



# MST World

MST News Bulletin 02/20

Dikhrana 2020



**Toiled through the grace of God more bravely, zealously and tirelessly than them all ...**

**He went preaching over nearly all the earth...**

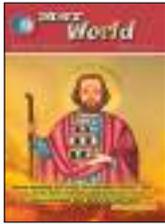
*St John Chrysostom*



**First Year Minor Seminarians of Santhome Minor Seminary**

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## Contents

**I. MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL .. 03**

**II. NEWS FROM THE GENERALATE ..... 06**

**III. TRANSFERS AND APPOINTMENTS ..... 17**

**IV. CHANGE OF CONTACT INFORMATION ..... 20**

**V. NEWS FROM SEMINARIES ..... 24**

A. Deepti College, Melampara ..... 24

B. Santhome Minor Seminary, Thamarassery ..... 24

C. Jeevan Jyoti, Srirangapatna ..... 26

D. Ruhalaya, Ujjain..... 28

**VI. NEWS FROM MISSIONS ..... 31**

A. St Paul Region ..... 31

B. St Thomas Region ..... 34

C. St Alphonsa Region ..... 37

D. St Mary Queen of Missions Delegation ..... 42

E. Odisha Mission ..... 46

F. North East Mission ..... 49

G. Overseas Missions .....	51
1. United States .....	51
2. Germany .....	51
3. Canada .....	52
4. Switzerland .....	54
5. United Kingdom .....	55
6. Australia .....	56
7. Brazil .....	57
8. Tanzania .....	58
9. Austria .....	60
10. Sweden .....	60
11. Italy .....	62
12. Philippines.....	65

## II. NEWS FROM OTHER MINISTRIES/CENTRES..67

A. Vocation Promotion.....	67
B. Santhome Fellowship.....	67
C. Santhome - IMPACT.....	68
D. Kalasadhana.....	70
E. Deepti Rubber Estates.....	71

## VIII. DEPARTED FOR ETERNAL REWARD.....72

### **Prayerful Greetings of Dhukhrana!**

*“It was to a land of dark people he was sent, to clothe them by Baptism in white robes. His grateful dawn dispelled India’s painful darkness. It was his mission to espouse India to the One-Begotten. The merchant is blessed for having so great a treasure. Edessa thus became the blessed city by possessing the greatest pearl India could yield. Thomas works miracles in India, and at Edessa. Thomas is destined to baptize people perverse and steeped in darkness, and that in the land of India.”*

*(Hymns of St. Ephrem, edited by Lamy (Ephr. Hymni et Sermones, IV)*

## I. MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

Dearly beloved Excellencies, Reverend Fathers, Reverend Deacons and Brothers,



It is my pleasure to wish you all the blessings of DUKRANA 2020. May St Thomas our heavenly patron intercede for us to carry out the works of Evangelization.

Every saint had a fascinating experience of God. And this fascinating experience was transmitted to others by their life, preaching, and good works and above all by their life witness. Anything of beauty will attract people. Flowers attract butterflies. Saints did not make any propaganda. The people went to them. The one who has the touch of God will attract the people. Our temperaments, characters, and personalities all differ. Some of us are like Peter - sentimental, attentive to the needs of others, cautious at times, but not timid; some of us are like Paul - passionate, demanding with others, bold, but not imprudent; and some of us are like Thomas - realistic about life, eager to experience things first-hand, insecure at times, yet capable of profound thoughts and acts of heroism. In spite of their differences, all three became great saints: they united themselves to God through Jesus Christ and sought to bring others into God's family. They placed their talents and gifts at the service of the community and of the Gospel: Peter stayed in or near Jerusalem most of his life and ministered to Jewish Christians, Paul went West and ministered to the Gentiles of the Roman Empire, Thomas went East and spread the Gospel to Syria, Persia, Western India, and to our own land.

According to Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI the Apostle Thomas' case is important to us for at least three reasons: first, because it comforts us in our insecurity; second, because it shows us that every doubt can lead to an outcome brighter than any uncertainty; and, lastly, because the words that Jesus addressed to him remind us of the true meaning of mature faith and encourage us to persevere, despite the difficulty, along our journey of adherence to him" (Pope Benedict XVI, 27 September 2006). These three reasons given by Pope emeritus are relevant for us followers of Christ in this period of pandemic.

Covid-19 is perhaps the topic every one of our planet is currently aware of, and keeps informed on. No part of the world and no group of persons by nationality or race or religion or income or education seems to be beyond its reach. It is the worst pandemic that the human race faced in our memory. In this pandemic situation, we, followers of Jesus are called to be salt and light of the world - to give flavour and light to the whole mass of humanity. We should not degrade our role by becoming gloomy experts at complaining, or withdrawing into a comfortable zone.

By being disciples of Jesus Christ sustained by His presence, we move from fear to love - as the apostles did after Easter and Pentecost - and become healers for the world. This is our call today as well. As followers of Jesus filled with love, we are to show the world through our life how to reach out to the neediest lovingly, boldly and effectively. Our real call is this: to show the world through the way we live, how we can construct a compassionate and caring human family.

Many of our members could reach out to the people who are affected by corona virus and help them in different ways. Let me make use of this opportunity to express my appreciation and gratitude to all our members who were very active to help the people affected by Covid-19.

As members of the missionary Society we have to collectively think about our response to Covid 19 and our role in constructing a more human post-pandemic world. "All the activities of the Church in the fields of education, healthcare and social ministries should be pervaded by a spirit of mercy and thus may become a strong witness to the Christian faith. This year and in the coming years, we should adopt a style that is simple and frugal, avoiding all extravaganzas. Pompous shows and prodigality should be avoided from our life style" (Ref: PASTORAL LETTER ON SABHADINAM-2020, Prot. No. 0714/2020).

This lock down owing to the corona virus has opened several possibilities for the renewal of our lives. We are forced to adopt a life of simplicity. When millions of our fellow human beings are threatened with joblessness and starvation, we cannot insult God and our conscience by sticking to luxuries. The financial sources of MST are also in crisis. In this time of drastic lowering of living standards, we

need to simplify our life, both at personal and institutional levels. We shall be away with expensive celebrations, minimizing the use of vehicles, travels, avoiding useless purchases, wasting food etc. In short we shall be away with all things which an Indian middle class family cannot afford. We shall avoid all unnecessary constructions and beautifications. Scarcity of Mass intentions from Kerala are already communicated to us. Project applications are rejected due to shortage of income caused by the pandemic. So we shall be aware of the real situation of the time and live accordingly. According to our Constitutions and Directives, the temporal properties of the MST are for the purpose of carrying out its apostolate, formation and support of its members. Members may not possess or acquire properties incongruous with the missionary context. (C. 141 and D. 155). Greater simplicity will lead us also to happier life and greater unity. Luxury will sap our spiritual strength and cause competitions and divisions. We MST members are known for our simple life. Let the spirit of simplicity be seen in all our planning and action. We shall inspire and motivate our young ones under formation to lead simple life. We shall be more focused on fulfilling our obligations rather than looking at rights or privileges. Every Region, Delegation, Formation houses/ Institutions shall prioritise their needs and be realistic in preparing the annual budget and spending it.

All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need ( Acts 4: 32-35). Let the feast of Dukrana of the martyrdom of St Thomas the Apostle, our patron intercede for us to fruitfully fulfil the mission ad gentes purpose of the MST. We shall celebrate this year the feast of Dukrana adhering to the rules and guidelines given by the civil authorities with regard to the pandemic Covid 19. Happy feast to all!!!

Fr Antony Perumanoor  
Director General, MST

## II. NEWS FROM THE GENERALATE

(From 1 April – 30 June 2020)

### 1. Living with Covid-19: Members and Ministries

All of us, in different parts of the world, still continue experiencing the consequences of the pandemic covid-19. Let us take utmost care in protecting ourselves from this pandemic and follow every possible measure to reduce its outbreak, especially in our communities and neighbourhoods.

In many places, the members of the MST have been undertaking programmes to support the people infected and affected with covid-19, whereas in some places we are not expected to be active in public due to the lockdown measures. Deepti Bhavan provided food materials, medicines and sanitizing items to the needy around Melampara, Bharananganam and Pala in the lockdown days as part of the Covid-19 recovery activities. Let us support each other in all possible ways by sharing our resources and facilities for the common good which is our moral responsibility towards the people as one children of God.

‘Living with Covid,’ is gradually becoming the norm of life. Our missionary apostolates including pastoral ministry, educational apostolate, health care, charitable and social empowerment programmes, preaching ministry, etc. are now being guided to be carried out in newer ways different from the traditional patterns. The formation programmes are also now being rearranged and modified to fit into the new situations. As missionaries, let us be flexible and committed to do all that is practical and beneficial diligently following the regulations from the government and the Church.

### 2. Special Prayers in the Pandemic Period

On 1 May 2020, on the feast of St Joseph the Worker, MSTs around the globe spent an hour in prayer from 07.00 p.m. to 08.00 p.m., as directed by the Director General. The World Day of Prayer, Fasting and Charity declared by Pope Francis on 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2020 was also directed to be observed by all the MSTs. Besides, we have been

responding to the call for prayer and fasting by the national and regional hierarchies of the places of our ministry.

It is desired that all of us place special intentions of prayer for saving humanity from this pandemic and for the invention of medicines and vaccines. Let us intercede the help, protection and guidance of St Thomas the Apostle – our Patron, especially when we celebrate Dukhrana of his martyrdom.

### **3. Proposed Draft of C&D and Extraordinary General Assembly**

The Committee constituted for the review study of the *Constitutions and Directives of the MST* had submitted their report along with a new draft on 4 April 2020. After receiving opinion on this text by the Canon Law experts, the Director General has circulated the updated draft to all MSTs by Email and WhatsApp on 5 May 2020, asking the members to forward their observation and comments to the Director General by 20 August 2020. If any of you missed the said electronic messages or would like to get a printed copy of the proposed C&D, kindly contact the Generalate Office. Your opinions, corrections and observations on the draft will be incorporated by the same committee and the same draft will be revised again by September 2020 for the consideration of the proposed extraordinary General Assembly.

As resolved by the Tenth Ordinary General Assembly of 2018, the proposed Extraordinary General Assembly for making amendments to the present C&D will be convoked by the Director General in the near future, with due consideration to the pandemic situations.

### **4. Plenary Council**

As per the Constitutions and Directives of the MST, the Plenary Council is to be held at the third year of the administrative term (C112). Therefore, Plenary Council will be convoked soon, informing the schedule and method of its conduct, although we are unsure of the upshots of the pandemic so far.

### **5. New Admissions to the Minor Seminaries**

In the current academic year (2020-2021), the MST recruited 47 boys. Among them 21 are given admission at Deepti College,

Melampara and 26 in Santhome Seminary, Thamarassery. The seminary-wise list of the new comers along with their personal details are the following:

### A. Deepti College, Melampara

	House Name, Name	Parish	Diocese
1.	Aniviyal, Rijin James	Narakakanam	IDK
2.	Avickal, Cynaec Joly	Manjapra	EKM
3.	Chathurathodiyil, Subin Sabu	Mangappara	KTM
4.	Kanayil, Jewel James	Parathoda	IDK
5.	Kandanthinkarayil, Bibin Joseph	Manathoor	PLA
6.	Karimattathil, Rijo Joseph	Mounani	PLA
7.	Kaviyil, Leo Joy	Kayyoor	PLA
8.	Kayyalaparambil, Jirhu Biju	Pullikanam	KPY
9.	Kolamskuzhaackal, Sebastian K. Roy	Anikadu	KPY
10.	Koyipuruth, Jerrin Saji	Vazhavara	IDK
11.	Kunnel, Aeon Reji	Aruvithura	PLA
12.	Kuzhivelil, Aljo Tomy	Anicadu	KMM
13.	Nadaackal, Alan Roy	Athirampuzha	CHY
14.	Nelluvely, Subin Sabu	Plassnal	PLA
15.	Paikayil, Boby Sajan	Adivaram	PLA
16.	Parackal, Thomas Santhosh	Vakakkad	PLA
17.	Tharappel, Milan Jais	Adivaram	PLA
18.	Thattaparambil, Abin George	Vellikulam	PLA
19.	Thulaserril, Stenin Varghese	Muttuchira	PLA
20.	Vartakkavumkal, Subin Antony	Marika	KMM
21.	Vettickal, Emil Francis	Mundakayam	KPY

## B. Santhome Minor Seminary, Thamarassery

	Hoase Name, Name	Parish	Diocese
1.	Chirathalayattum, Softin Tom	Mundanoor	TLY
2.	Chirattayoil, Athul Thomas	Thomaparam	TLY
3.	Cheerapoikayil, Alfy Manoj	Manjakunnu	TMY
4.	Chulliparambil, Albin Xavier	Ambalayayal	MDY
5.	Earambadathil, Joyal Mathew George	Kannivayal	TLY
6.	Kaduthodil, Jestin Joshy	Alex Nagar	KTM
7.	Kallanal, Binu Binoy	Alex Nagar	KTM
8.	Kalluprasi, Sabin Joshy	Kacherikadavu	TLY
9.	Kannampuzha, Shaibin Augustine	Karthikapuram	TLY
10.	Kappilumakkal, Abin Joseph	Thomaparam	TLY
11.	Kanakkandathil, Alex Binoy	Panathadi	TLY
12.	Kunnathettu, Athal K. Sanu	Nooranthodu	TMY
13.	Kuttiarachel, Alan Benny	Michaelgiri	KTM
14.	Padiyakkandathil, Amal Varghese George	Adakkathodu	MDY
15.	Palamcottil, Jibin Jose	Payyavoor	KTM
16.	Palarakkel, John Paul Mathew	Koorachund	TMY
17.	Parackal, Jeevan Dennis	Paisakkari	TLY
18.	Pottamplackal, Tony Baby	Kattullamala	TMY
19.	Pulikkakunnel, Biby Philip	Kunnumkai	TLY
20.	Pulickal, Abin Manoj	Thomaparam	TLY
21.	Puthanparakkal, Scaria P.S.	Thomaparam	TLY
22.	Tharappel, Jomon Thomas Paul	Angadikadavu	TLY
23.	Thottathil, Abin Saji	Nooranthodu	TMY
24.	Valiyarirappil, Amal Jiji	Karakkamala	MDY
25.	Valiyarirathil, Ajin Biju	Mangalam	MDY
26.	Vellamkunnel, Albin Wilson	Adakkathodu	MDY

The MST thanks and appreciates the vocation promoters, the minor seminary staff, the missionary associates and all others who have collaborated in recruiting vocations. Please keep these young seminarians in your prayerful remembrance.

## **6. Promotion to the MOC- Jeevan Jyoti**

After successfully completing the minor seminary formation in two of our seminaries in Deepti College and Santhome Minor Seminary, 19 students have been promoted for Missionary Orientation Course in Jeevan Jyoti. Congratulations to the brothers who are promoted to the next stage of formation in their journey to priesthood and appreciation to all their formators, especially the Rectors and Staff members in our minor seminaries who have been instrumental in training them in the past three years. The names of 19 brothers are the following:

1. Attuchalil Abraham (Jison Sebastian)
2. Avimoottil Joseph (Jibin Baby)
3. Chakkalackal Joseph (Dominic Shaji)
4. Chollampuzha Abraham (Abin Abraham)
5. Kakkaniyil Mathew (Linto Charly)
6. Kallikadan Lazar (Edison Sebastian)
7. Karakkattu Joseph (Ben K. Shibu)
8. Kolamkuzhiyil Mathew (Martin K. Roy)
9. Komath Rockey (Adarsh Rockey Francis)
10. Manayathukudy Joseph (Abin Biju)
11. Mannarmattathil Rockey (Abilash George)
12. Marottikuzhiyil Ulahannan (Alvin John)
13. Nedunganal Joseph (Sebin Thomas)
14. Parakkattu Martin (Biljo Mathew)
15. Pariyathottathil Joseph (Justin Joseph)
16. Thenamakkal Thomas (Gladson John)

17. Urumbil Joseph (Joyal Joy)
18. Vadakkedath Joseph (Jomal Joseph)
19. Vadayanazhath Alex (Alex Mathew)

### **7. Promotion to I Philosophy and Promise of Incorporation**

On the basis of the recommendation by the Rector and staff of the MOC, Jeevan Jyoti and with the consent of the General Council, the Director General has promoted 28 students to the next stage of formation, i.e. the study of philosophy. They will be also accepted as temporary members through their first promise of incorporation. Sincere thanks to the staff in Jeevan Jyoti for forming our students and congratulations to the brothers who have become temporary members in the MST.

Among them, 12 brothers are being sent to other seminaries for their philosophy studies (three each in St Thomas Ap. Seminary – Vadavathoor and St Joseph Pont. Seminary – Aluva and two each in Good Shepherd Seminary – Kunnoth, Mary Matha Seminary– Trichur and Salesian Seminary, Sonada in West Bengal). The rest 16 brothers will be studying in Ruhalya. Their names along with the assigned seminary are given below:

1. Alackal Mathai (Nirmal Martin), Ujjain
2. Anamalayil Ouseph (Majo Joseph), Ujjain
3. Azhakanparambil Joseph (Edwin Lal), Aluva
4. Chirayil Augustine (Albin Benny), Vadavathoor
5. Choorapuzhayil Scaria (Savio Thomas), Kunnoth
6. Kaithakulathu Puthenpurayil Sebastian (Manu George), Trichur
7. Kakkaniyil Emmanuel (Lino Charly), Ujjain
8. Kalathil Devasia (Denny Tomy), Sonada
9. Kandathil James (Albin Joseph), Ujjain
10. Kattackal Mathew (Kevin Xavier), Ujjain
11. Kottuppally Kurian (Abhishek Siby), Ujjain

12. Kulanjiyil Abraham (Justin George), Ujjain
13. Kulathinkal Philip (Sobin Joseph), Aluva
14. Maliyil Mathew (Chilce Chacko), Ujjain
15. Mankuzha Paulose (Alen Joseph), Kunnoth
16. Mannoor Thomas (Sajith Chandy), Ujjain
17. Nedumthuruthimyalil Mathew (Mathew Jose), Ujjain
18. Nellamkuzhiyil Joseph (Jarald Joy), Ujjain
19. Nelluvellil Xavier (Georgekutty Xavier), Sonada
20. Nirappel George (Geo Tomy), Ujjain
21. Orapuzhikkal Chandy (Jeswin Chandy), Ujjain
22. Pottananiyil Paul (Joyal), Ujjain
23. Prakuzhiyil Antony (Jerin Sabu), Vadavathoor
24. Puthenkalam Geevarghese (Bonny Baiju), Aluva
25. Puthenpurakkal Joseph (Albin Varghese), Ujjain
26. Thuruthel Mathew (Sobin Jose), Trichur
27. Vadakkemuriyil Thomas (Sijil Bosco), Ujjain
28. Vettathu Joseph George (Josin Benny), Vadavathoor

### **8. Promotion to Regency**

At the successful completion of Philosophy course, eight brothers have been promoted to the next stage of Missionary Training in the Field (Regency). All of them studied philosophy in Ruhahaya. The MST thanks the Rector and staff of the philosophy section of Ruhahaya, and congratulates the brothers for their achievement. Their names and the places/regions of their regency are the following:

1. Kanjirathamkunnel Abin (St Thomas Region)
2. Makkiyil Amal (Deepti Plantations, Mulas)
3. Paruthickal Binil (St Alphonsa Region)
4. Thadathil Ajith (Deepti Bhavan)
5. Vazheparampil Jithin (MQMD, Delhi)

6. Velloor Jintu (St Alphonsa Region)
7. Vempenickal Joseph (St Paul Region)
8. Vettukallel Michael (St Thomas Region)

### **9. Renewal of Promise, Vestition and Promotion to Theology**

Having successfully completed their missionary training in the field (Regency), on the basis of the report of their concerned in-charges during regency and with the consent of the General Counsel, the Director General will be accepting the renewal of the temporary Promise of Incorporation of three seminarians on a convenient day in July. On the same day, they will be receiving the priestly cassock too. They have been promoted to the next stage of formation, i.e. the study of Theology at Ruhahaya, Ujjain. The MST congratulates all of them for the successful completion of regency; and thanks to all those who have contributed to their practical training in the field, especially the priests in charge and the Regional Directors or the Delegate. The seminarians promoted to the study of theology are:

1. Arackaparambil Michael (Shalgin)
2. Irurickal Kuriakose (Noyal)
3. Kizhakkekkara Joseph (Ashil)

### **10. Higher Studies of Priests**

**a. Completion of Studies:** Due to the outbreak of Covid-19, those priests who have been destined to finish their studies during this summer are still waiting for the examination dates to complete the studies. Those who have been studying abroad also are facing the same challenges. The MST is awaiting their return after the studies, to place them in different apostolates.

**b. Beginning of Higher Studies:** The priests who have been chosen for higher studies this year were relieved from their places of apostolates. Some of the universities in Europe are not enrolling any new students for the upcoming academic year 2020-2021. The Indian universities also have not declared the dates for enrolling new students or of the reopening. Therefore, those assigned for higher studies will be doing their personal preparations or temporary assignments until they are able to join their programmes.

## 11. Sacerdotal Silver Jubilee Celebration

Fourteen of our priests are celebrating the silver jubilee of their priestly ordination this year (Ordination batch of 1995-1996). The Generalate level celebration, which is annually held in the month of November, will be held this time in the month of January 2021, if the lockdown measures would be relaxed by then.

## 12. Achievement/Award

**a. Book Edited by Fr Lonappan Arangassery:** A book titled – *Covid -19: A Theological Response to a New World Order* edited by Rev. Fr Lonappan Arangassery and published by Ruhalya Publications was released on 7 June 2020. Some of the resident and visiting faculty of Ruhalya have contributed articles to this book. Congratulations to Fr Arangassery and all the contributors!

**b. State Award for Fr M. D. Thomas:** Delhi Minorities Commission grants Fr Dr M. D. Thomas, ‘Communal Harmony and Interfaith Dialogue Award’ for the year 2019 honouring him as ‘Promoter of Religious Harmony and Good Interfaith Relations.’ The MST congratulates Fr M.D. Thomas for this award.

## 13. Closure of the Contract with Indore/ Jhabua

In the context of the new ecclesiastical provision of the Syro-Malabar Eparchy of Shamshabad which includes the entire territory of the diocese of Jabhua, the contract regarding MST’s pastoral/missionary involvement in the diocese of Jhabua was concluded on 3 June 2020, in mutual agreement between the bishop of the diocese of Jhabua and the Director General of the MST. The contract that was initiated by Most Rev. George Anathil, then Bishop of the Diocese of Indore and Rev. Fr Thomas Parayady, then Director General of the MST and came into effect on 1 February 2000. The same contract was advanced by the Prelates of the Diocese of Jhabua from its creation in 2002 and by the Directors General of the MST who succeeded the office. The contract has now come to the closure when the MST Priest in charge of Shamgarh mission of the Diocese handed over the management and administration of St Alphonsa Church and St Alphonsa Higher Secondary School along with all the moveable and immovable assets and documents to the representatives of the

Diocese of Jhabua on 3 June 2020, in the presence of the Regional Director of St Paul Region and the delegate of the Bishop of Jhabua.

Let us thank God who called and provided us to work in the virgin land of Shamgarh for more than two decades, from February 2000. With humble beginnings in a rented house, the MST priests were instrumental in the purchase of the land property and they developed the centre by constructing the presbytery, school, convent, etc. St Alphonsa Church, Shamgarh is now an established parish with a community of more than hundred people in thirty families. The school has grown up to higher secondary level with sizeable strength of students. We are happy and feel privileged to hand over an established mission centre/parish to the Diocese of Jhabua with an organized community of faithful and a prospective higher secondary school of good reputation.

Twenty years of untiring efforts of several of our MST priests in Shamgarh from Rev. Fr Scaria Thamarakattu in the year 2000 to Rev. Fr Davis Chakkalackal in 2020, have surely made significant difference in making Christ known in the area. As we have returned from Shamgarh, let us gratefully remember Most Rev. George Anathil SVD of happy memory who invited us for missionary involvement in the year 2000 and for all the support he extended. Our thanks also to the present Bishop Most Rev. Basil Bhuriya SVD and his predecessors in the Diocese of Jhabua from its creation in 2002, who include Most Rev. Chacko Thottumarickal SVD and Most Rev. Devaprasad Gananwa SVD, for their love, care, guidance and assistance in the establishment and growth of the mission. Let us congratulate and thank all the MST priests who toiled in Shamgarh and in other centres of the diocese of Jhabua for short durations. The leadership of St Paul Mission Region, of the past 20 years, also have played a significant role in sustaining good relationship with the diocese and in facilitating the development of different centres, especially Shamgarh.

In the light of the new contract with the Eparchy of Shamshabad in November 2019, Nirmal Jyoti Special School and all its related establishments in Mandsaur have already become part of the new ecclesiastical provision of the Syro-Malabar Eparchy of Shasmshabad. All further undertakings of the MST in other cities or

villages within the territory of the diocese of Jhabua will be under the Eparchy of Shamshabad.

#### **14. Meeting with Rectors/Vice Rectors of Minor Seminaries**

The General Council had a joint meeting with the Rectors and Vice Rectors of Deepti College and Santhome Minor Seminary on 24 May 2020, at the Generalate. The purpose of the meeting was to plan for the recruitment process for the first year minor seminarians, reopening of the minor seminaries and the formation programme of the upcoming academic year.

#### **15. Ongoing Formation Programmes**

Please note that the interregional gathering of the second group scheduled for 25-27 October 2020 in St Paul Region, Ujjain is cancelled. The new schedules and modes of the interregional programmes will be planned after considering the range of Covid-19 in the coming months.

#### **16. Publication: *Swargeeya Soonangal***

Following the suggestion of the General Assembly 2018, we have prepared and published a book named - *Swargeeya Soonangal* that contains brief biographical description on every deceased member of the MST, including their missionary involvement. The MST thanks Rev. Fr James Kurukilamkattu, the Director of the Department of Historical Research and Documentation of MST who collected the data, edited and compiled them into a book. The Director General released the electronic version of the book on 2 June 2020 and it was circulated among the members through WhatsApp and Email.

#### **17. Webinar in July 2020**

A webinar (online meeting through Zoom) including all members of the MST is being planned to be organized sometime in the month of July 2020, to share about the consequences of Covid-19 and to plan our approaches and priorities in mission, in living with corona. The details of the webinar will be communicated later.

#### **18. Major Seminarians' Gathering, Vestition and Promise**

The annual major seminarians gathering usually schedule in the month

of May at the Generalate was cancelled, due to the lockdown measures of Covid-19. Consequently, the vestition and the promises of incorporation of the seminarian are also not held in common this year, but will be done in small groups on convenient days.

### III. Transfers and Assignments/Appointments

#### A. St Paul Region

**Chakkalackal Davis** – Relieved from the responsibilities at Shamgarh, Diocese of Jhabua and appointed priest in charge of Sarangpur, Eparchy of Ujjain

**Kalarickal Thomas** – Resident at Santhome Regional House, Mendya, Ujjain

**Kochumalayil Joseph** – Relieved from St Paul Region, Ujjain

**Pezhumthottiyil Sebastian** – Relieved from Sarangpur, Eparchy of Ujjain; Resident at Kripa Training Centre, Eparchy of Ujjain

#### B. St Thomas Region

**Edamanacherril Joseph** – Relieved as the Parish Priest of Neradigonda Church, Adilabad

**Kappiparampil Kuriakose** – Relieved as Assistant Priest in Charge Santhome Bhavan, Satyamangalam and Principal, Santhome International School, Satyamangalam

**Koottumkal Sebastian** – Relieved as Priest in Charge Santhome Bhavan, Satyamangalam and Manager, Santhome International School, Satyamangalam

**Madavana Manu:** Appointed as Priest in Charge and Correspondent, Santhome School, Ichoda

**Panthaplakkal Augustine** – Appointed as Asst. Priest – in – Charge, Santhome Bhavan, Bannur and Principal Santhome Public School, Bannur

**Puthanpurayil Thomas** – Relieved as Asst. Priest in Charge Sevasadana, Halagur and Principal Divyajyoti School, Halagur

**Ramachanatt George** – Appointed as Assistant Priest in Charge

Santhome Bhavan, Satyamangalam and Vice – Principal, Santhome International School, Satyamangalam

**Tharapputhottiyil Sebastian** – Relieved as Priest in Charge, Santhome, Ichoda and Appointed as Parish Priest, Neradigonda (Adilabad Diocese)

**Thekkemuriyil Scaria** – Appointed Priest in Charge Santhome Bhavan, Satyamangalam and Manager, Santhome International School, Satyamangalam

**Thottappallil George** – Relived as Assistant Director, Deepti Niwas, Kalenahally and appointed as Asst. Priest in Charge Sevasadana, Halagur and Principal Divyajyoti School, Halagur

**Vedikunnel Joseph** – Appointed as Coordinator, MST mission in Andhra Pradesh

### **C. St Alphonsa Region**

**Karakkattu Antony** – Appointed Priest in Charge, Santhome Mission Station, Tasgaon and teaching staff – Santhome School, Sangli.

**Koorumullil John** – Relieved Asst. Priest in Charge, Jeevadan, Zarap and Appointed Priest in Charge, Nirmal giri and Director, Cherish, Amberi

**Manjackal Thomas** – Appointed as Asst. Parish Priest, Mary Matha Church, Chiplun and Asst. Manager, Mary Matha School Chiplun

**Mathasseril Markose** – Appointed Priest in Charge and Director, Dilasa, Miraj

**Nalannadayil Sebastian** – Relieved as Finance Officer and Asst. Director, Viswadeepti, Kolhapur and Appointed as Asst. Parish Priest, Alphonsa Forane Church, Miraj and Principal, Alphonsa School, Miraj

**Pedickattukunnel Antony** –Relieved as Parish Priest, St Thomas Church Ratnagiri and Manager, St Thomas School, Ratnagiri, and appointed to start a new mission centre at Padal Village, Panhala Tk, Kolhapur District

**Puthenpurayil Michael** – Appointed as Parish Priest, St Thomas

Church Ratnagiri and Manager, St Thomas School, Ratnagiri

**Thypparambil Varghese** – Relieved as Asst. Parish Priest, Mary Matha Church, Chiplun and Asst. Manager, Mary Matha School Chiplun and Appointed as Asst. Parish Priest, Alphonsa Forane Church, Miraj and Vice – Principal, Alphonsa School, Miraj

**Vazhakattu Joshy** – Relieved as Asst. Parish Priest, Alphonsa Forane Church, Miraj and Principal, Alphonsa School, Miraj and Appointed as Asst. Priest in Charge, Sanjoe Bhavan, Yadrav and Principal Alphonsa School, Yadrav

**Vedikunnel Joseph Jr. (Arun)** – Appointed as Asst. Priest in Charge, Jeevadan, Zarap

### **D. Seminaries**

**Kalathoor Chandy** – Re-appointed for second term as Rector, Ruhalaya Major Seminary, Ujjain

**Kallupuraparambil Sebastian** – Relieved as Rector, Jeevan Jyoti, Srirangapatna

**Kochumalayil Joseph** – Appointed as Formator, Deepti College and House Procurator, Deepti Bhavan, Melampara

**Koottumkal Sebastian** – Appointed as Formator, Jeevan Jyoti, Srirangapatna

**Maprakavil Joseph** – Appointed as Formator, Deepti College, Melampara

**Pullatt Chacko** – Appointed as Rector, Jeevan Jyoti, Srirangapatna

### **E. Overseas Missions**

**Kavumkal Sebastian** – Transferred from Holy Name of Mary Catholic Church at Sault Ste Marie, Michigan and appointed as the new pastor of Holy Family Church in Gladstone of the diocese of Marquette, Michigan, USA

**Pazheveetil Joseph** – Moved from Hospital Chaplaincy at Jacksonville, Florida to a New Hospital in Long Beach, California, USA

**Kuliraniyil Mathew** – Given his first assignment as Parochial Vicar of St Louis the King Parish, Marquette, in the diocese of Marquette,

Michigan, USA

## **F. Other Missions/Ministries/Centres/Studies**

**Edamanacherril Joseph** – Assigned for licentiate studies in Spiritual Theology at Indian Institute of Spirituality (MSFS), Bangalore.

**Kallapuraparambil Sebastian** – Appointed as Principal, Santhome School, Mira Road

**Kannathukuzhy Joseph** – Appointed as Caretaker (Temporary), Deepti Rubber Estates, Koramchira

**Keeranchira George** – Relieved from the Eparchy of Idukki and Appointed as Manager, Deepti Rubber Estates, Koramchira (w.e.f.11-07-2020)

**Kolthamprayil Joseph** – Relieved from St Alphonsa Catholic Church Nandgaon, Eparchy of Chanda

**Madathiparambil Kuriakose** – Relieved as House Procurator, Santhome –Impact, Thevackal and Appointed in charge of MST Centre at Mundoor, Thrissur (Additional Responsibility)

**Panackavayalil Thomas** – Appointed as House Procurator, Santhome – Impact, Thevackal (Additional Responsibility)

**Thekkemuriyil Scaria** – Relieved from Principal, Santhome School, Mira Road

**Vadakkemuriyil (Neyyoor) Joseph (Lijo)** – Being relieved from the responsibilities in the Generalate (Secretary to the Director General, Office Secretary & House in-charge of Deepti Bhavan), towards licentiate studies in Canon Law (w.e.f. 1 July 2020) at Paurastya Vidyapitham, Vadavathoor, Kottayam.

## **IV. Change/Correction of Contact Information**

### **A. Postal Address**

**Edamanacherril Jobin**, C/o MST Generalate, Deepti Mount, Melampara P.O., 686 578

**Kadaparambil Rijo**, C/o MST Generalate, Deepti Mount, Melampara P.O., 686 578

**Kalarickal Thomas**, Santhome Bhavan, P.B. No 227,  
Mothilal Nehru Nagar, Ujjain Dt – 456010, Madhya Pradesh

**Kallupuraparambil Jayaprasad**, Santhome Bhavan,  
Near Santhome Public School, Plot No 270, Kanakia  
Road, Mira Road (E) , Thane – 401107, Maharashtra

**Kannamthadam Benny**, C/o MST Generalate, Deepti  
Mount, Melampara P.O., 686 578

**Kannathukuzhy Joseph**, Deepti Rubber Estates,  
Koramchira, Kizhakkencherry – 678684, Palakkad Dt., kerala

**Kappiparampil Joby**, C/o MST Generalate, Deepti  
Mount, Melampara P.O., 686 578

**Karakkattu Arun**, C/o Santhome School, Ankali, Near  
Sangli Octori Nakka, Kolhapur Road, Sangli - 416 416,  
Maharashtra

**Karickamukalel Benny**, Pfarrer-Josef-Preis-Weg 9,  
83209 Prien a. Chiemsee, Germany

**Kavumkal Sebastian**: Fr. Sebastian K. Chacko, Holy Family  
Church, 4011 County 416-20th Road, Gladstone, MI 49837  
USA

**Keeranchira George**, Deepti Rubber Estates, Koramchira,  
Kizhakkencherry – 678684, Palakkad Dt., Kerala

**Kochumalayil Manu**, Deepti College, Melampara P.O. 686  
578, Kottayam Dt., Kerala

**Kolthambrayil Siju**, C/o MST Generalate, Deepti Mount,  
Melampara P.O., 686 578

**Koorumullil Justin**, CHERISH, Nirmalgiri, Amberi (Gadwane),  
Mangoan P.O. Kudal Tk., Sindhudurg Dt - 416 519, Maharashtra

**Koottumkal Sebastian**, Jeevan Jyoti, Ganjam P.O. - 571 477,  
Srirangapatna, Mandya Dt., Karnataka

**Kuliraniyil Mathew**, Fr Benny Mathew, 264 Silver Creek Rd,  
Harvey, MI 49855, USA

**Maliekal Michael**, C/o MST Generalate, Deepti Mount,

Melampara P.O., 686 578

**Manikombel Lijo**, C/o MST Generalate, Deepti Mount,  
Melampara P.O., 686 578

**Manjackal Jins**, Mary Matha Church, Kalambaste, , Chiplun -  
415605, Ratnagiri Dt., Maharashtra

**Maprakavil Joby**, Deepti College, Melampara P.O. 686 578,  
Kottiyam Dt., Kerala

**Maprayil Manu**, C/o MST Generalate, Deepti Mount, Melampara  
P.O., 686 578

**Mathasseril Alan**, Dilasa Bhavan, Samani Mala, Miraj P.O.,  
416410, Tasgaon Phata, Pandarpur Road, , Sangli Dt., Maharashtra

**Nalannadayil Deleep**, St Alphonsa Church, Kupwad Road, Miraj  
– 416410, Sangli Dt, Maharashtra

**Nayathuparambil John**, Kath. Pfarramt St. Martin, Dettendorfer  
Str. 2, 83075 Au bei Bad Aibling, Germany

**Panthaplackal Saneesh**, Santhome Bhavan, Rangachari Hundi,,  
Rangasamudra P.O., Kasaba Hubli, T.Narasipura Tk., Mysore Dt.  
– 571101, Karnataka

**Pazhevettil Joseph**, 672 Temple Ave., Long Beach, CA  
90814 USA

**Pedikattukunnel Antony**, C/o Sant Thoma Bhavan, P.B. 306,  
Raman Mala, Kolhapur – 416003, Maharashtra

**Pothenparampil Sebastian**, House No. 1/183, North Street,  
Kadamkulam South, Mulanjipatty (via), Koonnamkulam P.O.  
627335, Thirunelvely Dt., Tamilnadu

**Pullatt Roy**, Jeevan Jyoti, Ganjam P.O. - 571 477, Srirangapatna,  
Mandya Dt., Karnataka

**Puthanpurayil Shejin**, C/o Santhome, P.B. No.42, Engineering  
College Road, Mandya Dt. – 571401, Karnataka

**Puthenpurayil Michael**, St Thomas School, Karvanchewadi  
Road, P.B. No – 12, MIDC P.O., 415639, Ratnagiri Dt,

Maharashtra

**Tharapputhottiyil Sunny**, St Mary's Church, House No. 2/38, Lakkampur, Neradigonda P.O., Adilabad Dt – 504323, Telangana

**Thekkemuriyil Jiby**, Santhome International School, House No. 378, Senbagapudur P.O. 638402, Karia Kaliyamman Kovil Rd., Sathyamangalam Tk., Erode Dt., T. N.

**Thottappallil Akhil**, Seva Sadana, Gollarahalli, Halagur – 571421, Malavalli Taluk, Mandya Dt, Karnataka

**Thuppalanjyil Saju**, MST Generalate, Deepti Bhavan, Melampira P.O. 686 578, Kottayam Dt., Kerala

**Thypparambil Robin**, St Alphonsa Church, Kupwad Road, Miraj – 416410, Sangli Dt, Maharashtra

**Vanchipurackal Cyriac**, C/o MST Generalate, Deepti Bhavan, Melampira P.O. 686 578, Kottayam Dt., Kerala

**Vazhakattu Joshy**, Alphonsa School, Yardav, Ichalkaranji P. O., Kolhapur Dt., 416145, Maharashtra

**Vedikunnel Arun**, Jeevdan, Khan Mohalla, A/P Zarap, 416510, Kudal Tk, Sindhudurg Dt. Maharashtra

**Vadakkemuriyil (Neyyoor)**, Joseph (Lijo), Paurastya Vidyâpîtham, Vadavathoor – 686010, Kottayam, Kerala

## **B. Phone Numbers**

**Arangasserry**: 8075376762 (Additional Number)

**Kannamthadam**: 7982748006 (Ignore other numbers)

**Karickamukalel**: 004917634530472

**Nayathuparambil** : 0049 80649060231;

0049 17634471346 (Cell Phone)

## **V. News from Seminaries**

### **A. Deepti College, Melampara**

#### **1. Welcome to New Formators**

Deepti witnessed a few changes in the formation team: Rev. Fr Michael Puthenpurayil who was the Vice Rector, Fr Manu Maprayil who was the House Procurator and Father Prefect, and Fr Benny Kannamthadam who was a Formator, after their praiseworthy and committed services at Deepti were transferred to do other ministries of MST.

Rev. Fr Kisincher Aniyekatt is appointed as the new Vice Rector. Rev. Fr Joby Maprakavil is appointed as the new formator and professor. Rev. Fr Manu (Joseph) Kochumalayil is appointed as the House Procurator and Formator. Most welcome dear fathers, and wish you all the best for your new responsibilities.

#### **2. Welcome to the Benjamins**

After the summer holidays and Covid-19 pandemic, the seminary was re-opened on 19 June 2020. All the seminarians came back relaxed and in good spirit to start new scholastic year. The new comers were given a very warm welcome by the senior students on June 19 & 20, 2020. The Lord of the harvest has blessed us with 21 young boys from six Syro- Malabar dioceses of Kerala. Deepti is grateful to all those supported and promoted such wonderful missionary vocations amidst adverse situations. Our special thanks to vocation promoters: Rev. Frs Joison Puthukattu, Monse Karuvakunnel, Rony Alencherry and Abin Kochupurackal.

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

### **B. Santhome Minor Seminary, Thamarassery**

We the members of Santhome Family are keeping fine and have a good time as a whole. I would like to start the news and events of our Seminary from where we stopped in the previous edition of this quarterly, and this would cover up the News and events from the end of March to the end of June 2020.

#### **1. End of The Academic Year (March 22)**

The academic year had an abrupt ending today as the government

postponed all examinations and the news that the border of all Kerala districts will be closed in the midnight. Two tempo-travellers were organized to Pala and Payyavoor in the late evening and we sent all brothers home. All the seven fathers are in the Seminary during this Covid-19.

## **2. Re-arrangements for Plus One & Plus Two Examinations**

All the Plus One and the Plus Two brothers (except three) rearranged their Exam centres, an option given by the government due to Corona Virus Covid-19 pandemic and gave their remaining three examinations in these new centres close to their homes from 28 – 30 May, 2020.

## **3. Promotion of Seminarians**

Nine out of Eleven of the third year brothers are promoted to the MOC. 17 first year brothers are promoted to the second year.

## **4. Vocation Animation and Promotion**

Rev. Fr Francis Kureeckal and Rev. Fr Thomas Karamel along with the Vocation Promoter and the Rector of Santhome Seminary visited the houses of all the probable candidates in Kasaragod, Kannur, Wayanad and Kozhikode districts to admit them. We began our mission on 3 June early in the morning and finished on 6 June. Very sincere thanks to both the Councillors for their hard work and dedicated service.

## **5. Welcome to the New Comers**

Santhome Seminary was very happy to admit and welcome 26 new buds to the seminary for the year 2020-2021. A big appreciation and sincere thanks to Fr Rony Alencherry, the Vocation Promoter, whose tireless hard work and follow-up produced a great fruit. Appreciations are also due to Fr Abin Kochupurackal, the assistant Vocation Promoter.

The first year brothers will have some sessions on group dynamism, motivation classes, counselling, calligraphy and artificial flower making, etc.

## **6. Beginning of the Academic Year 2020-2021**

Classes started slowly to all batches on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2020. All fathers

and brothers are seen with a renewed spirit and vitality. Due to Covid-19 our external activities like sports are cancelled.

### **7. Rectors & Vice Rectors' Meet at Deepti Bhavan**

The Director General and his team invited the Rectors and Vice Rectors of both the Minor Seminaries for a meeting on 27 May 2020. It was very fruitful.

### **8. Evaluation of Santhome Minor Seminary**

All the staff spent on a two day general evaluation and discussions of the seminary in the month of May 2020.

### **9. Corona Garden**

All the fathers were engaged in a fruitful way during the Corona period of April – May to make some flower gardens and the vegetable gardens. Plenty of manual work had been carried out in those months.

### **10. Corona Charity Challenge & Charity Kits**

All fathers unanimously decided to donate Rs. 1,000/-each per month to help the poor and the needy. We will donate the same till the corona virus ends. We have helped and distributed charity-kits to some families in the neighbourhood.

### **11. Visitors to Santhome Seminary**

Bishop Mar Remigiose Inchananiyil, Fr Francis Kureeckal, Fr Thomas Karamel, Fr Manu Maprayil, Fr John Oravumkara, Fr Siby Kalathoor and Fr Mathew Maveli.

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

## **C. Jeevan Jyoti, Srirangapatna**

### **1. New Rector, Procurator and Staff Member**

Jeevan Jyoti is ready to start this scholastic year 2020-2021, with new Rector, new Procurator and a new staff member. Rev. Fr Roy Pullattu Chacko took charge as the Rector on 20 May 2020, from the outgoing Rector Rev. Fr Prasad Kallapuraparambil. Rev. Fr Binoy Koottumkal is the new Procurator of Jeevan Jyoti. He took

charge on 13 April from Rev. Fr Alan Markose Mathasseril.

We are also excited and delighted to welcome Fr Sebastian



Koottumkal, as member of our Jeevan Jyoti staff. As an experienced formator and teacher, we are fortunate to have

him on the staff. He joins us latest by the middle of July 2020.

## 2. Sincere Thanks to Fr Kallapuraparambil

We, the Jeevan Jyoti community, whole heartedly thank Rev. Fr



Prasad Kallapuraparambil for his dedicated service at Jeevan Jyoti (05/08/2018-20/05/2020). Two batches of seminarians had the great opportunity to get the formation during this period. Fr Prasad was a source of inspiration for the brothers, and he tried

to give them an integral formation following the MST priestly formation programme. Due to Covid-19, we could not organize a proper send off for him. We wish him all the very best to continue his service as the Principal of Santhome Public School, Mumbai.

## 3. Heartfelt Thanks to Fr Mathasseril

The Jeevan Jyoti community is very grateful to Rev. Fr Alan (Markose) Mathasseril for his sincere and effective service at Jeevan Jyoti as the procurator. Though he was only for a short tenure at Jeevan Jyoti (20/05/2019 - 13/04/2020), he was a much sought after by the brothers and the staff alike. We sincerely acknowledge his valuable service at Jeevan



Jyoti and wish him all the best for future ministry at ‘Dilasa Bhavan, Miraj.’

#### **4. Adieu to 32<sup>nd</sup> Batch**

On 6<sup>th</sup> May 2020, the Jeevan Jyoti campus whispered a fond adieu to all the brothers of the 32<sup>nd</sup> batch, who had completed their formation during the academic year 2019-20. We are also happy to say that all of them (total 28) are promoted to continue their priestly formation in major seminaries. We wish them a very happy future.

#### **5. Welcome to New Batch of Students**

Our 33<sup>rd</sup> batch of students were having a very long summer vacation due to Covid-19. Nineteen brothers who were students in two of our minor seminaries – Deepti and Santhome, arrived Jeevan Jyoti on 25 June 2020. Thus Jeevan Jyoti is ready to start another academic year.

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

### **D. Ruhhalaya, Ujjain**

#### **1. Covid and Holidays**

For Ruhhalayans March is normally busy and tense with exams, holiday planning, ticket booking, ministry arrangements, etc. but still the dominant mood would be one of joy and excitement due to the forthcoming holidays. But not this year! There was no dearth of tension resulting from the eventualities caused by the COVID 19. A hectically held staff meeting on 19 March decided to send brothers home suspending the remaining classes and exams. We thought that it is better to fear than to presume in the case of Corona Virus.

Most of the theologians except the five on vacation duty left for Kerala by flight on 24 March, 2020. Thank God, no one got in-flight infection! Fortunately most of the exams of the Philosophers were over. However, the Theologians could not complete their exams. Those who took the class-notes said that they had a welcome break from the monotony and boredom of quarantine.

Philosophy brothers around ninety four remained in the Seminary

for two more months and left only by May-end. It was as if they were quarantined in the Seminary with lots of time for prayer and reflection. It took some time for us to realize that Corona is not a guest who will go soon; it came to stay here. The chances of normal train or flight journey seemed slim and Philosophy brothers having finished their exam decided to go home at any cost. But one hurdle: no train from Indore or Ujjain. The nearest railway station is 265 km away from Ujjain – at Kota! True Christian fortitude wades through all obstacles. They were dispatched to Kerala from Kota by train in four batches on 17, 19, 20 and 24 May. One – Bro. Joseph Kavunnukattil of second year philosophy tested COVID 19 positive. Thank God that he has recovered!

## **2. Adieu to Fr Thazhathuveettil**



A large measure of gratitude is due to Rev. Fr Binoy Thazhathuveettil for what he had accomplished for Ruhalya in a short span of three years! What God has done through him for the Seminary is worthy of thankful memory. Our sincere thanks to him. Looking forward to new frontiers of action, he found it in his posting at Bathinda in Punjab. We wish him every success!

## **3. Welcome to Fr Thettalickal**

Rev. Fr John (Shijomon) Thettalickal who was in Dilshad Garden, New Delhi has replaced Rev. Fr Binoy. He reached Ruhalya on 18 May 2020 and took charge on 30 May. We wish him every success and abundance of blessings.

Restrictions imposed because of Corona caused great havoc in our planning and nipped many a good initiatives in the bud. Still under the leadership of the new General Procurator Rev. Fr Shijomon a number of maintenance and repair works are already afoot. The

climate in Ujjain this year is exceptionally clement.

#### **4. Extension of the Term of Office of Rector**

The Director General extended the term of office of the Rector of the seminary. Hence, Fr Chandy Kalathoor will be continuing in the office of the Rector of Ruhhalaya Major Seminary, Ujjain for another three years.

#### **5. Release of a New Book**



Experts have predicted a boom of books and babies this year as COVID 19-effect. A book titled *COVID 19: A THEOLOGICAL RESPONSE TOWARDS A NEW WORLD ORDER*, edited by Rev. Dr Lonappan Arangassery is already in print. It was released by His Excellency Mar Sebastian Vadakel on 30 May 2020. Kudos to Fr Arangassery and contributors, the Ruhhalaya Staff!

#### **6. Plans for the New Academic Year**

The new academic year will commence for first year Philosophy students on 17 August 2020, but they will be quarantined for fourteen days prior to it from the date of their arrival on 1 August. Second and third year Philosophy students will reach on 15 August and will start studies on 1 September after isolation.

For first year theology, classes are arranged temporarily in Deepti, Melampara, Bharananganam. Rev. Fr Manoj, the Vice Rector will be taking care of them. The scheduled arrival date is 2 July, 2020. Second and third year theologians are supposed to reach at Deepti Gardens, Moochankund of Palakkad Dt. on 4 July. Rev. Fr Jose Palakeel, the Dean of Studies will be in charge of them. Deacons will be in Santhome-IMPACT, Thevakkal, Ernakulam.

*(Reported by Very Rev. Fr Chandy Kalathoor, Rector, Ruhhalaya, Major Seminary)*

## VI. NEWS FROM THE MISSIONS

### A. St Paul Region

In this period of Covid-19 all our priests in St Paul Region are safe and sound. But there was an accident happened to Fr Thomas Thalanany and he was hospitalized. He had fell down from the height of two stories and broken his jaw, angle and rib. Fortunately there was no injury in the brain and other organs. He is still under treatment and is slowly recovering.

#### 1. Mission in the Lock Down



Due to lock down, all our activities also are standstill. Our various activities in different mission centre are slowly started functioning after different phases of lock down due to Covid-19 pandemic.

Schools are remaining closed though some online classes started for higher classes. We have helped some people who are struggling in this lockdown period. Fr George Pottanickal together with Sacred Heart sisters supplied hot and cold drinks to the police officials and health workers who were fighting against corona and safeguarding the city.

#### 2. Nirmal Jyoti, Bhopal

During the lockdown period due to Covid-19 pandemic, the poor and the marginalized people of slum areas of Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh were struggling to meet the essential needs of their families especially procurement of food items. Realizing the dire need of the people here, Nirmal Jyoti Educational and Charitable Society (NJECS), Bhopal Unit studied the desperate situation of the families



of the Self-Help Groups of women organized by NJECS and decided to provide food materials to 165 families belonging to the Self-Help Groups at Anand Nagar, Indira Nagar and Berkhedda area. There are four SHGs at Anand Nagar, six SHGs at Indira Nagar, and three SHGs at Berkhedda. Food kits consisting of Wheat flour – 5 kg, Sugar – 1 kg, Pulses – 1 kg, Edible Oil – 500 ml, Tea powder 100 gm, Coriander powder – 100 gm, Chilli powder – 100 gm, Turmeric powder – 100 gm and one bathing soap worth Rs 400 per kit was purchased and 165 kits were distributed to the members of the SHG's, thus reaching out to 150 families of slum areas of Bhopal city on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2020 and 15 families on 6 June 2020 with essential food items for their sustenance.

### 3. Covid-care in Indore

Amidst Covid-19 pandemic, Fathers had mask distribution and awareness program in the thickly populated area near to Devas



Naka (Indore). This was organised on 21 March and they have distributed 725 masks by collecting contributions from lay people and fathers. Five loaves program which was interrupted due to lockdown have restarted by 18<sup>th</sup> May. There is a decline of number of distribution packets because they couldn't reach out to some of the extents of the slums due to lockdown. 'Hunger Care' a food distribution program for the migrant workers who were travelling back their home due to Covid-19 was organised on 23 May 2020. There were a huge number of people travelling by Agra Bombay (AB) road without anything to eat because of lockdown. It was really a great job.

#### **4. Adieu to Shamgarh**



MST has entrusted Shamgarh mission to the diocese of Jhabua on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2020 after twenty years of hard work to develop the mission into a full-fledged mission centre. Representing the Society, Rev. Fr Vincent Kadalikkattilputhenpura and Rev. Fr George Pottananickal were present, during the official handing over ceremony. Rev. Fr Davis Chakkalackal was relieved on the same day and returned to the regional house and later on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020 he took charge as the priest-in-charge of Sarangapur mission station in the diocese of Ujjain.

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

## B. St Thomas Region

### 1. Coordinator for Andhra Pradesh

Rev. Fr Joseph Vedikunnel is appointed the coordinator of the MST mission in Andhra Pradesh. As per the agreement between the Eparchy of Shamshabad, we are entrusted with seven districts of Andhra Pradesh - Kurnool, Anantpur, Cuddapah, Chittoor, Prakasam, Nellore and Guntur. Rev. Fr Vedikunnel and team have already made their presence in Anantpur district.

### 2. Covid Relief Works

Covid-19 pandemic hit the whole nation very dreadfully and tragically and people became really helpless. It was in this time St Thomas



Mission Society's (STMS) social wing at Mandya arose vigorously and started spreading the light of love in reaching out to many in real suffering. Many the activities have

been undertaken in this pandemic period.

Manasadhara centre for mentally ill people realized the need of the time and soon started providing medicines and food kits for its inmates. Around 150 families of mental patients were helped during this period with essential food kits, masks and sanitizers.

The social service wing of STMS felt the need of providing masks as very urgent need, as the government and authorities were stressing that people should not come out without a mask. With the help of students at our various tailoring centres prepared 6000 masks and distributed to different villages. We are proud to say that the entire population in two villages were given cotton washable masks and it



was a great help for the people. Besides, this cotton washable masks were distributed for police, health workers, children affected with HIV, hospitals and school children.



Knowing the need of people starving at this time, we organized small groups of various kinds and provided food kits for around 500 families in different times. When many were engaged in distributing food kits to people we noticed that one

group was really not considered and that was the transgenders and sex workers in the city and we organized a programme and collected 100 members of this sort and provided food materials for one month.

Staff members of our various institutions also were in trouble during this period and we extended our helping hands for them by providing food kits and sanitizers for their daily need.

The state government takes up so many people oriented safety



measures for helping the needy and joining hands with the government of Karnataka we also contributed Rs 50,000 to the district collector for the covid-19 relief works in our state.

Another vulnerable group at this time was the inmates in the prisons who were not allowed to be visited by any one and they were in the helpless situation to meet their daily needs like, soap, paste, masks, oil etc. We with the support of the diocese of Mandya reached out to them with all their necessary articles for 300 prison inmates and provided sanitizers and masks for the entire staff at Mandya prison. It was again another gesture of our concern that we provided fruits and soft drinks for the quarantines at Ramanagara Prison. Meanwhile as the situation becoming worse we noticed that there are so many people around the Government Medical college at Mandya having no food as they remain at hospital as bystanders especially for the women at delivery ward. With the collaboration of MOB sisters at Mandya, we started providing foot

packet for 150 people on daily basis for fifteen days. It was really a help for the people there.

The help of our members from various tailoring centres were praise worthy. Because they were very active in stitching the masks and PET kits for the hospitals and because of that we could reach to many in their necessities. Now we are planning to stitch more cotton washable masks and distribute free at railway stations and bus stands where the people still use the towels and edges of their sarees to cover the mouth. It is again our desire to create awareness among the people about this pandemic and its safety measures and prepare a street-play to impart awareness.

The fifth anniversary of Mansadhara fell during this pandemic. We made use of this opportunity again to help the people by inviting fifty families of mental patients and provided them with food kits for one month and it was really appreciated by the department of Mental Health under Karnataka government.

*(Reported by Fr Josekutty Kalayil, First Councillor and Director of Social Apostolate, St Thomas Region)*

### **3. Youth Ministry in Kadamkulam, Tirunelveli, T.N (Personal Initiative)**



Ave Maira Sadan, at Kadamkulam, near Moolakkarappatty, Thirunelvely, in the diocese of Thuckalay in Tamil Nadu is a humble initiative to share the message and person of Jesus among the poor people in the neighbourhood. It was started on 8 September 2019. I have been trying to mobilize the youth in the area for social commitment. Recently I engaged the youth of the Kadamkulam village and collected the signature of the people of this village and

submitted an appeal to the MLA of this constituency for upgrading the village road and including the village in Swatch Bharath mission of the government. As a result of the appeal, the MLA sanctioned the road work and work is already begun to construct a quality road. The villagers in the area became very happy and have started contacting me for their needs.

*(Reported by Fr Sebastian Pothenparampil, Tirunelveli. T.N.)*

## **C. St Alphonsa Region**

### **1. Food-kit Distribution**



During this lockdown, various mission stations in collaboration with the social action department has found some migrant families who are suffering from this shut down in Sangli, Kolhapur and Ratnagiri districts of Maharashtra, India. The migrants belonged to

different states - mainly from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Goa, Karnataka, Rajasthan and various parts of Maharashtra.

Alphonsa Region provided food kits as immediate relief assistance to the people in distress in 10 villages such as Kupwad, Shirala, Dhavli, Kavathe Mahankal, Ghalwad, Kodoli, Bharane, Veral, Khavt and Chiplun. The food kit included Rice, Wheat, Sugar, Tea Powder, Pulses, Poha, Biscuit, Oil, Salt, Bathing Soap, Washing Soap, etc. A total of 318 families got benefited through this distribution, such as 75 families in Dhavali, 30 families in Kupwad, 38 families in Kavathe Mahankal, 50 families in Shirala, in Sangli District; 63 families in Ghalwad, 05 families in Kodoli in Kolhapur District, 40 families in Chiplun and 17 families from Bharane, Veral and Khavati villages of Ratnagiri district. Sangli Mission Society has spent Rs 156,477/- towards the purchase of food materials.



## 2. Donation to PM Cares Fund

Alphonsa Region contributed Rs one lakh to the PM Cares Fund and Rs. 50,000/- to Chief Minister's Relief Fund in Maharashtra as a helping hand in fighting the pandemic Covid-19.

## 3. Sharing of Infrastructure

Alphonsa School in Karanjoshi, Alphonsa School in Ichalkaranji and Anugraha Special School in Khed are currently being used as quarantine homes. Alphonsa region has offered its other facilities including Santhome Ayurveda Arogya Kendra, Bedshi for quarantine or medical purposes to help the victims of COVID-19.

## 4. COVID-19 Awareness Creation



Awareness on COVID-19 pandemic is given to Self Help Groups (SHGs), Persons Living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIVs) and

students through phone call, conference call, quiz and social media. Alphonsa School, Miraj has launched an online quiz program to make students aware about novel Corona Virus and they are provided with e-certificates.



## 5. Social Media Engagement

Childline Kolhapur, Railway Childline Kolhapur, Childline Sangli and SMS Hitguj School Counselling program seized the opportunity to go online to help the children during lockdown with various activities. Hitguj School Counselling completed a counselling online training to staff working under various programs. A workshop on JJ Act is also conducted for Childline team to enhance their knowledge. Many of the staff have acquired one or more certificates on COVID-19 through online course participation. An online course is arranged by Hitguj on Life Skill Education for teachers, parents, counsellors using webinar and we plan to conduct family counselling and youth

counselling during this lockdown period. Department of Social & Development Action is arranging webinars on COVID-19 to make people aware of it and engage children with various activities.

### **6. Delivering Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART)**

SMS Vihaan Ichalkaranji team took ART to 215 patients and SMS Vihaan Miraj to 77 patients to help them stay healthy and safe during the pandemic.



### **7. Care of the Disabled**

In Kolhapur CBR project 07 children were given food kit and 19 children were given medicine for two months.

### **8. Online Retreat from Amala Ashram, Talsandhe**

Amala Ashram is happy to begin an online retreat for the people who are in need of God's greater mercy. This initiative began on 10th June in the wake of the pandemic lockdown in the country. On the first day it above 2000 viewers had watched. According to the analytics of you tube our videos are watched by an average of 13000 people every 48 hours. Most of the videos were watched by above



20000 people in last 10 days' time. Amala Ashram has become a centre of spiritual guidance for 1000s of people from different corners of Maharashtra and some parts of Gujarat, Karnataka and Goa too. The devotees get a thought of wisdom, Scripture verses, brief

meditation and above all healing and personal messages in their homes. We attend also responding to the inbox queries prayerfully of course with limited knowledge of technology and many more.



The name of the channel is AMALAASHRAM.

*(Reported by Fr Arun Karakkattu, St Alphonsa Region)*

## 9. Personal Parish, Kalyan

### a. Sad Demise of Missionary Collaborator

(RIP) Mr Simon of Bhiwandi was a great supporter of evangelization programmes and the personal parish of Kalyan. While attending online Holy Mass along with his family on Sunday 21 June, our Missionary associate - Mr Simon along he collapsed and journeyed towards heaven to take part in the Heavenly Banquet. Blessed reward for a missionary.



In the year 2014, I was in search of a place to start prayer for the newly baptized around Bhiwandi area in Mumbai. Many had great fear to open their doors for the ministry of evangelization. Then I met Mr. Simon, a rich business man from Kerala. He told me “Father, today whatever I have is given by Jesus, my house is open for you, I have no fear. I am ready to die for my Jesus.”

The terrace of his house was converted into a AC chapel where we can accommodate 200



people. Later, the whole family got involved in the ministry of evangelization. Mr Simon was a very committed missionary. Every day he used to visit non-christian friends and speaks to them about

Jesus. On Christmas day around 3000 people joined him for Christmas meal.

He lavishly spent money for evangelization and for helping the poor. One day he told me “Father, we have to support the newly baptized with our prayer, by giving our time and by spending our money because they have left their family and relatives for our Jesus.”

Some 100 people regularly come for prayer in this house. Our Bishop Mar Elavanal has officiated Holy Qurbana in this chapel. Today we have 25 Syro-Malabar non-Malayalee Christians at Bhiwandi, the fruit of the great support and prayer of this missionary associate Mr

Simon. May his life inspire us for evangelization without fear.

## **b. Pastoral Care for the Community in Pandemic**



### **Spiritual support and care:**

Every day we all pray for each other and daily intentions are shared in the WhatsApp group. We request our people to share the photos prayer session in the

WhatsApp group to make sure that people there is prayer at home daily without fail.

**Emotional support:** Our parish team every day contact the baptized and the candidates personally to assure them that we are with you.

**Financial support:** We provided grocery items of Rs.2000, for 35 families till last month.

**Bible study:** Everyday people read 3 chapters from the Bible prescribed in the group . Every Sunday Bible quiz too is conducted.



**Social commitment:** In collaboration with some NGO in Bhiwandi our parishioners extended their service to distribute meals for 1000 people daily.

**Vacation class for students:** We conducted daily English classes for the students through whatsapp group.

**Family koinonia:** Through the whatsapp group people share their joys and sorrows and we all remain in touch with each other. So they have strongly built up the family spirit.

**Intercessory prayer group:** A prayer WhatsApp group of more than 100 people from different parts of India and abroad daily pray for this ministry in Mumbai.

By the grace of God till today our people are safe.

*(Reported by Fr Paul Painadath, Mumbai)*

## D. MQMD, Delhi

### 1. Coping with COVID-19: MSTs in the Peripheries of Delhi



Covid-19 pandemic which has affected the entire world has also affected India and the capital city very badly. Recollecting the greater responsibility of a Catholic institution we the priests under Deepti Foundation has made an attempt to help the

needy and marginalized.

From 17 April 2020 onwards, we started the daily distribution food staple kits to different families who are in need of nutritional support. Altogether as of today (27 May 2020) we have supported 3425 families. It includes 2409 rag picking families, 680 HIV/AIDS infected families, 90 Rickshaw pullers, 146 families from different parts of East Delhi, 40 watch men and 60 migrant workers.

The food staple kits includes 10 kgs of rice, 5 kgs of wheat, 2 kgs of dal, 1 kg of oil, 1 kg each of salt and sugar. With this food kit one family of 5 members can easily manage around 12 days. In total we have distributed 25000 kgs of rice, 16000



kgs of wheat flour, 5000 kgs of pulses, 2500 kgs of oil, 2500 kgs of sugar and 1000 kgs of salt. More than half of the HIV/AIDS infected families are High Risk Groups (that include also the Transgenders, Male Sex Workers, Injected Drug Users and Female Sex Workers) who are afraid to go to community kitchen due to rejection and social stigma. Other than this we have distributed 13, 500 face-masks in different parts of East Delhi.

While distributing food staples, the norms of social distancing and usage of the face mask were strictly kept in mind. There were many

people coming from far locations in search of food, and when the news is spread that there is a place where food kits are being distributed, large number of people are coming with the hope of getting something to feed themselves and their families.



Different *modus operandi* are being adapted in the distribution of food materials to different kinds of people. Among the rag picking communities we distributed the food kits to the people who are in

actual need of help, after doing the door to door survey. Everyday more than 100 families from that area were selected and accordingly we distributed the food items. Distribution of the food kits to the HIV/AIDS patients was like a home delivery system along with the ART (antiretroviral therapy) medications. Instead of inviting people to our area of residence we went to their places and distributed the food kits despite of the pandemic threat.

We start the distribution by 7 o'clock in every morning. The afternoon is spent for purchases and for packing of the food materials, according to the need and capacity. As the lockdown days are being extended and no much work is in hand and every grocery store near the residential areas are seen with many children lined up for asking food



staples. The scene of the tiny little kids begging and crying for getting something to eat is really upsetting. Many elderly people are also wandering around, in search of food.

(Reported by Fr Santhosh Olapurackal, Delegate, MQMD)

## 2. Maria Bhavan, Bhikhi



Long cherished dream of ours came true when MST purchased 3.5 acres of land in Bhikhi in Mansa district Punjab. Maria Bhavan; the priest-residence is shifted from Maur Mandi to Bhikhi on 10 June after lockdown. And the new house was blessed on 15 June.

*(Reported by Fr Cyril Kureeckattu)*

## 3. Deepti Ashram, Najafgarh

### a. Send off to Bro. Shalgin



We had given send off to Bro. Shalgin Shaji on 5 June 2020. He has done six months of regency in Deepti Ashram. We appreciate him for his dedication and commitment.

### b. Distribution of Mask and Sanitizer by CRPF



We had received mask, sanitizer and some essential things from CRPF. It was a great help for us during this time of COVID 19.

### c. Conclusion of Rosary Devotion

We had solemn conclusion of Rosary devotion on 31<sup>st</sup> May. All the children participated in the procession and prayers.

### d. Art & Craft by Children

During the time of lockdown children were mainly engaged in art and craft activities. They were very happy to make the things. It also shows the hidden talents of our children.

*(Reported by Fr Antu Alummoottil)*

## 4. Infant Jesus Forane Church, Palam

Parish members of Infant Jesus Forane Church Palam have distributed food kits worth Rs. 2.5 lacks and distributed to the the

poor people of the locality. The kit had the food materials and essential goods of daily use. Most of the beneficiaries were Cycle riksha people and sweepers. We have distributed medicine too.

*(Reported by Fr Abraham Chempottikal)*

## **5. St Alphonsa Catholic Centre, Dhuri**

Frs. Sanoj and Aby shifted their residence from Uksi to Dhuri, where the land is purchased. The new rented house in Dhuri was blessed on 31<sup>st</sup> May. Fr Jubit Thelliyil, who is on a new mission to find a new area for missionary activities also joined the community on the same day.

*(Reported by Fr Sanoj Pathrapankal)*

## **6. IHPS, New Delhi (Personal Initiative)**

### **a. Delhi Minorities Commission Awards Fr M.D. Thomas**

Fr M.D. Thomas, Founder Director, Institute of Harmony and Peace Studies, New Delhi, has been selected for ‘**Communal Harmony and Interfaith Dialogue Award**’ by Delhi Minorities Commission for the year 2019. The citation quotes Fr Dr Thomas as ‘**Promoter of Religious Harmony and Good Interfaith Relations.**’ The award, along with other awards, was announced by DMC Chairman Dr Zafarul Islam Khan in a press meet on 09 June 2020.

### **b. Articles**

Authored *Article* on ‘Corona Virus Locked Down the Religion of Rituals!’ — published in ‘Indian Currents’ (Weekly), New Delhi, Vol. XXXII, Issue No.15, p.21-22 — on 06-12 April 2020

Authored *Article* on ‘Faith Leaders to Address Hate Speech’ — published in ‘Indian Currents’ (Weekly), New Delhi, Vol. XXXII, Issue No.22, p.29-21 — on 25-31 May 2020

Authored *Article* on ‘Covidian Times — Disciplining Indians’ — published in ‘Indian Currents’ (Weekly), New Delhi, Vol. XXXII, Issue No.24, p.20-23 — on 08-14 June 2020

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

## E. Odisha Mission

### 1. Covid-19 Relief Work: MST Odisha Mission

MST Odisha Mission is being fully engaged and active with the Church and with the nation in fighting against Covid-19. We have had two stages of programs during this lock down to fight against this pandemic. In the first level we joined with the Catholic Church in special prayers and intercessions against this pandemic. Other than that we have special prayers and adorations for the blessings from the Lord to save the world from this pandemic.



In the second stage of relief work, the MST Odisha mission had the chance to collaborate with the government of Odisha in fighting against Covid-19 in Khandamal district. Nirmal Jyoti

Mission center, under Jyoti Marg Educational and Charitable Trust engaged in different modes of relief work, after obtaining permission from the collector of Khandamal and the respective BDOs' of Balliguda and Tumodibondh blocks. During this lockdown season



we have rendered our services to seven villages in Balliguda and Tumodibondh blocks. These were the catholic villages and as they are all in deep inside the forest the Government finds it difficult to reach. So we were asked to reach these villages with relief programs.

The following are the services were rendered by Nirmal Jyoti Mission Centre.

- Discussions and planning with the government authorities (Collector of Khandamal, Sub Collector of Khandamal, BDOs' of both Balliguda and Tumodibondh, police etc.)
- Obtained permission for engaging in the relief work, where the government finds it difficult to reach due to different reasons like lack of transportation facilities, presence of Maoists, etc.
- Distribution of sanitizer, mask, hand gloves, drinking water, etc. to the government officials, health workers and police personals in the district of Khandamal.
- Awareness programmes on Covid-19 in different villages. Training for using mask, hand sanitizing and, social distancing
- Distribution of essentials (dal, sugar, potato, onion, tea powder, soap, oil, salt, mask etc.)

We are preparing ourselves for the next stage of work in this great time of difficulties. Here we will be concentrating more on sustainable programs to face the poverty, unemployment, etc. which is going to be the after effect of this great pandemic Covid-19.

## 2. Village Church cum Community Care Centers (CCC)

We have resumed the work of the church cum community care centers (CCCs) which we had begun last year. Due to Kovid-19 the works were stopped and as the lockdown is lifted the work is resumed. Majority of villagers of Khandamal and Kolahandi districts



where we visit and work, stay in the forest and it is very difficult for us to reach to them on a daily basis and they also find it difficult to reach to the center for the

prayers and the social and education and charitable programs. So we construct small church cum community care centers (CCC) to gather the villagers for prayers and the educational and social



programs. We have village animators to coordinate the programs and prayers for that particular village. As per the number of villagers, we decide the size and interiors of the CCC. Villagers cooperate in the construction through their labor and land for the construction. This center will be used for prayer gatherings, the training programs, Non formal Education programs, integrated development programs like skill development trainings, medical camps, etc. At present we are constructing seven such CCCs in Baliguda and Rampur mission centers.

### 3. Mission Expansion

As our new missionaries completed their language studies, they are ready to venture in to pioneering missionary work in Odisha. So we had a mission exposure to southern Odisha in view of starting new missions. These are the best possible areas in Odisha for Syro-Malabar Church to explore and establish new communities of faith through direct evangelization. There are six districts with 60 blocks in southern Odisha. Of these, 22 blocks are having Latin presence and other 38 blocks are potential areas for us to start our mission since this Southern Odisha is most occupied by *adivasis* and tribal communities. Moreover, these areas are less affected with religious fundamentalism compared to Khandamal area. Discussions and planning are going on to start new missions in these areas and our young missionaries are eagerly waiting to venture and develop our mission. We humbly Request your prayers and support for our mission

*(Reported by Fr Jomon Ayyankanal, Coordinator, Odisha Mission)*

## F. Arunachal Mission

### 1. Covid Pandemic in Itanagar

Arunachal is not much affected by covid-19 compared to other states. However, we did not do many activities during the lock down, because we were given strict warning not to move around



but to follow the government orders. So we remained quiet inside the compound with our humble prayers.

### 2. Pakke Kessang Mission

Pakke Kessang mission is vibrant with the presence of two zealous missionaries Fr Aji Paul Chakkungal and Fr Jeas Thundathil, who arrived here in February 2020. They are already in the full swing of ministry, having completed visiting the families and villages under their parish.



### 3. Sagalee Mission

**a. New School Principal:** The Sagalee mission is blessed with a new principal – Rev. Fr Sijo Mundaplakkal for its school. Thanks



to Fr Lijo Manikompel for his generous and dedicated service to the school and mission for a long period. Fr Lijo left for Kerala only recently on 17 June 2020, as he was not able to cross the border of Arunachal Pradesh due to the lock down regulations. We wish him all the best for the new mission.

**b. Feast of Sacred Heart of Jesus:** On 19 June 2020, we celebrated the feast of Most Sacred Heart of Jesus very solemnly



together with SH sisters who are our co-workers. The service of the sisters were gratefully recognized on that day and we had a meal together, in addition to the solemn Eucharistic celebration

**c. Visit of Local MLA:**



Our MLA Sri Nabam Tukki visited us during the lock down to enquire about our welfare in the pandemic. He is a Catholic Christian and is very friendly with missionaries. As a token of our love, a gift was given to honour and thank him for the visit.

*(Reported by Fr Saji Choorakunnel, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh)*

## G. Overseas Missions

### 1. United States

#### a. Churches Reopened for Services

Catholic parishes in the US are slowly reopening amidst the rise of Corona cases in some of the states. Churches are allowed to hold in person service up to 25 percent of the total capacity.

#### b. Transfers and New Assignment

**Rev. Fr Sebastian Kavumkal**, is transferred from Holy Name of Mary Catholic Church at Sault Ste Marie Michigan and is appointed as the new pastor of Holy Family Church in Gladstone, Michigan. He will be taking up the new assignment on 1 July 2020.

**Rev. Fr Joseph Pazheveetil** who had been practising hospital ministry in Jacksonville, Florida has moved to New Hospital in Long Beach California.

**Rev. Fr Mathew Kuliraniyil** who joined the pastoral team of the diocese of Marquette, Michigan was undergoing orientation at the Cathedral of the diocese. He is now being appointed as Parochial Vicar of St Louis King Parish, Marquette with effect from 1 July 2020.

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

### 2. Germany

#### a. Pastoral Care with Covid-19

The Covid19 situation in Germany is under control and we have started Mass and other sacraments with strict hygiene regulations.

The present condition is not yet favourable, to come together as a group and stay for many days under the same roof. So we have cancelled our Easter and July Gathering, to be on the safer side.

#### b. Transfer

Rev. Fr Benny Puthenpurackal is appointed in the Pfarreiengemeinschaft Stadtbergen. There are three Parishes and he will take charge on 01 Sep. 2020. May the Good Shepherd guide and help

him to be successful in the new Parishes. All the best to him.

### c. Feast of Corpus Christi

This year due to Covid19 the traditional procession could not be carried out in many Parishes. But many other alternatives were tried,



which were greatly appreciated by the faithful. For e.g. in the parishes of Fellheim, Heimertingen, Niederrieden, Boos, Reichau and Pless Rev. Fr. George (Joy) Valiamangalam carried the Monstrance and went to these parishes on a Tractor, which was beautifully decorated. The faithful who were standing on the street received blessing and some people had come to the Church. They sang, prayed with Fr George and received the blessing. It was a great occasion for the people to pray and worship, since the traditional procession was not possible.



*(Reported by Fr Pradeep Alex Mattathilanickal, Germany)*

## 3. Canada

### a. Diocese of Nelson: Pastoral Concerns

During the lock down almost all the priests in the diocese of Nelson were working hard to connect with people who were all alone at home. Many of us priests were connected with parishioners through

phone calls, live streaming of Holy Mass with the participation of some of the parishioners, cooked food and shared with others who are in need of. Some others were busy with small or big kitchen gardens at our residence and church compound, and taking care of the flower garden, as winter is giving way for spring and now for summer.

After a lockdown of almost three months, churches are opened. But the attendance is low. In our diocese of Nelson, the average attendance of the faithful in the church is below 50%. Holy Mass was an experience of faith and social unity. Both these elements are questioned these days. Regular attendance of weekend Masses and weekday masses do not bring much hope in the future church, at this present scenario.

How we can change the attitudes of people, is a topic we discuss in many of our gatherings. We had a deanery meeting of the Okanagan Priests of our Deanery. It was a special deanery meeting and I invited Bishop for the same, which was unusual. His Excellency accepted the invitation and participated in jubilation. Unlike other deanery meetings, we had an hour of prayer, reflection and confession for all the participants who were in need of them. Thereafter we had socialization and supper together.

During our Deanery meeting we discussed the need of increasing our trusting faith in Jesus who said that He will be with us till the end of the world. One thing is certain, we all priests and missionaries need to refresh our faith in Jesus and trust Him. We all need to live and witness our Faith among the people we work with. In short, everyone was busy doing the work of God as zealous missionaries. Every success will follow us, wherever we are!

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

### **c. Corona Impact in Regina**

In the archdiocese of Regina, Canada, the churches were closed and had no Mass from the third Sunday of March. Since then, every faithful was praying to get the Holy Mass at the



earliest. From May last week, the churches are reopened for the community celebration with 10 persons. And now, June third week onwards the number has increased to maximum of 150 people, following all the mandatory restrictions. It seemed that the faithful were desperately waiting for the Holy Mass and the other Sacraments. There came a new life and vigour in the life of the church even though the pandemic is still raising a puzzle. With missionary spirit and commitment, three of us -MST priests; Rev. Frs. George Thattuparampil, Joseph Kuruvila Akkattukudilil and Tom Mandapathil are rendering pastoral assistance to the communities in our parishes.

*(Reported by Fr Tom Mandapathil, Regina, SK, Canada)*

#### **4. Switzerland**

According to a new study, Switzerland is one of the safest countries in the world when it comes to the coronavirus. In my parish - Dielsdorf, we have already started liturgical celebrations in full swing.



Last week we had Penitential Rites for the Catechism students. It's called the week of Penitence (Versöhnungswoche). Almost all students have participated in it.

After imposing unprecedented restrictions on public life in March, Switzerland has now eased its measures. Public and private events of up to 1000 people are permitted. All religious services and celebrations have been permitted. Restrictions on restaurants were lifted in early June, and zoos, theatres, cinemas and campgrounds have also re-opened. Now we have regular Holy Mass by keeping 1.5 meters distance. The government is still urging the population to follow social distancing and hygiene recommendations. There is no

obligation to wear face masks in public.

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

## 5. United Kingdom

**Light at the End of the Tunnel:** As I write these lines, UK's Covid-19 alert level has been lowered from four to three. That's some good news - finally a glitter of light at the end of the tunnel. Now, the churches are open too, but for private prayer only! Hopefully, we will be able to celebrate the Holy Mass and the Sacraments very soon.

**Clap for the Front-liners:** Here in the UK, until recently people came out of their houses every Thursday at 8.00 p.m. to clap for the front-liners. I too felt honoured to be counted a front-liner. But, it has never been easy to be there in the frontline of the battle against this terrible virus! Ministering as a hospital chaplain has been very challenging and draining. It demands a lot of spiritual, emotional and physical preparation.

**Hospital Chaplaincy in the Covid:** The King's College Hospital, London, where I work as the chaplain, has successfully treated more than 2500 Covid patients so far! Unfortunately, among those 45000 or so, who lost their lives to the virus in the UK, this hospital too has its share.

It is often distressing to be with the dying patients, especially when their family members aren't allowed to visit them. I have been called to minister to many Covid19 positive patients, both in Covid Designated Wards and Critical Care Units. Every time I have a request for ministering to a Covid19 patient, it sends mild tremors through out my body! Caring for the patients in the CCUs is highly risky, as these are areas of aerosol - generating procedures and any one entering those areas has a 100% chance of contacting the infectious virus. But, I wouldn't step back: the pastoral responsibility and the call of duty urges me to go ahead and minister to the needy! It has been the grace and strength provided by the Good Lord and the support and prayers of many that has kept me strong and healthy thus far. Thank you, Lord, and all of you for that!

Under normal circumstances, the Chaplains get very close to the

patients, especially in the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick. But, this pandemic has changed everything! Since I have to clad myself in full Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to care for any Covid patient, very often I have a feeling that the soul of my ministry is missing! The face mask and the gloves cause a physical barrier between the Chaplain and the patient. A hug or a touch would have meant a lot in consoling a bereaved family. But as the family members cannot be physically present, they have to be supported remotely through digital devices, often via a video call. In spite of all these challenges, I am sure that the healthcare chaplains everywhere are doing their best to care for those entrusted to them.

*(Reported by Fr Roy Muthumakkal, U.K.)*

## **6. Australia**

### **a. Back from the Covid Days**



In many parts of Australia, including my diocese of Maitland-Newcastle, civil life and parish ministries are limping back to normal with easing of restrictions on gatherings. Now most of the states allow 50 people for gathering in worship with conditions: mainly to keep social distancing in the church and taking the contact details of the attendees. Unlike other

countries, wearing of mask was never recommended for public. It may take some more time to reach the pre-covid-19 number in the churches. Like other businesses, church also received some financial stimulus package to overcome income shortage caused by lack of church collection during these months.

Covid-19 and the closing of the churches helped parishes to find innovative ways to reach out to the community outside the four walls of the church using digital platforms. Live streaming of Masses brought churches to the living rooms and even farms. Though it is not a substitute for the active participation in liturgy it was a consolation

for the faithful to see their priests and the sanctuary. It is a challenge to continue this presence for those who may not be physically present in the parish community but are interested to be connected to the community. And that should become a priority for the church to bring the good news of Jesus to those who are not inside the church building, but who are part of the church who otherwise would not have any connection to the parish community. I am trying to be in touch with the inactive members through emails and other means.

*(Reported by Fr Thomas Chirackal, New Castle, Australia)*

### **c. Syro-Malabar Mission amidst Covid**

The Syro-Malabar communities in Shepparton (Victoria state, Australia) area formed Social Service Team in the parishes to help individuals and families who are badly affected by the Coronavirus Shutdown and the restrictive measures now in place. We have online Sunday catechism classes for children and all parents, and children are responding positively with this system. There are many activities in my parish, which make the faithful active and alive in their faith formation such as chain rosary prayers for 24 hours on first Fridays, online prayer groups for youth by Zoom, Bible quiz competition and Gospel writing challenge for individuals and families, pencil drawing and colouring competition for children, etc. As requested by the people I reach out to the families for the Sacrament of reconciliation and the distribution of the Holy Communion.



**d. Visit of MST Fathers:** Rev. Frs KMP and Edathiparampil who have started their ministries in the diocese of Ballarat visited me at my residence at Shepparton. I had a good time with them, celebrating the MST fellowship.

*(Reported by Fr Varghese Vithayathil, Shepparton, Australia)*

## **7. Brazil**

**St Sebastian's Church, Itaruma:** Saint Sebastian's parish at Itaruma celebrated feast of Pentecost with much gaiety and fervour. Even though Covid cases in Brazil are fast accelerating in number,



the faithful with much faith and devotion participated in the solemn Holy Mass in accordance with the directions of government agencies and health department. We celebrate two masses for week doors open for the public. Thirty percent of the maximum capacity of

the church is permitted for the holy mass with mask but keeping distance. So far the municipality of Itaruma has recorded no cases of corona. My gratitude to God almighty and Saint Sebastian who is patron saint of my parish.

*(Reported by Rev. Fr Joseph Pulickal, Itaruma, Brazil)*

## **8. Tanzania**

### **a. Mission with Covid**

We thank the Lord for, even in the midst of corona virus, the liturgical celebrations and other parish activities continued as usual. There was no lockdown for the Church activities. The Tanzanian Bishops had given certain regulations like receiving the Holy Communion in hands, keeping distance (man to man) in the church, hand-washing before entering the church, etc. The Tanzanian Bishops had asked the parish priests to see and arrange the necessary things needed for the safety of their own parishes. We have increased the number of liturgical celebrations and cut off the children's mass for the safety of the faithful and of the ministers.

### **b. Baptisms in Madale Parish**

The parish priests and the faithful of Madale were very happy to give one hundred and five (105) baptisms on Easter Monday even in the midst of dangerous situation of corona virus. Among them, thirty five were adult baptisms. The faithful of Madale parish wholeheartedly received the newly baptized adults into the community.

### **c. Social Marriage in Madale Parish**

The social marriage was another auspicious occasion for the faithful of Madale parish thirty six (36) of our living together couples received

the sacrament of marriage. Since there was a threat of spreading the corona virus, we arranged it in a simple manner. Four marriages were celebrated on every day after the Easter Monday in which only the brides and grooms and their witnesses were allowed to enter the church.

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

#### **d. Ukoo: Adoption by a Widow**



I would like to share a rare experience that I had in my parish when I first joined here in 2016. Perpetua, about 45 year old widow, holding a baby boy of two months old, then came to me asking a blessing for the baby. I looked at her with a surprise. With a smile she started her story:

Hai Padre, (Father) he is not my child, as you might think. Last week we had the gathering of our Ukoo (Kudumba Yogam) after the death of my cousins, both husband and wife died in an accident leaving 6 young children from 10 years to 2 months old. My relatives were ready to adopt all of them except the last born, 2 months old sweetie.

I heard a voice saying from within me, “take him.....”. I looked at him and he started to cry. Others, one by one, tried to take and pacify him but he went on crying.

Finally the lady next to me pushed me to try to take him. As I picked him up, he stopped crying, grabbed and hugged me and started to smile and play. Everybody at Ukoo gathering looked at me, clapped hands and said, “he will be a blessing for you, don’t hesitate, take him home.

What an excellent example for Ukoo caring for its members and the daring decision of a middle aged village widow to receive the little baby boy and bring him up as her own. He is growing in age and is now four years. The widow considers him as a blessing to her life.

There are numerous situations of this kind, where the children are in want of parents for their care.

*(Shared by Fr Zacharias Azhikannickal, Diocese of Bunda, Tanzania)*

## 9. Vienna, Austria



The churches were closed down due to the outbreak of Coronavirus, so we planned together with people - how to be united with God? We have formulated a Corona-Prayer and distributed to each Family to pray. We started a prayer-chain service every day at 8.00 p.m. with a lighted candle at the front window of the houses.

The priests after celebrating the Holy Masses alone in all our churches walked around on the streets of the villages with the Blessed Sacrament to have heavenly protection from the epidemic. None of our parishioners have been affected by the covid-19. Thank God for the miraculous protection.



At present all our churches are opened for public worship. On 11<sup>th</sup> June 2020 we could celebrate the feast of ‘Corpus Christi’ outside the church with solemn Eucharistic procession.

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

## 10. Sweden

### a. Syro-Malabar Communities in Scandinavian Countries

Sweden was the only country where there was no compelled lockdown implemented. It had positive as well as negative results in the society. Perhaps Sweden is the worst affected by it among the Scandinavian countries today. As per today’s (June 20) statistic – there are altogether 56,360 affected cases and 5078 deaths in

Sweden whereas other countries in Scandinavia death is less than 1000 only!



Usually I do say one Malayalam Holy Mass per month for Sweden, Norway and Finland. That means I do travel by flight every weekend to different countries to say the Mass. During Covid, there was no flight to travel to and fro other counties, which made me to think other alternatives to give Mass for the faithful. During COVID time there are so many Masses live in YouTube and Facebook which are passive and that made me to think another media to have people's participation from their own home for the Mass. So we started saying Holy Mass using Zoom which was well accepted by the families. So last three months we are using Zoom to say the Mass and each week I give the responsibility to each community to do the assistance during the Mass. The advantage is that community is very active and we hear their voice during Mass even if I am alone in the chapel were I am celebrating the Mass. The Mass will be recorded and sent to my own friends and groups and even through the Facebook so that those who miss the Mass can participate according to their convenient time.

It is not a permanent solution but as we all know we have no other option. We have four Mass centres in Sweden and one each in Norway and Finland. But in the local Swedish parish we have Mass every day, which is restricted by 50 participants. Here is the two new communities recently started Malayalam Mass.

### **b. Cardinal's Visit to the Seminary, Uppsala**

During Covid time we had the visit by our Bishop of Stockholm – Cardinal Anders Arborelius to the seminary. It made more enthusiasm and happiness for the seminarians, especially for those who came back from Italy during covid-19. They are all staying here and have



the online classes from Rome. I am helping them in all the administrative matters and help them find answers for the practical questions and act as a contact person with the rectors of the seminaries in Rome and France, since I am the Vice Rector. At present we have six seminarians and one of them will be getting ordained on 25

July. We will have a retreat with our Bishop in the month of July.

*(Reported by Fr Binu Thottiyil, Stockholm, Sweden)*

## **11. Italy**

### **a. St Thomas Cathedral, Ortona**

Rev. Fr Biji Kudukkanthadam MST is the assistant parish priest at St Thomas Cathedral, Ortona. Rev. Fr Giuseppe Grasso, who visited Deepti Bhavan along with Fr Joseph Koren during the conclusion of the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the MST, is the parish priest. They have, after the lockdown due to COVID-19, restarted the daily liturgical activities in the Cathedral like Holy Mass, confessions etc. People come to Cathedral for prayer, confessions and Holy Mass, although their number has come down a little. The number of Holy Masses has not been increased as the Cathedral is really big and can, therefore, accommodate a lot of people at the same time for liturgical ceremonies, keeping social distancing. The Cathedral is disinfected after every liturgical celebration. The priests go along the streets, wearing masks, meet people and greet them, observing the guidelines of social distancing. The parish learns to adjust itself to the new normalcy.

### **b. Mary of Assumption Parish, Tollo**

Rev. Fr Joseph Koren, the parish priest, coordinates the different charitable activities that the parish has undertaken during the outbreak

of COVID-19 and after the lockdown. Fr Joseph has been actively engaged in providing psychological and spiritual support to the people



of the parish through phone calls and personal meetings in the church and at presbytery, keeping social distancing. It has been one of the most commendable activities of the

parish and even the *Comune* (administrative set up of the city like a municipality) appreciated the positive and encouraging move. The parish, through Caritas, has been supporting around 50 families during this difficult time, supplying food and provisions. It has restarted the celebration of the Holy Mass on 18th May, as per the government notifications. Routine activities of the parish like confession, funeral ceremonies, etc. go on without any disruption.

The Feast of *Corpus Domini* (Holy Eucharist) was solemnly celebrated in the parish, with procession and blessing, outside the church. Fr Joseph and Mr Angelo Radica, the Sindaco (like municipal Chairman) of Tollo prayed together on the occasion of the Feast of Annunciation on 25th March 2020, offering the people of the city to our Lady. People actively participate in the liturgical celebrations in the parish. Fr Joseph also pays keen attention to enhancing priestly *koinonia* among priests in the area through limited visits and phone calls.

### **c. St Peter & Assumption Parishes, Torre Orsina**

Rev. Fr Elvis Antony Mangalappilly is a different parish priest. He has been available to the people of the parish even during the period of strict lockdown. After the lockdown, all the liturgical activities like confession, Holy Mass etc. in the parishes have been restarted on 18th May 2020. The parishes solemnly celebrate the Feasts of Sts John the Baptist and Peter, the Apostle, etc. His Excellency Bishop Bocardo has plans to visit the parish on 29th June, on the Feast of St Peter. There have been meetings in diocesan, forane and parish levels to plan out programmes in the parishes during

summer.

#### **d. Santi Apostoli Parish, Verona**

Rev. Fr Joby Mulluvengappurath is the assistant parish priest. COVID-19 pandemic has been severe in the region and Verona is one of the most hit areas. The government declared strict lockdown measures in the area by the end of February 2020. The parish church remained open to the people of the parish for prayer and personal adoration during the lockdown. The liturgical ceremonies are restarted in the parish after the lockdown. The number of Holy Masses has been doubled in the parish so as to enhance more participation of the people in liturgical ceremonies.

#### **e. St Matteo Parish, Via Nascosa, Latina**

Rev. Frs Bino Kannamundayil and Jaison Kulappurath are assistant parish priests of St Luca Parish, Latina. They stay in the presbytery, close to St Matteo Parish, Via Nascosa, Latina. Like others, they also stayed at home during the lockdown as there was no permission for Holy Masses for the public. They did whatever the government regulations permitted like celebrating the Holy Mass in private for the people in difficulty. After the lockdown, liturgical ceremonies are restarted. People come to church for confessions, prayer, Holy Mass etc. Some people even approach the priests for financial help and they help them as generously as they can. The priests also do office duty in the main parish.

#### **f. Student Priests in Rome**

Rev. Frs Biju Koothottil, Boby Kochuparampil, Tony Mampillil and Joby Kootumkal pursue their doctoral studies at different universities



and institutes. Fr Biju stays at Collegio Nepomuceno while the others stay at Collegio Damasceno. They all stayed at home, following strict lockdown measures to be safe during the period of the outbreak of COVID-19. Universities and libraries were all closed down on 6th March 2020 and most student priests stayed inside for over three months, without going out even once! Even now, the hostel authorities urge the student priests to remain inside and to go out, with permission, only in case of extreme necessity. Frs Biju Koothottil, Bobby Kochuparampil and Joby Koottumkal have finished their scholarship period and therefore, must find new ways to continue their studies.

Frs Bobby Kochuparampil and Joby Koottumkal were given a farewell at Collegio Damasceno on 20th June 2020 as their scholarship from the Congregation for the Oriental Churches ended. Some of the student priests in Rome have received ministry during holidays (July-September) and others are on their way. New COVID-19 cases are reported afresh in Rome and we might need to learn to live with it as *WHO* says. Still, what Bishop Robert Barron of Los Angeles says is relevant for us during the difficult times of COVID-19: “The Lord is sending each one of us, in our own way, on mission—even now, even during this crisis. If we look around at the waves, we will sink. But if we keep our eyes fixed on him, we will walk on the water.”

*(Reported by Rev. Fr Joby Koottumkal, Rome)*

## 12. Philippines

### a. Church - Reaching out to the Faithful

“I like you father, I like St Joseph church that comes to me when I



am in need,” said an elderly woman with teary eyes on a day when I went to give her communion. We have seen the priests trying to keep connected to

the people through various activities during this unprecedented time of the pandemic covid-19. It was a time the people could not reach the church and therefore a time for the church to reach the people. Like the front-liners; doctors, nurses, volunteers, social workers, it was a time for the priests and the church to be on the front line to be a source of comfort and courage. Being part of the St Joseph parish, I too got the opportunities to be with the people during this hard time.

### **b. Eucharistic Procession**



Our people missed the Eucharistic celebration for long time and continues to miss even now as the enhanced community quarantine continues. So, the parish decided to arrange the Eucharistic Procession on every Monday. The people were very happy to receive the

blessing of the Blessed Sacrament as they lined up in front of their houses; kneeling, praying, standing with images in hands and with folded hands. Later, we stopped the procession and now, we go to the people on every Sunday afternoon to give communion. As the disciples met Jesus on the road to Emmaus (Lk, 24, 35), our



people received Jesus in the communion on the streets. I am happy that I could be part of these not as a spectator but as a front liner priest. Thanks and praise be to Jesus.

*(Reported by Rev. Fr Roy Thengumkudiyil, Manila, Philippines)*

## **VII. NEWS FROM OTHER MINISTRIES/ CENTRES**

### **A. Vocation Promotion**

#### **1. South Zone**

For the current academic year, we could gather around 23 students from the South Zone. 21 students have already reached Deepti and the rest two are yet to come. In preparation for bringing these students to Deepti College, we conducted interviews for them and from among them, and selected 23 students to join Deepti Seminary. We the vocation promoters would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to Very Rev. Fr Director General and General Councillors, the staff members of Deepti and Santhome Seminaries and all others for their collaboration in bringing in the newcomers.

*(Reported by Frs Puthukkattu and Karuvakunnel, Vocation Promoters, South Zone)*

#### **2. North Zone**

It is with immense gratitude to God we have commenced the new academic year with 25 new candidates at Santhome Minor Seminary, Thamarassery. All of them were given admission by Fr Joseph Pulavelil the Rector, in the presence of the General Councillors, Rev. Frs Francis Kureekal and Thomas Karamel. Even though corona had badly affected vocation promotion this year God's blessings were upon us throughout this year and we could select 26 students for MST from the Malabar Region.

We thank you dear fathers for your great support, encouragement and prayers. I would like to thank Rev. Frs Paul Vadakkeoram, Salas Karikkandathil, Hans Puthiyakulangara, Sebastian Kizhakkal and Kurian Ammanathukunnel in a special way for their contribution in finding out good candidates for the MST.

*(Reported by Frs Alencherry and Kohupurackal, Vocation Promoters, North Zone)*

### **B. Santhome Fellowship and Missionary Associates**

#### **1. Prayer Day by Missionary Associates**

Missionary associates of the MST had observed a day of prayer

and fasting and it was for the peace of all world and of course for the needy people those suffering from pandemic Covid. They had spent time with Jesus the Eucharistic Lord and submitted the world to the hands of Jesus. On that day the director of Santhome fellowship offered a Qurbana for the particular associate observed the day of fasting and prayer.

## 2. Indore Unit helps Covid Affected People



Indore unit Santhome fellowship members helped the people those who were travelling from Maharashtra to Uttar Pradesh. Some of the people were helped with a packet of food and necessary accessories during their journey. The unit members collected a sum of Rs.19,000 and brought food

items for the poor villages near to Indore town. They distributed food materials to the Christian community in Udayanagar near Indore under the leadership of Mr K.K. Joseph and Miss Simi.

## 3. We are one - help one

Santhome fellowship organised a programme called *we are one and help one*. This programme envisages to help the poor and needy in our neighbouring areas due to Covid. Now the people are under financial scarcity, so it is not possible to do help in a big hand but it is very easy for us to point out persons need in our neighbourhood. So all the Santhome fellowship members were asked to pinpoint a person who is very much in need. This challenge was taken up by majority of Santhome Fellowship members.

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

## C. SANTHOME – IMPACT, Kochi

Due to COVID 19 lockdown, Santhome IMPACT activities were also suspended. We spent time in tapioca planting, vegetable planting,

fish pond digging, compound cleaning, etc. Media activities were resumed in May 2020.

### **1. New Procurator for IMPACT**

Fr Bibin Madathiparampil who was the Procurator of Santhome IMPACT for the past three years is relieved of his duty w.e.f. from 20 May. He continues to be the chief editor of *Kadukumani*. We the IMPACT community express our heartfelt appreciation and gratitude for his selfless dedication and commitment to IMPACT activities. Fr Lijesh Panackavayalil gets his additional duty as the Procurator of IMPACT. He continues to be the Director of Santhome Media.

### **2. Santhome Media-IMPACT**

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

**a. MST Fathers' Easter Greetings:** This is an online Easter greeting of our MST priests from all over the world. This is uploaded in our YouTube Channel.

**b. Aadinte Choorulla Edayar:** Santhome Media released a video album to encourage and empower our fellow priests who are working for the people in the context of Covid 19 pandemic.

#### **c. Baptism in the Holy Spirit:**



This is a nine days' reflection for the faithful for the preparation of Pentecost by Rev Fr Kisincher Aniyekatt MST.

**d. My Helper:** This is an eleven days of reflection for the children for the preparation of Pentecost.

**e. Syro Malabar online Catechism:** Fifth standard Malayalam catechism's pre and post-production work is done by us.

**f. Kairos Recording:** *Kairos* magazine's online audio recording and editing is regularly done here in our studio. May and June issues are done recently.

**g. Audio Recording:** Santhome Media audio recording Studio is blessed with eminent personalities like Kester, Libin Scaria (Sa Re

Ga Ma Pa Fame), Elizabeth Raju, Teena Mary Abraham, Alice Mathew, Vipin Roldent and chorus singers. More than 10 devotional songs, Documentary Voiceover and Audio Magazine were recorded here.

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

**i. Upcoming Initiatives of Santhome Media-IMPACT:**

Capsule type Short Films

Motivational Classes

Media Workshop

**\* To watch all our programs please visit our Website: [www.santhomemedia.com](http://www.santhomemedia.com), YouTube Channel and Facebook Page & Plz don't forget to subscribe and like our YouTube Channel and Facebook Page.**

**3. IMPACT Publications**

Mission Magazine in Malayalam “Kadukumani” for children and English magazine “True Blaze” for English medium children are published periodically, unhindered by the pandemic.

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

**D. Kalasadhana, Mumbai**

Kalasadhana, during the Corona - lockdown period, continues its music ministry through online classes and activities.

**1. YouTube Channel Crossing 4K**



The YouTube channel of Kalasadhana has crossed an important milestone of 4,000 watch hours in a year. Thereby, we have been able to achieve YouTube Partnership. This in

effect, helped us to receive ads to run along with our videos which in turn could accrue us monetary benefits in future. Thanks to our dear fathers for subscribing, watching and sharing our videos.

## 2. Music Video



Kalasadhana brought out a music video involving a good number of MST priests and institutions spreading a message of hope in the Lord during this period of pandemic. By the grace of God and blessings of our Superiors the music video has touched many lives and received numerous positive responses.

*(Reported by Rev. Fr Ashok Kollamkudiyil, Director, Kalasadhana)*

## E. Deepti Rubber Estates, Koramchira

Deepti Rubber Estates is taking a new shape by the replantation of new rubber trees and teak trees. The estate was already planted with pineapple saplings, except in certain areas. The boundaries have been protected with fencing of solar-power. Teak planting has already started under the leadership of Rev. Fr Joy Kunnel, the Treasurer General. Rev. Frs Thomas Karamel and Joseph Kannathukuzhy. Our seminarians - Deacons Nidhin Kuttiplakkal and Jithun Puthusseryputhenpurayil, and Bros Jince Kodikulam, Dino Kongamala, Leo Chandrankunnel, Albin Maruthumkuzhiyil, Bibin Areeplackal and Justin Vattamannil are also helping in planting the teak saplings. Planting of rubber saplings is already started and will be completed within a fortnight.

*(Reported by Fr Joseph Kannathukuzhy, Care-taker, Deepti Rubber Estates, Koramchira)*

## **VIII. Necrology: Parents and Family Members of the MSTs**

**As informed by members (1 April 2020 – 25 June 2020)**

Mrs Annakutty Amakattu, Maternal Aunt of Fr Jose Valiamangalam

Mrs Achamma Thazhathuveetil, Sister of Fr Abraham Azhakath

Mr K.J. Joseph Kizhukandayil, Maternal Uncle of Fr Binoy Koottumkal

Mr V. A. Mathew Vayalumkal, Brother in Law of Fr Jose Aranjalan

Rev. Sr Franco Treesa S.H., Sister of Fr Sebastian Elanjimattom

Mr Joseph Niravathuparambil, Maternal Grandfather of Fr Raju Arathil

Mr Joseph Konukunnel, Maternal Grandfather of Fr Josin Tharapputhottiyil

Mr Sebastian Maprakavil, Paternal Uncle of Frs Sabu and Joby Maprakavil

Mrs Theresa Karuvakunnel, Paternal Aunt of Fr Mons Karuvakunnel

Mr Jocy P. Mathew Puthuessril, Nephew of Fr Raju Puthuessril

Mr Simon, Bhivandi, Missionary Collaborator of MST (C/o Fr Painadath, Mumbai)





**First Year Minor Seminararians of Deepti College**

How can we not struggle together? How can we not pray and work together?... to show the sacred countenance of the Lord to the world.

Pope Francis, *Querida Amazonia*, 110



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