by the Director General with the consent of his Council.

A committee consisting of Rev. Fr Sebastian Aniyekatt (Convener), Rev. Fr Varghese Koonamparampath (member) and Rev. Fr John Vanmelil (member) is appointed to conduct the election of two members each from every Region for the Plenary Council.

In keeping with D 111 of the *Constitutions and Directives* of the MST, let me invite you all to send points to prepare the agenda for the Plenary Council to the Secretary General before 15 March 2021.

Invoking God's blessings,

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Sd/-

Fr Antony Perumanoor
Director General, MST

Sd/-

Fr Justin Vettukallel
Secretary General, MST

CONVOCATION OF THE EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2021

As per the first resolution of the Tenth Ordinary General Assembly and with the consent of the General Council, I do hereby convoke an Extraordinary General Assembly of the MST in accordance with the *Constitutions and Directives* of the Missionary Society of St Thomas the Apostle (C&D 74). It will be held at Deepti Bhavan, Melampara, Kerala, India on Wednesday, 15 September 2021 at 16:00 hours, and will continue until it finishes its agenda.

Agenda of the Extraordinary General Assembly: The Agenda of the Extraordinary General Assembly-2021 is the Second Draft of the *Constitutions and Directives* (C&D) of the MST. Following the sixth resolution of the Ninth Ordinary General Assembly (2013), an expert committee was constituted by the previous General Council to review the present C&D. After series of meetings and consultations at different levels, the first draft was prepared and submitted by that committee in 2017. Subsequently, the Tenth Ordinary General Assembly (2018) with its first resolution obligated the present General Council to review and further the first draft by appointing a new committee of experts for organizing study-classes, gathering opinions and consulting experts. After due study, discussions and consultations, another draft was prepared by the second expert committee. This second draft of the C&D forms the agenda of the Extraordinary General Assembly-2021, in view of amending the present C&D of the MST.

Agenda-Committee: A committee consisting of Rev. Frs Gervasis Panjikaran (Convener), James Kurukilamkatt (Member) and Kuriakose Azhakath (Member) is appointed to circulate the Second Draft of the C&D to all permanent members of the MST and to gather their observations on the draft. The committee shall organize all the collected observations on the second draft and is requested to submit the agenda to the Director General by 1 August 2021

(C&D 69). The members can also “directly represent any issue in writing to the Director General who shall bring this for discussion in the General Assembly” (D 69 b).

Election-Committee: Another committee consisting of Rev. Frs Joseph Pulavelil (Convener), Joseph Oppenmakal (Member) and George Keeranchira (Member) is appointed to conduct the election of the delegates to the Extraordinary General Assembly, following the *Constitutions and Directives* of the MST (C& D 63). The committee is requested to give “the list of the number of votes each member received, to the Director General” (D 63), on or before 1 June 2021.

Invoking God’s blessings and your prayers for the Extraordinary General Assembly-2021,

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Sd/-

Fr Antony Perumanoor
Director General, MST

Sd/-

Fr Justin Vettukallel
Secretary General, MST





New Priests of MST 2020-2021

We are called to be contagious with the joy of His resurrection the love of God and the fire of the Holy Spirit to change the world for God



आराधना व आरोग्यदानाची प्रार्थना.

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Mayalu Kumari
Mariye(Memorare)

35K views •

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गाठी सोडविणारी आई. || Fr.Benny
Joseph MST || Amala Ashram

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संरक्षणाची प्रार्थना आणि साक्रामें
येथुचा आशीर्वाद || Fr.Benny.

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FR BENNY JOSEPH MST Talsande kolhapur.

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