

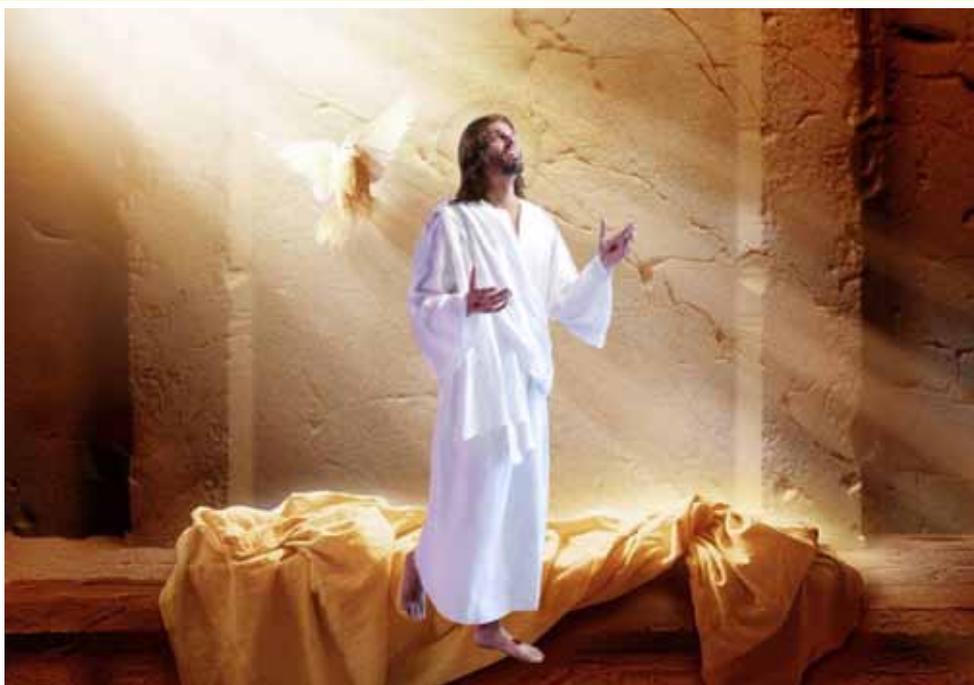


Santhome Voice



Bulletin of
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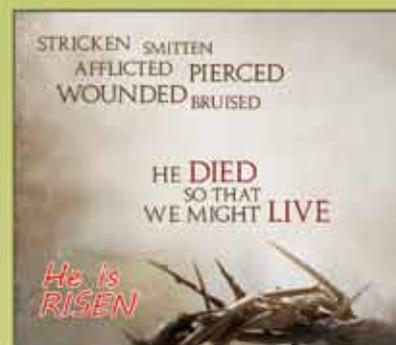
The Lord is risen! Hallelujah!

The Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ was the harbinger of a new era in the history of humanity subject to sin. But the time of sin and death gave way to a new age of grace and life for all creation due to the Paschal mysteries of the suffering, death and the glorious Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The anointed one of God, Jesus of Nazareth handed himself over to be crucified out of His own free will and decision. We are all partakers of that great event. If we are to be really disciples like our master, his self-emptying must happen in our life. It is possible only by a conscious effort and it will not happen by a few observances here and there. A total surrender to God like Mary is essential. My wish and prayer to you is that you surrender your life to Jesus.

Happy Easter! Hallelujah!

Rev. Fr. Thomas Vattukulam, cmf
Provincial Superior

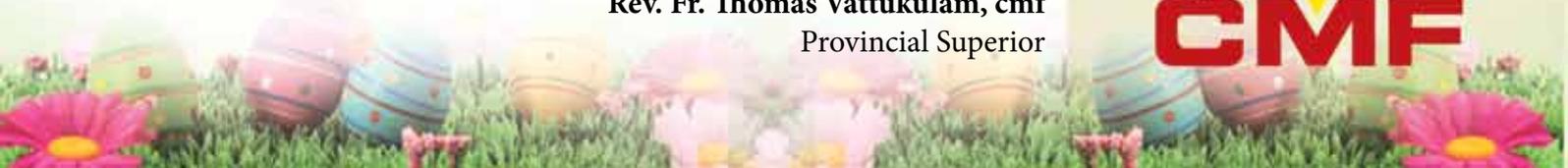


Happy Easter



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MISSION DARSHAN

BANGALORE, CLARET NILAYAM

Consecration and Blessing of St. Sebastian's Forane Church, Mathikere



On 24 January 2016 Mar Antony Kariyil, Bishop of Mandya, consecrated and blessed the renovated church and the new Presbytery at Mathikere, Bengaluru. The occasion was graced with the esteemed presence of Superior General Very Rev. Fr.



Mathew Vattamattam CMF, Rev. Fr. Thomas Vattukulam CMF, Provincial Superior, Rev. Fr. James Kannamthanam CMF, Provincial Superior of Bangalore Province, priests who served in the parish during the past years, and priests and religious from the neighbouring religious communities and parishes.

Fr. George Pettayil CMF, Forane Vicar, and Fr. Jacob Kunnath CMF, Asst. Vicar, together with the Trustees and the members of the parish welcomed His Excellency and other dignitaries at the entrance of the church. The liturgical celebration began at 9.00 am with the rites of consecration and blessing followed by the concelebrated solemn Eucharist presided over by Mar Antony Kariyil. The Bishop appreciated the Claretians and the parishioners for making the Syro-Malabar community alive and active at Mathikere in Bangalore. The Church is a sign of our living faith and let this church be a place to sanctify all, more than 2500 faithful, including the parishioners and their relatives prayerfully participated in the liturgical celebration.

It was a special moment for the parish community at Mathikere that during this Great Jubilee Year of Mercy the parish is privileged to become a pilgrim center and is raised to the status of a Forane Church. The renovated church and the new building provide the church adequate space for pastoral needs, administrative purposes, Sunday School Catechism classes, activities of the pious associations and other celebrations of the community. The members of the parish have wholeheartedly contributed towards the project.

Silver Jubilee of Mathikere Church

The year 2016 is a landmark in the history of the St. Sebastian's Church Mathikere as well as the Claretian presence in Bangalore



as she celebrates the silver jubilee of her spiritual existence here. It was in 1991 the Syro-Malabar faithful of Mathikere and surrounding places were recognized as spiritual community and formed St. Sebastian's Church at Mathikere.

Mar Joseph Arumachadath, Bishop of Bhadravathy, presided over the concelebrated Eucharist at 9.00 am. The public meeting at 5.00 pm recollected the special moments of the church over the past 25 years and placed on record the commitment of the Claretian Missionaries in forming this vibrant parish community.

The newly elected Provincial Superior of the Claretian Province of Bangalore, Rev. Dr. Jacob Arackal CMF, presided over the public meeting and Dr. Ashwath Narayan, Member of the Legislative Assembly of Karnataka, was the Chief Guest.

The presence of Mr. K. Mathai, Assistant Commissioner of BBMP, Mr. Manoj George, Winner of 2015 Grammy Award, Padmashree Prof. Elavuthingal Devassy Jemmis, Rev. Fr. Binu Kezhakkalamthottam, cmf, former Parish Priest, and other prominent personalities of the locality graced the occasion.

As part of the Silver Jubilee celebration the church honoured all the former trustees and those couples who have completed 50 year of their married life. During the meeting, those involved in the construction of the new building and the renovation of the church were also recognized for their selfless service and were presented with mementos. The cultural presentations by the parishioners along with the astounding violin play by Mr. Manoj George made the evening something to cherish forever.



KAGHAZNAGAR, FATIMA HOUSE

Claret Fest 2016

On 30 January 2016 St Claret School celebrated its third annual day in glittering colours. Rev. Fr. Mathew Keechira, cmf, regional co-ordinator of the mission, presided over the public meeting. By



releasing the dove, the symbol of peace, he emphasized the need of peace and harmony in the world and inaugurated the function. The Senior Journalist, Sri M. D. Muneer was the chief guest of the meeting. He addressed the audience by stressing the values of good parenting and appreciated the Christian management schools for cultivating virtues among the new generation. Sri. K. Suresh, Tahasildar, Sri. G. Bikshapathi, MEO and Sri. N. Srinivas Goud, Sarpanch felicitated. Fr. Joshy Nirappel cmf, Manager, welcomed the dignitaries and Fr. Joby Parathanath cmf, Principal, presented the annual report of the academic year 2015-16. The programme was at its peak when the students staged different heart-throbbing cultural items based on the theme “the integral India”.

Joy of Giving Week

On 29 February 2016, we solemnly celebrated the ‘Joy of Giving’ programme in the school. As part of a more effective pedagogy, to be formed in kindness and empathy, our students from their small pockets joyfully contributed some school articles for the needy children in the village. As the culmination of the ‘Joy of Giving Week’ we took our students for a trip to Penchikalpet



mission and donated this collection to the director of boarding and spent one day with the children there.

Prayer Room

On 16 March 2016, Mar Prince Antony Panengadan visited our school and blessed the newly prepared prayer room in the presence of priests and staff. He also spent time with the teachers and instructed them to take up the responsibility of teaching the values along with teaching the subjects. Thus we will be able to remove the corruption and other injustices from the society.

Village Retreat

February 8-10, the evangelization team of Adilabad diocese under the leadership of Fr. Kurian Ponmalakunnel preached the retreat for three days in a remote village, Thungada. His Excellency Mar



Prince Antony the zealous and energetic shepherd of Adilabad diocese gave a spirit-filled message on the second day. Through his discourse, he convinced the audience that we are the children of God and thus God is our loving and merciful father. Therefore, we have the right to call him “Our Father”. The retreat has enkindled the minds of everyone in the village. The presence of His Excellency Mar Joseph Kunnath CMI, bishop emeritus, was an inspiration for the people who gathered there.

KARUKUTTY, CLARETIAN PROVINCIAL HOUSE

Sports Day: St. Xavier’s School: Education is the process of drawing out the innate powers in an individual. It should help one to adapt gradually in various ways to the physical, social and spiritual environment. For this need, the school organized a two days sports meet with various programmes. Mr. Joby Mathew, an



international sportsman, inaugurated it. He inspired the students and the parents, who turned up in large numbers, with his motivational and inspirational speech. It was a great experience for both the students, parents and neighbours to listen to an internationally acknowledged sportsman. He invited everyone to take up adversities in life as a challenge and learn from defeats that we face in our life and become aware of immense talents God has instilled in each one of us. Two-hour long cultural programmes performed by our students followed the inaugural programme. On the second day various sports events were conducted and prizes were given away.

St Sebastian’s Church, Valoor: Feast of St. Sebastian was celebrated on 6-7 February with a Novena to St. Sebastian. The festal flag was hoisted by Rev Fr Mathew Manavalen, Forane Vicar Koratty, and he presided over the Holy Quarbana. On this day ‘Ambu’ was taken in procession to each family of the parishioners. On the feast day, Rev. Fr. Ignatius Payapilly presided over the solemn Eucharist and a prayerful procession was held through the Valoor town.

KOLLAMULA, CLARET VILLA

Work Experience Expo, Little Flower School: The fourth work experience exhibition was held on 11 January 2016. The students exhibited hundreds of handiworks made by them in the school auditorium. All the 2270 students and many parents had an opportunity to witness the stupendous show. The excellent works are showcased in the school itself.

Sargolsavam 2016: The XXII Annual Day of Little Flower School: 'SARGOLSAVAM 2016' was celebrated on 18 January 2016. Rev. Dr. Thomas Vattukulam cmf, Provincial Superior, presided

KUNNOTH, CLARETIAN STUDY HOUSE

Picnic to Wayanad

The community picnic was arranged to Wayanad on 27-28 January 2016. Having stayed at Cheeral at night our visit to the



over the public meeting. The process of education, he said "is a participatory investment of Teachers, Parents and Students and they ought to be open to new challenges from all walks of life". It was followed by the inauguration of the cultural fiesta by cine artist Kalabhavan Navas. He told the audience the essence of education is bringing out the best out of each one being educated. He continued, every student is like an empty sack and one can fill

different beautiful places like Kuruva islands, Banasurasagar Dam were enjoyable. Before returning to the Kunnoth we visited our community at Vythiri.

Academic Excellence

Our students excelled in the comprehensive exams at Good Shepherd Major seminary in the academic year 2015-16. Dn.



in anything throughout the process of education and challenged the audience to fill in only goodness and love. He stupefied a five thousand strong gathering with variety entertainments. The three-hour long stage programme by the 450 students with high tech assistance was a mesmerizing.

KOMBAZHA: CLARET NIVAS

St Alphonsa feast, Plakode

On 11 Oct. 2015 was celebrated with novena. The main celebrant was Rev. Fr. Geo Kadavi, Vice chancellor, archdiocese of Trichur.



Sebastian Mundakal was given the Bishop Powathil memorial endowment award for overall excellence. The First and third Ranks for the final year were bagged by Deacons Jacob Attuchalil and Joseph Kolliyil.

MARTHIDI, CLARET HOME

Republic Day

The Mary Matha School commemorated the 67 Republic Day of our motherland proudly. Fr. Naiju Thekumkattil, cmf hoisted

Sts Joseph & Sebastian feast, Kombazha

The feast of St Joseph, patron of the Kombazha parish was celebrated on 10 January 2016 with a novena. On Saturday on 9 celebrated the feast of St Sebastian with procession of "Ambu" to all the families in the parish. On 10, the main celebrant was Fr. Joy Cheradiyil cmf. After the Solemn Qurbana there was procession and in the evening there were cultural programs by the parishioners. There was good participation for the novena and for the holy mass.



the flag and Fr. Jijo Pulinkunnel, cmf urged the patriotic spirit of the students and villagers through his inspirational message. There were cultural programs by the students and prizes were distributed for those who excelled in academic, arts and sports competitions.

Golden jubilee of Sr. Crispin, fcc

On 31 January Sr. Crispin, fcc celebrated the Golden Jubilee of her religious commitment in the vineyard of the Lord. The thanksgiving mass was presided over by his Mar Prince Antony Panengaden, Bishop of Adilabad. The procession before the Holy





mass was accompanied by the traditional dance. In the felicitation, Bishop admired Sr. Crisphin and impelled her to impart those values to the younger generation. Many priests, religious and parishioners came over to greet her in this grateful day.

Village Exposure Program

For the village exposure program 7 of our Philosophy students from Wardha was at Marthidi mission from 2-7 March 2016. They spent time in visiting families and conducting prayers. They also stayed in different villages to have directly contact with life of the people. It has helped them to fill with the missionary spirit. They performed various programs for the parishioners and the boarding students on 6 March and conveyed different values to the people. The students returned with renewed spirit for with their village experience.

PENCHIKALPET, CLARET VIDHYA NIKETHAN

Village Retreat

St. Jude Church organized three days of retreat from 18-20 February at Mereguda village guided by the retreat team of Adilabad Diocese. Mar Prince Anthony Panengadan, Bishop of Adilabad, preached on the second day. It was an occasion for the villagers to know more about the love and mercy of God. It is a newly catechized village and most of the people in the village were supportive and cooperative for the retreat. As the part of evangelization, we are planning to construct a Chapel in that village and it had laid a spiritual foundation for it. It has also created a new vigour and enthusiasm in us to go out into many new villages close by our mission for evangelization.

VALIATHURA, SANTHWANA

Bible Recitation Month Observed

St Xavier's parish observed 2015 December as Bible Recitation Month with variety of programs. Bible Quiz Competition for Catechism children was conducted in different age groups and the winners were awarded with prizes. December 28, 2015 was observed as Bible Day. As part of it, a non-stop Bible reading for 12 hours was organized in the church on unit basis. The reading began at 07.30 am and was concluded at 07.30 pm with Bible Procession followed by Holy Mass. This was an inspiration for the faithful to deepen their devotion to the Word of God and to read daily the Word for their spiritual nourishment.

Cancer Diagnosis Camp organized

A Cancer Diagnosis Camp was organized for the public in the church premises on 28 January 2016. A team of efficient physicians and nurses spent half-a-day offering medical consultation to people. Many took great advantage of the same.

Class on Laudato si

A one-hour session on the Papal Encyclical Laudato si was organized on 28 February 2016 from 04-05 pm. Rev. Fr. Lenin

Raj, Diocesan Director, TSSS, led the session. This was intended to provide the faithful with the knowledge of the basic themes of the document and to enable them to reflect with the Pope on the urgency of utilizing responsibly the God-given nature with all its riches and preserving gratefully the same for the future generation. A good number of people attended the session.

VETTAMPARA, CHRISTU NILAYAM

Sunday school Staff Picnic



Teachers of St. Sebastian's Church Sunday School made a one-day picnic cum pilgrimage on 22 November 2015. The teachers along with Fr. Jose Valliamthadathil cmf, parish

priest, visited important pilgrim centers, St. Thomas Shrine, Kodungallor where the apostle St. Thomas landed in India; Church of Our Lady of Snow, Pallipuram, St. Mary's Church, Vallarpadam, the newly built St. George Church Edapally, and the tourist places like Fort Cochin, beach, Marine drive, etc. It was an occasion for deepening our faith, for relaxation and experiencing mutual communion.

One-day Retreat for the Children

St. Sebastian's parish conducted a one-day Retreat for the children of the parish on 6 December 2015. Frs. Aneesh Chollakunnel, cmf and Jijo Manakkat, cmf animated the Retreat which led the children to higher values of life, and better understanding and deepening of faith through their classes, interaction, PowerPoint presentations, etc. The solemn celebration of the Holy Mass, hour of adoration were well participated by all the children.



Inauguration of the Year of Mercy



In communion with the universal Church and responding to the Call of Holy Father Pope Francis, we had the parish level formal beginning of the extra ordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy on 13 December 2015. Fr. Jose

Valliamthadathil cmf, parish priest, inaugurated the jubilee year by Lighting of the lamp. Solemn celebration of the Eucharist, exhortation on the importance and relevance of the year of mercy were followed by planting of two fruit trees in front of the church, to remind our Christian call to give shelter to the tired, weak and shelter less as the trees do to humans, and to bear fruits of mercy for the benefit of others.

Josephine school Christmas celebration

The students and staff of Josephine L.P School, Vettampara had a different Christmas celebration this year. They all dressed up specially, visited a nearby colony area, and shared the Christmas with the poorest family there. It was a family of a different faith and we spent around two hours with them and the people around



sharing Christmas message of Joy, Peace and Love. We also shared Christmas cake, financial aid collected by the children themselves and thus making the presence of Emmanuel, "God with us" an experience for the family as well as the little children of the school.

Parish Feast

The feast of St. Sebastian, patron, was celebrated with traditional piety and various programs on January 1-3, 2016. In preparation we began the nine days special prayer and novena on the 26 December 2015. On 1 January Very Rev. Fr. George Thekkekara, Chancellor of Kothamangalam diocese, hoisted the festival flag and celebrated the Holy Mass. On the main feast day, Rev. Fr. Tomcy Palackal, cmf presided over the solemn celebration of the Holy Eucharist. In his message, Fr. Tomcy exhorted the faithful to be faithful witnesses to Christ and his values in this modern world taking the example of St. Sebastian. Faith processions were held on Saturday and Sunday to the boundaries of the parish, praying for the blessings of God on our families and the locality through the intercession of St. Sebastian. The whole celebration was concluded by noon on 3 January with the sharing of Agape, "nercha sadya". Hundreds of people, parishioners and others, participated in the celebration.



Parish Retreat

A retreat was conducted at St. Sebastian's Church starting on the Ash Monday as a fitting entry in to the Season of Lent. Rev. Fr. Tomy Pulinthanam, msfs, Director, Atmajyothi Retreat Centre, Pattikkad, Trissur, and his team, preached the three-day retreat. The whole parish attended the retreat, which was a moment of



personal and parish renewal and a great source of blessing for our parish and its families.

VYTHIRI, CLARET SADAN

Parish Day

St. George church charity celebrated the parish day and the Samarpitha Sangamam on 3 Jan 2016. It was a moment of thanks giving for all the blessings received from Lord. Most of the priests



who have worked in the parish together with consecrated religious and parishioners joined for the Holy Mass along with the bishop of Manathavady diocese Mar Jose Porunnedam on this great day.

In his message, his Excellency Mar Jose Porunnedam appreciated the pastoral work done by the Claretians in the diocese during the past years.

Parish Retreat

Rev Fr John Puthukulam from Manathavady diocese preached the annual retreat at St. George Church Vythiri from 26-29 February 2016. It was a moment of spiritual enrichment for all the parishioners during this Year of Mercy. The 4 days retreat went on well with good participation from the parishioners.



FROM THE FORMATION HOUSES

KURAVILANGAD, CLARET BHAVAN

Parents' Day



Parents' day was held at Claret Bhavan on 24 Jan. 2016, Sunday. The day began with Solemn Holy Qurbana concelebrated by Fr Rector and

the respective prefects of batches at 10.00 am, followed by public meeting presided over by Rev. Dr. Joseph Kaduppil D.C.L., L.L.B., Vicar of St Thomas Church, Monipally. In his address, he stressed the role of the parents in nurturing the missionary vocation of the seminarians. The day's programme concluded after lunching together and meeting of the students with their respective Fr Prefects along with their parents to discuss the progress in the vocational journey.

Annual Day



The Annual Day culminating the major academic and extra-curricular activities of the academic year 2015-16 was celebrated on 30 January,

Saturday. Mr Varghese Kodikulam, retired Principal, Govt. Industrial Training Institute, Ettumanoor, was the Chief Guest of the function. He appreciated the talents and the graceful cultural performances of the seminarians and shared his experiences as a social activist. He instructed the seminarians to always uphold uprightness and the sense of justice in life wherever they are or they could be sent.

Picnic



The students of Claret Bhavan accompanied by the formators went for the picnic to Athirappally, Vazhachal and Malambuzha Dam on 01 February 2016, Monday. They also visited the Claretian Provincial House, Karukutty and prayed at the tomb of St Euphrosia, cmc at Olloor. The trip was felt to be very refreshing.

WARDHA, CLARETIAN ASHRAM

Convocation Ceremony and Valedictory Function

The XX Convocation Ceremony of the Institute and Valedictory of CALA (Claretian Ashram Literary Academy) and CASA (Claretian Ashram Social Apostolate) was held on 27 February



2016. The function was presided over by Mar Ephrem Nariculam, Bishop of Chanda, and the function was blessed with the presence of many dignitaries. The Bishop distributed the certificates of merit and in his message, he emphasized the need of a charismatic missionary style. He also emphasized that our institutions must be used for missionary purposes. Later students staged many colourful performances and the meeting was concluded with agape.

A NEW CHURCH AND PERMANENT BASE FOR GKCC

Glasgow Kerala Christian Community is composed of Syro-Malabar Catholics from Kerala. In 2001, health professionals from India found chances in United Kingdom for better carrier, financial stability and living standards. They settled down in different towns of Scotland without knowing each other.

In 2006, Syro-Malabar Church sent its helping hand for the people of Glasgow to practise their faith. They sent an enthusiastic Claretian, Fr Joy Cheradiyil, cmf to gather people in Glasgow to form a Syro-Malabar Christian community.



In 2013 Fr George Thelliankal cmf, our another enthusiastic Claretian missionary took over the Syro-Malabar chaplaincy of Glasgow. During his leadership, the community from Kerala flourished. During the GKCC's progress, the parishioners desired to have their own church and a permanent place for worship to lead their catholic faith. Fr George took that challenging mission and worked hard with the diocese of Glasgow and Archbishop Philip Tatalia for getting a proper Church for GKCC. It's proud for GKCC that we are similar to a parish church in Kerala and working together as a parish with all the people of Kerala with catechism class, sports & cultural days, Onam, parish day and celebrating the feasts of St. Thomas, St. Alphonsa and St. Sebastian.

Presently, Archbishop of Glasgow and the diocese have appraised Fr George's hard work and gave their helping hand to work side by side. The Glasgow diocese approved a Church in South Nitshil, Glasgow to GKCC as their permanent base. on 9 Dec 2015 GKCC moved to its permanent base of worship to grow in

Christ. The address: St Bernard's Church, 18 Wiltonburn Road, South Nitshill, Glasgow G53 7JF; Web site: www.gkccscotland.org; Facebook : Glasgow Kerala Christian Community (GKCC)

The whole GKCC is very much delighted and grateful to CMF congregation and Syro Malabar Major Archbishop for providing us such a hardworking priest to work for His people.

MINOR ORDERS

On Dec 17 in the conferral of minor orders and diaconate organized at Kaloor Renewal center, by the Archdiocese of Ernakulum-Angamaly eleven of our Professed Students received minor



orders from Mar Sebastian Adayamdarath, Auxilay Bishop of Ernakulum-Angamaly. Students Mundiath Jacob, Muthumarathil Varghese, Puthettu Ignatius, Kanjirathinkal Paul, Mannoor Joseph and Madathisseril Mathew were given Hevpadyaknusa, the second minor order in the Syro-Malabar church which enables them to assist the liturgical service in the church. The order of Karoyusa was conferred on students Ameparambil Xavier, Chenkallel Joseph, Vadakkemurickanakuzhiyil Joseph, Vilakkunnel Martin and Chakkiath Varghese by which they are made official readers of the Old Testament. In his homily, the Bishop exhorted the candidates to diligently take part in the mission of the Church. There were many Priests including several Claretians, sisters and relatives witnessing and participating in this joyful event.

REGIONAL MEETINGS

Claretian Provincial House hosted Kerala South-Central Regional Assembly of the St. Thomas province on 23 January 2016. And on 26 January the members from the North Kerala and Bangalore gathered for the Regional Assembly at Claretian



Study House Kunnoth, The meetings began with a prayer invoking the presence of the Holy Spirit. The members working in the regions together with the provincial team discussed and shared their hopes and challenges. The main input sections were, the brief presentations of the XXV General Chapter document by Rev. Fr. Thomas Vattukulam cmf, Provincial Superior, and a presentation on the document of the Year of Mercy by Fr. George Kollamparampil cmf. Fr. Provincial addressed the members with the words of Pope Francis to the Claretians at the time of Pope's audience with the participants of the XXV General Chapter, "to

adore, to proclaim and to accompany.” This meeting ignited the fraternal feeling of the province in general and the members of the meeting in particular. All the members shared their views and aspirations about their mission. The matters discussed and the conclusions of the meetings arrived at give the light for all to go forward in the missions with a new enthusiasm.

OUR BENJAMINS FROM SPAIN

Wish you all the joy of Easter!! We are very happy to be in the land of our Fr. Founder, St. Antony Mary Claret and to write a micro experience of our life in Spain. We are thankful to God for being called to a mission very wide and profound with a vision. To be part of the universal mission was a proud moment specially to know about our congregation, which was something abstract for us.



It is a privilege for us to be the part of German Province and now we are at Granada, Spain doing our theological studies. We had the initial difficulties to convey our ideas but now we are in the track of our community and culture of Span. We started with our intense 4 months of Spanish language course. We are having a big community with many members and all are really loving and caring towards each one of us. We are doing our theological studies in Facultad de Teologado Granada run by the Jesuits under the University of Granada.

In Granada, Province of Betica, we are 50 members from 13 countries forming three communities. In the first floor, the Noviciate, consists of six novices from different parts of the world and in the second floor, the Theology house, we are thirteen students and three formators. The theology students are from Portugal, Puerto Rico, Indonesia, Congo, East Timor, Myanmar, Philippines, Spain, Sri Lanka and India. The last floor is for the elder members of the Province of Betica. As witnesses and messengers of gospel, we have wonderful apostolate, Xavier Melvettom helps in a school as catechist and Jacob Edathinattu does ministry in a parish and teaches catechism.

Here we are having good opportunities to do mission works. We have to be a lamp in the traditionally Catholic but not practicing world. Our mission is mainly to bring God near to the youth through Church activities. But it becomes difficult job due to the influence of drugs. The people live their life as if life is whole about enjoying and the prime locus is each of them rather than God. We do our apostolate in such areas where we need to become true messengers of the gospel to bring them back to a culture of prayer and to a true Catholic life.

Since the community shares a multi-culturality it touches all the aspects of our life. As part of this, we commonly celebrate the feast of each country. We cook the proper taste of the country on this day and prepare a small presentation on it. We celebrated the republic day with our own Indian taste and cultural dances, it was

an awesome event, as Indians to expose our culture and tradition, each one is admired by the enriching culture of the other.

ENCOUNTER OF STUDENTS EUROPE 2016

As part of the formation of students in Europe we had an encounter of Claretian students of Europe in Colmenar Viejo, for three days. It was a great occasion to enrich our relation and formation by knowing each other. There were 35 students from 15 countries with their formators. The classes were taken by Fr Aquilino Bocos cmf, formal Superior General, Fr Luiz Angel cmf, Provincial of Santiago, and Fr Leo Dalmao cmf, General Prefect



of Formation. The themes were based on our congregation and various documents like XXV General Chapter document. This event doubled our joy that we were able to meet the Indian Claretians in Colmenar Viejo. It was also a time of sharing and enjoying the various cultural events.

We are missionaries, this slogan unities us together in the Claretian congregation. We are having a good time, knowing, enjoying and encountering new cultures and training ourselves to become good missionaries in a different part of the world by understanding the needs of the church, congregation and of the world. Long Live Claret, Long Live Mary and Long Live Congregation. Happy Easter!!! Students Jacob Edathinattu, cmf and Xavier Melvettom cmf.

ROME SPEAKS

A few days ahead of my journey to Rome Fr Joseph Kudakuthiyil advised me jokingly, “Don’t spend time counting the windows and pillars of the Vatican.” It is true that the advice has but a vast significance, given the implied fact that Rome also has many twinkling trifles, which create the impression of gold. It is said, “Rome speaks.” An onlooker does not need a guide to understand the past glory of this city because it a treasure house of antiquity and it speaks for itself. If Vaikkam Muhammad Bashir has stopped with ‘my grandfather had an elephant’, a Roman may add to it saying, ‘my grandfather had an elephant and now I have it’. Romans still use their grandfather’s caparisoned elephant in the procession of honour. Indeed, it is a rich heritage for the whole world. Then, what about Fr Joseph’s advice?

Rome has a history of Christianity winning over paganism and barbarism. Pagan and barbarian emperors were converted to Christianity and Christian churches substituted for pagan temples. But it is not true that the battles are all over. The invisible ghosts of paganism and barbarism are unleashing formidable attack on the present Christian church. Victory must not mean disbanding of the army. A new-comer may very easily feel this moral battle within himself or herself. Someone has sarcastically passed a comment, “Rome is filled with faith because many religious who visited Rome have left their faith here.” Pope emeritus Benedict XVI in his final audience mentioned, “...There were also moments in which the waters were agitated and the wind contrary...The Lord seemed to be sleeping in the boat” and he

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continued, “But I always knew that the boat of the Church is not mine, is not ours, but is his and he will not let it sink.” Then there emerged Pope Francis to awake the Lord. I think today it is this man, rather than the above mentioned caparisoned elephant, who attracts the attention of the masses in this eternal city.

Some say, “People thronged in St Peter’s Square to see Pope John Paul II, they did it to hear Pope Benedict XVI and now they do it to see and hear Pope Francis.” He speaks more eloquently through his actions and gestures. His language is as simple as that of the gospel and his message is as plain as the Latin cross. It enters the heart first and then impels the intellect. In his conclave address Cardinal Bergoglio spoke of Jesus who knocks from within the Church so that we will let him come out. He is a man of his word. The Cardinal-turned-Pope has opened the door of mercy and let Jesus (mercy) come out. He proves our local dictum – ‘a house visiting priest makes a church visiting people’- to be true. The people are not inculpated for their lack of interest in church activities and the lazy priests are to find a new excuse.



I pursue my studies at the university of Pontifical Oriental Institute. It was established by Pope Benedict XV in 1917 for the promotion of the advanced studies on Eastern Christianity. Orthodox and Catholic students from the different parts of world learn together here. The majority are from the Syro-Malabar Church. In a sense it is an ecumenical university and every encounter enriches us. Here we can find crosses more ‘creative’ than the Syro-Malabar-Cross. It is not a sarcastic remark. The Eastern Church sees the cross as a mystery and the cross itself gives a foretaste of the unfathomable world of Christian mysteries. The faith-testimonies of the students from the being-persecuted-churches will really humble us.

I stay in the General Curia. Now we are twenty-six from thirteen nationalities. In the community, nationalities disappear and members remain. And it is a nice thing to discover that it is not homogeneity that unites us and it is not heterogeneity that divides us. The joys and sorrows that we experience locally have a location here also. Eleven of us are students. Students may go to parishes in and outside Rome during vacations. Depending on the intention, it may be called pastoral ministry or pecuniary ministry. Intention makes a real difference.

Italian is a beautiful language and not very difficult to learn provided one is interested. Food is eatable and culture is controversial as there are good and bad elements as in the case of other

cultures. People are generally good-natured and some are afraid of strangers. There are many immigrants from the strife-ridden African and Middle Eastern countries. Foreigners from India, Pakistan, China, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka are also many. It is a land of welcome. Before leaving Rome for India Fr Thomas Pain-gottu whispered in my ears, “If we can live here successfully, we can live anywhere.”



FR. THOMAS MANGATTUTHAZHE, CMF
 left for East Africa Delegation on 15 March, 2016.
 He is assigned by the Superior General at Claretian Philosophy House, PCJ Campus Rubaga Hills, P.B.No.1746, Jinja, UGANDA.
 We wish him all the best in his future ministry and pray for God’s many blessings.





Hearty welcome to
V. Rev. Fr. Mathew Vattamattam CMF,
 Superior General of the Claretian Missionaries,
 to the Province of St Thomas, India. We thank
 you dear father for your fraternal visit and
 encouragement. We wish you and pray for
 God's bounteous blessings in your ministry.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

- April-May : Canonical Visit Kerala, Bangalore.
- May 28 : Priestly Ordination, Dn Attuchalil Jocie
- May 29 : Jubilee celebration, Claret Bhavan, Kuravilangad
- May 30 : General Assembly, Claret Bhavan, Kuravilangad
- May 31 : Profession Day, Claret Bhavan, Kuravilangad

OBITUARY

- ☛ **Mr. Kuriakose Cherusseril (72)**, beloved uncle of Fr. Soji Cherusseril, cmf passed away on 19 January at Kurichithanam.
- ☛ **Mr. M. A. Paul (91)**, beloved Father of Fr. Devadas Mundackal, cmf passed away on 01 February at Kothamangalam.
- ☛ **Mr. A. V. Joseph (76)**, beloved Father of Fr. Roy Arackal, cmf passed away on 20 February at Kollamula.
- ☛ **Rev. Fr. Lorenz Reifenberger cmf**, former Provincial of Germany, p passed away on 16 March in Germany.

Let us offer our prayers for the repose of the souls and for the bereaved families. Eternal rest, grant unto them, O Lord. May they rest in peace, Amen.



Mar Prince Antony Panengadan, Bishop of Adilabad blessing the prayer room at St. Claret School, Kaghaznagar

