

MST WORLD

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Easter

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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL



Christ is dead! Christ is Risen! Christ will come again!

The message “He has risen” (Lk 24:5) resonates in this Easter season. On the glorious day of Easter we are reminded of the profound significance of the resurrection of our Lord. Easter is the story of triumph over despair, of light overcoming darkness, and of life conquering sin and death. The resurrection of the Lord reminds us all of the deepest longings of the human heart –Liberation and Redemption- for renewal and eternal life.

‘The rising from the fallen status and the new Life’ is the greatest message of Easter. Rising preview a fallen or a deadly status. Jesus has risen from the dead and as a result everyone has the hope to rise from the fallen state and death. Jesus came to give life and give it in abundance. Jesus told Lazarus to come out from the tomb and the dead Lazarus came out of the tomb. He extended his hand to raise the sinking Peter from the deep water. He raised the face of the woman who was caught in adultery. He raised the tax collector Mathew to the status of his disciple. The paralytic was raised at the command of Jesus and he walked carrying his cot after thirty-six years.

There are many instances and parables in the sacred Bible where the rising from the fallen state is narrated. In the parable of the prodigal son, the younger son says ‘I will get up and go to my father’ (LK15:18). Easter is the time for getting up from the fallen state. Although one may look sound externally, he/she may be spiritually dead, paralyzed, handicapped or sinking into the deep waters.

The great feast of Easter invites us to rise up from the ‘deadly’ status to a new life. A spiritual rebirth and resurrection are possible only with the help of the One who has been raised from the dead. Jesus said “I came that they may have life and have it abundantly” (Jn 10:10). St Peter in his sermon after healing the crippled beggar said “when God raised up his servant, he sent him first to you, to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways” (Acts 3:26). So, the resurrected Lord invites us to turn away from the wicked ways and renew our lives during this great feast of Easter. May we all be filled with new life, vigour and enthusiasm to lead a true Missionary Priestly Life.

Fr Vincent Kadalikattilputhenpura
Director General MST

REFLECTIONS ON *GESTIS VERBISQUE*

Fr Lonappan Arangassery

The most recent Roman document, *Nota Gestis verbisque Sulla validit  dei sacramenti*, approved by Pope Francis and originally published in Italian by Cardinal Victor Fern ndez, the Prefect of the Dicastery for Doctrine of Faith (DDF) reiterates the sacramentality (R z n yuta) and the importance of celebrating the Sacred Mysteries or Sacraments in the Church **validly** and **licitly**.¹ Perhaps this document is most appropriate and relevant in the present context of the Syro-Malabar Church. When publishing this document the DDF intends to offer some elements of doctrinal nature with regard to discernment on the validity of the celebration of the Sacraments, paying attention also to some disciplinary and pastoral implications. The document begins saying:

With events and words intimately connected, God reveals and carries out his plan of salvation for every man and woman destined for communion with him.² This salvific relationship is effectively realized in the liturgical action, where the proclamation of salvation, which resounds in the Word proclaimed, finds its fulfilment in sacramental gestures. These, in fact, make present in human history God's salvific action, which culminates in Christ's Passover. The redemptive power of those gestures gives continuity to the history of salvation that God is bringing about over time (GV 1).

The note *Gestis verbisque* clarifies that for all the sacraments, the observance of matter and form has always been required for the validity of the celebration. The matter and form are not limited merely to certain magical formulas (words) and actions; rather they encompass the entire celebration summarized by the Codes of Canon Law on sacraments and the norms stipulated in the liturgical books promulgated by competent ecclesiastical authorities. They must therefore be faithfully observed, without “adding, subtracting or changing anything”.³

Since the sacraments are the same for the entire Church and belong to the divine deposit, it is for the supreme authority of the Church alone to approve or define those things which are required for their validity. (CCEO, c. 669)

The arbitrary modifications to one and/or the other – the gravity and disabling force of which must be ascertained from time to time – jeopardize the effective bestowal of sacramental grace, to the obvious detriment of the faithful. Everyone, especially the clergy is reminded of the right of the faithful to a true Liturgy, which means the Liturgy desired and laid down by the Church.⁴

The Head of the Church, and therefore the true president of the celebration, is Christ alone. He is “*the Head of the Body, that is, of the Church*” (Col 1:18; cf. GV 24). Pope Francis says: “*Let us always remember that it is the Church, the Body of Christ that is the celebrating subject and not just the priest*” (DD 36). In fact, these Christological and Ecclesial dimensions of liturgy and fidelity to the liturgical norms and texts render efficacy and fruitfulness to the liturgical celebrations, as stated by *Sacrosanctum Concilium*:

Every liturgical action, because it is the action of Christ – the priest and his body the church, is a sacred action surpassing all others. No other action of the Church can equal its efficacy by the same title and to the same degree. (SC 7).

Most of the post conciliar liturgical documents affirm that the priests are neither ‘*proprietors*’ and ‘*Bosses*’ of liturgy nor can they take upon themselves the right to compose Eucharistic Prayers, to substitute profane readings for texts from Sacred Scripture and nor can they indulge in making changes, deletions and additions of their own.⁵ Pope John Paul II, in *Dominicae Cenae* asserts that the priest cannot consider himself “proprietor”, who can make free use of the liturgical text and of the sacred rite as if it were his own property, in such a way as to stamp it with his own arbitrary personal style.⁶

In the Apostolic Letter *Desiderio desideravi*⁷ on liturgical formation, Pope Francis refers to priests who project themselves as ‘*proprietors*’ by introducing unacceptable and inadequate ‘models of presiding’ at liturgy and points fingers at the unwarranted liturgical practices proliferating in the Church which render the sacraments either illicit or invalid. When the Council and the post conciliar documents specify that priests preside at the Eucharist in *persona Christi Capitis*,⁸ it does not intend to endorse a conception according to which the minister has a power to be exercised arbitrarily as “head” or “boss”(cf. GV 24).

What is important and required is that the minister, acting in *persona Christi Capitis*, must have the “*intention of doing at least what the Church does*”,⁹ making sacramental action a truly human act, removed from all automatism, and a fully ecclesial act, removed from the arbitrariness of an individual. What the Church does is nothing other than what Christ instituted.¹⁰ Since liturgy is a human and ecclesial act, removed from all *automatism*, undue dependence on artificial means (like karaoke, pre-recorded praise, prayers, music etc) render liturgical actions illicit, if not invalid. But many priests are still inclined to encourage such practices.

As Pope Francis says, everything in liturgy—the *space, time, gestures, words, objects, vestments, song, music* etc.,—is important and every rubric must be observed lest the assembly is robbed of their right to true liturgy, i.e. the paschal mystery celebrated according to the ritual that the Church sets down (cf. DD§23). Citing

R. Guardini, Pope Francis says the first task of the work of liturgical formation is that man must become once again capable of symbols.¹¹

The Roman document *Inaestimabile Donum* speaks of certain practices given below as unacceptable. 1) The confusion of the roles especially regarding the priestly ministry and the role of the laity (indiscriminate shared recitation of the Eucharistic Prayer, homilies given by lay people, lay people distributing Communion while the priests refrain from doing so); 2) an increasing loss of the sense of the sacred (abandonment of liturgical vestments, the Eucharist celebrated outside church without real need, 3) lack of reverence and respect for the Blessed Sacrament, etc.; 4) misunderstanding of the ecclesial character of the Liturgy (the use of private texts, the proliferation of unapproved Eucharistic Prayers, the manipulation of the liturgical texts for social and political ends).¹²

In these cases we are face to face with a real falsification of the Catholic Liturgy: 'One who offers worship to God on the Church's behalf in a way contrary to that which is laid down by the Church with God-given authority and which is customary in the Church is guilty of falsification'.¹³

Concluding the reflections, it is of paramount importance that we, the priests, as faithful representatives of Christ and acting in *persona Christi* and loyal servants of the Church keep in mind the observation of the DDF in *Gestis Verbisque*.

The distinction between liceity (lawfulness) and validity should be reiterated, just as it should be remembered that any change to the formula of a Sacrament is always a gravely illicit act. Even when it is considered that a small change does not alter the original meaning of a Sacrament and, consequently, does not make it invalid, it still remains illicit.¹⁴

Therefore, the life and apostolate of a priest should always be permeated with “*sensus Ecclesiae, sensus fidei* and *sentire cum Ecclesia*”² to be effective instruments and loyal ministers in the Church. In liturgical matters, as mentioned above, a priest should

have the minimum sense *to do what the Church intends to do* and learn the *ars celebrandi* (the art of celebration) remaining faithful to the liturgical norms and liturgical texts before being ordained a priest or a bishop.

End Notes

¹ *Nota Gestis verbisque*, published on Feb 3, 2024, https://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_dff_doc_20240202_gestis-verbisque_it.html. acc on Feb 4, 2024

² Cfr. *Dei Verbum* (18 November, 1965), n. 2: AAS 58 (1966) 818

³ Cfr. GV 17; SC22§3, CIC, c. 846§1; CCEO cc. 667 to 895

⁴ Foreword to Instruction *Inaestimabile Donum* on certain norms concerning worship of the Eucharistic Mystery, AAS 72 (1980), 331-343, CCEO cc.nos.16 & 17.

⁵ SC 22.3; Pope John Paul II, *Vicesimus Quintus Annus* (December 4, 1988), §13; SC 22§3; 26; Foreword to *Inaestimabile donum*; Pope John Paul II, *Dominicae Cena* (February 24, 1980), §12 etc

⁶ Pope John Paul II, *Dominicae Cena* (February 24, 1980), §12

⁷ Pope Francis, Ap. Letter *Desiderio desideravi*, June 29, 2022.

⁸ *Presbyterorum Ordinis*, 2: *Christifideles laici*, 22; *Pastores dabo vobis* nn. 3, 12, 15-18, 21-27, 29-31, 35, 61, 70, 72; CIC, c. 1009 § 3; *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, nos. 875; 1548-1550; 1581; 1591.

⁹ Council of Trent, *Decretum de Sacramentis*, c. 11: DH 1611; Council of Constance, *Bull Inter cunctas*, 22: DH 1262; Council of Florence, *Bull Exsultate Deo*: DH 1312; CIC, cc. 861 § 2; 869 § 2; CCC n. 1256.

¹⁰ Cfr. S. Tommaso d'Aquino, *Summa Theologiae*, III, q. 64, a. 8; Benedetto XIV, *De Synodo dioecesisana*, lib. VII, cap. 6, n. 9, 204.

¹¹ Cfr. R. Guardini, *Liturgische Bildung* (1923) in *Liturgie und liturgische Bildung* (Mainz 1992) 36.

¹² *Inaestimabile donum*, foreword.

¹³ St. Thomas, *Summa Theologiae*, 2-2, Q. 93, A. 1; cf. *Inaestimabile donum*, foreword

¹⁴ *Gestis Verbisque*, 17, endnote 31.

¹⁵ Ysabel de Andia, The style of the flock - *sensus Ecclesiae*, *sensus fidei* et sentire cum Ecclesia, in *Nouvelle revue théologique*, Vol. 142/2 (April 2020) 213-230

APPOINTMENTS AND CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Fr Akkatt Antony: Relieved from Santhome Minore seminary and appointed Spiritual Director at Deepti Minor Seminary

Fr Alummoottil Antu: relieved from Delhi Region and appointed Asst. Priest at Mira Road. Santhome Bhavan, Near Santhome Public School, Plot No. 270, Kanakia Road, Mira Road (E) Thane – 401 107, Maharashtra

Fr Ammanathukunnel Kurian: relieved from Deepti Minor seminary. Residence at Preshithaaram.

Fr Anjilithoppil Joyal: relieved from Ujjain Region and appointed formator and spiritual guide at Ruhailaya, Philosophy section

Fr Chakiriamthadam Saji: relieved from Sangli Mission for pastoral care of Syro-Malabar Migrants in Australia.

Fr Chirayil Augustine (Sogin) : Appointed Principal, St. Thomas Convent School, Rurka, Dehlon, Ludhiana (Dist.) Punjab - 141118

Fr Elavumkal Mathew: relieved from Adilabad and assigned to Mandya Mission

Fr Kaithottumkal Justin: relieved from Ruhailaya for Higher studies in Paris, C/o Deepti Mount, Melampara P.O.

Fr Kaiyalakakathu Kuriakose (Boby) : St Francis Assisi Bhavan, House No. 1581, Block B, Sector 6, Mullanpur Garibdas, New Chandigarh, Punjab-140901

Fr Karingadayil Lithosh: relieved from Ruhailaya and assigned to Ujjain Region

Fr Kochumalayil Manu: relieved from Ruhailaya and assigned to Ujjain Region

Fr Kochupurackal Abin : 95 Victoria Road Knaphill, Woking, Surrey GU21 2AA, United Kingdom. Mob. +44 7733514275

Fr Kodikulam Jince: relieved from Khacharod, Ujjain Region and appointed Asst. Director of Santhome Impact

Fr Kizhakkal Sebastian: relieved from Santhome Thannimood and appointed Director of Santhome Bhavan & Program Director at Santhome Bhavan, Thamarassery

Fr Koothottil John: relieved from Santhome minor seminary and appointed Ruhahaya, Philosophy

Fr Binoy Koottumkal: relieved from MOC and appointed Vice Rector Deepti Minor Seminary

Fr Koottumkal Joby: appointed Vice Rector at Ruhahaya Theologate

Fr Kottakavil Jijo: relieved from Impact and appointed formator at Deepti Minor Seminary

Fr Kulappurath Augustine: appointed formator and Librarian at Ruhahaya major Seminary

Fr Kuzhippallil Roshan: Manager, Alphonsa School, Karanjoshi, Shahuwadi P.O.Kolhapur Dt - 416215, Maharashtra

Fr Mampillil George: relieved from Santhome minor seminary and appointed at St Joseph Pontifical Seminary, Aluva

Fr Maruthumkuzhiyil Joseph (Albin): Asst. Priest in charge Kristjyoti Catholic Mission Rohru, Jagdish Niwas, 2nd Floor, Newseri, Rohru P.O., Dist. Shimla -171207, HP

Fr Mecheril George: Asst. Director & financial officer at Angel Home Kadandu

Fr Mudathotty Paul relieved from Ruhahaya. C/o Deepti Mount, Melampara P.O.

Fr Mundaplackel Kurian (Sijo): Manager St. Thomas Convent School, Rurka, Dehlon, Ludhiana (Dist.) Punjab -141118

Fr Mullappallil Joshi: relieved from Deepti Minor seminary and assigned to Orissa Mission

Fr Muricken Jubil: appointed Asst. Procurator Ruhahaya, Philosophy section

Fr Nellikunnel Mathew: appointed Coordinator of St Thomas Coordination, Germany

Fr Panthalipadan John (Vinoy): relieved from Deepti Nivas for pastoral ministry in the USA

Fr Thannippara Jose: Ashirvad Bhavan, Chinnabommagikulam, Nemallur Panchayat, Thiruvallur Dt., Near Maharshi School, Sathyavedu P.O. 517 588

Fr Thundathil Jeas : Deepti Ashram, Mitraon Village, Near MCD Talab, Najafgarh, 110043, Delhi

Fr Vanmelil Vipin: relieved from Ruhahaya and assigned to Sangli Mission

Fr Vazhuthanappallyil Kurian: relieved from Deepti Minor seminary and assigned to Diocese of Belthangady.

Fr Venattumattam Joseph: relieved from Ruhahaya and assigned to Odisha Mission

Fr Vettukallel Daison: Director, Jeevdan, Khan Mohalla, A/P Zarap-416510, Kudal Tk Sindhudurg Dt., Maharashtra.

NEWS FROM THE GENERALATE

1. Priestly Ordinations 2023-2024

In the present academic year the MST is blessed with two priestly Ordinations: of Rev. Dn Shalgin Arackaparampil and Rev.Dn Ashil Kizhakekara. Congratulations and best wishes to our New Priests: Fr Michael (Shalgin) Arackaparampil who was ordained on December 28, 2023 and Fr Joseph (Ashil) Kizhakekara who was ordained on December 30, 2023. MST World congratulates and welcomes them to the MST priestly Koinonia.

2. Regional Assignments of New Priests

As per ***Constitutions and Directives***, C70.2 they are assigned to the following Regions.

Rev. Fr Michael (Shalgin) Arackaparampil is assigned to St Mary, Queen of Missions Region, Delhi.

Rev. Fr Joseph (Ashil) Kizhakekara is assigned to St Thomas Region, Mandya

3. New Priests' and Benefactors' Day

The joint celebration of the New Priests' Day and Benefactors' day was held on January 13, 2024. The parents of new priests and the benefactors of MST seminarians were the invited guests on the occasion.

After the Holy Qurbana officiated by the new priests and Director General, there was a gathering in



the Refectory. The new priests, benefactors and guests were



welcomed and thanked by the Director General. Fr Joy Panjikaran, the Coordinator of sponsorship programme, felicitated the new priests and thanked all the benefactors and sponsors on behalf of the

MST. A packet containing gift articles was presented to all the



benefactors as a token of gratitude and appreciation by the Society for their sacrifices.

4. Appointment of the Election Committee

Initiating the process of erecting German Coordination, a committee of three MST priests, Fr Joshy Mullappallil (Convener) Fr Joseph (Jiji) Ettaniyil and Fr Ashish Keeranchira (members) was appointed to conduct the election of members to the panel of three from whom one would be appointed by the Director General as the Coordinator. The Committee submitted to the DG the list of three eligible candidates on the 15th of March, 2024.

5. Rev.Fr Sebastian Thuruthel (RIP Feb. 8-14, 2024)

Vaidikaratnam Very Reverend Fr Sebastian Thuruthel (98), a member of the Missionary Society of St Thomas the Apostle and assigned to St Thomas Mission Region, Mandya, was called for his eternal reward at 9.25 pm on February 8, 2024 at IHM hospital, Marygiri, Bharananganam. Rev. Frs Joseph Thekkekarott, Jomon

Ayyankanal and Lonappan Arangassery, fathers from Deepti Generalate, Deepti Minor seminary and Aaraam as well as doctors and the nursing staff of the IHM hospital were present at his death bed praying as he passed away. The body was kept in the mortuary till 11th Afternoon.

5.1. Mortal Remains of Fr Thuruthel at Deepti Mount

The body of Fr Thuruthel Sebastian was brought to Aaraam at 3.00 pm. on 11/02/2024. The body was kept in the Deepti open



Auditorium from 4.00 pm to 11.30 pm for the public to view and pray homage. Bishop Jose Pulickal (Kanjirappilly). The body was shifted to the

public chapel at 11.30 pm. Hundreds of people of all walks of life came to Deepti to pay homage to Fr Sebastian Thuruthel from 4.00 pm on 11/02/2024 to 9.30 am on 12/02/2024. Mar Jose Pulickal of Kanjirappilly, Bishop Stanley Roman (Emeritus) of Kollam, Mar



Joseph Perumthottam, came and paid homage to Fr Thuruthel on Sunday evening. Mar Tony Neelankavil (TCR) came and paid homage on Sunday evening.

5.2. Funeral Rites & Burial

The funeral service, started at 7.45 am on 12/02/2024. The first part of the funeral liturgy was led by Very Rev.Fr Vincent Kadalikattilputhenpura, the Director General of MST at 7.45 am. Then the body was shifted to the Auditorium. The second part of the funeral liturgy was officiated by His Eminence Cardinal George Alenchery and he delivered the Funeral Homily after the proclamation of the Gospel.

The Holy Qurbana was presided over by Mar Sebastian Vadakel, the bishop of Ujjain concelebrated by Cardinal George Alenchery, Mar Joseph Kallarangattu, Mar James Athikalam, Mar George Madathikandathil, Mar Bosco Puthoor, bishop Emeritus of Melbourne, Mar Jacob Angadiath, Syr-Malabar bishop emeritus



of USA, Most Rev. Susai Pakiam Archbishop emeritus of Trivandrum, the General Councillors, the Regional Directors of MST Regions: Very Rev. Frs Sebastian Pullatt, Sojan Aikarakunnel, Thomas Mangalathil, and Joseph Karodan as well as hundreds of priests, religious women, family members, relatives, students and friends.

His Beatitude Mar Raphael Thattil, the Major Archbishop, led the third part of the funeral liturgy concelebrated by His Eminence, their Excellencies and hundreds of priests. The body was interred in the tomb blessed by Mar James Athikalam in the Generalate Cemetery on Deepti Mount at around 1.00 pm.

5.3. Seventh Day Memorial Service

The Seventh Day of the demise of Rev.Fr Sebastian Thuruthel was celebrated on 14th February at Deepti Generalate Chapel. Fr Vincent, the Director General celebrated Holy Qurbana assisted by Fr Lonappan Arangassery, Secretary General and Fr Kurian Kochettonnil the Director of Aaraam, the Councillors and fathers from the Generalate and Aaraam. Qurbana was followed by office for the dead in the cemetery and prayers of Naloth at the Generalate square.

Prepared by Fr Lonappan Arangassery

6. Visit of Major Archbishop to the MST Generalate



The new Major Archbishop, His Beatitude Mar Raphael Thattil made a formal visit to Deepti Mount –Generalate, Deepti College and Aaraam from 4.00 pm to 6.00pm on February 13, 2024. The Director General, General Councillors, Rev. Fathers at the Generalate, Aaraam and Deepti College as well as the seminarians accorded him a cordial welcome at the entrance of the Generalate. After a visit to the Blessed Sacrament, he was welcomed by Fr Vincent Kadalikattilputhenpura, the Director General, in the Generalate Refectory. Mar Raphael Thattil addressed the gathering recollecting the great services rendered by the members of the Society to the Church at large and in particular in the eparchy of Shamshabad. There was time to interact with and ask questions to the Major Archbishop. The Major Archbishop said that the MST is very close to his heart and expressed his satisfaction in the multifaceted apostolate undertaken by the MST and promised every

support to the missionary apostolate of the Society. The gathering ended with Tea. Fr Joseph Thekkekarott thanked the Major Archbishop for the visit. The Major Archbishop posed for a group photo. On his way back he visited the fathers at Aaram.

7. Foundation Day Celebrations

The celebration of the 57th Foundation Day of MST was very simple



due to the demise of Fr Thuruthel a few days ago. Very Rev. Fr Vincent Kadalikattilputhenpura, the Director General celebrated Holy Qurbana concelebrated by the Councillors Fr Joseph Thekkekarott, Fr Lonappan Arangassery, Fr Ivan Muthanattu, Fr Jomon Ayyankanal and the Treasurer General Fr Santosh along with other priests of the Deepti Mount, seminarians and Associate Missionaries.

6. Promise of the Associate Missionaries

Seven Associate Missionaries, who had taken the promise as Associate Missionaries in 2019, were approved by the General Council to renew the promise on the Foundation Day (February



22, 2024) during the Eucharistic Liturgy to the Director General. The occasion was graced by the presence of the other Associate Missionaries who congratulated them and welcomed them to their Koinonia giving a Rose flower at the end of the Qurbana. Three others who had applied for renewal may be permitted to make the Promise later.

8. Annual Retreat for MST Priests

The annual retreat for the MSTs of Deepti Mount and priests working in Kerala was organised at Deepti Bhavan from March 10 to 13,



2024. Rev. Fr Luke Thadathil, professor at Pontifical Institute Aluva preached the retreat and 43 priests participated and benefited from the Retreat. The talks and insights of the preacher were very much appreciated by the participants.

9. Visit of Bishop Jose Puthenveetil

Mar Puthenveetil visited Deepti Generalate on January 15, 2024 and he was welcomed by the Director General Rev.Fr Vincent K, the Councillors Fr Joseph Thekkekarott and Fr Lonappan Arangassery and the fathers of Deepti Seminary and Generalate. He spent some time with Fr Babu Anithanam who was taking rest at the Generalate, after his accident in Delhi.



NEWS FROM THE MISSIONS

1. ST PAUL REGION, UJJAIN

1.1. Christmas Gathering



A gathering of all the MST priests working in the region was held at Pawasa on 17th January. Almost all

the priests in the Region participated in it. Fr Sebastian Pullatt, the Regional Director, welcomed everyone and addressed the meeting. He also welcomed Rev. Fathers Joseph Muthuplakkal and Joyal Anjilithoppil who recently joined the Region during the meeting. We had a sharing session followed by some refreshment games. It ended with *Agape*.

1.2. Gathering of MST Brothers



A gathering of the MST brothers was held on January 28, 2024 at Pawasa, Ujjain in connection with the foundation day. It started with

some interactive games. Fr Joseph Muthuplakkal shared his experiences in the mission on that day which was followed by Rosary prayer together. The gathering got over with the dinner.



1.3. Mission Tour to Orissa

The Region conducted a mission tour to Orissa from February 5 to 9, 2024. Twenty eight (28) Fathers joined the tour. We made a



pilgrimage to the famous Marian Shrine, known as the 'Our Lady of Lourdes of Orissa' and the Martyrs' Church in Kandamal where the Christians were martyred. We had the opportunity to visit some of the villages where our priests are working. Sincere thanks to Fr Joseph Cheriampanatt, the Mission Coordinator, and the missionaries for their hospitality and concern.



1.4. Young Priests' Gathering

A gathering was organised for the young priests working in the Region on February 21, 2024 at the Regional House. It started with a prayer session followed by the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In the sharing





session that followed the priests actively participated in the presence of the Regional Director and the Councillors. The meeting got over

with the dinner.

1.5. Foundation Day Celebration



The 57th Foundation Day was solemnly celebrated at the Regional House. Rev. Fr Bibin Vadayaparambil, the first councilor, was the main celebrant at the Holy Qurbana which was concelebrated by ten fathers. Rev.sisters and aspirants from



SH Provincial House also joined us for the celebration. The foundation day cake was cut after the Holy Qurbana and was shared with all present along with sweets. .



2. ST THOMAS REGION, MANDYA

2.1. Educators' Meet

St Thomas Region hosted an Educators Meet on February 3, 2024, organized by the Education Department of St. Thomas Mission, Mandya Region. The event commenced with an inauguration by Fr.



Sojan, the Regional Director, setting the stage for a day of collaboration and learning. With over 300 teachers in attendance from various schools, the gathering aimed at fostering professional development and networking opportunities within the educational community.

2.2. MST Foundation Day 2024

The 57th Foundation Day of MST was celebrated solemnly on February 22, 2024. In the morning there was solemn Holy Qurbana in which the whole community thanked God and asked God's grace to proclaim the good News with greater zeal. In the evening all fathers of the Region came together for the common prayer session followed by dinner.



2.3. Visit of Director General & Construction of New Blocks

The construction of two blocks at Santhome Public School, Bannur, was started after a prayer of blessing by Regional Director Rev Fr Sojan, in the presence of Very Rev Fr Vincent Kadalikkattilputhenpura.

January 25th is a historic day for Santhome School as it witnessed the laying of foundation stone for a New Block. The foundation stone was laid by Rev. Fr. Vincent



Kadalikkattilputhenpura during his visit to Adilabad mission. Rev. Fr. Sebastian Tharapputhotty, the mission coordinator of Adilabad mission, Rev. Fr. Sebastian Kappiyarumalayil, the correspondent of the School, other fathers, sisters, staff and students were present at the auspicious event. During the prayer service, Fr Vincent blessed the place and the foundation stone. He expressed his appreciation for the staff for their hard work for academic excellence and

wished steady growth for the school.

2.4. Visit of His Beatitude Most. Rev. Raphael Thattil

St Thomas Region was blessed by the visit of His Beatitude Mar Raphael Thattil to Mandya Regional House on 17/03/2024 in the Evening. Most of the fathers and sisters working in the Region gathered in Regional house. The Major Archbishop was given a solemn reception and welcoming him Fr Sojan explained the humble beginnings of the St Thomas



Region and highlighted the contributions MST priests and their collaborators in the formation of the eparchy of Mandya. The Major Archbishop in his message appreciated the missionary contributions Mandya

Region and congratulated all the fathers and sisters who have worked in the region. He also spoke highly of the MST missions throughout India.



3. ST ALPHONSA REGION, SANGLI

3.1. Monthly Retreat at Vishwadeepti



On January 26, 2024, Vishwadeepti hosted the monthly Recollection led by Fr Savari SJ who helped the participants and provided them an opportunity to think of conversion and spiritual renewal. Adoration, confession, and reflective sessions in the tranquil surroundings of Vishwadeepti, provided the participants with solace and spiritual nourishment. Fr. Savari SJ helped us with his thought provoking and profound insights.

3.2. Silver & Golden Jubilee Celebrations

The Missionaries of Sangli Region gathered at Vishwadeepti to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the first profession of Sr Lalitha SMS and silver jubilee of Sr. Joe Maria MSJ and the sacerdotal silver jubilee of Frs. Biji Kudukkamthadam, and Joby Njalliyl, The jubilee celebrations commenced by thanking the Lord for the fifty years of dedicated service of Sr. Lalitha SMS and twenty-five years of commitment by Frs. Biji, Joby, and Sr. Joe Maria MSJ. The atmosphere was filled with warmth and admiration for the Jubilarians by the friends, family members and well-wishers of the jubilarians. Fr. Thomas Vattukulam felicitated the Jubilarians acknowledging the profound impact of their selfless dedication, tireless efforts and services to the humanity in general and countless individuals.



Fr. Tom Mangalathil, the Regional Director honoured the Jubilarians, recognizing their exemplary contributions to the mission and their commitment to the gospel values among the people. The gathering ended with a sumptuous dinner. The legacies left by Sr. Lalitha SMS,

Sr. Joe Maria MSJ, Frs. Biji and Joby will serve as beacons, inspiring the future generations and illuminating the path of service.

3.3. SANPHO Inter-School Football Carnival



In an exhilarating display of talent and sportsmanship, the SANPHO Inter-School Football

Carnival, organized by the Department of Education (*Dyandeepti*), took place on February 4th at Alphonsa School, Yadrav, Ichalkaranji. Alphonsa Schools from Kolhapur, Yadrav, Jath, Miraj, and Karanjoshi, along with Santhome School, Sangli, and St. Thomas School, Rathnagiri participated in the event. After a series of competitive rounds, in the finals, Alphonsa School Kolhapur and Santhome School Sangli, kept the audience at the edge of their seats. In a nail-biting finish, Alphonsa School emerged victorious with a close 1-0 win over Santhome School Sangli, securing the coveted championship title. The event served as a reminder of the importance of sports in fostering holistic development and instilling valuable life lessons in the students.

3.4. New School Buildings in Devgiri and Tasgaon Santhom School, Tasgaon

In a joyous ceremony held on January 25th, the basement portion of Santhom School in Tasgaon was blessed and inaugurated. Fr. Tom Mangalathil graced the occasion with his presence,



offering blessings and encouragement to the school community. Fr. Santhosh Olapurackal, the General Procurator of MST, and the regional Councillors were also present on the occasion. Mr. Sadashiv Mali, the *Sarpanch* of Chinchani village, inaugurated the school.

Santhom School, Devgiri

On January 31st, the new school building at Devgiri, Santhom School in Belgaum, was blessed by Fr. Tom Mangalathil. The occasion was marked by prayers of blessing and excitement as the community gathered to witness the auspicious event. The school had already commenced a three-month pre-nursery course, signalling a promising start in the new premises.



in Belgaum, was blessed by Fr. Tom Mangalathil. The occasion was marked by prayers of blessing and excitement as the community gathered to witness the auspicious event. The school

3.5. The Feast of the Patrons of the Parishes

Amidst an atmosphere brimming with devotion and jubilation, the parishes in Sangil Mission recently celebrated the feasts of their patrons with great solemnity between January and February. Infant Jesus Church Banda celebrated their



parish feast from January 5th to 7th. St. Thomas Church, Rathnagiri celebrated the feast from January 19 to 21. St. Alphonsa Forane Church Miraj celebrated their parish

feast from February 2 to 4. St. Alphonsa Church Kolhapur and Jai Matha Church Bedshi celebrated the parish feasts from February 9 to 11. Rev. Fathers, sisters, and lay faithful from nearby communities joined the celebrations

3.6. Foundation Day Celebration & Monthly Recollection



The Ratnagiri St. Thomas Church hosted a jubilant gathering on February 22nd, 2024, as members of the Sangli Mission came

together to commemorate the 57th Foundation Day of the Missionary Society of St. Thomas the Apostle (MST). The event was made even more special by the monthly recollection guided by Fr. George Kuppayil who gave an inspiring and insightful talk.

The main celebrant at the Holy Qurbana was Fr. Leo Chandrankunnel and other priests concelebrated. Adding to the spiritual fervour of the occasion, Fr. Thomas Pullikkattil delivered a touching message encapsulating the



essence and significance of the Foundation Day. The Foundation Day celebration was enriched by the presence of MST priests who gathered in the spirit of solidarity and brotherhood from various corners of the mission. It was a time for all to come together, renew their commitment to the values of the Gospel.

3.7. Other initiatives of Sangli Mission Society

The other initiatives of the Region empowering and uplifting the communities across Sangli mission are the following:

a) Sports Extravaganza for Women: On International Women's Day, Sangli Mission organized sports events across seven villages, encouraging women of all ages to participate in various sports and recreational activities. The event was aimed at promoting empowerment and solidarity among women, challenging the barriers placed on women by the society regarding their involvement in sports.

b) Health Camp: A medical health camp was arranged in the Shirol block in collaboration with Sevasadan Lifeline, providing free medical services to the community. Specialist doctors from Sevasadan Life-line super specialty hospital offered services ranging from heart disease treatment to eye check-ups, benefiting around 275 women.

c) Vocational Training Program: Sangli Mission conducted a vocational training program in six villages, focusing on skill enhancement for over 600 women. The program covered



diverse topics like fashion designing, food processing, art and craft funded by reserved funds of *Gram Panchayats*.



d) Picnic for Children with Disabilities: 170 children with disabilities from 15 villages enjoyed a day of celebration at Gandharva Water Park in Kolhapur. This initiative was aimed at providing inclusion and integration and a rare opportunity for joy and relief for both children and their parents.

e) Annual Gatherings for Children with Disabilities: The AASTHA Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) program



organized two annual gatherings to exhibit the talents of children from multiple villages with disabilities. These events promoted inclusivity and community support,

emphasizing that every child deserves the chance to shine bright.

All these initiatives reflect the commitment of Sangli Mission Society to empowering communities and fostering a more inclusive and compassionate society.

4. MARY QUEEN REGION, NEW DELHI

4.1. Foundation Day Celebration of MST

Foundation day of MST was anticipated and celebrated on 7th and 8th of February, 2024. On the 7th evening all the priests in St Mary Queen of mission region Delhi



gathered in Deepti Ashram for Monthly recollection and the



foundation day celebration. Fr Joseph Karodan celebrated Holy Qurbana and Fr Sijo Mundaplackal gave the talk for the

monthly recollection. And all the priests together went for a film and a dinner out.

4.2. Deepti Ashram

4.2.1. Visit of Superior General of Maria Bambina Sisters



Superior General Sr Venita Fernandez and Asst. General Sr Saly Painadath and Sr Luisa made a short visit to Deepti Ashram on 20th and 24 Feb respectively on their visit to India. They made an interaction

with the children in Deepti Ashram and motivated the children with their short message.

4.2.2. St Sebastian's Feast

Tagore Garden Parish celebrated the feast of St Sebastian on 28th January. Fr Joseph Karodan was the Main



celebrant for the Holy Qurbana. Cultural programme were presented by the children of Deepti Ashram.

4.3. Deepti Foundation

4.3.1. Picnic for Children

On 13-02-2024 the staff and children visited Amrit Udyan, President Garden. There were 200 children and 18 staff members. Children



could enjoy the flora of the garden. All the participants were amazed to see varieties of Tulips, Roses and other flower plants. At Rajghat the participants had the lunch. They had had also opportunities to visit the Rashtriya Swachhta Kendra in Rajghat.

4.3.2. Women's Day Celebration



On 07-03-2024 Women's day was celebrated at Deepti Foundation. The program was arranged in Mother Teresa Hall, Tahirpur. Mr. Nidhi Singh welcomed all the participants. There were 450 participants. Mr. Samuel Atar was the chief guest

of the program. Fr. Joseph Karodan, the Regional Director of Delhi Region also was present at the program and addressed the gathering. At the end of the program Fr. Abin Michael, Director of Deepti Foundation thanked all the participants. The program ended with the sumptuous lunch.

4.4. Mother Theresa Catholic Mission, Dehlon

4.4.1 Republic Day Celebration: St. Thomas School, Rurka, celebrated Republic Day with great fervor and enthusiasm, honoring the spirit of India's democratic heritage. The event was marked with

patriotic performances, speeches, and various activities highlighting the significance of the day. The flag was hoisted by the Bro. Justin Kunanjiyil in the presence of the staff and students followed by the National Anthem. Bro. Justin delivered the message emphasizing the responsibilities of citizens in India.



4.4.2. Vasant Panchami Celebration: On the auspicious occasion of Basant Panchami, St. Thomas School, Rurka celebrated the arrival of spring with great fervor and enthusiasm. The festival marked the onset of the spring season. The celebration commenced with a special assembly organized by the school on 14th February. The school



premises were decorated colorfully and students were dressed in vibrant yellow attire, symbolizing the blossoming of mustard flowers. One of the traditions associated with this festival is the flying of kites symbolizing the arrival of spring and the victory of good over evil. The highlight of the Basant Panchami celebration at St. Thomas School, Rurka was kite flying by students and teachers in the spacious field adjacent to the school.

4.5. Kristjyoti Catholic Mission Rohru Himachal Pradesh

4.5.1. Christmas and New Year celebration: Rohru community was in full swing for celebrating the Nativity of our Lord and welcoming the New Year 2024. Christmas was marked with two-

day program. On the twenty fourth prayer started at six in the evening with praise and worship, Carol singing and Holy Qurbana. On the Christmas day the service began at 11.00 am with Carol singing followed by praise and worship and Holy Qurbana and



Christmas message. After the holy Qurbana there were programmes lasting one hour which included dances, songs and Christmas skit. Thanks to MSJ sisters and Br Albin for their hard work to prepare and organize the programme. At the end there was fellowship meal together and the day was ended by 'Pahadi' dance.

4.5.2. Sacrements of Initiation



Kristjyoti Catholic Mission Rohru was happy to have one more family joining the community after a preparation of three years. The sacraments were administered by Fr Sanoj Pathrapankal MST in the

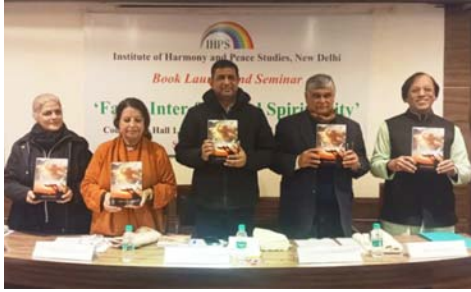
presence of the community. This was really a motivation for many more families to receive sacraments and to be fully incorporated into the Church.



4.5.3. Bible Quiz: As usual there was Bible Quiz in connection with Christmas from St Luke' gospel chapters one to ten. There was good participation and thirty participated in the quiz competition. The top scorers were given gifts on Christmas day.

4.6. Institute of Harmony and Peace

4.6.1. Book Launch and Seminar: Institute of Harmony and Peace Studies (IHPS), New Delhi, organized a book launch and seminar



on Faith, Inter-faith and Spirituality at Conference Hall 1, India Islamic Cultural Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi, on 27 January 2024, at 15.30 hours. The book is authored by Dr M. D.

Thomas, Founder Director, Institute of Harmony and Peace Studies, New Delhi.

Prof. Manoj Kumar Sinha, Director, Indian Law Institute (ILI), New Delhi, was the chief guest and speaker at the seminar. The other speakers were Prof. Madhu Khanna, Former Director, Centre for Comparative Religions and Civilizations, Jamia Millia Islamia University (JMI), New Delhi, Janab Syed Mahmood Akhter, Chief Executive Officer, Alliance for Economic and Educational Development of the Underprivileged (AEEDU), New Delhi and Prof. Vanita Manchanda, Former Professor, Department of Punjabi, Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Khalsa College, University of Delhi (DU), New Delhi.

The book was launched by Chief Guest and other dignitaries together. Dr M. D. Thomas welcomed the guests and introduced the book. Mr Yash Dhamija, Inter-faith Activist, New Delhi, anchored the programme. A lively interaction between the resource persons and audience followed. The session ended by 18.00 hours. Refreshments were served. Nearly 70 persons from different communities and sections of the society participated in the programme. The speakers and participants acclaimed the day as a great day.

4.6.2. Awards: Received Award 'Gagan Swar Ratn Shree Sammaan 2024 during Gagan Swar Annual Award Programme – organized by Gagan Swar Books Publications, Ghaziabad, Uttar



Pradesh — for ‘Promoting Social Harmony and Interfaith Relations - at Hindi Bhavan, New Delhi – on 18 February 2024. IHPS conducted 5 Lectures at Seminars & Webinars, 4 Video Messages on

Social Media, 15 interactions with Dignitaries of Other Communities, and 8 Articles to Journals, Books and Websites.

4.7. St Joseph’s Bhavan, Bathinda

4.7.1. Annual Sports Day: RISEN 23. The annual sports meet of the School was held on 12th and 13th February. With March past and lighting the torch fire the days of annual sports began. There were various types of games for KG section, juniors and seniors students. The event came to a close with the distribution of prizes by the principal.



4.7.2. Reception of the Sacraments of Initiation



The faithful of Chrithuraja Catholic Church, Barkandi were happy to welcome many who received the Sacraments of initiation after an intensive

formation in catholic faith. Rev. Fr Ranji Chirayil administered the Sacraments in the presence of many faithful.

4.8. St Alphonsa Bhavan Dhuri

Christmas Celebration: St Alphonsa Bhavan solemnly celebrated Christmas. Fr Bobby Kaiyalakakathu was the main celebrant and Fr Albin Maruthmkuzhiyil delivered the Christmas message to the sisters and the community from St Mother Teresa mission station.

4.9. NAVDEEPTI Counselling Centre, Akhanoor, Jammu

“Navdeepti Counselling Centre” for Drugs and Alcoholic Addicts, undertaken by Deepti Foundation, Delhi Region. Inauguration of *N a v a d e e p t i* *Counselling Centre*, marked a significant milestone in the ongoing



battle against the pressing issue of drug and alcohol addiction in the area of Jammu and Kashmir. The event commenced with the celebration of Holy Eucharist in Christ the King Parish Church, Akhanoor in the diocese of Jammu and Srinagar. Bishop Ivan Albert Pereira, the Bishop of Jammu-Srinagar celebrated the Holy Mass in the gracious presence of Bishop Mar Jose Puthenveetil, the auxiliary bishop of the diocese of Faridabad, Rev. Fr Joseph Karodan, the Regional Director of Delhi region, Rev Fr Rony Alencherry, the Director of Navadeepti Counselling Centre, Rev. fathers of Jammu-Srinagar diocese, Rev. fathers of Delhi region, Rev. Sr. Clemency, the provincial sister of MSJ Congregation, Fr Justin, the director of Catholic Social Service Society, Jammu (CSSS), Rev. sisters and the parishioners of Akhanoor parish. It was followed by the inauguration and blessing of the new Counseling centre.



Rev. Fr Rony Alencherry with a short introduction welcomed everyone to the inaugural session. Formal inauguration was done by Bishop Jose Puthenveetil, and the blessing of the centre was done by Bishop Ivan Albert Pereira. Fr Joseph Karodan with an introduction on MST, felicitated the missionaries and Fr Justin and Sr Clemency also expressed their support. Lieutenant Colonel Mathew and Major Valmiki Kumar contributed towards the success of the function by arranging food, tent and other necessary things.

5. ST JOSEPH MISSION, ODISHA

The Odisha Mission was blessed by the visit of Mar Sebastian Vadakel,



the bishop of Ujjain and the Councillors Fr Jomon Ayyankanal and Fr Lonappan Arangassery. The Bishop visited all the

mission Centres from January 22, 2024 to 25, except Kundra. Fr Lonappan, on his first visit to Odisha Mission,



made it a point to visit all the Mission centres.

5. 1. Namasate Maria Centre, Podagad

Blessing of the Newly Constructed Convent: We are delighted to share news of the blessing of the newly constructed Convent of the Abhishekhagni Sisters of Jesus and Mary by Very Rev. Abraham Palathingal on January 8, 2024. The event was graced by the presence of Reverend Fr. Thomas Vadakkumkara CMI, Vicar General of Jagadalpur Diocese, Very Rev. Jose Cheriampattu



MST, the Coordinator of St. Joseph's Mission Odisha and Syncellus of Shamshabad for Odisha Region, Rev Fr Jomon Ayyankanal, Councilor of MST and Rev Fr. Xavierkhan Vattayil and Rev. Fr. Binoy Karimaruthunkal, the Co-founders of PDM and ASJM.

The Holy Qurbana was celebrated by Rev. Xavierkhan Vattayil and homily was delivered by Rev. Fr. Binoy Karimaruthunkal in the

presence of fathers, sisters, and invited guests.

5.2. Little Flower Mission Centre, Pakhanaguda

A tailoring Center in Bagderi to empower the communities through skill development was inaugurated. This initiative, located in the heart of Bagderi, is dedicated to skill enhancement and economic empowerment as well as to fostering sustainable livelihood and economic growth within the Bagderi locality.



5.3. Sacred Heart Centre, Laxmipur

5.3.1. Blessing of Presbytery

His Excellency Mar Sebastian Vadakel, the bishop of Ujjain, blessed the presbytery at Sacred Heart Mission Centre, Laxmipur on January 22, 2024. Rev. Fr Jose Cheriyanpanattu, the VG of Shamshad for Odisha and the coordinator of St. Joseph's Mission, Odisha, and Rev. Fr. Lonappan Arangassery, General Councillor and Secretary



General of MST concelebrated with the Bishop along with other fathers present.

Rev Sr Miriam, the Provincial and Grace Mariya, Councillor of Ernakulam MSJ Province, the guest priests, fathers from the Odisha mission, and Rev. Sisters from Odisha graced the occasion with their presence. Rev. Fr. Bineesh Kuzhiyadiyl, the Director of the Centre expressed gratitude to the bishop and all invited guests.

5.3.2. Blessing of St. Michael Chapel at Chonapokal

We are delighted to share the joy at the blessing of St. Michael Chapel in Chonapokal, Tikri. Fr. Bineesh Kuzhiyadiyl officiated the blessing ceremony.

5.4. Sanjo Ashram, Bissamcuttack

International Women's Day Celebration: Sanjo Ashram, Bissamcuttack Celebrated International Women's Day to highlight the dignity of women and show our deepest gratitude towards all women. Under the guidance of Fr Deleep Nalannadiyil and Bro. Anto Joshy Parunthumplackal, the elderly women from 14 villages around Bissamcuttack were given shawls and gifts. It was a new experience for the elderly women and it was appreciated very much by the village leaders.

(Reported by Fr Jestin Vattamannil, St. Joseph Mission Odisha)

6. ARUNACHAL MISSION

6.1. Visit of Director General and Councillor



Very Rev. Fr Vincent Kadalikkattilputhenpura, the Director General of MST along with Rev. Fr Jomon Ayyankanal, the Councillor in charge of mission expansion made

their official visit to Arunachal Mission from the 1st to 4th December 2023. They visited Santhom Bhavan, the main parish church and the sub parishes in Pakke Kessang on 3rd of December. Since it was

Sunday they offered the Holy Mass in the parish church and we along with the parishioners felicitated Fr Vincent who celebrates his sacerdotal silver Jubilee. They also visited the nearby parishes. Rev. Fr



Benny Kuliraniyil MST visited Pakke Kessang on 9th January 2024 and celebrated Holy Mass and also visited few houses and cherished his past memories.

6.2. Carol and Christmas celebrations



Christmas Carol started on 5th December and visited all the houses in the main parish as well as in the filial parishes and shared the joy and peace of Christmas. We had night Vigil Mass on the eve of Christmas. Christmas day celebrations were very grand with

various cultural programs, games and a solemn lunch.

6.3. Visit of Br Sebastian Thomas

Br Sebastian Thomas, one of the well-wishers and benefactors of MST as well as of Pakke Kessang, made his visit to Pakke Kessang parish on 14th February 2024. He stayed with us for two days and visited some families as well as the filial parishes and gave small talks in view of the Great Fast and Easter.

6.4. Memorial Mass for Fr Sebastian Thuruthel

All the MST fathers in Arunanchal Mission (Frs Saji, Aji, Benedict and Bibin) gathered together in Sagalee on February 18th evening



and celebrated the Holy Mass for the departed soul of Fr Sebastian Thuruthel on 19th morning.

6.5. Pastoral Visit of Bishop Benny Varghese

Most Rev. Bishop Benny Varghese made his first pastoral visit to St Mary's Catholic Church, Pakke Kessang on 23rd February 2024. We accorded him a warm welcome and he celebrated the Holy Mass in the parish church. After the Holy Mass there was a small meeting in which we felicitated the bishop on his sacerdotal silver jubilee. The visit of bishop was very encouraging and supporting for us as well as for the faithful.



HOUSES OF FORMATION

1. Deepti Minor Seminary, Melampara

1.1. Tapioca Harvesting



Deepti Seminary staff and students as well as the fathers of the Generalate and Aram joined the Tapioca harvesting fest on the 18th and 19th of January 2024. The yield was better than last year

and it was a moment of sharing and joy for all on Deepti Mount.

1.2. Community Picnic

On 20th January 2024, the Seminary community had a picnic to Thrissur. The fathers and brothers visited places like the Shrine of St. Euphrasia Ollur, The Basilica of Our Lady of Dolores, Zoo, Anakotta at Guruvayoor and Chavakkad Beach. The community came back refreshed by midnight.



1.3. Parents' Day Celebration

The Parents Day of the Deepti Seminary was celebrated on 27th of January, 2024 and almost all the parents were present. The program included Holy Mass at 10 am and the cultural program. The brothers were awarded prizes for their performance in sports and the arts in the academic year 2023-24. Rev Fr Joseph Thekkekarott, the Vice Director General presided over the function. After the programme the brothers and their parents met the staff personally and evaluated the progress of the brothers.

1.4. Volleyball match



A friendly volleyball match between Franciscan brothers of the Theologate at Thellakam and brothers of Deepti was conducted. Though the brothers of Deepti lost the game it was a great experience for the Deepti brothers. Rev Fathers Joshi Mullappallil, Varghese Monoth and George Kachira, accompanied the brothers to Thellakon.

1.5. Sent off to Third Year Brothers



The first-year brothers of Deepti Seminary organized a send off for their Third year brothers on 22nd February 2024. Rev Fathers from the Generalate and Aram

participated in the program which was conducted at 7 pm in the Basketball court. Very Rev. Fr Vincent Kadalikkattil Puthenpura presided over the function. Rev Fr Joseph Thekkekarott and Rev Fr Jacob Njarolickal felicitated the brothers on the occasion. The handwritten yearbook '*Arun*' of the Deepti brothers was released by the Director General during the function. To add colour to the event, cultural programs were staged during the function under the guidance of Fr Ebin Vazhuthanappally.

1.6. Way of the Cross at Valliyachan Mala

The seminarians actively participated in the Way of the Cross on 24th February 2024 conducted under the leadership of the Director General of



MST. On the Valliyachan Mala, Rev Fr Varghese Monoth delivered a touching homily followed by the Way of the Cross to the top of the mount and Holy Eucharist by the MST fathers. Many people from the Aruvithara parish also participated in the celebrations.

1.7. Visit to Santhome Seminary

On 23rd, February 2024 brothers from the Deepti Seminary visited the Santhome Seminary at Thamarassery and spent one day there



with the fathers and brothers. Rev Fr George Mampally and the community welcomed the Deepti fathers and brothers cordially. The day was marked by the Eucharistic Celebration and different matches between the fathers and brothers. Seven of the Third-year brothers from Deepti stayed back at the Santhome Seminary for their +2 exam in the center at Thamarassey.

1.8. Staff and Students with the Major Archbishop

His Beatitude Mar Raphael Thattil was happy to pose with the seminarians of Deepti for a photo with him during his visit to Generalate.



2. Santhome Minor Seminary, Thamarassery

2.1. Visit of Rev. Fr Joseph Thekkekarott

Rev. Fr Joseph Thekkekarott visited Santhome Minor Seminary on January 7-8, 2024 to meet the seminarians especially the second Year brothers. He also met the staff members and held a general meeting with all the brothers.

2.2. New Priests' Day: (17/02/2024)



The MST new priests, Fr Shalgin Arackaparambil and Fr Ashil Kizhakkekara came to Santhome Seminary for the New Priests' Day on January 17, 2024 and celebrated Holy Qurbana in the evening. It was followed by felicitation of new priests and sharing by the new priests.

2.3. Parents' Day: 18/02/2024

The Parents' Day was celebrated on 18th Jan. 2024. The parents of 11 second year brothers came to Santhome in the morning



and there was a solemn Holy Qurbana celebrated by Fr George Mampillil, the Rector and concelebrated by the new priests and Fr. Biju Koothothil, the Vice-Rector. The Qurbana was followed by a meeting and the Parents' Day was concluded with a sumptuous lunch.

2.4. Republic Day

We celebrated the 75th Republic Day of India on 26th Jan. 2024. Fr. George Mampillil hoisted the national flag and delivered the message to the gathering. There were Malayalam, English and Hindi speeches and patriotic songs as part of the Republic Day celebrations. There was a friendly volleyball match between the First and Second Year brothers.

2.5. Basket & Volley ball Matches



As part of the exposure programmes, inter-seminary gathering and matches are arranged between the

Santhome brothers and Vinaya Bhavan (MSFS) brothers, Thamarassery. The Santhome brothers went over to Vinaya Bhavan on 29th Jan. 2024 and played basketball with the MSFS brothers. The Vinaya Bhavan brothers came over to Santhome for a volleyball match on 10th Feb. 2024. Both matches were won by the MSFS brothers. However, these were good occasions for interactions, exposure and enjoying each other's hospitality.

2.6. Mar Valloppilly Memorial Tournament

St. Joseph Minor Seminary, Thalassery organised Mar Sebastian Valloppilly Memorial Inter Minor Seminary Basketball Tournament & Speech Competition on Wednesday 31st Jan. 2024. There were five teams, including Santhome Minor Seminary, from north of Kerala and eight speakers from various seminaries. It was an occasion to interact with fathers and brothers from different dioceses and Congregations. The Inter Seminary gathering was inaugurated by Archbishop emeritus Mar George Valiyamattam. The basketball team of Santhome Seminary was accompanied by Fr Geroge Mampillil, Fr Jobin Vadakketh and Fr Abhilash Akkattu.

2.7. Annual Picnic: (08/02/2024)

The Annual picnic of the academic year was organised on 08th Feb.



2024. The entire community of Santhome set out early in the morning to Thrissur. We visited the tomb of St. Mariam Theresia, Our Lady of Dolours

Basilica, St. Thomas Church, Palayoor, Guruvayoor 'Aanakottil' and concluded the day with a sea-bath at Chavakadu beach. We received the sad news of the demise of Rev. Fr Sebastian Thuruthel on our way back to Santhome. Fr Jose Ottalankal, Fr George Mampillil and Fr Abhilash Akkatt attended the funeral on February 12, 2024 at Deepti Mount.

2.8. Foundation Day of MST

The 57th Foundation Day of the MST was celebrated on 22nd Feb. The Santhome Associates and friends of MST were invited to the



cultural evening and fellowship meal. They all participated in the Holy Qurbana in the morning. There was half-day outing for the fathers and brothers.

2.9. Deepti Meets Santhome at Thamaraassery

February 23, 2024 was a day of meeting and greeting for the brothers from Deepti College and Santhome Seminary. Together with the seven students from Deepti who returned



to Santhome for their Plus Two exams, Fr Joshi Mullappillil and Fr George Mecheril and the brothers of Deepti visited Santhome on 23rd Feb. A friendly basketball match was organised between Deepti and Santhome and there was also a friendly volleyball match between the Deepti team and fathers. The day was concluded with an outdoor supper and a sing-song session.

2.10. Annual Exams & Holidays

The Plus One and Plus Two exams commenced on 1st March. Seven +2 students and eleven +1 students are doing their exams at Koodathai and Kodamcherry respectively. The year-end exams for the first-year brothers started on 15th March and will go on summer holiday on 27th March.

2.11. At FIAT Mission Training Centre

Fr George Mampillil and Fr Biju Koothottil visited the FIAT Mission Training Centre, Maruthomkara on 17th March to celebrate the sacrament



of Confession and Holy Qurbana for the trainees. There are some thirty youth from different north Indian states undergoing formation to be Catechists.

2.12. SCLA Conclusion & Release of Quest 2024

SCLA, the Santhome Cultural and Literary Association and Scroll



Board are two platforms for the brothers to showcase their cultural and literary talents. The community is divided into three groups for the SCLA meetings and they present stage programs and deliver speeches during the weekly meetings. Their drawings and pieces of creative writing are displayed on the Scroll Board which are bound into the form of a manuscript and released at the end of the year.



Rev. Fr George Padannamackal CMI was the chief guest on 10/03/2024 for the conclusion of SCLA & Release of Quest

3. Jeevan Jyothi-MOC, Ganjam

3.1. Tri-annual Retreat

The second of the tri-annual retreat was conducted in the first week of January. Rev. Fr Christy OFM Cap. guided the retreat.

3.2. Ruhalya Entrance Exams

Brothers were given intensive classes in English by Fr Sebastian Koottumkal and Hindi by Fr Lithosh Karingadayil in view of the entrance exams to Ruhalya Major Seminary. The exams were conducted in the first week of February and results were published in March. All the brothers scored excellent marks thanks to their hard work. Congratulations to all!

3.3. Jeevan Jyoti Gets a New Facelift

After many years we could paint and renovate the entire seminary building thanks to the financial assistance given by Director General and his team. Special thanks to Rev. Fr Sebastian Koottumkal for channelizing a sizable amount of the contribution from his personal benefactor towards painting the house. Thanks also to Rev. Fr Sebastian Earthedam who generously contributed to complete the painting work. We sincerely acknowledge and appreciate their love and generosity towards the MST and Jeevan Jyoti Community. The Procurator Rev. Fr Binoy Koottumkal also deserves our appreciation for executing the project!

3.4. Third Semester

We started the third semester of the academic year in the first week of January. The brothers were assigned new offices and the performance of the 2nd semester was evaluated.

3.5. Republic Day

The 75th Republic day was celebrated with Dr Sujaykumar as the Chief Guest. After receiving the salute of the parade of the brothers the chief guest gave



a very inspiring message in which he emphasized the need for implementing the Gandhian principles to make India a better place to live in.

3.6. New Priests' Day

January 15 and 16 were set apart for the MST new priests Fr



Kizhakkekara Ashil and Fr Arackaparambil Shaljin who were accorded a grand welcome on their arrival in Jeevan Jyoti, their '*Alma mater*'. They were felicitated in

meeting in the evening and during supper they shared their M.O.C. experiences. On the 16th they celebrated Holy Qurbana for Jeevan Jyoti community. Sincere thanks to Rev. Fr Shaljin and Rev. Fr Ashil for being with us and wish them the best in their missionary life in the vineyard of the Lord.

3.7. Visit of 1st year Theologians from Kunnoth

Jeevan Jyoti community was very glad to welcome the first year theologians from Good Shepherd Major Seminary, Kunnoth. The brothers paid a casual visit on their way to Bangalore for one day picnic. Thanks to MST Bros, Nirmal Kunnath and Thomas Karivelil who took the initiative to visit Jeevan Jyoti.

3.8. Reminiscences of Rev. Fr Sebastian Thuruthel

The Jeevan Jyothi Community is saddened by the demise of Very Rev. Fr Sebastian Thuruthel who served Jeevan Jyoti as spiritual Director (1993-1996). He was a great mentor and a real inspiration to all. As spiritual Director he never lost his humanity and he always cared for the ones he loved. Jeevan Jyoti is indebted to him for the big *Elanji* tree, in front of the seminary which was planted by him. RIP.

3.9. Friendly Volleyball Matches

Two friendly volleyball matches were conducted: the first between the young MST Priests working in Mandya and Jeevan Jyoti brothers and the second between brothers from De Paul Minor Seminary and Jeevan Jyoti brothers. Both the matches were good exposure for our brothers and occasion to learn and improve their skills for games.

3.10. MST Foundation Day



The 57th foundation day of MST was celebrated on February 22, 2024. Rev. Fr Jiby Thekkemuryil offered Holy Qurbana on the foundation Day. Rev. Fr Sebastian Koottumkal who attended the inaugural function on 22 February, 1968 at Deepti Mount shared his fond memories.

On the Foundation Day we visited the nearby *Ranganathittu Birds' Haven* and enjoyed a boat journey as well as the beauty of the nature, landscape and birds. Since it was the season of nesting of the migratory birds, the whole area was full of birds and it was a rare scene.

3.11. Sports Day



Sports day is the celebration of sporting talents of our brothers. We conducted the sports day competitions on 23rd 24th of February. Brothers were divided into two groups and with real sportsman spirit, all participated in all the individual and group items. They exhibited their sporting talents in all the items conducted.

3.12. Naturopathy Class

Rev. Sr Dr Jisha MSMI was kind enough to share some of the naturopathy tips with our brothers. She motivated us, to use natural remedies to treat our whole person and cure the root causes of illness. The classes were very much enriching and practical thanks to Sr Jisha.



3.13. Yoga Class



We started the yoga classes in the month of March. Every day (except on Sundays) we dedicate 35 minutes early morning to learn the *Yogasanas*. Brothers are interested to learn and practise

Yogasanas for they are convinced of its good effects to remain healthy and sound.

3.14. Violin and Guitar Classes

Rev. Fr Sebastian Koottumkal is very much interested to teach the brothers violin and Guitar. He has already taught them the basic lessons and some songs.



3.15. Visit of Major Archbishop

The entire Jeevan Jyoti family was present at the Regional house to



accord a grand welcome to the new Major Archbishop Mar Raphael Thattil on his maiden visit to Mandya mission on Sunday 17th March, 2024.

3.16. Finale of JCLA

The JCLA and Academic year was formally concluded with a concluding ceremony with various programmes on the 2nd of March 2024 and Rev. Fr Tom Mangalathil, the Cathedral Vicar (Diocese of Mandya) was the chief guest on the occasion.

3.17. Final Exams, Home Day Celebrations and Vacation

The brothers appear for their final exams from March 18-22 and on Sunday 7th April they will celebrate the Annual Day and leave for vacation on the 15th of April.

4. Ruhalaya Major Seminary, Ujjain

4.1. Christmas Celebration

The Christmas celebrations at Ruhalaya began with solemn Holy Qurbana celebrated by Rev. Fr Tony Mampillil, the General Procurator of Ruhalaya. Following the Holy Qurbana there were programmes by brothers and the aspirants of the nearby convents. In the Christmas celebration at the Bishop's house, Ujjain the brothers staged a delightful musical drama on the theme 'Hope.'



4.2. Christmas Celebration for the Chak Fraternity



On **26th December**, a special Christmas program was organised for the people living in the vicinity of Ruhalaya. Our brothers and the aspirants of the nearby convents and children from Chak village performed cultural programmes. Around 800 hundred people attended the programme which ended with tea.

4.3. New Year and Denha Celebration

We bade adieu to the year and welcomed the New Year with adoration led by SABS sisters. The ceremonies started at 10.45 p.m. and Rev. Fr Vipin Vanmelil was the main



celebrant at the Holy Qurbana. The New Year was celebrated at the refectory followed by the burning of the effigy in the football court. On the eve of Denha there was solemn celebration with lights lit and grand procession. On 6th January, 2024 Rev. Fr Allwin Thannickapara celebrated Holy Qurbana and gave a thought-provoking homily.

4.4. Alumni Visit

Thirteen priests 3 fathers belonging to the 20th batch of Ruhailaya Philosophy section paid a visit to their *alma mater* on 17th January 2024. They concelebrated



Holy Qurbana with Rev. Fr Sijo Chungath from Sagar diocese.

4.5. Challengers' & Thrillers' Cup 2024

The much-awaited tournament 'Challengers' Cup 2024' volleyball matches began on 11th January. Rev. Fr Joby Kootumkal inaugurated the event with an inspiring message. The event got concluded on 19th January



and the third-year philosophy students emerged victorious. The Thrillers cup at Theologate was held during the third week of February and the final was on 19th Feb and after electrifying performances, the Third Year Theologians emerged victorious.

4.6. Republic Day Celebration

The Republic Day was celebrated with Rev. Fr Joby Nirappel, the Director of Nirmala College, Ujjain as the chief guest. Various programmes highlighting the significance of the day were displayed. There was a jaw-dropping basketball match between the brothers in connection with the day.



In theology section, the day began with the Eucharistic Celebration presided over by Rev. Fr. Cyriac Valiyakunnumpuram followed by

flag hoisting by Rev. Fr. Cyriac who was also the Chief Guest. Bro. Athul Kuttipuzha UJN added flavour to the day with his speech.

4.7. Aquinas' Day

A one-day philosophy seminar was organised on 'Public Reason and Religious Objections in a Plural Public Sphere: Engaging Rawls and Gandhi' led by Rev. Dr Jeff Shawn Jose CMI, the assistant professor at Dharmâram, Bengaluru, in connection with the Thomas Aquinas' day. There was a bonus lecture on 'artificial intelligence.'



4.8. Conclusion of RCLA and Home Herald



On 15th February RCLA and Home Herald conclusion was held. Rev. Fr Joji Veluthonparambil of Ujjain diocese presided over the

programme wherein the new edition of Home Herald was released.

4.9. Ruhhalaya Inter Seminary Bible Quiz

Ruhalaya conducted the 19th edition of Ruhhalaya Inter Seminary Bible Quiz competition on 11th February. His Excellency Mar Sebastian Vadakell graced the occasion with his presence. Very Rev. Fr. Manoj Parackal MST, the



Rector of Ruhhalaya Major Seminary welcomed the audience. Rev. Fr. Joyal Anjilithoppil MST was the Quiz Master. There were 12 contestants from 12 different seminaries. Bro. Ebin Jose from MCBS seminary emerged first. After the competition the contestants were taken for *Ujjain-Darshan*.

4.10. MST Foundation Day & Music Night



The 57th MST foundation day was celebrated with all vigor and vitality on the 22nd of February. Very Rev. Fr Sebastian Pullatt was the

main celebrant at the Eucharist celebration and he exhorted us to transcend the frontiers to explore new plateau for mission life and work. The community intensely prayed for all the members of the society and for the fruitfulness of their apostolate. In connection with the MST Foundation Day, 'Dosti' a music programme was organized. Rev. Fr. Varghese Ukken was the chief guest on the occasion. The brothers sung beautiful songs manifesting their talent for music and singing.

4.11. Visits of Bishops

His Excellency Mar Mathew Nellikunnel, the Bishop of Gorakhpur and His Excellency Mar Pauly Kannookadan, the Bishop of Irinjalakuda visited Ruhelaya on 8th Feb and 16th Feb respectively.

4.12. Rev. Fr. Binoy Purayidom begins Jubilee Year

The beginning of the Sacerdotal Jubilee Year of Rev. Fr. Binoy Purayidom was celebrated on the 7th and 11th March in theology and philosophy. In the Eucharistic Celebration the community thanked God for the gift of Fr Binoy and 24 years of his committed priestly life. We pray that this year may bring more of choicest blessings into his life.



OVERSEAS MISSIONS

1. Canada

Since almost all MST priests have the responsibility of three to four parishes assigned to them, they are very busy at this time of the year with Reconciliation services, pilgrimage to religious places, Lenten retreats for the members of the parishes, extra holy Masses, Stations of the Cross, RCIA, spiritual talks to various organisations of the parishes and the like. I had a talk with almost all members of the Society in Canada who are working in four different dioceses, in four different Provinces of Canada. Everyone is busy and happy in their own ways.

Fr. Tom Kakkaniyil

2. Italy

Foundation Day Celebrations

All the MST priests in Italy, gathered together at Latina (Rome) on the foundation day of MST in the afternoon of 22 February 2024.



The Holy Qurbana, celebrated by all the members for the intentions of the Society, was the highlight of the Foundation Day

celebrations. Fr Justin Vettukallel who is in Rome for refresher courses in Theology during his Sabatical year, shed light on the missionary shifts in the life of MST in its various stages of growth highlighting the uniqueness of the MST, its strengths, its contributions to the missionary endeavours of the Mother Church and the challenges to overcome in the recent years. It was a great occasion to live the spirit of MST Koinonia enjoying the AGAPE and scheduling for the upcoming visit of our Director General.

3. France

After having completed French language course and a year of basic theology course, I am doing my first year of masters in Practical Theology. I will be completing a short thesis (20 pages in French) on “The evangelization in India in the context of the rising Hindu opposition” as a part of the requirement of the studies in first year of the masters. I plan to visit our missions during the month of July in view of doing research on the existing system of formation of the catechumens in our mission. This research will help me in the second year of my studies here in France.

As priest in charge of the Syro Malabar community in France, I take care of the pastoral needs of the community in Paris comprising a good number of youth and more than 40 families. Apart from the community in Paris, I could contact the families in other cities. New Qurbana centers are established in Dijon, Lyon and Bordeaux. There is an online rosary conducted on every Friday in view of bringing together the small communities in Lille, Marseille, Troyes, Metz and Toulouse along with the already existing communities. Online French language courses are also arranged in the mornings and evenings for the youth living in different corners of France. The community in Paris is eagerly waiting for the visit of Major Archbishop Mar Raphael Thattil & apostolic visitator Mar Stephan Chirappanath on 26th Mai 2024.

Fr Sijo Mookkenthottam

4. Tanzania

4.1. Visit of the Director General to African Mission

The Director General of MST, Very Rev. Fr Vincent Kadalikattilputhenpura visited the MST Mission in Tanzania between 01 and 18 March. He visited all the mission stations of MST in Tanzania. The Director General reached Dar Es Salaam on 1 March and was received by Fr Biju Pullappallil, the Coordinator and Fr Robin George. He encouraged the Missionaries in Dar Es Salaam and visited the missions under the Madale parish, the Catholic communities in *Mbopo* and *Njakasangwe*.



The DG visited Chengena mission between March 5 and 11 and he was welcomed by the children, elders and other members of the

community. He also visited various Catholic communities under the Chengena Mission and interacted with the faithful and villagers. He was welcomed heartily in all the 6 communities in Chengena with the gifts from their fields.

The people were very happy to welcome him in all the sub-centres: Kilangalanga, Namanguli, Leugu, Suluti and Ukiwayuyu. Fr General had carried a beautiful Monstrance from Kerala as a gift to Catholic community in Chengena. He gifted a set of football jersey to the youth. We are very grateful to Fr Director General for the visit to Tanzania to spend a few days encouraging the missionaries here.

On March 9, 2024 we celebrated the MST Foundation Day and inaugurated and blessed the renovated MST Presbytery at Chengena. In the gathering of all the missionaries from India working in Songea, Rev. Fr Vincent offered the Holy Mass and thanked all of them for supporting MST in Songea. He inaugurated and blessed the renovated 60 year old Presbytery in Songea the presence of Fr Biju Pullappallil, and a gathering of around 70 missionaries in Songea. We are grateful to present and previous administrations for their support and assistance as well as our benefactors and well-wishers. The DG discussed the progress of MST mission in Tanzania and deliberated on the future of MST Mission in Tanzania with all the MST Fathers on 13 March. On March 14, he visited the Archbishop of Dar Es Salaam who appreciated the hard work of MST Fathers and discussed the growth of MST Missions in the Archdiocese.

Fr DG visited the MST Mission in Bunda, in the Mara Region of Tanzania between 16 March and 18 March. Fr Zakarias



Azhikannickal received Fr General and Fr Biju Pullappillil at Kung'ombe MST Mission parish in the Bunda Diocese on 16th Saturday accompanied by the catholic community and catholic Women's forum called WAWATA. Fr General inaugurated and blessed the hall of the WAWATA constructed by the hard work and generous support of the well-wishers.

Fr Vincent also visited a Cloister in the Bunda Diocese, which was started by sisters from Kerala. Fr Vincent and Fr Biju celebrated Mass on 17 March (Sunday) for the catholic community in the main parish church at Kung'ombe. He also visited the Catholic communities at Lindara, Kangetutya and Kiwasi in Bunda under the MST.



We were fortunate to celebrate the birthday of Fr General in the Mission Houses at Bunda and Dar Es Salaam. The parishioners greeted and prayed for Fr General during morning Mass on 18



Monday. The nursery school children greeted and wished Fr General after the Mass and the General spent some light moments with them. Fr Director General returned

to Dar Es Salaam after the official meeting with the Bishop of Bunda. The MST Missionaries in Tanzania are grateful to Very Rev. Fr Vincent Kadalikkattilputhenpura, for visiting each and every one of us personally and the different missions. We feel privileged to have the Central administration of MST for its support and encouragement for the development of MST missions in Africa.

Reported by Fr Biju Pullappillil MST

2. MST Mission Chengena, MST African Mission

1) Christmas & New Year Celebrations



MST Mission Chengena organized the Christmas Celebration solemnly with the participation of all Christians in the Chengena parish. We had celebrations in all the six Christian communities on the Christmas day with the Eucharist. We distributed clothes brought by Fr

Joby Mulluvengappurath and Fr Jobish Manuel from Italy to 200 people on the Christmas eve. The youth made a beautiful Christmas Crib in the MST Presbytery. There were carol singing and special Christmas celebrations organized in every community. The vigil and Holy Mass on 31st night was attended by a big crowd.



2) Missionary Volunteer

Duurt Huisman, a missionary volunteer in the MST Mission was



welcomed by Archbishop Damien D. Dallu, the archbishop of Songea at his office on 2 January. Archbishop appreciated the MST Fathers for organizing

various activities in the Chengena Mission and for facilitating the dispensary with the assistance of the volunteer from Italy.

3) Convent Construction

We could resume the construction of the convent building in the Chengena Parish after a break. We hope to complete the construction by August this year.



4) Distribution of School Uniforms

We could distribute school uniforms to 123 children from Chengena parish as the school reopened for the new academic year on 7



January. We had encouraged the catholic children to participate in the daily Holy Mass during the advent season and those who attended the Mass daily were

presented gifts. Fr Biju Pullappallil, supplied us school uniforms as a contribution from his Madale Parish. Thanks to Fr Biju and his parishioners.

5) Blessing of the Cultivation land



We started a new ministry of visiting the Cultivation land of the parishioners and blessing the land before they sow the seeds. We encourage parishioners cultivate their land.

6) Project site visit of GOCCE

The president and vice president of the Italian charitable agency called GOCCE, officially initiated their collaboration with MST mission at Chengena with the visit of the project site between 31



January and 3 February. M/s Anne Fin and Marta Fin visited the Chengena Dispensary and five neighbouring villages. They

discussed with us the possibilities of developing infrastructure and equipping the dispensary with materials from Italy.

7) Youth animation

The youth in the Chengena Mission were organized under two groups (boys and girls) and they are registered under the Community Development Department of the government of Tanzania as *Amani* and *Shikamano* groups. They started two self-help groups as they



are registered in the Government. The association of GOCCE encouraged the youth group by providing them with gum boots, helping them in their cultivation works. They supported 40 members in the youth with gum boots. The youth of Chengena Mission appreciate the support of GOCCE.

8) Medical Camp at Chengena Dispensary

There was a medical camp organized in Chengena Dispensary between February 15 & 18 in collaboration with the Govt. medical



department of Tanzania. The medical team in the Chengena Dispensary successfully executed the event. We had targeted to

vaccinate 500 children under 6 years from Chengena village. We could achieve the goal within three days and the government organize it once in every 5 years.

9) A Car to the new priest from MST Mission, Chengena

The new priest, Fr Jescko Mango, from MST Mission Chengena parish who was

ordained last year was gifted with a car by the Chengena parish. MST Fathers in the Chengena Parish organized to purchase the car organizing the



fund from the parish and the benefactors. The diocesan procurator who was delegated by the Archbishop received the vehicle in the presence of parish administrative members and handed it over to Fr Jescko on 21 February.

OTHER MINISTRIES

1. Santhome Impact

Fr Jibin Maniyalil took charge as the Assistant Director of Santhome Impact on 6 Feb 2024. A group of almost 50 parishioners from St Antony's Church, Ammadam, Thrissur accompanied him as he was their Assistant Parish Priest for seven months. The **Mission Animation** team of Santhome Impact



conducted a *One Day Exam Preparation Retreat* led by Fr Jijo Kottakkavil at St George Forane Church Vazhakulam in the Eparchy of Kothamangalam on 25 Feb 2024. More than 700 catechism students from class V to + Plus 2 attended the retreat.



2. Santhome Fellowship

The **Santhome Fellowship** Members and the **Associate Missionaries** of the MST support the Missionaries through prayer and charitable activities. There are at present 33 Associate Missionaries and the next batch is getting ready to take their Promise of Association.

2.1. Meetings and Preshithagni Dhyanam

The Missionary Associates meet online on Fridays to pray the Rosary together (*Karuna Kontha*) and during the Great Fast we pray the Way of the Cross on Fridays at 09.00 pm. The aspirants to become Missionary Associates also have a day of online prayer. The last



Santhome Preshithagni Dhyanam on last third Saturday was preached by Fr Zacharias Thadathil. The Unit Meetings of Santhome Fellowship are going on regularly in the Units in various places and dioceses.

2.2. Holy Qurbana at the Tomb of St Alphonsa

Many Santhome Fellowship and Associate Missionaries attended the Holy Qurbana celebrated by Fr Joseph Pulavelil in the St Alphonsa Shrine parish on Saturday, 10th February.

2.3. Visit to Mount St Thomas & Kochi



The Associate Missionaries and Santhome Fellowship organized a visit to Mount St Thomas, Kakkanad on Friday, 26th January. After the breakfast at Mount St Thomas we attended the Holy Qurbana celebrated by Cardinal Mar George Alencherry. Vallarpadam church and other important places in Kochi were also visited. There were 50 people in the group and it was a spiritually refreshing trip!

2.4. Visit to the Houses of Associate Missionaries

Rev. Fr Joseph Thekkekarott and Fr Joseph Pulavelil visited the houses of the Missionary Associates and their parish priests.

2.5. Mission Visits

A group of five Associate Missionaries visited Orissa Mission in January. Two Santhome Fellowship members from Thamarassery also visited Orissa Mission, especially Lakshmpur village station and stayed with the Missionaries for 10 days. All those who visited



our Mission were impressed by the Mission work of the MST Fathers and the Sisters. They have decided to involve more actively in promoting our mission

centres and their training programmes.

2.6. General Gathering

The General meeting of the Associate Missionaries was held on the 13th of February 2024 at Preshitharam in which Rev. Fr Joseph



Thekkekarott presided over. Rev. Fr Joy Panjikaran also graced the occasion. It was decided to change the *modus operandi* of the meeting in the future with a talk, Adoration, Confessions, Holy Qurbana and sharing.

2.7. Visit to Maria Bhavan, Kizhathadiyur

The Santhome Fellowship members of the Bharananganam unit visited the Mariya Bhavan at Kizhathadiyur in the beginning of the Lent and spent some time with the inmates of the Mariya Bhavan, and gave them some grocery items as part of the Lenten sharing!

2.8. Pilgrimage to 14 Churches & Way of the Cross

The Associate Missionaries and Santhome Fellowship members

visited 14 churches in the Archdiocese of Changanacherry. The Pilgrimage started on Tuesday, 27th February at 06.30 from Deepti Bhavan, Fr Joseph Thekkekarott celebrated Holy Qurbana at Nalukodi, followed by Lunch. During the visit we prayed the Way of the Cross, Divine Mercy and Rosary.

Another pilgrimage by the Tamarassery SF unit on Friday, 08th March 2024, started from Santhome Seminary and concluded in the Cathedral at 05.30 pm. Holy Qurbana was celebrated by Fr Joseph Pulavelil at Pulloorampara church at 11.30 am followed by lunch.

A third pilgrimage to 14 churches in the Dioceses of Pala-Kothamangalam was organised on Thursday, 14th March 2024. Holy Qurbana was celebrated by Fr Joy Panjikaran at Ezhumuttom Thabor Retreat Centre at 11.30 am followed by Lunch.

Santhome Fellowship members conducted a way of the cross to Vallyachan Mala on Wednesday, 06th March and many members participated in it. The Parish Priest appreciated the lead that we took in the way of the cross.

A pilgrimage of 20 people to the tomb of St Francis Xavier is scheduled for 01-04th April 2024.

2.9. New Units of Santhome Fellowship



Two new SF units were started at Athirampuzha and Nalukody in the Archdiocese of Changanacherry thanks to Mr Rogy Chennattu and Mr Biju Vettikkattu!

Prepared by Fr Joseph Pulavelil

OBITUARY

Rev. Fr Sebastian Thuruthel MST



Vaidikaratnam Very Reverend Fr Sebastian Thuruthel (98), a member of the Missionary Society of St Thomas the Apostle and assigned to St Thomas Mission Region, Mandya, is called for his eternal reward at 9.25 pm on February 8, 2024 at IHM hospital, Marygiri, Bharananganam. Rev. Frs Joseph Thekkekarott, Jomon Ayyankanal and Lonappan Arangassery,

Fathers from Deepti Generalate, Deepti Minor seminary and *Aaraam* as well as doctors and the nursing staff of the IHM hospital were present at his death bed praying as he passed away.

The mortal remains of Rev. Fr Sebastian Thuruthel are kept at IHM hospital and the body will be received and brought to Deepti Generalate at 4.00 pm on Sunday (11-02-2024) for the public to view and pay homage. The funeral service will start on Monday (12-02-2024) at 9.30 a.m. His Beatitude Mar Raphael Thattil and His Eminence Cardinal Alencherry will officiate at the funeral services assisted by their Excellencies Mar Joseph Kallarangatt (Pala), Mar Sebastian Vadakel (Ujjain), and Mar James Athikalam (Sagar), Mar Bosco Puthur, Mar George Madathikandandathil, and His Grace Archbishop Susai Pakiam (TVM). A few bishops have agreed to come to Deepti to pay last homage to their friend and mentor.

The MST community is saddened by the demise of Rev. Fr Sebastian Thuruthel who was very close to all the members of the MST as their Minor seminary Rector, Formator and the Director General of MST. He had been healthy and jovial all through his life till he was admitted to the IHM hospital on 16th January 2024, due to fever, cough and general weakness of old age. In the diagnosis, it was

found that he had urinary infection, respiratory problems and variations in the blood test results. He received consciously the sacrament of the anointing of the sick at his own request, administered by Fr Vincent, the Director General, on 18th January as his condition was deteriorating. However, he insisted that he is not shifted to any other hospital or ICU, for he was all prepared to meet the Lord and wanted to be close to his dear and near ones till the last moment. Since he wanted to celebrate his 99th birthday at Deepti, he was brought to *Aaraam* for a few hours on 25th January. After the birthday celebration he was taken back to the hospital and his condition improved slightly. He was both mentally and spiritually prepared for his journey to eternity. While he was in the hospital many of his dear and near ones were able to visit him. As per his wish he was taken to Deepti again on 30th January. After two days on February 2nd he collapsed and was taken by ambulance to the hospital. Although he overcame the critical condition, on 8th February afternoon, his condition deteriorated and he breathed his last at 9.25, quietly and peacefully assisted by the prayers of MST fathers, family members and the staff of the hospital who were beside his bed.

Rev. Fr Sebastian Thuruthel was born to Devasia Thuruthel and Rosa Kunnel as the last and the 6th child, in Chempilavu, Cherpunkal, on January 26, 1926 and was baptised on February 2, 1926 at Cherpunkal. All his siblings, Mariam, Thomas, Annamma, Joseph and Aleykutty are already with the Lord to receive him in the eternal abode. He had his primary and secondary education at Holy Cross School, Cherpunkal, St Antony's School, Mutholy and St Mary's School Kidangoor. He passed SSLC from St Mary's School, Kidangoor in 1944. He did his intermediate at SB College, Changanachery from 1944-1946 and secured BA (Hons) & MA in English literature from Madras Christian College (1955-1958). He joined the Minor Seminary at Changanachery in 1946 and was promoted to Major seminary in 1948. He was ordained deacon by Cardinal Tisserant in 1953 at Alwaye (Mangalapuzha) Seminary and was ordained priest at Alwaye seminary for the Eparchy Palai

on March 15, 1955 by Mar Sebastian Vayalil, the first bishop of Palai and the founder of MST. He made the perpetual promise of incorporation in the Missionary Society of St Thomas the Apostle on May 18, 1975.

He served the Church particularly in the field of formation as professor of English at Pontifical Seminary Alwaye and St Thomas Seminary Kottayam and as the first Rector of Deepti Minor seminary from 1969 to 1975. He was instrumental in organising the Kerala Catholics in Mumbai on behalf of the Syro-Malabar hierarchy from 1976-1978. He served the MST as General Councillor for two consecutive terms and headed the MST as the Director General from 1988 to 1993. He was conferred the honorary title *Vaidikaratnam* on July 3, 2016.

He endeared himself to all who came in contact with him and has hundreds of priests and over 25 bishops among his students. He was intelligent, disciplined, a man of personal integrity and a good formator. The noble, loving, charming and dignified behaviour of Fr Sebastian attracted and inspired many in their lives. Above all, he had strong faith and trust in the Lord. In his last will he writes: *“Goodbye! Everything is fine! Jesus did not die in vain. The Merciful Lord is My God and Redeemer. Jesus, I love Thee, Trust in Thee; Thou art my portion and inheritance.”* Let us thank the Lord and bow before His will and entrust Fr Sebastian Thuruthel into the hands of the Lord whom he served faithfully as a priest for the past 69 years.

Fr Lonappan Arangassery
Secretary General, MST

NECROLOGY

1) 23/12/2023: Mrs Elikutty Joseph (95) Paternal Aunt of Fr Kurian Kochettonnil

2) 23/12/2023: Mother of Fr Binoy Thottiyil

3) 23/12/2023: Mrs Elikutty Joseph (95) Paternal Aunt of Fr Kurian Kochettonnil

4) 05/01/2024: Mr Varkey 83 (Papuchettan) the elder brother of Fr Luke Marappillil

5) 06/01/2024: Mrs Annakutty Antony (83) maternal Grandmother of Fr Sijo Mundaplackel

6) 09/01/24: Mr Felix George (56), Father of Bro. Alan Andumyalil

7) 17/01/2024: Mrs Eliamma Joseph Pendanath (84) the Maternal Aunt (mother's sister) of Very Rev. Fr Vincent Kadalikattilputhenpura

8) 20/01/2024: Mr Chacko N.K. Nellor (74) the father of late Rev. Fr Siby Nellor

9) 25/01/2024: Sr Loyola the first Cousin of Fr Joseph Kannathukuzhy

10) 28/01/24: Mrs Thankamma Joseph (74) paternal Aunt of Fr Sojan Aikarakunnel

11) 30/01/24: Mr N.A Mathew (73) the paternal Uncle (Papan) of Fr Manu Nattunilath

12) 04/02/24: Mrs Thresiamma Kunjukutty (92) the paternal aunt (Elayamma) of Mar Sebastian Vadakel and maternal aunt of Fr Thomas Parayady

13) 04/02/2024: Mr K.T. Antony Kallattu (90), the brother-in-law of Fr Thomas Chirackal and uncle of Thomas Thalanany

14) 08/02/2024: Rev. Fr Sebastian Thuruthel MST

15) 12/02/2024: Mr Joy Pamparayil, the brother in law of Fr James

Mandapathikunnel.

16) 19/02/2024: Mrs Mary Thomas (74) Paternal Aunt of Fr Thottiyil

17) 20/02/2024: Mrs Annakutty Thundathil (80) the paternal Aunt of Fr Jees Thundathil

18) 21/02/2024: Mrs Rossa Devassy (93) Fr Varghese Chakkumkal

19) 02/03/2024: Mrs Smitha Titto the niece of Fr Akkattukudil

20) 03/03/2024 Mrs Gracy Austin Manarkadu (82), the paternal aunt of Fr Joby Kappiparamil.

21) 06/03/2024: Mr Thankachan Koodathinkal (72) Paternal Aunt of Fr Rony Alenchery

22) 07/03/2024: Mrs. Ancy George Kulanjiyil (53), Mother of Brother Justin Kulanjiyil

23) 17/03/2024: Mrs Mary Thomas Vithayathil, (89) the maternal aunt of Fr Varkey Vithayathil

24) 17/3/2024: Mrs Mercy Philip (73) the Sister-in-law of Fr George Thuppalanjiyil

25) 22/3/2024 : Mr Thomas Mathew Kurichiyil the maternal grand uncle of Fr Binu Pandiyal

26) 26/3/2024: Mrs Reena George Maternal Aunt of Fr Shaiju Kizhakkekuruvithadathil

27) 27/03/2024: Mr. Francis Kadaplackal (80) brother of Rev Fr. xavier Kadaplackal

