



MST World



MST News Bulletin 04/22

Christmas 2022



**“Once in our world, a stable had something in it that was
bigger than our whole world.”**

MST Priestly Ordinations 2022-23

Anakkallil Joseph (Anand)



9.15 a.m. 26-12-2022

Eattithoppu (IDK)
Mar John Nellikkunel

Maruthumkuzhiyil Joseph (Albin)



9.15 a.m. 27-12-2022

Parathode (IDK)
Mar Prince Panengaden

Varickickal Mathew (Ajay)



9.15 a.m. 27-12-2022

Parathode (IDK)
Mar Prince Panengaden

Chandrankunel Michael (Leo)



9.15 a.m. 28-12-2022

Peringulam (PLA)
Mar Sebastian Vadakel

Perumanoor Joseph (Jose)



9.00 a.m. 29-12-2022

Chempilavu (PLA)
Mar George Cardinal Alencherry

Areeplackal Thomas (Bibin)



9.15 a.m. 30-12-2022

Neeranthanam (PLA)
Mar Joseph Kollamparambil

Poovatholil Francis (Deepak)



9.15 a.m. 31-12-2022

Bharananganam (PLA)
Mar James Athikalam

Kollakompil Abraham (Deepu)



9.15 a.m. 2-1-2023

Nirmalagiri (KPLY)
Mar Sebastian Vaniyapurackal

Eettayankel Sebastian (Bebin)



9.15 a.m. 3-1-2023

Vilakkumadom (PLA)
Mar Sebastian Vadakel

Vattamannil Philip (Jestin)



9.15 a.m. 4-1-2023

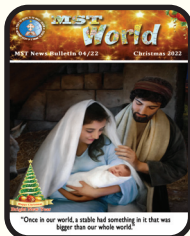
Rajamattom (CHY)
Mar James Athikalam

Pullikkattil Thomas



2.15 p.m. 4-1-2023

Kudayathoor (PLA)
Mar Sebastian Vadakel



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I. MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

Your Excellencies, Rev. Fathers, Rev. Deacons and Brothers in Christ!
Let me express my profound joy to wish you all a blessed Christmas
and a bright new year 2023!



“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given” (Isiah 9:6).

Christmas is the *dukhrana* of God’s ineffable gift of himself to our mankind. It repeatedly astonishes us that God makes himself a child so that we may love him, so that we may dare to love him, as a child trustingly lets himself be taken into our arms. It is as if God were saying; “I know that my glory frightens you, and that you are trying to assert yourself in the face of my grandeur. So now I am coming to you as a child so that you can accept me and love me.” (Pope emeritus Benedict XVI, Christmas Message 2012). Christ came to the world to live among us. “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us” (John 1:14). It gives us the assurance that God is always with us. He is always reachable to us as Emmanuel. The question here is do we prepare ourselves to receive the great gift of God, Emmanuel (God with us) in our life, ministry, heart etc.

To us a Son is given. The birth of a child is a matter of joy to all. It brings in an excitement that allows to forget the discomfort and sleepless nights for it fills us with a great, incompatible happiness. That is what Christmas is: the birth of Jesus is the “newness” that enables us to be reborn each year and to find, in him, the strength needed to face every trial. Why? Because his birth is for us – for me, for you, for all of us, for everyone. (Pope Francis, Christmas message, 2020). And God came among us in poverty and need, to tell us that serving the poor, we will show our love for him. We, missionaries are always called to be with the poor. As Emily Dickinson wrote, “God’s residence is next to mine, his furniture is love” (Emily Dickinson, Poems, XVIII).

It is not a palace which sees the birth of the redeemer, destined to establish the eternal and universal kingdom. “*Non eripit mortalia, qui regna dat caelestia*: He who came to give his heavenly kingdom,



does not take from us our earthly kingdoms (Hymn of epiphany). He is born in a stable and, coming among us. He came for us. He kindles in the world the fire of God's love (cf. Lk 12: 49). This fire will not be quenched ever again. Christmas brings to us the message of the fire/light of God in our midst: A light that shines in the darkness. It is an occasion for us to rekindle that light around us. Let this light/fire burn in our missions and in our hearts as a flame of charity in action, showing itself in openness to and support of our brothers and sisters sorely tried by want and suffering!

The star of Bethlehem that led the three Magi from the East helped them to adore the Child Jesus in the stable. In order to see the Child Jesus, they had to go beyond their cultures and homelands. As members of the missionary Society our vocation is also to go beyond our culture and home land. Like the Magi who after contemplation of the Child Jesus left the stable, let us also leave our comfort zones to proclaim to the people who have not yet known Christ and to be witnesses of His compassionate love. In order to share the Christ experience with others, first of all we should have a personal encounter and intimate relationship with the Son who is born for us at the stable in Bethlehem.

Let us be aware of our responsibility to proclaim Christ and go with Christ to the poor and the abandoned, to the hungry and the broken, to the peripheries of the society. Let us carry on the mission to spread the Christmas message of God's love and merciful compassion by becoming faithful to the teachings of Christ and His Church.

At this juncture I also express my appreciation to all of you for being faithful witness of Christ's love and zealous missionaries of His charity in the places where you are. Society is proud of you for what you are. Society is with you in this mission of Christ. Let us continue to be one in love and charity.

Once again, all the choicest blessings of Christmas and a prosperous new year. God bless us all.

Fr Antony Perumanoor
Director General, MST



II. NEWS FROM THE GENERALATE

(From 15 October – 19 December 2022)

1. Priestly Ordinations -2022

Happy to inform you that eleven of our permanent members (deacons) who have successfully completed their priestly training in Ruhahaya Major Seminary, Ujjain have been recommended by the seminary authorities for sacred ordination to the priesthood. Having considered their personal applications, along with the seminary reports and testimonials by their respective parishes, all of them have been promoted to the Holy Order of Priesthood by the General Council. They will receive the Sacred Ordination and will celebrate the First Holy Qurbana in their home parishes from 26 December 2022 to 4 January 2023. They are:

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

I place all the above *ordinadi* for your prayerful intercession. All of you are personally invited to join the ceremonies. The details of the ordination ceremony of each *ordinando* are given on the front inner page of this bulletin.

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 two brothers to the Sacred Order of M'samsanusa. They were



conferred the Sacred Order of M'samsanusa on 19 December 2022 by His Excellency Mar Sebastian Vadakel. On that day, they also made their perpetual promise of incorporation to the MST before the Director General at Ruhhalaya Major Seminary. Let us prayerfully welcome them to the MST as its permanent members. They are the following:

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

3. Conferring of Minor Orders

At the recommendation of the Rector and the staff of Ruhhalaya, the following candidates were conferred the minor orders of *Heupdiyaknusa* and *Karoyusa* by His Excellency Mar Sebastian Vadakel on 19 December 2022.

a. The Sacred Order of *Heupdiyaknusa*

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

b. The Sacred Order of *Karoyusa*

1. Bro. Joseph (Joyal) Ammanath
2. Bro. George (Maneesh) Kaithackal

3. Bro. Jacob (Alan) Kanjirathumkal
4. Bro. Joseph Kavunnukatt
5. Bro. Sebastian (Alan) Kizhakkumkarayil
6. Bro. Benedict (Blesson) Kottavila
7. Bro. Sebastian (Akhil) Mannarath
8. Bro. James (Noble) Mundamattam
9. Bro. George (Amal) Pengattu
10. Bro. Joseph (Tom) Pullolil
11. Bro. Thomas (Siby) Puthenpura

Very Rev. Fr Antony Perumanoor, the 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 Joseph Karikilamthadam (1937-2022)



Rev. Fr Joseph Karikilamthadam (85), one of the pioneer members of the MST assigned to St Paul Region, Ujjain and who had been living a retired life at *Aaraam* (Priest-home) in Deepti Mount, was called for his eternal abode at 5.45 a.m. on Wednesday 19 October 2022. The funeral service was held on 20 October 2022, and he was laid to rest at the cemetery of Deepti Mount on the same day.

Rev. Fr Joseph Karikilamthadam is one of the pioneer members of the MST who went straight to the Ujjain mission in 1969, and who took the perpetual promise of incorporation into the Society after almost one year of his life in the mission on 8 December 1970. Hailing from Mutholapuram parish of Pala, he was ordained a priest for the Eparchy of Pala in 1964 during the Eucharistic Congress held in Mumbai, and began his priestly ministry as an assistant parish priest at Marangattupilly. Later he served as the assistant parish priest at St Augustine's Forane Church Kadanad. From there, he



proceeded to the newly started Ujjain mission in 1969. He began his missionary life at Chandessary as the priest in charge of this new mission centre for three years. From there, he moved to the interior

village of Piploda and was there for three years. He was sent for studies in Agriculture in Allahabad and took a Bachelor of Science (BSc) in Agriculture. After his studies, he was in charge of the rural mission centre at Bajrangarh and from there he developed Baskhed. In different durations, he spent a total of 22 years in Bajrangarh-Baskhed-Bachukhed mission centres and was part of the Ashram movement in Ujjain mission living in one of the hermitages built in Bachukhed for three years. Moving away from Baskhed in 1999, he served at Prarthana Niketan, Pachore as its assistant priest-in-charge. He took a decennial break in 2002 and spent much of the time at Kurisumala Ashram in prayer and meditation. He returned to Ujjain in 2003 and helped at Kripa Training Centre, Chandessary as the House-in-charge for five years and later moved to Santhome





Regional House and stayed there until his retirement in 2012. During that period, he travelled to the US and Europe. He also made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Since 2012, he has been residing at *Aaraam*, spending his time mostly in rest and prayer.

As one of the pioneer members of the MST, he was passionate about the mission *ad gentes* purpose of the Society and made every effort to work among the non-Christians in view of their evangelization. As a missionary, he was very unassuming and was trying to live his missionary life at the grassroots, being with the people. He was interested in giving classes on Agriculture in the seminaries. He was very committed to making person to person contact by visiting the families in the villages. To his last, he lived a very simple life, and was happy with minimum facilities, trying to



identify with the poor villagers he served. He practised inculturation and interreligious dialogue solidly in his missionary approach, and was daring to do experiments in mission embracing a people-centred approach than for institutionalization.

By the end of August 2022, he had been struggling with a series of ailments related to old age, and was infected with Covid as well. He was admitted to Carmel Hospital Palai and returned to Aaraam with improved health. Later he showed symptoms of severe seizures/fits



and had to be admitted at Mar Sleeva Medicity. He was supplied with ventilator assistance for almost a week. He was later shifted to the room and remained there for four days. He was cared for by his family, especially by his nephews. He had a very peaceful departure for heaven at 5.45 a.m. on Wednesday 19 October 2022.

His mortal remains were brought to *Aaram* by 8.00 a.m. on Thursday 20 October, and the residents there offered prayers and homage. His mortal body was then placed at the open hall of the Generalate from 8.30 a.m. The first part of the funeral services started at 1.30 p.m. led by his nephew Rev. Fr Jose Moorkkattil of the Eparchy of Kothamangalam. The second part of the funeral liturgy was presided by Very Rev. Fr Manoj Vareeckal – the Vicar General of the Eparchy of Ujjain. His Excellency Mar George Madathikandathil of the Eparchy of Kothamangalam officiated the Holy Qurbana and the third part of the funeral service in the chapel. The final rite of the

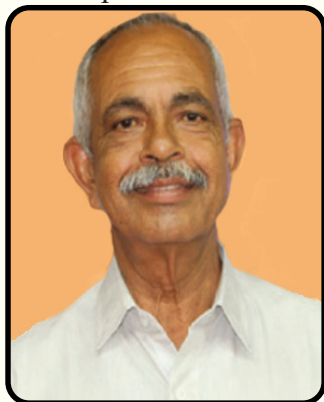
funeral was led by His Excellency Mar Joseph Kallarangatt of the Eparchy of Pala. By 4.00 p.m. he was laid to rest at the cemetery of Deepti Mount.

Many priests and members of the religious communities from the eparchy of Palai, local political leaders, members of the MST, associate missionaries, friends and neighbours came forward to offer homage to Fr Joseph Karikilamthadam. The funeral ceremony was live telecasted and was attended by many members of the MST around the globe. There was a special requiem Holy Qurbana celebrated on 26 October at Deepti Bhavan, attended by his siblings and close relatives. As customary, 'A Tribute' is presented towards the end of this Bulletin prepared by Rev. Fr Mudathottiyil, a friend and a neighbour from the hometown of Josephachan.

Please remember to fulfil the personal obligation of 'offering one Holy Qurbana for members on their demise' (C&D 16 vii), if you have not yet celebrated.

5. Demise of Associate Missionary – Mr Joseph Poovathunkal

Mr Joseph Thomas Poovathunkal (Joseph Chettan-72), one of our



Associate Missionaries was called to eternal life on 6 December 2022. The funeral service was held on 7 December at St Dominic Cathedral, Kanjirappally. Very Rev. Fr Director General paid him homage and prayer through his visit to the family before the funeral, and Rev. Fr Peter Kavumpuram, the General Councillor in-charge of the Missionary Associates and other fathers participated in the

funeral service.

Mr Joseph Thomas Poovathunkal was a member of Santhome Fellowship from 2011 and became our missionary associate through the promise of association made on 22 February 2019. He was



very active as an associate missionary and has visited our missions, and was very earnest in supporting the MST through various means. He was very helpful in the preparations of the recently held general gathering of Santhome Fellowship and Associate Missionaries at Deepti Mount. He had been very active in his parish (Kunnumbhagam, Kanjirappally) in different leadership roles. He owned some private businesses around Kanjirappally. He is survived by his wife, son and a daughter. Let us pray for the repose of his soul and shall keep his family in our prayers.

6. Conclusion of the Year of St Thomas



The conclusion of the celebrated ‘Year of St Thomas in the MST’ in connection with the 1950th year of the martyrdom of St Thomas the Apostle was held on Sunday, 27 November 2022 at the Generalate. The day was blessed with the presence of His Beatitude – the Major Archbishop. His Beatitude arrived at Deepti Mount on the evening of 26 November and addressed the seminarians and the priests during the dinner at Deepti College, and resided at Deepti Bhavan. The conclusion of the **Year of St Thomas** was marked with a general gathering of the members of Santhome Fellowship and Associate Missionaries in the morning and an ecumenical colloquium by scholars representing different churches in the St Thomas Christian tradition organized by TRC in the afternoon. The day started with

Holy Qurbana celebrated by His Beatitude – Mar George Cardinal Alencherry concelebrated by the Director General and the Director of Santhome Fellowship, and others. The general gathering of the members of Santhome Fellowship and Associate Missionaries, and the ecumenical gathering in the afternoon were inaugurated by His Beatitude and presided over by the Director General. The reports from Santhome Fellowship and TRC would cover the details of the event in their pertinent parts towards the end of this bulletin.

7. Sacerdotal Golden and Silver Jubilee Celebrations



The sacerdotal silver and golden jubilee of the members of the present years were celebrated formally and solemnly at Deepti Bhavan from 4 to 6 November

2022. The jubilarians arrived by 4.00 pm on 4 December and an informal inauguration/introductory meeting was held at 7.00 p.m. Rev. Fr Francis Kureeckal - the Vice Director welcomed the jubilarians and Very Rev. Fr Antony Perumanoor formally addressed the jubilarians. There was also some time given for personal sharing by each jubilarian.

Rev. Fr George Njarakunnel of the Eparchy of Pala was arranged to give spiritual refresher talks for the jubilarians. He guided them through two talks in the morning session on Saturday, 5 December. The afternoon was set aside for informal interactions. The solemn jubilee gathering started with a procession from the Generalate hall to the seminary auditorium accompanied by drums. The felicitatory gathering was coloured with cultural programmes by the seminarians. The Director General in his speech congratulated each jubilarian present, and presented them with mementos and gifts. There was a special dinner thereafter. The jubilarians offered solemn Holy

Qurbana at the chapel of the minor seminary on Sunday, 6 December. The celebrations concluded with breakfast at the minor seminary.



Rev. Fr Thomas Varakil, the golden jubilarian of the year had his ordination on 30 December 1972 and it was the first priestly ordination of a member of the Society, after its inception in 1968. The ordination was held at the present minor seminary. He was specially remembered and congratulated for his pioneering missionary apostolates in the Eparchy of Ujjain and for his present ministry at Moriah Retreat centre at Nellyyady in the Eparchy of Belthangady. Similarly, five of our priests who celebrate the silver jubilee of their priestly ordination this year (ordination batch of 1997-1998) were also individually appreciated. They are: Rev. Fr Kuliraniyil Mathew, Rev. Fr Mullappallil Joseph, Rev. Fr Nellikunnel Mathew, Rev. Fr Pazheveettil Joseph and Rev. Fr Thakadiyel James. Except Fr Kuliraniyil all of them were present for the celebrations. Fr Kuliraniyil who was absent due to sickness, visited Deepti Bhavan later and he was felicitated by the Director General in the presence of the minor seminarians.

The MST recognizes the contributions of all the jubilarians for their 50/25 years of priestly-missionary ministry in and through the MST. Let us thank all of them for their sacrifices and committed services in their places of apostolates, and pray for a joyful and healthy life ahead.

8. Gathering of the Junior Priests

As part of the ongoing formation, a meeting of the junior priests of



the MST (ordination batches ranging from 2013 to 2021) was held at Deepti Bhavan, Melampara from 20 to 22 October 2022. The meeting formally started with the inauguration by the Director General at 7.00 p.m. on 20 October and all the members of the General Council were present for the opening session.

There were input classes, as part of the ongoing formation, in the morning sessions of 21 and 22 October led by Dr Beena Manoj from Ernakulam and Rev. Fr Binoy John Vadakkedathuparampil of the diocese of Bhagalpur. The afternoon sessions were dedicated for personal sharing by the participants, based on practical questions given in advance.

The meeting was attended by around 65 junior priests from different parts of the country. They made a pilgrimage to the shrine of Blessed Kunjachan at Ramapuram and



celebrated Holy Qurbana at the shrine of St Alphonsa at Bharananganam. Rev. Fr Francis Kureeckal – the secretary for Ongoing Formation and Rev. Fr Viju Muringassery – coordinator of the expert committee of Ongoing Formation facilitated the

programme.

9. Memorial of the Deceased Members



A Memorial Day for all the deceased members of the MST was held on 12 November 2022. The family members of the deceased MST priests and brothers were invited to Deepti Bhavan for a



memorial Holy Qurbana at 10.00 a.m. After the Holy Qurbana, some of the family members shared reminiscences about the deceased priest of their family. The office for the dead was prayed at the cemetery and the gathering concluded with lunch. There were almost 100 participants for Memorial Day.

10. Death Anniversary of the Founder

On 21 November 2022, the death anniversary of our Founder –

Mar Sebastian Vayalil was commemorated. The Director General joined with the Holy Qurbana and special prayers held at St Thomas Cathedral – Pala, led by two Bishops of the Eparchy of Pala. Members from the



General Council, Deepti seminary staff and the students also participated in the memorial service at the Cathedral, Pala.

11. Parents' Meet of the Deacons



A meeting of the parents of the deacons who are in immediate preparation for the priestly ordinations was held on 4 December 2022. The meeting started with an opening address by the Director General and followed by interaction by all the General Councillors and the Treasurer General. The meeting was intended to help the parents of the *ordinandi* to be prepared for the ordinations and to support them spiritually. Rev. Joy Panjikkaran was the resource person to guide the parents. Rev. Fr Francis Kureeckal offered Holy Qurbana for them. The meeting concluded with lunch. All the parents were present for the gathering.

12. Gathering of the Deacons

The *ordinandi* of the present year were gathered at Deepti Bhavan to help them with immediate preparation for their ordination from 14 to 15 December 2022. There was a formal and friendly interaction with the deacons and the General Council on the evening of 14 December. Msgr. George Alumkal from the Eparchy of Kanjiarapally guided the deacons to help them prepare for their ordinations on 15 December. The gathering came to a close with the lunch.

12. Oriental Canon Law Conference at Deepti Bhavan

It was a privilege for the MST to host the annual Oriental Canon Law Conference from 25 to 27 October 2022 at Deepti Bhavan.



Around 70 canon lawyers from both the Syro-Malabar and the Syro-Malankara Catholic Churches participated in it. It was also an occasion for us to make the participants aware of the missionary activities of the MST in different parts of the world by means of a documentary.

13. Mission Rally at Deepti Mount

More than twenty-five thousand members of the *Cherupushpa Mission League* (CML) from different dioceses in Kerala were gathered together at the Alphonsa Nagar Bharananganam on 04 December 2022 in connection with the conclusion of the Platinum Jubilee Celebration of the CML. The organizers chose Deepti Mount as one of the starting venues of the Mission Rally. It was an occasion for the MST to inspire and encourage the vibrant and zealous children from different dioceses in Kerala.



13. Overseas Ministry

Archdiocese of Songea, Tanzania: Rev. Fr George (Akhil) Thottappallil joined the Archdiocese of Songea and received appointment as the Assistant parish priest of Chengena parish.

Diocese of Corpus Christi, TX, USA: Rev. Fr Kurian (Joshy) Areeplackal joined the Diocese of Corpus, Texas, USA in the month of November 2022.

14. Completion of Studies

Rev. Fr Kuriakose (Roby) Adapoor completed **Doctoral**

Studies in Clinical Psychology with Magna Cum Laude at the University of Santo Tomas, Manila, Philippines. The title of his doctoral dissertation was “Development and Implementation of the Wellness Enhancement Therapy on Expressed Emotion and Subjective Burden among the Family Caregivers of Patients with Schizophrenia.” Congratulations to Rev. Fr Roby Adapoor.

Rev. Fr Joseph (Antu) Alummoottil completed studies in **B.Ed.** from the University of Punjab.

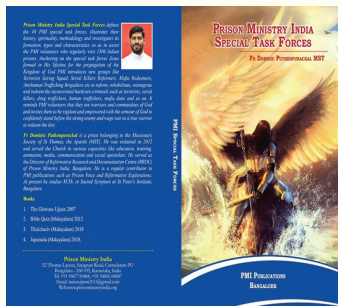
15. Awards/Achievements: Fr Dominic Puthenpurackal



National Award: Rev. Fr Dominic (Jaison) Puthenpura won first prize in a national essay competition conducted by the Prison Ministry of India (PMI). The award was presented during the annual meeting and the 13th national convention of

the PMI held in Goa on 15 November 2022.

Book Release: A new book titled, “Prison Ministry India: Special Task Forces” written by Rev. Fr Dominic (Jaison) Puthenpurackal was released during the national convention of the PMI held in Goa on 15 November 2022. This is his fifth book and it is published by PMI Publications, Bangalore.



16. New Priest's Day and Benefactors' Day

It is planned to hold the New Priests Day and the Benefactors' Day on 6 January 2023 at Deepti Bhavan. The benefactors, especially the sponsors for the seminary formation are being invited to this event, to thank and honour them in the presence of the new priests of the year. The details of the programme will be communicated later.



III. Transfers and Appointments

A. St Paul Region, Ujjain

Kondoor Jose: Relieved from Tarana, and appointed Priest-in-charge of Zirapur in the Eparchy of Ujjain.

Mookkenthottam Kurian: Relieved from Zirapur, and appointed financial administrator of MPVSS in the Eparchy of Ujjain.

Njallanyil Ephrem: Appointed priest-in-charge of Tarana.

Thalanany Thomas: Relieved from Bercha for medical leave.

B. St Alphonsa Region, Sangli

Muthuplackal Joseph: Relaxed from decennial break and appointed Manager of Alphonsa School, Yadrav (Ichalkaranji).

Purayidom Joy: Relieved from Alphonsa School, Ichalkaranji.

Mampilly Tony: Appointed in-charge of the proposed Santhome School, Belagavi.

C. Other Missions/Centres/Ministries

Allumpurath Raju: Appointed Spiritual Director, Brothers of St John of God, Chennai.

Arackal Binish: Relieved from the Diocese of Muenster and appointed in the Diocese of Paderborn.

Areeplackal Kurian (Joshy): Relieved from St Thomas Region, Mandya and assigned to the Diocese of Corpus Christi, TX, USA.

Koothottil John (Biju): Appointed Vice Rector, Santhome Minor Seminary, Thamarassery.

Pathalil: Relieved as Procurator of Santhome-IMPACT and appointed Director/Editor of True Blaze (additional to Kadukumani)

Puthuppallimyalil Mathew: Appointed Spiritual Director, MAGJ Hospital (of CST Brothers), Mookkannoor, Angamaly.

Thannickapara John (Soby): Appointed Finance Officer of St Joseph Mission, Odisha.

Thottappallil George (Akhil): Appointed Asst. priest-in-charge of Chengena Parish of the Diocese of Songea, Tanzania.



IV. Change/Correction of Contact Information

A. Postal Address

Allumpurath Raju Mathew: Brothers of St John of God, 53/54, Queen Victoria Road, Poonamallee, Chennai – 600 056, T.N.

Arackal Binish: Pater Binish Arackal Varkey MST, Geitbecke 10, 58675, Hemer, Germany.

Areeplackal Kurian (Joshy): St Mary's Church, P O Box – B, Freer, Texas – 78357, USA.

Kondoor Jose: Catholic Church, Zirapur, Rajgarh Dt., 465 691, M.P.

Koothottil John (Biju): Santhome Minor Seminary, P.B. No. 22, Estate Rd, Vezhupur, Thamarassery – 673 573, Kozhikode Dt., Kerala.

Mampilly Tony: Srushti Complex, Flat No. F 303, Mandoli Road, Tilakwadi P.O. Belgaum-590006, Karnataka.

Mookkenthottam Kurian: Manovikas Special School, MPVSS, Nanakheda Jawahar Nagar, Sector 9, Ujjain -456010, Madhya Pradesh.

Muthuplackal Joseph: Alphonsa School, Yardav, Ichalkaranji P. O. 416145, Kolhapur Dt., Maharashtra.

Njallanyil Ephrem: St Thomas Catholic Church, Saraswati Nagar, Tarana, 456 665, Ujjain Dt., M. P.

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

Puthuppallimyalil Mathew: MAGJ Hospital, Mookkannur - 683577, Angamaly, Kerala

Puthussery Raju: St. Joseph Parish 701 Calumet St. Lake Linden, MI 49945, USA.

Thalanany Thomas: C/o MST Generalate, Deepti Mount,



Melampara-686578, Kottayam Dt, Kerala.

Thannickapara John (Soby): Santhome, MST Mission House, Sri Kshetra Township, Amalabhata, Penta P.O. 756 017, J.K Pure, Rayagada, Odisha.

Thonikuzhiyil Augustine: Nirmal Hriday Church, DE-67, 1st Floor, Tagore Garden, New Delhi-110027.

Thottappallil George (Akhil): Paroko Msaidizi, Chengena Catholic Church, P.B No. 320, Songea, Tanzania.

Vazhuthanappallil Joseph: Fr. Prof. Dr J. Vaz MST, Via Vittorio Veneto- 11, Loro Ciuffenna- 52024, Arezzo, Italy.

B. Phone Numbers

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Manjamattam John: +1 587 516 9252

Thonikuzhiyil Augustine: 9311444664

Njallaniyil Ephrem (Prakash): 81119 65212



V. News from Seminaries

A. Deepti College, Melampara

1. Deepti Olympics 2022



October 17 and 18 were dedicated to Deepti Olympics. The Director General officially inaugurated Deepti sports and games competitions - 2022 on 17 October at 9.00 am at Deepti basketball ground. In view of competitions, the community was divided into three equal groups. The

inaugural programme started with a march past. The brothers were actively engaged in the competitions with sportsmanship and enthusiasm.



2. Ten Days of Coaching for Volleyball and Basketball

In the second term of the academic year, Deepti arranged a ten-day intensive coaching for volleyball as well as basketball for the brothers. They profited a lot from these sessions of two expert coaches.

3. A Cultural Eve for the Young Priests

On the occasion of the ongoing meeting of the young priests at the Generalate, our minor seminarians showcased two hours of cultural programme. For the brothers, it was a great moment to entertain their elder ones and also an occasion to interact with the young and vibrant missionary priests.

4. Mission Sunday Celebrations

On 23 October, Deepti College celebrated Mission Sunday with



great zeal and enthusiasm. Rev. Fr Joseph Myladiyil was the main celebrant of the Holy Qurbana. He gave a thought-provoking message about Jesus' mission mandate. After breakfast, Very Rev. Fr Antony Perumanoor, the Director General inaugurated the 'Mission Mela' organized by Deepti seminary at the golden jubilee memorial auditorium. Different games, a shop with edible items, different fund-raising methods were used to collect money for the mission. The Fathers, parishioners and brothers actively took part in it.



5. Cultural Programme for the Canon Law Experts

On 30 October, on the concluding day of the Canon Law team of experts from different Rites and regions of India at the Generalate, a superb cultural programme of one and a half hours was put up by the Deepti brothers. They all appreciated the minor seminarians for their fabulous performance.

6. Birthday Celebration of the Director General

On 31 October, Deepti College celebrated the birthday of our

beloved Director General, Very Rev. Fr Antony Perumanoor. He solemnized the Holy Qurbana in the morning and shared his thought-provoking life experiences with the staff and students. In the evening a grand birthday celebration was organized with a number of cultural programmes in the jubilee memorial auditorium in the presence of many Fathers, brothers and parishioners.



7. The Ten-day Rosary Devotion

In the last 10 days of October, the rosary was solemnly recited in a special way. On the 31 October the Deepti parishioners as well as Fathers from the Generalate joined the seminary inmates to make a solemn candle procession. The programme ended with a good dinner prepared and brought by the parishioners.

8. Golden and Silver Jubilee Celebrations

On 5 November Deepti College welcomed the golden and silver jubilarians of 2021-22 of the MST priests. In the evening at 5.30, wearing Mysore Maharaja's turbans and garlands the jubilarians were led most solemnly by a procession with the accompaniment of





Chendamalam to the well-decorated Deepti auditorium. During the meeting, the jubilarians shared their different experiences of their priestly life with the fathers and brothers. The brothers showcased a bundle of different cultural programmes including jubilee felicitation song. On the 6th morning at 6.30, the jubilarians offered a thanksgiving Holy Qurbana with the Fathers and brothers in the seminary chapel.

9. Send-off to the Regent

On 11 November a send-off programme was arranged in the seminary refectory for the outgoing Regent Bro. Abin Mandapathil. The Deepti staff and brothers thank him wholeheartedly for his dedicated service. Deepti Mount has got a new regent in the person of Bro. Georgekutty Nelluvelil.

10. New Office-Bearers

In the second semester, new official duties have been assigned to the brothers on 20 November 20 and Deepti College has got a new team of Prefects and other in-charges.

11. Annual Retreat for the Seminararians

An unforgettable event of the year for the brothers was their annual retreat conducted from 15th to 20th November at Assisi Retreat Centre at Bharananganam. Rev. Fr Sareesh OFM. Cap., the Director of the Retreat Centre led the five-day retreat with talks, gifted counselling, personal prayer, meditation, adoration, sharing, canonical prayers, etc.

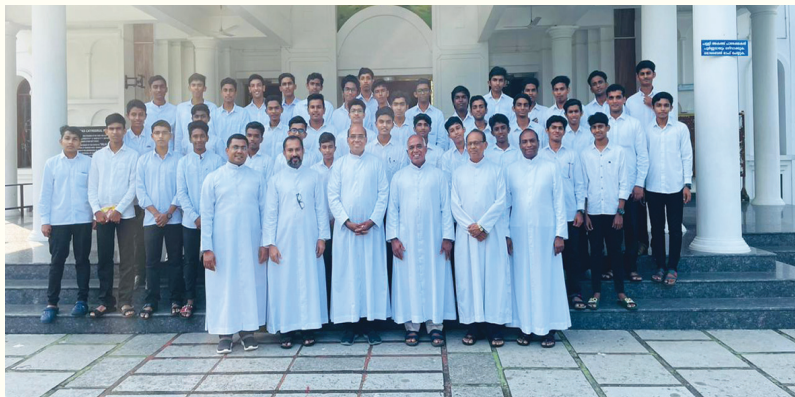
12. Rector's Birthday

Fr Kisincher Aniyekattu celebrated his birthday on 21 November and it was celebrated as the 'Rector's Day.' In the evening, the brothers staged some cultural programme followed by a sumptuous dinner.



13. Founder's Day: Requiem Mass for Bishop Vayalil

On the occasion of the death anniversary of Bishop Sebastian Vayalil,



the founder of the MST, on 21 November the whole Deepti seminary reached Pala Cathedral for the Holy Mass at 6.45 am to be solemnized by His Excellency Mar Joseph Kallarangatt. After the Holy Qurbana, we prayed the office of the dead too. For the brothers, it was yet another occasion to know our founder more closely.

14. Visit of Our Major Archbishop to Deepti College



On 26 November, his Beatitude George Cardinal Alencherry reached Deepti College and dined with the priests and seminarians. We solemnly received his beatitude with a bouquet of flowers. During dinner, we wished golden and silver jubilee greetings of his priestly and episcopal ordinations respectively.

We wrapped him with a silver shining shawl during the cake-cutting ceremony. While giving his message, his beatitude highly appreciated



the hospitality and the welcome accorded to him by Deepti inmates.

15. Funeral Service of the Father of our Beloved Director General

On 26 November, all the Fathers and brothers from Deepti seminary attended the funeral service of the beloved father of our Director General. Hearty condolences to our General!

16. Christmas Star and Christmas Friend

In view of preparing for the nativity of our Lord, this year we hung solemnly the Christmas stars on 30 November with some special prayers. All the Fathers from the Generalate and members of Deepti seminary gathered together for the star hoisting ceremony during which a short message was delivered by the Director General.

On the occasion, by lot, every member of the community got a Christmas friend for whom each will pray throughout this Christmas season. On the 22nd evening before the departure of the brothers for their Christmas vacation, they shall exchange Christmas gifts with the ones for whom they were praying these days.

17. Second Term Exams Begin

The second term exams commenced on 6 December and they will get over on 22 December. Before the brothers' departure for the holidays, Deepti seminary is planning to conduct a Christmas celebration on the 22nd evening. On 23 December, the brothers are leaving for a ten-day holiday to their homes.

(Reported by Rev. Fr Kisincher Aniyekattu, Rector, Deepti College)

B. Santhome Minor Seminary, Thamarassery

1. Umang 2022, Hand Writing Course and Basketball Cum Volleyball Coaching



The months, October through December, have been very hectic with a lot of activities. In view of the all-round development of the brothers, various competitions of literary and cultural items were conducted as part of the Home-Day celebrations – Umang 2022. There was also a two-week rigorous coaching for volleyball and basketball teams conducted respectively by Mr Joseph T.T. (Retired volleyball coach of the Sports Authority of India) and Mr Alexander Kuriakose. Mr Vipin Das conducted a three-day hand writing course for the three batches of brothers.

2. Ten Day Rosary Devotion



The ten-day rosary devotion started on 22 October and brothers organized batch wise rosary devotion. There was a solemn conclusion of the October rosary devotion at the Grotto of Our Lady on 31 Oct. which

was attended by nearly 50 friends and well-wishers from the neighbourhood of Santhome Seminary.

3. Mission Sunday

Rev. Fr Jomon Ayankanayil was the main celebrant of the Mission

Sunday Qurbana on 23 October and he inspired the brothers through his homily on the Why and How of Mission Ad Gentes. There was a mission experience sharing by Fr Bobby Kaiyalakakathu, Fr. Joseph Kolliyil and Fr Rony Alencherry, three young MST missionaries from Mary Queen of Missions, Delhi.

4. Welcome to Rev Fr. Biju Koothottil



Rev. Fr Biju Koothottil was welcomed Santhome Minor Seminary on 27 October as the new Vice Rector and Dean of Studies. He assumed his office on the day of his arrival in the presence of the staff, students and some of his family members.

Prayerful Best Wishes to Fr Biju Koothottil!

5. Sports Day

The sports day in connection with Umang 2022 was held on 28 October. The day started with an early Holy Qurbana and different sports competitions were held throughout the day. The Umang 2022 competitions came to an end with the sports day.



6. Annual Retreat

The annual retreat for the brothers was organized from 1 to 5 November 2022. The preacher invited for the retreat was Rev. Fr Rinto Puthusseril CMI. It was an enriching and spiritually challenging experience for all the brothers. The brothers were assigned new offices (Service Team) after the retreat.

7. CML Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

All the brothers accompanied by Fr Manu Pottananickal and Fr

George Mampillil went to Sacred Heart Parish, Thiruvampady on Saturday 12 November to participate in the Platinum Jubilee celebrations of CML, Thamarassery Diocese.

8. One Day Outing

The brothers had a one-day outing on 17 November. They enjoyed their trip to Kozhikode having outdoor movie, lunch and sightseeing. The fathers made a trip to En OOru Tribal Heritage Village, Pookode in Wayanad.

9. Holy Qurbana Video Shooting at Shalom TV

Rev. Frs Biju Koothottil, Binoy Purayidom, Jobin Vadakketh and Manu Pottanaickal together with some brothers went to Shalom TV, Peruvannamuzhy for the video shooting of the Holy Qurbana as requested by the Shalom Ministry.

10. Sacerdotal Silver Jubilee Celebrations

The Silver Jubilarians, Rev. Frs. Joshi Mullappallil and Joseph Pazheveettil came to Santhome Seminary to celebrate their Sacerdotal Silver Jubilee on Sunday, 20 November. Both the fathers spent sufficient time in the Seminary and had a session sharing their priestly ministry experiences with the brothers after breakfast. We



remembered and prayed for the other Jubilarians: Rev. Frs Thomas Varakil (Golden Jubilee), Mathew Nellikunnel, Mathew Kuliraniyil and James Thakadiyel.

11. Award Night, Friendly Matches & Christmas Committees

An award night was organized on Sunday 27 November to give



away the prizes to the winners of Umang 2022. The fathers conducted a concert to honour and entertain the brothers. Marking the conclusion of the basketball and volleyball coaching, two friendly matches were conducted. A volleyball friendly match was played against the MCBS Major Seminary (Sanathana, Thamarassery) on Monday, 5 November. Though the brothers played a thrilling game putting up a fierce fight, they could not win the match against the Major Seminarians. Another friendly match was played on Wednesday, 7 November against the basketball team of St. Alphonsa Minor Seminary of the Eparchy of Thamarassery and Team Santhome won the match scoring 49 points against 31.

12. Christmas Exams and Vacation

The Christmas preparation committees are busy doing their duties making the star and crib. The Christmas exams started on 12 December. The brothers go on holidays on 22 December and the Seminary reopens on 02 January 2023.

13. Visitors

We have been blessed with many missionaries visiting, staying overnight and celebration the Holy Qurbana here during the past three months. Rev. Frs Scaria Thamarakkattu and Jospheh Kulathumkal visited us on 4 November. Rev. Fr Josekutty Kalayil came to Santhome together with seven of his staff members on 10 November. Rev. Frs Thekkekarottu and Luke Marappillil paid us





a visit on 17 November. Rev. Frs James Kurukilamkatt, Joseph Pulavellil and Lijesh Panackavayalil visited Santhome on 18 November to arrange the video shooting of Santhome Mission Quiztainment. Rev. Frs George Kottukapallil, Sijo Kalampuliyil and Lijo Arackaputhemveetil visited Santhome on their way to Chembukadav parish on 11 November for the funeral of the beloved father of Rev. Fr. Bibin Vernakunnel. Rev. Frs Joseph Cheriampanattu and Benny Puthenpurackal paid us a visit on 21 and 24 November respectively. Rev. Fr Tony Ramchanattu, the Vocation Promoter visits us often as part of his ministry. Your visits are much appreciated and we are ever grateful to all of you, dear fathers, for your love and support to Santhome Minor Seminary.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year 2023!

(Reported by Rev. Fr George Mampillil, Rector, Santhome Seminary, Thamarassery)

C. Jeevan Jyoti, Srirangapatna

1. Tri-annual Retreat

Brothers had the tri-annual retreat from 13-17 October. Rev. Fr Lal Karappilly M.S.C. was the preacher. He guided the brothers, in the light of the Word of God, to give them a strong conviction of their missionary vocation. It was also an occasion to deepen their power of concentration and insight. Thanks to Rev. Fr Lal Karappilly M.S.C, the promising preacher.

2. New Semester

The academic year reminds every student that time is not luxury. We concluded the first semester by mid of October and with a renewed spirit and enthusiasm, we started our second semester. In fact, at the end of the first semester, every brother was proud of his academic achievement for the last semester. Brothers were also given new official duties for the second semester, in order to serve the community in the best way possible.

3. Rosary Devotion



The last ten days of October was dedicated for the particular Rosary devotion. During these days of particular devotion, brothers had written the reflections for the mysteries of the Rosary. All these days we prayed in a special way for our MST Society and its missions.

We concluded the particular Rosary devotion on 30 October with solemn Rosary and the candle procession. Rev. Fr Saneesh Panthaplakal, (Principal Jeevodaya School, Arakere) gave a very suitable message for the conclusion.

4. Visit by the Secretary General



This year for the mission Sunday Rev. Fr Justin Vettukallel, our Secretary General was the chief guest. He celebrated the Holy Qurbana on the Mission Sunday and gave us a thought-provoking homily in

the context of our missionary formation, missionary apostolate and its challenges.

5. Mission Sunday: Seminar on *Evangelii Nuntiandi*

This year we had two phases of mission Sunday celebrations. For the first phase, on 23 October we had a seminar on the Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii nuntiandi*. Brothers were divided into





two groups. The first group presented a bird's eye of the entire document, while the latter on the relevance of the document today. Rev. Fr Justin Vettukallel was the moderator of the session. The question hour was very useful and effective. The seminar was highly appreciated by all as an academic instruction. Thanks to Rev. Fr Justin Vettukallel for sharing his vast knowledge of missiology with our brothers.

Another great phase of this year's Mission Sunday was on 6 November, when we participated in the *Mission Fest* of the Ganjam parish. We collaborated with our local parishioners to mark it as something unique. Brothers had organized different stalls with variety of games for gathering some funds in order to help the missions.

6. Diwali Celebrations

Our nation is a melting point of cultures. Different festivals are being celebrated in our country around the year. As part of inculturation we also had very simple, yet an extraordinary way of celebration of Diwali. It was marked by decorating our building with illuminating *diyas*. Jeevan Jyoti was looking very attractive with all these illuminations. Diwali was also a feast of irresistible sweets.

7. Sikkaripura Parish Feast

All the fathers and brothers were invited for the parish feast of Sikkaripura. It was a unique experience for all of us. Thanks to Rev. Fr Abraham Koovackal for his kind invitation to participate in the parish feast.

8. Visit by Missionary Associates

Recently, two different groups of our MST Missionary Associate Members, under the leadership of Rev. Fr Joseph Pulavelil visited us. Members of both groups were very keen to know our mission work, life style, and local culture. One of the groups got the opportunity to participate in the Kannada Holy Qurbana. Their mission zeal is to be highly appreciated. Thanks to Rev. Fr Joseph Pulavelil for bringing them to Jeevan Jyoti and taking up such initiatives.

9. Visit by Bishop Mar Joseph Kollamparmbil



On 5 November, the newly ordained Auxiliary Bishop of the Eparchy of Shamshabad, Mar Joseph Kollamparmbil paid a visit to Jeevan Jyoti, along with the Regional Director Rev. Fr Josph Thekkekarott and Rev. Fr Sebastian

Kizhakkeyil. Mar Joseph Kollamparmbil celebrated the Holy Qurbana for us and shared with us his views on mission. Jeevan Jyoti family wished his Excellency all the very best for his new



apostolate.

10. Ashadeepotsava

It was on 14 November that we participated in the 'Ashadeepotsava' (the annual day celebrations of Asha Sadan Special School). Our gratitude to Rev. Fr Viju Muringassery for inviting the Jeevan Jyoti family to witness the miracles of their common missionary effort. Yes, it gave a golden opportunity to each one of us to have a primary experience of how our care and availability for

these weaker sections are useful in order to bring them to the main stream of the society.

11. Visit to Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary



This year the brothers were lucky enough to visit the Ranganathittu bird sanctuary, the Kaveri's quiet jewel. It was very interesting to visit

this isolated patch of greenery. When we visited the islets were quasi densely packed with huge nesting migratory birds. Their humming sounds and cries filled the air. We also got some prime photo opportunities as well. Really it is natural wonder in Karnataka.



12. The Feast of the Immaculate Conception

This year we had joined with the Ganjam parish community for the celebration of the feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Bl. Virgin Mary. We had the solemn mass, followed by the procession and agape meal. In fact, a large crowd was present for the feast.

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



D. Ruhalaya Major Seminary, Ujjain

1. Second Semester

The Second Semester started in the Theology section on 24 October and in the Philosophy section on 31 October.

2.Comprehensive Oral Exam

The B.Th. comprehensive oral exam for the deacons was held on 2 November 2022. There were three Panels of examiners consisting of Rev. Frs Lonappan Arangassery, Jose Valiamangalam, Manoj Parackal, Johnson Kuppayil, and Chandy Kalathoor. Deacon Jose Perumanoor MST secured the first rank and deacon Fabin Neelankavil of the diocese of Ramanathapuram and Anto Vadakkethil of the diocese of Parasala secured the second and the third rank respectively. Congratulations to you dear brothers.

3. Inter-seminary Bible Quiz Competition

The written first round of the Bible Quiz Competition was conducted in their own respective seminaries on the 10 November. 320 students from twenty-two major seminaries of India appeared for the first-round exam. Twelve toppers were selected for the final round which will take place at Ruhalaya on the 12 February 2023. Congratulations to the toppers and appreciation for Rev. Fr Manoj Parackal - the quiz master.

4. Deacons' Send off

The official send-off for the deacons was held on the 13 November



with an al fresco supper. Everything was beautifully organized by the Procurators, Rev. Frs. Shijomon Thettalickal and Vipin Vanmelil with the help of the brothers.

5. New Publication

The 20th book of Rev. Fr John Kudiyiruppil titled, *Bible Reflection-the Season of Epiphany*, published by A.T.C; Bangalore was released by His Beatitude Cardinal Mar George Alancherry on 18 July 2022. Congratulation to Rev. Fr John Kudiyiruppil.

6. Diocesan Day Celebration



The celebration of the diocesan day of Ujjain was held on the 13 November. Fathers and brothers of Ruhailaya participated in the Holy Qurbana celebrated by His Excellency Bishop Mar Sebastian Vadakel and spent the whole day with the

parishioners, fathers and sisters of the diocese. Brothers of philosophy section performed a wonderful dance as part of the cultural programme, and a play on St Thomas the Apostle.

7. Ruby Jubilee Celebration

The 1982-83 batch of MST priests were generous enough to visit Ruhailaya and offer Holy Quarbana on the occasion of the Ruby Jubilee of their priestly Ordination on 21 November. Rev. Fr Peter



Kavumpuram was the main celebrant of the Qurbana and Rev. Fr Antony Pedikkattukunnel preached an inspiring homily. The theology community welcomed and congratulated the jubilarians during the breakfast.

8. Award Nights



These are two colourful programmes conducted at the Philosophate and Theologate with cultural programs. Supper and prize distribution were arranged on the lawn in front of the class rooms at

the Theologate on 10 November. Rev Fr Manu Kochumalayil the Director of sports thanked everyone who participated in the



Thalash 2022 competitions.

Award night was arranged at the Philosophate on 27 November 2022 in the newly constructed badminton courts. Rev Fr Johnson Pullattu, the Director of Sports, thanked all the

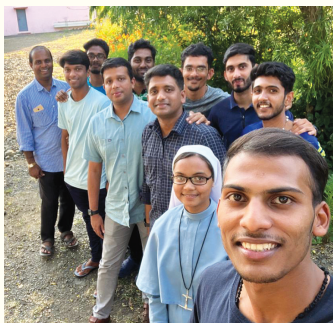
participants of *Lumen 2022*. Prizes for the winners of the competitions were given away during this function.

9. Mission Exposure

All the students of philosophy section and two batches of students from the theology section were given chances for mission exposure. All the philosophy students were sent in groups to the



diocese of Khandwa, Jhabua and Ujjain for mission exposure. They were in different mission centres from 15 – 26 October.



The second-year theology students were sent to the diocese of Indore, Khandwa and Jhabua for mission Exposure. They were in these diocese for 7 days. They were introduced to the various social activities of these dioceses by the department heads and their staff. They gained much experience by associating themselves

with the activities, and shared their experiences on 10 December. The deacons visited Bijnor diocese from 4 - 8 November and the various mission centres of Ujjain diocese on 11 and 12 November.

10. Social Work Activities

All the brothers are engaged in one or other social work activities on Thursdays and Sundays. They take tuition classes for the village children, visit villages, conduct Self Help Groups, teach at the schools nearby, help in the social service institutions of the diocese and



religious Congregations, and visit *Bal Grah* and remand home for Children run by the government. Those who are engaged in jail ministry conduct weekly prayer meetings for the inmates of the jail and for the success of the prison ministry.

11. National Convention of Prison Ministry India

The thirteenth National Convention of Prison Ministry India (PMI) was held at St Joseph Vaz Spiritual Renewal Centre, Old Goa from 15 to 18 November 2022. About 500 delegates participated in it. The main theme was “Reform to Reintegrate the prisoners.” Rev. Fr



Jose Valiamangalam - the Coordinator of P.M.I for all the major seminaries, took part in the convention and presented a report on the activities of the

prison ministry in all the major seminaries of India. Congratulations to Fr Jose Valiamangalam.

12. Demise of the Mother of Bro. Puthenpurackal MST

The sad news of the demise of the mother of Bro. Sibi Puthenpurackal MST reached us on 16 November. Bro. Sibi went for the burial on 17 and the community offered Holy Qurbana for the departed soul on the same day.

13. Monthly Recollections

We set apart 3 November for the monthly recollection both for the Philosophy and theology sections. Rev. Frs. Joseph Plachery and Thomas Chenganariparambil preached the recollection.

14. Inter diocesan Badminton Tournament

The inter-diocesan badminton tournament was conducted at Bhopal on 25 and 26 November. Two teams from Ruhahaya participated in it. Fathers Manoj Parackal, Shijomon Thettalickal, Manu Kochumalayil and Vipin Vannmelil were in



the teams. Fr Manoj Parackal and Shijomon Thettalickal were qualified to the quarter final.

15. Annual Retreat

We have started the annual Retreat on November 14 and it will be over on the 18 November Rev. Fr Daniel Poovannathil and his team preach the retreat.

16. Pilgrimage to Udayanagar

The deacons made a pilgrimage to Udayanagar on 10 November. They prayed at the places of Bl. Rani Maria's martyrdom and at the tomb.

17. Christmas Carol Singing Competition



Both the sections of theology and philosophy participated in the Carol singing Competition Conducted by Ishvani Television, Ujjain on 10 December. The theology choir won the second prize.

18. Visit of the Carol Team

The Carol team of St Mary's Cathedral Ujjain came to the Seminary on 13 November. They prayed with us and sang Carol songs. with an al fresco supper. We are thankful to the Lord for all graces He has showered upon us during the past two months.

With warm Christmas and New Year greetings

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

VI. NEWS FROM THE MISSIONS

A. St Paul Region, Ujjain

1. Retreat for Deacons of Ruhalaya



Eighteen Reverend Deacons were welcomed by the Regional Director to the Regional House. They spent a few days, 14 to 19 November, in prayer and reflection. Rev. Fr Chakkunkal Francis from Jagdalpur guided the retreat. May the Lord bless their priestly commitment.

2. Welcome Back-Fr Njallaniyil

Rev. Fr Njallaniyil Ephrem (Prakash) reached the Regional House on 18 November after his dedicated service in Tanzania and Canada. Regional Director congratulated him for his missionary dedication and welcomed him to the region. He will be taking



charge the responsibilities in the mission station at Tarana, in the



Eparchy of Ujjain. Prayerful best wishes.

3. Visit of Bishop Vaniyapurackal

Mar Sebastian Vaniyapurackal, the Bishop of the Syro-Malabar Archiepiscopal Curia visited the Regional House on 12 December.

4. Santhome Mission Center Khachrod



Santhome Mission Center Khachrod was in much need of a convent. Now the need is fulfilled and started the construction of the convent building. On 4 December the foundation stone was blessed and laid by Bishop Mar Sebastian Vadakel in the presence of Rev. Fr Vincent Kadalikattilputhenpura, the Regional Director. Three members of Nazareth Sisters (NS) from Kunnoth are collaborating with us from the year 2019.

(Reported by Rev. Fr Jince Kodikulam, Indore, St Paul Region)

5. MST Land in Bhopal

St Paul's Region of MST, Ujjain has registered 5.62 acres of land in Bhopal in the name of Nirmal Jyoti Educational and Charitable Society, Ujjain. The last portion of the land was registered on 18 October 2022. While thanking God for his blessings, I take this opportunity to thank the Central Administration for financing the purchase of this land and Regional Administration of St Paul's Region of MST for their constant support, guidance and encouragement. Thank you all for your support and prayers.

(Reported by Rev. Fr Sebastian Pullatt, Bhopal, St Paul Region)

B. St Thomas Region, Mandya

1. Visitors to Mandya Mission



St Thomas Region was blessed by the visit of Mar Joseph Kollamparampil, the newly ordained auxiliary bishop of the diocese of Shamshabad. He was accompanied by his class mate Rev. Fr Sebastian Kizhakkeyil. They stayed with us a few days and visited all the mission centres in Mandya. Mar Kollamparampil preached monthly recollection for the missionaries in Mandya on 6 November which was appreciated by all. We are very grateful to

Mar Joseph Kollamparampil and Rev. Fr Sebastian Kizhakkeyil for their readiness to spend time with the missionaries of Mandya and for their encouraging words and support.

We express our gratitude to Mar Jose Chittooparampil CMI, bishop of the diocese of Rajkot, who made a friendly visit to Santhome Regional house. The Secretary General - Rev. Fr Justin Vettukallel, found out time to visit the mission centres in Mandya mission. Thank you Fr Justin, for your cordial visit.

2. Blessing of Park, Santhome School, Ichoda



Blessing of the park with the play materials was a milestone in the growth of Santhome School, Ichoda in Adilabad diocese. It was blessed by Rev. Fr Sebastian Tharapputhotty in the presence of the Fathers,

Sisters, staff and students of Santhome school. Congratulations to Rev. Frs Sherit Kappiarumalayil and Jithin Puthusseryputhenpura for the steady growth of the school in quality and quantity.

3. Annual Retreat

The Annual Retreat of the MSTs in Mandya was conducted in the house of Franciscan Missionary Brothers near Bogadi in Mysore. The retreat was preached by Rev. Fr Francis Chakkungal from the diocese of Jagadapur.

4. Santhome Fellowship and Missionary Associates



The members of Santhome fellowship and Santhome Associates under the leadership of Rev. Fr Joseph Pulavelil visited Mandya mission in two groups. After visiting some of the mission

centres in Mandya they went back highly enriched and with a lot of appreciation for the missionary apostolates carried out in Mandya.

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

C. St Alphonsa Region, Sangli

1. Annual Retreat

The annual retreat for the priests and religious rendering their service



in St Alphonsa Region was organised in two groups between 24 October and 3 November at Viswadeepti. Rev Fr Soji Olikkal was the retreat preacher. Rev Sr Treesa SABS helped with counselling and Bro. Sonate helped the retreat with his melodious songs.

2. Jai Matha Parish, Sateli-Bhedshi

Rev. Fr Lijo Arackalputhenveedu took charge as the new parish priest of Jai Matha Church, Sateli-Bhedshi on 1 November, from Rev. Fr Veranakunnel.



3. Santhome School, Tasgaon



Rev. Fr Thomas Vattukulathil was given a cordial welcome to Santhome School Tasgaon. Fr Thomas took charge as the Priest in-charge of Santhome Mission Tasgaon and as the Manager of Santhome School Tasgaon on 17 November.

4. Santhome, Belagavi

Fr Tony Mampilly took charge as the in-charge of the upcoming Santhome School Belagavi. Fr Tony will collaborate with Fr Philip Pinakkatt in the development of the mission.

5. Alphonsa School, Yadrav

Rev. Fr Joseph Muthuplakkal took charge as the Manager of Alphonsa School Yardav. He took charge of the office from Rev. Fr Joy Purayidathil.



6. Blessing of the Houses for the Poor

On 20 November the third house under the House Construction Project of Sangli Mission Society supported by Holy



Angel Prayer Mission Group-Switzerland for Mrs Indrayani Parasuram of Ratnagiri was blessed by Rev. Fr Joby Nyalliyl. Rev. Fr Thomas, Fr

Michael, Fr George, Respected Sisters and the family members of St Thomas School Ratnagiri were present on the occasion.

7. Cherish, Amberi



On 8 December the feast of Immaculate Conception of Mother Mary was celebrated solemnly. Around 100 people participated in the celebration together

with the inmates. Rev. Fr Jimson Moosariparambil was the main celebrant and Fr Lijo Arackalputhenveedu gave a beautiful sermon. After the Holy Qurbana there was Rosary procession. The feast day programmes came to an end with cultural programmes and a solemn dinner.

8. St Joseph Parish, Kodoli

a. 33 days Adoration: To be with Jesus in prayer, 33 days continuous adoration was conducted in the parish. Many of the faithful made use of this grace filled occasion.



b. 33-day Dedication to the Immaculate Heart of Mother Mary: In an effort to enrich the faithful spiritually the parish conducted 33-day special dedication to the Immaculate Heart of Mother Mary. During these days people specially prayed for the blessings and intercession of

Mother Mary.

c. Nine hours Bible Reading and online Adoration:

To encourage the habit of reading Bible the parish organized a



continuous Bible reading exercise. Continuous nine hours of Bible reading was conducted. And to spread the devotion towards Blessed Sacrament an online adoration was also conducted.

9. Catechism and Family Apostolate

Catechism and family apostolate department is organising a Bible writing competition and Carol song competition in connection with the Christmas Celebration for the mission stations and faithful of Sangli Region. The family apostolate of the region is organising a three days camp for the domestic staff of the mission stations. The camp is scheduled from 26 to 28 December with an aim encourage and enrich spiritually the domestic staff working in our mission stations

10. AASTHA

a. Christmas celebration in 15 villages: Christmas celebrations and gatherings are been held by the AASTHA initiative from 1



December in 15 project villages. During the village Christmas celebration, the children with disabilities performed variety of cultural performances. These gatherings are an opportunity for the children with

impairments to showcase their talents to the general audience. Fr Joby Nyalliyil and Fr Anish Kurumundayil delivered the Christmas messages. In and through the project Christmas gifts were given to 405 kids with disabilities.

b. Picnic for Children with Disabilities: 480 disabled children from 15 villages were taken to the Kunthugiri Park, Bahubali Temple



Garden, and Kolhapur Shahu Palace Museum. The picnic was an occasion of great joy and enthusiasm for the children. It was a wonderful chance for the children to make new friends from other villages.

(Reported by Rev. Fr Mijo Chamakalayil, St Alphonsa Region)

11. Mar Thoma Personal Parish, Kalyan

a. Feast of Holy Rosary: Feast of Holy Rosary was celebrated



on 30th October. We had 20 days Rosary on Google meet. Every day we had reflection on the mysteries of the Holy Rosary by different speakers.

The conclusion of the celebration was on 30 October. His

Excellency Mar Thomas Elavanal was the main celebrant. After the Holy Mass we had solemn procession with the lighted candles to honour Mother Mary.

b. Commemoration of the Martyrdom of St Thomas: To

commemorate the 1950th year of the Martyrdom of St Thomas we prepared this calendar on St Thomas, and it was distributed among the Marathi people. Msgr Francis Elavuthingal, the Vicar General of the Eparchy of Kalyan was



the chief guest of the function of giving the calendar to our members.

c. Advent Retreat: Advent retreat was arranged for our



parishioners at Panvel. Jesus Youth members of Mumbai zone conducted retreat for our people. More than 140 people participated in the residential retreat 9 to 11 December 2022.

d. Conclusion of the Year of St Thomas: A solemn conclusion ceremony of the year of St Thomas was arranged at Kalyan Cathedral



church on 11 December. During this ceremony, 72 volunteers vowed themselves to follow the great example of St Thomas in bearing witness to the Gospel.

(Reported by Rev. Fr Paul Painadath, Mumbai)

D. MQMR, Delhi

1. First death Anniversary and Requiem Mass

Young and vibrant missionary of the Region, Rev. Fr Siby Nelloor was remembered on his first death anniversary on 22 October. The requiem Mass and office of the dead was offered on 3 November on the monthly recollection day at Neb Seri Church Delhi. Rev. Fr Siby Poovathinkal offered Holy Mass and Rev. Fr Santhosh Olapurackal said the office of the dead and recollected the good memories of Fr Siby Nelloor.



2. Souvenir of the Region Published

The souvenir of the Delhi Region has been released by His Grace Arch Bishop Kuriakose Bharanikulangara on 15 November. Rev. Fr Santhosh Olapurackal the Regional Director and the Councillors



along with the Chief editor - Rev. Fr Siby Poovathinkal was present for the function. His Grace released the Souvenir by handing the first copy to the Mother General of Philip Neri Sisters.

3. Mother Theresa Catholic Mission, Rurka, Ludhiana

a. Adieu to Bro. Sebastian and Bro. Christo: On 18 October 2022 the community gave adieu to Bro. Sebastian MST and Bro. Christo of the Eparchy of Palakkad. The community expressed the heartfelt thanksgiving to brothers for their commitments and efforts



for nurturing Mother Theresa Catholic Mission. We prayed for both brothers for their new endeavours which they would undertake in Bathinda throughout Eucharistic Celebration. The staff and the students of the St Thomas School, Rurka organized farewell meeting and conveyed their wishes and prayers to the brothers for upcoming mission. MTCM extended our sincere gratitude to the brothers for their hard work and pain for the success of Punjab mission especially in the progress of St. Thomas convent school Rurka. Brothers expressed their feelings and shared the beautiful memories and moments experienced here being representative of the community. We assured our prayerful wishes to brothers for the new venture, so that they may be able to keep fit their responsibilities in accordance with the divine plan of God. Rev Fr. Bobby - the Director of Mother Theresa Catholic mission also depicted his glorious moments with Bro. Sebastian and Bro. Christo.

b. Welcome to New Regents: Mother Theresa Catholic mission whole heartily welcomed the new regents - Bro. Jerin MST and Bro. Abin MST. Bro. Jerin completed six months of formation in Deepti



ashram in Najafgarh whereas Bro. Abin got transfer from Deepti Bhavan the MST Generalate and minor seminary at Melampara after six months of training. Bro. Jerin is appointed as a faculty

of school instead of Bro. Sebastian. Bro. Abin is presently with Fr. George Mecheril who is admitted in PJIGMER in Chandigarh, Punjab. We convey our prayerful greetings and support for their new tasks and responsibilities entrusted to them.

4. Sant Yusaf Catholic Mission, Bathinda

a. Exhibition in the School: The exhibition which was held in the St Thomas Convent School, Bathinda from 19 to 20 November



was also the main headlines in the news channels of Bathinda. The hand-made things prepared with the waste materials were the highlights of the exhibition. The gargantuan effort put forth by St Thomas Convent School Bathinda through the

very grace of God did eventuate a tremendous outcome. All the students made a tremendous performance here. Thanks to the teachers who took the brave step to train the students.

b. House-wise Arts Day Competition: Never underestimate the abilities, there might be talent hidden in you that world needs to see. In order to find and bring out the talents hidden in the children, St Thomas Convent School Deon conducted group wise competition for the children. The children were divided into four different groups named as Yellow house, Green house, Red house and Blue house. This group wise competition made the children to work together with unity and great enthusiasm. And all the four groups were very competitive with each other. The splendid performance made by all the children is to be appreciated here. A special thanks to all the teachers who took the brave step to coordinate the programmes.

c. Book Mela: A Book Mela for four full days which took place in Bathinda gave all the People in Bathinda to perform their talents in the public. St Thomas Convent School took this opportunity as chance to make the children bolder and more competitive. The

gargantuan effort put forth by the school did eventuate a tremendous outcome through the very grace of God. The St Thomas Convent School performed one each programme in all the four days like Giddha dance, Bhangara dance, Punjabi dance and solo song. All the students made a wonderful performance here. The programmes done by the students were the highlights of the stage each day. All the people were happy with the School Management. We could perceive the hand of God in all what was done, as every effort blossomed into good positive results.

5. Institute of Harmony and Peace Studies, New Delhi

a. Round Table Conference on ‘No Peace! Why Religion?’

Institute of Harmony and Peace Studies (IHPS), New Delhi, in collaboration with World Peace Organization, New Delhi, organized



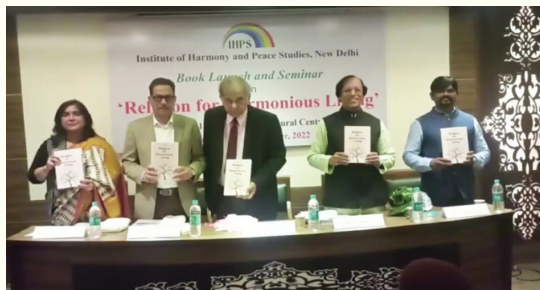
a round table conference at Conference Room, N. D. Tiwari Bhawan (Jawaharlal Nehru National Youth Centre), New Delhi, on 5 November 2022. The

theme of the conference was ‘No Peace! Why Religion?’ (‘Shaanti Naheen, To Dharm Kyon?’). Dr M. D. Thomas, Director, Institute of Harmony and Peace Studies, New Delhi, moderated the discussion. The participants included members of various organizations and communities, along with students of various institutes, as well.

b. Book Launch and Seminar on ‘Religion for Harmonious Living’

Institute of Harmony and Peace Studies (IHPS), New Delhi, organized a book launch and seminar on ‘Religion for Harmonious Living’ at Conference Hall 1, India Islamic Cultural Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi, on 26 November 2022, at 15.30 hours. The book is authored by Dr M. D. Thomas, Director, Institute of Harmony and Peace Studies, New Delhi.

The book was launched by Prof. Amitabh Kundu, Senior Fellow, Sustainable Cities and Transport Programme at World Resources



Institute (WRI) and Former Professor and Dean, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), and other the dignitaries together.

The speakers of the above programme acclaimed the worth of the book in lofty words and discussed the theme in question in detail. Dr M. D. Thomas welcomed the guests and introduced the book. Prof. Rajesh Kumar, Professor, Department of English, School of Humanities, IGNOU, New Delhi, anchored the above programme. After the lectures, there was a lively interaction between the resource persons and audience. Refreshments were served at the end of the programme. Nearly 75 persons from different communities and sections of the society participated in the programme. The speakers and participants acclaimed the day as a great day.

c. Lectures on Various Topics

i. Delivered Lecture on ‘Insaaniyat ke Liye Dharm se Oopar Uthna Hoga’ (Humanity calls for Rising above Religion) – during Conference on ‘Maanavtaa kaa Sandesh’ (Message of Humanity) – organized by National Human Right Committee, New Delhi, and Human Welfare Council, New Delhi – at Nagar Nigam Auditorium, Roorkee, Uttarakhand – on 01 October 2022.

ii. Delivered Lecture on ‘Dharm ke Usoolon par Amal se hee Insaaniyat Haasil Hotee Hai’ (Humanity is achieved only by Following the Principles of Religion) – during Conference on ‘Maanavtaa kaa Sandesh’ (Message of Humanity) – organized by National Human Right Committee, New Delhi and Human Welfare Council, New Delhi – at Nagar Nigam Auditorium, Dehradun, Uttarakhand – on 02 October 2022.



iii. Delivered Lecture on 'Dharm Shaanti aur Apnepan kaa Zariyaa Bane Iske Liye Dharm ke bheetar Mauzood Kabaad ko Saaf Karnaa Hogaa' (For Religion to Become a Means of Peace and Fellowship, the Junk within Religion has to be Cleaned) – during Interfaith Round Table Conference on 'Religion, Peace and the End of Otherness' – organized by The Office of Public Affairs of the Baha'is of India, New Delhi – at Information Centre, Baha'i House of Worship (Lotus Temple), New Delhi – on 07 October 2022.

iv. Delivered Lecture on 'Vaalmeekee se Prerna Lekar Insaan-Insaan mein Fark Karnaa Band Karnaa Hoga' (Taking Inspiration from Vaalmeekee, We Need to Stop Discriminating the Humans) – during 'Bhagwaan Vaalmeekee Jayantee Samaaroh' – organized by Bhagwan Valmiki Foundation, New Delhi – at Conference Hall, YMCA, New Delhi – on 08 October 2022.

v. Delivered Lecture on 'Doosron ke Dard ko Samajhnaa Hamein Vaalmeekee se Seekhnaa Hogaa' (We have to Learn from Vaalmeekee to Understand the Pain of Others) – during 'Bhagwaan Vaalmeekee Jayantee Samaaroh' – organized by Bhagwan Valmiki Ashram, New Delhi – at Bhagwan Valmiki Mandir, New Delhi – on 09 October 2022.

vi. Delivered Lecture on 'Mission among the Peoples: An Interactive Paradigm of Good News' – during XIXth FOIM Conference on 'Pluriform Mission in the Postmodern World' – organized by Fellowship of Indian Missiologists (FOIM) – at South Asia Institute of Advanced Christian Studies (SAIACS), Continuing Education Opportunities (CEO) Centre, Bangalore – on 12 October 2022.

vii. Delivered Keynote Lecture on 'Harmonious Co-existence' – during an Interactive Session on 'Harmonious Co-existence' – organized by United Religions Initiative (URI), Indian Foundation for Global Peace (IFGPE), Bangalore, and Seshadripuram College, Bangalore – at Auditorium, Seshadripuram College, Bangalore, Karnataka – on 14 October 2022.

viii. Delivered Lecture on 'Rising above Religions towards a Shared and Harmonious Living' – organized by Inter-faith Harmony

Movement, Bangalore – at Ashirvad Centre, Bangalore – on 14 October 2022.

ix. Delivered Lecture on ‘Synodality with Other Religions’ – during National Seminar on ‘Synodality: Problems and Prospects’ – organized by Vijnananilayam Institute of Philosophy and Religion, Eluru, Andhra Pradesh – at Vijnananilayam Institute of Philosophy and Religion, Eluru, Andhra Pradesh – on 13 November 2022.

x. Delivered Message on ‘Sab saath hon, tab Eeshwar saamaare saath hei’ (When all are Together, God is with us) – during Christmas Celebration — organized by CISRS (Christian Institute for the Study of Religion and Society), New Delhi — on 09 December 2022.

(Reported by Fr Sanoj Pathrapankal, Delhi Delegation)

E. St Joseph Mission, Odisha

1. Visit of Bishop Raphael Thattil



Bishop Raphael Thattil the Bishop of Shamshabad Diocese had visited St Joseph Mission Odisha from 2 to 8 December 2022. During his annual official visit, he visited all the missions in Odisha including the missionary endeavours of MST, the CMI, the Eparchy of Kothamangalam and of the Eparchy of Shamshabad. On 5 December, the Bishop addressed a common missionary gathering

which was arranged in MST co-ordinator's house in J.K. Pure. During the meeting, the Bishop had specially mentioned the MST contribution to the Odisha Mission and Congratulated the MST missionaries for being the torch bearers of evangelisation. The gathering had discussions on the formulation of missionary policies of the Eparchy of Shamshabad. Rev. Fr Jomon Ayyankanal the MST Coordinator meticulously arranged all the programs for the Bishop in Odisha and accompanied him together with Rev. Fr Mathew Kallingal the Diocesan Director of Department of Evangelisation.

2. Major Seminarians' Visit



Major Seminarians from St Thomas Apostolic Seminary Vadavathoor visited Odisha Mission for three weeks. Rev. Frs Dominic Vechoor and Sebastian

Kuttiyanickal were guiding the forty theology students in the mission. The Seminarians were divided into ten groups and were sent to different mission stations to experience the zeal of Odisha mission. They had spent their time in the villages by visiting homes, meeting sick people and teaching children. They really had a great time in the mission.

3. Visit of Brothers from Idukki

Eleven brothers under the leadership of their rector Fr James Thelliyankal visited Odisha Mission as part of their seminary curriculum. Fourth Year minor Seminarians from the Diocese of Idukki were actively involved in Odisha Mission for



a month. They were sent to various mission stations to get first-hand mission experience by engaging themselves in the activities of the stations. The mission exposure had deepened their commitment towards the mission and inspired them to equip themselves to become missionaries who can face the challenges of the time.

4. New Financial Officer for Odisha Mission



Rev. Fr. Soby Thannikkappara was appointed as the financial officer of the St Joseph Mission Odisha. After the successful completion of Odia language course, Fr Soby Thannikkappara took in charge of the office on 1 December 2022. All the very best

for his new endeavour.

5. Sacred Heart Mission, Laxmipur



a. Medical Camps:

Medical Camps were conducted in two villages - Ruiamba and Sopamba. These two interior villages were really in need of medical help. The Medical Mission Sisters took leadership to provide the facilities for

the medical camp. Sr Grace Maria MSJ joined the Laxmipur community. The government medical officials appreciated our initiative in the medical field.

b. Distribution of Clothes: The clothes which were gathered from Kerala was distributed in six various villages in Sacred Heart Mission Lakshmipur. It was really



helpful for the needy. The village people thanked the community for their generosity.

c. Retreat at Kothamchala Village: Two days' retreat was



conducted for the faithful in Kothamchala village. Rev Fr Joy guided the retreat. The catechism classes are to them regularly with the help of catechists. The newly formed community grow in faith day by day. Faith formation classes are being given to 36 people who are preparing themselves to receive

sacraments of initiation.

6. Nirmal Jyoti Mission Centre, Baliguda

a. Bishop's Visit: Nirmal Jyoti Mission was really blessed with the visit of Bishop Raphael Thattil. On 4 December, he visited Raniponga and celebrated Holy Qurbana for the faithful. He visited the houses of the sick and prayed over them. The faithful were really taken up by the visit of the Bishop.



b. Feast Celebration of Christ the King: The feast of Christ the



King was solemnly celebrated in Raniponga village on 20 November 2022. Rev. Fr Ambrose Kollamattom officiated the solemn Holy Qurbana and enriched the faithful with his thought-

provoking message. All the villagers took part in the solemn procession. The feast celebration was concluded with a sumptuous meal.

7. Sacred Heart Mission, Kundra

a. Tailoring Centre Inauguration:



for women was inaugurated by Rev. Srs Mary and Shanti S.H. at Khanaguda village. Fifteen young women registered their names and joined training. Under *jeebono*

jeebika program little flower social action centre is monitoring this endeavour.

b. Visit of Bishop Raphael Thattil:

Bishop Raphael Thattil visited Little Flower Mission Centre Kundra and encouraged the newly joined communities to be firm in faith. He visited their homes and it really touched them. His vigour and enthusiasm inspired the faithful.



c. Young Missionary Vibes:

The vibrant young missionary buds of Idukki diocese made their visit to Little Flower mission centre, Kundra and rendered their service in the village for two weeks. During that time, the brothers were earnestly taking part in the



beautification of the village church. They themselves took the initiatives to paint the church and spent their time and energy for that. Their missionary evenings in the villages were marked by gatherings, prayer services in the church and teaching songs

to the villagers. Rev. Fr Ouseppachan Tharapputhottiyil facilitated

the programmes for them.

8. Divine Mercy Centre, M. Rampur

a. One-Day Retreats: In the last week of November, in connection with the 'Advent Season,' one-day spiritual renewal programmes are being arranged in all the mission stations and communities. The programmes help the villagers to prepare



themselves spiritually for the Christmas. Rev. Fr Ambrose led the programmes giving them the word of God, administering the Sacrament of Reconciliation, etc. ASJM sisters helped them with the praise and worship, spiritual counselling and the Eucharistic adoration. Though they were busy with the harvest and other agricultural activities, people responded positively and they were so excited to renew their own lives to receive Child Jesus into their hearts.

b. Church Hall Blessing Harichandrapur:



A new building to be used as a church and a small community care centre was blessed by Rev. Fr Jibin Maniyalil MST, on 24 November 2022, in the presence of Rev Fr James Thelliankal from Idukki. Harichandrapur is a small village which is situated 3 kilometres away from M. Rampur town. Last year Divine Mercy Mission centre had purchased a piece of land and constructed a house for a widow there. Now the villagers are so excited to have their own place of worship and started a tuition centre also in the room adjacent

to the church. Fr Ambrose MST acknowledged the good will of Mr Isaac from Dubai who sponsored the expenses of construction works

as per the recommendation of Mr Sebastian Kuzhippillil.

c. Eucharistic Procession: In connection with their all-India level



‘Eucharistic Mission Procession,’ by ‘Fellowship Ministry’ team from Thrissur visited the Divine Mercy centre M. Rampur on 27 October and conducted Eucharistic adoration. Fr Joshy OCD and Mr James led the whole team, they stayed in the mission station for a day and moved to Jagdalpur. Active members and supporters of ‘Fiat Mission’, ‘Santwana Community,’ ‘Intercession for India’, ‘Jainees Media’ and ‘Divine Mercy Fellowship’ were involved in this ministry. Their very presence and prayers filled with mission zeal helped all who gathered to feel the real presence of Jesus.

d. Farewell to Idukki Brothers: Fourth year minor seminarians



from the Eparchy of Idukki were given a grand farewell by the people of Bondel village on 2 December. The brothers under

the leadership of their rector Fr James stayed at Kapkupa and extended their physical labour and whole hearted cooperation towards the developmental activities of various communities in the Divine Mercy Centre. They have constructed a Grotto and a rock

garden at Kapkupa and helped in the flooring and other renovation works of the church in Badoapadar. Along with the villagers, they have started the foundation works of a house to be constructed in Bondel. They have made clay bricks for the construction of that house. As an expression of their gratitude, people arranged a big meal for all the villagers in honour of the brothers and the priest from Idukki. Brothers presented various cultural programmes to entertain the people and the Catechist Kasinath translated their sermon in Hindi to Kui. People were very much happy to have them around.

e. Inauguration of the Tailoring Centre



A tailoring institute for the young women was inaugurated in Ramud village on 14 December. Mr Sachin Majhi is appointed as the tailoring instructor

and eight girls were enrolled in the first session to learn. The DST sisters take the initiative to manage this new venture of the Divine Mercy centre under the sponsorship of Mr Sebastian Kuzhippillil.

f. *Mukti Datha* -' Drama presentation

As a Christmas gift to the villagers, a musical-drama was written and directed by Fr Jibin Maniyalil MST would be presented in the villages. The whole drama is being recorded with the help of the native speakers with an intention to spread the story of Christmas to all. As the children are back from the hostels for the holidays, it will be presented in various villages with the help of our youngsters. All those who were involved with the translation, recording and presentation on the stage are really excited and we hope that people would receive it positively.

(Reported by Rev. Fr Jibin Maniyalil, St Joseph Mission, Odisha)

F. Arunachal Mission

1. St Mary's Church, Sagalee, Itanagar

a. Church Construction at Sagalee: A long-awaited dream 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 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. Kindly pray for its successful completion in spite of all the challenges especially the economic problem

b. Teachers' Day Celebration: On teachers' day, the principal and all the teachers of Don Bosco School, Sagalee were



congratulated by the students and the management. The students performed various cultural items and gifts were presented to each teacher by the school management.

c. DBS Olympics

The annual sports' day of our Don Bosco School was conducted in the month of November. Many 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 2022 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 stars and they sell them 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 Saji Choorakunnel, 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. Conclusion of Rosary Month:



On 31 October, the feast of our Lady of Rosary was solemnized in our main parish. In the sub-parishes, it was held in different days of the final week of October. The celebration included rosary procession around the parish church and solemn Holy Mass. The celebration of this feast is

important to this place to differentiate us from the Protestant churches and the faithful conduct the rosary devotion in a celebrative manner.

c. Intensive Catechism: The Mother Theresa Sisters (MC Sisters) have come to the villages for their intensive catechism programs.



They stay in the villages and pay special attention to the baptized adults giving them classes in the evenings. They do also organize retreats in small groups of cluster-families for the community. Their dedicated ministry

makes a lot of difference in the faith-life of the communities.

d. Blessing of the New Church: The new parish church - St Thomas Church at a village called Passa is getting ready to be blessed by His Lordship Bishop John Thomas of the Diocese of Itanagar on 28 December 2022. The construction is almost complete and the furnishing works are on progress.



e. 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, which is getting ready to be blessed by the end of this month.

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



G. Overseas Missions

1. United States

a. Welcome to Rev. Fr Joshy Areeplackal

Rev. Fr Joshy Areeplackal arrived in the US on 7 November and presently he is staying with Rev. Fr. Francis Kalathil. Fr. Joshy was invited by the diocese of Corpus Christi in the state of Texas.

We extend our warm welcome to Rev. Fr Joshy to the US and to the team of MST priests in the country and wish him all the best in his pastoral ministry whichever parish he will be assigned by the bishop. This interim period is a time of orientation for Rev. Fr Joshy into the American culture and style of functioning. May God bless him to be successful in his pastoral ministry.

b. Transfer of Rev. Fr Raju Puthussery

Rev. Fr Raju Puthussery is getting a transfer with promotion to be an independent pastor of St Joseph Parish at Lake Linden, Michigan. Congratulation to Rev. Fr Raju and all the best and God's blessings upon him to be an effective pastor to the people.

c. News from Xavier University Cincinnati

Rev. Fr Roshan Kuzhupallil will be completing his master's degree in the month of January. Since the visa process of our next student is being delayed, Rev. Fr Roshan is directed by our Director General to stay back in the US doing some optional training in the university in order to reserve university scholarship program for MST as well as the place of stay and the communities he serves for the incoming student. We appreciate the hard work of Rev. Fr Roshan and his willingness to stay back until the new student arrives.

(Rev. Fr Antony Thundathil, Coordinator, USA)

2. Australia

a. MSTs in Australia

The year 2022 is coming to an end. All the MSTs in Australia are doing well. They are all back to their normal work schedule after making their annual holidays in India. The annual gathering is planned

from the 2 to 5 January 2023. Rev. Fr Joseph Pothenparampil is hosting the annual gathering.

b. Rosary Devotion in Shepparton



St Alphonsa Syro-Malabar Church, Shepparton had special Rosary devotion for 10 days conducted in each family unit of the Mission and concluded on 31 October as a great celebration. The day was blessed with Holy

Mass, Rosary procession and Adoration.

c. 'Thirunal' Celebration in Shepparton



St Alphonsa Mission, Shepparton celebrated St Alphonsa's Thirunal on 5 and 6 of November. 'Kodiyettam' on 5 November was done by Rev. Fr Jackson, the Associate Priest of St

Brendan's Church, Shepparton. The main celebrant for 'thirunal Holy Qurbana' was Very Rev. Msgr. Francis Kolencherry, the Vicar General of the Syro-Malabar Eparchy of St Thomas the Apostle, Melbourne, with concelebrants Very Rev. Msgr. Peter Jeffrey and Rev. Frs Varghese Vithayathil MST, Sibi Pulickal, Vijay Baskar, Jophin Joy and Tijo Puthenparampil. Rev. Tijo preached the homily. Procession around the church carrying saint's statues, accompanied by 'chendamalam,' followed by 'snehavirunnu' were memorable events for the parishioners.

d. 'Thirunal' Celebration in Bendigo

We celebrated the feasts of St Mary and St Thomas, the Apostle. Celebrations started with 10 days of Rosary at different houses of the mission. On the final day, Bendigo Mission celebrated the parish

feast starting with 'kodiyettu' by our parish priest Rev. Fr Varghese Vithayathil MST. Then there were offerings from the parish members



- 'Kazhunneduppu.' For the the solemn Holy Thirunnal Qurbana, our main celebrant was Rev. Fr Tijo Puthenpampil. Fr Tijo delivered an enlightening speech about family life, with respect to the lives of St

Mary and St Thomas, the Apostle. Holy Qurbana was followed by procession which was accompanied by traditional Kerala 'chendamalam' by Chembada team, Bendigo. The Feast Day celebration was concluded by a sumptuous meal for everyone who attended the feast. The celebration was a great blessing for our Mission and helped our community building.

e. Sunday School Annual Day

On 10 December, St Alphonsa Mission Catechism School, Shepparton celebrated the annual day. It was the celebration for whole Mission- for Catechism



Students, Teachers and Parents. Report reading, Price distribution, honoring of Catechism Teacher and variety of entertainment program based on faith and tradition were included on the Annual Day Program, it was concluded with serving of meal.

f. Voice from Heaven

We organised a very important program for our children on this Sunday 11 December. We got a



wonderful resource person – Rev. Fr Binoj Mulavarickal the famous retreat preacher, music composer and the director of the Youth Apostolate in Europe. He talked to our children and led adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

g. Mathruvedi Christmas Celebration

On Sunday 11 December, *Mathruvedi* conducted Christmas celebration. Rev. Fr Binoj Mulavarickal was the main celebrant in Holy Qurbana. Carol singing by ‘Mathruvedi’ members and dance involving all age group did add more color to the celebration. Raffle



ticket results were announced and Christmas gifts were given. The program concluded with light refreshments.



h. Youth Ministry: Youth Ministry in Bendigo and Shepparton is very active. They come together once in a month for prayer and reflection and indoor

games. On 2 December, 16 youth from St Alphonsa Syro-Malabar Mission, Shepparton and St Thomas Syro-Malabar Mission, Bendigo participated in the Unite Youth Program conducted by Syro-Malabar Youth ministry of the Eparchy.

i. Nurses’ Ministry: Nurses’ Ministry in both Bendigo and Shepparton are very zealous in having One Day retreat for all nurses in the mission. The retreat preacher was Mr Josemon who is





one of the Coordinators of International Nurses Ministry.

(Reported by Fr Varghese Vithayathil, Shepparton, Australia)

3. Austria

a. All Saints' Day: All Saints' Day was celebrated in all our parishes on 1 November. After the Eucharistic celebration solemn procession with Band and chore was made towards the cemetery. On the way to cemetery, we visited the war monument and the fire-brigade and Red-cross paid tributes to the people who sacrificed their lives during the world wars with laying wreaths, music, march-past, saluting and thrice shooting on the air. The priest blessed the monument and prayed for them. Then proceeded to cemetery. Special prayers for the departed souls and cemetery blessings were conducted. The chairperson of the municipality read out the name of the persons died from November 2021 till 30 October 2022 in his municipality.

b. All Souls' Day: On 2 November, 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 2021 till 30 October 2022 were read out and for each person a candle is lighted and a card with their names and prayer is placed before the candle. The relatives can take home the candle and card after the holy Mass.

c. Advent Wreath and Advent Candle Blessing: To begin the Advent season and for the Christmas preparations we had advent wreath and advent candle blessing on 27 November 2022 in all our parishes and the first advent candle was also lighted from the four candles.

d. Cecilia Mass: On the feast of St Cecilia our church chore, 'Band Group and Music 4 You' (Music group of the Children) organized a solemn Mass in the honour of St Cecilia who is the patron of the church chore.

e. Advent Market: On 4 December, an Advent Market was organized by the municipality together with Bernhardsthal parish. Different Organizations, clubs and persons opened stalls. Lots of

people visited the advent market from the nearby villages and parishes. And the advent market ended by the visit of St Nikolaus with presents for the children.

f. Feast of St. Nikolaus: On 6 December we celebrated St Nikolaus feast in all our parishes. One man dressed like St Nikolaus comes to the church with gift packets for children and he greets the children giving good message and distributes gifts to children. People gathered there sing advent songs and the organizer read the life history of St Nikolaus.

g. Advent Singing: In all our parishes advent singing were arranged by church chore with other music groups which is just like Christmas Carol. Lots of people came and enjoyed the programmes.

h. Rorate Mass: In the advent season we have the tradition of having Rorate Mass in all our parishes. It is a special eucharistic celebration in the very early morning in darkness with candle light, to commemorate the coming of the Saviour Jesus Christ, as light of the world. After the holy Mass breakfast is also served for the faithful.
(Rev. Fr Joy Punnakuzhy, Coordinator, Vienna, Austria)

4. Canada

a. Nelson, BC, Canada



Due to Covid restrictions and casualties, the Diocese of Nelson did not have any common gatherings for the last three years. After a long time of isolation, the diocese decided to have its 'Priests Study Days'

from November 20 to November 24. It was four days' programme scheduled for the spiritual, intellectual and social rejuvenation of the priests serving the diocese. There were different sessions and



presentation from known resource persons, highly appreciated by all the participants.

Bishop Gregory Bittman and every healthy priest attended in person and some six priests attended through Zoom. We had learned more about “Celebration of the Sacraments with Persons and Families Considering or Opting for Death by Assisted Suicide or Euthanasia.” The topic was bit scary, but it was well received by each of us as we are facing pastoral issues from different parishes of the Diocese. Life is very precious for everyone. To opt for Euthanasia is not the right way God wants of us Catholics. Just like abortion, Euthanasia is another evil that disturbs the value of life and peace of the parishes. During the hectic days of ‘study days’ at *Axe the Monkey* facility, all the priests together with the bishops, spent a few hours together as a family having fun together. Pictures are shares.

Climate change has affected us too. Unlike previous years, we had the first snow fall in the beginning November which is not common. We got it a month earlier with low temperature. For one month we are dealing black and white ice and snow in our premises and roads.

As soon as we reached back Home, we had a message from our Bishop that one of the priests who attended the ‘Study Days’ is tested positive and others need to test before celebrating the Mass, if we have any symptom. Unfortunately, five different priests got affected and ten parishes were deprived of Holy Mass or any services, due to the Covid situation. In spite of the fourth Booster shot for Covid, it is spreading everywhere.

(Reported by Fr Tom Kakkaniyil, Coordinator of MSTs in Canada)

b. Archdiocese of Regina, Saskatchewan

Warm greetings from the Archdiocese of Regina, Saskatchewan! After a beautiful and colourful summer and fall, Saskatchewan is fully wrapped in snow and cold. Known as the Land of the Living Skies, home to an incredible number of lakes and wilderness areas, and famous for the wide-open prairies, Saskatchewan has a lot to offer those who are looking for.

Clergy Study Days were held in October 2022. It was four days programme scheduled for the spiritual, intellectual and social rejuvenation of the Clergy serving the Archdiocese. There were different sessions and presentations from known resource persons, highly appreciated by all the participants.



Merry Christmas: Everybody, every home, every church and every nook and corner of the province, in particular the Archdiocese is in full swing to celebrate Christmas, the birth of the Saviour. Parishes are very busy and earnest preparing spiritually and physically for Christmas. It is snowing and blowing, freezing cold, temperature is zigzag everyday showing minus 40 and up; still the joy of Christmas and carol singing is very much welcoming and appreciated!

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

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

5. Germany

a. Sacerdotal Silver Jubilee Celebration

As Rev. Fr Baiju Nellikunnel celebrates Silver Jubilee of his Priestly Ordination, he is filled with gratitude towards God, for the 25 grace filled years of





Priesthood. The Jubilee celebration was held on Sunday, 16 October, in St. Martin's Church at Zusamaltheim. The solemn Eucharistic Celebration was followed by a short felicitation ceremony and dinner for all the guests in the

Community Hall. Many of our Priests and faithful joined him, to thank God on the special occasion. Congratulations dear Fr Baiju on completing the Silver Jubilee of your priesthood. May the almighty



God grant you all the strength and blessings in your coming years. We thank you for being with us, supporting and guiding us as our Coordinator. God bless you!

b. Transfers and Appointments



Rev. Fr Binish Arackal has taken charge as the asst. Parish Priest in the Parish Balve Hemer. On 4 Dec. 2022 we came together to bless the House. We wish him all the best, for his future ministry there.

c. Achievements

Rev. Fr Shaijan Koonamparambath has achieved an important milestone, which will help him greatly for his ministry in Germany. During his practical training in the parish, he has now acquired Driving Licence. Hearty Congratulations dear Fr Shaijan!

d. Pastoral Activities of the Parish Pleß



i. Europe Day: Europe day summit was remarked by the presence of many dignitaries, who reached Unterallgäu for the function. Chief Minister Markus Söder, Bishop Bertram and Health Minister Klaus

Holetschek were present on the occasion. Parish priest Rev. Fr Joy Valiamangalam addressed the gathering and delivered the welcome speech. During the meeting, the leading role of the Church, as a unifying factor was greatly emphasized, especially during the present-day crises in Europe due to Ukraine war and sanctions forced on Russia.

ii. Advent Window: During Advent season, it is a tradition to decorate the windows with the themes of Advent and Nativity. Beautifully decorated windows could be seen in many places in the Parish.



iii. Wedding Anniversary: Wedding Anniversary was also arranged in the parish, which was attended by many couples. The church was beautifully decorated and after the Solemn Mass, they came together to celebrate in the community Hall.



iv. Advent Concert: In the parish an Advent concert was also organised. Music group “Musikkappelle Pleß” presented traditional advent songs and it was well appreciated by the people.

v. Pilgrimage with the Statue of Mother Mary: In order to have peace on earth and especially in Europe, people walk long distance carrying the statue of mother Mary. In the parish Pleß also, the statue of mother Mary was received and after due veneration and Holy Mass it was taken to the next parish as a procession.



vi. Rorate Messe: During this season of Advent, it is a custom to celebrate Holy Eucharist as “Rorate Messe”. For this Mass, the church will be lit with candle lights, showing the importance of light in our life, especially in the month of December with long nights and short days. Jesus is the real light who expels the

darkness. It reminds the faithful to wait joyfully for the nativity of Jesus and at the same time to wait for his second coming.



There are also many other activities and events which are organised in the parish, like prayer service conducted for the children. A prayer service also was conducted to remember the departed members of the parish, after which the relatives were invited for a coffee, where they could share their sorrows and problems and

strengthen each other.

(Reported by Fr Pradeep Alex Mattathilanickal, Germany)

6. Switzerland: News from Schlieren

a. Annual ongoing Seminar

As usual we have our annual Seminar on the contribution of Modern Media for the effective pastoral activities in parishes organised by the ongoing pastoral training committee in the first week of November 2022 in Stella Matutina near Luzern. IT Technical experts were there to guide us in this seminar.



A beautiful view from Stella Matutina in Hertenstein near Weggis where we attended an ongoing professional theological course for a week in November 2022. About 40 participants were there to attend this course. They are all engaged in different levels of pastoral services in Winterthur Region (Forane).

b. Time of Advent – Preparation for Christmas



This year we have organised on 7 December an Advent-Christmas gathering of the senior-most parishioners of our parish, St Urban Church, in Winterthur. 120 Participants were gathered there. Christmas Papa (Bishop Niklaus) appeared in this celebration and gave message.

c. Christmas Markets in Switzerland

With twinkling lights, the winter magic in Switzerland exudes its Christmas atmosphere. Not only one, but three Christmas villages celebrate the most beautiful time of the year. The Wunder Dorf on the Theaterplatz enchants with its Christmas Market and delicious street food. Immerse yourself in the sea of lights and let yourself be



enchanted as you stroll through the city centre.

It is not just the Chlausenumzug that helps draw 350,000 visitors to the Neumarkt square in Winterthur each year – they also marvel at the

beautifully decorated Christmas huts, the colourful gifts and the hundreds of Christmas-Papas!

(Reported by Fr Varghese Nadackal, Switzerland)

7. United Kingdom

a. Syro-Malabar Parish of Wolverhampton

Wolverhampton is the heartland of infamous ‘old British Empire.’



Birmingham is the nearest big town. The territory known as ‘Black County’ to which Wolverhampton belongs, has contributed very dearly to the industrial revolution of England. Coal, the primary tool and means of 19th century industrial revolution of England was mined and widely used in and from this ‘blackcountry.’ This was how this area gained its name. Our Lady of Perpetual Help Mission for the Malayalees is in and around Wolverhampton. The people of Malayalee, Syro-Malabar ethnicity live harmoniously with the Latin faithful of St. Michael’s Church, Wolverhampton.

b. Sunday Catechism Classes

The Malayalees are famous for their care for the children, and are

equally earnest to impart the hegemony of their faith tradition to their siblings. So, every alternative Sundays are specially dedicated for Sunday Schools. Twenty-two volunteers are ever really to help our children. One hour before every 1st and 3rd Sunday, parents without fail bring their children to the Sunday School.

On 18 September 22, we had our newly arrived catechism students received formally, into the fold! They were fondly greeted with roses. Catechism pledge



followed holding lighted candles, by the priest, teachers and students. Thus started our new Catechism year.

Happy that with new immigrant inflow, our parish too had an influx of families to our hundred strong parish. Still the number seems increasing.

c. Parish Celebrations

Our Dukhrana, parish feast and the First Holy Communion celebrations were opportunities for the people to come together and enjoy, after a gap of two years, due to the pandemic. All the events were specially marked by the whole hearted cooperation and contribution of the faithful.

Though away from home, with many limitations of U.K, people from all walks of lives were invited to the liturgical, cultural and festive activities of



the Church. And they do enjoy the Syro-Malabar heritage portrayed in the solemn liturgical celebrations, procession and agape thereafter. After Christmas we will be joining together to have a parish family funday on 28 December to bid adieu to 2022.

(Reported by Rev. Fr Raju Arathil, London, U.K.)

8. Tanzania - Chengena, Songea

a. Apiculture by the Parishioners: Chengena Mission Parish is organising to have different initiatives to raise the fund for its running expenses. Thereby, the parish had formed a group of volunteers in the parish to start Apiculture as a means of income generation for the parish. They were formed a group of 15 members along with Parish Priest and they installed 45 Bee Boxes in different parts of



the forest on 26 October. As the parish had formed this voluntary group, the group was helped by the Local Government by providing them the Bee-Boxes. As a

part of documentation, we had prepared it as vlog and published. It was highly appreciated by the local government authorities while we produced the video presentation. The link is given below: <https://youtu.be/rEwPY2SJGJQ>

b. Welcoming of Paroko Msaidizi

Rev. Fr Akhil Innocent, the newly appointed Asst. Parish Priest of Chengena MST Mission parish was welcomed by the parishioners on 30 October in the parish. There was a welcoming ceremony



along with the Sunday mass and they welcomed him with enormous gifts and prayers on that day. The congregation rejoiced to have a new priest in their parish and wished him all the success and support from the parish.

c. Rosary Devotion

Chengena MST Mission Parish had organised one month Rosary devotion to encourage the parishioners to grow in Marian Faith.

The Parish Priest divided the families and assigned them on particular days to lead the Rosary prayer and in the Holy Mass in that day. It has encouraged the whole people to attend the Church in the weekdays in this



month. Rev Fr Ansgar led the conclusion service of Rosary Devotion on 30 Oct. It was solemnised by the large participation of whole village on that day.

d. Mission Exposure Programme

The MST Mission in Tanzania had welcomed the new missionary personal in to our Mission. Fr Biju Pullappallil, the Mission Co-Ordinator had arranged the language course for Fr Akhil Innocent in Madale Parish for few months. Later he was offered to have one



month mission exposure to one of the interior forest parishes in the Songea Archdiocese in November. It was an enriching programme for the new missionary personal

to know the culture and life of Africans deeply. Thanks to Mission Co-Ordinator, Fr Biju Pullappallil for arranging this.

e. All Souls' Day

We have celebrated All Souls' Day on 2 November. The parishioners



have greater respect and preferences to pray for their ancestors. It's part of their tribal cult and tradition as well. Fr Shaiju organised blessings of cemetery in the parish church as

well as in all the five Sub stations. People attended the service with greater faith and devotion.

f. Missionary Journeys - Vlogs

There are enormous troubles and difficulties in carrying out the missionary works. Many at a time, it's not known to the people. We have initiated a Web-Series on Mission Life which is named as 'Preshithante preshitha yathrakal.' It was launched on 8 December



by the Director General of MST. We express our gratitude to Fr General and the Councillors for the support to this endeavor. The web-series is presented as Vlogs

where we are trying to attract the youth to be part of the future Mission Ministries. The link is given below: <https://youtu.be/5uOlTwwiqpI>

g. One Day Seminar for Church Choir Members



We had organised one day seminar for the Choir members of the Parish on 11 December in the Parish church. Rev Fr Sende, the cathedral Vicar had guided them in the

seminar. It was a first-time experimental effort in gathering all the Choir members of the parish and the sub stations combined on this day. There were around 150 Choir members who had participated in it. It was a useful session for all the choir members to improve in their responsibilities in the Church.

h. Reinstating the Parish Youth Movement

The Chengena mission parish has organised a briefing session for the Youths in the parish. It was a session to invite the youths in the village and encouraging them to



gather as the members of VIJANA, the Diocesan Youth Organization. Youth had elected the working committee members and scheduled different activities to solemnize Christmas.

i. Fund Raising by Cultivation

The parishioners had hired the land for cultivation to raise the funds to support the parish. Chengena mission parish is in the Ruvuma region and the people mainly depend on Agriculture for their livelihood. Usually, it depends on the rain water availability. We got



the first rains in the region in the beginning of December. Thereby, the parishioners formed different groups by themselves based on pious groups, parish jumias and other groups to start the cultivation from December

onwards. This is one of the means of sustainability of the parish.

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

9. Sweden

a. Stockholm Seminary News



We have three candidates who are converted from protestant church and studying for the Stockholm diocese. I have sent the papers to

the Congregation of Faith in Rome and now came back with approval to go ahead with the orders. On 22 December we have the 'Admissio' in the cathedral by His Eminence Cardinal Anders.

b. Syro-Malabar Mission in Scandinavia

i. Centres of Holy Qurbana:
Holy Qurbanas in Malayalam are being celebrated in all the



stations regularly. At present we have masses in Stockholm, Gutenberg, Jönköping, Skellefteå and Uppsala in Sweden, Helsinki and Tammer in Finland and Oslo in Norway. We have celebrated the Christmas in Oslo because they don't have Mass in Malayalam during Christmas. It was well arranged with cultural activities, games, carol songs, Christmas dinner, etc.

ii. Catechism Classes:

Catechism classes in our communities were very well organized. This year we have 12 catechism teachers and around 65 children who are attending this. We have a wonderful inauguration session with all the parents and students.



Wish you all a Merry Christmas & Bright New Year 2023!

(Reported by Fr Binu Thottiyil, Stockholm, Sweden)

10. Brazil

St Sebastian's Parish Itarumã, Jathai



The year 2022 brought great relief and new hope for the people after two years of pandemic covid panic. The catechism classes started regularly in the month of January 2022 and concluded in the

first week of December. This year we had around 250 catechism students at various stages. We had some 20 dedicated young and experienced catechists rendering their service voluntarily for the cause of the kingdom God.

a. Adult Baptism

This year we had eight adult baptisms. After one-year of preparations eight adults of the parish were



received the sacrament of baptism on 15 November.

b. First Communion

Seventeen children and six adults received first communion on 27 November of this year on solemn Holy Mass

concelebrated with Fr. Jacks Douglas da silva one of the parish members of Itarumã.

c. Confirmation

Twenty-four members of the parish, youth and adults received confirmation in a solemn concelebration presided by Bishop Dom Nélio Domingos Zorteia. Fr. Jacks Douglas da silva and myself on



4 December this year.

d. Retreat for the Youth

We had organized one day retreat for the youths of the parish on 10 November, 55 youths of the parish participated in it.



e. Construction of a New Chapel

Viewing on the pastoral needs of the fast-developing urbanizations in the municipality of Itarumã, we have started construction of new chapel at sector

Maria dos Anjos.

(Reported by Fr Joseph Pulickal, Brazil)

11. Italy



a. MSTs in Italy

The eternal city, Rome is ready to celebrate the much-awaited Christmas this year with great enthusiasm as the government has released all the COVID-19 protocol regulations. All the MST members here in Italy are also getting ready for the

birth of the Saviour. The MSTs working in the different parishes have already started the preparations for Christmas, while the MSTs in the academic field in Rome are getting ready for the pastoral ministry in different parishes in Italy along with their studies.

b. Visit to Arch Bishop Emeritus of Lanciano Ortona

Fr Joseph Koren, had the great pleasure to spend a day with Mons Carlo Ghideli, the Archbishop emeritus of Lanciano Ortona, who invited the Missionary Society of St Thomas the Apostle officially to

his diocese to take care of the relics of St Thomas, at the Cathedral of St Thomas the Apostle, Ortona. Acknowledging the pastoral activities of MSTs in the Archdiocese, Mons Ghideli thanked all the superiors of MST and the members worked in the diocese and contributed for its growth.

Mons Ghideli, 88 after his retirement from the office of Bishop, renders his service in a parish in Milan, Italy in spite of his old age. He, being a Biblical Scholar, even though his physical health is deteriorating, still contributes intellectually through his writings.

(Reported by Fr Joseph Koren, Coordinator, Italy)



12. Philippines

a. 'A Bountiful Christmas' Back again in the Philippines!



The most stunning and sparkling Christmas extravaganza is back again with hope and positivity, after a pause placed by the pandemic, as everyone swiftly slips into transition and new normal. Many Christmas events are lined up, keeping with the Filipino traditions. As soon as the first of the so-called “BER months” (SeptemBER-DecemBER) begin, Filipinos everywhere make it a point to spread the holiday cheer: Christmas trees and stars are pulled out of storage, Christmas songs being played on the radio and in the malls, homes are decked out with lights and elaborate displays, shopping and gift-giving placed

on priority lists, vacations are being planned left and right, party themes are schemed, reconnection with relatives is initiated, and reconciliation with HIM facilitated through the liturgical season of advent... Wow! The best season of the year is here in the Philippines, without a doubt.

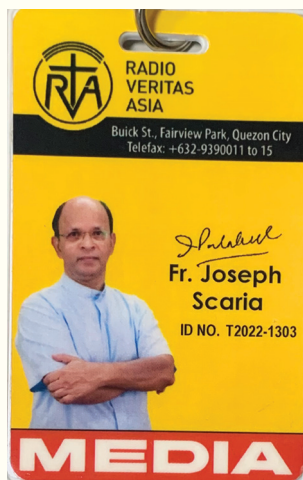
b. Congratulations to Fr Roby Adapoor



Rev. Fr Roby Adapoor successfully completed his doctoral studies in Clinical Psychology from the University of Santo Tomas, Manila with the defense of his doctoral dissertation. Many of the Keralite priests and friends

attended the public defense and was present for a felicitatory party thereafter. Congratulations to Dr Roby Adapoor for this extraordinary achievement.

c. Rev. Fr Jose Palakeel in Radio Veritas Asia



Radio Veritas Asia (RVA) is a media platform of the Catholic Church in Asia for sharing Christ with all Asians. Started in 1969 as a continental Catholic radio station to serve Asian countries in their respective local languages, RVA earned the tag ‘the Voice of Asian Christianity.’ Responding to the emerging media context, in 2018, RVA moved from short-wave radio to digital media platforms. RVA proclaims the Good News through websites and all the social media platforms in English and 21 Asian Languages. In

1974, the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences (FABC) assumed full responsibility for RVA. which was renewed and



formalized by the “Bandung Covenant” making RVA a common project of the Church in Asia, under the FABC Office of Social Communications (FABC-OSC). Today RVA has emerged as the digital

voice of the Church in Asia, engaging both ‘global’ and ‘local’ Asians in continuous dialogue on religion, culture, and solidarity with the poor.

Fr Jose Palakeel is serving as the Chief Content Editor of Radio Veritas Asia (RVA), Manila office. Four priests from different Asian countries and a lay Social Media coordinator constitute the Editorial team with him. <https://www.rvasia.org> website and the RVA YouTube and Facebook are managed by Fr Jose. He is also in the Core team of the RVA program department which supervises the 21 language services in various Asian countries and a member of the Management Council of RVA.

d. Rev. Fr Palakeel represented RVA for the 64th Ramon Magsaysay Awards

Known as Asia’s Nobel Prize, held at the Ramon Magsaysay Center in Manila on November 30. It was a unique opportunity to meet and interact with the four 2022 recipients Tadashi Hattori from Japan, for his ‘sight-saving humanitarian’ advocacy, Gary Bencheghib from Indonesia, for his anti-plastic pollution advocacy, Bernadette Madrid from the Philippines, for her children’s rights advocacy and Sotheara Chhim from Cambodia, for his mental health advocacy.

We wish everyone a joyous Christmas season!

(Reported by Frs Palakeel, Adapoor and Thengumkudiyil, Mannila, Philippines)

VII. NEWS FROM OTHER MINISTRIES/ CENTRES

A. VOCATION PROMOTION



I have visited almost 60 schools in the dioceses of Pala, Changanassery and Kanjirapally. There are some 25 students who have shown interest in the missionary priesthood. I have visited their houses along with a fellow priest and explained to them

about the mission work of the MST. We plan to conduct a vocation camp on 13 and 14 January 2023. Rev. Fr Viju Muringassery has kindly agreed to guide the camp.

(Reported by Fr Bijo Vadakkethalackal, Vocation Promoter, South Zone)

B. SANTHOME FELLOWSHIP AND ASSOCIATE MISSIONARIES

The *Santhome Fellowship* Members and the *Associate Missionaries* are doing very well. Both in their capacities contribute a lot to the MST and its mission work through prayer and charitable activities. The Santhome Fellowship members are doing their best, remaining in their respective places and at times, some of them make visits to Mission areas of the MST. The Associate Missionaries are functioning like the links between the parishes and the MST. At length, both these wings function well and have got regular meetings in every month.

1. Training of Third Batch of Associate Missionaries (Sahadusa)

The training of the third batch of the Associate Missionaries started



in October after a thorough scrutiny and selection. The twelve members have already started their training after an official inauguration

ceremony in October, where Very Rev. Fr Antony Perumanoor, the Director General, handed them over the Guidelines for the Associate Missionaries in the presence of all the General Council Members. The training programme is hereafter called **SAHADUSA** – to bear witness.

2. Santhome Fellowship Unit Meetings

At present the Unit Meetings are going on regular basis in the following Units: Kanjirapally, Aruvithura, Bharananganam,



Edamattam, Peramangalam, Erumapetty, Kolar, Bhopal, and Indore. Online meetings are conducted Dubai and Chicago and in other Units. The Director is making

himself available for all the Unit Meetings which take place once a month.

3. Mission Appeal & Religious Articles

Mission appeal was made in two fliers through electronic media and during the Santhome Fellowship Unit meetings to donate religious articles to the Mission Stations. Many people have responded to the request and required religious articles are provided to the Mission centres. All are welcome to request if they are in any need of any religious articles.

4. Collecting Clothes and Utensils



We have collected a lot of good clothes and utensils for the mission areas. Many people have come out with plenty of good dresses and utensils. The first trip of clothes has been sent to Rampur in the first week of December and they have collected them. We will continue the Drive

throughout the year and will make sure that these clothes and utensils reach the proper areas and needy people.

5. Annual Gathering of Associate Missionaries & Santhome Fellowship

The Annual gathering of the Associate Missionaries and the Santhome Fellowship was conducted on 27 November 2022. The Major Archbishop Mar George Cardinal Alencherry was the chief guest



who celebrated the Holy Qurbana at 9.30 am which was followed by the meeting. This is for the first time that the Associate

Missionaries and the Santhome Fellowship members gather together. All the Associate Missionaries got ready their ID cards and Uniform. They all received a gift from the Major Archbishop for their great service!

6. Mission Visits



To increase the mission spirit and zeal among the members of the Santhome Fellowship, Mission Visits were conducted to

Orissa Mission and Mandya Mission. Three such visits are made to Orissa Mission and two to Mandya. Thanks to the fathers and the sisters who made the visits very memorable ones.

All those who visited our Missions were impressed by the Mission work of the MST Fathers and were convinced of the need for more support



to the mission and missionaries. They have decided to involve more actively in promoting our mission centres.



7. 'Preshitha Jwala'

The E-magazine, Preshitha Jwala, is coming out regularly on the first day of every month. All the Santhome Fellowship Units send their report of the monthly meeting and

photos. Thanks to the Secretaries of each Unit!

8. Annual Retreat for the Associate Missionaries

The annual retreat for the Associate Missionaries began on Friday,



9 December and got over on 11 December afternoon. Rev. Fr Binoy Purayidom MST was the preacher and all appreciated his talks. A big thanks to Fr Binoy

Purayidom for his selfless service!

9. Pilgrimage to Mylapore & St Devasahayam

Visits to Mylapore and St Devasahayam have been planned for the months of January and February 2023.

10. Hindi Qurbana Started at Erumapetty Parish

The Parish priest of the Sacred Heart Forane Church, Erumapetty in the Archeparchy of Trichur took great interest in starting Hindi Qurbana, provided one MST priest helps him in celebrating it. Hindi



Qurbana at Erumapetty parish was started on 23rd October at 3.00

pm, officially inaugurated by Mar Tony Neelankavil, Auxiliary Bishop of Trichur, for the faithful coming from other States to work in and around the region.

11. Sad Demise of Mr Joseph Poovathingal



An active Associate Missionary of the MST, Mr Joseph Thomas Poovathunkal (72), Kunnumbhagam, Kanjirapally, was called to eternal rest on 6 December 2022. His death was a great loss as he was very active and encouraging everyone to attend meeting and he himself was ready to any duty. He was the one who wished all our Fathers on their birthday on behalf of Santhome Fellowship. A requiem Holy Qurbana is arranged on Saturday 17 December. May his soul

rest in peace!

12. One-Day Retreat at Deepti Mount

The Associate Missionaries in their previous general meeting decided to start a One-Day Retreat at Deepti Bhavan from January 2023 onwards. It will be conducted on the third Saturday of the month from 09.30 am – 03.30 pm.

Conclusion

The Associate Missionaries and the Santhome Fellowship Members are moving in the right direction and growing very well. The prayer services and discussions in different units are growing every month and many new people join us. People are ready to gather under the banner of Santhome Fellowship after the faith tradition of St Thomas the Apostle. I request your continued prayer and support.

(Prepared by Fr Joseph Pulavelil, Director, Santhome Fellowship & Associate Missionaries)



C. SANTHOME – IMPACT, Kochi

1. News from IMPACT

Mission Animation: We rendered our pastoral assistance in different parishes like Thevackal, Ampunaad, Cardinal Nagar, Edappally, N. Kuthiathode, Cherukadapuram, Kaitharam in the Archdiocese of Ernakulam-Ankamaly. In all these parishes we had classes and homilies focused on the mission and missionary activities.

MST Mission Fest: Fr Lijesh Panackavayalil is earnestly working for the Mega Santhome Mission Quiztainment, travelling to different dioceses arranging parishes for the Quiz which will be telecast in Shalom TV. We all give him needed assistance. Already a book is prepared to help the preparation of the Quiz participants.

Felicitation: Rev. Fr Panjikanan participated in the felicitation ceremony of Archbishop Andrews Thazhath as he was elected CBCI President. It was an august audience comprising Bishops, Priests, Sisters and eminent lay persons from different walks of life. Casually in his speech our Major Archbishop his beatitude George Cardinal Alencherry mentioned MST and explained to all the specific nature of MST and the missionary activities.

Office Changes: On 11 November, Fr Toms Pathalil took charge as the Chief Editor and Circulation Manager of the **True Blaze** in addition to his duty as the Chief Editor and Circulation Manager of **Kadukumani**. Hence Fr Panjikanan was entrusted with the additional charge of the Procurator, hitherto handled by Fr Pathalil. Best wishes to Fr Toms in handling these heavy double duties.

Deacons' Visit: Some of the MST and other deacons of Ruhailaya visited Impact.

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

2. Santhome Media-IMPACT

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

a. The Apostle of India



This is an English Documentary of St Thomas the Apostle. Which is shown in Federation of Asian Bishops Conference (FABC), as recommended by the media commission of the Syro-Malabar Church

b. Sweekarikku Nadha



This is a Malayalam offertory song Which is uploaded in our YouTube Channel. Which is well appreciated in social media platform

c. Navadampathimare



This is a felicitation hymn for Christian marriage ceremony Which is uploaded in our YouTube Channel.

d. Rajadhi Raja Oshana



This is an Oshana hymn Which is uploaded in our YouTube Channel.

e. Manassin Madiyile



This is a Christmas hymn Which is uploaded in our YouTube Channel.

f. Bethlahem Puriyil



This is also a Christmas hymn Which is uploaded in our YouTube Channel.

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

h. Upcoming Initiatives of Santhome Media-IMPACT:

1. Santhome Mission Quiztainment
2. Capsule type Short Films
3. Motivational Classes
4. Cartoon Film for Kids

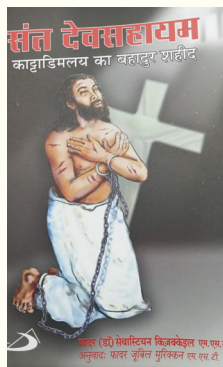
To watch all our programs please visit our website: www.santhomemedia.com, You Tube Channel and Facebook Page & Plz don't forget to subscribe and like our You Tube Channel and Facebook Page.

(Reported by Fr Lijesh Panackavayalil, Director, Santhome Media- IMPACT)

D. SANTHOME BIBLE CENTRE, PARIYARAM

1. New Books of Fr Kizhakkeyil

a. St Devasahayam (in Hindi): The long-awaited Hindi translation of St Devasahayam was brought out only now (in the beginning of December) by Atmonnati Publications of Allahabad, the Hindi section of St. Pauls, Mumbai. Its original English version was already published in April by ATC Bangalore, and the Malayalam version was brought out in May last by Jeevan Books, Bharananganam.



b. The Never Fading Star of Punjab:

It is a biography of late Bishop Symphorian Keperath OFM Cap, the Founder of M.J. Congregation. Although the book was ready for publication a few months ago, it has taken a lot of time to be brought out. It is written in an autobiographical style on the model of the earlier two books of Fr. Kizhakkeyil such as a) *An Autobiography of St. Paul*; b) *The Praying Priest* (Biography of late Msgr. C.J. Varkey, the Founder of the MSMI Congregation).

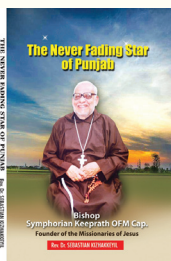


The Never Fading Star of Punjab
Bishop Symphorian Keperath OFM Cap.
Founder of the Missionaries of Jesus

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Bishop Dr. Symphorian Keperath OFM Cap. was born on 17th April 1924 in Kottayam, Kerala. He was the first of his family to be ordained a priest in 1950. He was appointed Bishop of the Diocese of Kottayam in 1981. He was the first Indian Bishop to be appointed to the office of Bishop of a diocese in India. He was also the first Indian Bishop to be appointed to the office of Bishop of a diocese in India. He was also the first Indian Bishop to be appointed to the office of Bishop of a diocese in India.



The Never Fading Star of Punjab
Bishop Symphorian Keperath OFM Cap.
Founder of the Missionaries of Jesus

2. Seed Fest organized by FTAK

Fair Trade Alliance Kerala (FTAK) is an NGO founded and run by Fr. Joy Kochuparackal. Its aim is to train farmers in organic farming and to procure for them the best price for their farm products in the international market. An annual *Seed Fest* is one of its programmes for the general public. The next Seed Fest is going to be organized at Cherupuzha from 19 to 23 January 2023.



3. Vocation Promotion by Fr Tony Ramachanatt

The new Vocation Promotion leaves no stones unturned in his efforts to promote priestly-missionary vocations for MST. He regularly visits schools all over Malabar and contacts prospective young men and their parents going to their houses.

4. Hospitalization of Fr Zacharias Thadathil

For the past two months Fr Zacharias Thadathil has been suffering from one ailment after another and hence he had to cancel some of his appointments for preaching retreats. Now (second week of December) after preaching a retreat at Kozhuvanal, Pala, he is hospitalized at SH Medical Centre, Kottayam, due to swelling in his both legs. He needs further medication and treatment.

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

E. THOMASINE RESEARCH CENTRE (TRC)

1. Ecumenical Seminar at Deepti Mount:

Marthoma Paramparya Sabhasamgamam (Gathering of the Churches of St Thomas Tradition)

As part of the celebration of the 1950th anniversary of the martyrdom of St Thomas the Apostle, TRC organized a gathering of the Churches of St Thomas tradition at Deepti Mount on 27 November 2022. It was named 'Marthoma paramparya sabhasamgamam.' The event was a fitting finale to various programmes organized by MST in this Year of St Thomas. It is really a sad reminder to all of us that





followers of original St Thomas Christians find themselves as members of several Churches of different liturgical traditions. The only element that can bring these Churches together is the St Thomas tradition that all of them share equally. Therefore, the purpose of this seminar was to know more about the St Thomas tradition that various Churches in Kerala share. The Orthodox, Jacobite, Marthoma, Syro-Malankara and Syro-Malabar Churches were represented in the Seminar.

His Eminence Cardinal George Alenchery, the Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church inaugurated the Seminar. His Excellency Geevargheese Mar Aprem, the auxiliary Bishop of Kottayam was the guest of honour. Rev. Dr Pius Malekandathil (Syro-Malabar Church), Rev. Dr Thomas Kuzhinapurath (Syro-Malankara Church), Rev. Dr Bijesh Philip (Orthodox Church), Rev. Dr Prince Paulose (Jacobite Church), Rev. Dr Joseph Daniel (Marthoma Church) and Rev. Dr Thomas Kuzhinapurath (Syro-Malankara Church) presented papers in the Seminar. The Major Archbishop congratulated MST for taking this initiative in the ecumenical field and expressed his desire that we continue this effort of bringing together members of all Churches of St Thomas tradition for fruitful dialogue.

TRC is very much grateful to Very Rev. Fr Antony Perumanoor, the Director General for his support and encouragement. We gratefully acknowledge the efforts made by Rev. Fr Francis Kureeckal, the Councillor-in-charge of TRC for efficiently organizing this seminar. We extend special thanks also to Fr Bijo Vadakethalackal, Fr Kisincher Aniyekatt, Fr Abin Vazhuthanappallil and the brothers of the Deeti College for their helping hands.

2. Santhome Mission Quiztainment

TRC is collaborating with Santhome Media in organizing the Santhome Mission Quiztainment. The program is still in the preparatory stage. It is a mission quiz program coupled with entertainment aimed at creating mission awareness among the faithful of the Syro-Malabar Church. It is organized in collaboration with

Shalom TV who will telecast it in various episodes. The plan is to go to four foranes of all Syro-Malabar dioceses and conduct quiz programs on mission themes. The shooting is scheduled to begin in the last week of January 2023.

TRC wishes you all Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

(Reported by Rev. Fr James Kurukilamkatt, Director, TRC)

F. AARAAM, DEEPTI MOUNT

1. Death of Fr Joseph Karikilamthadam

It was another hard hit on *Aaram* on 19 October 2022, the demise of Fr. Karkilanthadam almost unexpectedly, after a short fall in his



room. He fought well for his life in the intensive care and ventilator, at Medicity, Pala.

But unfortunately, after few days of intensive fight, doctors gave up the hope getting back to normal and of survival. During the early hours of Wednesday, 19

October 2022, he had surrendered himself to the will of God, quite peacefully from this life to next. His mortal remains were brought to *Aaraam*, and we the residents here offered him our special prayers and homage.

He was a man of silence, spoke very little, but full of wisdom and laughter. He was a person never complained against anyone or anything. A man of satisfaction; who moved with all young and old, laughed with all prayed with all, played with all. The gap he leaves behind here, will never be filled. Today, we are happy that he is in a better place probably enjoying, with his friends and families. We miss him at *Aaraam*! May he rest in Peace.

2. Death Anniversary of the Mother of Fr Thuruthel

The 50th death Anniversary of Rosa Devasia, mother of Fr Sebastian Thuruthel was commemorated on 8 October 2022. The day began with concelebrated Holy Mass with very Rev. Frs Antony Perumanoor, C.D Sebastian - as the main celebrant, Peter Vattapara, Francis Kureeckal and Joseph Karodan. In the homily Fr C.D Sebastian, mentioned that how great and devoted and loving mother she was, she took care of the family with tender loving care for all. After the Mass, a special breakfast together with neyappam was served.

3. Birthday of Fr Antony Kaithottumkal

The birthday celebration was on 17 October with a special high Mass by Fr. Antony. He thanked everyone including his parents, families and friends for their love and concern. Also, he expressed his gratitude to God for this wonderful life which he enjoys. In the evening there was a sponsored dinner, together with the D.G. and all Councillors. Thank you, Fr Antony, for the company and for the good time you gave us. May God bless you and your ministry!

(Reported by Fr Joseph Vadakechirayath, Director, Aaraam)

G. Paithalamala Ministries

1. Karunyashram – Naturopathic Treatment Centre

Karunyashram was blessed by the visit and presence of his Grace Mar Joseph Pamplany, the Metropolitan Archbishop of Thalassery



on 17 December 2022. On this auspicious day His Grace Mar Pamplany blessed the newly constructed Marian Grotto and the statue of St Michael. On this occasion, Rev. Fr Kuriakose Kunnel – the Treasurer General and Rev. Fr Thomas Karamel – Central Council



Member were present. From our neighbouring MST house- Rev. Fr Sebastian Kizhakkal and Rev. Fr Tony Ramachanatt were also blessed us with their valuable presence. Reverend

Fr Vicar of Pottanplavu, Mr Manuel Killichira, Rev. Sisters and many of our neighbours were also present during this function. Artist Johny and his co-workers were appreciated for their beautiful work of the grotto.

During his message the Archbishop appreciated the dedicated service of the MST and its mission works. His Grace praised the Director of Karunyashram – for his commitment and leadership in this health and healing ministry. The Archbishop also said that still is very minimum service that the MST is doing in this diocese. His Grace wanted the MST to take up more ministries proportionate to the vocations it promotes from this diocese.

2. Mar Walah Spirituality Centre

After the blessing ceremony in Karunyashram, Mar Joseph Pamplany made a short visit to Mar Walah. His Grace was taken up by the serene and



graceful atmosphere of Mar Walah. As he came to know that already some priests of the diocese and some other priests had been here for prayer and meditation, he said that he would encourage others too. His Grace also asked the Animator of Mar Walah to strengthen the Word Ministry and the inner healing retreats done here. His



Grace was very happy that MST is doing this important ministry in his diocese.

We thank his Grace Mar Joseph Pamplany for his love and concern for the ministries done in Paithalmala. From January 2023, we start regular inner healing retreat and other Word ministries.

Jesus our Lord was working hard always in the crowd. But he found time often for prayer in isolation, away from the crowds. Our Patron St Thomas liked the places like Malayattoor, Periyamala, etc. for prayer in isolation imitating his Master and the Lord. We welcome our priests here in Mar Walah for a few days of prayer experience. We welcome also sisters and lay people for such prayer experience.

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



VIII . Departed for Eternal Reward

A. Necrology: Family Members & Collaborators of the MSTs As informed by the members (15 October -19 December 2022)

Mr Joy Veranakunnel, Father of Veranakunnel

Mrs Aleyamma Nayathuparambil, Mother of Fr Nayathuparampil

Mr P. J. Joseph, Father of Very Rev. Fr Perumanoor

Mrs Annamma Paulose Mother of Mar Athikalam

Mrs Annamma Thomas, Mother of Rev. Fr Pamplani

Mrs Lissy Thomas, Mother of Bro. Siby Puthenpurackal

Mr Davis Neelankavil, Cousin of Rev. Fr Arangassery

Rev. Fr Tomy Thekkel, Nephew of Rev. Fr J. Thekkel

Rev. Sr Mariamma Antony FMM, Aunt of Rev. Frs J. Thekkel and
J. Kulathupurayidom

Jewel Shajan, Grandniece of Fr Arangassery

Mrs Mariakutty Kuriath, Aunt of Fr Kadalikkattilputhepura

Mr Rony Puthenpurackal, Cousin of Fr Alencherry

Sr Celine Maria FCC, Former Provincial of FCC, Jalandhar Province



TRIBUTE:

The Aura of Venerable Fr J. Karikilamthadam

By Rev. Fr Paul Mudathotty MST
Ruhalaya Major Seminary, Ujjain

Father Joseph was born on 1 March 1937 at Palakkattumala in the Eparchy of Pala. His parents Mr Chacko and Mrs Anna fondly

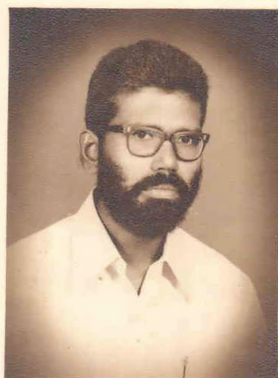


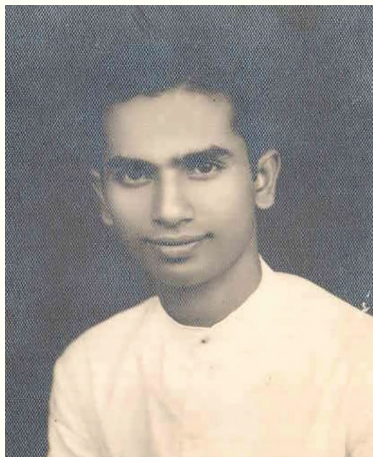
called him '*Kunjootty*'. His siblings were Varkey, Annakutty, Mariakutty and Pathrose. For his primary education he was sent to St Paul's Convent School Mutholapuram. In the native school he is registered as K.C. Joseph. He continued his upper primary studies in Holy Cross school Monippally from 1951. Joseph pursued his high school studies at St. Peter's High School Elanji, where

many of the MST priests studied. After SSLC Joseph joined St Thomas Higher Secondary School, Pala for the intermediate studies.

After Intermediate, young Joseph recognized the call of the Lord within him and joined Good Shepherd minor seminary, Pala in 1956 where he received preparatory formation to priesthood. For further

clerical studies Joseph was sent to St Joseph's Pontifical seminary, Aluva, where he finished his philosophy and theology. He was ordained a priest by Mar Sebastian Vayalil, the first Bishop of Pala, at the Eucharistic Congress in Bombay which was blessed with the auspicious presence of Pope Paul VI. Fr Joseph started his priestly ministry as assistant parish priest at St Francis Assisi Church, Marangattupally. His next





appointment, as assistant vicar, was at St Augustine's forane Church, Kadanad. The Lord of the harvest had greater plan for Father Joseph. To contain the numerous vocations to priesthood from the eparchy of Pala, Bishop Vayalil had given shape to the Missionary Society of St Thomas, the Apostle (MST) in which, along with some other zealous missionaries, Fr Joseph joined as a pioneer member

and took perpetual promise on 8 December 1970.

Rev. Fr Joseph was one of the pioneers who stepped into the Apostolic Exarchate of Ujjain, the new mission territory entrusted to the Missionary Society of St Thomas the Apostle as an extension of the Syro-Malabar Church in Madhya Pradesh. In 1970, Fr. Joseph took his Diploma in Sociology from the prestigious Indian Social Institute, Mumbai. In 1972, Fr Karikilamthadam was appointed as priest-in-charge at Chandessary farm which was newly purchased. It was to Piploda, the remote village mission station that he was





transferred in 1972. From there he was sent to Agricultural Institute of Allahabad for graduate studies in BSc agriculture. Since he was excellent in studies, Bishop Perumattam had considered to send him to St John's Medical College,

Bangalore for medical studies.

When he returned from agricultural studies Fr Joseph was appointed as priest in-charge of Bhajarangarh, a very remote village with no proper travel facilities. If Bishop John Perumattam was the Shepherd and Architect of the Eparchy of Ujjain, the pioneer missionaries of MST showed the mettle in planting and nurturing the mission shedding their sweat and toil. While staying there he contacted and familiarized with another village called Baskhedhi where he worked from 1982 to 1986 and again another long period from 1990 to 1999. When Bishop John introduced various humanitarian works to help the





downtrodden Fr Joseph extended his full support by making roads and digging wells to provide drinking water for the poor in the far-flung villages. He always enjoyed the company of seminarians and welcomed them for village exposure programme.

I have very fond memories of paying not so infrequent visits to Fr K.C. Joseph. He remained close to my heart as a memorable host and admired friend. Without any inhibition he used to share his mission experiences and entertain the guests with snacks and drinks. He left the trails of his works wherever he worked. He was simple in living



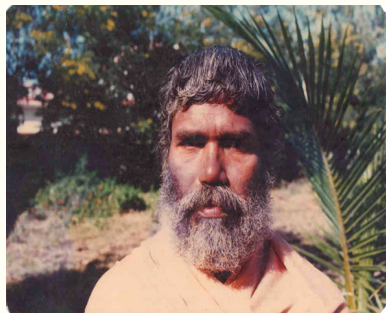


style, loving, joyful and social at heart. Once I went to visit Fr Joseph on an Easter eve. I stayed with him overnight and we have had our morning prayers and Holy Mass together in the tiny chapel and rushed to the kitchen with an empty stomach for the Easter breakfast which Fr Joseph had prepared before Mass and kept. To our mounting fury and surprise a famished canine had

consumed everything and left the casserole empty. It was not at all difficult for the dog to enter the kitchen of the dilapidated hut. Though this incident broke my heart, Fr Joseph took it amusing.



Through thick and thin he continued to live amidst the people in the remote villages. He drew inspiration from the word of God and his constant prayer in front of the Eucharistic Lord. When I visited him in the tiny village of Baskhedi, often he was immersed in Bible reading in front of the tabernacle in the clumsy chapel. He set up house in remote villages with no facilities for a decent life. Daily he made it a routine to visit the neighbours house to house.





Then for a short period (1986-1988) he was priest-in-charge at Mendya Regional house. It was at this time (1988-90) four zealous missionary collaborators made an experiment with ashram life at Bachukheda under the leadership of two-time Director General Rev. Dr Kurian Valiyamangalam. In this new venture Fr Francis Kandathil, Fr Augustine Puthenpura and Fr Joseph volunteered

to join. It did not last long.

Then for a short period (1999-2001) he served at prayer centre, Pachore. From 2003 to 2008 he lived as house-in-charge at Kripa Training centre, Chandessary and later from 2008 to 2011, till he parted with the mission lived at Santhome Regional house, Mendya. After retirement





when he was no more able to carry out the tasks of the missionary life he left for Kerala and took refuge in *Aaram* priest's house, Deepti mount.



In *Aaram* he lived a life of prayer and rest for about 10 years. In final years most of the time he spent on bed. Falling in the toilet room made his health all the more critical. He was taken to Medicity where it was diagnosed that he had developed cerebral stroke and hemorrhage. There he received the

sacrament of Anointing and was admitted to intensive care unit with ventilator support for three days. Then shifted to room on 15 October and given only oxygen supply. His nephew - sister's son, Mr Baby was at his bedside at the time of his heavenly journey. In the early hour of 15 October 2022 Fr Joseph was called for eternal reward. MST and the Eparchy will remember him as an enthusiastic and venturing missionary.



A million thanks to Rev. Fr Joseph Karikilamthadam for the inspiration of a missionary lifestyle and legacy. He leaves behind lessons for generations to follow. As he continues to live in eternity, I am sure that he would still live in the hearts and heads of many of us, including the poor and the unknown villagers in rural Madhya Pradesh.

May God bless him with etrnal reward!



Tribute: Memoirs on Mr Joseph Poovathunkal- An Associate Missionary of the MST

Rev. Fr Monse Karuvakunnel
Salesian Pontifical University, Rome
Former Director, Santhome Fellowship

“For this God is our God for ever and ever: He will be our guide even unto the death” (Pslam48:14). I



do remember a man who followed and had the guidance of the lord up the threshold of his death, that is Mr Joseph Thomas. Mr Joseph Thomas Poovathunkal (Joseph Chettan-72), one of the pioneer Associate Missionaries, was called to eternal bliss on 6 December. He had been a devoted member of Santhome Fellowship ever since 2011 and turn out to be our Missionary Associate of the

first batch through the promise of association made on 22 February 2019. He was very committed and dynamic as an associate missionary and has visited our missions.

He was a very close collaborator and well-wisher of the MST. He played a pivotal role in the formation and progress of the Santhome Fellowship group in Kanjirapally. He was indeed aware of his missionary call and so he was very earnest in promoting vocations to the MST. Here do I acknowledge two main peculiarities about him firstly his availability and readiness to help. Secondly, he was invariably present for all the meetings of Santhome Fellowship and Missionary Associates.

He got retired from Karela civil supplies corporation. Tresiamma – his life-partner is a pious house wife. They have two children Vins and Vincy and both are married and settled. Through Josephchettan, all of them knew about the MST and were very enthusiastic about

our missions. He had been very active in his parish in various leadership capacities too. For the last few years, he served as a president of Vincent de Paul. And he was the kaikaran (trustee) of the parish for several terms. His missionary enthusiasm was really an inspiration for many people in his parish and surrounding places.



His love for the MST priests and its missions was very unique. He held a fatherly/brotherly affection to the priests he knew in MST and was very curious to know about their missionary apostolates. After his visit to Mandya mission in 2019, he used to ask me about certain apostolic activities and the status of some mission centres that he had registered in his mind. He was very passionate about the new Christian communities being developed in our new missions. Although he was not able to travel much, he knew the places by name and used to tell me that the Lord will reward our hard work in the missions through the fruit of vibrant Christians in the future.

More than a missionary associate, he was very loving and caring to me and to my predecessor-directors of Santhome Fellowship. My association with him was only for four years, but that was very personal and cordial, and he considered me as one in his own family. When I left Deepti for Rome, he was very meticulous to confirm that he can continue contacting me. And he did that every now and then, and was very curious to know what I would be doing in the mission after my studies. He had called me a couple of days before



his death asking me to take good care of my health in the impending winter. He was a lover of mission and missionaries, and with his departure for heaven we miss another zealous associate missionary after Mr Baby Padalody (Baby-sir) who passed away in 2020. Often, I am humbled at their missionary spirit and commitment. I am sure that both Baby-sir and Joseph-chettan would continue their mission in heaven through their powerful intercession for the MST, its missions and the missionary associates.

Let us pray with 2 Thessalonians 3:16 “now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way.” Let us pray for the repose of his soul and shall keep his family in our prayers.





XI ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2023
Election of Delegates to the General Assembly

Your Excellencies and Reverend Fathers,

In accordance with the *Constitutions and Directives* of the MST (C & D 63) and with the Consent of the General Council, I do hereby appoint a committee consisting of **Reverend Father Joseph Muthuplakkal (Convener)**, Rev. Fr Joseph Mullappallil (Member) and Rev. Fr Sebastian Aniyekattu (Member) to conduct **the election of the Delegates to the XI Ordinary General Assembly 2023**. 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 01 February 2023.

Invoking God’s blessings,
Yours in Christ Jesus,

Sd/-
Fr Antony Perumanoor
Director General, MST

Sd/-
Fr Justin Vettukallel
Secretary General, MST



Circular No. X/34

4 November 2022

Subject: Mode of sending ballot papers to the members outside India

Your Excellencies and Reverend Fathers,

Prayerful greetings from Deepti Bhavan!

Since some of our members living outside India could not exercise their voting for the previously conducted election of the delegates to the Extraordinary General Assembly due to failure in the postal system, a resolution was unanimously passed in the VXXXV meeting of the General Council held on 3 November 2022 to authorize the election committee – to send the envelopes containing the ballots in bulk to the appointed coordinators in different countries (USA, Canada, Germany, Italy, Austria, United Kingdom, Tanzania and Australia) through the international courier service - DHL. Once the ballots are dispatched, the Convener of the Election Committee will inform the coordinators and will share the waybill for tracking the package. The coordinators shall distribute the envelopes to the addressees and at the receipt of the ballots, the coordinators and the addressees shall inform the Convener in writing (by email). The members can return their ballots to the Convener separately or in bulk by registered post/courier, or in person at their own choice, and can inform about it to the Convener of the Election Committee as necessary. In other countries where the members live in small groups or alone, they will be personally contacted by the Convener to decide on the mode of sending the ballots either by courier or by post. Kindly note the email and phone number of Rev. Fr Joseph Muthuplakkal for any communication in this regard (Email:



joosephmuthuplakkal@gmail.com; Phone/WhatsApp: +91 96504 82969). To all the members in India, the ballots will be sent individually by registered post as usual. In all cases, the ballots should be returned to the Convener of the Election Committee at Deepti Bhavan on or before the date specified in the letter sent along with the ballots.

May I remind you to strictly follow the norms in exercising your voting right. The voted ballot paper should be enclosed in a smaller envelope and pasted, with no names or indications on it (cf. D63). A vote is null unless it is free; therefore, a vote is invalid if an elector has been coerced directly or indirectly by grave fear or by fraud to vote for a certain person or many persons disjunctively (Cf. C70; CCEO 954).

May I request all of you to cooperate with the election process, and pray for the success of the upcoming XI Ordinary General Assembly 2023.

Invoking God's blessings,

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Sd/-
Fr Antony Perumanoor
Director General, MST

Sd/-
Fr Justin Vettukallel
Secretary General, MST

Silver Jubilarians 2022



God so loved the world that He gave His only Son. If we love the world the best we can give for it is the presence of His Son.



Nirmal Jyoti Special School, Mandsaur, M.P.

**MST Generalate, Deepti Mount, Melampara P. O. Bharananganam
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(For Private Circulation only)**