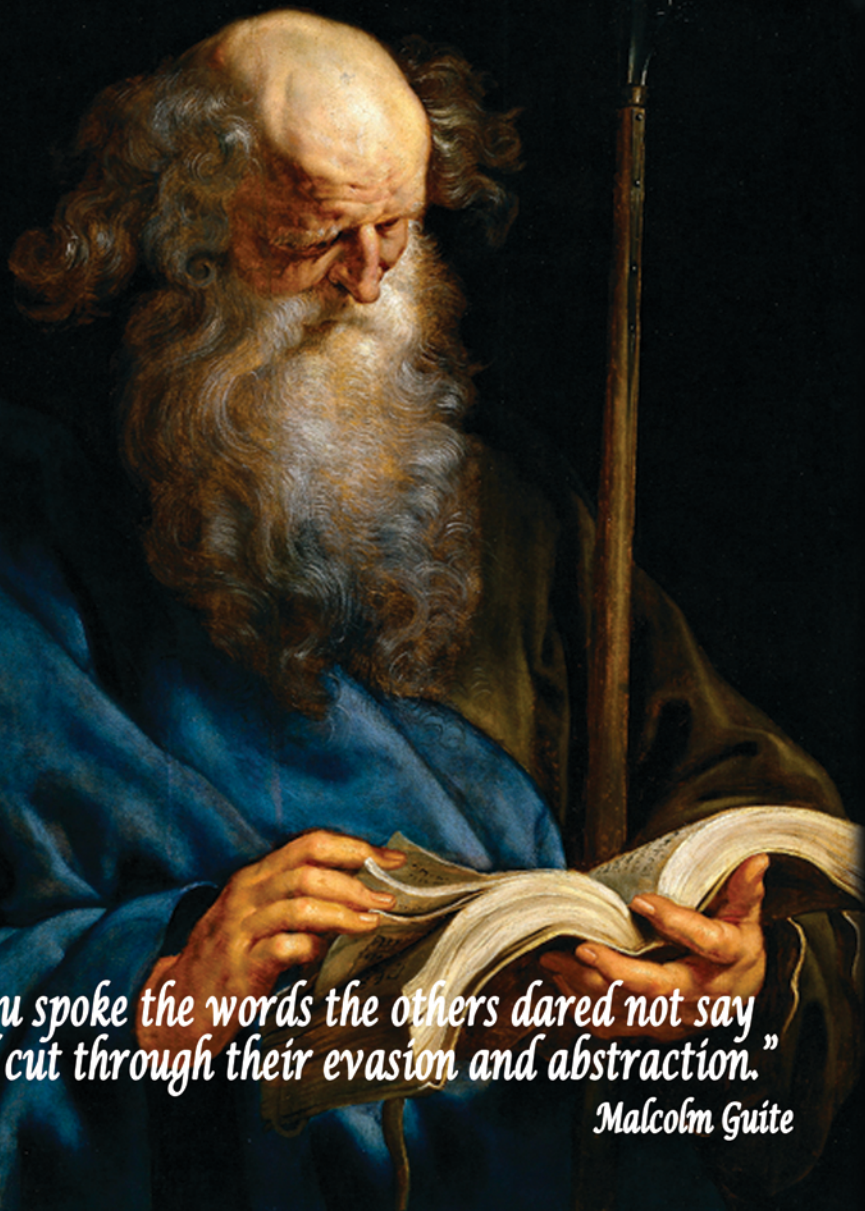




MST World

MST News Bulletin 02/21

Dukhrana 2021



*"You spoke the words the others dared not say
And cut through their evasion and abstraction."*

Malcolm Guite

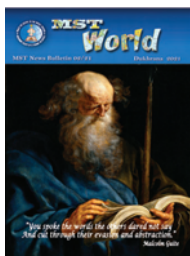
Voice of a Shepherd

THE PASTORAL LETTERS OF MAR JOHN PERUMATTAM MST



Fr Jose Kondoor MST (Editor)

*Commemorating the completion of his first decade in the eternal abode (18 June, 2011-2021):
A Pioneer Member and the First Director General of the MST, and the First Bishop of the Eparchy of Ujjain*



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Printed: Assissi Press, Bharananganam

CONTENTS

I. MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL..03

II. NEWS FROM THE GENERALATE05

III. TRANSFERS AND APPOINTMENTS16

IV. CHANGE OF CONTACT INFORMATION20

V. NEWS FROM SEMINARIES24

A. Deepti College, Melampara24

B. Santhome Minor Seminary, Thamarassery26

C. Jeevan Jyoti, Srirangapatna30

D. Ruhalaria, Ujjain.....34

VI. NEWS FROM MISSIONS36

A. St Paul Region36

B. St Thomas Region39

C. St Alphonsa Region40

D. St Mary Queen of Missions Delegation44

E. St Joseph Mission Odisha54

F. Arunachal Mission56

G. Overseas Missions60

1. United States60

2. Austria61

3. Canada.....	62
4. Germany	65
5. Switzerland.....	67
6. Tanzania.....	68
7. Australia	71
8. Sweden	73
9. Italy	75
10. United Kingdom.....	77
11. Brazil.....	78
VII. NEWS FROM OTHER MINISTRIES	80
A. Vocation Promotion.....	80
B. Santhome Fellowship.....	81
C. Santhome-IMPACT	83
D. Thomasine Research Centre	85
E. Angel Home, Kadanad.....	86
F. Santhome Bible Centre, Pariyaram.....	87
G. Aaraam, Deepti Mount.....	89
VIII. DEPARTED FOR ETERNAL REWARD.....	92
A. Necrology.....	92
B. Obituaries.....	93
C. Tributes to Frs Nattunilath and Mattathil.....	97
IX. APPENDICES.....	105

Cover Photo- Painting of Thomas the Apostle: A Collection from Thomasine Research Centre (TRC), Chaama MST Bhavan, Thumbar



*Around 1612, **Peter Paul Rubens** made a series of portraits of the apostles, in commission of the duke of Lerma. All paintings show an attribute to identify the apostle. Thomas holds a spear, the weapon that supposedly killed him and made him a martyr. This work is linked to John 11:16 and is originally found in Museo del Prado, Madrid (Spain).*

I. MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

Dear Reverend Fathers, Reverend Deacons and Brothers,



July third, the feast of “*Dukrana*” is always a red lettered day for the Syro-Malabar Church and in a special manner for the Missionary Society of St Thomas the Apostle. The proclamation of St Thomas “My Lord, My God” is the thrust of the resurrection experience for each one of us. St Thomas, being a witness to the paschal mysteries of Christ, was too attached to Christ that his stubbornness to see Christ rose from the great love he had for his master. Experiencing the wounds of Christ, seeing it St Thomas proclaimed “My Lord, My God.” It is the ‘*wound*’ experience from the risen Lord that made St Thomas the Apostle of India (Cf. Acts 4:20). This gives us a greater insight in the pandemic era. The ‘*wounds*’ of the Lord are to be experienced by each one of us in the sufferings and difficulties of oneself and that of others. The ‘*wounds*’ represent the sufferings, pains and difficulties of each and every human. Forgoing this ‘*wound*,’ not taking care of it (Cf. Parable of Good Samaritan) is causing pain to Christ (Acts 9:4).

Look to oneself; look into the society. The second wave of Covid have largely affected and inflicted heavy blow on each one of us. Many of our fellow brethren were affected and infected - our dear and near ones, missionary collaborators, members of Santhome Fellowship and associate missionaries, etc. etc. It was heart-breaking to see that about 500 priests and nuns lost their lives. As shepherds we were forced to watch our sheep being led to eternity. With this sadness we faced the sudden demise of Rev. Fr Nattunilam, an active young missionary and Rev. Fr Mattam, a zealous missionary leaving our earthy companionship.

In spite of this dangerous situation, the spirit of St Thomas to see

the wounds of others was lightened up in our missionaries. Our missionary brethren came up with many programs to extend the help for Covid affected and inflected people, expressing the resurrection experience. In every region and delegation our missionaries are active with charitable works like distribution of food kits and other necessities (2 Cor 8: 3-5). The Word of God should encourage us *“Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work”* (2 Cor 9: 7,8).

Many of the programs were severely affected by this pandemic- the summer programs of the major seminarians, the mission exposure programs, major seminarians gatherings etc. Due to this pandemic situation our seminarians are tied up at home without any exposure- a kind of suffering. Trusting God let me remind lovingly, though there is lack of psychological and spiritual environment, it should not have negative impact on your motivation. The life of our Patron should encourage each one of us. In spite of all negative situations, he looked forward towards the face of the Lord proclaiming to his brothers *“Let us also go, that we may die with him”* (John 11:16).

Celebration of ‘Dukrana’, the remembrance of not just the person of St Thomas but of the personality and character of him, should help us to be more zealous and enthusiastic in our missionary commitment. Let’s continue praying for each other during these days of the pandemic and reaching out to the needy with the love that our patron had for the risen Lord.

“MY LORD, MY GOD”

Fr Antony Perumanoor
Director General, MST

II. NEWS FROM THE GENERALATE

(From 21 March - 25 June 2021)

1. Second Wave of Covid-19

Many of us, in different parts of the world, have been gravely affected by the second wave of the pandemic covid-19. Almost all our places of apostolate in India, including the Generalate were hit by the second wave. Our fathers in Philippines, Brazil, Germany were also infected. As informed, a few among the members were seriously infected and underwent critical situations, but miraculously survived. Some of the members still feel certain post-covid symptoms and are in the slow process of recovery. Our prayers for each other were sources of strength and confidence.

It has been disheartening that many of our dear ones from our families, neighbourhoods and mission areas were called for eternal reward, affected by Covid. Our sorrows are multiplied as we have been restricted in many ways to offer the deserving homage to the departed ones. Although the lock down measures are getting gradually released, let us be cautious and diligently follow the regulations from the government and the Church in resuming the normalcy of our life and ministry.

2. Demise of our Members

The MST still grieves at the unexpected departures of two of our members – Rev. Frs John Nattunilath and Emmanuel Mattathil. Let us continue our prayers for them. The obligation of ‘offering one Holy Qurbana for members on their demise’ (C&D16 vii) had been reminded by the Director General to all members of the MST.

a. Rev. Fr John Nattunilath (1973-2021)

Rev. Fr John (Gigi) Nattunilath (48), a member assigned to St Paul Region of the MST, who had been ministering as the assistant Priest-in-Charge of Shanti Mission Station, Jamner (Shajpur Dt) in the Eparchy of Ujjain, met with an accident at 6.45 a.m. on Good Friday (02-04-2021). He was traveling from Jamner to Kalapipal to conduct the Liturgy of the Good Friday for the Disciple Sisters of Christ



(DSC) at Kalapipal. On the way, his Bolero Jeep hit a stationary truck on the road. He was killed on the spot. His body was taken to the Community Health Centre at Kalapipal (Shajapur Dt). The DSC sisters were the first to reach the spot, along with their school staff, and then they informed Rev. Fr Thomas Manichirickal, the Priest-in-Charge of Jamner. Rev. Fr Thomas Manichirickal (Jamner) along with Rev. Fr Paul

Parekkattil (Shujalpur) rushed to the place, took care of the post-mortem and other proceedings at Kalapipal.

After a short prayer held at Shanti Bhavan, Jamner, the body was taken to R.D. Gardi Medical College, Ujjain for embalming. Later from 6.00 to 7.00 p.m., the mortal remains were placed in the cemetery chapel in Ujjain. Special prayers were led by His Excellency Mar Sebastian Vadakel, the Bishop of Ujjain. Many of the priests and sisters in Ujjain visited and paid homage to the departed missionary.

In consultation with the family members of Fr John Nattunilath, the funeral service was decided to be held at Deepti Bhavan on Wednesday, 6 April 2021 following the formalities of Covid-protocol. The body arrived in Kerala at 2.30 p.m. on Saturday (03-04-2021), accompanied by Rev. Frs Vincent Kadalikkattilputhenpura and Thomas Manichirickal, and was preserved at the mortuary of Devamatha Hospital, Koothattukulam. On Wednesday (06-04-2021) morning, by 7.00 a.m., he was taken to his home parish and then to his family at Kuninji (near Ramapuram/Koothattukulam). Bishop Mar George Madathikandathil of Kothamangalam paid homage to him at the parish church. By 11.30 a.m., the body was brought to Deepti Bhavan. The funeral rites integrated with the Holy Qurbana followed immediately. Very Rev. Fr Antony Perumanoor, the Director General preached the eulogy. Bishop Mar Sebastian Vadakel presided over the final liturgy. Bishop Mar Joseph



Kallarangatt of Pala was also present by the end of the funeral. He was buried at the cemetery in Deepti Mount by 2.00 p.m.

Many priests, members of the religious communities from the vicinity, local political leaders, members of the MST, associate missionaries, friends, and neighbours came forward to offer homage to Fr John Nattunilath. The funeral ceremony was live telecasted and was attended by many members of the MST around the globe. On 14 April 2021, a *requiem* Holy Qurbana was offered at the Deepti Chapel attended by his family members. The personal details including the biodata of late Fr John Nattunilath were circulated to all the members through electronic media. The MST is grateful to Rev. Fr John Nattunilath, for all his initiatives for evangelization in different places of his priestly ministry that include the Eparchies of Palakkad, Thuckalay, Songea (Tanzania), and Ujjain. As customary, 'A Tribute' is presented towards the end of this Bulletin prepared by Rev. Fr George Pottananickal, one of the batchmates of Fr Nattunilath.

b. Rev. Fr Emmanuel Mattathil (1946 -2021)

Rev. Fr Emmanuel (Appachan) Mattathil (75), a member of the MST assigned to St Paul Region, who had been ministering as a Formator and Spiritual Director at Santhome Minor Seminary, Thamarassery was called for his eternal abode at 8.45 p.m. on Wednesday, 14 April 2021. The funeral service took place at 10.30 a.m. on 16 April 2021.

The departure of Fr Emmanuel Mattathil was unexpected, as he was seemingly a



healthy person moving around easily. It was only on 24 March 2021 that he consulted a doctor at Mother Mary Hospital, Thamarassery due to the appearance of yellowish colour for his skin/eyes. After some blood tests and an ultrasound scan, he was directed to approach a gastroenterologist. On the next day, he went to Nirmala Hospital, Marykunnu (near Kozhikode) for further diagnosis by the gastroenterologist. After a few days of investigation with CT scan and other blood tests, he was diagnosed with some growth in the alimentary canal between the liver and gall bladder that had obstructed the free flow of fluids causing infection. From there, he was referred to a gastro-surgeon in Baby Memorial Hospital, Kozhikode. The gastro-surgeon recommended the removal of this growth by surgery. For further confirmation and surgery, Fr Mattathil preferred to be admitted at Mar Sleeva Medicity, Cherpunkal which is proximate to his family and Deepti. He got admitted there on Easter Sunday (4 April 2021). The gastro-surgeon of Medicity recommended some treatment to reduce the infection and to control the level of Bilirubin to prepare him for safe surgery. He stayed in the hospital for four days and was discharged on 8 April and came to Aaram, Deepti Mount. As prescribed, he went back to meet his doctor on 12 April who examined the developments and returned to Aaram on the same day. By evening, he felt some discomfort and was taken to the hospital. The level of his Blood Pressure displayed very low and within a few hours, he turned unconscious. On 13th night, he had heart failure and his internal organs turned dysfunctional. The immediate medical interventions did not yield any result and the normal homeostasis stopped, and he was shifted to a ventilator. As his body was incapable of metabolizing any medication and was not responding to the clinical procedures, his blood pressure lowered to the minimum and he silently embraced eternity by 8.45 p.m. on 14 April 2021.

His mortal remains were preserved at the mortuary of Mar Sleeva Medicity itself and were received in the morning of 16 April. The body was directly taken to his home at Kozhuvanal, and then was brought to Deepti Bhavan by 7.30 a.m. It was kept at the open hall

of Deepti Bhavan for public viewing. Many priests from the eparchy of Pala, religious sisters from the vicinity, local political leaders, members of the MST, associate missionaries, collaborators, and neighbours came forward to offer homage to Fr Mattathil. The final rites of the funeral service started by 10.00 a.m. Their Excellencies Mar Sebastian Vadakel of Ujjain and Mar James Athikalam of



Sagar presided over the final rites. Very Rev. Fr Antony Perumanoor, the Director General preached the funeral homily. On 15 May, a memorial Holy Qurbana was celebrated and it was attended by a few members of his family.

The MST is grateful to Rev. Fr Emmanuel Mattathil for all his committed initiatives for the work of evangelization in different places. As one of our senior members, he joined the MST as a seminarian. He worked in several centres of the Eparchy of Ujjain and was an efficient instrument in developing the mission centre at Narasingarh. He also worked in the Etawah mission of the Archeparchy of Changanachery in Uttar Pradesh. He was part of the team of central administration of the MST as its Second Councillor for one year (1992-1993). Fr Mattathil worked for 20 years in Germany. He was a formator for several years in Vikas Maitri-Kotra, Jeevan Jyoti-Kamed, Deepti College–Melampara, Ruhahaya-Ujjain and finally at Santhome-Thamarassery. His loving, loveable and compassionate nature enlarged the range of his friends to all strata of people of his involvement. Rev. Fr Kurian Ammanathukunnel, a contemporary of Fr Mattathil has written ‘in Memoriam’ paying homage to our departed member.

3. Plenary Council – 2021

The announcement of the list of the members elected for the plenary council was announced on 31 March 2021 through Circular No. X/ 20. Although it was scheduled to be held from 9 May 2021, the rapid spread of Covid compelled to conduct it online and to postpone it to a future date convenient for the members, as some among the members in the Plenary Council are only recovering from Covid.

4. Reopening of the Seminaries

The covid situations have delayed the reopening of our seminaries. Both our minor seminaries are now in the process of welcoming the first-year students. The second and third years re-joined the seminary by the second week of June. On 24 of June, the seminarians of Jeevan Jyoti arrived and the seminary is gaining momentum. Ruhalya Major Seminary, Ujjain officially reopens on 20 July only.

5. Major Seminarians' Gathering, Vestition and Promise

The annual major seminarians gathering usually schedule in the month of May at the Generalate was cancelled, due to the lockdown measures of Covid-19. The vestition and the promises of incorporation of the seminarian are planned to hold on the day of Dukhrana (3 July) at Deepti Bhavan.

6. Promotion of the Seminarians

A. MOC: There are 17 candidates from Deepti College and 8 from Santhome promoted to the MOC by the respective Rectors with the recommendation of the staff. They are:

1. Andukunnel Thomas
2. Arimattathilvayalil Mathew
3. Chirayil Christy
4. Chulayillaplackal Tom (Tom Thomas)
5. Edappallyil Thomas (Noyal Joseph)
6. Kalliduckanikkal Mathew (Sharon Jaison)
7. Kalluvettukuzhiyil John (Kevin Jaimon)

8. Kunnath Augustine (Aivin Thomas)
9. Kurisummoottil Joseph (Justin Thomas)
10. Kuzhumbil Joseph (Akhil Roy)
11. Mampuzhackal Chacko (Albin Jomon)
12. Manimalayil Thomas (Deepak Binoy)
13. Palakattu Joseph (Ajith Jose)
14. Panamthanam Joseph (Dani Thomas)
15. Panamthanath Varghese (Shalbin Shibu)
16. Panayampala Donbosco (Shanal Thomas)
17. Parackamannil Emmanuel (Nainan P. Shaji)
18. Puthenpurackal Chacko (Ajin Binoy)
19. Thekkekarottu Joseph (Lijo)
20. Thekkumkattil Joseph (Jithin Sunny)
21. Vadakkekara James (James Jees)
22. Vadakkeorath Joseph (Austin Thumpy)
23. Vazhachalil Chacko (Febin Sali)
24. Vetticattu Augustine (Augustine Sojan)
25. Vezhambasseril Joseph (Sonu Antony)

B. First Philosophy & Temporary Promise of Incorporation :

The following 18 brothers are promoted to Major Seminary from MOC and will be admitted to the Society with their temporary promise of incorporation. All of them are being sent to Ruhlaya for Philosophy studies.

1. Attuchalil Abraham (Jison Sebastian)
2. Avimoottil Joseph (Jibin Baby)
3. Chakkalackal Joseph (Dominic Shaji)
4. Chollampuzha Abraham (Abin Abraham)
5. Kakkaniyil Mathew (Linto Charley)
6. Kallikadan Lazar (Edison Sebastian)
7. Karakkattu Joseph (Ben K. Shibu)

8. Kolamkuzhyil Mathew (Martin K. Roy)
9. Komath Rockey (Adarsh Rockey Francis)
10. Manayathukudy Joseph (Abin Biju)
11. Mannarmattathil Rockey (Abilash George)
12. Marottikkuzhyil Ulahannan (Alvin John)
13. Nedunganal Joseph (Sebin Thomas)
14. Parakkattu Martin (Biljo Mathew)
15. Pariyathottathil Joseph (Justin Joseph)
16. Urumbil Joseph (Joyal Joy)
17. Vadakkedath Joseph (Jomal Joseph)
18. Vadayanezhath Alex (Alex Mathew)

C. Regency: As recommended by the seminary authorities, 10 candidates who successfully completed their formation at Ruhlaya and two at Salesian Seminary, Sonada (West Bengal) are sent for regency in different places. They are:

1. Ammanath Joyal (St Thomas Region, Mandya)
2. Kaithackal Maneesh (Odisha Mission)
3. Kanjirathumkal Alan (Mary Queen of Mission Delegation, Delhi)
4. Kavunnukatt Joseph (St Paul Region, Ujjain)
5. Kizhakkumkarayil Alan (St Alphonsa Region, Sangli)
6. Kottavila Blesson (Mary Queen of Mission Delegation, Delhi)
7. Mannarath Akhil (St Alphonsa Region, Sangli)
8. Mundamattam Noble (Odisha Mission)
9. Palakuzhiyil Anson (Deepti Mount)
10. Pengattu Amal (St Thomas Region, Mandya)
11. Pullolil Tom (Deepti Mount)
12. Puthenpura Siby (St Paul Region, Ujjain)

D. I Year Theology and Renewal of Temporary Promise: All eight seminarians who were doing regency in the past year, have successfully completed it and are now promoted to the next stage

of formation. After the renewal of their temporary promise of incorporation, all of them are going to Ruhalya for the study of theology. They are:

1. Kanjirathamkunnel Sebastian (Abin Sunny)
2. Makkiyil Chacko (Amal Sebastian)
3. Paruthickal Simon (Binil Varghese)
4. Thadathil Joseph (Ajith Joseph)
5. Vazheparambil Jithin Michael (Alex)
6. Velloor Mathew (Gintumon James)
7. Vembenickal Joseph (Joseph V.J.)
8. Vettukallel Michael (Michael Mathew)

5. Extraordinary General Assembly - 2021

The preparations for the Extraordinary General Assembly-2021, which is scheduled from 15 September 2021, is in progress. Due to the postal delays, the final date to accept the ballots for the election of delegates was postponed from 25 May to 15 June (Circular No. X/22) and the ballots were counted on 24 June. The names of the elected delegates were announced recently (Circular No. X/23). The agenda committee is in the process of compiling the suggestions received. The members will receive updates on the assembly in the upcoming days.

7. Completion of Doctoral Studies

Rev. Fr Sebastian (Veenus) Karamullil completed doctoral studies in Philosophy from Catholic University, Leuven, Belgium. He defended his Thesis titled – “The Mediating Role of Value in the Dialogue Between Science and Religion: Whitehead, Merleau-Ponty and Charles Taylor” on 23 April 2021 and secured summa cum laude.

8. Beginning of Higher Studies

Kadankavil Thomas (Binoy): He is given permission for part-time M.Ed. Studies from Singhanian University, Rajasthan.

Kuzhuppallil Abraham (Roshan): He is sent for studies in Masters

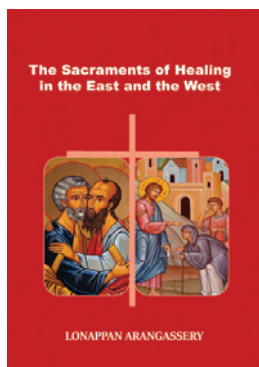
in Educational Administration (M.Ed.) from Xavier University, Cincinnati, Ohio, USA.

Unnieppallil Joseph (Sojan): He is given permission for part-time M.Ed. Studies at Bawa Nihal Singh College, Muktsar of the University of Punjab.

Vanmelil John (Vibin): He is given permission to pursue part-time B.Ed Studies in the University of Srinagar.

9. Publications/Achievements

Rev. Fr Lonappan Arangassery: Recently, a book titled: *The*



Sacraments of Healing in the East and the West was authored by Fr Lonappan Arangassery MST. It was published on the occasion of the Ruby Jubilee of his sacerdotal ordination. The book discusses the Historical, Biblical, Liturgical, Canonical and Pastoral Dimensions of the Sacraments of Divine Mercy both in the East and the West. OIRSI, Kottayam is the publisher of the Book and His Beatitude Major Archbishop Mar George

Cardinal Alencherry has written the 'Foreword' of the Book. The book was solemnly released by the Major Archbishop on 22 June 2021 at Mount St Thomas, Kakkanad in the presence of Very Rev.



Fr Antony Perumanoor, the Director General. *The Sacraments of Healing in the East and the West* makes the 12th book authored by Rev. Fr Arangassery.



Rev. Fr Jose Kondoor: A book titled, “Voice of a Shepherd: The Pastoral Letters of Mar John Perumattam” was edited by Rev. Fr Jose Kondoor. It was released by His Excellency Mar Sebastian Vadakel of Ujjain on 18 June 2021, in the context of the tenth death anniversary of His Excellency Mar John Perumattam of happy memory. Fr Kondoor collected 122 pastoral letters by the Bishop issued during three decades (1968-1998) of his shepherdship in Ujjain. The pastoral letters herald the missionary vision and conviction of Mar John Perumattam and reflect his untiring efforts in inspiring the missionaries and faithful for the work of evangelization during his tenure as the exarch in the beginning and later the eparchy of Ujjain. This inspirational book will be distributed to all the MSTs in India in the upcoming months.

10. New Director for Aaram

After two years of commendable services at *Aaraam*, Rev. Fr Thomas Kumblanthanath got transferred from *Aaraam* and returned to St Thomas Mission Region, Mandya. Rev. Fr Joseph Vadakechirayath has taken charge as the new director of *Aaraam* from 3 May 2021.

III. Transfers and Appointments

A. St Paul Region

Vadakeoram Paul: - Appointed Rector and Priest-in-charge, Vikas Maitri, Kotra, Eparchy of Ujjain.

B. St Thomas Region, Mandya

Areeplakkal Joshy: Appointed Director, Shanti Nilaya, Anchechittanahalli, Nagamangala, Eparchy of Mandya.

Elamthuruthiyil Alex: Appointed Asst. Director, St Thomas Mission, Boath, Adilabad.

Kadankavil Binoy: Relieved from Arakere and Appointed Principal, Santhome PU College, Mandya.

Kumblanthanath Thomas: Appointed Director, Nirmala Nivas (Cheekkanahalli), Halebeedu, Eparchy of Mandya.

Naduviledathu Saji: Appointed Manager and Priest-in-charge, Santhome, Bannur.

Panthaplakal Saneesh: Relieved from Bannur and Appointed Principal, Jeevodaya school, Arakere.

Puthusseril Raju: Relieved from the offices of Manager and Priest-in-charge, Santhome, Bannur.

Puthusseryputhenpurayil Jithin: Appointed Asst. Director, Santhome Nivas, Ichoda, Adilabad.

Ramachanatt Tony: Relieved from Santhome International School, Sathyamangalam and Appointed Asst. Director, Deepti Nivas, Kalenahalli.

Vadakketh Jacob: Relieved from St Thomas Mission, Boath, Adilabad.

Vedikunnel Joseph: Relieved from Raidurga Mission in A.P.

C. St Alphonsa Region, Sangli

Chakiriamthadam Saji: Relieved from Alphonsa Mission Station and Suvarta Printers, Halondi and Appointed Priest-in-charge of Jeevdan, Mission Station, Zarap and the Director Jeevdan Special School.

Karakkattu Antony: Relieved from Santhome Mission Station, Tasgoan.

Kolthambrayil Siju: Appointed Priest-in-charge of Sneha Sadan Mission Station, Alte and Director of Childline, Kolhapur and Vihaan, Ichalkaranji.

Moosariparambil Chackochan: Appointed Assistant Priest-in-Charge of Divya Jyoti, Banda and Warden of St John's Boys' Hostel.

Thonikuzhiyil Benny: Appointed Priest-in-charge of Alphonsa Mission Station, Halondi and the Manager, Suvarta Printers and Alphonsa Vocational Training Centre.

Vadakketheppuram Sibichen: Relieved from Jeevdan, Mission Station, Zarap and Appointed Priest-in-charge of Santhome Mission Station, Tasgoan.

Vedikunnel Joseph (Arun): Relieved from Jeevdan, Mission Station, Zarap and Appointed Asst. Priest-in-Charge of Ashadeep Mission Station and Asst. project in charge, Pravasi Bandhu, Sangli.

D. Seminaries

Kaithottumkal Mathew (Justin): Asst Procurator (additional), Ruhalya Major Seminary (Philosophy Section)

Kannamthadam Benny: Appointed Vice Rector, Santhome Minor Seminary.

Kannany Thomas: Relieved from the Office of Dean of Studies, Ruhalya Major Seminary (Philosophy Section).

Karamullil Veenus: Appointed Formator and Dean of Studies, Ruhalya Major Seminary (Philosophy Section).

Kochumalayil Manu: Relieved from the office of House Procurator at Deepti Mount, appointed Spiritual Director (additional, Deepti College).

Koonamparampath Shaijan: Relieved as Vice Rector, Santhome Minor Seminary, Thamarassery and assigned for studies in German language,

Maprakavil Joby: Relieved from Deepti College, and assigned for studies in German language.

Mullappallil Joshy: Relieved from Ruhahaya Major Seminary (Theology Section) and Appointed Formator, Deepti College.

Purayidom Binoy: Relieved from Deepti College, and Appointed Spiritual Director and Formator, Santhome Minor Seminary.

Vedikunnel Joseph: Appointed Spiritual Director, Ruhahaya (Theology Section).

E. Other Missions/Centres/Ministries/Studies

Anithanam Mathew: Relieved from Bl. Mariam Thresia Church, Burari and Appointed Forane Vicar of Our Lady of Fatima Forane Church, Jasola in the Eparchy of Faridabad

Chamakkalayil Mijo: Appointed Asst Priest-in-charge of St Mary's Church, Dourana. Asst Priest- in-charge, Kumbharaj Mission and Asst Manager St. Mary's School Dourana in the Eparchy of Sagar.

Kachirayil George: Relieved from Dilshad Garden and Appointed Asst. Director, Deepti Ashram.

Kollamparampil Mathew: Relieved from the Eparchy of Idukki, and appointed as Spiritual Director, St John of God Centre, Pampady, Kottayam.

Kottakkavil Jijo: Relieved from Odisha Mission towards higher studies at KU, Leuven, Belgium.

Kumblanthanath Thomas: Relieved as Director of Aaraam, Deepti Mount.

Madathiparampil Kuriakose (Bibin): Relieved from Director (Editor and Circulation) of Kadukumani, Santhome-IMPACT.

Madickankal Jobin: Relieved as Asst. Priest- in-Charge St. Joseph Church, Banda and Appointed Priest-in-Charge, Khurai Mission and Asst Parish Priest, Sacred Heart Church, Bina in the Eparchy of Sagar.

Muricken Jubil: Relieved from the Eparchy of Sagar.

Poovathinkal Paul: Assigned to St Mary Queen of the Missions Delegation towards starting a new centre in Himachal Pradesh.

Pottananickal Manu: Relieved from Odisha Mission and Appointed Asst. Vocation Promoter of North Zone and Procurator of Santhome, Pariyaram.

Thazhathuveetil Binoy: Relieved from Dhuri (St Mary Queen of the Missions Delegation) and assigned for studies in German language.

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Vadakechirayath Joseph: Appointed Director of Aaraam, Deepti Mount.

Vadakketh Jobin: Appointed Asst Director of Santhome Centre, Thannimood, Nedumkandam and in charge of Vocation Promotion in the Eparchy of Idukki.

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V. News from Seminaries

A. Deepti College, Melampara

1. Seminary Re-opens

After the summer holidays seminary re-opened on 15 June 2021 for the new academic year. By the grace of God everyone was safe and healthy during this vacation. After the usual general cleaning and monthly recollection, the classes started on 21 June.

2. Farewell for Fr Joby Maprakavil

Fr Joby was part of the formation team for the past academic year. Deepti benefitted a lot from his dedicated service and versatile talents. His English and political science classes were very enjoyable and informative for the students. Thank you Fr Joby for your committed service to the seminary, we appreciate it very much.

3. Welcome for Fr Joshy Mullappallil

Deepti witnessed another important change in the formation team by the inclusion of Fr Joshy Mullappallil. Fr Joshy joined the formation team in the first week of June. We are sure that your presence and service will be a great asset for us. Hearty welcome dear Fr Joshy.

4. Fare well for Fr Binoy Purayidom



Fr Binoy was part and parcel of Deepti formation team for the last 10 years. He was the spiritual Father, health in charge, liturgy in

charge, open school contact person etc. Ten years, with lots of formatores, changes in the administration, with different kinds of students, was not easy for you but your zeal for the formation of the future priests and love for MST and Deepti made everything possible for you. We will always gratefully remember your dedicated service. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts and wish all the best for your future ministry at Santhome minor seminary.

5. Monthly Recollection

Fr Manu Pottananyil preached the monthly recollection for the month of June. He based his preaching on Lk: 15/18 “I will arise and go home to my Father.”

Walking with the Father is very important in formation. He stressed that formation becomes effective only when one tries to live like Jesus. All the spiritual and pious activities should lead to this ultimate aim of becoming another Christ. Thank you Fr Manu for helping our seminarians.

6. Funeral service

With saddened hearts Deepti participated the funeral services of our beloved Frs. John Nattunilathu and Emmanuel Mattathil. Fr Emmuanuel Mattathil was the former Rector of Deepti seminary (1991-93). Amidst Covid pandemic many of his past students participated in his funeral services. May the Angels lead them to paradise.

“Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.”

7. New Candidates

Owing to Covid situation seminary will receive the new candidates from June 25. We request your support and prayers to get good vocations for Deepti and Santhome seminary.

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

B. Santhome Minor Seminary, Thamarassery

The Santhome Community, though a bereaved family after the sudden demise of one of its Staff Members – Rev. Fr Emmanuel Mattam, is keeping fine as a whole. It starts moving normally after the arrival of the brothers at the beginning of the month of June. All brothers who returned to Santhome Seminary after their long vacation were asked to bring RTPCR report of Covid-19 test and all of them came with the report!

Brothers were asked to reach the seminary on 30 April for the summer classes on English and Hindi, but could not make it up as the ‘mini’ lock-down started and then the complete lock-down. Then the date of returning to the seminary was revised to 2 June. Half of the second and the third year Brothers reached the Seminary on 2 June but those brothers who are from Kannur and Kasaragod sides could not reach. They were given the date 10 June and a Tempo Traveller was arranged from Panathoor to Santhome Seminary so that all remaining brothers could reach here safe.

So the normal classes for the second and the third years started on 14 June. In the meantime, the first year candidates started coming on 10 June and are still coming! I would like to start the news and events of our seminary from where we stopped in the previous edition of this quarterly, and this would cover up the news and events from the end of March to the end of June 2021.

1. End of Academic Year

The Academic Year started on 27 March and all brothers left for their vacation after the Holy Qurbana. One tempo-traveller was arranged for the brothers to go to Kannur and Kasaragod. They all reached their homes peacefully in the afternoon! Five brothers remained here for vacation duty. The kitchen staff also went home for vacation.

2. Holy Week and Chrism Qurbana

Palm Sunday was celebrated on 28 March and some Christian families also participated in it. Fr Rector and Fr Joby Kozhipattu

participated in the Chrism Qurbana in the Cathedral Church. The Bishop presented a good book to all priests! Maundy Thursday was celebrated with the washing of the feet of 12 people by Fr Rector. Pesaha Appam was prepared and was cut by Fr Emmanuel Mattam.

Good Friday ceremonies were conducted in the morning and Fr Rector and Fr Johnny Kariathil took Fr Emmanuel Mattam to Baby Memorial Hospital for a check-up and returned in the late evening. The Holy Qurbana was attended by many people and there was the renewal of the Baptismal promise with candles in hands. All the seven priests were there for the Holy Qurbana which Fr Emmanuel Mattam longed for. After the breakfast, Fr Rector, Fr Shaijan and Fr Abin took Fr Emmanuel Mattam to Medicity Hospital, Pala for treatment and he got admitted there in the evening on the same day.

3. Plus Two Examinations

All the Plus Two brothers came here to give their Plus Two examinations from 08 to 22 April 2021.

4. Promotion of Seminarians

Nine out of 12 of the third year brothers were promoted to the MOC. 14 first year brothers are promoted to the Second year and Two brothers are retained in the first year.

5. Water Problem Solved

We had an acute shortage of water from the beginning of February and the existing open well was dug 10 feet deeper and there is plenty of water now.

6. Vocation Animation, House Visits and Promotion

Fr Joseph Pulavelil, Fr Shaijan and Fr Abin Kochupurackal visited the houses of our brothers in and around Thamarassery diocese.

7. Sudden Demise of Fr Mattam

The Santhome Community was deeply bereaved by the sad news that reached here at 8.45 p.m. on 14 April that our dear Fr Emmanuel Mattam was called for the eternal reward. Rev. Fr Francis Kureeckal informed the sad news to the community and offered the 'office of

the Dead. Fr Rector declared 7 days of mourning.

All the Staff along with the representatives of Brothers from each



Batch went to Deepti Bhavan for the funeral. We started at 07.00 pm from here in a Tempo Traveller. We all started our journey back at 3.00 p.m. and reached Santhome Seminary at 9.45 p.m.

We commemorated the 7th day of the great loss of Fr Emmanuel Mattam with a floral tribute to him

and a requiem message before his photo by Rev. Sr Tessy SABS, the Provincial of the Adoration Convent, Thamarassery, Prof. George Nellikunnel our visiting teacher and Fr Johny Kariathil. Then we started the Holy Qurbana, celebrated by Fr Joseph Pulavelil who made a reminiscence of Fr Mattam's great service to the Seminary, appreciating for his simplicity and ardent love and concern for the poor.

We also commemorated the 41st day of his heavenly departure on 24 May with a requiem Qurbana and office of the dead presided by Fr Rector.

8. Online English Class

As the lock-down was extended, we started online English class for all the II and III year brothers on 15 May till they returned to Seminary on 10 June. All fathers were given a small group of 5 brothers to teach at least one hour daily.

9. Online Recruitment and New Comers

The new batch of candidates was recruited online, through video calls from 21 May onwards. Santhome Seminary was very happy to admit and welcomed 26 new buds to the seminary for the year 2022-2023. A big appreciation and sincere thanks to Fr Rony Alencherry, the Vocation Promoter, whose tireless hard work and

follow-up produced great fruit. Appreciations are also due to Fr Abin Kochupurackal, the assistant Vocation Promoter. The first-year brothers will have some sessions on group dynamism, motivation classes, counselling, calligraphy, artificial flower making, etc.

10. Re-Opening of the Seminary

The re-opening of the Seminary was planned for 2 June and half of the brothers returned to the Seminary on that day but those who are in Kannur and Kasargod could not make it due to Covid-19 protocol and hence, the re-opening was postponed to 10 June. All the II and III year Brothers returned to the Seminary on 10 June. The Classes started slowly to the II and III Year Brothers on 14 June. New official duties were given on 12 June and the house started to function.

11. Transfer of Shaijan Koonamparampath

Rev. Fr Shaijan, the Vice Rector of Santhome Seminary got a transfer and he thanked all during the Holy Qurbana on Saturday, 5 June and he was taken to his home on 6 June by Fr Rector and Fr JobyKozhipatt.

12. Arrival of New Staff Members

Rev. Fr Benny Kannamthadam (Vice Rector) and Fr Binoy Purayidom (Spiritual Father) reached Santhome Seminary on 18 June in the morning and assumed their duties in the presence of Fr Rector and the staff and students. Fr George Kuppayil and Fr Manu Kochumalayil from Deepti College brought Fr Benny and Fr Binoy to Santhome from Deepti College.

13. Some Visitors to Santhome Seminary

Santhome was visited by Rev. Frs Francis Kureeckal, Thomas Karamel, George Kuppayil, Manu Kochumalayil, Dennis Poovathinkal, Dominic Valokodiyil, Jimmy Olickal, Thomas Plathottam MCBS, Cyriac Muppathiyil MCBS and Fr Paul Kunjanayil MCBS.

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

C. Jeevan Jyoti, Srirangapatna

1. Visit of Director General



Towards the end of March, the Director General paid a visit to Jeevan Jyoti. He reached here on the last Saturday of the Lent and was the main celebrant for the Palm Sunday services. After the Palm Sunday Holy

Mass, he met all the brothers personally and had a friendly chit-chat with them in order to encourage them in their missionary pursuit. He had a common meeting with staff too, where he reinstated the importance of working together for giving a life witness to the brothers during their formation periods.

2. Easter cum Ruby Jubilee of Fr Koottumkal



This year the Easter celebration was more colourful since we celebrated Easter along with Sacerdotal Ruby (Quadrageennial) Jubilee of Rev. Fr Sebastian Koottumkal, because on 4 April was his

Ordination anniversary.

Fr Sebastian Koottumkal was the main celebrant for the Easter Mass. Before starting the Holy Mass, Fr Rector gave a brief sketch of the priestly life of Fr Sebastian Koottumkal, and appreciated and congratulated him for his excellent life as a missionary. His remarkable contributions as the Regional Director of Mandya for two consecutive

terms of 10 years and other contributions to the mission was specially mentioned. Fr Sebastian Kootumkal's commitment as a formator



was also very well appreciated that covers the span of years as Vice Rector of Ruhahaya for many years, as the Rector of Deepti College, etc. After the holy mass we gathered in the Refectory and the

Jeevan Jyoti community felicitated him for his excellent, committed and unexhausted priestly service to the Missionary Society and particularly to Jeevan Jyoti Community from 2020.

3. New Bore-well

Jeevan Jyoti felt the urgent need of a new bore well, since there was scarcity of water in recent years. Earlier, our need for a new bore well was presented to the General Council and it was immediately sanctioned by them. Thus we dug it on 10 April 2021, and there is plenty of water in it. Its location is near to the present cattle shed. Now its water is used for our house needs and if needed can be used for irrigation purpose too. The pipe line is also ready for this irrigation purpose. Thanks to Deepti Generalate.

4. Triannual Retreat

Brothers started their triannual retreat on Palm Sunday evening. Rev. Fr C. D. Sebastian MST, the preacher, with help of the Word of God guided our brothers to cogitate seriously about their vocation and to arrive a firm decision with regard to their missionary following of the Lord. Thanks to Rev. Fr C.D. Sebastian for his love towards the Jeevan Jyoti family.

5. Home Day Celebration and Visit of Vice Director

In the beginning of April, we had planned to conduct our Home Day. Thus, all the preparations were in full swing for the home day



celebrations on 10 April. But, unfortunately, we could not conduct it in public due to the corona protocol restrictions. Therefore, the Public Meeting was limited to a family get-together. Rev. Fr Francis Kureeckal was the chief guest and Rev. Fr Joseph Thekkekarott presided over the meeting. Rev. Fr Josekutty Kalayil and Rev. Fr Salas Karikkandathil also were present on the occasion. Brothers performed one-hour cultural programmes with variety entertainments. During this meeting Rev. Fr Francis Kureeckal released AMSU 2020-21, the manuscript magazine of Jeevan Jyoti.

Rev. Fr Francis Kureeckal the Vice General and Formation Secretary, while addressing the gathering appreciated the staff and students for their working together as a team in order to achieve the envisaged goals of MOC. The Regional Director and the Councillors also thanked the formation team for their sincere effort to form our young buds as missionaries. In return Fr Rector acknowledged and appreciated the Director General and General Councillors for their availability and concern towards Jeevan Jyoti. A special appreciation was extended to Regional Director and his councilors for their collaboration with Jeevan Jyoti along with other missionaries of the Region. Later the family gathering got over with agape meal.

6. Adieu to 33rd Batch of Jeevan Jyoti

Bidding farewell to an institution can be a tough thing to do. The best thing to do in such an emotional situation is try to make the departing brothers feel valued and ensure that their send-off is as special as it can be. It was on April 13th that Jeevan Jyoti gave send-off to the 33rd batch of brothers. In the morning all the staff members together celebrated the Holy Mass and after the Holy Mass

brothers were given personal blessings.

In the evening we threw an awesome goodbye party with grilled food items. And during which Fr Rector thanked all the staff and the brothers for their wonderful collaboration. All the staff members shared their views of the batch and while their sharing, they also gave some tips to the brothers with regards to their future life in the major seminaries. The brothers also shared their interesting tidbit about their Jeevan Jyoti life. And on 14 April, the brothers left for their home to start their vacation. All the nineteen of them were recommended to be promoted to the next stage of the formation.

We wholeheartedly thank the Almighty God for the academic year 2020-21. Because, we could accomplish the formative year 2020-21 without any major difficulties of the pandemic.

7. Arrival of 34th Batch to Jeevan Jyoti

These days Jeevan Jyoti was under hectic preparation for receiving



the new batch of brothers. They are the 34th batch and there are 25 brothers in this batch. Out of this 25 17 are from Deepti Minor seminary, and eight from Santhome Minor Seminary, Thamarassery.

Keeping the Corona Protocol, a private bus was arranged for their safe journey from Deepti to Jeevan Jyoti via Thamarassery. They started their journey in the early morning on 23 June and reached here at night on the same day. Rev. Fr Thomas Manjalankal who was at home for the vacation, accompanied our brothers in their journey. Jeevan Jyoti welcomed them whole heartedly.

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

D. Ruhalaya Major Seminary, Ujjain

Loving and prayerful greetings from Ruhalaya! From April till today has been a time of God's special blessings and protection for our community in various ways. Though the lockdown confined us within the campus, we had a fruitful time that taught us several things about life. Thank you all for your prayers and support to us in various ways.

1. Palm Sunday and Summer Holidays-2021

The Palm Sunday liturgy was celebrated in two communities separately in the evening on Saturday as the brothers had to catch their trains to go on holidays in the early morning on Sunday on 28 March. Some trains were cancelled in the following days and the lockdown was declared in a fortnight's time. All except three fathers on the staff went on holidays. Frs Chandy Kalathoor, Joseph Venattumattam and Shijo Thettalickal did not go on holidays. Eight brothers stayed back on vacation duty; five in Philosophate and three in Theologate.

Seven of our brothers were tested positive for Covid while on holidays and have recovered well. Fr Shijo Thettalickal was tested positive for Covid and underwent treatment while remaining in quarantine in the Seminary. Fr Justin Kaithottumkal was tested positive after reaching Kerala and was admitted in Mar Sleeva Hospital, Cherpumkal and was in the ICU for a few days. He is convalescing in Deepti after his treatment.

2. Welcome and Farewell

Fr Justin Kaithottumkal joined the Philosophy staff in the first week of March and is appointed the Asst. Procurator and formator. Fr Johnson Kuppayil was given a farewell on 25 March after two years of his service as the Asst. Procurator and formator at Philosophate and one year as Bible professor and formator at Theologate. He has started his doctoral studies in Bible at JDV Pune. Fr Joshi Mullappillil is transferred to Deepti Minor Seminary after his service as the spiritual father, formator and the social work in-charge. Fr Joseph Vedikunnel is appointed the spiritual father and formator at

Ruhalaya and is expected to join us in the first week of July. Fr Veenus Karamullil is appointed the dean of studies and formator at Philosophate. He will also join the staff in the beginning of July. Hearty Welcome, Thank You and Prayerful Best Wishes to you dear fathers!

3. Maintenance Work

In view of the upcoming Silver Jubilee of Ruhalaya Theologate, the Chapel as well as the front portion of the Seminary was painted. Some fencing work was done around the basketball and volleyball courts and two badminton courts were made. Another major work undertaken was the construction of the wastewater plant at Philosophate. The work has almost been completed.



4. Admissions and Reopening of Ruhalaya 2021-22

There are 34 new admissions to philosophy and 23 to theology for the academic year 2021-22 making the total strength of the Seminary 171. Though the reopening of the Seminary was initially planned on 18 June 2021, it had to be postponed to 20 July due the increasing number of Covid cases nationwide. However, online classes started for the theology students on 14 June. An intensive Hindi language course is organized for the philosophy first year MST brothers from 25 June to 15 July at Deepti Bhavan.

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



VI. News from Missions

A. St Paul Region, Ujjain

1. Regional Level Zoom Meeting

St. Paul Region, Ujjain had organized an informal Zoom meeting of all its members from 6.30 pm to 8.00 pm (IST) on 17th May (Monday) 2021. Since it was the period of pandemic most of the fathers were isolated and locked up in their places. So, the regional administration thought of organizing Zoom meeting to chat and meet each other on the virtual platform.



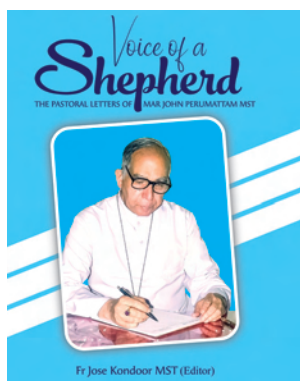
Around 90 priests participated in the meeting with interest and enthusiasm. The meeting was started with a prayer song by Rev. Fr Chackochan Koottarpallil. Rev. Fr Vincent Kadalikkattilputhenpura welcomed the members to the meeting and explained the situation of the pandemic in the Region. Very Rev. Fr Antony Perumanoor, the Director-General addressed the meeting and shared the news in general about the Society.

The members working in different missions, Rev. Fr Santhosh Olapurackal from the Delhi delegation, Rev. Fr Jomon Ayyankanal from the Odisha mission, Rev. Fr Antony Thundathil from the USA, Rev. Fr Hans Puthiyakungara from the UK, Rev. Fr Saji

Vanderkunnel from Germany shared the situation of the pandemic in their respective places. Rev. Fr Antony Pulickamandapathil who is the director of Pushpa Mission Hospital Ujjain described their service in the city of Ujjain.

The session was conducted with a small prayer service led by Rev. Fr Abraham Pandampadathil. Indeed, this Zoom meeting gave an opportunity to the members to come together at least in the virtual platform to feel the oneness and fraternity at this time of lockdown.

2. Death Anniversary of Mar Perummattam and Releasing of a Book



Holy Qurbana was celebrated at 6.15 am on 18 June 2021 at St Mary's Cathedral presided over by Bishop Mar Sebastian Vadakel, con-celebrated by many fathers and participated by many religious on the occasion of the tenth death anniversary of Late Bishop Mar John Perumattam.

After the Holy Qurbana, a book titled '*Voice of a Shepherd - The pastoral letters of Mar John Perumattam MST*'

in the form of a book, edited by Rev. Fr Jose Kondoor was released by His Excellency Mar Sebastian Vadakel handing over the first copy to Rev. Fr Vincent Kadalikkattilputhenpura, the Regional



Director of St Paul Region. His Excellency congratulated and thanked Rev. Fr Jose Kondoor for his hard work and determination to bring out the pastoral letters in the form of such a beautiful book. Fr Jose deserves special thanks and appreciation for the amount of time he spent and the sweat he shed for realizing this project.

3. Pandemic and Lockdown in Ujjain

The Covid-19 pandemic was at its peak during the second half of April and the whole month of May. During the pandemic, many of our missionaries including the Bishop, many of the priests and religious were severely affected by the Corona virus.

We lost three Religious sisters from our mission belonging to three different congregations. The death toll of the people in the area is much higher than what is given in the official list. Every ministry of the Church is slowed down and affected in different ways due to the pandemic.

At present, the situation is eased and the number of cases per day in the district of Ujjain is less than 10 per day. After 52 days of lockdown in the state, the first phase of relaxation of lockdown started from 1 June 2021.

(Reported by Fr Vincent Kadalikkattilputhenpura, Regional Director, St Paul Region)



B. St Thomas Region, Mandya

Like most parts of the world, Mandya is badly affected by pandemic covid 19. It has adversely affected living conditions of the people in our mission. It negatively affected smooth functioning of many of our apostolates. In this situation, we are called to be context-sensitive. Jesus, looking at the hungry people, told the apostles, “You give them something to eat.” Through our active involvement in the society to alleviate the sufferings of the people, we try to translate the pandemic situation into a Pentecostal experience.

Many people lost jobs and sources of income due to covid 19. Hence people suffer from poverty. Our missionaries, understanding the felt needs of the people, plunged into action with humanitarian deeds and works of mercy. Food kits were distributed in all our mission centres for the affected people. Missionaries, in the various specialised ministries, paid special attention to the welfare of the concerned groups of people.

Our Fathers and Sisters took special care to make sure that nobody suffers from want of food at least in our neighbourhood. All people associated with our mission centres were given special attention and care. Medical kits were distributed to 700 families in our mission centres. Each medical kit consisted of a steam inhaler, seven N 95 masks, sanitizer and soaps. Through all our interventions in the lives of the people in their moments of struggle and sufferings, we could manifest the compassionate and caring face of Jesus Christ. We could be at the service of the people with what they needed because of the generous support of some of our Fathers and different agencies. We are immensely grateful to them all. Above all, we thank God Almighty for their generosity.

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

C. St Alphonsa Region, Sangli

Sangli Mission is back in the saddle after the Covid-19 pandemic. The pandemic affected the normal function in all the domains of missionary work but through the continuous perspiration of the Fathers, it is been taken care of.

In the educational arena, all the schools had made sure that the students get the qualitative education via virtual platforms. Now new admissions are taken and all the classes have started in the virtual platforms. Even the special schools are helping their children through digital media.

The social work programs were at full stretch during these days. When the people were in need our fathers and their staff were doing all the possible help through different projects. A large number of families were helped by providing food and health kits, through medical support, building houses under our various projects like VIHAN, ASTHA, PRAVASI BANDU projects and other departments like Childline of Kolhapur, Sangli, and Railway Childline. In many mission stations, land development for cultivation is also in motion. Our Fathers with their limited resources due to the pandemic does the best in their respective stations

1. Padal Mission



Padal mission, a newly started missionary endeavour of Sangli Mission, is running in its full swing through the hands of Rev. Fr Antony Pedikattukunnel. Padal is an interior village on the outskirts of Kolhapur where we have 15

attendees for the Sunday Holy Qurbana. The Easter ministries and celebrations were solemnized by four baptisms, one First Holy Communion and Confirmation. The Regional Director and the

Episcopal Vicar - Rev. Fr Joby Njalliyil officiated the sacraments.

2. Virtual Visit of Bishop Mar Elavanal

Bishop Mar Thomas Elavanal had always shown his paternal love towards Sangli Mission through his visits. He always finds time to stop by all our mission stations to inquire about our well-being. This year also He with his paternal affection found time for us and visited each one of us through a virtual platform. Bp Mar Thomas Elavanal along with Proto Syncellus of the Kalyan Diocese met all Fathers and sisters working in Sangli Mission on 25th May for two hours through the Zoom meeting. We gladly remember with gratitude his paternal enthusiasm towards all the missionaries in Sangli Mission.

(Reported by Fr Arun Vedikunnel, St Alphonsa Region)

3. Asmitha and Personal Parish, Kalyan

a. Silver Jubilee of Asmitha:



Asmita Marathi language institute is celebrating its silver Jubilee this year. We could conduct Marathi course for 613 missionary personals from all over Maharashtra in 69 batches. We have uploaded two videos of the photos of

all 613 students and some celebrations which we had during the course..

Asmita is the only Marathi language institute in Maharashtra today which empower the





missionaries by conducting regular Marathi language courses. MST is known to whole missionaries in Maharashtra today through Asmita.

b. Bible Quiz

As part of ongoing catechetical formation, online Bible quizzes are periodically conducted for the communities. Selected sections of the Holy Bible are assigned for the study. It has created interest among the faithful to learn the Bible thoroughly.



c. Online Prayer Services and Holy Qurbana

Since the churches have closed due to the pandemic, we decided to provide the faithful spiritual nourishment through online prayer services. Every Sunday we have Holy Mass on Google meet at



8.00 a.m.

We are having Holy Rosary on Google Meet on every Wednesday at 9.00 p.m. Prayers are distributed among the families. So there is an active participation of the people.

Every Friday we have fasting and night adoration. We specially pray that the pandemic be over soon and normal life be restored. We start our prayer and adoration at 9.00 p.m. on Google meet. Our people very actively participate in the prayer and specially pray for the protection from Corona.

d. Sacraments of Initiation

Though we were in lock-down, because of the constant intercession of St Thomas the Apostle, the heavenly patron of our personal parish,



we were blessed to have 24 new flowers in our parish community this year. The sacraments of initiation were administered by Msgr. Francis Elavuthungal and he was assisted by Fr Joju Arackal and Fr Paul Painadath. It was a great moment of blessing and happiness for all the team members of our parish. It was the spiritual fruit of the prayer, team work and commitment for the cause proclamation.

(Reported by Fr Paul Painadath, Mumbai)

D. MQMD, Delhi

1. Annual Retreat



Annual retreat of St Mary Queen of the Missions Delegation, Delhi was organized from 12-16 April. Priests of the Delegation gathered in St Francis Monastery, Masoori, Uttarakhand for the retreat. Rev. Fr Saju Elanjiyil was the main preacher and there were more than twelve priests for the retreat.

2. Welcome to Fr Mecheril and Poovathinkal

St Mary Queen of the Missions Delegation is happy to welcome two vibrant and experienced missionaries; Rev. Fr George Mecheril and Rev. Fr Siby Poovathinkal. Fr George took the charge as the Director of St Alphonsa Bhavan Dhuri Punjab. Fr Siby will be staying in Kristjyoti Catholic Mission Rohru for a small period of time and will eventually start a new mission station in Chrigaon, Himachal Pradesh.

3. Sant Yusuf Sadan, Bathinda

a. Adieu to Fr Thazhathuveetil: The principal, staff, parents and students of St Thomas school, Deon Bathinda bid adieu to Rev. Fr



Binoy Thazhathuveetil, acknowledging his committed service. We wish him God's blessings in his new endeavours. We acknowledge the hard work he has done for the school and the community. After his dedicated service at St Thomas school Deon Bathinda, he is assigned to learn German Language. Father is gratefully remembered for his love and selfless service.

b. Farewell to Bro. Vembenickal: Bro. Joseph Vembenickal who has been rendering commendable service as the regent for almost



six months, was bidden farewell on 13 May. We thank you dear brother for your dedicated life and cooperation you have shown to this community and especially helping us to develop our first Punjabi Christian Community in

Bathinda, Punjab.

c. Punjabi Language Course: Bathinda mission, reading the mind of the Missionary Society of St Thomas and getting guidance from Rev. Fr Santhosh Olapurackal the Delegate and his team we arranged the second session of Punjabi language course in Bathinda station from 14 June 2021 for 30 days of comprehensive Punjabi language course. In the second batch there are three priests: Rev. Fr Antu Alummoottil, Fr Abhilash Akkattu and Fr Ranji Chirayil and two brothers, Bro. Alan Kanjiramattathil and Bro Blesson Kottavila. After the completion of the language course they will be moving to different mission stations in Punjab for one month long Christian community experience in the mission field with experienced missionaries.

(Reported by Fr Joice Puliyammakal, Bathinda, Punjab)

4. Deepti Foundation, Dilshad Garden

The unexpected surge of Covid-19 second wave badly hit the states of India especially Delhi. On 19 April 2021 onwards central and state governments once again initiated the covid-19 defence protocol against the continuous appeal by the health and civic bodies. Being in the capital city Deepti Foundation could reach to the people in all the possible ways as the situation demanded.

a. Food kit distribution to the needy: Deepti Foundation distributed dry food ration kits to the lockdown affected community

people in the project locations of Deepti Foundation - Bhalsaswadairy, Seelampur, Jaffrabad, Kandinagar, Nandnagari, Sundarnagari, Bhopura, Kajuri, Harshvihar (these locations are in East



and North East Delhi). We could distribute to 520 kits to the affected people. This ration kit included 10 kg rice, 5 kg wheat flour, 2 kg pulse, 1 kg sugar, and 1 litre of cooking oil. It

was monitored under the leadership of Fr Santhosh Olapurackal, Director of Deepti Foundation. It is the result of life giving partnership with Caritas India and Manos Unidas.

b. Nutritional packets to the affected children: As the situation got worsened Deepti Foundation provided protein contented packets to 250 children living in the Bhalaswa-dairy area. These children are often fall victims to the malnutrition and become anaemic. It is the general contribution of S.K Medicos under the leadership of Mr. Satish.

c. Sad Demise of Mr K.J Devasia and Mr Mathew: It was disheartening to hear the death news on 2 May 2021 of Mr. K.J. Devasia, Course Coordinator of St. Xavier School, civil lines. He was an former seminarian in the MST and strong supporter of Deepti Foundation. Rev. Fr Santhosh Olapurackal and Fr Abin Kuruvanplackel assisted the affected family in all the times of treatment of the affected including the final rites. Dilshad Garden parish in Delhi lost a vibrant member on 1 May 2021. Mr. Mathew served as the parish trustee and many other key committees from the beginning of the inception of the parish in the area. Fr Santhosh Olapurackal and Fr Abin Kuruvanplackel took part in the burial ceremony in Mangolpuri Christian Cemetery. Both of them were great supporters of MST and Deepti Foundation.

(Reported by Fr Abin Kuruvanplackel, Dilshad Garden)

5. Deepti Ashram, Najafgarh

a. Farewell to Bro. Vazheparambil: Deepti Ashram bid farewell to bro. Jithin Vazheparambil on 22nd of May. He has successfully completed his regency at Deepti Ashram. He was rendering a soulful service here in Deepti Ashram for the past eight months.



b. Welcome Fr George Kachirayil: Fr George Kachirayil has taken up his new appointment as the Assistant Director to Deepti Ashram Najafgarh, Delhi. He was doing his service at Deepti Niwas, Dilshad Garden, Delhi.



c. Covid updates: As the Covid situations and cases were high here in Delhi in the month of April and May, we were also affected by it very badly. Four of our HIV children and two sisters were affected with the second wave of Covid 19. Timely medication and care by the fathers and staff helped them to get well soon. And now after the summer vacation Deepti Ashram is on full swing with online classes and other activities for both boys and girls.

(Reported by Fr George Kachirayil, Najafgarh)

6. St Alphonsa Bhavan, Dhuri

New Director and farewell of Fr Sanoj: Rev. Fr George Mecheriyil took in charge as the new director of St Alphonsa Bhavan Dhuri on 08/06/2021. Fr Sanoj Mathew Pathrapankal handed over



the office in the presence of the delegate – Rev. Fr Santhosh Olapurackal on the same day. St Alphonsa Bhavan bid farewell to its founder and the first director Rev. Fr Sanoj Mathew Pathrapankal on 14 June 2021. Thank you dear Fr Sanoj for everything what you have been to the mission station.

Best wishes Fr Sanoj for your future missionary endeavours.

(Reported by Fr Aby Kolliyil, Dhuri, Punjab)

(News collected and compiled by Rev. Fr Sanoj Pathrapankal, Rohru, HP)

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

a. Lectures at Webinars



1. Delivered *Lecture* on ‘Eternal Life’ – during Webinar on ‘Eternal Life’ – organized by Office of Interfaith Dialogue, World Alliance of Religions for Peace (WARP), Seoul, South

Korea – at Seoul, South Korea — on 31 March 2021

2. Delivered *Lecture* on ‘Ahimsaa aur Anekaantvaad ke Zariye Sarvdharm Sarokaar kee Or’ (Towards Interfaith Fellowship through Non-violence and Anekaantvaad) – during ‘Interfaith Programme’ — on the occasion of Bhagwaan Mahaaveer Janam Kalyaanak Mahotsav (Mahaaveer Jayantee) – live telecast on Paras TV Channel, Haryana – organized by Digambar Jain Mahasamiti, New Delhi – at New Delhi – on 25 April 2021

3. Delivered *Lecture* on ‘Corona Aapdaa ke Aayeene mein dekhkar Baraabaree, Saphaayee aur Samagra Vikass kee Sabak Seekhein’ (Look into the Mirror of Corona Disaster and Learn Lessons of Equality, Cleanliness and Holistic Development) — during Webinar on ‘Corona Epidemic Disaster and Religious Leader’s Message to the People of the Country’ – organized by Dharmik Jan Morcha, New Delhi, and Jamaat-e-Islami Hind, New Delhi – at New Delhi – on 08 May 2021

4. Delivered *Lecture* on ‘Aasthaa kaa Aisaa Roop Ubhre jo Insaaniyat ko Badhaaye’ (May Such a Faith Emerge that will Enhance

Humanity) – during ‘All Religions’ Virtual Prayer Meeting for Peace and Overcoming the Covid-19 Pandemic’ – organized by Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU-INDIA), New Delhi – at New Delhi – on 11 May 2021

b. Video Messages on Social Media: On YouTube Channel of IHPS

(<https://www.youtube.com/Institute of Harmony and Peace Studies>)

5. Delivered *Video Message* on ‘Holee 2021’ – at IHPS Office, New Delhi – on 28 March 2021

6. Delivered *Video Message* on ‘Easter 2021’ – at IHPS Office, New Delhi – on 04 April 2021

7. Delivered *Video Message* on ‘World Health Day 2021’ – at IHPS Office, New Delhi – on 07 April 2021

8. Delivered *Video Message* on ‘Ramzaan 2021’ – at IHPS Office, New Delhi – on 12 April 2021

9. Delivered *Video Message* on ‘Mahaaveer Jayantee 2021’ – at IHPS Office, New Delhi – on 25 April 2021

10. Shared *Multi-faith Bhajan* on ‘Samsaar Ke Sarjanhaare’ -- Musical Composition by Fr Dr M. D. Thomas – at IHPS Office, New Delhi – on 10 May 2021

11. Shared *Multi-faith Bhajan* on ‘Jab Tak Na Paaon’ – Musical Composition by Fr Dr M. D. Thomas – at IHPS Office, New Delhi – on 20 May 2021

12. Shared *Multi-faith Bhajan* on ‘Tumse Main Hoon’ – Musical Composition by Fr Dr M. D. Thomas – at IHPS Office, New Delhi – on 29 May 2021

c. Interaction with Dignitaries

13. Had *Interaction* with Senior Adv. Monika Sharma, Human Right Activist and Member, Women’s Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (WICCI), New Delhi – on ‘Inclusive Thinking: An Applied Approach to a Better Society’ – at Janpath, New Delhi – on 30



March 2021

14. Had *Interaction* with Senior Adv. Monika Sharma, Human Right Activist and Member, Women's Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (WICCI), New Delhi – on 'Reflection of Faith in Gender Balance: The Creator's Design of Life' – at Janpath, New Delhi – on 30 March 2021

d. Articles to Journals, Books and Websites

15. Authored *Article* on 'Jee Uth Kar Eeesaa Ne Amartaa Kee Raah Bathaayee' (The Risen Jesus showed the Way to Immortality) – in 'Sandesh' (Monthly Magazine), Patna, Vol. 04, Year 72, p.14-15 – in April 2021

16. Authored *Article* (Message) on 'Har Qadam Swachhataa kee Or' (Every Step Towards Cleanliness) – in 'Society for Bright Future' Newsletter – published by Society for Bright Future, New Delhi, p.06 – in April 2021

17. Authored *Article* on 'Freedom of Religion: A Paradox?' — in 'Al Bilad Daily' Website – at Jeddah, Saudi Arabia — on 11 April 2021

18. Authored *Article* on 'Realizing the Right to Health for All' (World Health Day) – in 'The Secular Citizen' (Weekly Magazine), Mumbai, Vol. 30, Issue No 15, p.15 – on 12-18 April 2021

19. Authored *Article* on 'Freedom of Religion: A Paradox?' — in 'Indian Currents' (Weekly), New Delhi, Vol. XXXIII, Issue No. 17, p. 30-31 — on 19-25 April 2021

20. Authored *Article* on 'Freedom of Religion: A Paradox?' – in 'People's Reporter' (Fortnightly Magazine), Mumbai, Vol. 34, Issue No. 08, p.05,06 – on 25 April 2021-10 May 2021

21. Authored *Article* on 'Freedom of Religion: A Paradox?' – in 'The Secular Citizen' (Weekly Magazine), Mumbai, Vol. 30, Issue No 17, p.08-09 – on 26 April 2021-02 May 2021

22. Authored *Article* on ‘Election Commission to Rise to ‘Sheshan’ Standards!’ — on ‘The Asia Live’ Website – at Kathmandu, Nepal — on 25 April 2021
23. Authored *Article* on ‘Sarv-dharm Sansad ke Kuchh Maayne’ (Parliaments of Religion: Some Implications) – in ‘Sandesh’ (Monthly Magazine), Patna, Vol. 05, Year 72, p.18-19 – in May 2021
24. Authored *Article* on ‘Election Commission to Rise to ‘Sheshan’ Standards!’ – in ‘The Secular Citizen’ (Weekly Magazine), Mumbai, Vol. 30, Issue No 18, p.10, 13 – on 03-09 May 2021
25. Authored *Article* on “‘Seshan’ Standards Please! (A No Non-sense Attitude for Election Commission of India)’ – in ‘Indian Currents’ (Weekly), New Delhi, Vol. XXXIII, Issue No. 19, p. 20-22 — on 03-09 May 2021
26. Authored *Article* on ‘Good Family Makes a Good Society’ (International Family Day) — on ‘The Asia Live’ Website – at Kathmandu, Nepal — on 10 May 2021
27. Authored *Article* on “‘Conscience’ of the Executives in Question!’ – in ‘Indian Currents’ (Weekly), New Delhi, Vol. XXXIII, Issue No. 20, p. 40-41 -- on 10-16 May 2021
28. *Article* on ‘Angela Merkel: A Paradigm of Good Governance’ – in ‘The Secular Citizen’ (Weekly Magazine), Mumbai, Vol. 30, Issue No 19, p.14-15 – on 10-16 May 2021
29. Authored *Article* on “‘Conscience’ of the Executives in Question!’ – in ‘The Secular Citizen’ (Weekly Magazine), Mumbai, Vol. 30, Issue No 20, p.13, 15 – on 17-23 May 2021
30. Authored *Article* on ‘Good Family Makes a Good Society’ (International Family Day) – in ‘The Secular Citizen’ (Weekly Magazine), Mumbai, Vol. 30, Issue No 21, p.14-15 – on 24-30 May 2021
31. Authored *Article* on ‘Corona Virus: Some Vital Lessons’ – in ‘The Secular Citizen’ (Weekly Magazine), Mumbai, Vol. 30, Issue No 22, p.08-09 – on 31 May-06 June 2021
32. Authored *Article* on ‘When Party Politics Corrupts!’ — on

‘The Asia Live’ Website – at Kathmandu, Nepal – on 09 June 2021

33. Authored *Article* on ‘Believers, Be in Harmony with Others’ — on ‘Goodness Times’ Website— at Bangalore -- on 09 June 2021

34. Authored *Article* on ‘When Party Politics Corrupts!’ – in ‘The Secular Citizen’ (Weekly Magazine), Mumbai, Vol. 30, Issue No 24, p.01,03 – on 14-20 June 2021

35. Authored *Article* on ‘When Party Politics Corrupts!’ – in ‘Indian Currents’ (Weekly), New Delhi, Vol. XXXIII, Issue No. 25, p. 30-31 – on 14-20 June 2021

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

36. Authored *Article* on ‘Jee Uthkar Eesaa ne Amartaa kee Raah Banaaee’ / ‘The Risen Jesus made the Way to Immortality’ (Easter / 04 April 2021) – on Blog ‘Samanvay kee Or / Towards Harmony’ – on 04 April 2021

37. Article on ‘Realizing the Right to Health for All’ (World Health Day / 07 April 2021) on Blog ‘Towards Harmony’ – on 06 April 2021

38. Authored *Article* on ‘Ramzaanee Rozaa aur Zakaat se Insaan Paak aur Nek Bane’ / ‘With Ramzaanee Rozaa and Zakaat, the Humans to Become Clean and Righteous’ (Ramzaan / 12-13 April - 12-13 May 2021) – on Blog ‘Samanvay kee Or’ / ‘Towards Harmony’ – on 12 April 2021

39. Authored *Article* on ‘Ahimsaa ke Paalan se Mahaaveer ke Tarz par Jinendra Banen’ / ‘Become Jinendra on the Lines of Mahaaveer by following Non-violence’ (Mahaaveer Jayantee / 25 April 2021) – on Blog ‘Samanvay kee Or’ / ‘Towards Harmony’ – on 25 April 2021

40. Authored *Article* on ‘Kaam se Zindagee aur Eeshwar ko Eksaath Saadhnaa Hogaa’ / ‘Life and God must be achieved Together through Work’ (International Labour Day / 01 May 2021) – on Blog ‘Samanvay kee Or’ / ‘Towards Harmony’ – on 01 May 2021

41. Authored *Article* on ‘Eed se Samaaj mein Bhaayeechaare aur Zakaat ke Tahzeeb Bane’ / ‘May Eid create a Culture of Brotherhood and Sharing in the Society’ (Eid-ul-Fitr / 14 May 2021) – on Blog ‘Samnavay ke Or’ / ‘Towards Harmony’ – on 14 May 2021

42. Article on ‘Good Family Makes a Good Society’ (International Day of Families Day / 15 May 2021) on Blog ‘Towards Harmony’ – on 15 May 2021

f. Views at Diverse Platforms

43. Delivered *Views* as a Member on ‘Reviving Parliament of Religion’s in Delhi’ – organized by Think Tank of Archdiocese of Delhi – at Archdiocese of Delhi, New Delhi – on 22 March 2021

g. Messages

44. Delivered (Sent) Message of Goodwill (Letter of Compliments) to Capt. Amrinder Singh (Chief Minister of Punjab) for the prominent Easter Greetings in the National Newspaper ‘The Hindu’ – on 05 April 2021



45. Delivered Message (Condolence Message) on ‘Prof. M. M. Verma: An Icon of Inter-faith and Accomplished Life’ – during ‘Online Condolence Meeting and Interfaith Prayer’ – organized by Mr Ratnesh Verma, Son of Prof. M. M. Verma – at New Delhi – on 16 May 2021.

h. Views, Comments and Interviews on Media

46. Delivered *Comments* on ‘Appeal to both Parties to Honour ‘Salaam and Shalom’ and Stop War and Maintain Peace’ – during ‘Virtual Press Conference to Express Solidarity with the Palestine and to denounce the Israeli Aggression’ – organized by Indian friends for Palestine and Jamaat-e-Islami Hind, New Delhi – at New Delhi – on 19 May 2021

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

E. St Joseph Mission, Odisha

The second wave of the pandemic was badly affected Odisha. We could see the Positive cases even interior villages where we work. In spite of the restrictions we could make the villages visits and could stay with the people in their needs. MST Mission house in Rayagada also started their village ministry with the help of an appointed Catechist. Due to the lock down we could make the follow up and other planned programs like meetings of the villagers, programs for the children, medical camp, etc. As the restrictions are lifted we will be resuming our programs.

1. Nirmal Jyoty Mission, Balliguda



The restrictions caused by the second wave of covid 19 affected all the missionary activities of Nirmal Jyoty centre at Balliguda. All our planned programmes had to be postponed for the time being.

Even though there were covid-19 restrictions we could manage to do the construction work of two Village Church cum Community Care Centres, which are still under construction. We could also construct a small building in our newly purchased land in Balliguda. We also tried to keep our constant relation with our villages through village visits and so on.

2. Little Flower Mission, Kundra

Little Flower Mission Centre Kundra is flourishing in its mission by



God's grace. Second wave of the pandemic really struck our villages. Many are infected and unfortunately five people

died of corona. Due to the pandemic and triple lock down, our village programmes, especially our frequent village visits, weekly prayer meetings, daily tuition and CCC construction were stopped for one month and we have just resumed the construction of CCC. As the precaution for covid-19, we supplied homeo immunity medicine for the villagers.

3. Sacred Heart Mission, Laxmipur

The second phase of Covid-19 pandemic affected badly the people of Laxmipur. Many of our villagers also were affected in this second wave. Fr Binish Kuzhiyadiyil, the Asst. Director of the centre also was affected by Covid and by the grace of God he is back to the



centre with sound health. Many of our activities were standstill. After the different phases of lock down due to pandemic we are slowly resuming our activities. These days of lock down we had special prayers and

adoration in our mission centre. Though we could stop our regular village visits due to lockdown we used to visits our villages in between to show our solidarity with them and also we provided them face masks. Sacred Heart Mission Centre celebrated the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on 11 June. Fr Sebastian Pezhumthottiyil

celebrated Holy Mass in Odia language and delivered a beautiful message.



We could finish the work of one the Village Church cum Community Care Centres at Khodomchola village with the help of the villagers in the month



of May. We have also started the construction of another CCC at Kayipadar village in the month of June. One of the villagers of Kayipadar village contributed the land for the CCC and the villagers

cooperate with the construction through their labour.

(Reported by Fr Jijo Kottakkavil, from St Joseph Mission, Odisha)

F. Arunachal Mission

1. Sagalee Mission

During the time of covid-19 most of our outside activities (such as public church services, school, hostel, etc.) were stopped because of government orders. But by remaining inside, we tried to complete some of the pending office works, as well as some manual works like gardening, cleaning, etc. But we made use of the time for other planned activities of the centre.

a. Staff Picnic: As planned we conducted picnic for school teachers



and other workers of the mission as planned. It gave a lot of relief for all of us from the lock-down situations. The picnic was participate by all the school staff and workers in our centre.

b. Training for Catechists: As usual we conducted the catechists' training after the Easter. It was also attended by the leaders of the



parish community. We planned the activities and pastoral programme for the coming year and had some sessions of skill development for the catechists.

c. Celebration of the Feast of Sacred Heart: The feast of Sacred Heart of Jesus is solemnized in the parish, mainly because we have



the presence and collaboration of the SH sisters there. In the context of the celebrations we also conducted the annual First Holy Communion of the parish whom the SH sisters

had prepared and trained.

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

2. Pakke Kessang Mission

In spite of all the lockdowns, the Holy Week and later the Easter Week were very busy for us in Pakke Kessang. The parish communities mostly relax in the summer with picnics and cultural activities. The high of our parish life was the blessing of the newly built church at Ngoleko.



a. Consecration of St John's Catholic Church, Ngoleko:



After a long awaited period of time the consecration of one of the sub parishes of St Mary's Catholic Church, Pakke Kessang, took 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 Jeas Thundathil MST took charge of this mission and completed the construction. His Excellency Most Rev. John Thomas, the Bishop of Itanagr presided over the liturgical ceremony. The local MLA and other political leaders of the area were also present for the

function. For the entire celebration, the parish community has chosen the theme – Tell the city of Zion; look, your king is coming to you (Mathew 21:5)



Along with the consecration of the church, a public meeting was also held immediately after

the liturgy. Besides Bishop John Thomas, Shri Nabam Tuki - Former Chief minister of Arunachal Pradesh, the local MLA and other local political leaders spoke on the occasion. Cultural programmes were staged by different age groups of the parish community.

After the formal programmes, Bishop John Thomas visited our residence and spent time with us in friendly conversations. He was happy with the arrangements of the functions and encouraged us to do more of the same in future.

b. Procession of Easter of Candle:

It is a tradition of St Mary's Catholic church, Pakke Kessang that the blessed easter is taken in process to the families in villages. People in the neighbourhood would join the procession by singing devotional songs.



c. St Thomas Church, Passa: Another substation Mass Centres under St Mary's Catholic Church, Pakke Kessang is going to have its own parish church. The church is named after St Thomas the Apostle, our Patron and the construction is underway. The community



contributes to the church construction by way of donations and labour.
(Reported by Frs Chakkungal and J. Thundathil, Pakke-Kessang, Arunachal Pradesh)

G. Overseas Missions

1. United States

a. Transfer of Rev. Fr Joseph Vandannoor: Rev. Joseph Vandannoor is moving back to India after completing his Pastoral service in the Diocese of Marquette, Michigan for the last sixteen years. He served six parishes in the diocese of Marquette under the tenure of three bishops. The parishes he served are Holy Redeemer Church in Birch Creek, St. Joseph Church Rudyard, St. Mary's Church Trout Creek, St. Charles Borromeo Rapid River, St. Joseph Church in Perkin, and St. Rita Trenary. As we thank Rev. Fr. Joseph Vandannoor for his committed service to the Diocese and his special contribution to MST in USA for the last sixteen years in the capacity of the finance in charge and member of the board of directors MST corporation, we wish him all the best for his future assignment in India. He is looking forward to an assignment in the diocese of Thamarassry. We all wish him a safe journey back to India.

b. Rev. Fr Sherit Kappiarumalyil: After completing his study at Xavier University, Cincinnati, Rev. Fr. Sherit Kappiarumalayil will be going back to India in the middle of July. Currently he stays at Santhome, Chicago and is helping us with the mission appeals. We wish Fr Sherit all the best for his future ministries in India.

c. Welcome to Rev. Fr Roshan Kuzhippilly: Rev. Fr. Roshan Kuzhippally reached USA in the middle of April and has started his summer semester in May. It was a providence of God that Rev. Fr. Roshan reached USA for his studies just few days before the lock down in India. We wish him all the best in his studies and ministries in Cincinnati.

d. Reopening of US after Coronavirus: All across the country restrictions are lifted as many states have inoculated more than seventy percentage of the population. The entire country hopes to reopen with a few restrictions for those who are not vaccinated, by July 4th of 2021. However, the CDC is very cautious about the possibility of another surge due to the Delta variant, CDC is thinking of another

booster shot in case there is a third wave.

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

2. Austria

a. Sacrament of Confirmation: The postponed Confirmation of 2019-, due to Covid-19 pandemic was solemnly conferred on 11 April 2021 by Weihbischof Stephan Turnovszky .

The sacrament of Confirmation of this year was conferred on 22 May 2021 by Domprediger Dr: Ewald Husava in two separate sections, at 9.00 a.m. and 11.00 a.m., dividing the children in two groups to avoid the over-crowd.



b. Bittmesse and Bittgang: We have the tradition of having special Holy Mass and blessings of the agricultural fields for good crops and weather. And procession through agricultural fields, reciting prayers and All Saints' Litany. All four parishes had this special Eucharistic Celebration and blessings for good agricultural crops on 11, 12 and 13 May respectively.

c. Maiandacht: The month of May is fully dedicated for Marian devotions in our place. We conducted devotions in all parishes, at Marian Grottos, in Marian shines and in Rosary park with Solemn Holy Mass, Rosary and Marian prayers and Adorations. Lots of people participated in the devotions.

d. First Holy Communion: The first Holy Communion of this year was conducted on 30 May in Reintal, on 6 June in Grosskrut and on 13 June in Bernhardsthal respectively.



Since the Eucharistic celebration was in open stage, we could avoid the restriction of the limit of the number of participants in the function.

e. Corpus Christi Procession: On 3 June we had Corpus Christi Eucharistic celebration in Reintal and Grosskrut parishes and on 6 June in Bernhardsthal and Katzelsdorf parishes. After the Holy Mass we had solemn Eucharistic procession through the streets and special prayers and blessings in 4 different Altars arranged in the streets.



f. Pilgrimage of Catholic Women's Movement (KFB): On 12 June, the members of the Catholic women's movement (Katholische Frauen Bewegung) of Dakanats of Poysdorf conducted their regional pilgrimage. It concluded with solemn Eucharistic celebration and refreshment in Bernhardsthal parish.

g. International Father's Day: The members of the catholic men's movement (KMB) celebrated the Father's day on 20 June in the Bernhardsthal Parish.

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

3. Canada

a. Nelson, British Columbia: The parish churches in British Columbia are allowed to open our services in the Church for a limited



number of people according to the size of the Churches. That is very good news for us who were not allowed to congregate in the Church for the past year, due to the spread of Covid 19.

Out of eight priests serving in Canada, we are three priests: Fr Tom Kakkaniyil, Fr Jose Kizhakkethottathil and Fr Jojo Chettiakunnel, working at different

parishes of the Diocese of Nelson. All of us have more than one parish to manage. For example, I have three parishes to manage: the second one is for the indigenous people and congregation and the third one is for a few members of the church, in a rented Anglican Church. They were closed for more than a year. But now we are excited to open those churches from 20 June 2021. It is certain to have services in all the three churches after a closure. So we are excited.

While preparing to open our churches, almost half of the volunteers are willing to help our communities. There were more than 100 volunteers to help me before Covid closure in all these three parishes. Now I may have to be satisfied with 50 people, but with the same past services. Every priest has to work hard to give services to all members of the parishes. We are happy to see the magnanimity of the participants to share their efforts and money for the maintenance of these churches. We depend on our Sunday collection.

As few apostles could spread the Good news to all corners of the world, we as MST missionaries will be able to do the maximum to preach the Word of God either by our presence or by our preaching. We have received both doses of Vaccines to overcome Covid 19 and resume our work as missionaries.

b. Parish Church Being Burnt: Sad to inform you that some people who are against organised religions might have arsoned our



beautiful church - 'St Gregory's' for the service of first nation people.

It was one of my outstation parishes where I used to give weekly service for the first nation (native) community. Providentially I had taken pictures of this church after the last Holy Mass with the happy participants. That was the end of everything as we parted away from the Church at 3 p.m. on Sunday, 20 June 2021. But at 3 a.m. on Monday, 21 June (the following day), some unhappy people arsoned this church. They might have come from outside of the community with a malicious plan to arson the Church.

Another Church at Penticton, our neighbouring parish, was closed due to Covid restriction for more than an year and it was arsoned on Monday 21st at 1.30 am. Police people are investigating the culprit. Many priests, bishops and Nuncio from Nunciature, and several national and international papers' reporters called me by phone and confirmed their solidarity.

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

c. Regina, Saskatchewan: It's awesome now here in



Saskatchewan. Saskatchewan summers are usually warm and dry. Summer spans from early June to mid-September. This is considered the most pleasant weather during the year. Day time temperatures normally reach the mid 20 degree C and often push above 30 degree during heat waves. We had a wonderful Easter celebration this time. Churches were opened for the faithful, with 30% of its capacity only, and hence the priests had to celebrate a few extra Holy Masses on the Easter Sunday. From 3 to 6 May, the clergy in the Archdiocese

attended their online annual retreat. Archbishop Gerard Pettipath CSSR was the preacher. It was a very good experience and the Archbishop was sharing more on the missionary nature and missionary work of the Church. And again, the month of May was very much blessed for the Archdiocese; we had the ordination of Deacon Christian Lindenbach on 14 May. After the Easter many of the parishes celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation. Different parishes held simple celebrations of the Mother's day and Father's Day, honouring both mothers and fathers. The Archdiocese has planned to commemorate the National Indigenous People's Day on 21 June via online. Also the parishes conducted thanks giving Holy Masses congratulating and honouring the students graduated in X and XII grades.

We three MST priests serving the Archdiocese are fully vaccinated. All are keeping fine and enjoying the summer days fulfilling their responsibilities whole-heartedly. At present there is no lockdown in the Province other than a few strict regulations. The whole Province shall start opening and functioning normally, without any covid-19 regulations, from mid-July. It's awesome and exciting, everybody is thrilled and waiting for that day to move out to enjoy the summer days.

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

4. Germany

a. Studies: Fr Cyriac Moothasseril has acquired the B2 Level in German Language and possesses his German Driving License too, which are important prerequisites for his studies in Vallendar. He stays in 'Haus Maria Königin,' one of the old age homes of Franciscan Brothers of Holy Cross. He is appointed Chaplain of the House from 1 May 2021. He is also responsible for two other old age Homes in Rheinböllen and in Kirchberg. He has already started his Licentiate studies in "Philosophisch-Theologische Hochschule, Vallendar.' All the very best to Fr Cyriac for his pastoral duties and University studies.

b. Zoom Meetings: Since it is not possible to come together in person, we conduct regular Zoom meetings every second Saturday called 'Online Stammtisch.' It is an unofficial Platform where the members can chat, express their views or discuss on various contemporary topics.

c. Prayer Days: As so many people were suffering and dying due to the Corona Pandemic and since many of our dear and near ones were getting infected by Covid-19, we decided to intensify our prayer. Each one was assigned a day for Prayer and we prayed for the speedy recovery of all Covid -19 affected persons in India and all over the world. We began the prayer day on 09th May and we concluded it with a Zoom prayer meeting on 3rd June, on the Feast day of the Blessed Sacrament.

d. Departure of Fr Emmanuel Mattam: It was a shock for all of us to hear the sad news of the Demise of Fr Emmanuel Mattam, who served here in Germany for 20 Years.



He came to Germany in 1997. His first appointment was with the Brothers of Mercy in Montabaur as a pastor in the Hospital (1997-2003). Then he spent three months in

Hildesheim. From 2003 to 2016 he worked in the Diocese of Regensburg. In December 2016 he returned to India. Mattathilachan had been a good friend to all of us. He always cherished our Koinonia and the togetherness. He was very modest, very sociable, always happy and liked to crack jokes. We all know, that he was a good pastor and missionary. It is really a huge loss for us and also for the MST family. We conducted a special Zoom meeting to pay homage to Fr Emmanuel and prayed the Office for the dead.

e. July Gathering: At present in Germany the number of Covid-19 cases are very low. So after a long time of waiting, we are very

happy and very excited to come together for our July gathering, which will be conducted in Pax Gästehaus in Unkel from 5 to 9 July 2021.

(Reported by Fr Pradeep Mattathilanickal, Germany)

5. Switzerland



Parish of Schlieren: Switzerland is relaxing its Covid-19 restrictions as infection rates stabilise and the vaccination rollout accelerates across the country. On June 11, the government announced plans to ease entry restrictions for people wanting to visit Switzerland from June 28. It also wants to further open up public life from that date. Proposed measures include abolishing the requirement to wear masks in public, raising seating limits at restaurants and allowing discos and night clubs to reopen to people with Covid certificates.

Public gatherings are now allowed for 100 people indoors and a maximum of 300 outdoors. Private gatherings of up to 30 people



indoors, and up to 50 outdoors are also allowed. Hence forth 100 people are allowed to come to the Church. Earlier it was restricted only to 50. That time we had celebrated the First Holy Communion in our

Church 7 times. In each Holy Communion 5 children with their 10

guests were allowed.

Now we have days of Sunshine. The Swiss people are very happy to have this long awaited summer season. Summer holidays start in Switzerland from the middle of July till the middle of August. This is a tourist season.

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

6. Tanzania

a. Madale Parish, Dar Es Salaam

i. Surprise Visit of Cardinal Polycarp Pengo: It was very surprising to get the call from the secretary of His Eminence Cardinal



Policarp Pengo asking that he would like to celebrate the mass with the faithful of Madale parish on 18 April 2021. We were very surprised to hear because till that time no bishops had come to offer mass without any functions in the parish. He along with his secretary and other nuns came on 18 April

2021 early morning at 7.30. During the mass he congratulated and thanked the MST priests for their tremendous efforts and tireless work they are rendering in the parish. Cardinal Policarp Pengo spent the whole day with us.

ii. St Joseph's Year Celebration: In connection with St Joseph year we have planned a few programs in the parish. The Statue of St Joseph will be taken to each house where they would have a special prayer. This procession will take some months to complete. Each small Christian community leaders are given the responsibility to monitor the procession. The people are very happy with the program. This procession will end when the Novena of the parish patron that begins on 12 August 2021.

iii. Eucharistic Procession: People of Madale were very happy to have the Eucharistic procession on 6th June 2021. Since there



was no Eucharistic procession last year due covid regulations, people were very happy and they were fully engaged in the procession this year. This year we planned to take the Eucharist to all the places of Madale parish. So, we have taken the Eucharist in an open vehicle so that all the faithful/ places of Madale would get the blessings.

iv. Visit of Archbishop Jude Thaddeus Ruwa'ichi:



Fr Biju Pullappillil and the parish councillors had visited the archbishop of Dar Es Salaam His. Ex. Jude Thaddeus Ruwa'ichi on 22 February 2021. During this meeting he had agreed to visit the parish.

By keeping the word he came to Madale parish on 27 March 2021.



He came in the early morning at 8 a.m. and had breakfast and lunch with us.

He visited all three substations of the parish and got first-hand information about all. He was very much happy to see the developments and was inspired by their welcoming and joy, he declared all three sub parishes into designated parishes. In coming years all three will become full-fledged parishes. We really thank God for his visit and support. The parishioners were very happy to hear that they are raised to another level of becoming full-fledged parish.

His Ex. Jude Thaddeus Ruwa'chi appreciated MST priests, especially Fr. Biju Pullappillil for his hard work and earnest desires to help people to grow in spiritual maturity.

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

b. Bunda-Mara

i. Celebration of Palm Sunday: We celebrate Palm Sunday and Good Friday in villages. The whole parish will go to the selected mission for the celebration. We do so to invite pagans to faith and faithful to deepen their faith. Usually the hosting mission provide food



for all - Agape.

ii. Good Friday - Way of the Cross:

The Way of the Cross on Good Friday was conducted from the main Parish to Mission that crossed more than five kilometres. Hundreds of people joined the devotion by praying the stations of the cross, which took several hours to complete.



iii. Catechumens for Baptism: Out of the eight missions I serve, there are tens of youth who are attending two years of training in



preparation for baptism from Kung'ombe mission. The new faithful of Kung'ombe are very excited that they offer costly gifts for the priests, which sometimes will include goats and hens.

(Reported by Rev. Fr Zacharias Azhikannickal, Bunda, Tanzania)

7. Australia

a. Nowra, Wollongong (Sydney)

I have recently been appointed the Administrator of St Michaels Parish, Nowra, which is a seven church community in the Diocese of Wollongong. Nowra is a beautiful coastal region 80 kms from Sydney and most churches are close to the beach. The parish was established in 1863 and is the vastest one in the Diocese.



I feel grateful for the support and guidance of Bishop Brian Mascord and the clergy in the diocese as well as other priests in the pastoral team, Good Samaritan Sisters, parish office and school staff, church community leaders and volunteers

and other associations who make my job easy in managing this vast parish.

(Reported by Rev. Fr Joseph Pothenparampil, Wollongong, Australia)

b. Syro-Malabar Mission, Melbourne

i. Visit of Bishop Bosco Puthur: Month of April 2021 was a blessing to St Alphonsa Mission, Shepparton. First time in the history of this Mission, seven children received their First Holy Communion and Confirmation on 10 April from our Bishop Mar Bosco Puthur in the presence of



Very Rev.Fr Joe Taylor, Vicar General of the Diocese of Sandhurst and Fr Varghese Vithayathil - the Chaplain.

ii. Mothers' Day: Another memorable occasion in St Alphonsa



Mission is that of the celebration of Mothers' Day on 9 May, organised by Mathruvedi. The day's celebration commenced with Holy Eucharist, where mothers brought the offering to the Altar. After Holy Mass all mothers of the Mission gathered under the new leadership of Mathruvedi, pledged themselves for the service of the community. The celebration concluded with agape. Mothers' Day was celebrated in St Thomas Syro Malabar Mission, Bendigo too and on the same day Mathruvedi was inaugurated in Bendigo. They pledged that they would serve the community by intercessory prayer, house visiting, conducting seminars on family values and good parenting etc.

iii. Winter Night Shelter: St Alphonsa Syro Malabar Mission, Shepparton extended its service to the homeless by giving them



Winter Night Shelter. It is a project with local churches and faith communities to provide overnight shelter, hospitality, support and connection to those expressing homelessness. Shelter location rotates daily from one church

facility to another and relies 100% on volunteers to make this project possible. Syro Malabar community takes this mission on all

Thursdays. This service will be provided for the whole winter season from June 1st to 31st August.

c. MST Fellowship at New Castle and Sydney

Another interesting matter is that Frs Shaiju Edathiparambil, George KMP and myself could visit our Rev. Fr Thomas Chirackal in New Castle and Rev. Fr Augustine Tharappel in Sydney. After



coming here in Australia we were not able to make a visit to our fathers in Sydney area because of restrictions of Covid. On 3 May Fr Shaiju Edathiparampil, Fr KMP and myself made drive to Sydney.

But due to sudden rise of Covid cases in Sydney we had to leave for our own missions back early morning on 6 May. We could not meet Rev. Fr Joseph Pothennampal. Anyway we could stay in the place of Fr Thomas Chirackal with Fr Augustine Tharappel. It was a wonderful MST gathering. We spent two days with Fr Augustine Tharappel. He took us to Sydney, the beautiful city for sightseeing.

(Reported by Fr Varghese Vithayathil, Shepparton, Australia)

8. Sweden

Greetings from Sweden! Situations are getting better with covid 19 in Sweden. Now we can celebrate the Holy Masses with 50 participants. If the situations are getting better, we can gather 300 from July next month. But the neighbouring countries are still closed their borders towards Sweden. So, because of that I can't still fly to Norway or Finland for the Malayalam masses. Indian community still has to depend on zoom masses until August.

a. New Rector for St Sigfrid's Seminary: I am happy to inform you all that Cardinal Anders Arboreous, Bishop of Stockholm has



The new appointment is announced during the priest meeting at Stockholm.

b. Priestly Ordinations and New Vocations: On Saturday, 8 May



2021, Cardinal Anders Arborelius ordained Jan Byström at St. Erik's Cathedral in Stockholm. He was a Lutheran priest and converted to Catholicism years before. Dn. Joseph Rizk could have been ordained in

Goteborg on 1 May but because of the pandemic we have postponed the ordination to 23 July, the feast of St. Brigitte at Vadstena. Pierre Hannoun, a young man of 21 years old selected to the seminary from 5 applicants. He will start his studies from September. Three Lutheran priests, who were converted to catholic church 5 years before, got approval from pope to start their studies, which lasts for 3 to 4 years. They start their studies from September at Uppsala seminary.



c. Syro-Malabar Mission in Scandinavia: As the Covid pandemic continues and Sweden is still red zone, so we have no way to travel



outside Sweden as usual. Therefore no public Masses celebrated in Malayalam in different countries. Now we have the summer here and usually other language masses are not celebrated during summer in the diocese. But thanks to God that we have Malayalam Masses every Sunday through Zoom platform which is having a very good participation from Scandinavian countries. I am also happy to share with you all that we had the holy communion for 6 children this year and among them 3 were from the same parish. The youth in Scandinavia pray the rosary every Sunday through zoom platform which makes unity among youth and families.

(Reported by Fr Binu Thottiyil, Stockholm, Sweden)

9. Italy

New Rector for Collegio Damasceno, Rome

The Sacred Congregation for the Oriental Churches, on 9 June 2021 appointed Very Rev. Fr Joseph Elamparayil OCD as the new Rector of Collegio San Giovanni Damasceno, Rome. Collegio San Giovanni Damasceno, where young priests from both Syro-Malabar and Syro-Malankara Churches stay and do higher studies in various ecclesiastical universities and institutes in Rome.

Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, Prefect of the Sacred Congregation for the Oriental Churches, along with Archbishop Giorgio Demetrio Gallaro, Secretary, and Rev. Fr. Flavio Pace, undersecretary, visited Collegio San Giovanni Damasceno on 09th June, 2021 and

announced the name of its new Rector and sincerely thanked Rev. Fr Varghese Kurisuthara, the out-going Rector.



Very Rev. Fr Joseph Elamparayil OCD, who has served Collegio Damasceno since the inauguration of the academic year 2020-2021 in November 2020 as its Vice Rector, is a man of friendly and active nature. He did his doctoral studies on John Henry Newman in the USA and served OCD's St Joseph's Province, Thiruvananthapuram, as its Provincial. He taught theology students in Bangalore for two years and worked as provincial councillor and master of students.

Very Rev. Fr Joseph Elamparayil replaces Very Rev. Fr Varghese Kurisuthara OCD who sincerely and efficiently served Collegio San Giovanni Damasceno for over 25 long years from 1993 when it was shifted from Gianicolo to Manzoni as its Finance Officer, Vice Rector and Rector. Very Rev. Fr Varghese Kurisuthara, very active in teaching different languages like Italian, Latin, German and Spanish and dynamic in guiding priests in academic and extracurricular activities at Damasceno, was in office as the Rector from 2007 to 2021. Many of our MST priests who studied in Rome are greatly indebted to him in many ways and do still keep contact with him.

(Reported by Rev. Fr Joby Koottumkal, Italy)

10. United Kingdom

St Margaret Clitherow Parish – Feast of the Sacred Heart:

This year, unlike the previous years, the parish celebrated the feast of the Sacred Heart in a special way with a three-day novena, each day Mass followed by Exposition, adoration and Benediction. The novena included the following: i. A reflection on one of the twelve promises assured to those who practise true devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus (first day: Peace in families; second day: Consolation in time of trouble; third day: Abundant blessings). ii. A special intercessory prayer imploring Jesus to protect the world, the global family in the words of Pope Francis, from the Coronavirus pandemic and keep it safe in his Sacred Heart. iii. Litany of the Sacred Heart. On the Feast Day also the same pattern was followed with an addition of the Divine Mercy Chaplet – Mass, Exposition, reflection on the Sacred Heart, Litany and Benediction. The focus of my reflection was on God's burning love for us as typically pictured in the very image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus as a flaming, pierced and bleeding heart symbolising His burning undying love. It was this love that flowed from the Heart of Jesus into the heart of Saul and transformed him into Paul, who with his burning love in his heart faithfully bore witness to Jesus ever since his conversion. It is this same love that flows into our hearts to transform us into his faithful disciples burning with his love in our hearts, from where it flows into the hearts of those whom we serve and live with. In short, this love as we sing:

Love is flowing like a river,

Flowing out through you and me, Spreading out into the desert,

Setting all the captives free.

In spite, or even because, of Coronavirus and lockdown, this year the feast was meaningfully and fruitfully celebrated by the parish community, a few present physically and the others virtually on livestream. The Brazilian Community, who celebrate the first Mass in Portuguese every Sunday in the morning, helped the parish in preparing for the feast – cleaning and decorating the church, especially

the statue of the Sacred Heart, which, in fact, proved to be the central attraction, I mean in the spiritual sense, inspiring people to have devotion to the Sacred Heart.

(Prepared by Fr Marappillil and Reported by Fr Muthumakkal, London)

11. Brazil - St Sebastián's Parish, Itaruma

a. Conquest of Covid-19: Here I express my sincere thanks to all



my friends, well-wishers, and my loving and caring parishers for their ardent and constant prayers for my speedy recovery from the covid-19 From 8 May I had severe body pain. From 10 May started throat ich, lack of appetite and taste. I consulted a doctor he referred for Covid test and to my surprise tested covid positive. I

got some medicaments advised to remain in isolation but monitored by the hospital staff. First few days passed with no severe symptoms third day of isolation my temperature rose up and saturation fell down below 85 my lungs 25% affected. I was admitted to municipal hospital at Itarumã. I was getting all the attention, care and medications. As my oxygen level falling down they gave me oxygen mask. My body temperature was going up, therefore another tomography of lungs were done. It showed 50 % of my lungs affected. I was referred to a better hospital some 200 kms away from my town. Bishop of Jatai Dom Nelio arrived at hospital before leaving the hospital gave me anointing of the sick and holy communion. Meanwhile some of my parish members gathered around the hospital

to give me support and encouragement, and accompanied my ambulance in their own vehicles. Some came to the hospital at Mineiros 200 kms away from my parish. I spent 15 days in the ICU of the hospital at Mineiros. After which, I had to spend some days in observation in the hospital and finally I was discharged in a better condition. With great happiness, they sent me out of the hospital.

Here I express my gratitude to the members of the society, my family members. Fathers, sisters all around the world for their prayers. On 1 June, I am back to my parish. My parishioners expressed their happiness through a beautiful message and song. Keeping all the covid protocol, they came in procession in their cars to welcome me back. They are still taking care of me well. Special thanks to Rev. Fr. Joseph Thekkel for his whole heart help and company in my difficult situation.

b. Feast of Corpus Christi: The feast of Corpus Christi is a very solemn feast in Brazil. It is a public holiday, as Brazil is a Catholic country. Though we have covid protocol and restrictions, we celebrated it with great devotion. Solemn Holy Mass was celebrated at 9.00 a.m. by Fr Joseph Thekkel, followed by Blessing with Santissima Eucharist. Every street of the Municipality of Itarumã was blessed with Santissima Eucharist. Large number of vehicles accompanied the procession of the sacrament through the streets. Afternoon Fr. Thekkel had the same ceremony in his parish. Sincere thanks to Fr Thekkel for all the help extended during this period.

(Reported by Rev. Fr Joseph Pulickal, Brazil)



VII. NEWS FROM OTHER MINISTRIES/ CENTRES

A. VOCATION PROMOTION

Candidates of 2021- Northern Zone: It is with immense gratitude towards God that we, the vocation promoters of MST submit this report on vocation promotion 2021. As it was crystal clear from the beginning of this year that the vocation promotion and bringing the



candidates to the seminary was the most hectic job. No schools were open, churches were shut down, Sunday schools were not functioning, travelling was restricted, no common vocation camps were conducted in the Diocese etc. More than all these the children were all fully involved with the modern gadgets especially smart phones as it was the most unavoidable element for their online classes. In spite of all these challenges in front of us we trusted in the providence of God. We believed that God will find out his servants to serve in the vineyard of the Lord. And finally after the interview and the final scrutiny, we have selected 22 new candidates from the Northern zone (Malabar area).

This year during the time of admission due to the massive spread of covid 19, the interview and final admission were given online. In the presence of Rev. Fr Francis Kureeckal, the in charge of vocation promotion, and Fr Rony Alencherry, the vocation Promotor of Northern zone, Fr Joseph Pulavelil, the Rector, gave admission to the candidates in the name of the Director General of MST. 21 new

candidates have already reached in the Santhome Seminary, Thamarassery. One candidate is from Bangalore and he will reach by the middle of July. Based on the dioceses, we have 11 candidates from Thalassery, 5 from Mananthavady, 4 from Thamarassery, 1 from Kottayam and 1 from Mandya.

We can't but thank you sincerely dear fathers who were always with me to support, encourage, help at certain times as a consolation during this year of vocation promotion. First of all we thank all the fathers in the General Council, especially Very Rev. Fr Antony Perumanoor and Rev. Fr Francis Kureeckal for their keen interest in the field of vocation promotion, their whole hearted support, encouragement, and timely interventions and directions. I also thank Rev. Fathers at Santhome, Pariayaram who were really a true help throughout this year. They helped me in communicating with the parish priests of the Arch-diocese of Thalassery. Their warm relation and acquaintance with the parish priests helped me in finding out good and adequate students for priesthood. All fathers from Santhome Seminary, Thamarassery especially Rev. Fr Emmanuel Mattathil of good memory, and Fr Johny Kariathil who were with me for visiting houses of the students. Fr Emmanuel Mattathil was also very happy to join me in visiting houses whenever he was free. His presence was encouraging for me in the last three years.

I also remember with gratitude all of you dear fathers, in one way or the other, you encouraged us in this field of vocation promotion. I would like to mention the names of some of Rev. Fathers, Paul Vadakeoram, Kurian Ammanathukunnel, Biju Koothottil, Manoj Parackal, John Manjamattam, Joby Kappiparambil and Emmanuel Madavana, who helped me in finding out good and adequate candidates from their own family, friends and relatives for priesthood. We also thank some of the brothers who helped us in this manner.

(Reported by Fr Rony, Alencherry, Vocation Promoter – North Zone)

B. SANTHOM FELLOWSHIP

1. Prayer for the Covid Affected Priests.

An online prayer meeting was conducted by Dubai Santhome

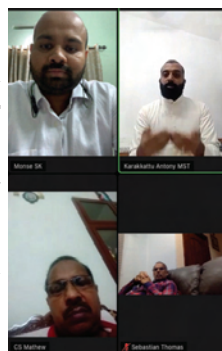
Fellowship unit for pandemic affected people. All Covid infected priests of MST were specially remembered and they prayed for the speedy recovery of those seriously infected and good health of all MSTs. Mr Thomas, the president of the unit, presented a brief narration about health condition of the Virus infected.

2. Divine Mercy Rosary

Santhome Fellowship unit in Indore conducted a special Divine Mercy Rosary seeking Lord's mercy for the stop of the spread of the virus. They prayed for those who left this world due to the infection of virus, that they be received in the communion of saints and be given eternal life. The members gather together every day at 9 p.m. and pray for all those affected and infected with corona virus.

3. Study Class for Future Missionary Associates

The second batch of the missionary associates are being formed with different programmes such as study classes, interaction with Pioneer missionaries etc. They were introduced with the structure, purpose and nature of the Missionary Society and the mission aspects in the Holy Bible. The session was led by Rev. Fr Arun Karakattu MST. In a similar session, different mission fields of MST and different ministries undertaken were also introduced to them.



4. Distribution of Food Kits



The massive pandemic adversely hit many families around us and left many jobless. Addressing to this catastrophe, our lay associates volunteered for distributing food kits to the needy people in our vicinity with the collaboration of the local body of the government. Kits with necessary groceries were distributed to nearly 60 families.

5. Financial Support to MST

Our Missionary Associates helped to organise financial assistance to MST mission. They helped us to find benefactors. Here do I present a chart that shows the amount they collected. It includes the amount contributed by Santhome Fellowship members as well.

Formation (Sponsoring Seminarian)	Rs 24,94,455
Ujjain Mission (Indore)	Rs 40,000
Orissa Mission	Rs 100,000
Total	Rs 26,34,455

6. Called to Eternal Abode

The Santhome Fellowship gratefully and prayerfully remembers the heavenly departures of Mr K.J. Devasia (Delhi), Mr George Arthanakunnel (Karuvanchal) and Mr George (Vakkachan) Kollappally (Muttuchira). They had been very good to the MST and its Santhome Fellowship. The Santhome Fellowship thanks for all their collaboration and prays for them and their families.

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

C. SANTHOMÉ – IMPACT, Kochi

1. Santhome IMPACT News

a. Easter celebration: All of us participated and helped the parish in the Holy Week Services.

b. New Director for Kadukumani: Rev. Fr John Vanmelil took



charge on 17th June 2021 as the Director of Kadukumani magazine (editing, circulation and overall development of the magazine) in addition

to his existing responsibilities as the editor of True Blaze magazine and Mission Animation. We express our heartfelt gratitude to Fr Bipin Madathiparambil for his great service as the editor of

Kadukumani for last 3 years. We wish every success and divine blessings to Fr Vipin Vanmelil.

c. Participation in the Funerals: We participated in the funerals of Fr John Nattunilath and Fr Emmanuel Mattam at Deepti Bhavan, Melampara.

d. COVID-19 Help: We collaborated financially with our Thevackal parish for helping the Covid affected families in the parish. We also joined the prayer sessions in the parish for the Covid affected families.

2. Publications

Kadukumani is being published online through sending PDF copies. *Blaze* could not be published as the schools are not yet open.

3. Santhome Media-IMPACT

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

a. Covid 19 Prayer in Malayalam: This is a short consolation prayer in Malayalam which is uploaded in our YouTube Channel.

b. Promotional Video: There is a promotional video prepared for Santhome Media Recording Studio.



c. African Mannile Daivanubhavam: This is an interview with Fr Biju Pullapillil and he shares his God experience in Africa.

d. 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.

e. Audio Recording: Santhome Media audio recording Studio is blessed



with eminent personalities like Kester, Libin Scaria (Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Fame), Mithila Micheal, Chithra Arun, Teena Mary Abraham, Sr Rincy Alphonse SD, Alice Mathew, Shaju Cherian and Philip. More than 15 devotional songs, Documentary Voiceover and Audio Magazine were recorded here in the last three months.

f. Upcoming Initiatives of Santhome Media-IMPACT:

Cartoon Animation

Motivational Classes

Media Workshop

*** To watch all our programs please visit our Website: www.santhomemedia.com, You Tube Channel and Facebook Page. Please subscribe and like our You Tube Channel and Facebook Page.**

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

D. THOMASINE RESEARCH CENTRE (TRC)

Thomasine Research Center wishes you all a **very Happy Feast of Dukhrana!** May our heavenly patron inspire us to live our lives through the *marga* shown by him!

TRC could not materialize many of its projects in its new place of inception because of the existing pandemic situation. Yet, we are happy that we are now well rooted in the new place and are slowly earning a name in the diocese of Irinjalakuda.

1. Online Course in Thomasine Studies

The online diploma course in Thomasine studies conducted by TRC is reaching its final stage. The two year long course will be completed in this July and the students will be awarded with a diploma from the Paurasthya Vidaypitham, Vadavathoor. Though a few of them opted out in the course of three semesters due to various reasons more than twenty students from different parts of India are completing the course.

2. New Course

We are starting new correspondence course in Malayalam in this

July. Preparations for it have already begun. We are planning to reach the Thomasine history and spirituality to as many people as possible through this course. Course materials are sent to the candidates in their mail address. It is a one year course which is recognized by the Paurasthya Vidyapitham, Vadavathoor.

3. Website

We are happy to let you know that TRC has a website (www.trcmst.org) and you are welcome to visit it for all that you would want to know about St Thomas our Apostle. You will be also able to download a few books and articles on St Thomas and his Indian mission from the website.

4. History Committee of the Syro-Malabar Church

We are happy to inform you that Fr James Kurikilamkatt, the director of TRC, is a member of the history committee appointed by the Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church to write a new comprehensive history of the Church established by St Thomas in India. The committee is making new in depth researches into the mission of St Thomas the Apostle in India.

(Reported by Fr James Kurikilamkatt, Director, TRC)

E. ANGEL HOME, KADANAD

1. Visit of t Dignitaries

Angel home was blessed with the visit of His Excellency Mar James Athikalam MST on 23 of April 2021. His Excellency made this visit in order to felicitate Sacerdotal Ruby Jubilee greetings to



Fr Jose Uppenmackal. His Excellency blessed angel home by presiding over the Ruby Jubilee Holy Eucharist celebration on 24

April and enlightened us with an inspiring message. We thank His Excellency for his visit and blessings.

2. Two Offshoots from Angel Home

Fr Jose uppenmakal penned two books during this period of Covid 19 Pandemic. First book is *St Augustine*. This book is fluent in about the churches of St Augustine in Kerala of the Syro Malabar rite, and about the devotion of the Malabar Christians to St Augustine. The second book named *Uppenmakal Kudumba charitram* sheds light on the family history of Uppenmakal Family and its present status.

His Excellency Mar James Athikalam MST, Bishop of Sagar released the books on 24 April 2021 at the fifth Uppenmakal Kudumbayogam at Angel Home by presenting them to the Kudumpayogam president and secretary respectively. Mar James enlightened the meeting with a thought provoking message on the role of Family in the Church and the influence of Uppenmakal family in the devotion of St Augustine in our mother church. Mr Joy the president of Uppenmakal Kudumbayogam welcomed the dignitaries to the function and U.D. Kurian, the secretary expressed the vote of thanks. Fr Jose, the Patron of the Uppenmakal Kudumbayogam expressed his gratitude towards His excellency and the dignitaries through his words

(Reported by Fr Jose Oppenmakal, Director, Angel Home, Kadanad)

F. SANTHOME BIBLE CENTRE, PARIYARAM

1. Bible Commentaries: We have already published six volumes of Santhome Bible Commentary. Ever since the outbreak of Covid 19, we have suspended publishing new commentaries as we cannot circulate them during the pandemic. The commentary on the 1-2 Thessalonians is underway and is now paused for the time being.

2. New Book: Fr. Kizhakkeyil's new book pending for publication in Mumbai. The book is titled - *A Review of the Charisms of Religious and of Societies of Apostolic Life* (on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of *Vita Consecrata* 1996-2021) is undergoing editorial work before it is printing at St Pauls, Mumbai. Covid 19

lockdown has delayed its publication.

3. Covid-19 and Aftermath: Rev. Fr Kurian Ammanathukunnel was affected by Covid 19 and he was admitted in Josegiri hospital, Thalassery. After a week there he was discharged when he turned negative to Covid 19. On 6 May he was taken to Santhome and he was well looked after here and Fr Joy Kochupara took special care of him with his herbal medicines and herbal drinks. Fr. Kurian was here for 40 days and by then he regained his lost weight and on 17th June he returned to Kodoppally to resume his duties as its parish priest. Now he seems to be healthy and happy.

4. Transfer of Fr Kolthambrayil: Fr Siju Kolthambrayil went back to his mission region on 25 May. Fr. Joy Kochupara took him to Maharashtra during the lockdown in various states, keeping all protocol regulations of Covid 19. Fr. Kochupara came back here after a week. He has taken RTPCR test several times by now. Fr. Siju is appointed at Alte mission station and he is given additional responsibilities of Childline and AIDS ministries.

5. New Arrival: Fr Manu Pottanany will arrive here by the middle of July as he continues his ayurvedic treatment. He will assist in vocation promotion and will render his service here as house procurator.

6. Garden of Fruit Trees: One and a half years ago we planted various fruit trees in an acre of land. Now some of the fruit trees have started yielding. In the coming years we expect more fruit trees to produce fruits.

7. Agriculture: Last year we cultivated 50 kg of ginger and 30 kg of turmeric. Both cultivations yielded satisfactorily. But as expenses exceeded income, we are not planting ginger any longer. Instead, we are planting 75 kg of turmeric among the fruit trees. It has a double effect: yield from turmeric plus manure and care for the fruit trees.

8. Covid 19 Situation: As there are two Medical College Hospitals in our vicinity, we have witnessed numerous Covid cases. Some people in our neighbouring houses also were affected by Covid 19.

At the direction of Fr. Joy Kochupara all the fathers have taken various herbal medicines and herbal drinks from time to time as immunity boost and Covid preventive.

9. Online Classes: On 14 June Fr. Sebastian Kizhakkeyil started giving online classes on the Prophets to the second and third year theology students of Ruhahaya. The classes will last around a month.

10. Classes by Fr Thomas Manjalamkal: Last two weeks Fr Manjalamkal was here and he gave one week online classes to the deacons of Ruhahaya from 14 June. He takes the new students of Jeevan Jyoti by a special bus to Srirangapatna on 23 June.

(Reported by Fr Sebastian Kizhakkeyil, Director, Santhome, Pariyaram)

G. AARAAM, DEEPTI MOUNT

1. New Director

Rev. Fr Joseph Vadakechirayath has taken charge as the new director of Aaraam on 3 May 2021. He was welcomed cordially in the evening by Fr Thomas Kumblanthanath, the out-going director and Fr Francis Vattakunnel, the Assistant Director of Aaraam, and



our fathers and some of his family. The reception was concluded with a special Dinner in the dining hall with all the fathers and staff of Aaraam. Fr Director extended a warm

welcome with a beautiful bouquet. Fr Chirayath thanked him and all present for the warm reception and said that he is happy to be here to take up this new challenging job although it is full of unexpected surprises.

2. Covid Precautions

On Friday 14 May, we had a surprising Visit from our Panchayath

President of Thalapalam, Mrs Anupama Vishanath just to chat with



all the fathers of Aaraam asking us anything more to be done for the Covid-19 precautions. Some of our fathers expressed their concern regarding the urgent need of getting the second

dose vaccine as early as possible and she promised to consider it on priority basis. She also promised us to make available free Ambulance services and home-nurse visits for our senior priests as needed. As of today, we are happy to say that all our fathers have received the two doses of Vaccines as per Government norms.

3. Farewell for Fr Thomas Kumblanthanath

Rev. Fr Thomas Kumblanthanath - our out-going Director was given an official send off on 30 May with all Deepti and Aaraam community. The program began with Holy Mass on Sunday by Fr Kumblanthanath where he thanked God and all fathers and staff for the whole hearted support, and encouragement. He also asked to give the same to the new director. In evening, all fathers of Deepti and Aaraam came together for a delicious dinner at Aaraam in honour



of Fr Kumblanthanath. Fr Joseph Vadakechirayath welcomed everyone. He thanked Fr Kumblanthanath for his extremely dedicated service to this institution and to all the priests especially the sick and the elderly. Fr Director General also mentioned about the remarkable services/activities he rendered during this short term of three years. Fr Thruthel Sebastian noted the praise worthy works he had done for this institution. Fr Kumblanthanath in his reply, once



again thanked all for coming together to have this enjoyable evening and supporting him to do all the good works he could accomplish. The program concluded with vote of thanks by Fr Peter Kavumpuram.

4. Memorial Day Celebration

The Tenth Death Anniversary celebration of our late Bishop Mar John Perumattam began with solemn Holy Qurbana in the morning by Fr Joseph Kannathukuzhy who reminded everyone of life of such a dedicated and saintly bishop. Also the homilist Fr Sebastian Thuruthel recollected their earlier days together in the seminary. He also mentioned the early years of works and hardships, together with all the struggles, they had to face to develop the mission Ujjain as we see it today. The Office of the Dead was prayed at the conclusion of the Holy Qurbana

(Reported by Fr Joseph Vadakechirayath, Director, Aaraam)

VIII Departed For Eternal Reward

A. Necrology: Family Members & Collaborators of the MSTs

As informed by the members (21 March – 26 June 2021)

Mrs Marykutty Michael, Mother of Fr Kuruvanplackel

Mrs Aleykutty Varkey, Mother of Fr Aranjanal

Mr Joseph Mathai Cherolil, Father of Fr Cherolil

Mr Thomas Mangalath, Father of Fr Mangalth

Mrs Annamma Thomas, Mother of Fr Ottalamkal

Mrs Rosamma Francis, Mother of Fr Francis Kureeckal

Mrs Annamma Devasia, Grandmother of Fr Kizhakkekureethadam

Mrs Mariam Kunju Paulo, Grandmother of Fr Kadaparambil

Mr Kunjacha Kollamattam, Grandfather of Fr Kollamattam

Mrs Valsamma Vadakekuttel, Sister of Fr Thamarakatt

Mrs Gracy Plathottam, Sister of Fr Perumpuzha

Mr George Arthanakunnel, Brother of Fr Arthanakunnel

Sr Vimal Rose SMC, Sister of Fr Arimattathil

Sr Chrysostom CSA, Sister of Fr Thomas Kalarickal

Mrs Mary Baby Neduvelil, Sister of Fr Puthuppallimyalil

Mr Thomas Kunnel, Uncle of Fr Kunnel

Mr Thomas Ottapunnackal, Uncle of Fr J. Vettukallel

Mrs Thresia Kalappilly, Aunt of Fr Mudathotty

Mrs Aleyamma Mandapathil, Aunt of Frs T. Kalarickal and Kalathoor

Miss Annabel Kuppayil, Niece of Fr George Kuppayil

Mr K.J. Thomas Karingadayil Cousin of Fr Karingadayil

Mr Mathew Thevarkunnel, Nephew Fr Thevarkunnel

Rev. Fr George Vanderkunnel, Cousin of Father Vanderkunnel

Mr Kuriakose Maniyatt, Cousin of Fr Kannathukuzhy

Mr Paily Thomas Mudathotty, Cousin of Fr Paul Mudathotty

Mr Kunjettan, Father of Mr Francis Arambattumakkil (Driver)

Mr Devasia Chempottickal, Ex- Seminarian of the MST

B. Obituaries

1. Rev. Sr Merin Tom Panathanath SABS



Rev. Sr Merin Tom was born on 6 June 1963 as the second daughter of Thomas and Mariam Panathanath in Velliamattam Parish in the diocese of Palai. Her Baptism name is Mariam and she was lovingly called Jancy. She lost her mother in her childhood and she started her life of suffering in the childhood itself. After high school education she joined in the Pala province of SABS congregation in 1985. Receiving the name Merin

Tom she made her first profession on 19 November 1988 and made her final profession on 31 August 1996. She stated her service in Ujjain mission in 1992. She taught in the schools of Sarangpur and Budhia and then took care of the children in Saathi HIV care centre. Later she worked as the finance officer in Christu Jyoti and Aradhana Sadan and as accountant in Christ Jyoti and St John schools in Ujjain. She was very responsible and hard working person. She was facing a rare sickness known as BLE from September 2020. Though she was under treatment for many years she continued her service happily. On 26 May 2021 her condition became critical and she was taken to Nirmala hospital Chandessery. As soon as she reached the hospital she was called for the eternal reward. The funeral service took place on 27 at the cemetery chapel in Ujjain and in the presence of many priests and religious. The last rite of the funeral was officiated by Bishop Mar Sebastian Vadakel. She collaborated with many MST priests in different mission stations. We the MST fathers offer our special prayers for the repose of the her Soul.

(By Fr Vincent Kadalikattilputhenpura, Regional Director, Ujjain)

2. Rev Sr Vimal Rose Arimattam SMS

Rev Sr. Vimal Rose was born on 9 March 1980 to her parents Joseph and Annakutty Arimattathil family in Thomapuram parish in the diocese of Thalassery. She was the fifth of six children in her family. She is the elder sister of Fr Boby Arimattathil MST. After completing her high school education she entered in the St Marthas Congregation on 1 April 1996. She



made her first profession on 3rd January 2000. In the year 2006 she made her solemn profession.

From 2006 to 2015 she was working in the diocese of Jagdalpur as teacher and vice principle of St Joseph Higher Secondary School, Bhanupratapur. In 2015 she came to the diocese of Ujjain and at first she worked as the principal of Sanjeevan Vidya Mandir, Ambodiya for three years. She was then transferred to Kayatha as the principal of the school in 2018. Finally she had to battle with Corona virus for three weeks and finally was seized by Covid-19 on 27 May 2021. Fr Bobby served her in the hospital in the final days. She is buried in the cemetery chapel in Ujjain officiated by Mar Sebastian Vadakel. May hersoulrestinpeace!

(By Fr Vincent Kadalikattilputhenpura, Regional Director, Ujjain)

3. Mr George Kollappally

Mr George Kollappally who is known as ‘Vakkachan sir’ in the local circle and ‘Kollappally Sir’ in the Mission League circle or MST circle, was a zealous and ardent lay missionary, very dear to the organization of Mission League and to the MST especially to Santhome Fellowship members.

As a young boy I had a great acquaintance with Kollappally sir. I have seen sir coming to mission league units and inspiring the students to be a



missionary. He was a simple ordinary man travelling in the public transport. He did not have many wonderful ideas to share as a missionary but he had the practical knowledge of being a missionary, being simple in lifestyle, having powerful prayer-life, practicing regular abstinences, etc. Both Kunjettan and Kollappally sir had great faith in the prayers of the children who are members of Mission League and they considered it as a means to make them missionaries. He used to take up the image of St Teresa of Child Jesus in his talks to the members.

As a member of the Society and as the former Director of Santhome Fellowship I have seen sir inspiring the members to be a missionary telling the principle of the Vatican II Decree -*Ad Gentes* No.2 that each and every individual Christian is a missionary. He was ready to

be present for the meetings and ready to take classes for the members of fellowship. He was not married for the reason of committing fully for evangelization. He found spirituality as a holistic approach, and his prayers and talks led him to serve the needy by taking care of the abandoned in his own land, taking care of the kidney transplanted patients, working for the farmers and dairy farm labourers of the locality, and working for the educational development of the people. As he went away to his eternal abode on 31 May 2021 let his words inspire and let his memory instill missionary spirit in many hearts, so that the Church remains faithful to the mission-command of the Lord.
(By Fr Joshy Mullappallil, Former Director, Santhome Fellowship)

4. Mr George Arthanakunnel

Mr George Arthanakunnel (56), one of our members in Santhome Fellowship from Karuvanchal unit, was called to eternal bliss on 13 May. He is the elder brother of Rev. Fr Bennu Arthanakunnel. He had been a member of Santhome Fellowship ever since 2014. He was very active and dynamic member of Santhome Fellowship. He has visited our missions. He was a very close collaborator and well-wisher of



MST. He visited Sangli mission especially Kodoli and Talsandhe, and have contributed much for the development of these two centres.

He was very active in his local parish as a teacher of catechism for many years, and took lead in organizing many pious organization and charitable activities at different levels of the diocese of Thalassery. Both the Bishop of Thalassery paid homage to Georgechettan and the Auxiliary Bishop – Mar Joseph Pamplany led the funeral service. Rev. Fr Thomas Karamel – one of the General Councillors represented the MST for the funeral. Sincere thanks to Arthanakunnel family for all their contributions to the MST. Let us pray for the repose of his soul and shall keep his family in our prayers. a greater plan for you and it is always His will that prevails. May you enjoy Heavenly bliss with the Almighty.

(By Fr JMonse Karuvakunnel, Director, Santhome Fellowship)

A Tribute to Rev. Fr John Nattunilath MST (1973-2021)



Rev. Fr George Pottananickal

We are all slowly recovering from the sudden and untimely demise of our fellow priest and coworker Fr John (Gigi) Nattunilath. It was on 2 April 2021, on Good Friday that Fr John left all of us and went for his heavenly reward. He was on the way for commemorating the final journey of our Lord to Calvary, to recall

His Passion and Death with the faithful at Kalapipal in the Eparchy of Ujjain. That journey was his final earthly journey, which led him to embrace eternity on the same day that brought redemption for humanity. It was really a shocking news for all of us and really a great loss to miss a young and energetic missionary for the Society and for the Church.

Life sketch: He was born in May 1973 in Kuninji in the district of Idduki and he had his schooling in the same place. After completing his High school education he joined in Deepthi Minor seminary in the year 1989. Completing three years of minor seminary he was promoted to Missionary Orientation Course at Srierangapattana and following that he had his philosophical studies in Ruhhalaya Ujjain. After successfully completing his philosophical studies he was sent for his Regency in two places, in the first half at Deepti Rubber



estate Korenchira and the second half at Chaithannya kicker in the eparchy of Mandya. Before completing his theological studies, he took Master's in Hindi



literature as a regular student from Mahatma Gandhi University, Kerala studying at St Thomas College, Pala. He completed his theological studies in the year 2004. Since he was in Deepti Minor Seminary for four years, he became part of many batches. In the last two years of theological studies, we were together in Ruhailaya Major Seminary. And on 26 April 2004 he was ordained priest.

Priestly Ministry: Soon after the ordination, he was sent to the Eparchy of Palakkad and from there to different places like Eparchy of Thuckalay, then to the Diocese of Tanzania. From there he was sent to work in the Diocese of Ujjain. Here in Ujjain, he was appointed in different places - first in Mana as the Assistant priest in Charge, then later the Director of Priest



Home at Chandessary. At Mehidpur Road (Gogapur) he was appointed the priest in charge of St Mary's Church and Manager of the school and from there he was transferred to Susner as the Priest in charge and Manager. Finally



serving as the assistant priest in charge of Shanti Bhavan, Jamner the Lord called you to be with Him in Heaven.

As far as I understand, he was a person of strong faith and determination, and was very zealous as a missionary. I have heard that he built a beautiful Church at Anamukham (Loretto Matha Church) in a small village of the diocese of Thuckalay. Although there were only less than 40 families, he raised fund around half crore, built a church, which made that small community proud in the locality. In the diocese of Mpanda in Tanzania, he was very active and befriended politicians of even national level.

He was very close to his parents and siblings, and was committed to the family. He was very sad when his mother passed away in July 2020. In spite of the lockdowns of covid-19, he was there to see her off for good. In all his difficult situations, all his three siblings stood with him. He was very intimate to his only sister who is a





religious nun in the SABS Congregation. He spent almost two months with at the beginning of this year. I am sure that all of them are badly missing Fr Gigi from their family.

Dear Fr John, as a priest you worked hard for the glory of God and in

spreading the Gospel to the people around you. You were visiting villages, meeting people and sharing the joy of the Gospel. The initiatives you took and the hard work you did for Christ and his Gospel will be remembered for ever. The work you did as Manager



and Priest in charge at Mehidpur Road will be remembered forever. Though you had some special way of behavior, somehow we failed to understand you. It might be our mistake that we did not understand and love you as you wanted. Your sudden and untimely departure has saddened us. It is a great loss for the Society and especially for the mission. We believe that in your untimely departure, the Almighty has a greater plan for you and it is always His will that prevails. May you enjoy Heavenly bliss with the Almighty.

In Memoriam: Rev. Fr Emmanuel Mattathil (1946-2021)



Rev. Fr Kurian Ammanathukunnel

I take it as a privilege to pen a few lines in honour of a holy priest and a friend of mine in the MST, who lived almost 75 years in this planet with a lovely smile, by sharing love, joy and compassion whomever he lived with. He was very easily approachable and loveable. He held simplicity in lifestyle but also made a lot of fun, enjoyed entertainments and lived his life to the full. He cherished the values of companionship and was available to help everyone, filled with the zeal of a missionary.

My association with Fr Mattam begins from the minor seminary days in 1965 in Good Shepherd Seminary at Karoor, Pala. He was senior to me for two years, thus he went ahead of me to Vadavathoor Seminary for the study of philosophy and theology. Both of us made the temporary promise of incorporation into the MST on 21 May 1971, along with others- Frs Varikatt and Parayadyil. Being a junior, I was not part of his close circle of friends in the seminary days. Obviously, we had our differences in temperament and personality as well. But as a senior MST fellow, he always shared special love and care for me and other MST juniors in the seminary. As I followed





him to Ujjain after the ordination, we became closer. He reached Ujjain in 1974 and me in 1975. When he was in Kotra and Narasingarh, I was in Biaora. Both of us were together in

Jeevan Jyoti, Kamed for some months. This physical proximity in the initial years of Ujjain mission and of our own priestly life helped us to understand each other better. Again we were together in Ruhalaya Major Seminary for three years (1993-1996) where he served as the Spiritual Director and me as the Rector. I visited him several times and a few times have stayed with him when he was in Regensburg, Germany. I have always loved his company and have enjoyed the moments that we shared together. He used to call me ‘Kuriacha....’ When I write these lines (17 June 2021), it is just more than two months that he departed from us (14 April 2021). It is hard to believe that he is no more. Like so many of you, I couldn’t join the final rites of his earthly departure due to the lockdowns of Covid. But I gravely miss him and trust that he makes his grace-filled smile upon each of us from his Eternal Abode.



Born on 6 November 1946 to a popular and traditional family of Mattathil at Kozhuvanal near Palai, Fr Emmanuel (Appachan) was the fourth among eight children. Mattathil family has been blessed



with many vocations to priesthood and religious life. His own elder brother, Fr George belongs to the MCBS. As far as I understand, he was very close to his parents (Mani +1990 and Anna +2004) and to all his siblings. Some of them were also collaborating with him in his mission, that facilitated the purchase of our property at Nedumkandam. Their mutual love and support were strengths in his life as a missionary.

Belonging to St Paul Region of the MST, he worked in several centers of the Eparchy of Ujjain (Shajapur, Kotra and Kamed) and was an efficient instrument in developing the mission center in Narasingarh from its very beginning. He was passionate about Narasingarh, in setting the entire structure of the mission station including the school, convent, hostel and the church. The DST Sisters

who were collaborators with him at Narasingarh have fond memories of his fraternal support for them. He also worked in the Etawah mission of the Archeparchy of Changanacherry in Uttar Pradesh. He was part of the team of the central administration of the MST as its Second Councilor for one

Trauer um Pater Emmanuel Mattam

Von Lorenz Ertl

Schambach/Prunn – Pater Emmanuel Mattam, der letzte Geistliche, der die Pfarrei Schambach und die Expositur Prunn vor der Zusammenlegung mit Riedenburg eigenständig geleitet hatte, ist am 14. April im Alter von 75 Jahren in seiner indischen Heimatregion Kerala gestorben. Das sollte das Bischöfliche Ordinariat Regensburg am Dienstag mit. Das Requiem wurde am 15. April um 10 Uhr (Ortszeit Indien) im Mutterhaus seines Ordens zelebriert.

Pater Emmanuel Mattam kam im Jahr 1967 als Missionspriester nach Deutschland, vor diesem Wechsel war er in Indien Rektor eines Priesterseminars. Nach seiner Ankunft in Deutschland war Mattam als Krankenschwäger in Montebour tätig, ehe der Geistliche im Jahr 2003 fest vom Bistum Regensburg angestellt wurde. Nach acht Monaten als Pfarradministrator in Alkofen im Kreis Straubing bogen wechselte er im September 2004 in die Pfarreien Großschönbrunn und Seegast im Dekanat Salzburg.



Beliebt bei den Gläubigen in Schambach und Prunn: Pater Emmanuel Mattam starb in seiner indischen Heimat. Foto: Ertl (Kreuz)

year (1992-1993).

Rev. Fr Mattam worked for 20 years in Germany and has been very zealous in supporting the MST missions. He was like an elder brother for almost two dozens of our members who have been serving in the German parishes. His holiness, friendship and wits made the MST community vibrant. He was acceptable to all, irrespective of



different age groups of our members. He was also loved by the communities he served. I heard that the local newspaper published a beautiful obituary note at his demise. A notable collaborator and mentor of Fr Mattam in Germany was Ms Katharina, a handicapped lady with extraordinary spirit, skills and nobility.

She had been his long term companion for almost 13 years who visited India several times. In the final years of her life, Katharina was affected by cancer. It is very heartening to note that at the completion of his formal ministry in Regensburg, he applied for special permission and spent almost five months in Germany to care for Katharina. Because there was nobody to take care of her. His sentiments of solidarity and friendship had no boundaries. After her demise in November 2016, he left Germany for good.

He was a formator for several years starting from 1975 at Kotra where he was a Professor and Procurator, and later in Jeevan Jyoti, Kamed as the Vice Director and Procurator (1977-1978). Years after, he became the Rector of Deepti College, Melampara (1991-1993) and from there he moved to Ruhahaya, Ujjain as one of the Spiritual Directors (1993-1996). After his return from Germany, he was appointed Spiritual Director at Santhome Minor Seminary, Thamarassery in 2017.



Thus many of the MSTs in varied ages are his students and they do cherish the sweet memories of his guidance and friendship. I think that Fr Mattam relished the company of the youth, because he was young in mind and spirit, and was ever curious to read and learn new things. I also feel that he had been enjoying his final mission as a formator at Santhome, Thamarassery and trust that the staff of the seminary gave him good company.

He displayed great passion to discuss about the MST missions, its



spirituality, formation, schools, boardings, new communities, etc. and was very curious to see the kind of growth it makes in history. There was a felt genuineness and simplicity in all his expressions, and surpassing love for the Society and its missions.

Involving in varieties of ministries and missions, he has traversed the crossroads of the MST in his life time, and has shown as a way to do the Lord's mission through prayer, fraternity and solidarity. He extended his support beyond the MST by financially helping many Congregations of the religious sisters, orphanages, poor families, etc. Thus he touched the hearts of many with the enduring love of the Lord.

Life has to end for sure, but the love doesn't. Thank you Fr Mattam, for what you had been to the Church and to the MST. The song is ended, but the melody lingers on...

IX. APPENDICES

1. Circular No. X-20/2018-23

31 March 2021

Your Excellencies, Reverend Fathers and Brothers,
Warm and prayerful greetings from MST Generalate!

This is to announce to you that the **Plenary Council-2021** is constituted (Cf. C&D111) of the following members:

Elected members:

1. Rev. Fr Joseph Karodan (St Paul Region)
2. Rev. Fr Joseph Ayyankanal (St Paul Region)
3. Rev. Fr George Aikkarakunnel (St Thomas Region)
4. Rev. Fr Josekutty Kalayil (St Thomas Region)
5. Rev. Fr Joseph Aryankalayil (St Alphonsa Region)
6. Rev. Fr George Vadakeputhenpura (St Alphonsa Region)

Ex-officio members:

7. Very Rev. Fr Antony Perumanoor
8. Rev. Fr Francis Kureeckal
9. Rev. Fr Thomas Karamel
10. Rev. Fr Justin Vettukallel
11. Rev. Fr Peter Kavumpuram
12. Rev. Fr Kuriakose Kunnel
13. Rev. Fr Vincent Kadalikkattilputhenpura
14. Rev. Fr Joseph Thekkekarott
15. Rev. Fr Sebastian Njalliyil
16. Rev. Fr Thomas Olapurackal
17. Rev. Fr Chandy Kalathoor
18. Rev. Fr Chacko Pullatt
19. Rev. Fr George Kuppayil
20. Rev. Fr Joseph Pulavelil

May I take this opportunity to thank the members in the election committee - Rev. Fr Sebastian Aniyekatt (Convener), Rev. Fr Varghese Koonamparampath (Member) and Rev. Fr John Vanmelil (Member) for conducting the election of the delegates according to the *Constitutions and Directives* of the MST (C&D 111 and D 63).

Invoking God's blessings and your prayers for the upcoming Plenary Council-2021,

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Sd/-

Fr Antony Perumanoor
Director General, MST

Sd/-

Fr Justin Vettukallel
Secretary General, MST

2. Circular No. X-21/2018-23

28 April 2021

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 members of the Missionary Society of St Thomas the Apostle, in this alarming time of the second wave of Covid-19.

1. Outbreak of Covid-19 in Deepti Mount

More than ten of our members in the Generalate, including priests and seminarians, have been tested Covid-19 positive and all of them are residing in Deepti Mount itself. Therefore, I discourage you from visiting the Generate in the upcoming weeks until it is subsided, and thus to be safe and help control the spread of the pandemic.

There are also many of our priests, seminarians and missionary collaborators getting infected by corona virus in different parts of

our missions in India. Let us try to take all possible measures to survive this second wave of the pandemic and help each other in facing the challenge.

2. Plenary Council in Online Platform

May I hereby inform you that the Plenary Council-2021 is going to be conducted in online platform, if possible in the already scheduled dates (from 9 May 2021). In the context of the rampant Covid-19, I consulted all the elected and ex-officio members of the Plenary Council and most of them suggested to conduct it online considering the risks involved in coming together physically. I request your prayers for a fruitful Plenary Council-2021.

3. Major Seminarian's Gathering and Vestition

The annual gathering of the Major Seminarians scheduled from 3 to 5 May 2021 is cancelled due to the pandemic. However, the vestition and the renewal of the promise of those who are promoted to theology, and the first promise of those who are promoted to philosophy will be held in Deepti Bhavan at a suitable time later.

4. Holy Qurbana for the Deceased Members

May I remind you of the obligation to offer one each Holy Qurbana for the recently departed members - Rev. Fr John Nattunilath and Emmanuel Mattam, as directed in D16(vii) of our Constitutions and Directives.

Let us continue our prayers for the whole world and for each other.
Yours in Christ Jesus,

Sd/-

Fr Antony Perumanoor
Director General, MST

Sd/-

Fr Justin Vettukallel
Secretary General, MST

Circular No. X-22/2018-23

24 May 2021

Subject: Postponing the Election of Delegates to Extraordinary General Assembly

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

This is to bring to your kind attention that the final date to receive the ballots for the election of the delegates to the Extraordinary General Assembly-2021 is now postponed from 25 May to **15 June 2021**.

It has been reported that there occurred interruptions in receiving and returning the ballot papers for the election of the delegates to the Extraordinary General Assembly-2021 mainly due to the postal delays caused by the lockdowns. Therefore, with the consent of the General Council of the MST, I do hereby inform you that the committee for the election of the delegates to the Extraordinary General Assembly is directed to accept the ballots arriving until **15 June 2021** (instead of 25 May). Consequently, 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 20 June 2021. You are encouraged to make use of this extended time to cast your votes, if you have not yet done so.

Let us continue our prayers for the whole world and for each other in this difficult time of the pandemic, and keep ourselves healthy.

Yours fraternally in Christ Jesus,

Sd/-

Fr Antony Perumanoor
Director General, MST

Sd/-

Fr Justin Vettukallel
Secretary General, MST

Your Excellencies, Reverend Fathers and Brothers,

Warm and prayerful greetings from MST Generalate!

I am happy to announce the elected delegates (C&D 63) from the Mission Regions for the upcoming Extraordinary General Assembly (C&D 74).

St Paul Region (14)

1. H.E. Athikalam Mar James
2. Ayyankanal Joseph
3. Chenganariparampil Thomas
4. Karodan Joseph
5. Kizhakkeyil Sebastian
6. Kondoor Joseph
7. Kurukilamkatt James
8. Maprakavil Joseph
9. Munjanatt Antony
10. Olapurackal Thomas
11. Parayadyil Thomas
12. Pullatt Sebastian
13. Vattappara Peter
14. Venattumattam Joseph

St Thomas Region (12)

1. Aikkarakunnel George
2. Cherickanampurath Sebastian
3. Kalayil Joseph
4. Karikkandathil Varghese
5. Kootumkal Sebastian
6. Maliekal Michael
7. Manjalankal Thomas
8. Muringassery Sebastian
9. Njarolickal Jacob

10. Palakeel Joseph
11. Parackal Joseph
12. Vedikunnel Joseph

St Alphonsa Region (13)

1. Arangassery Lonappan
2. Aryankalayil Joseph G.
3. Cheriampanatt Joseph
4. Kalathoor Chandy
5. Kudiyiruppil John
6. Kuppayil George
7. Moothasseril Mathew
8. Muthanatt George
9. Painadath Paul
10. Parayankuzhiyil Thomas
11. Pulavelil Joseph
12. Vadakeputhenpura George
13. Vechoopadinjarethil Thomas

May I take this opportunity to thank the members of the election committee - Rev. Fr Joseph Pulavelil (Convener), Rev. Fr Joseph Oppenmakal (Member) and Rev. Fr George Keeranchira (Member) for conducting the election of the delegates according to the *Constitutions and Directives* of the MST (C&D 63).

Invoking God's blessings and your prayers for the upcoming Extraordinary General Assembly,

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Sd/-

Fr Antony Perumanoor
Director General, MST

Sd/-

Fr Justin Vettukallel
Secretary General, MST



SEMINARIANS OF MOC, JEEVAN JYOTI, SRIRANGAPATNA (2021-2022)

**"I prefer a Church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a Church which is clinging to its own security."
Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium, 49.**



Members of St Thomas Region, Mandya

**MST Generalate, Deepti Mount, Melampara P. O. Bharananganam 686578,
Kottayam Dt, Kerala. Tel: 04822-236353**

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