



DNL

Archdiocese of Madurai

News Letter

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No. 666



May the departed Souls of the Prelates,
the Priests and the Religious, who laboured in
the Vineyard of Madurai, Rest in Peace.



Greetings on Birthday



Fr. Santhana Sahayam (03)

Fr. Charles Heston J. (08)

Fr. Jeyabalan T.R. (14)

Fr. Xarier Arul Raysn (18)

Fr. Maria Raj M. (21)



Fr. Amala Gnana Prabhu J. (22)

Fr. Ignaci Arputharaj P.S. (27)

Fr. Peter J. (27)



The Voice of the Shepherd

My Dear Fathers, brothers and Sisters,

Today more than ever people want the priests to be witnesses of Christ in whose priesthood they share. They want the priests to be close to God and close to them. They expect a connectivity between what they do and what they say. There are a few elements which the priests must keep in mind:



First and foremost the priests are disciples of Jesus who called them to be with him like the Apostles who left everything behind and followed him. The priests are called to deny themselves and take up their daily cross and follow him (cfr. Lk 9:23) which means a journey to death that is certain. In the second place the priests are apostles who are sent on a mission. Like the twelve apostles who were sent to proclaim the good news to the whole creation (cfr. Mk 16/15) and especially like Paul the priests are sent to proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for the sake of Jesus (2 Cor 4:5). In the third place the priests are elders who have certain traits : Responsible for the people entrusted to them, blameless, not to be arrogant, gentle, temperate, hospitable, good- loving, prudent, upright, devout and self controlled. They must have a firm grasp of the world that is trust worthy in accordance with the teaching, so that they may be able both to preach with sound doctrine and refute those who contradict it (cfr. Tit 1:6-9). They represent the church in the world and be a part of it and therefore they should avoid all their innovations and likes and dislikes. They should feel one with the church (Sentire cum Ecclesia).

In the fourth place, they preside over the Eucharistic celebration which is the source and summit of the life of the church.

Though it is not merely their total task but it is central to the priesthood. As the Eucharist is the centre of the priestly ministry of the priests and the heart of their priesthood they gather the church in the name of Jesus to praise and thank God together in the Church.

The Priests should realize the truth that they take the place of Jesus Christ in the midst of the community, the church until Jesus comes and take to heart the specific and significant role they play in the church for the salvation of humankind. Then they will be able to face the challenges that come on this way.

May God bless you all,

Your loving Archbishop,

+ Most Rev. Dr. Antony Pappusamy

Archbishop of Madurai

Pope's General Intention for November 2018:

Universal: In the Service of Peace

That the language of love and dialogue may always prevail over the language of conflict.

பேராயரின் இம்மாத ஜெபக்கருத்து

சீர்தக்க: “இந்த உலக வாழ்வு மட்டும் நிலையானதல்ல”

செய்க்க: அன்பு மற்றும் உரையாடல் என்னும் மொழி மோதல் என்னும் மொழியை மிஞ்சி நிற்க.

செயல்பட: நம் வீட்டில் இறந்தவர் ஒருவரின் நன்மதிப்பீட்டை நமதாக்க

Archbishop's Engagements

2	Fri	M	All Souls Day, St. Mary's Cathedral, Madurai
3	Sat	E	Blessing of Christ the King Matriculation School, Sengole Nagar
4	Sun	M	Installation of Lay Ministers, St. Mary's Cathedral, Madurai
7	Wed	M	Recollection
		E	Mass for the Deceased
8	Thu	M	Recollection, Palayamkottai
9	Fri	E	Centenary Celebration of St. Anne's Convent, Periyakulam
10	Sat	E	Deepavali Celebration, Nobili Pastoral Centre, K. Pudur
11	Sun	M	Nuptial Blessing, St. Josep's Cathedral, Dindigul
12	Mon	M	Inauguration of Sempatti Mission
13	Tue	M	Mass, Puliampatti
14	Wed	M	Mid-Year Board Meeting, St. Paul's Seminary
16	Fri	M	VSSS Function
		E	Church Consecration, Melapudur, Othayal
17	Sat	M	First Holy Communion, Holy Rosary Church, Madurai
18	Sun	M	Nuptial Blessing, Vedasanthur
21	Wed	M	Mashot Meeting
23	Fri	M	Senate Meeting, Bishop's House, K. Pudur
24	Sat	E	Christ the King Feast, Sengole Nagar
25	Sun	E	Inauguration of Vadapatti Mission, Krishnaberi
26	Mon	E	Ordination, Gnanaolivupuram
27	Tue	M	Conference on Nomads
		E	Inauguration of Basketball Tournament, Nobili School, K. Pudur
30	Fri	M	General Body Meeting of SC/ST Commission
		E	Flag Hoisting, Pandian Nagar

DECEMBER 2018

1	Sat	E	Feast Mass, Vandanam
2	Sun	E	Feast Mass, Thalarkulam
3	Mon	M	Feast Mass, Cathedral, Palayamkottai
4	Tue	M	Board Meeting of Emmaus Centre

* Appointments may be fixed by calling the Archbishop's Secretary at +91 94433 86761 or by mailing to abssecretarymdu@gmail.com.

இம்மாதம் விழா கொண்டாடும் பங்குகள்

1. க்ரீஸ்து அரசர் ஆலயம், மேலூர் - நவம்பர் 26
2. க்ரீஸ்து அரசர் ஆலயம், தேன் - நவம்பர் 26
3. க்ரீஸ்து அரசர் ஆலயம், ஷ்னாங்குடி - நவம்பர் 26

இப்பங்குகளில் பணி புரியும் பங்குத்தந்தையர்களுக்கும், துறவறத்தாருக்கும்
இறைமக்களுக்கும் எனது வாழ்த்துகளும் ஜெபங்களும்.

+ பேராயர் அந்தோனி பாப்டொம்

HAPPY FEAST

The Archbishop & the Archdiocesan Priests wish the following religious congregations, serving in our Archdiocese, a blessed Feast Day.

Sisters of St. Charles Borromeo (SCB)	-	4 th November
Sons of Merciful Love (FAM)	-	20 th November
Presentation Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary (PBVM)	-	21 st November
Franciscan Sisters of the Presentation of Mary (FSPM)	-	21 st November

Please Note

1. **The Monthly Recollection** for November will be held on 7th November, **Wednesday** at Archbishop's House as usual. In the evening at 6:00 pm., the **Annual Requiem Mass** will be offered at St. Mary's Cathedral by His Grace, **Most Rev. Antony Pappusamy** for all the deceased Prelates, Priests and the Religious who ministered in our Archdiocese. At 5:30 pm., the Archbishop will bless the Cemeteries of the Priests of the Archdiocese at St. Mary's Cemetery. The Parish Priests of Madurai city are asked to cancel their evening masses and exhort their faithful to attend the

Requiem Mass in good number. May the souls of all the former Archbishops, Priests and the Religious departed, rest in Peace.

2. All the Parish Priests in our Archdiocese are asked to offer one Mass with the participation of the Faithful for all the deceased Prelates and Priests of the Archdiocese.

3. **All Souls Day:** All the Parish Priests are entitled to celebrate three Masses on the All Souls Day for pastoral reasons. Hence parish priests are encouraged to celebrate masses for the departed souls in their parishes.



4. **Propaganda Fide** instructs that all the priests working in the mission countries should celebrate one Mass every year for the **Souls of the Benefactors**, preferably in November with the participation of the Faithful.

5. **Congratulations to Fr. Alex Gnana Raj**, who has been elected as the Senate Secretary at the Senate Meeting held on 9th October 2018. The Senate Secretary becomes the Member of the College of Consultors as well. DNL congratulates the Senate Secretary and wishes a fruitful additional ministry.

6. **Reminder to the Parish Priests regarding 'Communio - India'**

Dear Fathers, as the archbishop told us during our retreat, the communication about 'Communio - India' is enclosed with this DNL. Kindly go through the material and encourage the faithful to contribute generously towards the same. - **Vicar General**

7. **Condolences:** i) DNL expresses its deep condolences to **Fr. P.V. Soosai** and the bereaved members of the family, who lost their beloved father, *Mr. P.A. Visuvasam*, aged 93, on 04-10-2018. The Funeral Mass was officiated by our Archbishop, Most Rev. Antony Pappusamy at 3:30 pm., at Michaelpalayam on 05-10-2018 with the participation of the large number of the Presbyterium. May the soul of *Mr. P.A. Visuvasam*, rest in Peace.

ii) DNL expresses its deep condolences to **Fr. Irudayaraj** (and the family members), who lost his beloved younger Brother *Mr. A. Joseph Raj*, aged 52, on 04-10-2018. The Funeral Mass was officiated by the Vicar General, Msgr. J. Jeyaraj at 10:30 am., at Srivilliputhur on 05-10-2018 with the participation of the large number of the Presbyterium. May the soul of *Mr. A. Joseph Raj*, rest in Peace.

iii) DNL expresses its deep condolences to **Fr. Francis Xavier** for the demise of his elder Brother, Mr. A. Rayappan, who passed away on 23-10-2018. The Funeral Mass was celebrated by Msgr. J. Jeyaraj, with a large number of the Presbyterium on 23-10-2018 at Ariyanallur. May the soul of Mr. Rayappan rest in Peace!

iv) DNL expresses its deep condolences to **Dn. Ignatius Stalin**, who lost his beloved Mother, Mrs. N. Nirmala Mary, on 29-10-2018. The Funeral Mass was officiated by Fr. John Diraviam, at Lourde's Church, Sivakasi, with the participation of the presbyterium the same day. May the soul of Mrs. Nirmala Mary Rest in Peace.

8. **Holy Childhood and Propagation of Faith Projects:** All the annual Projects to be sent to the Pontifical Mission Societies are to reach the Procurator's Office in Triplicate copies before 15th inst.

9. i) **Communication** from His Excellency **Most Rev. Thomas Aquinas, Bishop of Coimbatore** states that Rev. Albert, the Diocesan priest of Coimbatore has left the Priesthood. Hence he is forbidden *a divina*, from celebrating the Sacraments and the Sacramentals.

ii) His Excellency, **Most Rev. Devadoss Ambrose**, Bishop of Thanjavur, has dereed that Fr. Anthony Balthasar of Thanjavur diocese is suspended from priestly ministry and he is prohibited *a divina*.

10. **Canonization of 7 Saints** was held at St. Peter's Square at the Papal Solemn Mass on 14th October, Sunday. Pope Francis canonized **Pope Paul VI**, who concluded the Vatican II and initiated post Vatican Reforms in the Church and **Archbishop Romero**,

the Salvodorian Prelate who was killed *odium fidei* on 24th March 1980. The readers are reminded that the present Pope has raised his 3 Predecessors to the honour of the Altar, namely Pope John XXIII and Pope John Paul II on 27th April 2014, besides St. Paul VI this year.

11. Rev. Sr. Rita Irudayam of the Holy Cross of Chavanood is appointed by the Archbishop as **Secretary of the Archdiocesan Commission for Women**. She begins her ministry in the commission on 01.11.2018. DNL welcomes her and wishes her a joyful and fruitful ministry in the commission.
12. Mrs. A. Soundarya Prabakaran, St. Mary's Parish, Mrs. F. Fatima Rani, Tirunagar Parish and Mr. D. Arul Raj, Pandian Nagar Parish, Virudhunagar are going to be installed as **lay ministers** by the Archbishop on 04.11.2018 in the Sunday Mass at 7.30 am, St. Mary's Cathedral. DNL congratulates them and wishes them a joyful and fruitful ministry in the Archdiocese as lay ministers.
13. De Nobili Mat. Hr.Sec. School organizes De Nobili Basketball Rolling Trophy matches from 27 to 29 Nov. 2018 for Boys under 17. His Grace, our Archbishop will inaugurate the matches on 27.11.2018 at 4.30 p.m. in our Basketball ground. You are most Welcome.
- Fr. Anandam



Dialogue Commission

On 3.10.2018 people in Watra Iruppu celebrated the 66th year of Muthaalamman Feast with an emphasis on inter religions harmony.

Usually the first day of the festival will be celebrated as interreligious harmony day. Dignitaries from other religions are invited to give a talk.

This year Bhasheer Ahmed, president Jamat Islami - hind, Madurai circle and Fr. Arul, Secretary, Commission for Dialogue were invited for the first day of the festival.

In our message we felicitated the villagers and the festival committee for having set a model to other villages to celebrate the festival with an emphasis on Religious harmony.

Dialogue commission is happy because it can foster good rapport and fellowship with people of other religions by participating in such events.

Inter – Religious Deepavali Celebration:

Presided over by the Most. Rev. Antony Pappusamy, Inter Religious Deepavali celebration will be held on 10th November, Saturday at 6.30 p.m. in Pudur Church Campus.

Dignitaries like Santikumaraswamigal, Duvaraga Peedam, Thiru. Karthikeyan, Managing Director, College House, Dr. Amanullah, Thiru. Vijayarahavan will participate in the celebration.

Parish Priest of the town parishes are kindly asked to participate in numbers and enrich the celebration. The presence of our dear fathers in such celebration will add feather to the cap of the function.

Fr. A. Arul, Secretary, Dialogue Commission



All Souls Day

All Souls Day is a solemn feast in the Roman Catholic Church commemorating all of those who have died and now are in Purgatory, being cleansed of their venial sins and atoning before entering fully into Heaven.

The importance of the feast was made clear by pope Benedict XV (1914 -22), when he granted all priests the Privilege of celebrating **three Masses on All Souls Day: One, for the faithful departed; one for the Priest's intentions; and one for the intentions of the Holy Father.** Only on a handful of other very important feast days are priests allowed to celebrate more than two Masses.

There are two **indulgences** attached to All Souls Day, one for Visiting a church and another for visiting a cemetery. While the actions are performed by the living, the merits of the indulgences are applicable

only to the souls in Purgatory. Here is a special **Plenary indulgence** that can be gained for the souls in Purgatory on All Souls Day.

“An indulgence is a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven, which the faithful Christian who is duly disposed gains under certain prescribed conditions through the action of the Church which, as the minister of redemption, dispenses and applies with authority the treasury of the satisfactions of Christ and the saints” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no.1471).

To gain a plenary indulgence, a person must exclude all attachment to sin of any kind, even venial sin, must perform the work of Charity or say the prayer for which the indulgence is granted, and must also fulfill the **three Conditions of sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion and praying for the intentions of the pope.** One can take part in the Sacrament of Confession up to seven days before or afterward.

The theological basis for the feast is the doctrine that the souls which, on departing from the body, are not perfectly cleansed from venial sins, or have not fully atoned for past transgressions, are debarred from the Beatific Vision, and that faithful on earth can help them by prayers, alms, deeds and especially by the sacrifice of the Mass.

**MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS
POPE BENEDICT XVI
FOR THE WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY**

**"The Priest and Pastoral Ministry in a Digital World:
New Media at the Service of the Word"**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The theme of this year's World Communications Day - The Priest and Pastoral Ministry in a Digital World: New Media at the Service of the Word. It focuses attention on the important and sensitive pastoral area of digital communications, in which priests can discover new

possibilities for carrying out their ministry to and for the Word of God. Church communities have always used the modern media for fostering communication, engagement with society, and, increasingly, for encouraging dialogue at a wider level. Yet the recent, explosive growth and greater social impact of these media make them all the more important for a fruitful priestly ministry.

All priests have as their primary duty the proclamation of Jesus Christ, the incarnate Word of God, and the communication of his saving grace in the sacraments. Gathered and called by the Word, the Church is the sign and instrument of the communion that God creates with all people, and every priest is called to build up this communion, in Christ and with Christ. Such is the lofty dignity and beauty of the mission of the priest, which responds in a special way to the challenge raised by the Apostle Paul: “The Scripture says, ‘No one who believes in him will be put to shame ... everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’ But how can they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how can they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone to preach? And how can people preach unless they are sent? (Rom 10:11, 13-15).

Responding adequately to this challenge amid today's cultural shifts, to which young people are especially sensitive, necessarily involves using new communications technologies. The world of digital communication, with its almost limitless expressive capacity, makes us appreciate all the more Saint Paul's exclamation: “Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel” (1 Cor 9:16) **The increased availability of the new technologies demands greater responsibility on the part of those called to proclaim the Word,** but it also requires them to become more focused, efficient and compelling in their efforts. **Priests stand at the threshold of a new era: as new technologies create deeper forms of relationship across greater distances, they are called to respond pastorally by putting the media ever more effectively at the service of the Word.**

The spread of multimedia communications and its rich “menu of options” might make us think it sufficient simply to be present on the Web, or to see it only as a space to be filled. Yet priests can rightly be expected to be present in the world of digital communications as faithful witnesses to the Gospel, exercising their proper role as leaders of com-

munities which increasingly express themselves with the different “voices” provided by the digital marketplace. **Priests are thus challenged to proclaim the Gospel by employing the latest generation of audiovisual resources (images, videos, animated features, blogs, websites) which, alongside traditional means, can open up broad new vistas for dialogue, evangelization and catechesis.**

Using new communication technologies, priests can introduce people to the life of the Church and help our contemporaries to discover the face of Christ. They will best achieve this aim if they learn, from the time of their formation, how to use these technologies in a competent and appropriate way, shaped by sound theological insights and reflecting a strong priestly spirituality grounded in constant dialogue with the Lord. Yet priests present in the world of digital communications should be less notable for their media savvy than for their priestly heart, their closeness to Christ. This will not only enliven their pastoral outreach, but also will give a “soul” to the fabric of communications that makes up the “Web”.

God’s loving care for all people in Christ must be expressed in the digital world not simply as an artifact from the past, or a learned theory, but as something concrete, present and engaging. Our pastoral presence in that world must thus serve to show our contemporaries, especially the many people in our day who experience uncertainty and confusion, “that God is near; that in Christ we all belong to one another” (Benedict XVI, Address to the Roman Curia, 21 December 2009).

Who better than a priest, as a man of God, can develop and put into practice, by his competence in current digital technology, a pastoral outreach capable of making God concretely present in today’s world and presenting the religious wisdom of the past as a treasure which can inspire our efforts to live in the present with dignity while building a better future? Consecrated men and women working in the media have a special responsibility for opening the door to new forms of encounter, maintaining the quality of human interaction, and showing concern for individuals and their genuine spiritual needs. They can thus help the men and women of our digital age to sense the Lord’s presence, to grow in expectation and hope, and to draw near to the Word of God which offers salvation and fosters an integral human development. In this way the Word can traverse the many crossroads created by the intersection of all the different “highways” that form “cyberspace”, and show that God has his rightful place in every age, including our own. Thanks to the new

communications media, the Lord can walk the streets of our cities and, stopping before the threshold of our homes and our hearts, say once more: “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will enter his house and dine with him, and he with me” (Rev 3:20).

In my Message last year, I encouraged leaders in the world of communications to promote a culture of respect for the dignity and value of the human person. This is one of the ways in which the Church is called to exercise a “diaconia of culture” on today’s “digital continent”. With the Gospels in our hands and in our hearts, we must reaffirm the need to continue preparing ways that lead to the Word of God, while being at the same time constantly attentive to those who continue to seek; indeed, we should encourage their seeking as a first step of evangelization. A pastoral presence in the world of digital communications, precisely because it brings us into contact with the followers of other religions, non-believers and people of every culture, requires sensitivity to those who do not believe, the disheartened and those who have a deep, unarticulated desire for enduring truth and the absolute. Just as the prophet Isaiah envisioned a house of prayer for all peoples (cf. Is 56:7), can we not see the web as also offering a space – like the “Court of the Gentiles” of the Temple of Jerusalem – for those who have not yet come to know God?

The development of the new technologies and the larger digital world represents a great resource for humanity as a whole and for every individual, and it can act as a stimulus to encounter and dialogue. But this development likewise represents a great opportunity for believers. No door can or should be closed to those who, in the name of the risen Christ, are committed to drawing near to others. To priests in particular the new media offer ever new and far-reaching pastoral possibilities, encouraging them to embody the universality of the Church’s mission, to build a vast and real fellowship, and to testify in today’s world to the new life which comes from hearing the Gospel of Jesus, the eternal Son who came among us for our salvation. At the same time, priests must always bear in mind that the ultimate fruitfulness of their ministry comes from Christ himself, encountered and listened to in prayer; proclaimed in preaching and lived witness; and known, loved and celebrated in the sacraments, especially the Holy Eucharist and Reconciliation.

To my dear brother priests, then, I renew the invitation to make astute use of the unique possibilities offered by modern communica-

tions. May the Lord make all of you enthusiastic heralds of the Gospel in the new “agorà” which the current media are opening up.

With this confidence, I invoke upon you the protection of the Mother of God and of the Holy Curè of Ars and, with affection, I impart to each of you my Apostolic Blessing. - Pope Francis



The Annual CRI OFFICIALS Meeting

III. Virudunagar

The Report was read by the Secretary, Sr. Gladia HCM. The President, Fr. Michael MSFS submitted the Action Plan for the year 2018-'19. There are 12 Congregations in Virudunagar CRI (MSFS – Pandian Nagar; CIC – Virudunagar, Kariapatti & Sivakasi; CTC-Arupukkottai; SMMI - Othaiyal; IVD- Virudunagar; OCD-Thummichinampatti; GUANELLIANS- Krishnaperi; MONFORT FATHERS- Sattur; HCM-Sulakarai; OSM- Sattur; FIHM- Sathangudi; BENEDICTINES – Virudunagar).

The Report submitted as follows: The first meeting was held on 14th February 2017 at CTC Community. Fr. Philip OCD gave an input on “The Life of the Saints”; the second meeting was held at Servites Community, Sattur on 14th July 2017. Sr. Jyothi Sundari OSM conducted the Adoration after which Fr. Michael SJ. gave a talk on the Encyclical, ***Laudate Si***. The third meeting was conducted at Pandian Nagar as Christmas Gathering on 19th December 2017. Fr. Arockia Selvam, the CRI President conducted the Adoration and Fr. John Diraviam, the Vicar for the Religious gave Christmas Message. On behalf of the Archbishop, he too invited all the religious to the Priests-Religious Gathering to be held annually on every 22nd December. The fourth was held at SMMI House, Othaiyal on 14th February 2018, in which Sr. Josephine conducted Adoration. Mrs. Nelsi Nelson, an Advocate gave a talk on “Human Rights and Constitutional Rights”. The next meeting was held at Holy Cross community, Soolakarai, Virudunagar on 22-7-2018. Fr. Dominic conducted the Adoration after which Sr. Sahayarani delivered a talk on “Community Life and Witnessing Life”. The third meeting for the year 2018 will be conducted at Monfort Brothers House, Sattur on 11-11-2018. The CRI members make it a point to visit all the religious

communities in the Archdiocese. The pastoral challenges that this CRI faces are i) people running to Pentecostal churches, ii) non-proper marriages of the Catholics, iii) drop out children in the parishes, iv) the woes of the widows. This CRI at every Christmas celebration shares gifts with the poor and go for picnic every year.

The Plan for 2019: There will be a meeting on 24th February 2019 at Guanellian Community, Krishnaperi. The second will be conducted on 14th July 2019 at FIHM Community, Kannisheripudur. The next will be on 17th November 2019 at CIC community at Kariapatti. The CRI have the following action plan for the year 2019. i) The CRI will visit all our Schools in order to conscientise the students on the importance of forthcoming General Election. The CRI members will involve in teaching Catechism in their own parishes. The CRI will conduct medical camps for the poor.

IV. Srivilliputhur: The report was read by Fr. David MMI with the power-point presentation which was appreciated. Fr. Rajan SAC, the President read the Action Plan for the year 2018-2019. The CRI comes together once in three months. It also builds up a good relationship with the diocesan clergy and participates in all the parish activities. The members also come to know the creative and different ministries that the other religious are doing. Since most of the religious houses are situated in remote areas travel to them is the challenge.

In the Action Plan it was reported that the CRI will take effort in order to conduct Meetings at all the houses. Office bearers will visit all the religious houses in order to strengthen the relationship among one another. There will be a common recollection. All the members also will participate in common Pilgrimage and picnics. The following Topics were marked to be the central theme of each forthcoming Gathering: i) Works of Mercy ii) Community Life iii) Challenge of Christian Mission iv) Forthcoming Election and its impact on India v) Issues our people face in particular Drop-Out Children, Women’s Employment and Senior Citizens.

V. THENI CRI : The Report was read by Secretary, Sr. Nirmala SAT and the President Bro. Madalai Muthu SHJ explained the Action plan for 2019. The religious of the CRI – Theni as follows: Presentation Sisters – Theni & Periakulam; SAT – Periakulam, Hanumanthampatti, Rayappanpatti & Uthamapalayam; SMSM – Aundipatti and Cumbum; FSD – Anbu Illam, Theni, CMI - Theni and SHJ Brothers – Rayappanpatti.



The first meeting was held on 12-11-2017 at Presentation School, Theni. Fr. Anto Nelson OCD delivered a talk on the importance of Ministries the Religious involve in this Theni Region. Having Jesus first in all our activities was focused by the Speaker. He said, quoting Mother Teresa that Fruitfulness of ministry is achieved by Faithfulness.

Then the second Meeting was arranged by Bro. Delphine and Fr. John Diraviam, since there was a long gap in the CRI's life due to transfer of the Office bearers. On 01-09-2018 the Meeting was held at Sacred Heart Brothers House, Rayappanpatti. The Vicar for the Religious, Fr. J. Diraviam presided over the meeting. The new office bearers, Bro. Madalai Muthu, the President, Sr. Nirmala SAT, Bro. Xavier SHJ, the treasurer were elected unanimously by the floor. **Plan:** The second Meeting will be held at JA College, Periakulam; the third and Christmas Gathering at Seva Missionary Sisters House, Aundipatti and the fourth and Lenten Gathering in 2019 with the Handicapped at CMI House. The following topics were chosen after discussion: i) Tools of Psychology in growing one's Spirituality ii) the Evil impact of Saffronization in the forthcoming Election, 2019. iii) Safeguarding our Rights to administer Educational Institutions as Minorities in India iv) Study on the Recent Papal Encyclicals v) The Challenges we face in our Educational Institutions. vi) Appointment of a Legal Adviser with the help of the Archdiocese for the Vicariate of Theni.

VI. Kodaikanal CRI. The Report was read by Sr. Guna ICM, the President. It is the CRI which has every month a regular Meeting. The Time Table consisting of the Meeting's Dates, Places and Themes are circulated to all in advance. Besides the formal meetings the CRI meets informally on the Feast and Important days of the Congregations. In all the meetings, the CRI conducts Adoration and Holy Eucharist. The following meetings will be conducted for the second half of the current year; On 1-9-2018 the Meeting was held at SJL house, Pambarpuram on the topic "Education for Transformation" and "Review of our Ministry among the Alcoholic Anonymous" people. On 6th Oct. 2018 the meeting was held at FSPM Sisters at Valaigiri on the theme "Rejoice and be Glad - Holy Father Francis" by Fr. Adaikala Raja. On 3rd Nov. 2018 the Meeting will be held at CIC community, Perumalmalai with a Panel Discussion on the Topic "Wholeness to Holiness". In December 2018 the Christmas Celebration will be conducted on the theme "Celebrate Life Together".

VII. Batlagundu CRI. The Batlagundu CRI is active from the time it was reoriented on 18-10-2015 by the Team headed by Sr. Lowrencia and Fr. John Diraviam. On 7th August 2017 the Meeting was conducted at Batlagundu Holy Cross Convent on the theme of "Religious Life". Fr. Iruduaya Raj gave a key note address on Religious Life and the Charisms. On 17th September 2017 the executive committee meeting was held in the presence of Fr. Xavier, the Parish Priest and VF of Batlagundu. On 24th Sept. and 8th Oct. the Office bearers of CRI went to all the religious houses and exhorted the Community to send the members for the CRI Meeting. On 17th Dec. 2017 the Christmas Celebration was conducted at St. Joseph's Hospice, Mettur, Dindigul. On 17th Feb. 2018 the next meeting was conducted on the theme "Community Life"; the talk was delivered by Fr. Emmanuel SJ. On 25th Aug. 2018 the next meeting was conducted at Holy Cross Convent, Batlagundu. Fr. Louis, CAP., gave a Talk on "Integrated Growth of the Religious" at which meeting the Episcopal Vicar celebrated the Holy Mass and conducted the CRI election for Batlagundu. The following religious were elected: i) Fr. Santiago MSFS, the President, ii) Sr. Amala SCC, the Secretary, iii) Sr. Anto SCC, the Treasurer, and Sr. Anita CIC as the Executive Member. In the meeting it was decided that the meeting will be held once in three months.

The Plan for 2019: On 13th Oct. 2018, "Call to Holiness" (Pope's Encyclical); ii) 8th Dec. 2018, "Personality Development with Psycho-Sexual Integration"; iii) December 2018, Christmas Celebration; On 9th Feb. 2019, "Our Collective Response to the General Election – A Socio Political Awareness".
- Fr. M. John Diraviam

 
**ACTION PLAN DRAWN DURING NATIONAL
CATECHETICAL CONFERENCE
Held at Jalandar. 11-13, Sept. 2018
AN ACTION PLAN PROPOSAL**

Introduction

The Commission for Catechetics, the Conference of Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI) organized its XI National Catechetical Conference under the chairmanship of Archbishop Thomas Macwan, the Commission Chairman. 131 participants from 80 different Latin dioceses, consisting of regional secretaries, diocesan directors and other representatives

attended the conference. All met at the Diocesan Pastoral Centre, Jalandhar from 11 – 13, September 2018 to reflect on ‘*Youth Catechetics in the Church in India*’ and bring out an action plan for its effective implementation.

During the Conference the following topics were highlighted... Challenges of Youth Catechesis in the Context of the Synod 2018, Youth Catechesis: Goals, Objectives and models, Organization of Parish/ Diocesan Youth Day, Guidelines for effective Youth Catechesis, Challenges of Youth Catechesis: A Panel Discussion, Sharing on faith formation by four Youth and interacting with them, A sample Youth Liturgical Evening Prayer was held with Catechesis.

The following action plan has been derived from the proceedings of the National Conference on Youth Catechesis. This action plan will help the young to deepen their faith. The regional secretaries and the Diocesan Commission secretaries/directors have the sacred responsibility to implement this action plan in their respective dioceses with utmost commitment.

FUNCTIONAL LEVEL

1. For the task of catechizing and empowering our youth in faith and vocational discernment we need to bring about synergy, from the national to the parish levels, the various commissions that could be involved in genuinely addressing the queries of our Youth, could be: Catechetical Commission, Youth Commission, Family Commission, Bible Commission, Liturgical Commission and BCC commission.

2. Ensure a fulltime secretary and team, a workable system and proper allocation of fund at least at the regional level, if possible at the diocesan level too.

ACTIVITY LEVEL

National, Regional and Diocesan Levels

Call for a meeting national level of the representatives of the above said commissions to make concrete proposals for youth catechesis for Confirmation with a methodology appealing to the youth of the time, before the next National Catechetical Conference.

Parish Level

With the help of resourceful persons from the various commissions in question, ensure that under the auspices of the catechetical commission, the Neighborhood Youth Groups (NYG) that gather every month to grow responsibly and integrally, and be formed and transformed through a proper process.

Concrete Activities

- a) Ensuring Data Base wherever it is feasible
- b) Organizing pilgrimages
- c) Study of Synod Material, YouCat and DoCat using group Dynamics
- d) Interviewing some Exemplary Leaders of the Parish / Zone
- e) Interviewing some Exemplary young / Old Couples
- f) Liturgical Awareness Programs and organizing Youth Liturgy once a month
- g) Doing Works of Mercy like, visiting the sick in the BCCs, Hospitals, Visiting Prisons, Old Age Homes, Homes for the Mentally Challenged.
- h) Awareness and promotion programmes on Ecological Activities
- i) Organizing Cultural, art and Sporting events
- j) Organizing inter parish Quiz, Debates, etc.

Conclusion

Let us strive to make our Youth the life of the Church with this action plan that we have prepared. Our Youth are ready to do anything for the Church and be part of evangelization. We need to accompany them throughout their life journey so that they may build up a strong relationship with Jesus. Let us put our hands together to make our Church in India a vibrant Church by involving our youth actively and deepening their faith. May the guidance and assistance of Our Lady lead us to be authentic shepherds who are committed and responsible in ministering to our youth.

- **Fr. Antony Samy**, Secretary
Commission for Christian life

Kerala Flood Relief Contributions

Gnanaolivupuram	1,50,000.00
Samayanallur	1,00,000.00
Annai Velankanni Mat. School, Batlagundu	71,550.00
Nagamalai pudukottai	70,200.00
Sundaranachiarapuram	65,800.00
T. Vadipatti	61,480.00
New Ellis Nagar	57,256.00
Palanganatham	55,000.00
St. Mary's Cathedral	53,000.00
Theni	51,000.00
Annanagar	50,000.00
Periyakulam	49,000.00
Munjikkal	44,210.00
Bastin Nagar	43,000.00
Parishioners Srivilliputhur	43,200.00
Sengole Nagar	41,000.00
Anjal Nagar	36,100.00
Ugarthenagar	30,000.00
Virudhunagar	30,000.00
Iyavathanallur	28,890.00
Silukkuvarpatti	25,150.00
Karumathur	25,000.00
K. Pudur	25,000.00
Pandian Nagar	25,000.00
Batlagundu	24,550.00
Perumalmalai	22,000.00
Chinnamanur	20,000.00
Mr. Sikkandar, Narimedu	18,000.00
Cumbum	17,071.00

Mangudi Meenatchiapuram	16,140.00
Tirunagar	16,000.00
Railway Colony	16,000.00
Devadhanam	15,000.00
Holy Cross Sisters, Batlagundu	15,000.00
Packiapuram	15,000.00
Madona Arts and Science College for Women	13,500.00
Holy Rosary Church	12,500.00
Kariapatti	11,900.00
Niraivazhvunagar	11,674.00
Y. Othakadai	10,481.00
Kottur	10,000.00
Fr. Correspondent, AVM School, Batlagundu	10,000.00
Melakovilpatti	10,000.00
Bibikulam	10,000.00
Fr. Director, Sathangai Academy	10,000.00
Kadachanendal	10,000.00
Christ Hall Seminary Staff, Karumathur	10,000.00
Fr. Rector, Carmel Philosophy College, Karumathur	10,000.00
Rayappanpatti	10,000.00
Correspondent, De Nobili Mat.Hr.Sec.School,Madurai	10,000.00
Usilampatti	9,020.00
Kavirayapuram	7,245.00
Alangulam	7,000.00
Uthamapalayam	6,350.00
Bodi	6,000.00
The Teachers, St. Joseph School, Pattakulam	5,270.00
Fr. A. Xavier Vicar Forane, Batlagundu	5,000.00
Fr. Rex Peter, Principal, AVM School Batlagundu	5,000.00
Shenbaganur	5,000.00
Fr. Appolin	5,000.00

Meenampatti	5,000.00
R.R. Nagar	5,000.00
Mangalamkombu	5,000.00
Kadamalaikundu	5,000.00
Ayyampalayam	4,600.00
Melur	4,000.00
Srivilliputhur	4,000.00
Rajapalayam	3,500.00
Secretary, CCL, Madurai	3,000.00
Fr. Jeganathan Bishop's House	3,000.00
Hanumanthanpatty	3,000.00
Nilakottai	3,000.00
Rayapuram	2,500.00
Fr. Antony Samy	2,000.00
MSFS Community, Pandian Nagar	2,000.00
Holy Cross Community, Soolakarai	2,000.00
Montfort Brothers Community, Sathur	2,000.00
Thummuchinampatti	1,630.00
Lourdhpuram	1,500.00
R. Iruthayamary, Madurai	1,500.00
Mathankovilapatti	1,400.00
MSFS Community, Othaiyal	1,000.00
CIC Community, Aruppukottai	1,000.00
SMMI Community, Othaiyal	1,000.00
Othaiyal	1,000.00
Fr. Parish Priest, Nathampatti, Virudhunagar	1,000.00
Fr. Justin Prabhu, Asst, P.P. Batlagundu	500.00
CIC Community, Kariapatti	500.00
Virudhunagar	261.00

17,17,428.00

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS - 01.02.2018 to 25.10.2018

S. No.	Parish Name	Holy Childhood 11/2/18	Holy See 11/3/18	Hunger Disease 29/3/18	Good Friday 30/3/18	Vocation Sunday 22/4/18
1	A. Nathampatti	300	300	1500	1000	400
2	Alankulam	600	600	2250	2250	600
3	Ammapatty	1180	1280	8150	4130	800
4	Anjal Nagar	6125	5200	65257	43351	6300
5	Anna Nagar	12530	10360	150000	38726	8850
6	Aruppukottai	1500	1000	15000	5000	1000
7	Ayavathanallur	2000	2000	10000	8000	
8	Bastin Nagar	15000	9000	124000	29000	11000
9	Batlagundu	2600	2400	40000	10000	2500
10	Bibikulam	4500	2750	43017	10183	3440
11	Bodinayakanur	500	500	10000	3000	300
12	Chinnamanur	460	270	1050	2030	417
13	Cumbum	1600	1270	17200	4400	1520
14	Devadanam	3930	1600	23270	3880	1800
15	Ellis Nagar	11917	7560	110981	23220	9947
16	Gnanaolivupuram	7000	7000	116110	43500	6390
17	Hanumanthanpatty	1200	1300	14000	7340	1150
18	Holy Rosary Church	5000	5000	50000	10000	3000
19	Iyyampalayam	200	200	1300	1200	200
20	K. Pudur	2000	2000	40000	30000	2000
21	Kadachanendal	1500	1500	25500	17000	1500
22	Kadamalaikundu	200		3500	2700	
23	Kalladipatti	1000	1000	5000	2100	1000
24	Kariapatty	1000	1000	6230	6070	1000
25	Karumathur	630	510	1500	3650	500
26	Kavirayapuram	350	350	2810	4860	320
27	Kottur	1000	1000	15000	16700	1000
28	Lourdhpuram	500	500	2000	2000	500
29	Megamalai	200	200	200	300	200
30	Mangalamkombu	400	470	3000	1955	400
31	M. Meenachiapuram	1020	1210	4520	3700	1280
32	Mathankovilpatti	600	500	5000	1500	500
33	Meenampatti	3860	2120	31333	4035	2077
34	Melur		1910	12762	6260	1200
35	Michaelpalayam	2100	2200	15000	10000	2100

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS - 01.02.2018 to 25.10.2018

St. Peter's Pence 01/07/18	Communi- cation Day 07/07/18	Prision Ministry 12/08/18	Bible Sunday 30/09/18	Mission Sunday 21/10/18	African Mission 04/11/18	Peter the Apostle 25/11/18	Opus
600	600	600					
800	800	800	1000				
4500	5000	5250					
8780	8410	10000	8730				
1000	1000						
		23000					
2500	2500	2500	2500				
2732	3468						
300	400	500	1000				
500	500	500					
1480	1850	1450					
11140	11301	10287					
1250	1300						
149	873						
7000	10000						
1500	1500	2000					
450	555	505	490				
500	500						
1000	1000	1000					
500	500	500	500				
400	400	400					
600	420	480					
1890	2200	2050					
1090	1185	1000	1000				

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS - 01.02.2018 to 25.10.2018

S. No.	Parish Name	Holy Childhood 11/2/18	Holy See 11/3/18	Hunger Disease 29/3/18	Good Friday 30/3/18	Vocation Sunday 22/4/18
36	Munjikkal	11000	6000	60000	30000	7500
37	Nagamalai					
38	Nakkaneri	1000	1000	12000	2000	1000
39	Nilakottai	1100	600	5700	4200	600
40	Niraivazhvu Nagar (VNR)	500	500	6930	3110	500
41	Othaial	250	250	800	700	200
42	Packiapuram	3020	2350	23020	6020	3160
43	Palanganatham	6000		110000	21000	4000
44	Pandian Nagar	1020	530	6020	7080	2256
45	Periyakulam	800	600	*26000	4200	1800
46	Perumalmalai	1470	1530	29047	6000	1650
47	R.R. Nagar	3000	3000	22000	5500	
48	Railway Colony	2100	1000	4500	4500	1200
49	Rajapalayam	1500	1000	22500	3500	1500
50	Rayappanpatti	6000	3000	35000	30000	3500
51	Rayapuram					
52	Samayanallur	3000	3100	47000	10000	3600
53	Sattur	500	500	500	500	500
54	Shenbaganur	750	750	10000	3000	1330
55	Sengole Nagar	2750	2200	60000	30000	2000
56	Silukkuvarpatty	1000	1000	10000	5000	1000
57	Sivakasi	15500	12900	103400	45500	15500
58	Srivilliputhur					
59	St. Mary's Cathedral	10000	5000	60000	50000	5000
60	Sundaranatchiapuram	3300	3300	70000	16000	3300
61	T. Sindalacherry	2000	1000	54600	21400	1000
62	T. Vadipatti Shrine	4000	3000	10200	15500	1300
63	Theni	4100	3400	39377	16767	3000
64	Thirumangalam	1500	1000	3500	5010	1300
65	Thirunagar	2000	3000	9000	20000	1500
66	Thiruthangal					
67	Thummuchinampatty	630	370	520	530	500
68	Ugarthe Nagar	2000	2000	20000	10000	2000
69	Usilampatti	1100	1000	21000	6317	1000
70	Uthamapalayam	1000	1000	4100	8300	

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS - 01.02.2018 to 25.10.2018

St. Peter's Pence 01/07/18	Communi- cation Day 07/07/18	Prision Ministry 12/08/18	Bible Sunday 30/09/18	Mission Sunday 21/10/18	African Mission 04/11/18	Peter the Apostle 25/11/18	Opus
1000	1000	2000	4000				
1000	500	1000	1000	12500			
600	1000						
1000	1000	500					
250	200	300	250				
2020	2050	2461	2300				
3000	5000	7000	5780				
3034	3030	3613	2355				
1870	1630	1350					
2500	1300	2050	2600				
3500	3500	3500	4000				
3000	3100	3500	3100				
1300	1500	750	1000				
2100	2000	2300					
1000	1000	1000	1000				
13250	14500	12100					
3300	3300						
1000	1000	1000	1000				
2000	2000	1000					
4000	3200	3100					
1000	1000	1200					
1500	1500	1500					
4200	3000	4000					
500	500	610					
2000	2000	2000	2500				
1000	1000	6221	1536				

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS - 01.02.2018 to 25.10.2018

S. No.	Parish Name	Holy Childhood 11/2/18	Holy See 11/3/18	Hunger Disease 29/3/18	Good Friday 30/3/18	Vocation Sunday 22/4/18
71	Virudhunagar	6000	8000	85000	75000	8000
72	W. Pudupatti	1000	1000	35000	5000	1000
73	Y. Othakadai			15962	20725	2650
	St. Agnes Home for Children, Rayappanpatti	10000				
	Holy cross Convent, VNR				5000	
	Melavadakkur			557	556	
	Fr. Lourduraj, Arockia Illam			900	1100	
	St. Anne's Provincialate Ansarinagar			4000		
	J.A. College, Periyakulam	15800			10200	
	Total	221192	150940	2004573	872255	159537

NB: * Periyakulam Parish Rs. 26,000/- for Hunger & Disease collection paid directly to MMSSS.

Mass Received From Parishes

Ellis Nagar (332 Masses)	33,200
Sundaranachiapuram (200 Masses)	20,000
Bodinayakanur (133 Masses)	13,300

Total **66,500**

From the Procurator's Desk

Dear Rev. Fathers,

Kindly verify the above statement and confirm the remittances. If any discrepancy is found, you are welcome to correct the same with the receipt available with you.

Kindly remit all the Diocesan Collections (13 Nos) and the DMF (1%) Collections only by Cheque or Bank Draft to the Procurator's Office. This is in accordance with Government norms for restricting cash transactions.

- Fr. Procurator

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS - 01.02.2018 to 25.10.2018

St. Peter's Pence 01/07/18	Communication Day 07/07/18	Prision Ministry 12/08/18	Bible Sunday 30/09/18	Mission Sunday 21/10/18	African Mission 04/11/18	Peter the Apostle 25/11/18	Opus
9000	18000	9000					
1000	1000	1500					
121585	136072	137377	47641	12500			

ஏற்பாட்டில் அருள்பணி மையம்

~~புதிய கட்டிடம் மலர்வதற்காக தாராள மனதுடன் உதவும் உள்ளங்கள்~~

Fr. G. Lourdu Raj, Arockia Illam	55,000
Fr. Dhivyanandam, Ayravathanallur	50,000
Fr. A. Antony Samy, Secretary, C.C.L	25,000
Fr. Vincent Mathan Babu	20,000
Fr. A. Vedamanickam, Palanganatham	10,000
Fr. I. Maria Arul Selvam	10,000
Mr. Arulanandam, Rtd., H.M, Annanagar	10,000
The Teachers, R.C. Mid.Sch. P. Chettiapatti, Usilampatti	5,000
Fr. Gnanasandanam, Arockia Illam	5,000
Nazrane Isabella Family, Usilampatti	1,000

Total 1,91,000

Note: Mistake in DNL - October - 2018
The Bination Mass of Rs. 10,000/- is to be treated as Seminary Fund and the Seminary Fund of Rs. 4,200/- to be treated as Bination Mass for Annanagar Parish.

KANI (Seminarians Fund)

Opening Balance as on 25.09.2018 **20,31,014.77**

Mr. Julie Benjamine, Mr. Amaladoss & Mr. Jayaraja, Bastin Nagar	36,000.00
The Correspondent, St. Joseph's Mat.Hr.Sec.School Madurai	15,000.00
Fr. Parish Priest, Gnanaolivupuram	10,000.00
Fr. Parish Priest, Holy Rosary Church, Madurai	10,000.00
St. Justin's B.Ed College, Madurai	10,000.00
St. Joseph's Boys' Village, Genguvarpatti, Periyakulam	10,000.00
Parishioners, Kavirayapuram	10,000.00
Fr. Lawrence, Secretary & Treasurer, MMSSS	10,000.00
Sr. Superior General, Sacred Heart Nursing College, A.Vellodu, Dindigul	10,000.00
Sr. Superior, Holy Cross Convent, Paravai, Madurai	5,000.00
Sr. Superior, Fuscus Convent, Rayapanpatti	5,000.00
Sisters, DMI St. Joseph's Children Home, P. Chettiapatti	5,000.00
Mrs. Teresa Packianathan, Usilampatti	5,000.00
The Teachers R.C. M.Sch. & R.C. Pri.Sch., P. Chettiapatti	5,000.00
Mr. Rathinam Tr, & Mrs. Vimala Tr, Usilampatti	2,000.00
Parishioners, Vadugapatti, Usilampatti	2,000.00
Mrs. Selvapackiam Tr, Usilampatti	2,000.00
Mr. A. Sahayaraj	2,000.00
Mrs. G. Usha Benadett	1,000.00
Mrs. Rajeshwari @ Christy, Evangelization Comm. Usilampatti	1,000.00
Mrs. Bernedeth, Evangelization Comm. Usilampatti	1,000.00
Mrs. Arockia Rosario Rani Tr, R.C.P.Sch.Sirumalar,Usilampatti	1,000.00
Mr. A. Joseph Amirtham Family, Kavirayapuram	350.00

21,89,364.77

Add : Bank Interest : 16799 16,799.00

Closing Balance 25.10.2018 **22,06,163.77**

Cash in Hand : Nil

Cash at Bank : 22,06,163.77

22,06,163.77

**குடும்ப நல்வாழ்வு பணிக்குழு நடத்தும்
திருமண முன்தயாரிப்பு நடைபெறும் நாட்கள்**



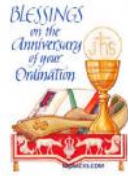
3,4.11.2018	நொபிலி அருள்பணி மையம்	சனி, ஞாயிறு
10,11.11.2018	விருதுநகர்	சனி, ஞாயிறு
17,18.11.2018	நொபிலி அருள்பணி மையம்	சனி, ஞாயிறு
24,25.11.2018	நிலக்கோட்டை	சனி, ஞாயிறு

அருட்தந்தை. ஜோசப், செயலர்

Felicitations On Ordination

Anniversary Day

Fr. Sebastine Chinnadurai	on	10.11.2013
Fr. Arul Rayan	on	18.11.2007
Fr. Muthu M.S.	on	18.11.2007
Fr. Sahayaraj K.	on	18.11.2007



Adoration Sunday

November

04	Periakulam
11	Nilakottai
18	Samayanallur
25	Aruppukottai



December

02	Kariapatti
09	Ellis Nagar
16	Railway Colony
23	Sattur
30	Silukkuvarpatti

Necrology

Archbishop Casimir Gnanadickam s.j	-	10.11.1993
Soosai Michael Raj D.	-	26.11.2007



MADURA MISSION - HISTORICAL NOTES

XVII. Fr. Britto's Ministry

Let us continue with the Canonisation accounts of our Patron Saint. Pope Pio XII on the occasion of the canonization of St. John De Britto placed it on record the salient features of the holy life of the Martyr. He said, "He was martyred finally though he suffered martyrdom twice actually; once while tortured he escaped death so that heaven could reserve more trials for him. Blessed from birth with divine grace and then proved like his Divine Master, he passed through this world like a ray of light through the shade of dark forest and grew like a lily among thorns moving towards heaven while he flowered." O Rosario writes in Portuguese in "Beato Joao de Britto", 1939: Fr. Britto wrote from the prison: "The crime they accuse me of is to have taught the law of God. When crime is a virtue, to suffer is glory."

Now let us go back to the life and ministry of the Martyr, "who with his apostolic fire and indomitable courage even unto death, sets an example to all priests" (SOARES Aloysius, "The Canonization of St. John De Britto", Examiner, p. 370).

Kuttur Mission: From Tattuvangery the Saint travelled to Kuttur, which was situated in the thick forest. Amidst the protests of the Brahmins, Fr. Britto constructed a church for the new Christians there. Meanwhile the staunch caste feelings among the Christians too made Britto worried. Due to the pressure of the caste Christians and their Hindu relatives, Fr. Britto could not give much attention and sympathy to Adi Dravida Christians. Therefore he started a separate mission for Adi Dravida Christians at Sirukadambanoor in the Cauvery Delta region. In little more than a month Fr. Britto heard 1500 confessions and administered 200 Baptisms. Fr. Arumai Raj says "thus Britto in 1678 consolidated the mission in Tattuvangery, Kuttur and Sirukadambanur the regions of Gingi and Tanjore where he prepared 1000 neophytes for Baptism."

Lay Apostleship Model: In all his ministries, Fr. Britto gave importance to Lay Apostolate by involving lay Catechists. The Catechists kept the faith glowing among the neophytes while the martyr was continuously on the go for preaching the Good News to neighbouring villages. The Catechists' role had been very important during the missionary period of the Archdiocese of Madurai. The Catechist catechised the children and the elders; led the prayers and recited mass prayers on Sundays and saw to it the orderly life of the missions in the absence of the parish priest. Fr. Britto also was so much concerned about his Catechists that he increased their salary after pleading to his Superiors.

Fr. Britto's ministry was marked with the gift of exorcism. By the gift of **Exorcism and the extraordinary power of healing the sick**, Fr. Britto drew many souls to Christ. At Kadaly he cured a Hindu man, who and his whole household embraced Christianity. In the rural areas of Tanjore what he reaped was from the ministry of exorcism; he drove out the demons from the possessed men and women. There is also a reference in the Annual Letter that Britto did a commendable ministry at a village near Kumbakonam when the Mahamaham festival caused an outburst of epidemic due to the large gathering of people at one place. There he rushed and cured many people and heard numerous confessions of people who were dying. In the region wherever our Saint was ministering, people believed that the natural harvest would abound whenever the spiritual harvest is so high. So during the time of famine and draught, the ordinary people, crossing across the barriers of faith and caste, sought the prayers and intercession of Fr. Britto so that it would rain and produce good harvest that year. Meanwhile whenever his flock faced injustice in the hands of caste men, Britto never compromised to fight for the dignity and right of his flock. The plight of the Adi Dravida Christians in Tanjore mission was so pathetic. Their lands were grabbed by the caste Hindus, who subjugated them to daily coolie labour in their field. Fr Britto saw to it that the poor coolie workers were paid their due salary.

The mission of Fr. Britto also suffered due to the change in the



political life of Portugal whose power was waning. Due to this cause, Portugal could not support the missions in India. In order to solve this issue the Holy Father established an Institution called *Propaganda*, which was given authority over the missions. Madura mission which had been nurtured by the *Padroado* mission for more than seventy or eighty years, in which the Jesuits were the pioneers, came all of a sudden under an attack by the Propagandist who did not appreciate the indianization of Christianity in India. All the missionaries including Fr. Britto feared that the Propagandist might change the whole atmosphere and

deconstruct what has been being built brick by brick. Hence Fr. Britto wrote to his Superiors and suggested to bring Goan priests to the Mission since the mission was in dire need of missionaries. Since the Goan priests knew also Marathi, the language of the then Ruler of Tanjore, Ekoji, it would be beneficial for the mission to build up a good rapport with the ruler.

(to be continued)

- Jodir.