



MST World



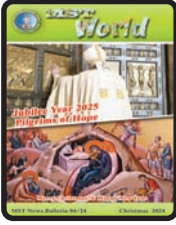
Jubilee Year 2025 Pilgrims of Hope



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Sacerdotal Golden & Silver Jubilarians





MST WORLD

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Christmas

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CHRISTMAS 2024

Prayerful wishes and Greetings of the Season



**Editorial Team
MST WORLD**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Message from the Director General | 04 |
| News from Vatican..... | 06 |
| Change of Address..... | 08 |
| News from the Generalate | 10 |
| News from the Missions | 20 |
| A. St Paul Region, Ujjain | 20 |
| B. St Thomas Region, Mandya | 21 |
| C. St Alphonsa Region, Sangli | 23 |
| D. MQM Region, New Delhi | 25 |
| E. St Joseph Mission, Odisha | 30 |
| Houses of Formation | 34 |
| A. Deepti Minor Seminary, Melampara | 34 |
| B. Jeevan Jyothi-MOC, Ganjam | 39 |
| C. Ruhalya Major Seminary, Ujjain | 40 |
| Overseas Ministries | 50 |
| Other Ministries | 55 |
| Necrology | 59 |
| Appendices | 60 |
| Circular..... | 60 |
| Decrees..... | 62 |



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL



Your Excellencies, Rev. Fathers and Brothers in Christ Jesus,

Holy Father Pope Francis will formally inaugurate the Holy Jubilee Year 2025 on the Eve of Christmas, December 24, 2024 by opening the Holy Door to St. Peter's Basilica. The Jubilee year was announced by Pope Francis in the papal bull entitled "Spes non confundit" (Hope does not disappoint, Rom 5:5). The theme for the year, "Pilgrims of Hope" is intended to promote peace building and outreach through prayer, pilgrimage, reconciliation and forgiveness. Holy or Jubilee years are occasions when Catholics make pilgrimages to designated churches and shrines, recite special prayers, go to confession and receive Holy Communion to receive a plenary indulgence, which is a remission of the temporal punishment due for one's sins.

While announcing the jubilee, Pope Francis wrote that the celebration of Holy or Jubilee Year every 25 years acknowledges that "the Christian life is a journey calling for moments of greater intensity to encourage and sustain hope as the constant companion that guides our steps toward the goal of our encounter with the Lord Jesus.

A Jubilee year is a special year of grace and celebration since biblical times. In the Old Testament, a Jubilee was celebrated every 50 years as a time when Hebrew slaves were set free, debts forgiven, and land returned to its original owners. The word "jubilee" comes from the Hebrew word "yobel," a ram's horn that was used to signal the start of the special year.

Holy Doors are ceremonial doors in major basilicas, such as

St. Peter's Basilica in Rome that symbolize the spiritual journey from sin to salvation, mercy and renewal. Most of the time these special doors remain sealed, opened by the pope only during jubilee years. A holy door is the most powerful sign of a jubilee year, since the ultimate goal of the pilgrim is to pass through it, and walking through a Holy Door during a jubilee year is one of the conditions for receiving a jubilee indulgence, which removes temporal punishment for sins.

As you are all aware, the Society is in the process of making serious efforts to renew our Society as a whole and every member in particular by fanning the flame of our missionary vocation and priestly enthusiasm. During this Jubilee year, let us intensify our efforts to renew ourselves as Pilgrims of Hope passing primarily through the Door of Renewal with hope and the joy resulting from it.

This year we are blessed with seven new priests who will be ordained priests after Christmas and in the first week of January 2025. Six seminarians from third year theology made the promise of perpetual incorporation and they were ordained deacons on 19th December, 2024. Your prayers are elicited. Ten seminarians from the second year theology were conferred the order of Heupadyaknusa and eight brothers were conferred the Order of Karoyusa on the same day by Bishop Vadakel at Ruhalaya.

I wish each and every one of you the blessings of the blessed Christmas and a Grace-filled Jubilee Year 2025.

Fr Vincent K. (Vinson Joseph)
December 24, 2024



NEWS FROM VATICAN

1. Elevation of George Jacob Koovakkad as Cardinal

CONGRATULATIONS AND PRAYERFUL WISHES TO HIS EMINENCE MAR GEORGE KOOVAKKAD



Archbishop George Jacob Koovakkad from Changanassery is elevated to the rank of Cardinal of the Catholic Church along with 20 others from across the world by Pope Francis on 8th December, 2024 Saturday night (Indian time) around 8.30 p.m. Cardinal Koovakkad is the first in Indian to be raised as a Cardinal from among priests. Cardinal Koovakkad's appointment brings the total number of Indian cardinals to six. "It is a matter of immense pride for India that Archbishop George Koovakkad will be created



as a cardinal by His Holiness Pope Francis," Prime Minister Narendra Modi posted on 'X' on Saturday.

2. Papal Exhortations



World must heed cries of migrants dying in deserts and seas. (28/08/2024)

Pope Francis decries indifference in the face of migrants who die crossing deserts and seas in search of a better life, and calls for global system of governance based on justice and solidarity.

Witness to "joy of the Gospel" bring peace and hope! (27/11/2024)

In his continuing catechesis at the weekly General Audience on the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church, Pope Francis reflects on the gift of spiritual joy, one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit.

Priestly formation is a pilgrimage toward Christ. (12/12/2024)

Pope Francis invites seminarians to approach their journey toward the priesthood as a pilgrimage to become more conformed to the Heart of Christ.

Faith is not the opium of the people, but encounter and service. (17/12/2024)

To mark his 88th birthday, Pope Francis has released several excerpts from his autobiography "Hope," which will hit bookshelves in January, recounting his childhood in Buenos Aires and the logistical difficulties of his 2021 visit to Iraq.

Pope Francis begins catechesis tied to Jubilee: "Jesus Christ, our hope"

With the opening of the Holy Door in a few days away, Pope Francis holds his weekly General Audience and begins the cycle of catechesis that will mark the entire Jubilee Year, focusing on "Jesus Christ, our hope."

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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22. Fr Punnakuzhy Pradeepan, Santhome Public School, Kyathumgere, Mandya, Karnataka. 571401
23. Fr Vandannoor Joseph, St Mary's Church, Panamplavu - 673639, Thottumukkam, Malappuram Dt
24. Fr Vadakkemuriyil Neyyoor Lijo Jose, Mary Matha School, MIDC Kherdi, Chiplun 415604



1. NEWS FROM THE GENERALATE

1. Erection of St Joseph Coordination, Odisha

Fr Vinson Joseph the DG and Fr Ayyankanal left for Odisha on 22nd morning in view of erecting St Joseph Coordination Odisha. St Joseph Coordination Odisha was formally erected as per the *Constitutions and Directives*, on the 24th of October, 2024 by the Director General. Rev.Fr Joseph Venattumattam took charge as the Coordinator of St Joseph Coordination, Odisha.

2. On-going Formation

The ongoing formation programme for the ordination batches of 2009 to 2019 was held from October 29 to November 1 at the Generalate. Around 40 fathers were present for the programme. The inaugural session was held on 29th at 6.15 pm. The Director General Fr Vinson Joseph Kadalikattilputhenpura gave the inaugural address and the General Councillors spoke for 5 minutes each on various topics.

3. Commemoration of the Deceased Priests

Prayers were offered for the deceased members of the Society on November 2, 2024 by the Generalate community. The relatives of the deceased MST fathers were invited for the memorial Qurbana presided over by the Director General and other MST fathers on Deepti Mount. Around 75 people were present for the Qurbana and the office for the dead in the cemetery.

4. Visit of Cardinal George Alencherry

Cardinal George Alencherry made a casual visit to Deepti Generalate on Nov. 4, 2024 to pray at the tomb of Fr Peter Kavumpuram. He arrived at the Generalate at 5.00 p. m and was accorded a warm welcome by the Director General, the Councillors and other priests of the Generalate and the Seminary. He also visited the sick priests at Aaraam. He spent around two hours at Deepti Mount.

5. Memorial Qurbana for Fr Peter Kavumpurath

Fr Lonappan Arangassery and Fr Joseph Kannathukuzhy joined the 41st memorial day of Fr Peter Kavumpuram on Nov. 6 in his home parish Karakunnam. Fr Lonappan Arangassery presided over the memorial Eucharistic liturgy and delivered the homily.

The classmates of Fr Peter Kavumpuram, bishops Mar Jose Porunnedom, Rt Rev. Ponnumuthan and twenty-two Priests celebrated Holy Qurbana in Deepti public chapel at 7.30 am on November 7, 2024 for the repose of Fr Peter Kavumpuram followed by office for the dead at his tomb.

6. Send off to Regent Bro. Adarsh

Bro Adarsh, the outgoing Regent was given a cordial send off and Bro Jison the new Regent was given a warm welcome during the supper on 9th October, 2024

7. Installation of Archbishop Tharayil and Mar Prince

The DG Fr Vinson Joseph and Fr Lonappan participated at the installation of Mar Thomas Tharayil as the Archbishop of Changanachery on **October 31, 2024** and Fr Vinson Joseph and Fr Jomon participated at the Installation of Mar Prince Panengadan as the bishop of Shamshabad on Nov. 10, 2024.

8. Visit to Boath

The DG visited the Boath station in Adilabad on Nov.12 and visited Fr Deepak and Rev. Sisters Smitha, Sophy, and Siji who were hospitalised in Adilabad due to food poisoning from a hotel. Sadly the kitchen girl succumbed to food poisoning.

9. Sacerdotal Jubilee Celebrations



The Golden and silver jubilee of the sacerdotal ordination of the following Rev. Fathers was celebrated at the Generalate from 12 to 14th November, 2024. The Golden Jubilarians: Fr Vadakkechirayath Joseph, Fr Sebastian Varicatt, and Fr Kurian Ammanathukunnel



and the Silver Jubilarians Rev. Fathers Maprakavil Mathew, Ettaniyil Joseph, Parayankuzhiyil Thomas, Plappillil Thomas, Purayidom Jacob, Vettukallel George, Panthilapadan John, Njarockal Jacob, Poovathinkal Paul and Kochuparambil Johny were invited to the Generalate for the Jubilee celebrations and felicitations.

On the first day of Celebration (Nov.12) all the silver jubilarians offered holy Qurbana at St Alphonsa Shrine, Bharananganam and then they proceeded to Kripa Sadan, Kuttikkanam for the one-day retreat. The golden Jubilarians spent two days in prayer at Kurisumala Ashram, Vagamon. The public function to felicitate the jubilarians started in the Generalate Auditorium on 13 November at 5 p.m. The Jubilarians were greeted by Fr Joseph Thekkekarott and he adorned the jubilarians with caps and mufflers of Himachal Pradesh, fondly remembering late Fr Siby Nelloor. Fr Ivan Muthanatt in his welcome speech said that jubilee year is an year of grace, forgiveness and renewal, offering everyone a chance to restore their relationship with God, with others and with creation. Citing from *Spes non Confundit*, he said that jubilee year is an opportune time to be renewed in hope.

Very Rev. Fr Director General highlighted the qualities and contributions of each of the Jubilarians in his inaugural address. He presented a shawl each to the Jubilarians. Fr Lonappan Arangassery and Fr Jomon Ayyankanal presented them mementos and gifts respectively. All the

Jubilarians shared their experiences of 50 golden years and 25 silver years and expressed their love for the MST. There were some cultural programmes by Deepti minor Seminarians. The felicitation programme concluded with a thanks giving song at 8.45 p.m.

10. Visitors to the Generalate

The re-elected Provincial Superior Rev. Sr Jessy Maria FCC and her team visited the Generalate on November 17, 2024. The DG and other councillors felicitated them.

On November 25, 2024 Bishop Sebastian Pozhaliparampil made a casual visit to Deepti Generalate.

11. Visitations

Fr Ivan, the Councillor, visited a few schools in Delhi, Mandya and Sangli Regions in the months of November and December and addressed the staff and students and framed few programmes to bring excellence cum impact on students through education.

Director General Fr Vinson Joseph and Fr Thekkekarott visited the priests in Trivandrum and in the diocese of Thucklay on 18th and 19th of November, 2024.

Director General Fr Vinson Joseph visited Ruhalya to receive the promise of perpetual incorporation from six newly ordained deacons and to participate in the ceremony of conferring of the orders of Msamsanusa, Heupadyaknusa, and Karoyusa on 19th December.

12. MISAL Meeting in Goa

The Director General and the Vice Director General participated in the international meeting of the MISAL (Missionary Societies of Apostolic Life) in Goa from 1 to 8, December, 2024.

13. Gathering of Deacons and Parents

The gathering of the deacons and their parents was held at the Generalate on the 10th of December, 2024. The talk by Fr Njarolickal was followed by Holy Qurbana and meeting with the members of the General Council. In the afternoon there was a common meeting of the General administration with all the parents and deacons in the auditorium

14. Anniversary Celebrations

The Santhome Fellowship and the Associate Missionaries celebrated the Annual Day on the 14th of December, 2024 with various cultural programmes such as dances, Margamkali, Carol singing, group songs and drama “Snehamazha”. The Curia Bishop Mar Sebastian Vaniapurackal gave the inaugural speech, the Director General, Fr Vinson Joseph delivered the presidential address and Fr Joseph Thekkekarott and Fr Joy Panjikaran felicitated the gathering. Brother Sebastian Kuzhipallil shared his mission experiences.

15. Conferring of Sacred Orders

The following brothers as per the list given below were promoted to sacred orders on 19 December 2024 at Ruhahaya Major Seminary, Ujjain.

A. The Sacred Order of *M'samsanusa*

1. Kavunnukattil Joseph, Areekamala/Thalassery
2. Kottavila Blessun Francis, Chiplun/Kalyan
3. Mannarath Sebastian (Akhil Jose) Kottody, Tellichery
4. Pengattu George (Amal Chacko) Chavaragiri, Tellichery
5. Pullolil Joseph (Tom Dominic) Kalathukadavu, Pala
6. Puthenpurackal Thomas (Siby) Seethathodu, Kanjirappally



B. The Sacred Order of *Heupadyaknusa*

1. Ambattu Sebastian (Justin Jose) Teekoy, Pala
2. Kaithickathadathil Sebastian (Jobit) Vimalagiri, Idukki
3. Kalathil Sebastian (Denny) Maniamkunnu, Pala
4. Kochumannoor Jestin James Valiathovala, Kanjirappally
5. Mandapathikunnel Francis (Abin Benny) Yendayar, Pala
6. Nelluvelil Xavier (Georgekutty) Plassanal, Pala
7. Parachalil Thomas (Shinto) Punnakunnu, Tellichery
8. Thannickal Jerin Mathew Melukavumattam, Pala
9. Uruppankattil Philip (Philip George) Perumpadave, Tellichery
10. Valliparambil Joseph (Jomin) Peravor, Tellichery



C. The Sacred Order of *Karoyusa*

1. Alackal Mathai (Nirmal), Beemanady, Thalassery
2. Choorapuzhayil Scaria (Savio), Punnathura, Changanachery
3. Kaithakulathuputhenpurayil Sebastian (Manu), Udayagiri, Palai
4. Mankuzha Paulose (Alan) Rajamudi, Thalassery
5. Mannoor Thomas (Sajith) Michaelgiri, Kottayam
6. Orapuzhickal Chandy (Jeswin) Malom, Thalassery
7. Puthenkalam Geervarghese (Bonny) Kumarankary, Chy
8. Thuruthel Mathew (Sobin) Thiroor, Thrissur

The above listed brothers were conferred the respective Sacred Orders on the 19th of December 2024 at Ruhalya Seminary.

16. Promise of Incorporation

Prior to the conferring of the order of Msamsanusa, six brothers



made their promise perpetual incorporation into the Society in front of the Director General.

17. On-going Formation

Ongoing Formation for Priests (Ordination Batches: 2009-10 to 2018-19) was held from 29 October to 1 November 2024 at Deepti Bhavan. A total of 48 priests participated in the 4-day programme. Very Rev. Fr Vinson Joseph Kadalikkattilputhenpura, the Director General, inaugurated the gathering at 6.15 p.m. on 29 October. In his inaugural address, the Director General reminded the gathering that priests belong to this section are the cream of the society and the MST's future will be known through the innovative and spirit filled works of this group of priests. He exhorted them that as they



are actively involved in different apostolates there is a possibility that they are bewildered by the attractions of this world. Therefore, every member of the society has to guard against anything which is not suitable for a missionary priest. He emphasized that, as time passes, an apostle of Christ may face confusion in his identity and faith, and the way to avoid such dangers is to safeguard priestly life through the Word of God and a deeper faith aligned with an unwavering commitment to their apostolates. Fr Ivan Muthanatt started his welcome speech quoting from the recent encyclical of Pope Francis, *Dilexit Nos—On the Human and Divine Love of the Heart of Jesus Christ—* “There can be no doubt that pastoral commitment and missionary zeal will fan into flame, if priests and laity alike, in their desire to spread the glory of God, contemplate the example of eternal love that Christ has shown us, and direct



their efforts to make all men and women sharers in the unfathomable riches of Christ. As we contemplate the Sacred Heart, mission becomes a matter of love”(para 208). Taking inspiration from this we MSTs to be shares of the same heart of Jesus to the humanity through *kerygma* and *diakonia*.

Rev. Fr Joseph Thekkekarott exhorted the priests to have the strong weapon of prayer to be a spirit-filled missionary priest. Rev. Fr Jomon Ayyankanal emphasised an urgent need among the priests for a lifestyle which will be reflecting the gospel values and MST’s mandate. Rev. Fr Lonappan Arangassery emphasised that priests being servants of Christ and stewards should be accountable to

God and the people. Accountability and fidelity in spiritual and worldly matters should become the hallmark of all missionary priests. On the second day, Rev. Dr Jose Mariadas OIC, led the session titled “the Asset of Priesthood and its Challenges.” He repeatedly emphasized that God is the real asset of priests however they are desiring for both worldly and pseudo assets, as some of the Old Testament leaders did. Every priest has to witness holiness of God. If a priest is not witnessing God’s holiness he becomes a liability for God, the church and the people.

On the third day, Mr Siju Thomas Alenchery facilitated the morning session on “Catholic Leadership Skills.” He emphasized the need of Sophia leadership which is guided by the Word of God. He emphasised on a social skill which is named as *GUEST*— Greet people in God’s name and use their names to develop an intimate relationship, together with an eye contact, a smile and a divine touch to become great apostles of the time. Dr Susan George, Principal and National Trainer of JCI, animated the afternoon session on Cyber Security and Cybercrimes. She reminded the priests that any digital activity in the cyber world has a permanent footprint and therefore apostles of Christ must exercise caution in their digital behaviour. There were sharing sessions by the priests on the second and third days of the programme wherein they expressed their aspirations and appraisals. Batch-wise On-going Formation for the priests who were ordained between 2009-10—2018-19 was officially concluded on 31 October at 5 p.m. however, all the ten batches had their batch gathering on the fourth day in and off campus of Deepti Mount to enhance their unity, motivation and commitment to priestly ministry. The ongoing formation programme for priests was organized with the able assistance of the expert team constituted for the same under the leadership of Rev. Fr Roby Adapoor.

18. CBCI National Consultation on Education

Fr Ivan Muthanatt participated in a three-day national consultation on education with leading catholic educationalists from 1-3 November 2024 at Don Bosco, Delhi. There were 125 participants

from all over India. Building a culture of excellence in catholic educational institutions, empowering India with new education initiatives, need to support children's emotional and mental health, future-ready: redefining education for the digital generation and building capacities and transforming teachers were the some of the topics discussed in this consultation forum. There is a big gap between digital migrant teachers and digital native students. Therefore, catholic schools need evolving educators and for this the school administrators



have to empower the teachers with regular training programmes. Catholic education system has to take a step further from excellence in education to Impact oriented

teaching. All the catholic schools have to build up a network so that they can continue as future-ready institutions in this time of artificial intelligence.

19. Erection of St Thomas Coordination, USA

The Mission in the USA was formally raised to the status of a Coordination and it was erected by the Director General Rev. Fr Vinson Joseph Kadalikattilputhenpura on 24th of November, 2024, according to the Constitutions and Directives C77,1-2. Rev. Fr Antony Thundathil is appointed the Coordinator. The erection of the Coordination was done online since the Director General was unable to get VISA to travel to the USA.

2. NEWS FROM MISSIONS

A. St Paul Region, Ujjain

1. Christmas and Jubilee celebration

The Christmas gathering of all MST priests serving in the Region was held on 17th



December. Rev Fr John Kudiyiruppil enlightened the gathering by presenting the theme of the Holy Jubilee Year 2025: Pilgrims of Hope.

2. Jubilee celebration

Sacerdotal Golden Jubilee of Rev Fathers Kurian Ammanathukunnel, Joseph Vadakechirayath and Sebastian Varikatt and Silver Jubilee



of Fr Binoy Purayidom was celebrated at the Regional House Ujjain with Jubilee Qurbana, Felicitations and Dinner on 17th December.

Jubilee celebration at St Mary's Cathedral Ujjain was held on 18th December where all our Jubilarians concelebrated with Bishop Sebastian Vadakel and with all missionaries of Ujjain Mission. They were felicitated during Agape



New Land in Bhopal

St Paul Region Ujjain is glad to inform that on 23rd December 2024, the Region purchased a plot of land admeasuring 2.60 acres in Kolar, Bhopal. Thanks for your prayers and support.



B. St Thomas Region, Mandya

1. Kannada Course

Kannada language Course was conducted again after a long time, for the missionaries working in the Region. Twenty missionaries participated in the course. Rev. Fr Sojan Aikkarakunnel inaugurated



the course on 11th of October 2024. The language course was led by Rev. Frs. J a y a p r a s a d Kallapuraparampil and Sebastian Kootumkal. The course was conducted at Deepti Nivas

Kalenahalli. It was well appreciated.

2. New Block of Santhome School Ichoda, Adilabad



The newly constructed block of Santhome School, Icoda, Adlilabad was Blessed on 8th November 2024 by Rev. Fr Sojan

Aikkarakunnel, the Regional Director in the presence of Fr Jiby Thekkemury, Fr Shijo Thettalickal, Fr Sherit Kappiyarumalayil, Fr Sunny Tharapputhottiyil, Fr Jithin Pthussery puthenpura and Fr Alex Elamthuruthiyil and SABS sisters.



3. Visit of Santhome Fellowship Members

Santhome fellowship members from Peramangalam Parish of Thrissur Archdiocese visited Mandya mission on 12th November



2024. Fr Joseph Pulavalil and the parish priest of Peramangalam and catechism teachers went around our Mandya mission and encouraged our missionaries and appreciated the work.

4. Silver Jubilee Celebration

Sacerdotal Silver Jubilee of Rev. Fathers Saji Plappillil, Binoy



Purayidom, Siby Poovathinkal, Jiji Ettany and Sabu Njarolickal was celebrated on 17th November 2024 at Santhome Regional house, Mandya. Rev. Fr Saji Plappillil was the main celebrant at the Holy Qurbana and Rev. Fr.

Siby Poovathinkal gave the message. Missionaries in and around



Mandya were present for the celebration.

5. New Constructions

The construction of the third floor of Santhome Public School building at Bannur started for class rooms and three labs.

We were able to start the construction of the building in the plot

near Asha Sadan, of which the foundation stone was laid by Fr Sebastian Thuruthel in 2016, with financial support received from France through the mediation of Rev.



Fathers Justine Kaithottumkal and Sijo Mookkanthottam. We have started the construction on 13th of

December 2024.

6. Retreat for school Teachers of the Region



A one-day retreat was conducted for the teachers working in our schools. It was conducted on 8th December 2024 at Jeevan

Jyoti. The retreat was preached by Rev. Fr. Zacharias Thadathil MST and it was attended by 80 participants including sisters and fathers.

C. St Alphonsa Region, Sangli

1. The 31st Day Commemoration of Fr. Peter Kavumpuram



The 31st day of Rev. Fr. Peter Kavumpuram was commemorated at Dilasa Bhavan, Miraj. The ceremony was attended by priests, sisters, and the faithful from the parish community. The Holy Qurbana was followed by a short meeting to share the memories of Fr. Peter: his unwavering faith and his selfless love towards the people whom he served. Fr. Peter Kavumpuram is respected and loved

for his compassion, kindness, and dedication to his ministry. His demise has created a void in the lives of those who knew him, but his legacy of love, service, and devotion continues to inspire and guide the community. May Fr. Peter Kavumpuram rest in the Lord and may his legacy continue to inspire and guide the community for generations to come.

2. Annual Retreat in Alphonsa Region

The Alphonsa Region, Sangli conducted its annual retreat for sisters from October 29 to November 2, and for priests from November 3 to 7. The retreat was attended by sisters and priests working in the



Region. The retreat was preached by Fr. Suresh OFM, who guided the participants through reflections, prayers, and discussions. The retreat focused on

themes relevant to the spiritual growth and ministry of the sisters and priests. The annual retreat provided a valuable opportunity for the sisters and priests to reflect on their spiritual journeys and ministries, deepen their understanding of faith and vocation, foster a sense of community and solidarity with fellow religious, recharge and rejuvenate their spirits for continued service.

3. Monthly Recollection

The St. Alphonsa Region, Sangli, held its monthly recollection on December 12 at Vishwadeepthi, Kolhapur. Fr. Vipin Vanmeli led the spiritual event, guiding participants through a day of reflection and prayer. Fr. Vipin shared inspiring insights and reflections on “the revelation of God’s presence through human encounters and interactions (Lk 1: 39-44).” The event provided a sacred space for spiritual rejuvenation and community



building. The monthly recollection is an integral part of the St. Alphonsa Region's spiritual calendar. The event concluded with a sense of renewed commitment to their faith and ministry. The participants returned to their respective apostolates, inspired and rejuvenated.

D. MQM Region, Delhi

1. Silver Jubilee celebration of the priesthood

The Sacerdotal silver jubilee of the MST fathers was celebrated solemnly by St Mary Queen of Mission Region on 23 November 2024. The Jubilarians, Rev. Fr Binoy Purayidom, Fr Siby Poovathumkal and Fr Daison Vettukallel were present for the celebration held in Deepti Ashram. They celebrated Holy Qurbana with the Fathers of the Region. The children in Deepti Ashram performed various programs and congratulated the Jubilarians. Rev. Fr Joseph Karodan honoured the Jubilarians who shared their experiences.

2. Christmas celebration and monthly Recollection

The Christmas was celebrated in anticipation on 12 December. All the fathers of the Region were present on the occasion. Rev Fr Dennis led the monthly recollection. All the Fathers prepared themselves for the great feast of Christmas. Rev Joseph Karodan wished everyone Merry Christmas greetings and gifts.

3. St Thomas Convent School, Rurka, Dehlon

i) Completion of Second Phase of Concrete Work



On November 26th, St. Thomas Convent School, Rurka, marked a significant milestone with the completion of the second phase of concrete work for the school building.

The day began with a prayer service, led by Principal Rev. Fr. Sogin, accompanied by other fathers and sisters. The heartfelt prayers and blessings set the tone for the important work ahead, seeking divine guidance and protection for the ongoing construction.

ii) Annual Day of St. Thomas Convent School, Rurka

On November 28th, 2024, St. Thomas Convent School, Rurka, celebrated its 1st Annual Day: “La Fiesta 2024”. This event marked a significant milestone in the annals of the school and showcased the



vibrant spirit and achievements of its students. The celebrations commenced at 4:30 p.m. in the gracious presence of His Excellency Mar Jose Puthenveetil, the

Auxiliary Bishop of Faridabad as Chief Guest, and Rev. Fr. Joseph Karodan MST, Regional Director as the Guest of Honour. Rev. Fr. Sogin Chirayil, the Principal, along with other dignitaries, Fathers, and Sisters blessed the occasion with their presence. Students from



all age groups displayed captivating performances in dance, music, and drama, exhibiting their creativity and dedication. The Chief Guest commended the students and staff for their efforts and achievements. The event was concluded making “La Fiesta 2024” a memorable

celebration to be cherished and adding a new chapter of excellence to the school.

Reported by Fr Sogin J Chirayil

4. Institute of Harmony and Peace Studies

IHPS organised a Round Table Conference on ‘Golden Rule’ in Different Religious Scriptures’ on 27 October 2024. IHPS organised a Round Table Conference on ‘Middle Path’ on 23 November 2024.



Fr Dr M. D. Thomas delivered five lectures on various topics to various groups and delivered nine video messages on various topics on Social Media. Fr

Dr M. D. Thomas delivered views at Diverse Platforms on various topics on various platforms and during various interactions. He also contributed articles to Journals, books and Websites. Fr Dr



M. D. Thomas received ‘Dr A. P. J. Abdul Kalam Award 2024, on 14 October 2024. For details visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/@mdthomas53>; <https://www.facebook.com/mdthomas53> <https://twitter.com/mdthomas53>

Fr Dr M. D. Thomas

5. St Thomas Convent School, Bathinda

i. Annual day celebration

A spectacular Annual Day was celebrated on 29.11.2024 witnessed by a very big crowd who filled the venue half an hour before the arrival of the chief guest. The theme of the program was titled: 'The Miracle'. Rev. Fr Joseph Karodan, the Regional Director was the president of the Function. The District Education Officer Mr Shiv Pal Goyal was the Chief Guest and Rev. Fr Ivo Dias, the former Principal of St Xavier's School and the present Parish priest of the Holy Rosary Catholic Church was the Guest of Honour.

The Chief Guest encouraging the students insisted on the importance of sincerity, honesty and Hard work in every sphere of life. The Guest of Honour spoke on the importance of team work and hard work. In his message the President remembered the providence of God in the growth of the School highlighting the theme of the day: MIRACLE..

6. Kristjyoti Catholic Mission Church, Rohru

i) Mission Sunday Celebration

Kristjyoti Catholic Mission Church celebrated Mission Sunday with great fervour and devotion. The event, held on October 20,



emphasized the Church's commitment to the spreading of the Gospel of love, faith, and service to humanity. The celebration began with a special Holy

Mass presided over by the parish priest, Fr Shinto Vettikuzhichalil MST, who highlighted in his sermon the importance of living a life of faith through action, compassion, and outreach to the marginalized.

After the Holy Qurbana, the Youth of the parish organized a Mission Mela- a charity drive for parishioners in view of supporting the students and inmates of Deepti Ashram, Najafgarh in Delhi. The

celebration concluded with the distribution of the prizes. The day was a testament to the vibrant faith and dedication of the community in Rohru, inspiring all to continue the mission of Christ in their daily lives. Every year Mission Sunday is observed at Kristjyoti Catholic Church to promote missionary awareness and to encourage the faithful to participate in the Church's mission.

ii) Three days Retreat by Fr. Thomas Menapatu Ofm

A Three days retreat was organized from November 13 to 15 by Kristjyoti Catholic Mission Church which was preached by Fr. Thomas Menapatu, Capuchin and his team, as part of the community's preparation for Christmas. The days of retreat were



time of grace, reflection, and renewal and it helped the faithful to be spiritually ready to celebrate the birth of Christ. Fr Thomas guided the congregation through inspiring sessions focusing on repentance, forgiveness, and helping them to deepen their faith during the Advent season through homilies, personal reflection, adoration, and confession.

Fr Shinto Vettikuzhichalil



E. St Joseph Coordination, Odisha

1. Visit of Mar Prince Panengadan

On December 3rd, Bishop Prince Antony Panengadan visited St. Joseph coordination in Odisha. During the visit, the bishop engaged



with the local community, offering spiritual guidance and support. His presence reinforced the

strong connection between the diocese and the mission, highlighting the continued efforts to foster the well-being and development of various programs at St. Joseph Mission.

2. Visit of the MST Renewal Team

The Renewal Team recently visited St. Joseph coordination, Odisha and conducted the meeting in two phases under the guidance of Fr. James, Fr. Saju, and Fr. Zackarias. The sessions included meaningful



discussions, reflections, and sharing of ideas about *MST ad gentes*. The visit was an

inspiring experience for everyone involved, encouraging them to continue their work with greater enthusiasm and commitment. It also provided a valuable opportunity for spiritual renewal and collaboration.

3. Visit of Brothers from Thrissur

The seminarians from Thrissur visited St. Joseph Odisha Mission and spent one month with us. During their stay, they were actively involved in various village initiatives, including education programs, community development, and pastoral care. They gained valuable experience

and immersed themselves deeply in the mission activities, contributing significantly to the mission's efforts to serve the local community.

4. Namasate Maria Centre, Podagad

i. Training Programme for Catechists

On November 7, 2024, a training programme for catechists of the Odisha mission was conducted at Namaste Maria Centre. Sr. Ritty FCC served as the resource person, guiding around 15 catechists from Kundra, Podagada, Laxmipur, and J.K. Pur. The programme aimed to equip the catechists with the skills and knowledge needed to effectively serve their communities.

ii. Retreat and Spiritual Enrichment

A retreat for the faithful from Gunpur, Gudari, Kalimela, and Balimela was held on December 3, 2024, at Namaste Maria Prayer Centre. The retreat focused on Advent preparation and spiritual renewal. On the second day, Bishop Prince Antony Panengadan celebrated the Holy Qurbana and led an inspiring session for the attendees,



encouraging them to deepen their faith. Following the retreat, an orientation course for the women's group from Gunpur and Gudari was conducted. Fr. Joy served as the

resource person, leading the session attended by 8 women, focusing on empowerment and skill development.

iii. Medical Camp in Baglandi

On December 7, 2024, a medical camp was conducted under the Nava Jyoti Trust, in collaboration with the support of SH Social Welfare Centre, Laxmipur. The camp was held in Baglandi, a remote village 40 km from the main road.



Villagers were provided with vital sign checkups, free medicines, and awareness sessions. Additionally, blankets and warm clothes were distributed to help the underprivileged during the harsh winter months.

iv. Training for Tuition Teachers

On December 12, 2024, a training programme for the tuition teachers of the Disha Tuition Programme was held at Namaste Maria Centre. The session, attended by 6 to 8 teachers, focused on enhancing teaching strategies and their role in shaping the next generation. Sr. Ritty FCC led the training with practical insights and motivational discussions.

5. Little Flower Mission Centre, Pakhanaguda (Kundra)

Successful Completion of Tailoring Training Program

The Jyothymarg Educational and Charitable Trust, in collaboration with LF Social Action Center, successfully completed a four-month tailoring training program from which 18 benefited. This initiative



reflects the trust's commitment to empowering individuals through education and skill development,

fostering self-reliance and providing opportunities for a better future.

6. Sanjo Ashram, Bissamcuttack

i. Inauguration of FCC Convent – Maria Sadan

On October 15, 2024, the FCC Sisters of the Tellicherry Province, under Clare Jyoti Region in Odisha, inaugurated their new convent, Maria Sadan, in Bissamcuttack. The Convent was house at 10:45 a.m., followed by Holy Qurbana. The Eucharistic celebration was presided over by Rev. Fr. Jose Cherimapanatt, Syncellus with Rev. Fr. Joseph Venattumattam, the Coordinator and Rev. Fr. Deleep Nalannadiyil as concelebrants, making the occasion deeply spiritual and meaningful.

After the Holy Qurbana Rev. Fr. Joseph Venattumattam was honoured and felicitated on his appointment as the Coordinator of



St Joseph Coordination, Odisha. Rev. Sr. Linta FCC, the Regional Superior, expressed her sincere gratitude to

all those who graced the occasion with their presence and prayers.

ii. Craft Training at Sanjo Ashram

Sanjo Ashram, Bissamcuttack, organized craft training classes in its tuition centers from November 8 to 18, 2024. The sessions were conducted by Bro. Rijo Muttath from St. Paul Gurukulam Seminary, Thiruvillamala, Thrissur.

The program received an excellent response, with students actively participating and learning creative skills. Parents and teachers expressed their appreciation and gratitude to Sanjo Ashram for arranging such an initiative.



iii. Children's Day

Children's Day was celebrated on November 14, 2024, in several tuition centers, including Badalima, Hathomuniguda, Ghantikal, and Daliakhuji, to commemorate Pandit



Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India. The celebrations featured vibrant cultural performances by children, creating a lively and festive atmosphere. Snacks and sweets were distributed to the young participants, adding to the delight of the occasion.

(Reported by Fr Jestin Vattamannil)

3. HOUSES OF FORMATION

A. Deepti Minor Seminary, Melampara

1. *Booyah Cup 2K24*

The month of December witnessed an exciting showdown of athleticism, teamwork, and unyielding spirit as the much-awaited 'Booyah Cup 2K24: A Celebration of Amity and Sportsmanship; volleyball tournament between the batches. The tournament was more than just a series of matches; it was a celebration of unity and collaboration. The Booyah Cup served as a platform to deepen the bonds of rapport and cooperation among the brothers, reminding everyone that true victory lies not just in triumph but in the shared journey and collective spirit. Congratulations to the Third Brothers for their well-deserved victory and kudos to all the participants who made this tournament an unforgettable experience.

2. *Excellentia 2K24*

The second semester was abuzz with energy and excitement as the much awaited Home Day competition, '*Excellentia 2K24*', unfolded in all its glory. This grand event brought together brothers from three distinct groups, each eager to showcase their exceptional skills and vibrant creativity across a variety of arts and sports competitions. Each group came prepared, driven by their collective zeal to excel and make their mark. Ultimately, it was the collective effort and unwavering enthusiasm of all participants that made *Excellentia 2K24* an extraordinary success. The event proved to be more than just a competition—it was a platform where bonds were strengthened, ideas were celebrated, and the spirit of excellence was brought to life. Kudos to all the brothers for their active and spirited participation.

Arts and Sports Day: *Excellentia 2K24* culminated with the grand success of the Arts and Sports Days. The vibrant campus came alive with boundless energy and enthusiasm on the 1st and 2nd of



November as the Arts and Sports Day of the academic year unfolded in all its splendor. These two unforgettable days were marked by the perfect

blend of creativity and athleticism, as brothers from three groups came together to participate with unparalleled zeal and a spirited sense of competition.



3. Bi-Annual Retreat: A Journey of Spiritual Awakening

The serene atmosphere of Deepti College provided the perfect setting for the Bi-Annual Retreat, held from 29th November to 2nd December, a sacred time of renewal and reflection for all the brothers. The retreat was led by the inspiring presence of Rev. Sr. Mercin FCC and her dedicated team, whose powerful preaching ignited a profound sense of spiritual awakening among the participants. The retreat was enriched by the opportunity for spiritual counseling. Truly, it was a time of grace, reflection, and an enduring reminder of the strength found in faith and unity.

4. Parents' Meet: A Gathering of Faith and Fellowship

The much-anticipated Parents' Day for the third- and second-year



brothers unfolded with great joy and reverence on November 28th. This special day served as a bridge between the seminary and the families, fostering a

deeper bond of understanding and collaboration in the journey of formation. The day began with the celebration of the Holy Qurbana at 09:30 a.m., presided over by Rev. Fr. Sabu Njarolickal, the Rector with the members of the staff.

Following the Qurbana, the gathering moved to the family meeting at 11:00 a.m., which was inaugurated by Rev. Fr. Joseph Thekkekarott, the Vice-Director General of the MST and Formation In-charge. In his inspiring inaugural address, he emphasized the vital role of parental cooperation and collaboration in the holistic formation of the seminarians. Adding to the significance of the day, Very Rev. Fr. Vinson Joseph Kadalikkattilputhenpura, the Director General of the MST, delivered an inspiring felicitation speech. He encouraged parents to actively support their sons on their path toward holy priesthood, urging them to nurture this divine calling with faith and prayer. During the meeting, the representatives from the parents



expressed their appreciation for the seminary's robust formation programme and the care extended to their sons. Some cultural programmes also were conducted during the meeting. After the festive lunch and meeting with all the formators, parent's day programme was concluded at 3.30 p.m.

5. Friendly Basketball Match

The basketball court came alive with energy and enthusiasm as our brothers faced off in two friendly basketball matches against an



experienced team from Pala. The matches were nothing short of electrifying, with both teams showcasing exceptional skill, teamwork, and determination. Our brothers won for both the matches. Kudos to our brothers for their

hard-earned victories and for embodying the true essence of teamwork and perseverance on the court!

6. Intensive Volley & Basketball Coaching

The first weeks of October were marked by an exciting ten-day



coaching camp that elevated the skills and spirit of our brothers in both volleyball and basketball. Guided by the

expertise of seasoned coaches Mr. Tomy and Mr. Dileep, the brothers immersed themselves in rigorous training sessions, each

infused with enthusiasm and determination. Kudos to the brothers for their unwavering commitment and gratitude to the



coaches for their invaluable guidance, making this coaching camp a resounding success!

7. Sacerdotal Jubilee Celebration

On the morning of November 14th, the Reverend Fathers of MST who were celebrating the Golden and Silver Jubilees of their priestly



ordination gathered with hearts full of gratitude at Deepti Seminary Chapel. The solemn occasion was marked by the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, a moving expression of thanksgiving for their many



years of faithful service to the Church and the community. Following the Eucharistic celebration, the Jubilarians joined the seminary community for the breakfast.



B. Jeevan Jyoti Missionary Orientation Seminary

1) Visit by Professors from Saengtham College Bangkok

Jeevan Jyoti was honoured by the visit of Professors from Saengtham College Bangkok, a Theology Faculty run by the Thailand Bishop's Conference and Lux Mundi Seminary Bangkok. The team included



a PIME priest (France), 5 priests from Thailand and one Indian Priest (Mysore Diocese). They were

accorded a warm welcome and during the dinner we had a friendly chit-chat with regard to the 'Church and her mission in Thailand'. They briefed very well the prospects of missionary apostolate in Thailand which was followed by some mutual interactions. Thanks to Rev. Fr Jaison Puthenpurackal MST for taking the initiative to bring them to Jeevan Jyoti.

2) One day retreat for the Teachers

The Regional team of Mandya Region organized a 'one day retreat' in Kannada for the catholic teachers of our schools in Mandya. It was conducted at Jeevan Jyoti on 8th December. Rev. Fr Zacharias

Thadathil MST led the prayer. The retreat was marked by good participation and almost 90 people attended the retreat. In



addition to teaches some of our priests and sisters also participated in the retreat. The retreat concluded in the evening with Holy Qurbana and Adoration.

C. Ruhalaya Major Seminary, Ujjain

1. Ruhalaya INSTITUTE of Theology

Ruhalaya Family is extremely glad and proud to share the news that Ruhalaya College of Theology is elevated to the status of an INSTITUTE by the Dicastery for Culture and Education, Rome on October 1, 2024. Rev. Fr John Kudiyiruppil is appointed as the Director of Ruhalaya Institute of Theology affiliated to Pontifical Oriental Institute of Religious Studies, Vadavathoor for a term of three years with effect from 20 November 2024. ‘His Beatitude Major Archbishop Mar Raphael Thattil will solemnly declare it on 16th of January 2025 at Ruhalaya Theologate at 06.30 pm in the presence of Bishop Mar Sebastian Vadakel, the Eparch of Ujjain, Very Rev. Fr Vincent Kadalikattilputhenpura, the Director General of MST and Very Rev. Fr Pauly Maniyattu, the President of Pontifical Oriental Institute of Religious Studies, Vadavathoor and several other dignitaries.

2. Visit of Archbishop Mar Thomas Tharayil

Archbishop Mar Thomas Tharayil, of the Archeparchy of Changanacherry, visited Ruhalaya Major Seminary on 4th October and had very fruitful interactions with both the Fathers and Brothers.



Fr Smith Srampickal accompanied him during the visit. His Excellency Bishop Mar Sebastian Vadakel visited him at Ruhalaya by 04:00 pm as

Bishop Thomas had to leave for Kerala due to the demise of one of his priests in Changanacherry.

3. Visit of the Renewal Team of MST

The members of the Renewal Team of the Society arrived at Ruhalaya on October 9th and stayed with the



Fathers of both the Theologate and the Philosophate for the renewal programme on October 10th and 11th, respectively. During their stay, we engaged in prayer and meaningful discussions together. It was a truly enriching time, fostering both personal and community renewal.

4. Solemn Conclusion of the Rosary Devotion



On 10th of October, Ruhalaya marked the solemn conclusion of the 10-day special Rosary Devotion with a meaningful and prayerful ceremony. The event brought together the community in a spirit of unity and deep devotion. The concluding ceremony was graced by Rev. Fr Sijo

Chakkumkal at the Philosophate and by Rev. Fr Sunil Konrackal at the Theologate. They

are the Assistant Director of Pushpa Mission Hospital and the Director of Kripa Social Service Society, respectively and both belong to the Diocese of Ujjain. Both delivered



inspiring and thought-provoking messages. The occasion served as a fitting culmination to the days of devotion, leaving the community spiritually enriched and renewed in faith.

5. Exposure Programme of Philosophy Students

At the conclusion of their first semester, the philosophy students embarked on their mission exposure programme on 16th October. This programme, spanning ten days, was designed to provide the

students with a first-hand experience of mission life and pastoral work. The students were assigned to various dioceses, including Udaipur, Jhabua, Khandwa, and Indore Dioceses. During their time in the missions, they actively engaged in various activities and closely observed the challenges and opportunities in those places. Upon their return, they joyfully shared the experiences and insights they gained during their time in missions, reflecting a renewed enthusiasm and commitment to their vocation. This exposure programme has significantly contributed to their formation, fostering a deeper sense of service and dedication to their future ministry.

6. Ruhelaya Sports Days 2024

The theology students had their sports and games competitions on October 21st and 22nd, while the philosophy students celebrated Sports Days on October 30th and 31st. A variety of sporting events and competitions were organized,



showcasing the talents and athletic abilities of the participants. Each house actively participated in the events, contributing to an atmosphere of energy and

excitement. The days were filled with vibrant activities, teamwork, and joy, leaving the participants with unforgettable memories.



7. Mission Exposure of Theology II Year Students

After the first semester exams and before the start of the second semester, the second-year theology students participated in a one-week mission experience programme from October 24th to 31st, 2024. They were sent to Mary Queen's Mission of the MST, the SVD mission in Indore and to the dioceses of Khandwa and Jhabua

for their missionary experience and training in missionary methods and pathways. On the 19th of October 2024, there was an inspiring and joyful sharing session of the enriching mission experiences that the brothers had in various places, institutions and states, highlighting the missionary challenges and opportunities.

8. Visit of DVK Faculty Members to Philosophate



As part of the process of affiliation of Ruhalya College of Philosophy to Dharmaram Vidya Kshetram, Bangalore, three esteemed faculty

members Rev. Fr Mathew Attumkal CMI, the Dean, Rev. Fr George Kulangara CMI, and Rev. Fr Varghese Puthuparambil CMI, visited Ruhalya College of Philosophy. During their visit, the faculty members engaged in fruitful discussions with the staff and students. These discussions provided valuable insights and guidance, ensuring that the affiliation process progresses smoothly. The visit was a significant milestone in the affiliation process and demonstrated a collaborative spirit, paving the way for further academic growth.

9. Deacons' Visit to Ujjain Mission Stations

Seventeen Deacons and three Fathers from Ruhalya Theologate



visited approximately 18 mission stations and parishes in the diocese of Ujjain on November 5th and 6th, 2024. Deacons enjoyed the mission tour which is conducted every year. They benefitted from

the trip and are greatly encouraged to engage in various missionary activities in future after their ordination.

10. Deacons' Send off

The Deacons of Ruhalaya were given a warm, prayerful and touching send off on the 7th of November 2024, invoking divine guidance and blessings in their priestly ministry. Frs Manoj Parackal, the Rector and Joby Koottumkal, the Vice Rector spoke on the occasion and wished the Deacons all the best and God's blessings in their priestly life. Brothers performed various programmes adding colour on the occasion. All the Fathers and brothers from both sections of Ruhalaya Seminary attended the send-off function, held in the evening. Dn Joyal CST thanked God, the staff and students of Ruhalaya for bestowing countless blessings and imparting the right formation.

11. Award Night at the Theologate

After the Talash competitions (literary, sports and games), the Award Night was held at the Theologate on the 11th of November, The Award Night celebrated the winners of the Talash Competitions, recognizing the achievements of the three houses and brothers. Rev.

Fr Dr Mathew Olickal MCBS was the chief guest of the function. He and other Fathers on the staff distributed the prizes. The event was joyful and memorable, fostering encouragement and unity among



participants and celebrating talent, dedication and success.

12. Retreats at Ruhalaya Theologate

Before proceeding to Kerala for their immediate preparation for priestly ordinations on November 18th, the Deacons had their retreat at MST Regional House in Ujjain from November 11 to 16, 2024.



As usual, Rev. Fr Francis Chakkumkal, belonging to the diocese of Jagdalpur, guided the retreat. Retreat was a refreshing spiritual experience for the Deacons. The other batches of Ruhelaya Theologate had their annual retreat from the 13th to the 18th of December and the preacher was Rev. Fr (Dr) Martin N. Antony, belonging to the Order of Our Lady of Mercy.

13. One-Act Play Competition in Philosophy

The One-Act Play competition was held at the Philosophate on 17th November after a long break of seven years, featuring batch-

wise performances centred on impactful social themes. Students actively participated, showcasing their impressive acting and directing talents through three



engaging plays. The third-year students secured the first prize, followed by the second-year students in second place and the first-year students in third. Individual awards for Best Actor and Best Script were also presented, recognizing outstanding performances and creative contributions.

14. Silver Jubilee of the Alumni of the Philosophate

The Sacerdotal Silver Jubilee celebration of the alumni of the Philosophate was held with great enthusiasm and reverence on the 20th and the 21st of November with the participation of both the philosophy and theology sections of Ruhelaya. The event witnessed

the participation of twelve priests and three lay alumni. The evening programme included a vibrant cultural performance, a heartfelt felicitation ceremony, and a time for the Jubilarians to share their



experiences and reflections. A joyful dinner followed, fostering a spirit of happiness and gratitude. The following morning, the Holy Qurbana was celebrated with the alumni, further enriching the occasion with spiritual blessings and unity. The event was a memorable tribute to the enduring bond between Ruhalyaya and its alumni.

15. One-Act Play competition at the Theologate

The thrilling and delightful One-Act Play competition at the Theologate on the 24th of November marked its return after a seven-year hiatus.



Students from three batches performed plays on significant biblical themes, demonstrating their writing, acting and directing skills. The second-year students won first prize, with the first year and third-year

students taking second and third places, respectively. Individual awards for Best Actor and Best Script were also given, celebrating exceptional performances and creativity. The Philosphate

community as well as sisters and candidates from neighbouring communities enjoyed the competition.

16. Silver Jubilee of Fr Binoy Purayidom

Both the sections of Ruhalaya Major Seminary joyfully celebrated the Sacerdotal Silver Jubilee of Rev. Fr Binoy Purayidom at the Theologate on the 27th of November with solemn Qurbana, jubilee



gathering, cultural programmes and delicious dinner. Ruhalaya joined Fr Binoy in thanking the Lord for the countless blessings that he showered on him during the past 25

years of his priesthood. Fr Binoy thanked all for the heart-touching celebration.

17. Award Night at the Philosophate

On 28th November, an Award Night was organized at the Philosophate to honor and appreciate the winners of the Home-Day competitions. The event celebrated the achievements of the four houses, with prizes awarded to outstanding performers. In addition to the house awards, individual achievements were also recognized and rewarded across various categories. The



evening was a joyous and memorable occasion, fostering a spirit of encouragement and unity among all participants. It was truly a night

to cherish, celebrating talent, dedication, and success.

18. Annual Retreat at the Philosophate

The annual retreat for the Philosophy students was held from 1st to 4th December, offering a profound opportunity for spiritual renewal



and enrichment.

The retreat was preached by Rev. Fr. Shellmon Antony, whose inspiring sessions and reflections provided the brothers with

valuable spiritual nourishment. The students experienced a deep sense of peace and renewal, making the retreat a meaningful and transformative time in their formation journey.

19. Visit of Bishop Mar Sebastian Adayanthrath

His Excellency Mar Sebastian Adayanthrath, the Bishop of the Eparchy of Mandya, visited Ruhalaya from December 2nd to 5th.



He celebrated solemn Holy Qurbana on December 3rd and gave a practical message. Bishop Sebastian Adayanthrath visited Bishop Sebastian Vadakel, who provided him with the opportunity to visit a few mission stations in the eparchy of Ujjain. On the 5th of December,

he blessed the new church bell newly bought by Rev. Fr Tony Mampilly with the help of some benefactors.

20. Extension Lectures at Ruhalaya

Rev. Sr Dr Sally John SJB, Assistant Professor at Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences (MGIMS) at Sevagram, Wardha, conducted extension lectures on 'Sexuality and Gender' at Ruhalaya Philosophate and on 'The Treasure Within: Mental Health and Community Support in Religious Life' at the Theologate on 09th December 2024. Brothers benefitted greatly from the lectures and the practical sessions of interaction that followed.



21. Conferring of Major and Minor Orders

His Excellency Bishop Mar Sebastian Vadakel conferred the sacred order of Msamsanusa and Minor Orders on the brothers belonging



to three batches during a beautiful and grace-filled ceremony held at Ruhalaya Theologate Chapel at 09:30 am on the 19th of December 2024. The Fathers and Brothers of Ruhalaya Major Seminary along with a few relatives of the brothers who received the Orders attended the ceremony.

4. NEWS FROM ABROAD

1. Italy

i. Visit of Major Archbishop Mar Raphel Thattil

The Major Archbishop, Mar Raphel Thattil, after assuming his office as the head of Syro Malabar Church, visited the tomb of St Thomas



the Apostle, our Father in Faith and patron and prayed for the intentions of the Church celebrating the Holy Qurbana along with Mar Stephen Chirappanath and other officials from Domus Mar Thoma, Rome.

ii. Gathering of MST Priests in Rome

The MST priests in Italy came together in Rome on the 23rd of October 2024 to accord a warm welcome to the new comers, Fr Abhilash Pattasseriyil, Fr Johnson Kuppayil and Fr Sanoj



Pathraplankal and to thank Fr Joby Mulluvengapurathu and bid him farewell. It was a great moment of communion and friendship. Fr Antony Karakkattu who won the first Prize in the logo Creation competition in connection with the Ruby Jubilee of Mar Thoma Yogam, Rome was congratulated on the occasion.

iii. Jubilee Year of Hope:

The Eternal City will open its gates to an estimated 35 million pilgrims for the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope and a lot of renovation and new projects can be seen all over the city to welcome the pilgrims of hope. The Jubilee Year begins with the traditional opening of the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica on December 24, 2024 by Pope Francis and continues until the closing of the Holy Door on January 6, 2026, the solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord.

2. United Kingdom

MST priests gathered for a memorable gathering in Albania. The MST Fathers organized this inspiring gathering in Tirana the capital



of Albania the birthplace of St. Mother Teresa from October 23 to 25, 2024. It helped to strengthen our bonds, share our experiences, and support one another in our ministry. This gathering deepened the spirit of unity among us, reinforcing our sense of “we-feeling” and nurturing our shared commitment to the

mission. By opening up about the joys and challenges we face in our ministries, we found mutual encouragement and valuable insights to bring



back to our respective communities.

After prayer, discussions, and camaraderie, we returned from Albania with renewed energy and commitment to our calling.

3. Tanzania

i. MST Mission Chengena

a) Jubilee year of the Jumia in Tanzania

Tanzania's Christian communities are celebrating the 50 years of the beginning of the Jumia system in the missions and in the parishes this



year. Jumia is the small Christian communities in the missions and in the parishes. Songea Archdiocese is also organizing different programs to commemorate the progress in the faith

formation methods in the African land. The Archdiocesan office has encouraged every mission to put up different programs in the missions.

Fr Shaiju Kizhakkekureethadathil MST, the parish priest of Chengena Mission Parish in consultation with the Diocesan office, made the occasion more meaningful with the programs related to the Jumia. We organized Holy Masses in every 'Jumias' with a seminar on the advantages of the Jumia system and of its need. Later, we visited every houses in the Jumia in the mission for blessing the families and the houses. The Christian faithful were happy and grateful for our presence.

We had to walk the long ways to reach to them in their houses every day. Moreover it was very satisfying program.

b) Commemoration of the Dead in the mission

The MST Mission in Chengena commemorated All Souls' Day very solemnly in every community under the mission. There are six large communities of catholic faithful spread in around 50 kms radius of



this mission, comprising 10 main villages. The cemeteries are erected near the houses to facilitate transportation of the

villagers for the funerals. We managed to reach out to all the cemeteries in the villages to bless the tombs in the month of November. The catholic community in the mission was very delighted and impressed by our pastoral and missionary commitment. It was also appreciated by the diocesan authorities. We took around two weeks to complete the visiting of all the cemeteries under the Mission.

c) **Elders Meet**

Chengena Mission organized a one-day seminar for the elderly people in the mission, especially for the Christians. We had around 60 participants from the main mission and the neighboring villages. It was on 30th November at Chengena Church. The elderly people in the mission were excited to spend one full day with other participants.



They were all above 70 years old. It was a very useful session for the elderly people since many of them had problems related to age. Rev. Fr Mahundi conducted the one-day seminar for them in the

parish church. He is an expert in organizing different faith formation seminars in the region. He is a senior priest from Mbinga Diocese, one of the neighboring dioceses of Songea.

d] Children's Christmas

MST Mission Chengena is organizing a Children's Christmas in 2024 in the mission. The children are the hope of the future church in the mission. We had been concentrating on the children in their catechetical formation on Sundays for many years. We are trying to



implement a special program to encourage the children to attend the church every day during the Season of Advent. We are getting positive responses from the parents. The number of children is increasing day by day. We try to bring each and every child in the village for the daily Mass and try to give Catholic formation to them. We are getting around 250 children for daily Mass during this advent season. The catechetical initiative gets positive response now. We are also trying to encourage the children with a suitable gift for them on Christmas day. We provide school uniform for all children who have attended holy Mass every day during this advent season. We are on the lookout for benefactors to meet these needs.

5. OTHER MINISTRIES

1. Associate Missionaries & Santhome Fellowship

i. Annual Day Celebrations

The Annual Day of the Associate Missionaries and Santhome Fellowship was celebrated on Saturday, 14th December 2024. The Syro-Malabar Curia Bishop Mar Sebastian Vaniyapurackal was the main celebrant of the Holy Qurbana at 09.15 a.m. It was followed



by meeting which was attended by around 250 people. In his inaugural address, the Curia Bishop encouraged the audience to take up mission as our prime responsibility and visit the missions and missionaries. He appreciated the mission activities of the MST. In the presidential address Very Rev. Fr Vincent Kadalikattilputhenpura thanked Associate Missionaries and Santhome Fellowship for their availability and contributions. Rev. Fr Joseph Thekkekarottu, the Councillor in charge and Rev. Fr Joy Panjikan, the Spritual Director appreciated the work of Associate Missionaries and Santhome Fellowship. Mr Sebastian Kuzhipallil shared his mission experiences and challenged all to go to the missions and carry out the mandate of Jesus to go and preach to all peoples. His fiery and zealous speech really burned the hearts of many with missionary zeal.

Cultural programmes like Dances, *Margamkali*, Carol Songs and Drama added colour to the Annual day Celebrations. The Units

from Bharananganam, Nalukody, Erumapetty, Moonnilavu, and Athirampuzha staged programmes well. The prayer song was sung by Associate Missionaries. Fr Joseph Pulavelil, the Director, welcomed the gathering and Mr Jose Abraham Kizhakkeunipillil, the president of Associate Missionaries thanked all. The meeting was concluded with the newly prepared Santhome Anthem sung by the members. All were served a vegetable meal.

ii. Prayer hall at Tikkari Village

Thamarassery unit of Santhome Fellowship contributed to construct a prayer Hall at Tikkary Village near Laxmipur in Odisha. The blessing will take place before the Christmas-2024. Sincere thanks to the members of the Santhome Fellowship, Thamarassery, for their contributions and thanks are due to Fr Bineesh Kuzhiyadiyil MST, the priest in-charge of Laxmipur Mission Centre, for his dedication and hard work.

iii. Annual Retreat of Associate Missionaries



Most of the Associate Missionaries who take seriously their 'Call within the Call' attended the three-days annual retreat conducted for them

from December 5-8, 2024. The retreat was preached by MST priests Fr Binoy Koottumkal, Fr Jijo Kottakavil and Fr Abhilash Akkattu.

iv. Initiative of Associate Missionaries'

In the meeting of the Associate Missionaries prior to the Annual Retreat they decided to build a Prayer Hall in Odisha under the guidance of Rev. Fr Joseph Cheriambanattu MST, the Vicar General and one of the pioneer MST missionaries in Odisha.

v. Financial help through Projects

Santhome Fellowship helps the mission centres through small project proposals from Mission centres which are considered favourably

and assisted financially.

Chengena Mission in Tanzania, Africa was financially helped to furnish the hall of a medical clinic for the village people.

Jai Matha Church at Bhedshi in Sangli Mission which celebrates the silver jubilee in February 2025 was helped to replace its roof.

vi. Santhome Preshithagni Dhyanam

Rev. Fr Zacharias Thadathil guides the Santhome Preshithagni Dhyanam on every third Saturday of the month. Fr Zacharias Thadathil makes himself available from Friday and Saturday for spiritual counselling. Many benefit from this arrangement.

vii. Mission Visits

Fifteen members of Santhome Fellowship from Peramangalam, Thrissur along with their Parish priest, Sisters and the Director visited



Mandya Mission from November 11 to 15. They stayed at Jyothi Nivas, Kalenahalli. The mission visit enriched them all and promised to visit regularly and share their mission experience with others.

viii. New Anthem for Santhome Fellowship

The long desired anthem of its own for Santhome Fellowship and



Associate Missionaries, written and tuned by Rev. Fr Ashok Kollamkudy MST was inaugurated on Annual Day. Sincere thanks to Fr Ashok.

ix. New Leadership for Santhome Fellowship

The presidents, secretaries and office bearers from different Santhome Fellowship Units had their first ever gathering at Deepti Bhavan on Friday, October 18, 2024. Very Rev. Fr Vincent Kadalikattilputhenpura, the Director General inaugurated the meeting



and urged the members to find out the 'Call within the Call'! Rev. Fr Joseph Thekkekarott, the Councillor in charge took class on Mission and Rev. Fr Ajay Varikkickal shared his mission experiences in Odisha Mission. Mr Siby Cherian Kuthukallumkal from Nalukody, Changanassery and Mrs Celine Sebastian Paravarakath, were elected the Global president and secretary respectively of Santhome Fellowship.

By Fr Joseph Pulavelil

6. NECROLOGY

- October 10, 2024: Mrs Mariamma Joseph Vadakeorath (96), mother of Fr Paul Vadakeoram and grandmother of Fr Shiju Pottanany and Anns Maria DST.
- October 28, 2024: Mr V. T. Scaria (89) Vedikunnel, paternal uncle of Fr Joseph Vedikunnel
- November 9, 2024: Mariyamma Joseph (106) Paternal Aunt of Fr Kurian Valiamangalam, Fr Jose Valiamangalam, and Fr Joy Valiamangalam.
- November 10, 2024: Aliyamma Jacob (Elikutty 85) Eldest Sister of Fr Paul Mudathotty and Aunt of Fr Siby Poovathinkal
- November 16, 2024: Mariama George (70) the elder sister of Fr John Nayathuparampil
- November 19, 2024: Mrs Annamma Maruthumkuzhyil mother of Fr Jobish Maruthumkuzhyil (Ujjain) & and maternal aunt of Fr Ivan.
- December 7, 2024: Mr Jose Ulahannan (71) the paternal uncle of Fr Justin Koormullil
- December 7, 2024: Mariakutty Thomas (90) mother of Fr Kurian Kochettonnil, maternal grandmother of Bro. Thomas Andookunnel, paternal grandmother of Bro. Anoon Benny Kochettonnil.
- December 17, 2024: Mr Joseph Chacko (Pappachan 90 yrs) the brother in law of Fr Thomas Karamel.



7. APPENDICES



MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE

Deepti Bhavan, Melampara - 686 578, Kottayam Dt. Kerala, India

CIRCULAR: XI/10/2023-2028

November 17, 2024

Your Excellencies, Reverend Fathers and Brothers,
Warmest Greetings from MST Generalate!

Vocation Promotion

Vocation promotion is one of the major concerns and preoccupations of the Society due to the steady decrease in the number of vocations and ordinations and increase in the number of MST priests reaching the age of retirement in the near future. This year we had only 18 new admissions to our minor seminary. Therefore, it is the earnest request to all the members to cooperate with the MST Vocation promoters by directing good vocations to the Society from your parishes, relatives and families.

Erection of Co-ordinations in Odisha

In accordance with the *Constitutions and Directives* of the MST (C77.1 & D77.1) and with the consent of the General Council, St Joseph Mission in Odisha was erected as Coordination on the 24th of October, 2024. Rev.Fr Joseph Venattumattam is appointed the new Coordinator to head the Coordination. In a simple programme arranged by Fr Jose Cheriampanatt in the evening on October 24, I and Fr Jomon Ayyankanal participated. Sincere thanks to Rev.Fr Joseph Cheriampanattu for his selfless and dedicated service as the Coordinator and felicitate Fr Joseph Venattumattam who willingly accepted the responsibility as the Coordinator.

Erection of Co-ordinations in the USA

According to the provisions given in the MST *Constitutions and Directives* (C 77.1, D77.1&5) and after having completed the process of electing the panel of members eligible to be appointed Coordinator, with the consent of the General Council, the second Coordination outside India in the United States of America (USA) will be erected on the 24th of November, 2024. Rev.Fr Antony Thundathil is appointed the Coordinator of the St Thomas Coordination-USA with the rights and privileges provided by the *Constitutions and Directives* as well as specified in the letter of appointment.

Last Will & Testament

The members of the Society are directed to keep in mind the following points while writing their will. If you wish to name the MST as beneficiary, you are directed to write: ST THOMAS MISSION SOCIETY instead of the Director General, because the Society has no bank accounts in the name of the Director General. You may name the Director General as the executor of the Will. The members are advised not to invest in the share markets and if you have any shares you may please sell them and invest in other financial institutions so that the society or dependents can claim them later.

Cyber Crimes, Fraud Online Offers, Enticements and Warnings

Due to the increasing cases of online fraud and cyber-crimes, it is opportune to request the members of the Society to be on their guard and be vigilant about fake messages, fraudulent warnings and online demands for passwords, account numbers, dates of birth etc. from unknown persons and not to respond to such frauds.

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Website: mstworld.org E-mail: mstgeneralate@gmail.com

continued on p.2.



MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE

Deepti Bhavan, Melampara - 686 578, Kottayam Dt. Kerala, India

MST

-2-

Convening of Extraordinary Regional Assemblies

As per C70.3 of C&D, "Every Mission Region, considering its needs and circumstances, shall have its own statutes, without prejudice to the Constitutions and Directives, enacted by the Regional Assembly, approved by the Director General and promulgated by the Regional Director (cf. CCEO c.922§1)". It is time for each Regional Administration to initiate the process of preparing the draft of the Regional statutes, and for convening extra-ordinary Regional Assemblies for enacting the Regional Statutes in conformity with the C70.3. Regional Statutes should be approved and promulgated one year prior to the next Ordinary General Assembly. The members are requested to cooperate with the Regional Administration for the smooth execution of the process.

I am very thankful to the committee comprising Rev. Fr Antony Perumannoor (Convener), Rev. Fr Joseph Aryankalayil, Rev. Fr Joseph Unniepillil and Rev. Fr Jose Palakkeel who prepared the model Regional Statutes which is already shared with the Regional Directors.

Official WhatsApp numbers and Email IDs

May I bring to your kind notice the following WhatsApp numbers and email IDs used for official and personal communications from and to the Society.


| Purpose | WhatsApp / Mobile | Email |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| 1. Official MST communications | MST GENERALATE (admin.only) | mstgeneralate@gmail.com (accessed by DG & SG only) |
| 2. Director General (O/P) | 9447737753/8989571734 | vincentkadali@gmail.com |
| 3. Secretary General (O/P) | 8848316850/7649024292 | lonappanal@gmail.com |
| 4. VDG & Formation Secretary | 9425985636 | jthekkekarott@gmail.com |
| 5. Ongoing formation | 8989686637 | muthivan@gmail.com |
| 6. Communion | 9937262676 | jomonmst@gmail.com |
| 7. Treasurer General | 8527107079 | igmst@gmail.com |
| 8. MST World Bulletin | 8848316850 | mstworld.bulletin@gmail.com |
| 9. MST Sponsors | 8078902042 | mstsponsors@gmail.com |
| 10. Renewal Programmes | MST Renewal Journey | Renewal Team only |

The members are earnestly requested to use or see the communications from the above mobile /whatsapp numbers and email IDs for communications to and from me and the concerned departments. Since whatsapp groups, *MST Generalate* and *MST Renewal Journey*, are important means of official communication, please make sure that you are included in these groups.

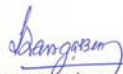
Prayer Request

Seven of our deacons will be ordained priests in the months of December 2024 and January 2025 in their respective parishes. The sacred order of Diaconate and other minor orders will be conferred on the seminarians on the 19th of December at Ruhalya Major Seminary. Your prayers are solicited.

Yours in Christ Jesus,


Fr Vincent Kadalikattil, Puthenpura
Director General, MST




Fr Lonappan Arangassery
Secretary General, MST

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DECREE-2/2024



MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE

Deepti Bhavan, Melampara - 686 578, Kottayam Dt. Kerala, India

Decree 2/2024

October 24, Thursday 2024

DECREE OF THE ERECTION OF ST JOSEPH COORDINATION, ODISHA OF THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE

With the intention of intensifying and collectively participating in the mission *ad gentes* and pastoral apostolate in Odisha, I do hereby, with the consent of the General Council of MST, erect *St. Joseph Coordination, Odisha* of the Missionary Society of St Thomas the Apostle (MST) with effect from October 24, 2024, in accordance with C77.1 and D 77.1 & 3 of the *Constitutions and Directives* of the Missionary Society of St Thomas the Apostle (MST). Rev. Fr Joseph Venattumattam is appointed to lead the Coordination as its Coordinator. The Patron of the Coordination shall be St. Joseph.

The St Joseph Coordination in Odisha is an administrative unit of the MST engaged in the mission *ad gentes* in the state of Odisha, India in accordance with C77.1.i. of the *Constitutions and Directives* of the MST. This Coordination has its nature and scope as envisaged in the *Constitutions and Directives* of MST. The members sent to the Coordination remain faithful to the nature and scope of the Society.

With respect to the apostolate, this coordination comes under the jurisdiction of the Syro-Malabar eparchy of Shamshabad in accordance with the *Constitutions and Directives* of MST (cf. C 62), the CCEO cc 205 & 415 and the Particular Law of the Syro-Malabar Church. The Coordinator acting in unison with the members, under the direction and guidance of the Director General of MST and the General Council, shall guide and support the members of the Coordination in their missionary and pastoral endeavours.

Invoking the protection of Blessed Mother, St Thomas the patron of the Society and St Joseph the patron of the Coordination, I do hereby promulgate this Decree of Erection of St. Joseph Coordination, Odisha of the Missionary Society of St Thomas the Apostle (MST).

This Decree of the Erection of St Joseph Coordination comes into effect on 24th October, 2024.

Fr Vincent Kadalikattilputhenpura
Director General, MST



Fr Lonappan Arangassery
Secretary General, MST

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DECREE-3/2024



MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE

Deepti Bhavan, Melampara - 686 578, Kottayam Dt. Kerala, India

Decree 3/2024

November 24, Sunday 2024

DECREE OF THE ERECTION OF ST THOMAS COORDINATION USA OF THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE

In profound gratitude to God and in communion with the members of the Missionary Society of St Thomas the Apostle, and with the intention of intensifying the collective apostolate of the group of MST members in the USA, I do hereby erect, with the consent of the General Council of MST, **ST THOMAS CO-ORDINATION, USA** of the Missionary Society of St Thomas the Apostle (MST) with effect from November 24 (Sunday) 2024, in accordance with C&D 77.1-2 of the *Constitutions and Directives*.


This Coordination shall be known after **St Thomas the Apostle** and it will be an administrative unit of the MST, comprising the members of the Society engaged in apostolic activities in the United States of America (USA).

Rev. Fr Antony Thundathil, appointed by the Director General, from the panel elected by the members of the Coordination, shall be the Coordinator who shall have authority specified in the letter of appointment (cf. C77.1& D77.5). The Coordinator acting in unison with the members, under the direction and guidance of the Director General of MST and the General Council, shall guide and support the members of the Coordination in their missionary and pastoral endeavours.


With respect to the apostolate, this Coordination comes under the jurisdiction of the bishops in the USA where the MST priests are serving, in accordance with the *Constitutions and Directives* of MST (cf. C 62) and the Common Law of the Church.

Invoking the protection of Blessed Mother, St Thomas, the Patron of the Coordination and of the Society, I do hereby promulgate this Decree of Erection of St. Thomas Coordination, USA, of the Missionary Society of St Thomas the Apostle (MST).

This Decree of Erection of the Coordination comes into effect today, the twenty-fourth day of November (in USA-Sunday) in the year 2024.


Fr Vincent Kadalikattilputhenpura
Director General, MST




Fr Lonappan Arangassery
Secretary General, MST

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The Jubilee Prayer 2025



Father
in heaven,
may the
faith you have
given us in your
son, Jesus Christ,
our brother, and the
flame of charity enkindled
in our hearts by the
Holy Spirit, reawaken in us
the blessed hope for the
coming of your Kingdom. May
your grace transform us into
tireless cultivators of the seeds of
the Gospel. May those seeds transform
from within both humanity and
the whole cosmos in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth, when,
with the powers of Evil vanquished, your
glory will shine eternally. May the grace of the
Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a
yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that
same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally
blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen

CONGRATULATIONS & PRAYERFUL WISHES TO CARDINAL GEORGE KOOVAKKAD



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