



MST World

MST News Bulletin 04/21

Christmas 2021



Priestly Ordination 2021



Dn Gervasis (Jince) Kodikulam

Bethlehem Church, Parampuzha
(Changanacherry)

9.15 a.m. on 27-12-2021

by H.B. Mar George Cardinal Alencherry



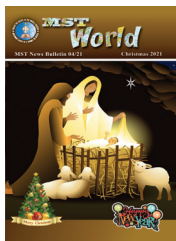
Dn Michael (Shinto) Vettikuzhichalil

St Joseph Church, Santhigram (Idukki)

9.15 a.m. on 29-12-2021

by H.E. Mar Sebastian Vadakel

Paryerful wishes to the ordinandi



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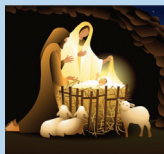
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I. MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

Dear Reverend Fathers, Reverend Deacons and Brothers,



“Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord”(Lk 2:10–11)

Yes, yet another time of Good News, the time of great joy, the time of Christmas. The birth of a child into the family is always a time of joy, love and care. The joy is doubled when it is shared with others. Christmas is the time for each of us as Christians to share this joy with others in order to double the sweetness of joy. As missionaries our sole happiness and joy lies in sharing of this joy – sharing of Christ with others. I was taken up by seeing this joy in the missionaries of Africa during my recent visit there. I could spend three weeks with them. Our travel by road for almost 4000 kms was like a mission retreat. I could meet many missionaries of different religious congregations - both men and women from India working in Tanzania. Listening to their inspiring missionary experiences of sharing the good news of Jesus Christ and the joy of the Gospel to the people in Africa made me reflect the following passage from the Gospel of St Luke 2: “But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.”

Sharing the Joy of the Gospel with Peoples is the Mission of the MST

All members of the MST and our missionary collaborators are called and sent to share this joy to the people among whom we are living. I take this opportunity to appreciate and thank all of you for your active and zealous missionary involvements in bringing Jesus and the joy of His good news to the ends of the earth. The world of today witnesses a new mode of living. Everything has changed and is still on the path of change which no one could think of. In such a situation of despair, depression, unhappiness, joy is something everyone looks at. For sure as missionaries, we know that the only true joy one can experience is in the contact with Christ. As missionaries we have encountered many problems of the people and should be convincing the people that Jesus Christ is the only

solution for all their problems. To us Christmas should be not a yearly event but an everyday event because we are to share the joy of Christmas every day to the people who are morally, socially and spiritually confused today. For this, we should find trust and strength in the Eucharistic Lord to be the torch bearer of Jesus Christ to lighten the people who are seeking for true light, joy in their life.

Today to many, Christmas has come to be about Santa Claus, about toys, gifts and Christmas parties, Christmas trees, etc. This was reflected in the controversial statement of a European union official giving advice to subordinates to wish each other with “happy holidays” instead “merry Christmas” to bring about equality! But Christmas - It’s all about Jesus. Jesus is born for us, for our people.

This was seen to me in our African missionaries. Their God-experience as MSTs leads them to a deep immersion in the actual life situation of the people for a transformation of life in the power of the Word of God, for it is the way of the Lord. The parish of Rev. Fr Zacharias in the diocese of Bunda which is in the Northern part of Tanzania has a dictum they pray often: **“Life with Jesus is success, Life without Jesus is chaos.”** Hence let us invite all to open their hearts to Babe Jesus to enjoy Peace and get rid of fear from life.

To give this invitation first and foremost we are to open our hearts and lives to Baby Jesus. Everyday celebration of the Holy Qurbana and the liturgy of hours, spending some time all alone with Christ, using the weapon of Rosary to pray along with our Mother contemplating on the Christ events will surely help us to have the joy of Christmas in our everyday life. Christmas is not celebrations alone; it is all about sharing. Let us share the joy of Christ with others. One of the happiest moments in my life as an MST missionary was during my recent visit to Africa – the joy of having the opportunity and performing the baptism of 68 adults and 13 children. On sharing the joy of Christ with others we fulfil the *mission ad gentes*. Let this Christmas be a season of sharing, doubling the joy of the birth of Christ who was born, lived, died but still lives for us.

Wish you all every joy of Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Fr Antony Perumanoor
Director General, MST

II. NEWS FROM THE GENERALATE

(From 15 October – 20 December 2021)

1. Priestly Ordinations -2021

Happy to inform you that two of our permanent members (deacons) who have successfully completed their priestly training in Ruhailaya Major Seminary – Ujjain have been recommended by the seminary authorities for sacred ordination to priesthood. Having considered their applications, along with the seminary reports, recommendations by respective parishes, they have been promoted to the Holy Order of Priesthood by the General Council. They are: Rev. Deacon Gervasis (Jince) Kodikulam and Rev. Deacon Michael (Shinto) Vettikuzhichalil.

Rev. Deacon Kodikulam will be conferred the holy order of priesthood by His Beatitude Mar George Cardinal Alencherry at his parish - Bethlehem Church, Parampuzha in the Archdiocese of Changanacherry, at 9.15 a.m. on 27 December 2021. Rev. Deacon Vettikuzhichalil will be conferred the holy order of priesthood by His Excellency Mar Sebastian Vadakel at his parish - St Joseph Church, Santhigram in the Diocese of Idukki, at 9.15 a.m. on 29 December 2021. Let us ardently pray for the *ordinandi* and their families, as they are in the immediate preparation for the long-cherished priesthood. All of you are welcome to join the ordination ceremonies.

Rev. Deacon Joseph (Dino) Kongamala, who also had completed his priestly training in Ruhailaya Major Seminary, has requested some more time for prayer and reflection before the reception of the priestly ordination. Kindly keep him in prayers, as he prepares and discerns his future for the best.

2. Perpetual Promise and Diaconate

The General Council of the Missionary Society of St Thomas the Apostle, having considered the personal applications, confidential reports and recommendations of the seminary authorities and the testimonials of the respective parish priests, decided to promote the

following 10 brothers to the Sacred Order of M'samsanusa. They were conferred the Sacred Order of M'samsanusa on 18 December 2021 by His Excellency Mar Sebastian Vadakel. On that day, they also made their perpetual promise of incorporation into the MST before the Director General at Ruhahaya Major Seminary. Let us prayerfully welcome all 10 of them to the MST as its permanent members. They are the following:

1. Bro. Joseph (Anand) Anakkallil
2. Bro. Thomas (Bibin) Areeplackal
3. Bro. Michael (Leo) Chandrankunnel
4. Bro. Abraham (Deepu) Kollakombil
5. Bro. Joseph (Albin) Maruthumkuzhiyil
6. Bro. Joseph (Jose) Perumanoor
7. Bro. Francis (Deepak) Poovatholil
8. Bro. Thomas Pullikattil
9. Bro. Mathew (Ajay) Varickickal
10. Bro. Philip (Jestin) Vattamannil

3. Conferring of Minor Orders

At the recommendation of the Rector and the staff of Ruhahaya, the following candidates were conferred the minor orders of Heupdiyaknusa and Karoyusa by His Excellency Mar Sebastian Vadakel on 18 December 2021.

a. The Sacred Order of Heupdiyaknusa

1. Bro. Michael (Shalgin) Arackaparambil
2. Bro. Joseph (Ashil) Kizhakkekkara

b. The Sacred Order of Karoyusa

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

Very Rev. Fr Director General was present for the ceremonies. The MST is grateful to all the formators for their untiring efforts in the formation of our candidates.

4. Demise and Funeral of Rev. Fr Nelloor (1973-2021)



Rev. Fr Cyriac (Siby) Nelloor (48), a member of the MST assigned to St Paul Region, who had been ministering as a pioneering missionary at Khristjyoti Catholic Mission, Rohru (Himachal Pradesh), within St Mary Queen of the Missions Delegation was called for his eternal abode at 2.45 a.m. on Friday 22 October 2021. The funeral

service was held on 24 October 2021 at Deepti Mount.

Rev. Fr Siby Nelloor belonged to the 1999-2000 ordination batch of the MST. As a missionary priest, he began his ministry in the Eparchy of Ujjain (Agar and Rajagarh) and was there for three years. He was part of the formation team of Deepti College for one year (2003-2004). He secured doctorate in Media and Communication from Gregorian University, Rome in 2015. During these years (2004-2015) he ministered in the Dioceses of Spoleto-Norcia and Latina-Teracina-Sezze-Priverno, Italy. After his return

to India, he chose to work in St Mary Queen of the Missions Delegation. He situated his ministry in Himachal Pradesh and explored responsive areas around Shimla and finally got located at Rohru, a



small township in the district of Shimla. Now there is a vibrant and growing community in Rohru. Another new centre recently begun at Chirgaon (H.P.), with more than a dozen of families, is an offshoot of his missionary efforts in this area.

It was at the time of the rampant spread of Covi-19, that he came to Kerala from Himachal Pradesh in June 2020 for treatment. Having confirmed the intense presence of Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML-M4) at Rajagiri Hospital, Aluva, he was taken to the Regional Cancer Centre (RCC), Trivandrum to ensure him the best available treatment for cancer in Kerala. But he was not able to complete the standardized



chemotherapy regimen due to the frenetic fluctuations in his blood counts and it signalled the impossibility of bone marrow transplant. However, he felt seemingly good and was given a break

from the treatment. During this time, he loved to return to his mission in Himachal Pradesh and he did it after Easter 2021. He could not continue in the mission as the symptoms of cancer recurred rapidly. He returned to Kerala by the end of May 2021 and attempted another turn of chemo at RCC, as recommended by the doctors.

But he could not even proceed with the preparatory doses of chemo, the doctors had to suggest only palliative care for the rest of his life.

By the end of June 2021, he had been struggling with a series of symptoms and fatigues and was in and out of the hospitals in Pala like – Carmel Hospital and Mar Sleevea Medicity. During this time, he had been assisted by his friends in the seminary, the MSTs of his batch and his family members. On 14 October, he got admitted in Medicity and by 20 October his internal organs turned dysfunctional and incapable of metabolizing any medication. His siblings were by his side, at the time of his earthly departure for heaven on 22 October.

His mortal remains were brought to Deepti Bhavan by 7.30 a.m. on Sunday, 24 October. The first part of the funeral services started at 10.00 a.m., led by his home-parish priest (of Kabanigiri, Mananthavady) and the priests who came from the Diocese of Mananthavady. The second part of the funeral liturgy was presided by the Director General who also preached eulogy. Their Excellencies Mar Sebastian Vadakel of Ujjain and Mar James Athikalam of Sagar officiated the Holy Qurbana and the final rites of the funeral. By 12.45 p.m. he was laid to rest at the cemetery of Deepti Mount.

There was a special requiem Holy Quraban celebrated on 4 December at Deepti Bhavan, attended by his parents and close relatives. As customary, ‘A Tribute’ is presented towards the end of this Bulletin prepared by Rev. Fr Jacob Najrolickal, one of the batchmates of Fr Nelloor.

5. New Schedule for Extraordinary General Assembly

As we are initiating a new process for the election of the delegates, the Extraordinary General Assembly (EGA) cannot commence on 15 March 2022 as scheduled previously. Instead, it will be held from 16.00 hours on Sunday, 1 May 2022 at Deepti Bhavan, Melampara, and will continue until it finishes its agenda. The information on the revocation of the process of the election of delegates for the EGA and the reasons for the same were shared with all through a circular letter (Circular No. X-27/2018-23) dated

29 October 2021. The newly appointed election committee has already started process for the election of delegates.

6. Death Anniversary of Founder

On 21 November 2020, the death anniversary of our Founder – Mar Sebastian Vayalil was commemorated. The Vice Director General joined with the Holy Qurbana and special prayers offered at St Thomas Cathedral – Pala, led by three Bishops of the Eparchy of Pala. Members from the General Council and representatives from Deepti seminary staff also participated in the service at the Cathedral.

7. Birth Centenary of Mar Perumattam

The birth centenary of Mar John Perumattam of happy memory (1921-2021) was celebrated through an online gathering in zoom-platform from 6.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m, on 3 November 2021. Mar John Perumattam, the first Director General of the MST and the first bishop of the eparchy of Ujjain was a saintly missionary who loved the mission, the fellow missionaries and the faithful. The meeting opened with the introductory words by the Director General. Their Excellencies Mar Joseph Pallikparampil, Mar Sebastian Vadakel and Mar James Athikalam spoke on the occasion. There were nine speakers including the brother of Mar Perumattam, and selected representatives from the close associates of Mar John Perumattam including religious sisters, friends and priests who were contemporary to him in Ujjain. More than 100 participants joined Zoom. The programme included an audio-visual documentary prepared by Santhome-Media, IMPACT and a memorial group song presented by Rev. Fr Ashok Kollamkudy and the Ruhlaya choir. The meeting was organized by the Vice Director of the MST.

8. Visit of the Director General to Tanzania

The Director General visited the MST missionaries in Tanzania from 5 to 21 November 2021. He visited their parishes situated in three different dioceses of Tanzania namely Dar es Salem, Songea and Bunda. He participated in the consecration of a new church in Bunda

built by Rev. Fr Zacharias Azhikannickal. He had formal meetings with the Ordinaries of the dioceses we work. Rev. Fr Varghese Pullappallil, the MST Coordinator at Dar es Salem, along with Rev. Frs Shaiju Kizhakkekureethadathil and Robin Manianchira organized the visit of the Director General in different places.

9. Silver Jubilee of Ruhalaya (Theology)

The Theology section of Ruhalaya Major Seminary celebrated the conclusion of its silver jubilee year (1997-2022) on 25 November 2021. As the delegate of the Major Archbishop, His Excellency Mar Raphael Thattil was the chief guest for the celebration. Bishops of Ujjain, Indore, Sagar and Satna were also present for the solemn Holy Qurbana and the public meeting. Very Rev. Fr Antony Perumaoor, the Director General, along with Rev. Frs Francis Kureeckal and Peter Kavumpuram from the General Council also participated in the celebration. The invited participants included representatives from various seminaries in Madhya Pradesh, missionaries from the Eparchy of Ujjain, etc. The programme was live telecasted and was attended online by many. Due to the situation of the pandemic Covid-19, the jubilee celebrations were very minimal and simple, but beautiful. Sincere appreciation to the staff and students of Ruhalaya for the fabulous conduct of the jubilee celebrations.

10. Sacerdotal Golden and Silver Jubilee

As presented and announced in the previous News Bulletin, the Golden Jubilarians (1972-2022) and Silver Jubilarians (Ordination batch of 1996-1997) have been invited to Deepti Bhavan for the Generalate level celebrations, from 18 to 20 January 2022. The celebrations would include a few renewal sessions, concelebrated Holy Qurbana and a public gathering for felicitation.

11. Online Celebration of Sacerdotal Ruby Jubilee

Seven Ruby Jubilarians in the current year (the ordination batch of 1981-1982) who completed 40 years in missionary priesthood will be felicitated through an online celebration of two hours from 6.00-

8.00 p.m. on Monday, 10 January 2022 through Zoom platform.
They are Rev. Frs:

- 1.Kizhakkeyil Sebastian
2. Pamplani Thomas
3. Kariathil Johny
- 4.Vandanoor Joseph
- 5.Mundiyavil Augustine
- 6.Kavungal Devis
- 7.Venattumattam Joseph

The link for participation in the celebration will be sent at a later time and all of you are invited to join in honouring the jubilarians.

12. Overseas Mission

Würzburg, Germany: Rev. Frs Thomas (Joby) Kozhippatt and Thomas (Shejin) Puthanpurayil have joined the diocese of Würzburg, Germany for pastoral ministry.

Muenster, Germany: Rev. Fr Varghese (Shaijan) Koonamparampath will be joining the diocese of Muenster, Germany for pastoral ministry after Christmas 2021.

13. Completion of Studies

Rev. Fr Sebastian (Deleep) Nalannadiyil completed studies in M.A. in History (Marathi Medium) with A+ from Shivaji University, Kolhapur.

Rev. Fr Cyriac (Cyril) Kureeckattu completed B.Ed. studies with 73% of overall marks from Punjab University, Chandigarh.

14. Beginning of Higher Studies

Rev. Fr George (Abin) Kuruvanplackel: He has started regular studies in MSW at Amity University, Noida, Delhi.

Rev. Fr George (Jubil) Muricken: He has started regular studies in Hindi Literature at Haryana Central University, Mahendragarh, Haryana.

15. Awards/Achievements

KCBC Award for Fr Kizhakkeyil: Kerala Catholic Bible Society of the Kerala Catholic Bishops' Council (KCBC) honoured Rev. Fr Sebastian Kizhakkeyil with its 'Vachana Prathipha Puraskaram of 2021' in recognition for his outstanding contributions through Bible Apostolate by way of publication of books, articles, audio-visual programmes and television shows. The award contains INR 25,000/- plus an appreciatory certificate, and will be formally presented to him on 15 January 2022.



വചനസർഗ്ഗ പ്രതിഭാ
പുരസ്കാരം 2021
ഫാ. സെബാസ്റ്റ്യൻ
കിഴക്കേയിലിന്

KCBC NEWS

Audio-visual Productions by Fr Elamthurthiyil: Rev. Fr Alex



Elamthurthiyil has written and composed eight songs and given music to four Malayalam songs, one eanc Telugu and Hindi song. He has given music to one short film based on St Joseph and also written and directed one short film based on True Love. In the coming days a few more new songs are getting ready to be released. He owns and operates a YouTube channel called 'Deepflows' with more than a thousand subscribers.

16. Transfer of Regents

As customary, the brothers in regency had mid-year transfers and currently they are placed as the following:

Ammanath Joyal - Deepti Mount

Kaithackal Maneesh – M. Rampur, Odisha

Kanjirathimkal Alan - Dilshad Garden

Kavunnukatt Joseph - Bachukheda

Kizhakkumkarayil Alan - Amberi

Mannarath Akhil - Dilasa Bhavan

Mundamattam Noble – Baliguda, Odisha

Palakuzhiyil Anson - Santhome Bhavan, Indore

Puthenpura Siby - Deepti Mount

17. Interregional Gatherings

As the interregional gatherings were not yet held due to the pandemic related restrictions, we are now planning to organize a series of gatherings in the month of February 2022 in five different groups in five different places. The dates and places are given below.

1. **February 1,2,3** - Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday: **Mandya**

2. **February 6,7,8** - Sunday, Monday and Tuesday: **Sangli**

3. **February 11,12,13** - Friday, Saturday and Sunday: **Ujjain**

4. **February 16,17,18** - Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday: **Odisha**

5. **February 21,22,23,24** Monday, Tuesday Wednesday and Thursday: **Delhi**

The details of the programme and the group assignments are now being circulated by the ongoing formation secretary -Rev. Fr Francis Kureeckal.



III. Transfers and Appointments

A. St Paul Region, Ujjain

Koottarappallil Jacob: Appointed Priest-in-charge, Indore.

Panthalippadan John: Relieved from Indore, and appointed Priest-in-charge, Ratlam.

Pottananiyil Joseph: Appointed Parish Priest of St Sebastian's Syro-Malabar Church, Kolar, Bhopal.

B. St Thomas Region, Mandya

Njarolickal Jacob: Relieved from St Thomas Mission Centre, Boath, Adilabad and appointed priest-in-charge at Jeevodaya, Arakere.

Pathalil Thomas: Relieved from Santhome Mission Centre, Hindupur and appointed administrator at Christalaya, Hadanur.

Puthenpurackal Jaison: Relieved from Jeevodaya, Arakere and assigned to Prison Ministry of India, Bangalore.

C. St Alphonsa Region, Sangli

Aryankalayil Joseph G.: Relieved from Sangli Mission (Miraj) towards decennial break.

Parayakuzhiyil Thomas: Relieved from Yadrav, Ichalkaranji and appointed Priest-in-charge, Alphonsa, Miraj

Purayidathil Abraham: Relieved from Ashadeep, Sangli and appointed Priest-in-charge, Alphonsa, Yadrav (Ichalkaranji).

Kurumundayil Sebastian: Appointed Director at Ashadeep, Sangli.

Thypparambil Varghese: Relieved from Miraj and appointed Principal, Alphonsa School, Kolhapur.

D. Other Missions/Centres/Ministries

Akkattu Antony: Appointed Asst. Priest-in-charge, Assisi Bhavan, Khamanon, Punjab.

Alummoottil Joseph: Relieved from Ludhiana and appointed Priest-in-charge, Assisi Bhavan, Khamanon, Punjab.

Cheeramvelil Antony: Relived from Ruhailaya Major Seminary, Ujjain.

Chirayil Mathew: Appointed Asst. Priest-in-charge/Asst. Manager, St Thomas, Bathinda and In-charge of Blessed Rani Maria Church, Goninana, Punjab.

Pathrapankal Mathew: Appointed Priest-in-charge, Khirst Jyoti, Rohru, Himachal Pradesh.

Poovathinkal Paul: Appointed Priest-in-charge, Holy Trinity, Chirgaon, Himachal Pradesh.

IV. Change/Correction of Contact Information

A. Postal Address

Akkattu Antony: Assisi Bhavan, Ward No 8, Khamanon Kalan, Near Tehsil Complex, Khamanon- 141801, Fatehgarh Sahib (Dt), Punjab.

Alummoottil Joseph: Assisi Bhavan, Ward No 8, Khamanon Kalan, Near Tehsil Complex, Khamanon- 141801, Fatehgarh Sahib (Dt), Punjab.

Aryankalayil Joseph G: Vishwadeepti Missiology Centre, P. B. No.1, Kalamba-416007, Kolhapur Dt, Maharashtra.

Cheeramvelil Antony: C/o Deepti Bhavan, Melampara-686578, Kottayam Dt, Kerala.

Chirayil Antony: Angel Home, Kadanad – 686 653, Kottayam Dt., Kerala.

Kozhippattu Joby: Haupt Straße 41, 96166 Kirchlauter, Germany.

Kummaniyil Tomy Scaria: Schwäbische Albstrasse 38, 73450 Ohmenheim, Neresheim, Germany.

Kurumundayil Sebastian: Ashadeep, Rajendra Housing Society, Balaji Nagar East, Sangli-416 416, Maharashtra.

Njarolickal Jacob: Jeevodaya, Sulthan Road, Arakere – 571 415, Mandya Dt, Karnataka.

Panthalippadan John: HIG Sr 2, Gangasagar, Ratlam-457001, Madhya Pradesh.

Parayakuzhiyil Thomas: St Alphonsa Church, Kupwad Road, Miraj – 416410, Sangli Dt, Maharashtra.

Pathalil Thomas: Christalaya, Hadanur, Tendekere - 571 426, K.R. Pete Taluk, Mandya Dt., Karnataka.

Purayidathil Abraham: Alphonsa School, Yardav, Ichalkaranji P. O. 416145, Kolhapur Dt., Maharashtra.

Puthenpurackal Jaison: No. 52, Thomas Layout, Sarjapura Road, Carmalaram P.O., Bangalore-560035, Karnataka.

Puthanpurayil Shejin: Haupt Straße 41, 96166 Kirchlauter, Germany.

Thuppalanjiyil Joseph (Saju): Chaama MST Bhavan, Thumbur - 680662, Lower Kodungallur, Thrissur, Kerala

Thypparambil Varghese: Alphonsa School, Padli-Khurd, Phulewadi Ring Road, Kolhapur, 416012, Maharashtra.

B. Phone Numbers

Kappiparampil Joby: +34 660 97 65 80

Kozhippattu Joby: +49 1516 3012927

Puthanpurayil Shejin: +49 15163012924

Thottaplackal Twinkle: 73061 40352

V. News from Seminaries

A. Deepti College, Melampara

1. Deepti Olympics / Sports day 2021



Deepti Olympics/ Sports day was officially inaugurated on October 22, 2021, by Rev. Fr Sabu Njarolickal. As the chief guest of the day, he delivered an inspiring speech highlighting the importance of sports and games in the formation of a seminarian. Various competitions were conducted on the same day.

2. Missionary Sharing on Rohru - Himachal Mission

Fr Sanoj Pathrapankal from Rohru mission, Himachal Pradesh came to Deepti and shared his mission experiences with help of videos and photos. Fr Siby Nelloor started this mission a few years ago. The faith life of the people in Rohru was very touching and appealing.



During the Holy Qurbana, we specially prayed for them.

3. Demise of Fr Siby Nelloor

The untimely sad demise of Fr Siby Nelloor was a shock for all of

us, though he was suffering from leukemia for some time. Seminarians used to pray for his speedy recovery from the illness. He was a great missionary and former staff of Deepti seminary. Fr. Siby went to his eternal home on 22 October 2021. Amidst the presence of many Bishops, priests, sisters, family members, and friends he was laid to rest at Deepti cemetery. May the angels of the Lord lead him to paradise.

4. Birthday of Director-General

It was one of the joyous days of the Deepti family. Very Rev. Fr



Antony Perumanoor, the Director General of MST celebrated his 60th Birthday on 31 October 2021. He celebrated Holy Qurbana in the seminary chapel. All the fathers and brothers of Deepti Mount gathered at the seminary refectory for lunch. Seminarians felicitated him with a beautiful song and speech.

5. Special Rosary Devotion

Ten days of special rosary devotion was conducted from 22-31 October. It was solemnly concluded with a candle procession from the public chapel to the seminary grotto. Many parishioners also participated in the rosary procession and ‘Agape’ meal.’

6. Monthly Recollection

On 11 November 2021 Fr Stanly Pullolil from Kanjirappally Diocese preached monthly recollection for the month of November. On 7 December 2021, Fr Xavier Maramattom from Vadavathoor Seminary preached monthly recollection for the month of December.

7. Mission Sunday Celebration

Fr Joseph Vadakkechirayath, director of Aram was the main celebrant for the Holy Qurbana on Mission Sunday. During the homily he shared his mission experience in India and abroad. It was quite



an enriching experience for the seminarians. After the Holy Qurbana, he also inaugurated the Mission Sunday Celebrations. We had various fun games and auctions in connection with Mission Sunday. After supper, there was a movie show (Jai Bheem) in the Golden Jubilee Auditorium.

8. New Office Bearers

After completing six months of their service to the seminary, they handed over their duties and assignments to the new team. Thanks a lot for their dedicated service to the Seminary. The new office bearers took charge on 14 November 2021.

9. Birthday of Fr Kisincher Aniyekattu

Fr Kisincher Aniyekattu, the Vice-Rector of Deepti celebrated his 45th birthday on 21 November. There was a solemn Holy Qurbana in the morning. In the evening, all the fathers of Deepti Mount gathered together to greet him on his birthday at the seminary refectory. Brothers composed and sang a beautiful song to appreciate his presence and service to the seminary.



10. Feast of Immaculate Mary

The Feast of Immaculate Conception was solemnly celebrated. The

main celebrant of the day was Rev. Fr Cheriyan Moolayil from St Joseph's Engineering College, Choondachery. During the homily, he stressed the importance of leading a holy life as that of Immaculate Mother Mary.

11. Birthday of Fr John Manjamattom

The whole seminary was happy to celebrate the 58th birthday of Fr John on 13 December. During the homily, he remembered to express his gratitude for all the blessings he received from God and MST. In honor of him, the brothers composed a song narrating all his good qualities.

12. Psycho-Spiritual and Sexual Class

A one-day seminar was conducted for the brothers on 12 November by Rev. Fr Francis Kandathil, CM, Eloor. It was very beneficial for the students. The students appreciated him for taking a class in the most comprehensible way.

13. Award Night



The winners of the sports and games, and cultural competitions held in connection with the Mission Sunday were awarded on 21 November 2021. Rev. Fr Peter Kavumpuram distributed prizes to the winners.

14. Christmas Exams and Vacation

Seminarians begin their Christmas exams on 11 December. They leave for vacation on 23 December. The seminary reopens after Christmas vacation on 7 January 2022. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

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

B. Santhome Minor Seminary, Thamarassery

By the grace of God the Santhome Community is keeping fine and all its members are doing well . Although the Covid-19 had a snare at us in September, we could defeat it immediately with God's grace and prompt actions taken by the Seminary. Hereby I try to narrate the main events that took place in Santhome Seminary in the last three months, after the Mission Sunday issue of MST WORLD:

1. Feast of Bl. Kunjachan Celebrated

The Feast of Blessed Kunjachan was celebrated very solemnly. In his homily Fr Rector spoke about the life and person of Bl. Kunjachan.

2. Bi-Annual Retreat

Bi-annual retreat was started on 20 October, in the evening after Leliya. Fr Saju Elanjickal MST and team led the sessions for three days. It was concluded on 23rd evening with Eucharistic Adoration.

3. New Official Duties Given

New semester duties were announced on 28 October and the new semester began on 1 November.

4. Akhanda Japamala

To pay our respect to Bl. Virgin Mary, we observed 10 days of solemn rosary from 22 to 31 October and the last day was observed as Akhanda Japamala – reciting non-stop rosary from 8.00 am to 6.00 pm. There was a Rosary procession after 6.00 p.m. and the message was given by Rev. Fr James Marottikudy.

5. Sports Days



We organized the sports' days from 28 to 29 October. It is part of the Mission Sunday competitions. The literary competitions had already finished before the examinations.

6. Economics Class By Fr Thomas Manjalankal

Rev. Fr Thomas Manjalankal MST came from Jeevan Jyoti to Santhome Seminary to give classes on Economics for the second and the third year brothers for three weeks, starting from 7 November and he went back on 28 November. The Santhome community expressed deep felt gratitude for spending his valuable time for us!

7. Award Night

Award night was conducted on 10 November immediately after the



completion of the literary and sports competitions.

Rev. Fr Francis Kureeckal was the chief guest who after his beautiful message gave away the prizes of literary

and sports champions, and then the overall champion of the four groups. Rev. Fr Thomas Manjalankal, the guest of honour, shared his mission experience to boost our brothers in their vocation. Rev. Fr Rector in his words of appreciation lauded the hard work of Fr Abin Kochupurackal and the juries.

8. Class On Sexology – ‘Know Your Body’

Rev. Fr Thomas Kandathil CM came here on 12 November and the class on “Know your Body” was held for two days. It was very kind of Fr Thomas to come all the way from Ellur to give class for our students.

9. The Holy Qurbana in English Language

With the beginning of the new Semester, we started to celebrate the Holy Qurbana in English. Three days in a week are assigned for English Qurbana.

10. Santhome Koinonia’ – Community Gathering

Santhome Seminary had a Community meeting, where all brothers and fathers came together to share their experience in living together. Brothers had first-hand sharing and expression of their views for the

better functioning of the Seminary and the Staff took the proper decisions on the spot. All their concerns and queries were explained and answered, and their suggestions were heard. Brothers appreciated such a Community gathering in the beginning of each Semester.

11. Founder's Day Celebrated

The Seminary commemorated the death of our founder Bishop Mar Sebastian Vayalil on 21 November with solemn Holy Qurbana by Fr James Marottikudy who delivered an enriching homily on the life and aspirations of the founder. We paid our homage in front of his picture and said 'Office of the Dead.'

12. New Holy Qurbana

The new Synodal Qurbana was officially celebrated by Fr Rector on 28th November. We are using the second Anaphora of Mar Theodore.

13. One Act Play Competitions

We conducted one act play competitions on 28 November. One act play competition is conducted to commemorate the founder's day. All the three batches took the competitions very seriously and prepared them very well. The three judges from the *Sanathana* Major Seminary (MCBS) judged the one act plays and graded the winners! The second years won the first prize followed by the first years. The third years won the third prize. The theme of all the three one act plays was based on the Bible. Cash prizes were distributed!

14. Visit of Archbishop Njaralakatt

Archbishop Mar George Njaralakatt visited us on Monday, 29 November. It was a casual visit and he delivered a good message to grow in our vocation!



15. Declamations

The declamations of the second year brothers were started in October. They performed it very well with actions! The best three were awarded!

16. Christmas Friend and Lent

It is fitting to start the 25 days of lent with a Christmas friend! Each one got a Christmas friend by lot on 30 November and everybody will reveal his Christmas friend on 21 December, on the day of our Christmas celebrations here in our seminary.

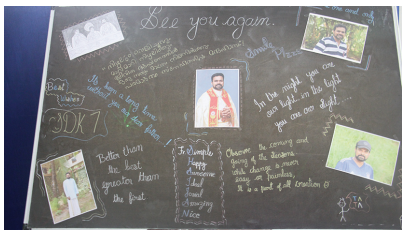
17. Christmas Stars and Cribs

The brothers made two gigantic Christmas stars on 30 November with drawings of Christmas cribs and stars on it; one is placed close to the Vezhupur Bus Stand and the other in the seminary! Christmas Crib is in preparations.



18. Send-off to Fr Shaijan Koonamparampath

Rev. Fr Shaijan, who served Santhome Seminary in various capacities – Procurator and Vice-Rector – was given a rousing send-off on 11 December. Due to Covid, we could not conduct the send off function in June when he left Santhome seminary for language study. Fr Rector remembered his contributions to Santhome Seminary and thanked him very sincerely! He was the main celebrant for the Holy Qurbana on Sunday 12 December and then he left for his home!



19. Christmas Celebrations and Vacation

The Christmas celebration in the Seminary is scheduled on 21 December evening and the Brothers will go home for Christmas holidays on 22nd morning. They are allowed to travel by public means

this time but will have to come with an RTPCR Report of not more than 48 hours. The seminary will re-open on 1 January.

20. Experience Sharing by Missionaries

Two of our missionaries visited us and celebrated the Holy Qurbana with us and enriched us with their convincing message and zeal for the mission. Rev. Fr Thomas from the diocese of Pala, a friend of Fr Abin Kochuprackal, shared his Ahmedabad experience and Fr Thomas Manjalankal boosted up our Brothers with his thrilling mission experience.

21. End of the Year of St Joseph



The conclusion of the year of St Joseph was conducted very solemnly on 8 December along with the Feast of our Blessed Virgin Mary. The main celebrant was Rev. Fr Mathew

Olickal MCBS, Rector of Sanathana Major Seminary. He delivered a beautiful and thought provoking message.

22. Sacerdotal Ruby Jubilee of Fr Kariathil

Fr Johny Kariathil celebrates his 40th year of his Priesthood on 21 December this year, with Santhome Seminary. His Excellency Mar Remigiose Inchananiyil is the main celebrant during the Holy Qurbana. The Seminary is in preparations to celebrate this great event!

23. Some Visitors to Santhome Seminary

Archbishop George Njaralakatt, Very Rev. Fr Antony Perumannor, Fr Francis Kureeckal, Fr Thomas Karamel, Fr Joy Kunnel, Fr Peter Kavumpuram, Fr Rony Alencherry, Fr Monse Karuvakkunnel, Fr Scaria Thamarakkatt, Fr James Kurukilamkatt, Fr George Kuppayil, Fr Benny Puthenpurackal, Fr Mathew Olickal, Fr Shejin MST, Fr Monse MST, Fr Binu Areethara, Fr Joseph MSFS, Fr Augustine MSFS and Sr Tessy SABS.

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

C. Jeevan Jyoti, Srirangapatna

1. New Semester with New Official Duties

The second semester started on 7 October. All the staff members sincerely thanked the brothers for their excellent performance of the official duties. And, the first semester we concluded with the village exposure, which in a way was a healthy outlet for relieving the stress of the semester and venturing to enter into a new experience in the missions with our senior missionaries.

However, as we embark on this new semester with new official duties, it is almost like a new beginning. The second semester may compel bothers to keep their eyes and ears wide open for more opportunities, to contribute to the growth of Jeevan Jyoti community in the best way possible. We are sure that it will be a semester packed with new events and activities. Enjoy the ride dear brothers.

2. Mysore Dussehra Visit



All of us were very happy to participate in the biggest and prominent festival of Karnataka, the Mysore Dussehra. People of the locality call it the '*naada happa*' (State Festival). It marks the symbolic victory of

good over evil. It is told that the city of Mysore has been holding the grand Dussehra festivities for more than four centuries.

Indeed, over the decades Mysore has become synonymous with the



extravagant Dussehra celebration and the festival is celebrated with a great pomp every year. May be due to covid, this year illuminations were less when compared to the previous years. And, we witnessed the main beauty with the lighting event of Mysore Palace, which dazzled at night from the light of 96000 bulbs used to illuminate it.

3. Rosary Conclusion on 31 October



October is the month, which we the Catholics dedicate to the Holy Rosary, devotion which Our Lady loves most and asked us to pray daily. Yes, it is a Marian Devotion which manifests our filial trust and love for our Mother Mary, the

Mother of God, convinced of the powerful intercession in front of the Holy Trinity.

The last 10 days of the month of October, we had specially dedicated for the Rosary devotion with the common intension like; a covid free world, conversion of sinners, in reparation for the sins of the world, church's protection from the evil, for peace in the world, for people suffering due to terrorism, war, persecution, injustice, poverty, unemployment etc., along with some personal intentions for our MST Society and its Missions.

On 31 October evening, we concluded the Rosary devotion, which was marked by Solemn Rosary and blessing of our traditional '*Paachore*', which we prepared in honour of our Blessed Mother. Rev. Fr Viju Muringassery delivered a meaningful message on the occasion highlighting the importance of invoking always presence of our Blessed Mother in our life and especially in our seminary formation time and in the priestly life. And by doing so, he said, we will be pleasing our Heavenly Mother, who wants to have her children always close by.

4. Visit by Fr Francis Kureeckal

It was on 13th November, the Vice General and the Formation in charge Very Rev. Fr Francis Kureeckal, officially paid his visit to



Jeevan Jyoti. A very warm welcome was accorded to Rev. Fr Francis Kureeckal by the Jeevan Jyoti family.

His two days of stay with us gave him sufficient time to meet all the brothers personally.

And, the brothers were very happy to share with him about life at Jeevan Jyoti and to listen to him as well.

However, he instructed the brothers to undergo the MOC formation with firm determination and sweetness of heart. He also insisted that the brothers should endeavour to maintain an atmosphere of love of God and love of neighbour in the Jeevan Jyoti family. He reinstated that we need to show love and concern to each one in the community by consoling, comforting, and encouraging them as required. Thanks Rev. Fr Kureeckal for spending your valuable time with us.

5. Death Anniversary of Bro. Rinu Kuzhiveliparmbil

16 November 2021 was the 20th death anniversary of our dear Bro. Rinu Kuhziveliparampil. As we know death is an inseparable part of the cycle of life, but it is as still as traumatic and haunting for us, the sad demise of our dear bro Rinu, on 16 November 2001. His death still creates such grief that can hardly be washed away even after 20 years. Though nothing can be compensated for the great loss of dear Rinu, expressing love for the deceased on his death anniversary can be relieving. Therefore, we had the remembrance of Bro. Rinu on his death anniversary. We offered the Holy Qurbana and thereafter the Office for the Dead.

6. Death Anniversary of Our Founder Mar Sebastian Vayalil

On the 35th death anniversary of our Founder, Bishop Mar Sebastian Vayalil, we paid our tribute and respect to him through the offering of the Holy Qurbana and Office for the Dead on Monday, 22 November.

And during the homily, Fr Sebastian Koottumkal narrated his first-hand experience with the late Bishop and expressed that he was a man of God. Even listening to his narration about the life and style of functioning of the late bishop, we were heavily drawn and attracted toward his excellent personality as the good shepherd of the people of Palai Diocese. Thanks to the Almighty for having given him as the Founder of our MST Society.

7. AIDS Awareness Meeting

Jeevan Jyoti becomes the venue for the AIDS awareness meeting.



December 1st is observed as World AIDS Day. It is an opportunity for the people world-wide to get united in order to fight against HIV, to show their solidarity with people living with HIV, to remember those who have died

due to AIDS and HIV related diseases.

This year collaboration of our Jeevan Jyoti seminary was sought by the Taluk Civil Hospital authorities to hold the World AIDS Day meeting. The meeting was inaugurated by the Main Civil Judge Mr Prakash Sangappa and many other dignitaries, including Judges and Doctors were present on the occasion. All the staff members and brothers participated in the event.

8. Christmas Preparations

Once more Christmas is fast approaching. Jeevan Jyoti is getting ready to receive Child Jesus. These days our brothers were busy with making of the crib and the preparation of the traditional cultural programme to be performed in our Mission Stations and Schools.

Though some minimum covid restrictions are imposed by the state, we hope that we will be able to perform the cultural programmes at least for a limited number of people without violating the covid protocol. On the other hand, if the state imposes more restrictions, we may have to rethink about performing the cultural programme.

9. Feast of the Immaculate Mary

The title of the Immaculate Conception recognizes Mary's privilege of coming into the world free of sin.



On 8 December the Church celebrates this special privilege given to Mary. On this day we had the solemn celebration of the Holy Qurbana. Rev. Fr Salas Karikkandathil was the main celebrant of the day. In the homily, he invited us to remain always under the protection of the mantle of the Blessed Mother.

Later, at noon all of us joined in the parish feast at Ganjam Immaculate Conception Church. After the Holy Mass we participated in the Marian Procession and came back to the

seminary after the sumptuous 'Ootta' (lunch).

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

D. Ruhalaya Major Seminary, Ujjain

Dear Friends of Ruhalaya, Wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year! May this Christmas and New Year bring to you God's greater blessings and protection. Past three months have been a time of God's blessings to Ruhalaya in many ways.

1. Community Day



Community Day was celebrated on 8 September. Both communities came together for the solemn Holy Qurbana in the morning and



community building-entertainment programme was conducted by the brothers for the entire community. In the evening once again, we came together to the auditorium for the cultural programme followed by a solemn supper at the Theologate.

2. Debate

Ruhalaya Cultural and Literary Association (RCLA) organized a debate on 30 October. The topic of the debate was "Social media is a blessing". Fr Veenus Karamullil the dean of studies and Fr Lithosh Karingadayil the organizer of the debate deserves special congratulations.

3. Mission Sunday and Rosary Devotion

Mission Sunday Celebration and the **October-rosary devotion** as usual were observed both in Philosophy and Theology. Bishop



Emeritus Mar Jose Mukkala and Rev. Fr Paul Parecattil were the main celebrants for the mission Sunday celebrations and George Kandathinkara gave the message on the conclusion of the Rosary devotion on 31 October 31.

4. Mission Exposure Programme

COVID-19 had disrupted almost completely the routine of Ruhhalaya for two years, especially every extra-mural event. Not so this year. Second- and Third-year theologians went for the Mission exposure program to places such as Sagar, Indore, Bhopal, Delhi etc.

5. Maliparampil Memorial Lecture

The Maliparampil Memorial Lecture on the topic “St Joseph and Missionary Discipleship” was delivered by Rev. Fr Naiju Jose Kalambukattu CMI on 30 Oct. 2021. It was well appreciated by the students on two accounts: 1) for the input itself and 2) for the break, brief though from the virtual world and the on-line classes.



6. Silver Jubilee Celebration

Silver Jubilee Celebration of Ruhhalaya Theology on 25 November



2021 simply transcended all human conception and verbal expression. From gate to the stage – the corridors, the Church, the refectory, the hall, the stage – the building was beautifully decorated.



The audience encompassed the Director General and team from Deepti, Regional Director of Ujjain, Vicar Generals, Major and Minor Seminary Rectors, Provincials of various Religious Congregations and Rev. Fathers and Sisters of the Eparchy of Ujjain. Like the icing on the cake, we had the presence of five bishops to grace the occasion: His Ex. Bp Mar Raphael Thattil delegated by Major Archbishop, His Excellencies Bps Mar Sebastian Vadakel, James Athikalam, Joseph Kodakallil and Chacko Thottumarickal. After a sumptuous lunch with dainties and varieties, all went with jubilee in the heart.

7. Book Releasing

Five books - two by Rev. Fr Sebastian Kizhakkeyil and three by Fr John Kudiyiruppil – were released during the silver Jubilee celebration on stage.

8. Extension Lecture

Rev Fr Jagdish Parmar S J from Dinobilee College Pune, gave a half-day extension lecture to the entire community on 28 November on the topic of Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network and Eucharistic Youth Movement.

9. Send off: Deacons and Fr Cheeramvelil



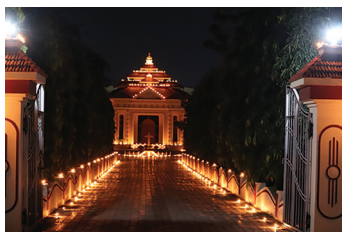
Parting though an inevitable part of life is always sorrowful. Rev. Fr Antony Cheeramvelil bid us farewell to Kerala after serving Ruhhalaya as the Spiritual father of Ruhhalaya Philosophy section

for three years. I must record very gratefully the kind ways and sympathetic interest he showed in the formation of the students especially in nourishing their faith. His role for bringing the students



to the eminence of perfection can never be emphasized enough. Our sincere thanks Fr Antony Cheeramvelil.

Deacons left for ordination on 26 November. Prayerful best wishes to all of them.



10. Diwali Celebration

The illuminated Ruhhalaya (both), on Diwali-night looked strikingly beautiful this year. Small changes in designs sometimes make big difference.

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

VI. NEWS FROM THE MISSIONS

A. St Paul Region

1. New Mission Centre at Ratlam



St Paul Region, Ujjain started its new centre in Ratlam under the jurisdiction of Shamshabad diocese on 1 November 2021. Rev. Fr John Panthalipadan MST initiated the programme in a rented house in Ratlam. Under the motivation and

guidance of Rev. Frs Vincent Kadalikkattilputhenpura, the Regional Director and councillors, street food programme was initiated on 3 December 2021. At present Nirmal Jyoti is distributing 25 food packets every day. Rev. Fr Sojan Unnieppillil blessed the house in the presence of Rev. Fr Jithin Velloor, sisters from Mandsaur centre and a few faithful from Indore on 30 October 2021.



Later, Very Rev. Fr Antony Perumanoor, the Director General of MST inaugurated the Ratlam programme by lightning the lamp. Rev. Frs Vincent

Kadalikkattilputhenpura, Francis Kureckal, Peter Vattapara, Manoj Vareekal, Anish Vanchiparayil, Binu Pandiyil, Shinto Pandanam, Chackochan Koottarappallil, Jose Chakungal (from Jagdalpur diocese) and Rev. Sisters of NS Convent - Khachrod, SH Convent - Indore, FCC Convent – Ratlam and St Joseph Convent – Ratlam, and a few faithful were present for the function. Special congratulations to Fr John Panthalipadan for this new initiative and missionary enthusiasm to begin a new centre and best wishes!

2. Requiem Mass and Christmas Gathering

The MST fathers working within the Region offered together a Requiem Holy Mass for Rev Fr Cyriac (Siby) Nelloor on 15



December evening at the Regional House.

On this occasion Rev. Fr Joseph Kannathukuzhiyil was felicitated in a special way as he celebrates his sacerdotal golden jubilee this year. During the gathering Rev. Fr Vincent

Kadalikkattilputhenpura wished all the participants a blessed Christmas and distributed Christmas gifts to all.

3. Priests' Quarters at Khachrod

Santhome mission centre, Khachrod is blessed with a new priests'



quarters and a small church. His Excellency Bishop Mar Sebastian Vadakel consecrated the church and blessed the house on 19 December 2021, in the

presence of Very Rev. Fr Antony Perumanoor, the Director General of MST and Very Rev. Fr Vincent Kadalikkattilputhenpura, the Regional Director of St Paul Region, Ujjain. Rev. Fathers, Sisters and the faithful graced the occasion with their august presence. We express our sincere thanks and congratulate to Rev Fr.Shinto Pendanath the priest-in-charge of Khachrod mission centre and Rev Fr. Binu Pandiyan, the principal of the school who worked hard to realize dream.



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

B. St Thomas Region

The missionaries in St Thomas Region are staying with grateful hearts before God for the innumerable blessings we receive through manifold ways. All are, in general, keeping fine and busy with various apostolates. With the decrease in the number of corona cases in our mission areas, all the schools and other social and humanitarian apostolates are functioning in a normal manner. Some of the important events which took place during this period in Mandya region are the following:

1. Grotto at Halagur

A beautiful grotto was constructed at Halagur mission centre. The mastermind behind the construction of the grotto is Rev. Fr Abin Vazhuthanappally. He made the design and plan of the grotto and worked hard for the realization of the project. Rev. Frs Joy Edattamkuzhy, Bobby Arimattathil and the sisters joined hands together with Fr Abin for the



actualization of the grotto. While congratulating the missionaries of Halagur mission centre for constructing a very beautiful grotto, I extend a very special word of appreciation and congratulation to Fr Abin. Let the grotto become a place of prayer for all those who come to the centre and let it become a source of blessing for everyone especially for the people of Halagur.

2. New Class Rooms at Arakere

Recently three class rooms were constructed attached to the existing school building. Now we have sufficient class rooms at Jeevodaya school, Arakere. Class rooms were blessed in the presence of the MST priests in Mandya on the day Rev. Fr Jaison Puthenpurackal was



given send off. We appreciate and thank Fr Jaison and Fr Saneesh who took interest and pain for the construction of the class rooms.

3. A New Hall for Deepti Nivas, Kalenahalli

A sufficiently large and convenient hall was constructed on the second floor of the priests' quarters at Deepti Nivas. The hall is made with



a good stage. It provides ample facilities for the children of Deepti Nivas to conduct cultural programmes and meeting. They have convenient place to gather together even when the weather is not

favourable. A special word of appreciation and gratitude to Rev. Fr Sojan Aikkarakunnel and Fr Tony for making such a beautiful place especially for the special children.

4. Preethi Special School, Koppa

Preethi Residential special school at Koppa has added facilities with the construction of a hall and a room on the first floor of the existing class rooms.

Our special children of Koppa get more facilities and conveniences with the new



addition. A special word of appreciation and thanks to Rev. Frs Sunny Mundackal and Pradeepan Punnakuzhy.

5. Ave Maria Adoration Convent, Ichoda



The newly constructed Ave Maria adoration convent at Ichoda was blessed on 1 November by Bishop Mar Prince Panengadan. Three SABS sisters from Thamarassery Province are rendering their dedicated service at Ichoda for

building up of the Kingdom of God.

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

C. St Alphonsa Region

1. Silver Jubilee Celebrations



Eight Fathers of MST had completed their 25 years of priestly life which is indeed a major milestone. Sangli mission had orchestrated a function to honour the Jubilarians who are currently working in the

Mission, namely Fr Benny Arthanakunnel, Fr Saji Chakiriamthadam and Fr Benny Thonikuzy at Amalashram Retreat Centre. The presence of fathers, sisters and some friends of Fr Benny from the locality added extra colour to the event. The event was started by a Solemn Holy Qurbana followed by a felicitation ceremony. Fr Joby Njalliyil the Regional Director, Fr Muthuplackal, Fr Kavukatt and Sr Monica honoured and felicitated the Jubilarians.



2. Annual Retreat

The Annual Retreat, a spiritual rejuvenation for the priests and Sisters in Sangli Mission was conducted from 31 October to 9 November



2021. Rev. Fr Shaji Mangalath OCarm. led the annual retreat. The

Retreat was a time for all the fathers and sisters to come together, spend more time in prayer and to revitalize the missionary commitment.

3. Inauguration of the Year of St Thomas

The Eparchy of Kalyan declared the year St Thomas the Apostle from December 2021 to December 2022, to mark the 1950th anniversary of the Martyrdom of St Thomas. The representatives from Sangli Mission participated in the inaugural function held on the 11 December at Santhome Animation and Renewal Centre, Panvel. During the function, the Marathi translation of the



Vanakkamasam of St Thomas and other 5 prayer books were released by Mar Thomas Elavanal and handed over the first copies of the books to Rev. Fr Joby Njalliyil the Regional Director, Alphonsa Region. Books were translated by Rev. Fr Paul Painadath and printed at Suvarta Printers, Kolhapur. Bishop Mar Elavanal appreciated the great works done by Fr Paul Painadath and other MST Priests working in the Eparchy of Kalyan. Hearty congratulations to Fr Painadath for his hard work and commitment!

4. Reaching Christmas Message to the Outskirts of Sangli

Christmas is the season of joy, peace, and happiness. Christmas brings the happy news of our Saviour's birth. Sangli Mission reaches this Good News to the villages by organizing various programs in 15 villages of Sangli district. We have also distributed Christmas gifts to 400 children with disabilities in these villages. During the



celebrations various cultural events are arranged to impart the gospel message. Congratulations to Fr Anish Kurumundayil and his

project crew for this initiative in spreading the joy of Christmas among the people.

(Reported by Fr Arun Vedikunnel, St Alphonsa Region)

5. Mar Thoma Personal Parish, Kalyan

a. New Mass center at Ambady, Bhiwandi



The 10th Mass center for the non-Malayalee Syro-Malabar Christians was inaugurated on October 17th Sunday at Ambady near Bhiwandi. This is our first center started in an Adivasi village. We have Holy Mass inside the house of a baptized

family. Every Sunday we have Holy Mass at 12.00 noon.

b. St Thomas' Vanakkamasam in Marathi

On 11 December Marathi translation of St Thomas' Vanakkamasam was released by His Excellency Mar Thomas Elavanal during the inaugural session of the Year of St Thomas in the diocese of Kalyan. Very Rev Fr. Joby Njalliyil received the first copy. Hope this book will definitely give a better understanding of the missionary journey of St Thomas to the Christians of Maharashtra.

c. Release of the Translation of Liturgical Books

On 11 December Marathi translation of 6 liturgical books namely - The Holy Week, Sacraments, Prayers for the Dead, Blessing Prayers



and Prayers for Christmas, New Year and Year Ending were released by His excellency Mar Thomas Elavanal for the private use in the diocese. It will be a great blessing for the Non-Malayalee Syro-Malabar Christians in the diocese. After making improvements in the present form, it will be later submitted to the Synod for the final approval. Very Rev. Fr Joby Njalliyil received the copies on behalf of the Mission.

d. Logo for the Year of St Thomas- 2022



Commemorating the 1950th year of the Martyrdom of St Thomas, the Diocese of Kalyan is celebrating the year 2022 as the year of St Thomas. During the inaugural session, a logo was

released and the Marthoma Catholic Personal Parish team was invited to receive the logo from His excellency Mar Thomas Elavanal on 11 December 2021.

(Reported by Fr Paul Painadath, Mumbai)

D. MQMD, Delhi

1. Mother Theresa Mission, Dehlon, Ludhiana

a. Feast of St Francis of Assisi

On 9 October, the community of Mother Theresa Catholic Mission invigorated the celebration of the feast of St Francis of Assisi with utmost devotion by commemorating the heroic sanctity of the legendary saint. Since the community was immensely being blessed due to the presence of the OSF sisters who added the arresting beauty to the rejoicing day. All the members of neighbouring mission stations brought in their active involvement in the celebration. The celebration commenced with the Solemn Eucharistic celebration presided over by Rev. Fr George Mecheril MST. He gave an inspiring homily wherein he immersed all of us into the conceptional world lived over by the St Francis of Assisi. The celebration had its culmination with a sumptuous meal. Subsequently all the partakers in the celebration moved back to their endeavours of the day.

b. Conclusion of Rosary Month

The community endeavoured to inculcate the sense of devotion towards Mother Mary by intensifying prayer through the praying of rosary for the whole month of October. On 31 October, the conclusion of Rosary devotion was solemnized. The community prayed fervently for the outpouring of graces to be bestowed upon the missions being carried out and for people who are in desperate need. It was an enriching experience to journey with the sweet mother of the Lord.

c. Adieu to Fr Antu Alummoottil



On 18 November 2021, the community gave adieu to Fr Antu Alummoottil. The community exposed its heartfelt gratitude to Fr. Antu for his dedicated and striving service for the upbringing of Mother Theresa Catholic Mission, Dehlon.

We prayed for the success of the new mission which he would undertake in Kamano, Chandigarh during the Holy Qurbana. The community also organized memorable sent off to Fr Antu in collaboration with the staff and children of St. Thomas Convent School, Rurka. Fr Antu expressed his feelings wherein he cherished the memories he experienced by being an active member of the community. Rev Fr Bobby Joseph MST the director of Mother Theresa Catholic Mission also delineated his edifying moments with Fr Antu. May God shower his amazing graces upon Fr Antu and envelop him in the room of success.

d. Guru Nanak Jayanti

On 19th November 2021, the St. Thomas school celebrated Guru Nanak Jayanti. Our children staged many programmes on this day. It is one of the main festivals of Sikh Religion.

e. Feast Celebration of Immaculate Conception

On 8 December 2021, the community celebrated the feast of



I m m a c u l a t e
Conception of Mary.
The celebration had its
beginning with the
Eucharistic celebration.
We prayed in a special
way for Sr. Sharon,

who celebrated her feast day.

f. Children's Day



On 14 November 2021, St. Thomas Convent School, Rurka, Dehlon celebrated the day attributed to children in an exceptionally unique way. The students were persuaded to display their talents and perform

something conspicuous spontaneously. And the students entertained

everyone through their acts of imitation, acting and dance performances. The children who enclosed pearls in the shells of our school made us realize that children are and will always be special in the world.

g. Savoir Faire Mega Quiz Competition



On 30 November 2021, St Thomas Convent School, Rurka did something magnificent and eye-catching endeavour by conducting the Savoir Faire Mega Quiz Competition. This was

telecasted live on the YouTube channel. The main intention of conducting the competition was to impose in every child the basic knowledge necessary to be accumulated. The teachers and parents corresponded and collaborated so efficiently well that it brought a great achievement to the competition organized. Rev. Fr George Mecheril MST was the chief guest who also applauded and appreciated the students who stormed the very minds of people.

2. Deepti Ashram, Najafgarh

a. Requiem Holy Qurbana for Fr Siby Nellor

Special prayers and requiem Holy Mass were organized for Fr Siby Nelloor at Deepti Asharm on 16 November. His Grace Mar Kuriakose Bharanikulamkara was the main celebrant for the Holy Mass. Fathers from different mission centres of Delhi Delegation were present for the Holy Mass and Prayers.

3. Kristjyoti Mission, Rohru

a. Picnic and Outdoor Camp for Children

One day picnic and outdoor catechetical camp was organized for children aged from 5 to 18 on 15 October. Early morning just after the Holy Qurbana, the children were taken to a place called Kadapather, a place adorned with natural beauty which is some 40



kms away from Rohru. Children could enjoy their time in games, site seeing, photo shoot and fun making. It was also a chance for them to have more interaction with their friends. After the lunch we

had organized one-hour Catechetical class on Catholic prayers and introduction to the Bible. Rev. Fr Sanoj Pathrapankal took the class for the children and Rev. Sisters from Delhon took the pain to teach action songs. Children really enjoyed the day out.

b. Reception of the Sacrament of Initiation

Another happiest moment of Kristjyoti Catholic Mission was that we prepared members of the community for the sacraments of initiation. Sacraments of Initiation was given on 16 October. They were given one week class and coaching before receiving the Sacraments. Importance of Sacraments



in life was explained to the prior to the reception of the Sacraments. Fr Sanoj Pathrapankal was the minister of these sacraments and Fr Siby Poovathinkal shared the Word of God.

c. Sudden Demise and Requiem Qurbana: Fr Siby Nellor



Founder of Kristjyoti Mission Rohru - Rev. Fr Siby Nellor was called to eternal life on 22 October. We the faithful and Rohru community remembered the great work and faith formation of Fr Siby Nellor. Though father

was sick, his sudden demise was a shock for the people. On 24 November we had requiem Holy Qurbana for Fr Siby Nellor. His Excellency Mar Jose Puthenveetil was the main celebrant of the Holy Qurbana. Rev. Frs Sathosh Olapurackal, Joseph Karodan and Babu Anithanam joined the prayer service.

(Reported by Fr Sanoj Pathrapankal, Delhi Delegation)

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

a. National Webinar on: From Faith to Inter-faith



Institute of Harmony and Peace Studies (IHPS), New Delhi, organized a national webinar on 'From Faith to Inter-faith', on 'Zoom' app, on 30 October 2021, at 17.00 hours. The webinar was live streamed on the YouTube channel of the institute (<https://www.youtube.com/InstituteofHarmonyandPeaceStudies>). The speakers of the webinar were Prof. Deepali Bhanot, Prof. Tikam Chand Jain, Prof. Prof. Sirajul Islam, Prof. Shernaz Cama, Dr N. Vasudevan, Dr A. K. Merchant, Bhikku Kabir Saxena, Rabbi

Dr Ezekiel Malekar and Dr M. D. Thomas.

b. Round Table Discussion on: Emerging Communal Narratives in the Present-Day Context

Institute of Harmony and Peace Studies (IHPS), New Delhi, organized a round table discussion on 'Emerging Communal Narratives in the Present-Day Context', at Conference Room, Institute of Harmony and Peace Studies, New Delhi, on 27



November 2021. The speakers of the round table discussion were Prof. Rajesh Kumar, Prof. Parmod Mehra, Prof. Devender Kakar, Prof. Afzal Wani, Dr Markenday Rai, Dr Jessy George, Mr S. N. Sahu, Mr Krishna Menon, Mr Jose Kalathil, Mr P. P. Wangchuk, Mr Naveen Jha and Fr Dr M. D. Thomas.

c. Delivered *Lecture* on ‘Vaalmeeki se Prerna Lekar Jaati-bhed bhaav se Oopar Uthen’ (Rise above Caste Discrimination by taking Inspiration from Vaalmeeki) – during ‘Vaalmeeki Jayantee Programme’ – organized by Bhagwan Valmiki Foundation, New Delhi – at Conference Hall, YMCA Tourist Hostel, New Delhi – on 24 October 2021.

d. Delivered *Lecture* on ‘Alpsankhayk aur Bahusankhyak: Mil-Julkar Rahne kee Tahzeeb kee Or’ (Minorities and



Majorities: Towards the Culture of Living Together) – during ‘National Minority Conference for Justice and Peace-2021’ – organized by All India Ulama Board, Ahmed Nagar, Maharashtra – at India Islamic Cultural Centre, New Delhi –

on 08 November 2021.

d. Delivered *Keynote Lecture* on ‘Beauty in Dignity and Inclusion’

– on the occasion of weeklong worldwide prayer and reflection programme on ‘Beauty from Brokenness’ – organized by YWCA, New Delhi – at YWCA Lawns, New Delhi – on 10 November 2021.



e. Delivered *Lecture* on ‘Mazhabee Rabaadaaree ko Badhaanaa Wakt kee Zaroorat’ (Promoting Inter faith Relations Need of the Hour) – during ‘33rd Maulana Muhammad Ali Jauhar Award 2021 Programme’ – organized by Maulana Muhammad Ali

Jauhar Academy, New Delhi – at Tasmia Auditorium, Jamia Nagar, New Delhi – on 10 December 2021.

f. Video Messages on Social-media

i. Delivered *Video Message* on ‘World Food Day 2021’ (English) – at IHPS Office, New Delhi – on 16 October 2021.

ii. Delivered *Video Message* on ‘Vaalmeeki Jayantee / Birthday of Vaalmeeki 2021’ (Hindi) – at IHPS Office, New Delhi – on 20 October 2021.

iii. Delivered *Video Message* on ‘United Nations Day’ (English) – at IHPS Office, New Delhi – on 24 October 2021.

iv. Delivered *Video Message* on ‘Bahaa Ullaah Jayantee / Birthday of Bahaa Ullaah 2021’ (Hindi) – at IHPS Office, New Delhi – on 07 November 2021.

v. Delivered *Video Message* on ‘Baal Diwas / Children’s Day 2021’ (Hindi) – at IHPS Office, New Delhi – on 14 November 2021.

vi. Delivered *Video Message* on ‘Samvidhaan Diwas / Constitution Day 2021’ (Hindi) – at IHPS Office, New Delhi – on 26 November 2021.

vii. Delivered *Video Message* on ‘Hanukkah 2021’ (Hindi) – at IHPS Office, New Delhi – on 01 December 2021.

viii. Delivered *Video Message* on ‘International Anti-corruption Day 2021’ (English) – at IHPS Office, New Delhi – on 09 December 2021.

g. Views at Diverse Platforms

i. Delivered *Views* as a Member on ‘Challenges from Climate Change’ – during Think Tank Meeting — organized by Archdiocese of Delhi – at Archdiocese of Delhi, New Delhi – on 01 November 2021.

ii. Delivered *Views* as a Member on ‘Dynamics of Parliament of Religions’ – during Think Tank Meeting — organized by Archdiocese of Delhi – at Archdiocese of Delhi, New Delhi – on 01 November 2021.

iii. Delivered *Views* as a Member on ‘Need of a Christian Cultural Centre and its Larger Scope of Cultural Interaction’ – during Think Tank Meeting — organized by Archdiocese of Delhi – at Archdiocese of Delhi, New Delhi – on 01 November 2021.

h. Messages

i. Delivered *Felicitation Message* on ‘Promoting a Culture of Harmony and Peace in the Society’ – during Launch program of Chavara Cultural Centre (CMC), Delhi — at CMI Bhavan, New Delhi – on 09 October 2021.

ii. Delivered *Message* on ‘Hanukkah ke Mombattiyon kee Roshnee Bane rahe’ (Let the Light of the Candles of Hanukkah Remain Bright) – during ‘Hanukkah Festival Programme’ — at Judah Hyam (Jewish) Synagogue, New Delhi – on 03 December 2021.

i. Interaction with Dignitaries of Other Communities

i. Had *Interaction* with Ms Nilakshi Rajkhowa, Director, Office of Public Affairs, National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’is of India, New Delhi, on ‘Making Places of Worship Socially.

ii. Sustainable’ – at Baha’i House, New Delhi – on 12 October 2021.

iii. Had *Interaction* with Ms Nilakshi Rajkhowa, Director, Office of Public Affairs, National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’is of India, New Delhi, on ‘Lack of Clarity about Inter-faith among Religious Leaders’ – at Baha’i House, New Delhi – on 12 October 2021.

iv. Had *Interaction* with Ms Nilakshi Rajkhowa, Director, Office of Public Affairs, National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’is of India, New Delhi, on ‘Increasing Communal Mindset in India’ – Baha’i House, New Delhi – on 12 October 2021.

v. Had *Interaction* with Dr Markandey Rai, Senior Advisor, UN-Habitat and Chancellor, The Global Open University, Nagaland, on ‘The Role of United Nations (UN) in Uniting the Nations’ – at Dwarka, Sector 2, New Delhi – on 22 October 2021.

vi. Had *Interaction* with Dr Rajesh Mehta, Chairman, Indian-Russian Foundation, New Delhi, on ‘Increasing Communal Wave in India: a Matter of Concern’ – during Book Launch Programme — ‘Accelerating India, 7 Years Of Modi Government’ by Mr K. J. Alphons, Member Rajya Sabha and Former Minister — at India International Centre, New Delhi – on 02 November 2021.

vii. Had *Interaction* with Dr Ignatius Xavier, Ahimsa and Peace Activist, Hyderabad, on ‘Possibilities for Launching a Museum on Ahimsa and Peace Arts’ — at IHPS Office, Dwarka, Sector 19, New Delhi – on 12 November 2021.

viii. Had *Interaction* with Dr Ignatius Xavier, Ahimsa and Peace Activist, Hyderabad, on ‘Art: the Most Powerful Medium for Promoting Harmony and Peace in the Society’ — at IHPS Office, Dwarka, Sector 19, New Delhi – on 12 November 2021.

ix. Had *Interaction* with Prof. Rajesh Kumar, Professor, Department of English, Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), New Delhi, along with Prof. Parmod Mehra, Professor, Department of English, Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), New Delhi, on ‘The Current Communal Scenario: A Harmony Response called for’ — at IHPS Office, Dwarka, Sector 19, New Delhi – on 12 November 2021.

x. Had *Interaction* with Prof. Rajesh Kumar, Professor, Department of English, Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), New Delhi, along with Prof. Parmod Mehra, Professor, Department of English, Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), New Delhi, on ‘The Need of Courses on Harmony and Peace in Educational Institutions’ — at IHPS Office, Dwarka, Sector 19, New Delhi – on 12 November 2021.

xi. Had *Interaction* with Major J. C. Jain, Social Worker, New Delhi, on ‘Desh kaa Bigadtaa Saampradaayik Maahaul’ (The Deteriorating Communal Atmosphere in the Country) -- on the occasion of his 100th Birthday Program — at Green Park, New Delhi – on 18 November 2021.

xii. Had *Interaction* with Major J. C. Jain, Social Worker, New Delhi, on ‘Doosre Samudday ke Logon ke saath vyktigat Dostee Saampradaayik Sadbhav Bardhaane kaa Sabase Kaargar Upaay’ (Personal Friendship with People of Other Communities is the most Effective Way to Increase Communal Harmony) -- on the occasion of his 100th Birthday Program — at Green Park, New Delhi – on 18 November 2021.

xiii. Had *Interaction* with Mr Raymond D’Souza, Harmony Activist, New Delhi, on ‘Promoting Harmony and Peace: the most Required Mission’ – at Connaught Place, New Delhi – on 18 November 2021.

xiv. Had *Interaction* with Mr Raymond D’Souza, Harmony Activist, New Delhi, on ‘A Major Deficit of Leadership: the most Worrying Problem in the Religious Sector’ – at Connaught Place, New Delhi – on 18 November 2021.

xv. Had *Interaction* with Dr. Abdul Malik, Former Registrar, Jamia Millia Islamia Central University, New Delhi, on ‘Promoting Communal Harmony the Need of the Hour’ – at Jamia Millia Islamia Central University, New Delhi – on 09 December 2021.

xvi. Had *Interaction* with Dr. Abdul Malik, Former Registrar, Jamia Millia Islamia Central University, New Delhi, on ‘Making Friendship with Other Communities’ – at Jamia Millia Islamia Central University, New Delhi – on 09 December 2021.

j. Interviews by University Professor, Germany

i. Delivered *Views* on ‘Promotion of Inter-faith Dialogue and its Implications’ – during online Interview conducted by Dr Melanie Barbato, Professor, University of Munster, Germany, on ‘Google Meet’ — on 10 December 2021.

ii. Delivered *Views* on ‘From Inter-faith Dialogue to Inter-faith Relations and Friendship’ – during online Interview conducted by Dr Melanie Barbato, Professor, University of Munster, Germany, on ‘Google Meet’ — on 10 December 2021.

iii. Delivered *Views* on ‘Video Messages on Religious Festivals,

National and International Days and their Impact on Fostering Communal Harmony’ – during online Interview conducted by Dr Melanie Barbato, Professor, University of Munster, Germany, on ‘Google Meet’ — on 10 December 2021.

iv. Delivered *Views* on ‘Making the Messages from Vatican on Religious Festivals less Theological and more People-Friendly’ – during online Interview conducted by Dr Melanie Barbato, Professor, University of Munster, Germany, on ‘Google Meet’ — on 10 December 2021.

k. Articles to Journals, Books and Websites

i. Authored Article on ‘Vaidik Parampara mein Nishkaam Karm-Saadhnaa’ – in Vedavidyashrih / Gems of Vedic Wisdom (Prof. Shashi Tiwari Felicitation Volume) (Book) – Published by Pratibha Prakashan, New Delhi, p.524-535 – in 2021.

ii. Authored *Article* on ‘Suo Motu’ the Conscience of Governance!’ (<https://theasialive.com/suo-motu-the-conscience-of-governance/2021/13/>) — on ‘The Asia Live’ Website – at Kathmandu, Nepal — on 13 October 2021.

iii. Authored *Article* on “‘Sharing Food’ is a ‘Humane’ Culture’ / World Food Day 2021 – in ‘Indian Currents’ (Weekly), New Delhi, Vol. XXXIII, Issue No.42, p.26-27 – on 18-24 October 2021.

iv. Authored *Article* on “‘Sharing Food’ is a ‘Humane’ Culture’ / World Food Day 2021 – in ‘The Secular Citizen’ (Weekly Magazine), Mumbai, Vol. 30, Issue No.42, p.08-09 – on 18-24 October 2021.

v. Authored *Article* on “‘Suo Motu’ the Conscience of Governance!’ – in ‘The Secular Citizen’ (Weekly Magazine), Mumbai, Vol. 30, Issue No.43, p.01, 03 – on 25-31 October 2021.

vi. Authored *Article* on ‘Making Unity of the Nations Stronger’ / United Nations Day 2021 – in ‘The Secular Citizen’ (Weekly Magazine), Mumbai, Vol. 30, Issue No.45, p.01, 03 – on 08-14 November 2021.

vii. Authored *Article* on ‘Too Much of Religion, Too Little of Ethics!’ – in ‘Indian Currents’ (Weekly), New Delhi, Vol. XXXIII, Issue No.47, p.34-35 – on 15-21 November 2021.

viii. Authored *Article* on ‘Too Much of Religion, Too Little of Ethics!’ – in ‘The Secular Citizen’ (Weekly Magazine), Mumbai, Vol. 30, Issue No.47, p.01, 03 – on 22-28 November 2021.

ix. Authored *Article* on ‘Allow Not Humanity to Get Corrupted’/ International Anti-Corruption Day 2021 (<https://theasialive.com/allow-not-humanity-to-get-corrupted/2021/06/>) — on ‘The Asia Live’ Website – at Kathmandu, Nepal — on 06 December 2021.

x. Authored *Article* on ‘Allow Not Humanity to Get Corrupted’/ International Anti-Corruption Day 2021 – in ‘The Secular Citizen’ (Weekly Magazine), Mumbai, Vol. 30, Issue No.50, p.04, 10 – on 13-19 December 2021.

I. Award: Fr Dr M. D. Thomas Accorded ‘National Peace and Humanitarian Award’



Fr Dr M. D. Thomas, Director, Institute of Harmony and Peace Studies, New Delhi, is accorded ‘National Peace and Humanitarian Award 2021’ from All India Ulama Board, Ahmed Nagar, Maharashtra. He is

awarded for the ‘Promotion of Communal Harmony and Inter-faith Relations’ and the award was conferred on him during ‘National Minority Conference for Justice and Peace-2021’, at India Islamic Cultural Centre, New Delhi, on 08 November 2021.

The current award comes to Dr Thomas after 20 awards and certificates of honour. A few of the main awards he has received for outstanding contribution to language, literature, education, culture, communal harmony, inter-faith relations, peace, social service, etc.

are – ‘Sahityik Kriti Sammaan’, ‘Swami Devanand Hindi Award’, ‘Communal Harmony Award’, ‘Lifetime Achievement Award’ and ‘UN World Interfaith Harmony Week 2021 Award’. It is hoped that the present award will inspire him to pursue higher altitudes in life, along with further contribution to the cause he is awarded for.

m. Award: Fr Dr M. D. Thomas Accorded ‘Maulana Muhammad Ali Jauhar Award

Fr Dr M. D. Thomas, Director, Institute of Harmony and Peace Studies, New Delhi, is accorded ‘33rd Maulana Muhammad Ali Jauhar Award 2021’ from Maulana Muhammad Ali Jauhar Academy, New Delhi, for the ‘Promotion of Interfaith Dialogue’, at Tasmia Auditorium, Jamia Nagar, New Delhi, on 10



December 2021.

The current award comes to Dr Thomas after 21 awards and certificates of honour. A few of the main awards he has received for outstanding contribution to language, literature, education, culture, communal harmony, inter-faith relations, peace, social service, etc. are – ‘Sahityik Kriti Sammaan’, ‘Swami Devanand Hindi Award’, ‘Communal Harmony Award’, ‘Lifetime Achievement Award’ and ‘UN World Interfaith Harmony Week 2021 Award’. It is hoped that the present award will inspire him

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



E. St Joseph Mission, Odisha

1. New Land for Little Flower Mission, Kundra



Little Flower Mission, Kundra, started on 16 October 2020, is now blessed with 3.36 acres of land for its ministries. The centre has 10 villages and of

which four villages we have started programmes. The purchase of land will help the mission centre to start new ministries and centralized programs for the people of Kundra block in Koraput districts. We would like to express our gratitude to the Central Administration for the support and great appreciation to the missionaries of Kundra, Frs Tharapputhottiyil Josin and Maniyalil Jibin, for their hard work to complete the registration process of the land.

2. Educational and Social Programmess

The present situation in Odisha makes us to rethink the method that we used in the mission, i. e. communities first and then educational and social activities for them, to lift up their lives. But we



have taken the reverse order in activities where we go to the villages with different educational and charitable activities to show the compassionate face of Jesus. We have non-formal education programs, training programs for ladies and youth to help them find their livelihood, medical camps, awareness programs, etc. So, as a part of it we have recently started few education programs and training programs in our mission centres.

3. New Missionary Collaborators for the Mission



MST Odisha Mission is happy to share the joy of the arrival of new missionary collaborators to associate with us in Odisha. We

have four sisters from Abhishekagni Sisters of Jesus and Mary from Attapadi, Palakkad to collaborate with the new mission in Daringabadi, Kandhamal. We have another two sisters from S.H. Congregation, Ujjain Province who have joined us to collaborate with Little Flower Mission, Kundra, Koraput. They reached the mission in the month of November and were given a warm welcome during the monthly recollection on 14 November 2021 at MST House in Rayagada.

4. Odia Language Course



One-month intensive Odia language course is arranged for the new missionary collaborators. As we have six new sisters joined our mission,

two weeks class room session for learning basics of the Odia language and two weeks live in village programs for practical experience to learn the language and culture of the place are arranged in Nirmal Jyoty, Baliguda. We have two teachers guiding the classes for the sisters. They will help the sisters to learn the language and culture of the place. Together with the language course, special sessions are arranged to learn the prayers and the Holy Qurbana in Odia.

5. Home Mission

Six sisters from SD congregation were in our mission for one month



to help us in our programs through Home Mission and retreat. In the first few days, they spend time together with the missionaries in prayer and fasting to prepare

themselves for the great mission. In the second phase, they spend time in the village visiting the houses, leading prayer services, adoration, Holy Qurbana and retreat. It was a great experience for our faithful and they were all renewed and rejuvenated in their faith life. We would like to express our gratitude and love for SD Congregation for their willingness to spend their time with us in helping our faith formation programs.

6. Preparation for Christmas Celebration

As we have new communities, the programs and celebrations are new experiences for them.

So, we do take extra care and effort to have a good God experience for new flock of God. We have arranged long preparations for Christmas celebrations such as prayer services, fasting and prayer, house



visit, retreat, crib making programs, star making programs etc. Happy to say that our young missionaries of MST in Odisha are working hard to make it a great event in every village.

7. Inauguration of the Village Churches

The Odisha Mission is happy to share the joy of the blessing of two more Village Churches in the season of Advent. One more village church in Baliguda mission was blessed on 13 December 2021 by Rev Fr Thomas Karamel in the presence of many fathers and sisters.



We have another village church blessed on 20 December 2021 in Sacred Heart Mission, Laxmipur. We would like express our gratitude and payers for our loving benefactors who

made the financial contribution for the successful completion of the same. I would like to congratulate and thank our young missionaries Frs Libin Valiyaparampil, Ashish Keeranchira and Bineesh Kuzhiyadiyil for their great effort and hard work behind the construction of the churches and organization of the communities.

8. Visit of Bishop Mar Raphael Thattil

The Odisha Mission was blessed with a short visit of our Bishop



Mar Raphael Thattil on 14 December 2021. His Excellency joined our Christmas preparatory Monthly recollection and addressed all of us with a beautiful Christmas Message. His Excellency also found time to meet each missionary in their centres and appreciated and encouraged them for their hard work and commitment for the growth of the Church as a whole and especially for the growth of the Eparchy of Shamshabad.

(Reported by Rev. Fr Jomon Ayyankanal, Coordinator, St Joseph Mission, Odisha)

F. Arunachal Mission

1. Sagalee Mission

a. Church Construction at Sagalee



A long-awaited dream is started its physical form by the starting of the construction of the parish church of St Mary's Catholic Church, Sagalee. under the guidance and

blessing of the Bishop of Itanagar and the active presence and support of the leaders of the church, especially by Shri. Nabam Tuki - the former chief minister and the present MLA of the Sagalee constituency as well as the generosity of the kind-hearted people. The construction is going on in its full swing. All the fathers and believers of the Catholic community is actively working together to full-fill this dream as early as possible.

b. DBS Olympics

The annual sports' day of our Don Bosco School was conducted in the month of November. The sports day was inaugurated by Shri Tehi Tara, BEO of the Sagalee circle. Many other dignitaries were also present for the inauguration ceremony. The Olympics started with lighting of the Olympic lamp, which was brought to the stadium by the leader of the group. The chief guest hoisted the Olympic flag and declared the DBS Olympics 2021 is on.



c. Annual Shelter Festival



Shelter festival was celebrated this year too in all the village churches. The community is so particular about the celebration and the people keep this custom intact. Fathers and sisters went to

each village church to participate in the festival and celebrated the Holy Eucharist and bless their offerings and participate in the agape.

d. Christmas Preparations

Preparation for the Christmas started on 1 December onwards, with the carol singings and house blessings. Every evening, carol is being



conducted and all the believers are actively participating in it. Parish youth, as usual, has taken the initiative to make star and they sell it to the parishioners. This time we are planning to have a joint Christmas celebration by inviting all the village

churches to the main parish.

(Reported by Fr Sijo Mundaplackel, Sagalee, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh)

2. St Mary's Catholic Church, Pakke Kessang

a. Celebration of Shelter Festival

The Catholic communities in our parish are very particular in solemnizing the feast of our Shelter, in this harvesting season. An important aspect of this celebration is the blessing of the harvested



grains and crops and a festive meal with friends and neighbours. It is also the time to raise fund for the parishes, as people happily donate part of their earnings for the church.

b. Feast of Immaculate Mary

On 8 December, the feast of Immaculate Mary was solemnized in



our main parish. In the sub-parishes, it was held in different days of last week. The celebration includes rosary procession around the parish church and solemn Hoy Mass. The celebration of this feast is important to this place to differentiate us from the Protestant churches. The faithful conduct the rosary devotion in a celebrative manner.

c. Carol Programmes

In preparation for Christmas, Carol singing is vibrant in all our family units. There is a competition for carol singing organized by the youth

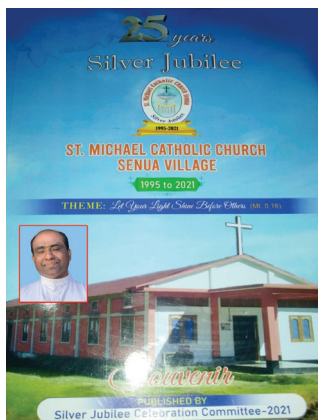


for the youth groups. The fund raised from the carol singing is used for the furnishing of our new church – St Thomas Church, being built at Passa.

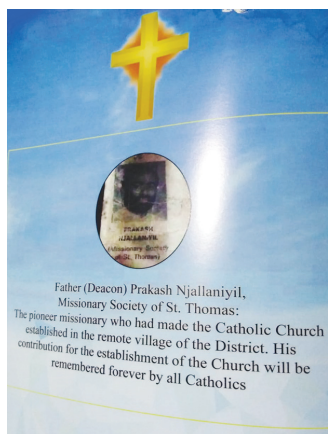
(Reported by Frs Chakkungal and J. Thundathil, Pakke-Kessang, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh)

3. Fr Prakash Njallany and Catholic Community in Senua – Miao

St Michael's Catholic Church in Senua Village of the Diocese of Miao, Arunachal Pradesh is in its Silver Jubilee Year (1996-2021). It was in 1996 that the villagers were formally made into a parish community and the first church building for their use was constructed. When the members of the community in Senua celebrate 25 years of their journey in faith, they cannot but forget their first missionary - Rev. Deacon Prakash Njallany MST, who brought them faith in the year



1995. During this silver jubilee of Senua Church, there is a lot of talk about Deacon Prakash Njallany MST and his midnight mission of 18 July 1995 that result in the baptism of six young men of Senua village who became in turn the apostles for the rest of the villagers. Rev. Fr Prakash Njallany had his theology studies in Sacred Heart Collge, Shillong (1993-1996). As part of formation, he was sent to Arunachal for mission since he was assigned to the diocese of Dibrugarh which was making some inroads for the Arunachal Mission. In the year 1995, he became a deacon. It was Fr George Palliparampil SDB (Most Rev. P.K. George - the present Bishop of Miao, Arunachal Pradesh) who sent out Deacon Njallany along with



a catechist of his Longding parish to different villages of the place. The catechist Mr Dominic W. Khangham and Deacon Prakash reached Senua village by evening of 17 July 1995. They gathered some village youth and the chief of the village, and preached the gospel and taught catholic faith till midnight (1.00 am). The chief in the village was reluctant to receive faith immediately who wanted some more time. But some six young-men of the group wanted to receive baptism right

in the morning. Deacon Prakash baptized six of them on 18 July 1995 and they became the pillars of the church in Senua which has more than 1000 faithful as members.

Except one among the six, all five young-men are alive to this day. And they vibrantly speak about the way they were touched and transformed by Jesus and his Gospel during the midnight mission of Deacon Prakash Najllany and Mr Dominic Khangham. Although Fr Praksah is now living almost on the other side of this planet, they gratefully remember him for the difference he made in their lives and of hundreds of people who followed, with the midnight-mission of Gospel on 17 July 1995.

G. Overseas Missions

1. United States

Confirmation at Spalding, Marquette (Michigan):



The annual confirmation service of Spalding vicariate (deanery) was held last month, at my parish - St John Neumann Church, presided over by His Excellency Most Rev. John Francis Doerfler, Bishop of Marquette. There were 18 candidates from four parishes of the deanery for the

reception of the sacrament of confirmation. Majority of the candidates were from my parish. All the parish priests in the deanery were also present for the ceremony, along with the families of the candidates. Meal was served for all the participants, after the ceremony. As the pastor/parish priest of the parish of Spalding, it was my responsibility to organize the programme.

(Reported by Fr Benny Kuliraniyil, Spalding, Marquette, MI, USA)

2. Austria

a. All Saints Day

All Saints Day was celebrated on November first in all our parishes. After the eucharistic celebration, a solemn procession towards the cemetery was made. Special prayers for the departed souls and cemetery blessings were conducted in all parishes.

b. All Souls Day

On November 2, we celebrated All Souls Day in all our parishes solemnly. During the holy Eucharist the names of the persons who went for eternal reward from November 2020 till October 30, 2021 were read out and for each person one candle is lit and a card with Name and prayer is placed before the candle. The relatives can take home the candle and card after the holy Mass.

c. Advent Wreath and Candle Blessings

To begin the Advent season and for the Christmas preparations we had Advent Wreath and Advent Candle blessings on 28 November 2021 in all parishes, and the first Advent Candle was also lit.

d. Rorate Mass

In the Advent season we have 'Rorate' Masses in all our parishes. It is a special eucharistic celebration in the early morning in darkness with candle light, to commemorate the coming of the Saviour of the world, Child Jesus as light of the world.

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

3. Canada

a. Nelson, BC, Canada

i. Food Hambers for the Poor



At Christ the King, Oliver, we are preparing food hampers for the members of our society. Fifty years ago, we started sharing food with the needy for ten

families with food packets worth \$10/. Now the number has increased to 300 families worth \$50/. You may wonder why there is so much poverty in a rich country like Canada. Many of the beneficiaries are misused persons by some of the family members, or had any addiction, or are from broken and divorced families. As Jesus said, the poor will always be with us and we need to care for them and give food and happiness to the families. Members of our parish work behind this charitable act for days and months.

ii. Conclusion of St Joseph's Year

In our parish, we had concluded the year of St. Joseph on 8 December with a solemn Holy Mass and consecration of 16 members of the parish. They



had a month of proximate preparation through talks, reflections, and meditations. There is a spiritual revival of everything in this post pandemic or Omicron years.

iii. Status of the Arsoned Parish



Sadly, one of our Indigenous churches was arsoned by vandals a few months before. Insurance will give us some money to build another church for them. We resumed the Sunday Holy Mass in their community centre at Oliver. Bishop

Gregory Bittman was there with us - the pastor and the sheep to console and to encourage us in our agony of the loss of a beautiful church. Here is a photograph paused by Bishop Brittman along with me and some of the members from the community of first nation people at Inkaneep, Osoyoos.

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

b. Archdiocese of Regina, Saskatchewan

i. Christmas Preparations



It's Christmas time, the whole of this land is clothed in white blanket, enjoying a freezing winter but still in full swing to welcome the Saviour of the World. December is a time of preparation, decoration and

reconciling. It is a month of preparations and celebrations in the Archdiocese as well to welcome Jesus, our Redeemer. The churches, homes and the streets would be glowing and sparkling in colours and lights. Catholics and other Christian churches come together with different activities and programmes to marvel at the joy of the birth of Jesus. Carol singing, visiting and distributing gifts to the people

living in Care Homes, Nursing Homes and Hospitals are very much happening all around. The churches are full these days especially on Christmas Eve and Christmas day celebrations. It's the time we really experience the faithful living out their faith singing, praying and praising the Almighty

ii. Synod on Synodality

We had our Synod opening Mass on Sunday, 17 October 2021 at the Holy Rosary Cathedral. The archdiocese of Regina is very much engaged in the process of Synod. Every parish is busy with it. The Synod planning committee is arranging training sessions for the deaneries and even for big parishes. There were sessions for pastors, parish leaders and all those leading consultations on the Synod.

iii. Healing Response Collection

Archbishop of Regina urges Canadians to make spiritual journey with indigenous communities. On 12 December, there was a special collection called - Healing Response in all parishes of the archdiocese. It is for the welfare of the indigenous people of Canada who are still in the bottom line. "Now is the time for us to commit ourselves to walking with indigenous peoples with commitment seeking ways to hear their voices" says Archbishop Bolen.

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

4. Germany

a. Online Meetings

At present in Germany, the number of new infections is going up. So, considering this difficult situation, we are regularly conducting online meetings to foster our togetherness. During the last online meeting, we gave farewell to Rev. Fr. Benny Karickamukalel, who is returning to India. During the online meeting, we gave a warm Welcome to Fr Shejin Puthenpura and Fr Joby Kozhippattu. We have decided not to conduct our Christmas gathering this year because of Corona Pandemic.

b. New Appointments, Arrivals and Departures

Rev. Fr. Tomy Kummaniyil took charge in the new Parish Ohmenheim on 8 November. Best wishes dear Fr Tomy.

Rev. Frs Joby Kozhipattu and Shejin Puthenpura have reached



Germany in order to work in the diocese of Würzburg. At present they are staying together in the Parish "Kirchlauter." They are learning German and also

getting accustomed to the new situation. Best wishes to both of them.

Rev. Fr. Benny Karickamukalel, who was working in the diocese of München, has returned to India. After completing his first term in Germany he had returned to India to work in Ujjain Mission. Then he came again back to Germany for a second term. Dear Father Benny, we remember you with gratitude.

Fr Shaijan Koonamparambath will be arriving in Germany on the 28 December, in order to work in the diocese of Münster. He will continue his language studies for one year and then he will begin his pastoral duties. We are eagerly waiting to receive him.

c. Friendly Visits

Fr Tony Mampillil and Fr Joby Kootumkal, who are studying in Rome, came to Germany for pastoral duty and then visited many of our fathers. Fr Bijo Vadakkethala also visited us before returning to India, after successfully completing his studies in Belgium. Thanks, dear fathers for your love and concern.

(Reported by Fr Pradeep Alex Mattathilanickal, Germany)

5. Switzerland: News from Schlieren

a. Nicholas Day for Advent

As in many parts of Europe, people in Switzerland enjoy the tradition of counting the days until Christmas Eve. St Nicholas Day is a festive occasion, especially for children in Switzerland and throughout



Europe. Children receive gifts or put their shoes in front of the door or fireplace, waiting for St Nicholas' arrival and the gifts he brings. Every year Santha Claus arrives on 6 December, for "Samichlaus Abend"—Santa Night. "Samichlaus," as he is known in

Switzerland, wears a hooded red cape and long robe so he looks like an elderly version of Little Red Riding Hood. His arrival marks the beginning of the Christmas season. Different groups of our parish, young and old, have celebrated advent.

b. Advent Candles



The advent season is a time of preparation for our hearts and minds for the anniversary of the Lord's birth on Christmas. The candles also have their own special significance. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent, and one candle is lit each Sunday.

Three of the candles are purple because the colour violet is a liturgical colour that signifies a time of prayer, penance, and sacrifice. The white candle is placed in the middle of the wreath and lit on Christmas Eve. This candle is called the "Christ Candle" and represents the life of Christ. The colour white is for purity—because Christ is our sinless, pure Saviour.

c. Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

December 24 is "Heiliger Abend," Christmas Eve or Holy Night, and is celebrated according to the unique traditions of each town or



village. Most family events are held on Christmas Eve. We celebrate in our parish Schlieren Christmas for the families and children on the Eve and for the whole community on Christmas night. Christmas Day, a holiday throughout Switzerland, is often a day to enjoy the outdoors. With mountain snowfall in abundance, Christmas day launches the winter sports season. Many head for ski resorts to try their hand at the immense variety of winter sports available: tobogganing, skiing, ice skating, snowboarding, Nordic skiing, snowshoeing, dog-sledding, winter walking, and sledding.

d. Coronavirus Situation

It has worsened in the past few weeks. New measures have been announced. Switzerland has also tightened entry restrictions to check the spread of the Omicron variant of Covid-19. Around 66% of the total



population are fully vaccinated against Covid. Swiss health officials have recommended an extension of booster jabs. More than 11,300 people have died in connection with Covid-19 in Switzerland, which has a population of only 8.6 million.

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

6. United Kingdom

Sacerdotal Silver Jubilee Celebrations



Fr Roy Muthumakkal's Sacerdotal Silver Jubilee was celebrated at his parish church of SS Philip & James, Herne Hill in London. The parish community arranged a celebration on 16 October

with a 'Bring n Share' dinner, following a concelebrated Holy Mass. Some clergy from the Deanery and King's College Hospital Chaplaincy joined the



celebration. There were also representatives from the local non-Catholic parishes. Rev. Deacon Alfred Banya, the Lead Chaplain, preached the homily.

After the solemn Mass, it was time for felicitations and cake cutting. Rev. Fr Bart Dudek offered felicitations on behalf of the deanery. Mr Francois Joliot, the chair of the parish council spoke representing the community.



Since this parish community is truly international, the dishes at the 'Bring n Share' dinner reflected it. Everybody enjoyed the variety of food which

included Italian, French, Caribbean and Asian cuisine among others. Though we are still in the middle of a pandemic, Fr Roy's jubilee celebration provided an occasion for the parish community to come together and share some good and memorable moments.

On the 30th October, there was another get-together of friends and relatives. Among the 160 or more people who attended, there were Malayali families living around here and others who came from different parts of the country. Frs Luke Marapillil and Hans Puthiakulangara concelebrated the Holy Qurbana. Fr Tomy Adattu and Deacon Joice Pallickamyilil were also present.

The jubilee celebrations were occasions for some of Fr Roy's well-wishers to join him in thanking God for all His blessings and graces all through his ministry as a priest.

(Reported by Rev. Fr Roy Muthumakkal, London, U.K.)

7. Tanzania

a. Madale, Dar es Salaam



Life in Tanzania is in full swing amid the covid pandemic. We are all active in pastoral services and getting ready to celebrate the Christmas feast.

Visit of Director General

The month of November was really busy with the visit of MSTs Director General. After postponing many times, he could finally manage to visit Tanzania and MSTs mission centers and priests working here. It was really a blessing.

On 5 November, the Director General arrived and was welcomed by Fr Biju Pullapalliyil and Fr Robin Manianchira at the airport. After lunch at Madale, Director General and Fr Biju started their journey to Songea to visit the mission center. On Saturday evening we reached after driving 1000 kms. On Sunday celebrated Holy Mass and joined the jubilee celebration of married people who completed 25 years and above. After the function, we had a few days' rest.

We headed to Bunda where Fr Zacharias Azhikanikal is doing mission work. There we participated in the blessing ceremony of an



out station church and celebration of different sacraments. He could meet the bishop of Bunda, his Excellency Simon Masandole. He really appreciated the services done in our mission in his diocese.

After driving 4000 kms we were back in Madale, Dar Es Salaam. On 20 November we had a meeting with his excellency Judae Thadeus Ruwaichi, the Archbishop of Dar Es Salaam ArchDiocese, and had fruitful discussion on our mission in Dar Es Salaam. During Sunday Eucharisti celebration he received 42 catechumens, who will be baptized in Easter vigil celebration. He awarded them the certificate of catechumens. On the same day we had lunch together with the parish leaders and catechists who prepare people to receive sacraments. On Tuesday, 23 November, he flew back to India to attend Ruhailaya Jubilee celebrations.

(Reported by Fr Varghese Pullappallil, Dar Es Salem, Tanzania)

b. Chengena, Songea

The long awaited visit of Director General of MST came to be true on 6 November 2021. The people welcomed Very Rev Fr Antony Perumanoor with great joy and love. The children and the elders welcomed our General with leaves and tree branches. Rev. Fr



Antony's visit was a graceful moment for me and for the faithful at Chengena. Because it was a loving gesture from my authority to visit my mission among the poor in Tanzania

and he appreciated and supported it.

On 7 November 2021, we had a solemn Eucharistic celebration along with D. G. Very Rev. Fr Antony and Mission Director Fr. Biju, in honor of the closing ceremony of year of St Joseph at the parish level. This was a great and noble occasion to congratulate all

the faithful couple who lived 25 years and above their marital bond fulfilling their family responsibilities towards each other and their children.

Along with the Parish leaders we took initiative to appreciate, congratulate them during mass by honouring them. During the Holy Eucharist, all the couples stood in front of the altar as first holy communicants, honoured by the rest of the faithful. They renewed their marital vows with blessings of Fr. Biju.



The chairman of the Parish appreciated the missionary work done by MST in the Chengena Parish. They appreciated the contribution

rendered by all the MST priests in Chengena. And they humbly requested to send one more priest to help them to deepen their Catholic faith and to live a holy life. Fr Antony while addressing the faithful he appreciated them for coming in large numbers for the Holy Eucharist and their faith. Also working together with Fr. Shaiju. The faithful were filled with shouts of joy as DG promised to send a priest in the coming days.

After the Holy Eucharist there was a cultural program to welcome the D G by the whole Parish. After the program there was a fellowship meal. All enjoyed the meal together as a sign of joy and communion. Accompanying the General, we were unable to meet the Archbishop of the Songea but we met other diocesan leaders. On 8 November Fr General bid farewell to Chengena. His visit was really a graceful presence indeed!

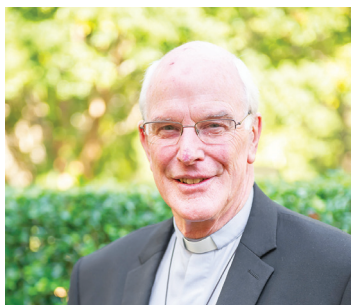
(Reported by Rev. Fr Shaiju Kizhakkekureethadathil, Songea, Tanzania)

8. Australia

a. Diocese of New Castle

i. Demise of Bishop Wright of Maitland New Castle:

Bishop William Wright (69), the bishop of my diocese died of liver



cancer on 13th November. Bishop Bill was ordained eighth Bishop of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle on 15 June 2011. He was buried at Pro cathedral at Maitland on 24th November. He was very humble and led a simple life and was very appreciative of the Indian priests. He

was very approachable. As a member of college of consultors, I was one of the pallbearers.

ii. Diaconal Ordination in Singleton

Seminarian Solomon Okovido was staying with me in the parish for



the last one year, after he finished his studies in the seminary. For various reasons his ordination to diaconate was postponed two times. On 4 December he was ordained deacon by Bishop Brian Macord, bishop of Wollongong (where Fr Joseph Pothenparampil ministers) in St Patricks church, Singleton. Solomon is hailing from Nigeria. After his philosophy studies in Nigeria, he came to Australia and did some jobs and later he was admitted to this diocese and continued his studies in good

shepherd seminary, Sydney.

There are no more seminarians studying for this diocese. Many are advocating lay led parishes. Two of the parishes in this diocese are lay-led. A 'sacramental priest' occasionally goes to celebrate Holy Mass in parishes at the direction of the lay leader. Other days the lay leader conducts liturgy of the word. The priest supervisor does not have much role in the administration of the parish.

(Reported by Rev. Fr Thomas Chirackal, Newcastle, Australia)

b. Syro-Malabar Missions of Shepparton and Bendigo

Syro-Malabar Missions of Shepparton and Bendigo are in their full



swing after Victoria state reopened with the removal of caps, density limits and most of the Covid 19 restrictions. 90 percent of people are double vaccinated in Victoria and people are not worried

about Covid even if there are now more Covid cases here than before.

Syro Malabar Mission of St Thomas, Bendigo celebrated the feast of Mother Mary and St Thomas on 28 November. It was a great opportunity for the faithful to kindle afresh their faith and fellowship after having gone through the difficult time of restrictions and uncertainties. There was a Solemn Holy Mass, procession and ‘Snehavirunnu.’

Inauguration of Nurses’ Ministry and Youth Ministry were the important events in St Alphonsa Syro-Malabar Mission, Shepparton. *(Reported by Fr Varghese Vithayathil, Shepparton, Australia)*

9. Sweden

Greetings from Sweden! As you all do, we are also preparing for Christmas. Advent is a time of waiting and we are waiting to celebrate the Birthday of Jesus.

a. Minor Seminary News

Seminarians who are studying abroad will be coming after Christmas and we have a gathering in the seminary. One who is studying in Spain will be having one-month pastoral ministry in one of the parishes in Stockholm.

b. Vocation Promoters Team



His Eminence Cardinal Anders Arborelius OCD has appointed four priests as the vocation promoters of the Stockholm diocese and

me as the leader of the group. We had our first meeting together with the bishop on 16 November at the Bishop's House. We discussed the future plan of the year. The members of the team are Fr. Joseph Rizk, Fr. Thomas Idergard S.J., Bro. Witold M³otkowski OFM, and Fr. Benoy Thottiyil Jose MST.

c. Weekend Training for the Candidates

We have three candidates who were pastors in the Protestant church



and converted to Catholic church 10 years ago. And now they, with the special permission from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, started four years of formation in the seminary. They have regular gatherings and classes in the seminary. Last week His Eminence Cardinal Anders Arborelius OCD had a visit and meeting with them.

d. Syro-Malabar Mission in Scandinavia:

Holy Masses in Malayalam are being celebrated in all the stations regularly and a Christmas mass in Malayalam will be celebrated on Christmas day first time in Stockholm. As the Covid pandemic continues and we have restrictions to travel in and outside Sweden, there are limited public masses celebrated in Malayalam in different countries. But at



present we have masses in Stockholm, Gutenberg, Jönköping and Uppsala in Sweden and Helsinki in Finland.

During the Advent season we have distributed the advent calendar in the children's group. It's nice to hear that they are making use of it. This year we have more than 50 children for the Sunday school. These children are from three different countries so we make use of the digital platform for the teachings and it works well.

(Reported by Fr Binu Thottiyil, Stockholm, Sweden)

10. Brazil

a. Church Construction at Apore, Jathai

As my church-building was insufficient to contain the community and was in need of reconstruction, the original church is demolished and the construction of the new one started on 8 October 2021. St



Augustine is the patron of this parish. The members of the community earnestly contribute to the construction of the church, out of their devotion to St Augustine and the church is being built only with the local contribution from the community.

(Reported by Fr Joseph Thekkel, Apore, Jathai, Brazil)

b. St Sebastian's Parish Itarumã, Jathai

i. Pastoral Life Resumed

After long periods of lock down and panic of pandemic covid pastoral activities are normalizing in the parishes of Brazil. Almost 70% of the population of the municipality of Itarumã received second dose of covid vaccine. There is a great fall in new covid cases or almost zero cases in this part of Brazil. Participation in Holy Masses and request for sacraments have increasing demands among parishioners. Fear of contaminable disease covid slowly disappears from the mind of the people and faithful old young and children express great



enthusiasms in the participation of parish activities.

Itarumã Parish is spread over 365 sq kms between two rivers. Most of its revenue area is covered with cattle farms or auricular farms. These farms are rural areas connected with mud roads. We have once in a month mass in these farms. Employees of these farms gather for the Holy Mass.

ii. First communion in Itarumã parish



We had online catechism classes for the children. From the month of August, we started classes. This year we have 27 children who received first communion on 5 December 2021.

iii. Blessing of Chapel and Confirmation

On 11 December Bishop Dom Nelio Domigos Zorteia of Jathai blessed the Capela (chapel) of Jesus bom pastor in the street nova Esperanca after its renovation. During the solemn Holy Mass, the bishop conferred sacrament of confirmation for 14 youths and adults.

(Reported by Fr Pulickal, Itarumã, Brazil)



11. Italy

a. Gathering of MSTs in Italy at Latina

An MST gathering of the priests in Italy was held at Latina, the parish of Frs Bino Kannamundayil and Manu Maprayil, on 8 November 2021. Nine MST priests participated in the gathering that began on 8th evening. We fondly remembered Fr Siby Nelloor, one of the pioneers of the parish at Latina with Fr Roy Pullatt. We prayed the office of the dead for Fr Siby Nelloor and thankfully remembered his great contributions to the MST in general and to different MST priests in Rome and to various parishes in Italy. Frs Bino and Manu played a leading role in the gathering by organizing everything including food and accommodation. During the sumptuous dinner the freshers, i.e., Frs Lijo Manikombel and Arun Karakkattu, were accorded a warm welcome to the MST *koinonia* in Italy and the participants of the gathering wished them all the best in their studies. Rev. Fr Tony Mampillil was unanimously elected as the leader of the MSTs in Italy. He succeeds Fr Joby Koottumkal who was the leader for about two years. The gathering that discussed many things regarding the MST ended on 9th morning when the participants dispersed as many had classes and other schedules and plans.

b. Updates on Students and Studies

The student priests of the MST in Italy have begun their first semester at their respective universities. Frs Lijo Manikombel and Arun Karakkattu pursue their licentiate studies and have regular classes. They enjoy their studies and stay at Collegio Nepomuceno (via Concordia 1) and Collegio Damasceno (via Boccea 480) respectively. Doctoral students (Frs Joby Mulluvengappurath, Joby Koottumkal, Biju Koothottil, Tony Mampillil and Jaison Kulappurath) are actively engaged in their research work.

c. Pastoral Activities and Other Initiatives

The MSTs who render commendable service in various parish communities are actively engaged in pastoral activities and Fr Rijo Kadaparampil, a fresher as the assistant priest in charge at St Thomas

Cathedral at Orthona, is gradually initiated into the pastoral activities of the parish as he stays with Fr Biji Kudukkamthadathil. Frs Elvis Mangalappillil, Joseph Koren, Biji Kudukkamthadathil, Bino Kannamundayil, Joby Mulluvengappurath and Manu Maprayil are doing well in their new parishes with their different pastoral activities. Rev. Fr Manu Maprayil attends classes at a driving school near Latina and hopes to get licence by the beginning of the new year 2022. Rev. Fr Joseph Vazhuthanappallil is actively engaged in various activities, being connected with various parishes, associations and organizations.

(Reported by Fr Joby Koottumkal, Rome)

12. Spain

Here in Barcelona, I am staying at the Capuchin Provincial House for Catalunya, Spain. Here we are 7 priests including the Provincial. We have all the liturgical prayers in a solemn way and daily three



Masses for the people. I now concelebrate with them in the morning Mass. I have started reading the Gospel in Spanish and

Catalan. All the friars are taking good care of me. Catalan food is served here. I am now getting accustomed to this food. They take me to their nearby convents whenever there is a ceremony. I do participate in the liturgical hours and help in the work of the community. Friars go for hospital ministry, offer Mass for different convents of religious and communities, ministry for Third Order Capuchin laity, and preach in different places in Catalonia.

The university studies are going on well. The name of my university is Universitat Ramon Llull and our college is called Blanquerna College of Communications which is one of the four educational faculties. We are 11 in number for Global communication, Management and Corporate Diplomacy from eight countries like Switzerland, America, Brazil, Mexico, Portugal, Cuba, etc. Every



Wednesday we have Mass in the university. The bishop of Lleida, Mons. Salvador Giménez is the delegate bishop of the bishops based in Catalonia for the inter diocesan Secretariat for social-media. Our Christmas holidays begin on 20 December.

(Reported by Fr Joby Kappiparampil, Barcelona, Spain)

13. Philippines

The lingering pandemic and ‘omicron,’ the latest Covid-19 ‘variant of concern’ haven’t let down the spirit of Christmas in the Philippines. As usual, the start of the ‘ber months’ marked the beginning of the Christmas celebrations here. It’s no wonder the Philippines is known for celebrating the longest Christmas season in the world. We do join the liturgical celebrations in our assigned places. A fulfilling and fruitful priestly ministry goes cheek and jowl with our academic pursuit.

a. Preparations for Christmas: Our churches are ready for the



novena Masses in preparation for Christmas. The midnight Mass or ‘Simbang gabi’ is one of the practices most commonly observed during this season. As the popular belief goes,

the wish may be granted to those who complete all the nine masses. Christmas is also a time for the Filipinos to catch up with the family members, reunion and exchange of gifts, a celebration with traditional



cuisines, and parties dancing to the tunes of the latest music. Religiously, they are now in the processing of blessing their streets with the Holy Eucharist or Holy Water.

b. Community Pantry: We had a slew of programs in our parish to relieve the people and reawaken them in their faith journey. The project; ‘community pantry’ was a free supply of groceries to the needy and poor organized every week. When people had restrictions on movement, we arranged ‘bread on wheels’ to reach the people. The notable and noble faith awakening activity was the eucharistic

processions held on every significant feast and memorial.



In this season of Christmas, waiting for the savior, the Philippines is also waiting for a new leadership as the country goes into presidential elections in February 2022.

The campaign has started and there is a nationwide yearning for competent, conscientious, and capable leadership. Keep the Philippines in your prayers. We wish you a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

(Reported by Frs Roby Adapoor and Roy Thengumkudiyil, Manila, Philippines)

VII. NEWS FROM OTHER MINISTRIES/ CENTRES

A. VOCATION PROMOTION

As the pandemic is gradually subsiding, we have started the process of vocation promotion by visiting the parishes, schools and houses of the MST fathers.

Visiting the houses of MST Fathers: Our families can be of great help in promoting good vocations. In the last weeks we have been visiting the homes of our fathers in the Malabar region. We could cover most of the houses in the district of Kannur. In the coming days we will try to cover the rest in this region. Through this visit we could collect a good number of contact details of the children and we have been contacting them personally since then. And we have visited the houses of some new students for the next academic year.

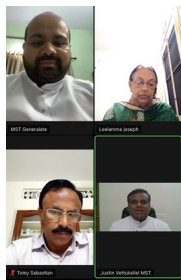
Vocation Camp during the Christmas Holidays: We are planning to conduct a vocation camp for the children in the coming days. Once the date is fixed we will inform you and we could together make it a successful one.

(Reported by Frs. Rony Alencherry and Manu Pottananickal, Vocation Promoters – North Zone)

B. SANTHOME FELLOWSHIP

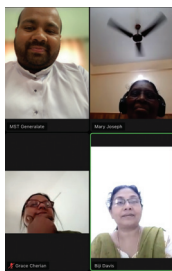
1. Formation Programme for Missionary Associates

Classes based on the ‘Guidelines of Missionary Associates’ were guided by Fr Justin Vettukallel for potential associate missionaries. Two days were set apart for that and all the potential missionary associates participated in this programme. Questions and clarifications were made by the participants enthusiastically.



2. Meeting of Santhome Fellowship in Ernakulam

A meeting was conducted for Santhome Fellowship (SF) members



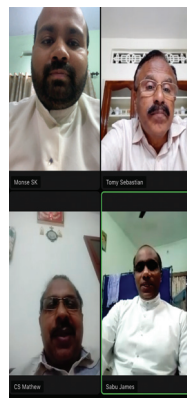
of Ernakulam on 27 November. Some of the new members also participated in this particular meeting. Fr Monse, Director of SF explained the scope and purpose of Santhome Fellowship and Missionary Associates to the new members. They were introduced to some of the activities taken up by the associates and SF members around the globe.

3. Assistance for the Flood Affected

Santhome Fellowship members from different parts of India gathered goods and money to support the people affected by the flood in Kerala. We distributed food items and other necessary materials in the flood affected places like Mundakayam, Parathanam. Big thanks to all the Santhome Fellowship members especially the members from Thodupuzha unit for the meritorious work.

4. Mission Sharing for Missionary Associates

A mission sharing by Fr Sabu Njarolickal was arranged for the missionary associates and potential missionary associates on 23 November. His experience sharing on the missionary works of MST and the role of the participation of the lay people in the missionary activities of Missionary Society was really inspiring. Fr Sabu shared his experience especially in the Brazil mission and also his pioneering work in the Mandya mission.



5. Mr Jacob Padalody *Anusmaranam*

A special day of commemoration on Mr Jacob Padalody, a very charismatic member of Santhome Fellowship who left for his eternal reward on 13 November 2020, was organized by the members of Santhome Fellowship. Holy Qurbana was celebrated for the repose of the soul and a meeting was conducted in Kariyathumpara. All the Santhome Fellowship members from Koorachundu and Kariyathumpara joined in the Eucharistic celebration and in the meeting.



At Deepti Bhavan, the missionary associates gathered for the Holy Qurbana and prayed the office for the dead in memory of Jacob Padalody. The missionary associates remembered him with gratitude and all of them shared their good memories with him.

6. Zonal Meeting at Aruvithura

A meeting was organised for Santhome Fellowship members in Aruvithura Zone on 4 December. Fr Augustine Palakkaparampil, the Forane Vicar was present in the meeting and he exhorted and



encouraged the participants to love the mission and to serve the mission through life. Fr Saju Thupalanjiyil gave a small talk for the members who participated in this meeting. The new members were introduced with the activities of Santhome Fellowship by the Director.

Mrs Daisy Chirayath from Aruvithura thanked the gathering.

7. Christmas-kit for the Needy in Indore

Santhome Fellowship members always address the problem of fellow beings. The Christmas season also asks the Christians to share the joy of the season with the neighbours. Santhome Fellowship members in Indore are distributing food kits to the needy people in the town especially to those people living without home in the roadsides

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

C. SANTHOMÉ – IMPACT, Kochi

1. Santhome IMPACT News

Mission Day celebration at Trissur Seminary: At the initiative of Fr Davies Kavumkal, Mary Matha Major Seminary, Trissur invited Frs Panjikaran and Vanmelil to be the chief guests of their

Mission Day celebrations. We reached there on 13 November. Next day morning Fr Vipin Vannmelil celebrated Holy Mass in Hindi for the whole community and preached on the mission. Fr Panjikaran gave an Extension lecture of 45 minutes on the “Vocation and Mission of St Paul.”

a. Gratitude to Fr Siby Nelloor. We all participated in the funeral ceremonies of Fr Siby Nelloor at Deepti. We express our deep-felt gratitude to Fr Siby for his collaboration and contribution to the mission animation programmes of Impact. He was the facilitator of the *Kadukumani Apostoloi*, a catechism programme which was telecasted in Shalom TV.

b. Ruhalaya Classes: Fr Panjikaran was in the Comprehensive viva Bible panel of the Ruhalaya Deacons on 11 November. He did it online from Impact. Fr Panjikaran also gave classes to Ruhalaya 2nd and 3rd year Theologians on Hebrews and Catholic Epistles (2 credits) also online from Impact from 29 November to 11 December.

c. Rosary Devotion: Apart from our Rosary devotions in the month of October we also joined the 10 days’ Rosary devotion celebration in our Thevackal parish.

d. Parish Fest: We wholeheartedly co-operated in the parish feast of St Martin de Porres. In the 10 day’s long festal celebrations all four of us celebrated one day each the Holy Mass in the parish. We all preached on the missionary aspect of the life of the saint.

e. Parish Activities: Fr Panjikaran is a member of the parish council. He attends it regularly. At the request of the parish priest, Impact has taken up one out of the three Masses on Sundays in our parish. One of us celebrates one Mass in the parish every Sunday. We are also planning to conduct many missionary animation programmes in collaboration with the parish. After Christmas we are conducting a Mission animation camp for the children of our parish.

f. Leaders’ camp for grooming up Catholic cine artists: A three days’ residential workshop programme was conducted in Impact from 3rd morning to 5th evening. 8 young men and women mostly from the Jesus youth background attended the course under the

initiative of Fr Daey Kunnath. There was a resource person from outside. The programme was well appreciated by the participants.

g. Planning session: With Fr Justin Vettukallel, the Council in charge of Impact, we had an Evaluation and Planning session of Impact activities on 18 November. In the New year we are planning different Mission Animation and other programmes.

2. Publications

Kadukumani was printed and posted to around 2000 individual subscribers. It was also published online through sending PDF copies. We are planning to resume publication of *True Blaze* as the schools are reopening.

3. Santhome Media-IMPACT

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

a. Josephine Quiz 2021: In connection with the conclusion of the year of St Joseph we conducted an online Quiz on St Joseph in Malayalam on 5 December. More than 100 participants from different parts of India attended this quiz programme. Quiz questions were prepared by Rev. Dr Sebastian Kizhakkeyil MST based on his own book on St Joseph. We wholeheartedly thank Dr Sebastian for his support and co-operation with Impact activities.

JOSEPHINE QUIZ 2021
 Conducted by...
SANTHOME MEDIA-IMPACT COUGHIN
 (An Initiative of MST Fathers)
JOSEPHINE QUIZ FOR THE YEAR ST JOSEPH 2021
 മിസ്സമയ്യുടെ കാരികാരായ വിദ്യാലയ
 യാക്കോബിന്റെ സ്മരണയ്ക്കായി ഈ വർഷം
 ആ ഏകദേശമായി അറിയാത്തവർ
 ആ സൂക്ഷ്മതയ്ക്കായി അന്വേഷിക്കുന്നവർക്ക്
 MST സോളിസ്റ്റ് കമ്മ്യൂണിറ്റി മധ്യസ്ഥനായ
 സാക്കന്തം മീഡിയ ഐക്യം
ജോസഫൈൻ ക്വിസ് -2021
 100 പങ്കാളികൾക്ക് ഉണ്ടായിരുന്ന പ്രാദേശികമായി
 എല്ലാ പങ്കാളികളെയും അറിയാത്തവർക്ക് ഈ വർഷം
 അറിയപ്പെടാത്തവർക്ക് മാത്രമായി ജോസഫൈൻ Google form വഴി
 2021 ഡിസംബർ 5 ന് അവസാനം 5.30 ന് Santhome Media-Impact
 FB & YouTube community-ലേക്കു ക്വിസ് ഉപയോഗിച്ചു വരികയും
 ഓരോ പങ്കാളിയുടെയും അറിയപ്പെടാത്തവർക്ക്
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 സാക്കന്തം മീഡിയ ഐക്യം
 1st PRIZE - ₹ 5001.00
 2nd PRIZE - ₹ 3001.00
 3rd PRIZE - ₹ 2001.00
 എല്ലാ പങ്കാളികളും 100 പങ്കാളികൾക്ക് ഉണ്ടായിരുന്ന പ്രാദേശികമായി
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 വിശദ വിവരങ്ങൾക്ക് വിളിക്കുക0001713638 / 9425979621

b. Thathante Hrudayamode: This is a musical album about St Joseph which is uploaded in our YouTube Channel. This is well appreciated on social media platforms.

c. Kanivin Kedaram: This is also a musical album about Mother Mary which is uploaded in our YouTube Channel on the feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mother Mary.

d. Audio Recording: Santhome Media audio recording Studio is

blessed with eminent personalities like Kester, Wilson Piravom, Mithila Michael, Teena Mary Abraham, Alice Mathew, Shaju Cheriyan and also Rev. Fathers and Sisters from different dioceses and congregations. Many



devotional songs, Documentary

Voiceover and Audio Magazines are regularly recorded here.

e. Invitation to all MSTs to collaborate with Santhome Media-

IMPACT: Santhome Media-IMPACT invites all the members of MST to collaborate and cooperate with us in communicating mission awareness to our people. We will technically support the MST members and Brothers to work out their creativity in this field and bring out as media productions.

f. Upcoming Initiatives of Santhome Media-IMPACT

1. Short Films and Documentaries
2. Motivational Classes on different topics
3. Media related camps and workshops.
4. Cartoon Film for Kids

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

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

D. ANGEL HOME, KADANAD

Welcome for Fr Sogin Chirayil: Rev. Fr Sogin Chirayil reached at Angel Home on 10 December 2021. He was undergoing treatment for COVID 19. Now he is keeping fine and his health is improving. Angel Home is

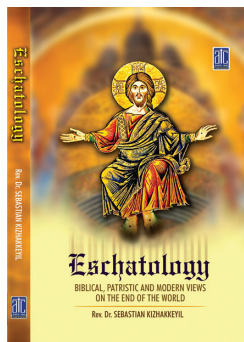


really happy and blessed with his presence. We are sure that his presence and service will be a great asset for us. Hearty welcome dear Fr Sogin.

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

E. SANTHOME BIBLE CENTRE, PARIYARAM

1. New Publication of Books



Two books authored by Rev. Fr Sebastian Kizhakkeyil were released in Ruhahaya, Ujjain, during the silver jubilee celebrations on 25 November 2021. One of the books is on *Eschatology* and the other on *Charisms of the Religious and the Societies of Apostolic Life*. Those who visit Deepti may get a free copy of the *Charisms* from the DG as a

Christmas gift.

A new book on St. Joseph in English is coming out soon from St. Paul's, Mumbai.

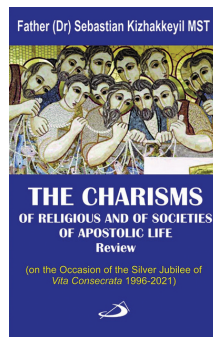
2. Rosary Quiz

In the Rosary month of October, a Rosary Quiz was successfully conducted on four Sundays, based on the book of Fr Sebastian Kizhakkeyil titled: 'Rosary and Mariology.' It was organised by Santhome Media, Impact, Kochi, under the leadership of Fr Lijesh Panackavayalil.

3. Quiz on St Joseph

A second quiz was organized in the context of the Year of St Joseph. It was conducted on 5 December and it was based on the book *St Joseph: In the Holy Bible and the Church Documents*, authored by Fr Sebastian Kizhakkeyil. This Josephine Quiz also was organised by Santhome Media, Impact, Kochi.

Cash prizes were sponsored by some of our MST priests. Thanks



to all of them and also to Fr Lijesh who organised both events very successfully.

(Reported by Fr S. Kizhakkeyil, Director, Santhome, Pariyaram)

F. AARAAM, DEEPTI MOUNT

1. Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi



On 4 October, it was the Feast of two of our fathers: Fr Francis Ezhanikattil and Fr Francis Vattakunnel. The day began with Holy Qurbana offered by Fr Ezhanikatt with the *Aaraam* community where he mentioned about the life and contributions/ reforms he brought in the early church especially in the 12th

century.

We greeted the fathers after the Holy Qurbana and all joined together in the evening for the main celebration of the Feast. Fr Sebastian Thuruthel said in his message that we are lucky to have two Fathers as model and examples after the footsteps of Saint Francis of Assisi. Both Feasterians thanked all for the prayers and greetings.

2. Feast of Zacharias

On 5 November, it was the feast of Fr Zacharias Thudipara. The day was celebrated with Holy Qurbana offered by Fr Manu Nattunilath who extended Fr Zacharias prayerful greetings and special remembrance in the Mass. He also mentioned his faithfulness in serving God's temple regularly and the reward God granted him for the trust and faithfulness. After



the Holy Qurbana all greeted Father Zacharias and shared the joy

of the feast day. A grand dinner was sponsored by Fr Zacharias and all the council members also were present together with all the members of *Aaraam*.

3. Opening of New Liturgical Year and New Holy Qurbana



28 November 2021 was the day of the opening of the new liturgical year and for introducing the new

synodal Qurbana. The day began with a concelebrated high mass by Frs Joseph Vadakechirayath, Francis Ezhanikatt and Manu Nattunilath. Everyone enjoyed the new text and the hymns, as it was the first day of the period of Annunciation. The main celebrant Fr Joseph Chirayath gave the homily stressing the need for preparing the coming of the Lord. We must prepare our hearts to welcome the Lord at Christmas.

4. Feast of Immaculate Mary

Feast of the Immaculate Conception was celebrated with a concelebrated Holy Qurbana in the *Aaraam* chapel followed by a special breakfast and lunch.

(Reported by Fr Joseph Vadakechirayath, Director, Aaraam)

G. Paithalmala Ministries

1. Mar Walah Spirituality Centre

Mar Walah (Lord and God) Prayer Centre was a simple house



which could hardly accommodate two people. Therefore, it was



necessary to renovate it in order to accommodate more people. Last July, we started the renovation and have completed it now. On 8 December, on the feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Holy Virgin

Mary, the renovated Mar Walah Spirituality Centre is blessed by Very Rev. Dr Antony Perumanoor, the Director General of the MST, in the presence of the Treasurer General – Rev. Fr Joy Kunnel, General Councillor - Rev. Fr Peter Kavumpuram and the former Director General Rev. Fr Kurian Ammanathukunnel. All the fathers from Santhome Pariyaram blessed the occasion with their presence. Most of the priests from Chemberi Forane and the DST Sisters from Kudianmala and Chemberi were also present.

Rev. Fr John Madukoly, the Director of Paithalamala Ministries welcomed the Director General and all the guests. Fr Scaria Thamarakatt – the Animator of Mar Walah proposed the vote of thanks. Now on this centre will be known as – **Mar Walah MST Spirituality Centre**. Now we are able to accommodate 15 to 20 people in groups and six people individually. There is a beautiful chapel adjacent to the house. All are welcome for individual or group meditation and prayer.

2. Karunyashram – Naturopathic Treatment Centre

Karunyashram is slowly getting full fledged after the long break of Covi-19 pandemic. The incessant rain also was a reason for less patients. Mr Manuel Kollichira (Kunjettan), the founder of Karunyashram is slowly recovering from a stroke. Thanks for the prayers of everyone. Our Dr Chin Chin is getting ready for her marriage after Christmas. We wish her all the best and God's blessings.

(Reported by Fr Scaria Thamarakatt, Animator, Mar Walah MST Spirituality Centre, Paithalmala)

VIII. Departed for Eternal Reward

A. Necrology: Family Members of the MSTs

As informed by the members

(15 October -18 December 2021)

Mrs Mariakutty Pullolickal, Grandmother of Fr Sogin Chirayil

Mrs Chinnamma Vadakkethalackal, Grandmother of Fr Vadakkethalackal

Mr C.J. Joseph Chamakalayil, Grandfather of Fr Chamakalayil

Mrs Annamma Vattamthottiyil Grandmother of Fr Ullattil, and Aunt of Fr Vadakeoram

Mrs Bincy Jiji Kollamparampil, Niece Fr Karamel

Mr V.C. Joseph Muthirenthickal, Uncle of Fr Kochettonnil

Mrs Celine Kavukatt, Sister-in-law of Fr Kavukatt

Mrs Thresiamma Joseph, Mother of Fr Joby Maprakavil

Mrs Annakutty, Mother of Fr Pulickamandathil

Mr Antony Mappalakayil, Uncle of Fr Thazhathuveetil

Mrs Mariyakutty Vezhamala, Grandmother of Fr Manjakkal

Rev. Sr Elsy James Adambakallel SMC, Aunt of Rev. Frs George Keeranchira and Jobin Vadakketh

Mrs Mary Pulimalayil, Sister-in-law of Fr Pulimalayil

Mr P.C. Jose Purayidom, Uncle of Fr Binoy Purayidom

Mrs Annamma Vattapparampil, Aunt of Fr Binoy Purayidom



B. A Tribute to: Fr Siby Nelloor

Rev. Fr Jacob (Sabu) Njarolickal MST



Rev. Fr Siby Nelloor was a friend of mine from the year 1988 when we started our minor seminary studies at Deepti. It was the providence of God that we met together and continued to share the ups and downs in life till he bid farewell to all of us on 22 October 2021.

He was a cheerful person, approached things with a positive mind. His way of making fun of things and situations could calm the stressful moments. Fr Siby, as a seminarian, was excellent in organizing things and he contributed in a special way to the cultural activities. Seven



years we performed mimic parades, stage shows and skits together in the seminary and in the villages. Rev. Fr John Panthalipadan was the other person who with us. Fr Siby

had interesting ideas to make these moments very memorable. I learned so many things from him regarding different aspects of shows and stage performance.

As a formator, he conducted many training-programmes for the teachers and students during his priestly ministry in St Paul Region,



Ujjain 2000-2004 together with Rev. Fr Jose Vallikatt. He used to share his experiences with me and his close friends. He wanted to contribute more in this field. So, he did some studies in communication during his ministry in the Eparchy of Ujjain. Considering his great talents, he was appointed as a seminary formator at Deepti College, Melampara 2004-2015. During that time, I had many opportunities to

talk to him and share our missionary experiences.



I remember the day he went for his higher studies to Rome, in the year 2004. During his studies, he was also involved in the pastoral ministry in the dioceses of Spoleto-Norcia and Latina-Teracina-Sezze-Priverno, Italy with much enthusiasm. After four years I

went to Brazil for pastoral ministry and we had regular contact through phone. Though he struggled a lot to complete his studies, he enjoyed pastoral ministry and life in Italy.

I always noticed that he was a man who enjoyed life. He travelled a lot. Made use of all the opportunities to visit other countries and missions.



He had many good friends, and when he died, most of them could not accept it. It was his wish that our batch gathering could be conducted in his mission in the month of



August 2020. Even most of our tickets were booked by Fr Siby to make it easier for us. But due to the treatment he had to undergo, that did not take place. Those days of struggle he asked his batch mates to assist him. Some of us could make it.

He loved his family. He was very much concerned about his mother and indirectly prepared his mother to accept his death that was approaching. His mother told me that once he told his mother that if he died, do not be worried because she still has two more children. His sister thankfully shared how he took care of her in her difficult moments. She had the opportunity to serve him in his last days. One



of those days Fr Siby also prepared her to accept his death while taking care of him. All his nephews used to call him Vellachan. He used to tell them, "Where ever you go, dress properly and give a good impression." Fr Siby always dressed well and impressed all. Jeevan, a nephew of Fr Siby said, "Vellachan always wanted his dear ones to be presented perfectly in the society. He bought clothes for me too...

From my childhood onwards he gave me many joyful moments."

What is there to be appreciated more in his life? I say the missionary method that he used and the matured missionary in him. When he returned from Italy with a doctorate in Communication and Media from Gregorian University in 2015, preferred to be a missionary



than a professor. Thus, he worked in St Mary Queen of the Missions Delegation, Delhi. During that period his mission at Shimla and Rohru in Himachal Pradesh was a well-planned and organized

one. Sometimes even superiors and his close friends thought that he was just boasting and nothing was happening. But he was forming the community with patience. He took time to form them. He gave a systematic formation to them. His catechism was more practical and experience oriented. Two consecutive years he came to Kerala with people from Rohru and introduced to them the life and tradition of the Syro Malabar Church. He made it possible to visit the Major Archbishop Mar George Cardinal Alencherry and the main pilgrim centers, feasts and the celebrations of sacraments of the Syro-Malabar church.



In the year 2020 he planned to visit Mylapore and the tomb of St Thomas Mount at Chennai with the people of Rohru. He asked me to contact the priests of the Hosur diocese in Chennai to make arrangements since I knew the place and the priests there. And



everything was arranged for their arrival and visit at Mylapur. Then only we got the shocking news that he was seriously affected with Blood cancer and approaching death. But still then, Fr Siby as an enthusiastic missionary did not lose the hope to recover. He fought his best to come back. He was encouraged by Dr Joy Francis of Carmel Hospital, Palai to visit

his beloved mission once again when he got a little better. While he back to Rohru, he was again attacked by unending clutches of Leukaemia.

All those terrible treatment procedures were repeated once again and finally the RCC medical team discharged him with the observation 'nothing more is to be done.' Still Fr Siby was positive in his talk and always expressed his desire to go back to the mission. I noticed that whenever he was a little better, he used to talk about the Rohru mission with the visitors more than his physical conditions.

After a long period of struggle to recover from the blood cancer he was called to eternal reward in the early morning on 22 October 2021 with the presence of his sister Mrs Seena and his brother - Mr Saiju and his brother-in-law - Mr Baby. I must thank the superiors of MST for the best treatment available was given to him till the last moment of his life. Though the Covid-19 restrictions were there, a large number of priests, sisters and faithful participated in his burial ceremony on 24 October 2021 at Deepti Mount. All of them had one thing to say - we lost a great missionary. Yes, really, we lost an enthusiastic missionary who walked differently.



IX. Appendices

Circular No. X-27/2018-23

29 October 2021

Your Excellencies, Reverend Fathers, Deacons and Brothers,

Warm and prayerful greetings from Deepti Bhavan!

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

1. Revocation of the Process of Election of Delegates for the Extraordinary General Assembly

After prolonged reflections and series of discussions at different levels including the Plenary Council of the MST held from 4 to 8 October 2021, the LXX meeting of the General Council held on 26 October 2021 **unanimously resolved to revoke the process of the election of delegates for the Extraordinary General Assembly-EGA (announced on 25 June 2021, Circular No. X-23/2018-23) and to initiate a new process for the election of delegates with immediate effect.**

The committee that conducted the election of the delegates was constituted as per the norms given in the *Constitutions and Directives* (C&D) of the MST and it was given the mandate to conduct the elections following the procedures stipulated in D63 of the C&D (Circular No. X-19/2018-23, dated 25 February 2021). There is no evidence of any instance of malpractice which influenced the process of the election or its results. Yet, it has to be admitted that there occurred certain procedural errors against the norms given in D63. They are:

a. The seal of the Society was not used, but a different seal used (with the permission of the Director General and knowledge of the Secretary General) for stamping the ballot papers was against what is specified in D 63.

b. That the ballot papers were sent in bundles to certain places (with the consent of the concerned Regional Directors, Rectors, Coordinators, etc) was a procedural error against D 63, which specifies that the ballot papers shall be sent to every priest member.

c. The voted ballot papers were not sent back to the Convenor of the committee at Central House, rather they were received by the Convenor at his residence, against D 63.

The General Council takes the election committee in good faith and trusts that every step taken by the committee for the conduct of the election of the delegates was practical and with the right intention to facilitate the election in the context of Covid-19. However, the General Council also observes that a strict adherence to the norms of D63 was not followed in the election process, as specified above. In order to defend any future contentions against the veracity and the sacredness of our Constitutions and Directives, and to uphold our constitutional systems unquestionable, the General Council unanimously decided to revoke the process of election of the delegates for the EGA.

2. A New Election-Committee

In the above context, the General Council has decided to initiate a new election process with a fresh election committee. A new election committee, consisting of Rev. Frs George Kuppayil (Convener), Jose Ottalamkal (Member) and Kuriakose Madathiparampil (Member), is appointed to conduct the election of the delegates to the Extraordinary General Assembly following the *Constitutions and Directives* of the MST (C& D 63). The committee is requested to give “the list of the number of votes each member received, to the Director General” (D 63), on or before **31 January 2022**.

3. The Agenda of the EGA

The same agenda of the EGA codified by the agenda committee and already circulated electronically among all the members (print

versions were given to the elected delegates and ex-officio-members of the EGA) will form the agenda for the assembly. The newly elected delegates will be given the print versions of the agenda, once the election results are announced.

4. The New Schedule for the EGA

As we are initiating a new process for the election of the delegates, the EGA cannot commence on 15 March 2022 as scheduled previously. Instead, it will be held from 16.00 hours on Sunday, **1 May 2022** at Deepti Bhavan, Melampara, and will continue until it finishes its agenda.

Regret the inconvenience caused to all of you by repeating the election process and by rescheduling the EGA. May I solicit your kind understanding and collaboration in this regard. Let us fervently pray that these new decisions and our humble efforts help the MST uphold the fairness of its constitutional processes, and strengthen our future.

Yours fraternally in Christ Jesus,

Fr Antony Perumanoor
Director General, MST

Fr Justin Vettukallel
Secretary General, MST





CHRISTMAS 2021

With heart and mind so full of joy,
We sing the hymn of Silent Night,
On day we think of great a Child,
Celestial true yet one of us.

In manger made of earthly hays,
But shining bright in heav'nly rays,
Was born a child adorned in grace
Amidst the folk of humble race.

And he in time began to glide
On land or sea to find us all,
Who yearn'd for him so long a time;
And then was seen to none a while.

And now he comes again to greet
With kiss of peace on Christmas day,
And make us feel at home with warmth
Of love and friendship true divine.

The Lord of might and power above,
Yet near and close to heart indeed,
For those who live in love as friends,
And not the passers-by in crowd.





And on we move from day to day,
With thoughts of past inspiring now,
With hope to fill our hearts in full
With love untold that flows from Him.

Christmas comes and Christmas goes,
And so we do on pilgrim's way;
But Jesus comes and dwells in us
To lead us Home our journey's end.

And may the Star of Christmas Night
Illume our minds and hearts anon,
And drive the gloom away from us,
When Covid reels so wild in world!

On wings of joy and hope I fly
On Christmas Night to share with you
The grace and peace of Infant King
Who's born to give us life divine.

Fr Luke Marappillil, Dulwich Wood Park, London



Prayerful Congratulatorys



Newly Ordained Deacons of the MST,
along with Very Rev. Fr Antony Perumanoor, the Director General



(St Thomas School, Deon, Bathinda, Punjab)

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